

# History of St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church

## (Comprehensive Version)

The “first” church did not include a building. As stated in a contemporary sermon “a church is merely an expression of the people’s love of God.” The early families in the Cecil-Williamstown area needed such an expression and embarked on the construction of a church with the hope that future generations would be motivated by the Holy Spirit to maintain and enlarge this church—physically and spiritually. Through these pages are woven names and events that prove their hopes were not in vain.

### **1852**

In 1852, St. James Lutheran Church in Folsom, NJ built their church in what was then called New Germany (later to be called Folsom). Worship is still held in that location to this day. One may be curious as to why this has any relevance to the history of St. John’s Lutheran Church in Williamstown, but there is actually a very important reason.

### **1897-1898—Williamstown Folsom Parish**

Closer to the 20th century, South Jersey was becoming a more populated area, especially by Lutherans in the New Germany area. Because of the growth, St. James congregation grew, resulting in a need for another church. At the same time (1896) a Mr. Wesley Gable met in various homes with those interested in holding religious meetings. He was a lay preacher, but apparently assumed many pastoral roles as indicated by the Baptismal Certificate of Mrs. Florence Chew which was signed by him. However, when the German Settlers decided to establish a church, Mr. Gable could not be sanctioned by the Pennsylvania Synod to organize the church. The new mission church was organized by Henreich Mette, Pastor of St. James Lutheran church in Folsom, NJ, as Deutsch Evangelical Lutherische St. Johannes-Gemeinde zu Williamstown, NJ.

On October 31, 1897, St. Johannes Gemeinde of Williamstown was incorporated in Gloucester County and members of the church met at the Washington Grove School while raising money to construct a new church building. April 30, 1899, a Certificate of Corporate Name was

filed with the County of Gloucester court of common pleas to change the name of the congregation to Saint Johns German Evangelical Lutheran Church of Williamstown, New Jersey, with said document being filed May 3, 1898. On July 10, 1898, the corner stone of Saint Johns was laid.<sup>1</sup> Pastors H. Mette, Hellings of Roxboro, PA and Spaeth addressed those present. Mette and Hellings in German and Spaeth in English.

Sunday, October 31, 1898, Saint John's German Evangelical Lutheran Church of Williamstown was dedicated with imposing ceremonies and the congregation held it's first services in the new church. Pastor Mette presided and Rev. Prohle, President of the German Conference of Phila, Dr. A. Spaeth of the Theological Seminary at Mt. Airy, Pa, and Rev. A. Offerman of Camden were present to take part in the dedication ceremony. (excerpts from the Williamstown column of the Constitution, a Woodbury newspaper of that time.) There were 18 charter members which represents only heads of household. Women and children were not included. Our original church was located where our cemetery currently stands, but was torn down to make room for the new Black Horse Pike.

*Side Note: Services were in German and men and women sat on opposite sides of the church.*

## **1897-1927**

During the next 20 years, St. John's continued to grow under the leadership of many full-time, part-time, interim, and shared pastors. Our church was served by two different parishes: Williamstown/Folsom Parish and Gloucester/Williamstown/Woodbury Parish.

### **1897-1909 Williamstown/Folsom Parish**

### **1909-1923 Gloucester/Williamstown/Woodbury Parish**

### **1924– Williamstown/Folsom Parish**

In 1911 Two lots were purchased located on South Main Street, one mile west of the present church. These properties were purchased by the Sauenger Versin Society (Maennerchor Societ, men's chorus), a corporation of men from the congregation. This society was disbanded sometime during 1912-14.

## **1922-24**

A Ladies' Aide was organized, the first Luther League had 12 members and a Men's Club as founded. German and English services were held on alternate Sundays during this period. Confirmation classes were reestablished after being non-existent since 1917.

### **1924-192**

Many activities were prevalent during this time. In October the 30th Anniversary of the laying of the cornerstone was celebrated.

### **1929-32**

Because the church was unheated, attendance in the fall of 1928 was about five people. "By and by the place of worship was shifted to the rented old Tice Building in the center of Williamstown to accommodate the newly re-started Sunday School." The new superintendent carted children two and fro from the church. (book) Costs too high so they moved back to the church for the summer months. At that time the thought was to move the church to the two lots purchased by the Mannerchor Society and to provide a parsonage for a resident pastor.

Because the State Highway Commission decided to build a new highway through Williamstown, a meeting was held and the decision was made to secure two lots with a house on Main Street and to move the church since the church was where the new highway was being built. The Kaester property on South Main Street was purchased for \$5,000. It was not feasible to move the original building, but many materials were preserved from the original house of worship to become part of the new building on Main Street. Construction of the new church was begun August 29, 1929.

**The cornerstone was laid September 1, 1929. The following items were placed inside:**

**A list of members, a copy of the "Plain Dealer", The Holy Bible, Old Hymnal, Coins.**

While the new church was being built, the congregation met in a residence at Main Street and Garwood Avenue.

**On May 4, 1930**, a formal dedication of the new church took place with many former pastors participating. On May 19, 1930, a meeting of the congregation passed a resolution changing the name from St.

John's German Evangelical Lutheran Church of Williamstown, New Jersey to St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church of Williamstown, New Jersey. The resolution was approved by Gloucester County and entered into the county books May 21, 1930.

*Side Note: Services were held in both English and German*

### **1934-1940**

The years from 1934-1940 are remembered as the Depression Years. The church was fortunate to have the Angelo family in the parsonage. Pastor Angelo was also responsible for the Folsom congregation. During this time there was a break from the all German service. It was not a popular decision, but it was gradually accepted. In November, 1938, twin anniversaries were commemorated; 90th for St. James and 40th for St. John's. The Ladies Aide was responsible for many projects. Pastor Angelo resigned in order to enter the US Army as a Chaplain in 1940. During this time a false ceiling was installed in the sanctuary.

