

The Pastors of St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church

Henreich "Henry" Mette ✎ 1897 - 1905 †

G. C. Eisenhardt ✎ 1898 - 1905

G. Reschke ✎ 1905 - 1/1/1907

Johann Schubert ✎ 7/1/1908 - 4/20/1909 ✨

Emil Podszus ✎ 1908 - 8/4/1909 ✧

Erich Saul ✎ 6/1908 - 11/20/1909 (supply)

Carl Krepper ✎ 1/5/1910 - 11/1/1911 ✧

Leo Oberliecher ✎ 11/1/1911 - 7/12/1912 †

Wilhelm F. Hingkeldey ✎ 1912 - 10/1/1914 †

Emil Schlick ✎ 11/1/1914 - 1/12/1919 ✧

Emil Kummer ✎ 3/2/1919 - 9/2/1919 ✧

Students from Mount Airy Seminary ✎ 9/2/1919-4/2/22

Hans Drissel ✎ summer of 1920

Werner Jensch ✎ summer of 1921, 4/22/1922-7/1/1924

Paul Ruwoldt ✎ 1924-10/1928 ✨

Herman G. L. Drews ✎ 1928 - 12/31/1932 ✧

Arthur H. Steinhauer ✎ 1932 - 1933 ✧

Walter Angelo ✎ 1934 - December, 1940 ✨

Charles V. Naugle ✎ 1941 - 1943 ✧

R. Frank Herr ✎ 2/2/1943 - 9/12/1948 ✧ (resigned)

Charles F. Rinck, Jr. ✎ 12/18/1948 - 10/8/1950 ✨

W. Robert Oswald	☞	4/1/1951 - 8/13/1958	☼
Robert R. Strohl	☞	1958 - 1959	✦
Elwood K. Healy	☞	1959 - 1960	◇
Stanley M. Phillips	☞	6/3/1962 - 1998	◇
Kenneth Reagan	☞	1998 - 2000	⊠
Stanley Steele	☞	2000 - 2001	⊠
Karina Ramins	☞	4/2001 - 3/2003	◇
Sara Lilja	☞	4/2003 - 1/2014	✦
Margaret Marks	☞	3/2014 - 2015	⊠

◇ Full time

✦ Part time pastor

⊠ Interim pastor

☼ Shared with St. James, Folsom

† Service in German

Pastor Biographies

Henreich "Henry" Mette - Henreich Mette organized the split from Folsom in 1897. He was the first pastor of St. Johannes Gemeinide Church in Williamstown and led the service only in German.

G. C. Eisenhardt—A year after the church began, G. C. Eisenhardt came to the church. It seems odd to have two pastors at the same time, but Eisenhardt held services in only English while Mette only held services in German. He also served until 1905.

G. Reschke - G. Reschke replaced Eisenhardt and Mette in 1905. He served until 1907.

Johann Schubert - Schubert only served St. John's for a short time, but he was present during the first full split between St. James in Folsom and St. John's. In 1909 he was called to Egg Harbor and left Williamstown.

Gloucester—Woodbury—Williamstown Parish

Emil Podszus - Podszus was St. John's very first full time pastor, however he was only present a short time in 1909.

Erich Saul - Saul served as a supply pastor from June until November, 1909 until Carl Krepper was called.

Carl Krepper - Krepper served for about a year and a half from January, 1910 to November, 1911. He was responsible for buying the two pieces of property on South Main Street. He also organized the Maennerchor Society. Krepper was also credited as being a spy for Germany later during his life. Church was repainted

Leo Oberliecher - Oberliecher served St. John's while Krepper was away. He commuted from Philadelphia every other Sunday and held church services in the evenings. Krepper returned in July of 1912 and served until October, 1912 every other Sunday.

Wilhelm F. Hingkeldey - Hingkeldey served St. John's every first and third Sunday while also serving at Gloucester and Woodbury. He served from 1912 until October, 1914 when he was called to Kramer Hill.

Emil Schlick - Under the Pennsylvania Synod, Emil Schlick served from November 1914 until January 1919 until he was called to Germantown.

Emil Kummer - Kummer was called from Texas to serve as a full time pastor. He was only able to serve for a short time during 1919 before having a stroke (apoplexy) during the service. He was called home to

eternal rest and peace.

Williamstown Folsom Parish

From September of 1919 to April of 1922, St. John's was served by students from the Lutheran Seminary from Mt. Airy every two weeks. The summer of 1920 was served by a student named Hans Drissel.

Werner Jenscht - The summer of 1922 was served by another student, Werner Jensch. After his graduation in 1922, he was called to serve St. John's. During his time at St. John's, the first confirmation was held since 1917. July 8th, 25th Anniversary of laying of corner stone. Attendance 250

Paul Ruwoldt - During Ruwoldt's time, St. John's again came together with St. James, Folsom. He organized the Young People's Society and the Men's Club. He served from 1924 until October of 1928 when he was called to a position in Gloucester City.