### **1943-1953**

**In 1943** Common Service Books were presented to the congregation. Listing of names is in the Parish Register.

Memorial gifts abounded during this period as members sought to make tangible their love and affection for deceased members of their families: linens for the alter, "Baptismal alter and basin", pulpit Bible, guest register, Parish record book, missal stand, oak pulpit, lectern, tract rack, communion veil with inset square of India Lace, sterling silver chalice, wrought iron candelabra, bulletin sign.

**January, 1945**, extracts from The First Book of Record was recopied and translated into English and can be found in the Parish Register.

Church was repainted, an electronic organ replaced the pump organ, the Fiftieth Anniversary was Celebrated, Pastor Rinck took residence in the parsonage.

**1947**—church was painted and Minshall Etsey Electronic Organ was donated, replacing the old pump organ.

**1948**—Fiftieth Anniversary Celebration, Pastor Rinck took residence in the Parsonage.

## **1949**

Through concentrated stewardship effort, the congregation paid off two mortgages totaling \$4,000 and burned the documents at a service attended by the Home Mission Board President.

## **1950**

Congregation voted to repair and remodel all church property. Main church auditorium, Social Hall, exterior of, exterior of parsonage were painted; balcony nursery wired for sound and enclosed with acoustic tile and safety glass. A new kitchen was installed in the parsonage.

## **1951**

The Williamstown/Folsom Parish was dissolved and Pastor Oswald was called to serve only St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church of Williamstown.

*Property:* new heating system was installed in the church

Choir: purchased new vestments for themselves and also for the acolytes.

*Sunday School:* has grown and we added a Cradle Roll.

*Women of the Church:* served refreshments for the congregational meeting; held Fastnacht Social; Oyster Supper; Mother/Daughter Banquet; cleaned the parsonage; redecorated the parsonage; held a reception for the new Pastor and wife; remodeled the kitchen of the Church; served a Sauerkraut Supper; refreshments for Sunday School program; purchased 12 kindergarten chairs. Missionary projects were: sending boxes to India, Virgin Islands, Liberia and Japan; sponsoring a motion picture, "I Am With You", for the congregation; sending food to the needy at Thanksgiving and Christmas; Christmas gifts for shut-ins and needy family of 7; collecting clothes for Lutheran World Relief.

*Luther League:* met every other week.

## **1952**

Celebrated the 55th Anniversary. As membership grew, it became evident that new members came from diverse religious backgrounds. No longer were the German-speaking members in the majority. Because of diverse beliefs and practices an adult membership instruction class was instituted. The church truly became

“ecumenical” and new members found many opportunities for service.

*Property:* New brick and flagstone steps were added to the church, \$750 from an anonymous person; the church floor was refurbished, minor renovations to the Chancel, new red carpet, new red covers on our pew cushions and new kneeling cushions in front of the Altar Rail; new light fixtures in the Social Hall; wooden steps of Parsonage were replaced with concrete.

The parsonage had a new furnace installed; installation of a new electric range and hot water heater; venetian blinds throughout the parsonage compliments of the Women of the Church.

*Sunday School:* continued to grow as did the Church membership; Vacation Bible School was run for two weeks with 65 in attendance; purchased new chairs and other equipment; installed new light fixtures in the basement of the Church; contributed to the carpet fund and Epiphany Appeal of the church; contribution to the India Industrial Arts Program.

*Women of the Church:* hosted the congregational dinner; hosted an oyster supper served to the public; annual Fastnacht social; collected \$23 at the World Day of Prayer Service to go to missions; mended and packed 336 pounds of used clothing to send to Lutheran World Relief Warehouse; kitchen was refitted with new utensils; April our first Constitution was formally adopted; men of the church hosted a Mother/Daughter Banquet; a Father/Son Banquet was prepared by the women; served a reception given to new members; a baked ham dinner to the public; a luncheon for the Lutheran Ministerial Association of Camden and Vicinity at St. John’s, annual sauerkraut supper; 11 boxes were sent to men in the Service, 3 boxes were taken to needy families and boxes of cheer were prepared and delivered; Christmas Caroled to 8 shut-in friends; covered the pew cushions in red, remodeled the parsonage and church kitchen.

*Luther League:* held in the Social Room of the Church. Projects completed were varnishing new Sunday School tables, arranging Sunday School picnic, decorating the Church at Christmas and the second annual play, “The House that Nobody Lived In”; social affairs included beach party, seeing a night baseball game at Shibe Park and a Halloween Party.

*Choir :* met and sang weekly; sang at a Vespers Service at the Lutheran Home in Moorestown, attended the Music Festival in Philadelphia and

joined with other choirs at the Union Thanksgiving Day service.

*Couple's Club:* met with the Presbyterian Church once a month with the objective to strengthen family life and the Christian home.

### **1953**

*Property:* Bathrooms in church and parsonage renovated, \$500; Nursery Dept moved to the newly renovated 1st floor of parsonage, back room. This area is also used by our Senior Department. A new bulletin sign on Main Street in front of the Church was given by the Luther League. Flood lights were installed so the front of the church could be lighted at night; received wrought iron candelabras; parsonage attic was insulated.

*Education:* VBS attended by 110 children; Sunday School purchased new chairs and contributed to the Epiphany Appeal of our Church and Junior Choir Vestment Fund.

*Women of the church:* hosted Congregational Dinner, Oyster Supper, Donut Social, Two Luther Leagues Dinners during the visit of the Luther League Caravan, Saurkraut Supper and Sr. Choir thank you dinner. A Mother/Daughter Banquet was prepared and served by the men; collected, mended and sent 196 pounds of used clothing to Lutheran World Relief; servicemen were remembered with Easter cards, prayer books and Christmas food packages; contributions sent for Deaconess Work, Special Aids and Rocky Boy Mission; Remodeled parsonage bathroom; purchased a modern vacuum cleaner for the church and venetian blinds for the Sunday School Department in Parsonage.

*Luther League:* activities were Caravan Dinner, Doggie Roast, Youth Service, Halloween Party, Christmas Party. Decorated church at Christmas times

*Junior and Senior Choirs:* practiced weekly under the direction of three individuals; a Junior Choir was organized and received vestments;

*Couples' Club:* continued to meet monthly with Presbyterian Church

### **1954**

Church services increased and we began offering two services. There were three choirs, Junior, Youth and Senior. The Sunday School continues to grow and there is need for additional facilities. Vacation Bible School was attended by 125 children.

*Propety:* installed a new floor in the room that is used by the Nursery Department in the Parish House; building campaign was begun and the Dobbin's Property was purchased; chairs in the Chancel were re-upholstered; a curtain was put up around the choir loft; 50 Common Service Books purchased; Union Thanksgiving Day service held at St. John's; new mimeograph machine purchased by the Couples' Club; 24 chairs were purchased by Sunday School; Mother/Daughter and Father/Son Banquets were held; improvements to the Parsonage made by Women of the Church and Sunday School.

*Sunday School (261):* new floor in Nursery; purchased film strip and slide projector; repaired table and purchased 24 folding chairs; leadership training was held in Vineland; offering second Sunday donated to Building Fund; daily Vacation Church School and the Week Day school are also part of our work.

*Women of the Church:* Monthly meetings; painting and papering hallways, living room, dining room of Parsonage; provided food and help for congregational dinner, Fastnacht Social, Mother/Daughter Banquet, lunch for Lutheran Pastoral Association of Camden and Vicinity; reception for new members; Father/son Banquet; sauerkraut supper. Service: boxes sent to Service men and shut-ins, purchased and made new linens for the altar; obtained 43 members for the Lutheran Theological Seminary auxiliary; sent donations to Deaconess Aid, Industrial Arts, purchase new books for the church library; conducted the Thank Offering service, donated \$50 to the Building Fund; purchased an institutional stove for our new parish house kitchen (Education Bldg).

*Luther League:* continued to meet twice a month.

*Couple's Club:* met twice a month to help strengthen family life and the Christian home.

*Junior, Youth and Senior choirs:* continue to support the congregation Sunday mornings; youth choir sings every Sunday at 8:30 service and the Junior choir sings the last Sunday of each month and special occasions.

## **1955**

Our church became a member of the Lutheran Welfare Association of New Jersey; a Mother's Guild was formed to support the Youth and Junior choir members; money was received for a new altar; altar cross

and candlesticks were donated; a new baptismal font was donated; new lawn mower was purchased; final settlement on Dobbins' property; annual Sunday School picnic at Centerton Park; Ground Breaking Service held on June 12th; held own Thanksgiving Day and Cornerstone Laying Service for the Parish House/Education Building; Senior Choir purchased a tape recorder; Sunday School purchased a movie projector; donation was received for an Organ Fund; architect engaged for new building. Sunday School enrollment was 271.

*Women of the church activities and projects:* served dinner for congregational meeting; presentation at Union World Day of Prayer Services; purchased shoes for needy families; visited sick and shut-ins, served oyster supper; sold plastic wares; contributed to the building fund; held rummage sale; helped conduct Mothers' Day program; served refreshments at new member reception; initiated 2 women each week to serve as greeters at Sunday worship services; had our July meeting at a seashore home in Avalon; collected, sewed and packed clothing to be shipped to Lutheran World Relief; contributed to Special Aids; provided clothing for Sunday School children in need; served annual sauerkraut dinner; contributed year's birthday gift box collection to Rocky Boy Indian Mission; sponsored Thank Offering service; sent Christmas cards to soldier members overseas; visited residents at Lutheran Home in Moorestown; purchased flowers for Easter and Christmas.

*Luther League:* met twice a month; entertained Mt. Ephraim's Luther League; attended Luther League Conference at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church; attended Luther League outing at Berlin Lutheran Church; held covered dish supper for our parents followed by a candlelight service; went caroling Christmas Eve; decorated the church and trimmed the tree.

*Couples' Club* continued.

*Junior, Youth and Senior Choirs:* continued to serve at services; Junior and Youth choir had Halloween and Christmas parties as well as a swim party during the summer.

## 1956

**Property:** Exterior wood trim and shingles on the Church were painted; Pastor's study was moved to the room formerly used as the Nursery Department; Sunday School Nursery, Beginner and Primary

Departments began using the uncompleted Education Building and Parish House; Dobbins house was razed in December; although not completely done, the Education Building was used for functions; Sunday School Christmas Program held in Education Building; second annual Thanksgiving Day Service held; Christmas Eve Service had the highest attendance to date; participated in the Lutheran Evangelism Mission.

*Sunday School:* enrollment was 254, average attendance 163

*Women of the Church:* activities and projects; attended mission study at St. Johns' Lutheran Church in Westville; served the congregational dinner; served luncheon to Pastors of the Southern Conference attending Lenten Retreat; offered a Fastnacht Social; Mother/Daughter Banquet; sewed clothing for Lutheran Relief; attend meeting of Seminary Auxiliary in Philadelphia; conducted "cakeless cake sale"; sent holiday greetings to members and friends at Moorestown Lutheran Home; did a special project sewing blouses to be sent to The Kinderfr und Home and the Germantown Home as Christmas gifts; sent greeting cards to members over 80 years old.

*Luther League:* presented a one act play; had a peach social; donated to the building fund; purchased and R.P.M. portable record player.

*Choirs:* although faithful, members of the choir suffered many illnesses and work schedule conflicts making it difficult to prepare music for Sunday services; Junior and Youth Choirs enjoyed many activities including swimming in the President Hotel's pool in Atlantic City, roller skating, hayride, beach party, Christmas Caroling; made corsages and distributed them to people in the Moorestown Home.

*Couples' Club:* had a square dance, picnic, corn roast, covered dish, Christmas Party. Donated \$50 to building fund and made up a Christmas basket for a needy family of the church consisting of meat, groceries, cookies and candy.

## **1957**

The garage on the Dobbins property was sold and moved; the parsonage porch was replaced with a cement porch; the driveway between parsonage and church was repaired with several loads of gravel; concrete apron was added to prevent drive from washing out; additional work on the Education Building: completion of ceilings;

auditorium floor; entranceway hall floor.