Herman G. L. Drews—Drews served St. John's during one of its most important times: the construction of the church at its current location. He also helped to purchase the parish house from the family that was living there because it was not feasible for him to commute.

Arthur H. Steinhauer - Steinhauer was not able to serve St. John's for very long as he passed away in the same year he was called to the church. Funds were raised by the church to erect a memorial for him in the church's cemetery, where it still stands.

Walter Angelo - Angelo served at both churches until he resigned to be a chaplain in the army. New red and violet velvet paraments were received by the church as well as beautiful hand crocheted lace linens for the altar. These were made by Mrs. Angelo.

Charles V. Naugle—Naugle was present from 1941-1943. During this time a baptismal memorial alter was received with basin in memory of Mrs. Mary Hartiman.

R. Frank Herr - Herr served at St. John's as a full time pastor for 5 years until he was called to Goldsboro, PA. In 1943 the Common Service Books were presented

Charles F. Rinck, Jr. - Shortly after being ordained at Lutheran Theological Seminary, Rinck was called served both St. John's and St. James while living in the St. John's parsonage with his wife and daughter. He served until he was called to Grace Church in Somers

Point. His ministry was characterized by a concentrated effort in stewardship and “more fellowship through organization and socials during 1949”. The church became debt free and was celebrated with a mortgage burning ceremony. The balcony was converted to a “cry room” for parents with young children, the social hall (church basement) was renovated, the exterior of the church and parsonage received a face lift.

W. Robert Oswald - Oswald was the last pastor to ever be shared with St. James, Folsom. He was present during the official split between the two churches in 1951. He served St. John’s until he was called to a Long Branch church. Many firsts were accomplished during his service of the church: a nursery for small children during worship, a monthly newsletter, “The Messenger”, a Couples Club, a Vacation Bible School, both Youth and Junior Choirs and an 8:30 service. During this time there was an incredible growth in numbers and expanded organizational developments. Sunday School was held in the auditorium (sanctuary), the basement-social hall, nursery and the parsonage and later several rooms in the Dobbin’s house, purchased in 1954. This property was situated between the church and the Channel property (now the Gommel Garden). The Education Building was built partially on this new property. The Dobbin’s house was demolished once the building was completed.

Robert R. Strohl - Strohl served as neither a part time or interim pastor, he served only on call and to lead confirmation classes. He served from August 1958 until May 1959.

Elwood Healy—Healy received the call to St. John’s in the spring of 1959. He and his wife moved from Ohio and he served until 1961 when he was called to a church in Haddonfield.

Stanley M. Phillips - Phillips came to the church right out of seminary and served the church for 36 years, June 1962 through December, 1998. In 1970-71, the congregation met in the Education Building while the front of the church was moved out 40 ft with an entire new entryway. In 1974 the basement of the church was completely renovated to include a lounge area, conference room, and study for the Pastor. The ceiling in the sanctuary was removed in 1991 revealing beautiful wainscoting. The woodwork around the stained glass windows was redone to look like wood and the walls were painted. Phillips was an interim Pastor for many churches while at St.

John's, most notably St James' in Folsom. Although we were no longer known as the Williamstown Folsom Parish, we were sister churches. The long time connection created an environment for sharing a pastor when the need arose. The 100th Anniversary of St. John's was held during the time Phillips was Pastor.

Kenneth Reagan - Regan served as an interim pastor from January 1999 to June 2000. He was responsible for the purchase of the current parish house and ushering in the Lutheran Book of Worship (green book). Hand bells were purchased in November of 1999 from Williamstown High School and the annual Golf tournament made it's debut.

Stephanie and Stanley Steele—The Steele's served together July 2000 to March 2001. Stanley lead the confirmation classes and they shared leading services. An electronic piano was purchased for the sanctuary.

Karina Ramins—Ramins was the first female pastor to serve St. John's arriving April, 2001. Attendance decreased between 2001 and 2003. The nave of the church was enlarged, the railing around the choir area was removed, new carpet was installed and pews were relocated to allow for more room in the front of the sanctuary. Hand chimes were purchased to offer younger children the opportunity to ring.

Sara Lilja—Lilja came to the church as an interim pastor in 2003 and subsequently became permanent part-time. Under her leadership a lay leadership program was begun, giving congregation members the opportunity help with the service as well as preaching the sermon on occasions. She envisioned a band and that came to fruition. They led the 10:30 service until a Saturday evening service was begun. The 10:30 service was discontinued so a Saturday night service could be offered. The band has been in residence at the Saturday night service since its inception. Lilja also introduced a successful Stewardship drive called buckets of blessings. The roof on the main building was replaced and the stained glass windows received a protective covering. The apartment above the Parish House received a facelift so it could accommodate the Interfaith Hospitality Network day center. In 2012 the day center moved to Glassboro. The Lutheran Evangelical Worship (Cranberry) book was purchased in Spring 2013. The Baptismal fount was moved to the back of the church, Lenten soup suppers were started, the kitchen in the Education Building was remodeled in 2007 by Dick Dickey and the process of recovering the pews and kneelers