We celebrated our 60th Anniversary on October 27th. November 2nd a congregational dinner was held and the new Education Building/Parish House was dedicated.

Two Christmas Eve services were held 7:30 and 11:00.

*Programs were:* Primary, Junior, Youth and Senior Choir; Junior and Senior Catechetical Classes; Week Day School children grades 1-6; Pastor's class for adults; Women of the Church; Luther League; Couples' Club.

*Women of the Church:* served congregational dinner; reactivated Sunshine Plan; sponsored Fastnacht Social; paid for installation of Formica in new kitchen; gave church thorough cleaning; gathered and sorted clothing for Lutheran World Relief; sponsored Mothers' Day Banquet; attended The Southern Conference of Lutheran Women; baked cookies for Bible School; made layettes for the Lutheran Welfare Association; contributed to Rocky Boy Indian Mission; purchased new silverware for the kitchen; contributed to the Building Fund; conducted Thank Offering Program; sold church calendars.

**Choirs:** Senior Choir sold candy and had lawn party to raise money to buy new gowns for new members; bought a light for the organ; sang at Vespers at the Moorestown Home. *Youth choir* sold candy; swimming party in Atlantic City; hayrides; picnics and suppers; River View Beach Amusement Park; Ice Follies; Christmas corsages for patients at Lake 1 as gifts and Christmas caroling. *Junior Choir:* Halloween and Christmas parties; swimming party and picnic Clementon Park; doggie roast; Easter corsages for mothers; sold Christmas cards. *Primary Choir:* sang for Sunday School at Christmas program and the 7:30 Christmas Eve Family Service.

*Couples' Club:* covered dish; "egg fry" and scavenger hunt; trip to the zoo; Lawn Fete; outdoor picnics; Halloween party; progressive dinner; Christmas Party.

## **1954-57**

The congregation voted to purchase adjacent property to the north side of the church(Dobbins) and engaged architect to draw plans for the new Parish House (Education Building). Dobbins property purchased; building Fund Drive successful and June 12, 1955 a ground

breaking service was held. November 24, 1955 the cornerstone was laid. November 3, 1957, the Education Building (church school and Parish House) was dedicated. Junior, Youth and Senior choirs provided music; Rev Howard Leonhardt preached and Pastor Oswald conducted service; Dobbins house was demolished after the new Education building was completed. Bible School was two weeks long and held in the Education Building.

*Couples Club*: organized with the Presbyterian Church. Events included: bowling, covered dish suppers, barns dances, picnics at Inskips, corn roasts, chicken BBQ, Halloween and Christmas parties.

## **1958-1962**

The aforementioned activities continued with a new pastor and the church continued to grow in numbers.

## **1958**

There were four choirs; Senior, Youth, Junior, Primary. Sunday School met in the new Education Building with 200 persons attending at least 12 Sundays during the year. Catechetical classes also met in the Education Building. *We sponsored a Boy Scout Troop this year.* We had a Father/Son Banquet, our own Thanksgiving Day Service, an early Christmas Eve Service in addition to the 11 pm service. The balance on the Dobbins' property was paid off. Our indebtedness is now \$6,000

*Property*: sidewalks were installed around the Education Building; the parsonage received new kitchen cabinets, new plywood floor and floor covering, new plumbing. We bought a new lawn mower.

*Women of the Church*: activities were: monthly gift to shut ins; proceeds from Brotherhood dinner given to treasury; Ocean City Convention attended by several members; Mother/Daughter Banquet attended by 110 mothers and daughters; life membership given to Katherine Crane and also Helen Rennebaum for her 25 years as organist.; money was put in a birthday box and sent to Rocky Boy Mission; old clothes mended and sent to Lutheran World Relief; Sauerkraut supper; sold church calendars; baskets for needy families prepared and delivered as needed; six church hymnals purchased.

Luther League: attended Southern Conference Area Rally at Ocean City; had a Halloween and Christmas Party; a hayride; went to Hidden Lake for Southern Area Picnic; doggie roast; picnic at Lake Oberst.

Discussions at Luther League meetings were: how to act on a date; mixed marriages; Christian Vocations, Missions and Evangelism. Youth Sunday we participated in both 8:30 and 11:00 services. Enjoyed a progressive dinner ending with a Song-Fest using songs we learned at the convention.

*Choir:* during the past year funds have run low in the Senior Choir treasury so we sold cases of prayer napkins to build up our funds. Profit over \$50. Main goal to find new members. *The Youth Choir* had a spaghetti dinner which netted \$107. *The Youth Choir* had 20 members and they had a swimming party in Atlantic City, attended a pro football game in Philadelphia, a pro basketball game in Camden, the Ice Follies, party at Riverview Beach, graduation party for some members and a Christmas Party. *The Junior Choir* had 36 4th–7th graders: sang once a month and completed Basic Training I vocal exercises; notes and rhythm started in Primary Choir; sold Christmas cards, received donations for gowns and took up offerings at rehearsals in order to be self supporting. Activities this year: Halloween Party, Christmas Caroling to sick and shut-ins followed by supper party. Project was to outfit more of the choir members. The Martin Luther Chorus of 15 auditioned Jr. Choir members formed the nucleus of the choir. Primary Choir has 18 members. They sing Christmas Eve, Easter Sunday for Sunday School and Choir Recognition Sunday.

*Couples Club:* open to all couples, met once a month and its purpose was promote family life and sociability. Social events: covered dish suppers, square dances, and picnics. Projects: Father/Son Banquet and selling pictures plates of the church.

## **1959**

Congregation voted for new Pastor at a congregational meeting January 18, 1959. Evangelism Mission was conducted with 20 lay members visiting 93 members and 100 non-members. A four team Basketball league was formed

*Property:* Education Building: new lights installed; new drapes made for windows; tile was laid on the floor of the lower level. The Narthex of the church was renovated, painted and tile laid on the floor. The sanctuary was painted.

*Parsonage:* considerable amount was done.

*Church committees/organiations:* Finance; Stewardship; Property; Evangelism; Cemetery; Christian Service; Christian Education and Literature; Music and Worship; Choir; Lutheran Church Women.

*Christian Service:* The purpose is to contact the Pastor when illness or hospital patients are reported, provide transportation to church for those requiring help; report hardship and emergency cases to Pastor.

*Christian Education and Literature:* Committee endeavors to bring to the congregation the best material available for Sunday School and private reading.

*Music and Worship:* It is thought that each male should be able to help any time to usher and serve communion. The Altar Guild gives women a part to play in helping set up the altar each month. This committee will become two separate committees in 1960.

*Women of the Church:* Name change to St. John's United Lutheran Church Woman; served congregation dinner; held Mother/Daughter banquet; attended Spring Conference at Riverside; July meeting held In Avalon.

## **1960**

*Choir:* Began learning the liturgy and a couple of hymns from the new service book which will be purchased in the future: rehearsal time was added for this purpose; the Youth and Senior Choir sang at Harvest Home Sunday; before Christmas the two choirs and several youth went caroling to shut-ins of the congregation; Christmas Eve, both choirs presented an anthem: napkins were sold to enhance the treasury.

*United Lutheran Church Women:* donated 25 tablespoons; 10 long white tablecloths; 2 hymn boards; 2 altar scarves; cookies and juice for VBS; cards, flowers, fruit to sick members; sent clothing to Lutheran World Action; served luncheon for a missionary, gave him money and a tape recorder.

*Christian Service:* We visited the shut-ins and the sick; sent out cards to the sick; Harvest Home baskets were prepared and taken to Moorestown Home; food baskets were packed and distributed as needed; congregation was urged to bring canned goods to church basement all year long so we have a supply when an emergency arises.

*Stewardship:* church envelopes were distributed directly to homes and

members were explained the importance of giving; a 20 minute talk during a church service early in the year was done to stimulate giving; Lenten folders were mailed to every member for Easter and special envelopes mailed for Thanksgiving and Christmas; two pocket envelopes were given out this year to make the congregation aware of its obligation to the local church and the church at large.

*Property:* New Insurance plan was purchased which provided more adequate coverage; new storm windows were installed in the parsonage; bathrooms in the Parish Hall/Education Building were tiled and painted; new mowers for church grounds and cemetery were purchased; Parish Hall was landscaped; three rooms downstairs were painted; new lighting fixtures were installed.

*Luther League:* continued to meet and do fun activities and projects.

*The Messenger:* A paper to keep our congregation informed.

*Social Nights:* a new beginning, they have been great fun for all ages.

*Worship and Music:* With the resignation of an organist, we are down to one organist; the Youth Choir is now under new direction; returned to male and female greeters; ushering using young girls made a debut, distributing bulletins and assisting in the collection of the offering. This action due to a lack of adult participation.

## **1961**

*Lutheran Church Women:* In addition to sending cards to the sick and sewing used clothing for Lutheran World Relief, they did the following: helped with congregational dinner; ran a donut social; cleaned the Education Building; hosted the Mother/Daughter Banquet; helped with a testimonial dinner; attended the Convention in Westville, NJ; held an improvement fund dinner; washed choir gowns; had a Christmas party. \$25 was donated to the Good Shepherd fund; donation to Rocky Boy, Montana.

*Stewardship:* Lenten folders, Thanksgiving Envelopes were used. A graph was made to show the progress made toward our goal; went back to single packet envelope with a pledge card.

*Evangelism:* The visiting teams felt there was need for materials to give to prospective members.

*Senior Choir:* "Den" mothers prepared coffee and refreshments for

choir rehearsals; both the Senior and Youth Choirs sang at the Christmas Eve service; new choir folders were purchased.

*Christian Service:* cards were sent to patients in the hospital, persons sick and at home; condolences to bereaved families; congratulations to new parents; Christmas greetings to Armed Forces; visitation of shut-ins with altar flowers and without; visited Moorestown Home and delivered food; prepared and delivered food baskets to needy families; arranged for Holy Communion for shut-ins.

*Worship and Music:* need a new choir director and pianist, one person can't do both; Youth Choir needs more mature direction, a sophomore from Glassboro State was hired; we need to organize an usher's association and acolyte club, and an active Altar Guild.

*Property:* repair of the Good Shepherd window was completed; the Sunday School paid for the cost of cleaning and waxing the tile floors in the Education Building.

*Sunday School:* Average weekly attendance 125; there are 9 classes- beginners, primary, two junior, two senior, two intermediate, one adult and a class for teenagers; highlights: Easter festival; Rally Day; Christmas Program; Sunday School picnic; VBS with 102 on the rolls.

*Luther League:* Money making projects: car wash; sponsoring congregational social; Christmas Carol Hymn Sing; sale of Christmas fruit cakes. Social activities: movie "The Alamo" with refreshments at Green Valley Farms; the movie "Ben Hur" same as above; two bowling nights; a picnic; swimming party; trip to the Pocono's; Halloween Party; attended Southern Conference Hymn Sing at Haddonfield. Service to others: serving dinner, decorating the Sunday School Christmas tree, prepared and delivered a Christmas basket; helped with VBS.

## **1962**

In June 1962, a recently ordained pastor, Stanley Phillips, was called and he remained in service at St John's until December, 1998. He became the ninth pastor to reside in the parsonage.

*Lutheran Church Women:* purchased Cotta for organist; went to Missionary Institute in Camden; council asked LCW to help with altar guild; held Mother/Daughter Banquet; worked on parsonage; helped with congregational dinner in June for new Pastor and his wife; had a

corn roast; attended Convention in Ocean City; helped council with Halloween Party; Christmas Party. Mission work: Donation to Rocky Boy; gifts to boys in Service from St. John's; five gift boxes sent to girls at State Home in Vineland, NJ; sewed cancer dressings and mended used clothes which were sent to Lutheran World Relief.