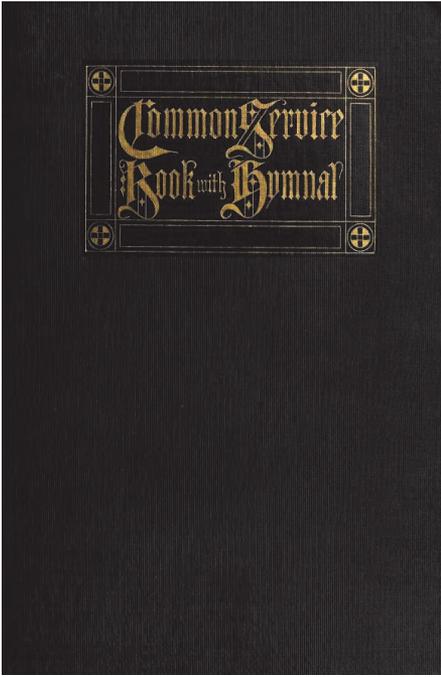
was begun in 2013. Pastor Lilja left St. John's to take a full-time position at the New Jersey Synod January, 2014.

Margaret Marks—Marks came to St. John's March 2015. She was charged with helping us work through the call process for a new pastor. New committees were formed.

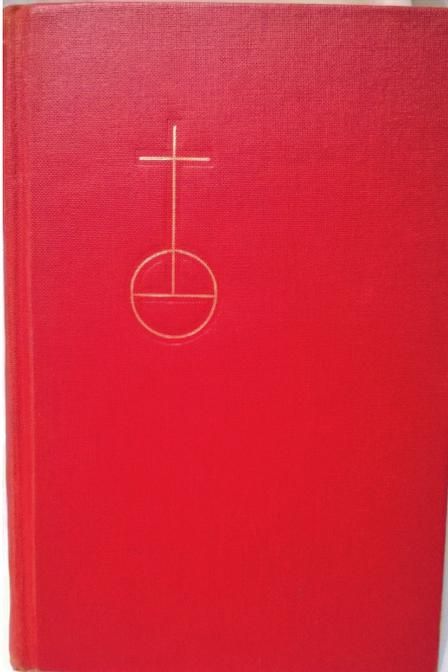


Triplet Window in Balcony of Church

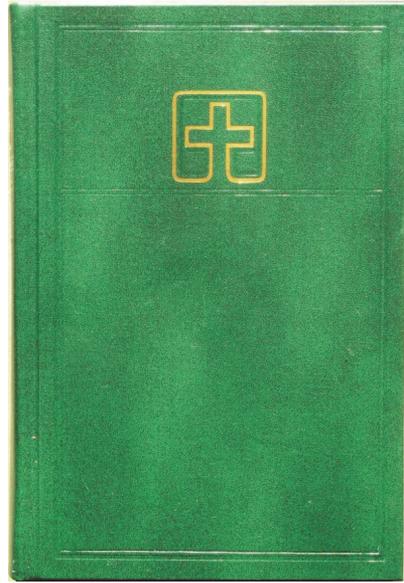
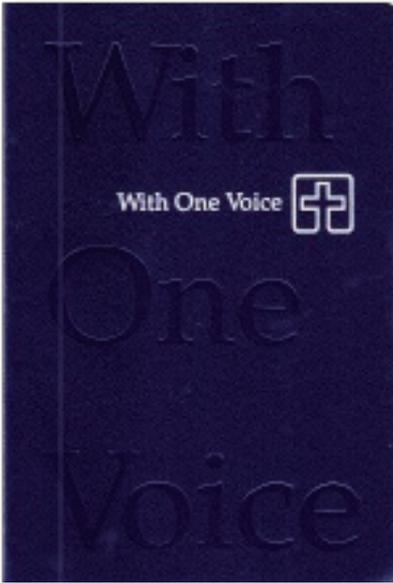
This window was moved forty feet when the church was renovated in 1971-72



In 1943, the *Common Service Book with Hymnal* replaced the old paperback hymnals that the church had most likely used since its beginning. The book was originally published in 1917 in memory of Martin Luther, 400 years after the 95 theses were posted.



After 35 years, the well-used Common Service Books were replaced by the new Service Book and Hymnal, or as it is more commonly known as, the "red book" in 1963.



While *The Lutheran Book of Worship* was first published in 1978, it wasn't until later that it first came to St. John's. *The Lutheran Book of Worship* and its supplement *With One Voice* replaced the red book in 2000. (above) Following the pattern of the red book, these two books were also called the green book and the blue book.

Evangelical Lutheran Worship is the current book at St. John's. It replaced *The Lutheran Book of Worship* and *With One Voice* as a single book in 2013.