*Christian Service:* sent greeting cards to hospitalized persons and condolences to bereaved families; visited shut-ins at Easter and Christmas delivering homemade gifts; gathered groceries for baskets for needy families; delivered baskets to families in time for Thanksgiving; collected groceries from Harvest Home in-gathering and delivered them to the Lutheran Home in Moorestown with a monetary contribution.

*Luther League:* social activities were carwash; horse back riding; bowling night; Halloween Party. Service for the Church: two workdays; setting up Christmas tree and decorating Church; baked cookies for servicemen.

*Stewardship:* continued to use weekly envelopes, Lenten folders, Thanksgiving and Christmas special envelopes and a special offering folder. Financial condition much improved.

*Evangelism:* Tract material and other Evangelism literature became available, but the committee is currently not active.

*Christian Education:* Sunday School: at the end of the year we are averaging 150 people attending Sunday School divided among 19 classes. Highlights: Rally Day; Christmas program was moved to the evening, theme "Long Ago and Far Away"; program was musical and the Sunday School students were assisted by the Youth Choir. The program ended with the children coming forward bearing gifts in the form of new Service Book and Hymnals to the Christ Child in the manger. VBS: was a success with about 100 children in attendance and we cleared \$115.70 after expenses. Several youth attended Camp Beisler. The Sunday School picnic was enjoyed by all who attended. The pianos in the Education Building were repaired and a donation of \$200 was made to the Church to defray cost of sewer installation and rental.

*Property:* Closet installed in a bedroom of the Parsonage; hard wood flooring laid, sanded and finished in the same room. Painting of the exterior of the Church was started, but will need to be finished in the

spring; major project was the installation of the sewers in the Church and Educational Building.

## **1963**

In 1963 the Common Book of Worship was replaced by the new Service Book and Hymnal (red book), second setting. October the new Allen-TCI organ was dedicated and Christmas Eve services were by candlelight.

*Property:* New roof on garage; repairs to bell tower; painting of the Church exterior; painting of the parsonage exterior; painting of the Education Building exterior; blacktop on driveway; new sidewalk from parsonage to church; new gutters Education Building; new altar railing; wood paneling in the chancel; church basement was painted.

*Evangelism:* reorganize and bring files up-to-date Parish Register, Kardex File and mailing lists; August committee started making calls on members of the congregation. Most calls were to members who had not communed during the year.

*Stewardship:* the committee made available weekly envelopes, improvement envelopes, special offering envelopes, Lenten and Advent folders.

*Luther League:* activities-work on Church lawns; spaghetti dinner; hay ride; visit college; make wreaths for the holidays; swimming at the President Hotel; car wash.

*Music:* choir learned new Liturgy and taught to congregation; change in choir directors was recommended by council; choir night for learning the new Liturgy was Wednesday night and a new individual was given this opportunity. In September, a meeting of the committee decided to restart rehearsals and letters to former choir members was sent; resulting attendance led to the formation of one choir; choir would attend alternately between 8:30 and 11:15 service until the youth stepped up to form a choir.

On October a new Allen Organ was formally dedicated at both services. Special classes were held to instruct the organists on registrations, etc. Both organists experienced challenges with adjusting to the new instrument.

First congregational hymn sing was held with a total of three held in

1963. Continuation will depend on congregation support.

*Christian Education:* Sunday School classes consist of Nursery, Primary, Beginners, Junior, Intermediate, Senior, Young Adult and Adult; one superintendent, three assistant superintendents, and 21 teachers staffed the Sunday School of 200 enrollees; Easter program was presented by a choir of Luther Leaguers and young people covering the Resurrection of Christ; VBS had an average attendance of 100 children; shorter two hour period provided for the nursery children; five children attended Camp Beisler; Sunday School picnic was enjoyed by all.

*St. John's Lutheran Church Women:* cards and gifts sent to women and girls in the Vineland Home for Christmas; LCW helped with congregational dinner; they hosted at Fastnacht Social (Luther League helped with entertainment); attended a program at St. James, Pitman; cards sent to the sick; held a covered dish; new constitution and by-laws were accepted; signed up for Altar Guild; cookies and juice donated to VBS; cancer dressings were made; used clothing mended and sent to Lutheran World Action; green stamps given to Ocean View Home and Moorestown Home; cards sent to Confirmation students; donation sent to Rocky Boy; gave pastor new stole.

## **1964**

*Property:* New roof on Church and Parsonage; refinished pulpit; tiled bathroom in parsonage (tub area only)

*St. John's Lutheran Church Women:* cards and gifts sent to women and girls in the Vineland Home for Christmas; LCW helped with congregational dinner; cards sent to the sick; held a covered dish; signed up for Altar Guild; cookies and juice donated to VBS; cancer dressings were made; used clothing mended and sent to Lutheran World Action; green stamps given to Ocean View Home and Moorestown Home; cards sent to Confirmation students.

## **1965**

*Stewardship:* Organ debt paid in full. Money is coming from school rental, which is only a temporary source of income. We need more active participants on all of our committees.

*Christian Education:* there is a need for a Superintendent; Sunday School continues to use the program adopted by L C A for grades three

through adult; enrollment approximately 200; Easter offering sent to Lutheran Welfare Assn of New Jersey; three children attended Camp Beisler; the annual picnic was well attended by 91; VBS average attendance was 85 including teachers; Christmas program was well attended. A projector was purchased.

*Property:* Remodeling of Pastor's study; paving of driveway around parsonage; enclosure of entrance to Sunday School Nursery room; new door on the rear entrance to the Church.

*St. John's Lutheran Church Women:* LCW helped with congregational dinner; Fastnacht Social; World Day of Prayer at Presbyterian Church ; attended luncheon meeting at Zion Lutheran Church in Riverside; cards sent to the sick; held a covered dish; annual corn fest; signed up for Altar Guild; cookies and juice donated to VBS; cancer dressings were made; used clothing mended and sent to Lutheran World Action; donated to organ fund; green stamps given to Ocean View Home and Moorestown Home; cards sent to Confirmation students

## **1966**

*Property:* Major improvement was the installation of new pews and sanding the floors of the church; the church was painted.

*Christian Education:* Sunday School needs a Superintendent; committee is inactive; no classes were held in August to give teachers a break; no classes held Christmas Day; the Easter program was held during class hours, but the Christmas program was held in the evening; congregational picnic was held in late August; Vacation Church School was two weeks and averaged 90 students; three children attended Camp Beisler; a memorial fund was established with a deserving student having their registration fee paid at Camp Beisler.

*LCW:* helped with congregational dinner; a hot plate was donated; sunshine basket was made up for one of our shut-ins; Fastnacht Social and Square Dance; World Day of Prayer; each member made a "cleanliness kit" for Lutheran Relief to be sent overseas; visited Vineland Home; cards sent to Confirmation Class; drive given to help VBS; donated \$100 toward new church pews; attended Annual Convention in Atlantic City; helped at spaghetti dinner; donated to Rocky Boy.

## **1967**

*LCW:* attended Moorestown Home Anniversary Banquet; church anniversary plans completed; sponsored Christmas Book Corner; Lutheran Prayer books delivered to shut-ins; cards and money sent to our servicemen for Christmas; donation to Rocky Boy.

*70th Anniversary:* celebrated the 450th Anniversary of Reformation with a joint service at Williamstown Methodist Church; during the week the film "Martin Luther" was shown at the Grand Theatre; Saturday a banquet was held to celebrate St. John's 70th Anniversary. Entertainment was provided by "Luther-Anns" with 127 in attendance. Closing service was an evening service.

*Choir:* Youth choir was started in September and members agreed to divide their service between the two Sunday services. An all-girl choir of about 12 voices resulted from the campaign in the fall to recruit youth for the choir.

*Christian Education:* committee inactive during 1967 as the search goes on for Sunday School superintendent; Vacation Church School was held two weeks in June with average attendance of 110; Sunday School was not held during July and August; only one church service, 9:30, during the summer; a retreat was held for our youth and youth from three other churches at Camp Beisler; five youth attended Camp Beisler during the summer; approximately 100 people attended the Sunday School picnic at Kandle Lake; presented a Christmas program-"The Christmas Tribute".

*Property:* major improvement was the completion of the pews with kneelers; a new railing was installed at the choir section; new steps were created at the office in the parsonage; new ventilation hood was installed in the kitchen of the parsonage; completion of the black-topping of the driveway on the north side of the church and Education Building.

## **1968**

*Lutheran Church Women:* hosted annual congregational dinner; Film shown on Rocky Boy Mission in Montana; attended L.C.W. Southern meeting at St. James Lutheran Church in Pitman; donation given to Vacation Church School; hosted a "penny supper", ladies brought their favorite dish and it cost everyone a penny a sample; held Mother/Daughter Banquet; saving Betty Crocker Coupons to purchase a useful gift for Moorestown home; visited Vineland State home for Women;

money cards sent to our Service men; donation to Rocky Boy; Luther books delivered to shut-ins; L.C.W. sponsored Christmas Book Corner; Lutheran calendars sold; L.C.W. decorated coffee cans to be used as cookie containers. These will be delivered to our shut-ins after Christmas.

*Sunday Church School:* classes met 44 Sunday's; Vacation Church School had 105 students attend; Sunday School donated to Rocky Boy; sponsored four children in the Knang Jen School in Taipei for one year; Sunday School picnic at Lake Kandle drew 100 attendees; Christmas collection was donated to the NJ Welfare Assoc.

*Property:* new doors erected in the entrance of the church on Main Street; installed new signs on Main Street and Black Horse Pike; new electrical service installed in the parsonage.

## **1969**

*LCW:* saved "Betty Crocker" coupons for the Moorestown Lutheran Home; sunshine basket was made for a member and each person in the LCW brought a gift; women helped with the congregational dinner; cans were decorated and packed with cookies and given to shut-ins with a book about Martin Luther for Valentine's Day; women made drapes for the Ed Building; enjoyed program about North American Indians; visited the Turnersville Lutheran Church "Spring Fling"; Christmas cards and money sent to servicemen; donation of \$25 sent to Rocky Boy as a Christmas Gift; ladies donated refreshments and served after the Christmas Pageant was over.

*Youth and Junior Choirs:* the Youth Choir was disbanded due to lack of interest; the eight girls in the confirmation class became the Youth Choir; Junior choir had 12 boys and girls; anthem books "Youth Praises" and "Two for the Song" were sources of the choirs anthems; several Polish and French carols were presented during the Christmas Eve services.

*Social Ministry:* the function of this committee is to send cards to shut-ins, the sick at home or hospital, bereaved families.

*Property:* new door installed on side of church; first floor of Education Building painted; rain gutters installed on Education Building; retention wall built in front of parsonage at sidewalk.

## **1970-72**

September 18, 1970, last service held in the sanctuary before

construction began on the 40 ft, \$40,000 addition. Services held in Education Building until Christmas Eve, 1971.

## **1971**

*Social Ministry:* sent cards to the sick, bereaved and shut-ins to let them know they are not forgotten.

*Choir:* members are dwindling but those who sing do a great job.

*Sunday School:* started late due to a lack of teachers and students grade five through eight; congregational meeting was called to address the issue; teachers were obtained and more students in the upper grades enrolled; Vacation Bible School was a 10-day learning experience. The theme "Prayer"

*"The Second Generation" youth group:* served the church by setting up communion the 1st Sunday of the month, changing the paraments, supervised the nursery in the Education Building during worship, and visited sick people; met once a week, shared in the fun of planning activities and enjoyed guest speakers at their meetings.

*The Lutheran Church Women:* prepared the congregational dinner; provided refreshments for the dedication of the new building; went to the "Spring Fling" at Bethany Lutheran Church, Gloucester City; adopted two residents at Moorestown Home, sending cards and visiting them; wrapped presents for shut-ins; at Christmas party wrapped presents for the shut-ins and two residents at Moorestown Home; sent a donation to "Rocky Boy".

May 7, 1971, the new spire arrived. The large bell in the steeple was sold to John S. Bell Funeral home and is still there as of the writing of this document.

## **1972**

*Music and Worship:* The choirs were directed by one person and the organ was played by three different women. More volunteers were needed in the choirs.

*VBS:* theme was "Our God, Our Faith, Our Life". A very hot two weeks with 85 pupils; mission project was contributing to aid Flood Relief in Pennsylvania.

*Social Ministry:* continues to send cards to shut-ins and men in the

Service.

*LCW:* organized the congregational dinner; ladies attend “Spring Fling” at St. John’s Church in Westville; hosted the Fall meeting of the Auxiliary of the Lutheran Home of Moorestown; served refreshments at the Ecumenical Service at St. Mary’s Church; visited two adopted residents of Moorestown Home; contributed to “Rocky Boy Indian Mission”, the Lutheran Welfare Association and the Moorestown Home.

Responses from a survey about change of services determined most of the congregation wished to stay with one service at 9:30

May 2, 1972, the new addition was dedicated with the setting of the date stone. June 1972 dedication of the memorial to Pastor Oswald, a garden in the front of the church where the original Sunday School Bell currently resides. October 18, 1972, was the 75th Anniversary celebration.

### **1973**

A Tuesday Bible Study group was initiated. Attendance at worship services has increased. Both Easter services were well attended.

*Christian Education:* Sunday School was completely reorganized; VBS continued to be offered for two weeks; an Altar Guild was set up and a Youth Sunday was planned.

*Music:* there were 12 Senior Choir members and 9 Jr. Choir Members; new choir gowns were purchased for the Junior Choir; for the first time some girls stayed in choir even though they were in Catechetical class; choirs combined for special music; blue Choir robes were rented for the year with an option to purchase at the end of the year; choirs sang Lenten, Easter, Thanksgiving Eve and Christmas Eve services as well as Sunday service; new music was purchased to be used on appropriate occasions; music librarian is needed to file music.

*LCW:* helped with congregational meeting dinner; Spaghetti Dinner; served refreshments when necessary; ran a Book Corner for Lent and Easter; donations were made to Moorestown Home, two adopted people at Moorestown were given gifts; visited shut-ins with fruit baskets made by the ladies; attended Spring Fling in Wenonah.

## 1974

*Property:* completed church basement renovation (meeting room, choir room, kitchen, study); stained glass windows were re-leaded; lower level and church were completely air conditioned; parsonage has had decorative iron railings added; furniture ordered for lounge/meeting area and Pastor's study; Monroe Township Board of Education has rented our Education Building for a year.

*Worship and Music:* our long-time organist has retired and a new one hired, Janice Smith, beginning October, 1974. We hope she will be with us for a long rewarding relationship; choir has a closet in the small room of the Sanctuary for robes, this area will be the robbing room; we continue to have a Junior and Senior Choir; both choirs presented the cantata "Prince of Peace" at morning worship the Sunday before Christmas, extra rehearsals on Saturdays helped make the cantata successful; a used piano was purchased for the choir room in the lower level of the church.

*Evangelism:* each member of the congregation was given a fish pin to wear to show evidence of his/her Faith and Christian Witness.

*LCW:* helped prepare the congregational dinner; attended the Spring Fling at St. Stephens in Woodbury; donated to the Moorestown home, Rocky Boy Mission and gave gifts to the two adopted adults at Moorestown.

*Christian Education:* The rental of the Education Building to the school board has caused some problems; VBS held the last two weeks of August with 93 enrolled; course of study was "God's People Today"; Bible discussion group studied the Heroines of the Old Testament.

## 1975

Nursery was provided during church service. It was in the basement of the Education Building.

*Property:* the church basement now has all of the furniture installed; room divider separating the lounge from the conference room was installed as well as a blackboard; pastor's office now has two stuffed chairs and a new desk chair; larger stainless steel sink was put in the kitchen; privacy dividers were installed in the bathrooms and mirrors were hung on the doors; towel dispensers were installed in the bathrooms; two electric hand dryers were installed in the Education

Building bathrooms; sign was placed along the Black Horse Pike with "Last Lutheran Church...". The big project was the Parsonage renovation: all new windows were installed; old molding was removed; the walls in the living room, dining room, kitchen and bedrooms were paneled; the bathrooms were paneled, tiled, fixtures replaced and new vanity sinks installed; additional cabinets were installed in the kitchen; foyer was papered and painted; electricity was updated with additional outlets and new bedroom lights.

*Worship and Music:* there were three choirs, Senior, Junior and Angelus. Junior choir sang the fourth Sunday of the month and were singing two part music; they joined the Senior choir in the choir loft to help lead the service, which makes it a bit crowded; we will need more room, seating for 20; Senior Choir, grade 9 and up, led the weekly services; with an organist willing to put in extra hours of practice without complaint, there was a noticeable difference in the music presented by the choir; a rewarding experience this year was the Ecumenical Choirs (St. Mary's, Cross Keys Methodist and St. John's) presentation of Peterson's Christmas Cantata, "Love Transcending" at St. Johns for which our organist accompanied; Junior Choir members, 9 and Senior Choir members 14.

*LCW:* began year assisting with Congregational dinner; pillows were made for the meeting room/lounge in the church; a good clothing exchange program was initiated; contributions were made to Moorestown Home, VBS, and Rocky Boy Mission; Easter baskets and Christmas planters were given to residents at Moorestown Home who have ties with the church; sixteen pounds of soap chips were made into packets and sent to Lutheran World Relief; contributed clothing for use by patients at Ancora; attended Spring Fling at St. James in Pitman.

## **1976**

The history of our church was included in the first edition of a History of Monroe Township published by the Historical Society.

*Property:* Church: A lightening rod system has been installed; church was struck by lightening causing damage to the sound system and organ; new vacuum cleaner was purchased as well as a self contained public address system; the roof at the back of the church was repaired and the frames of the Church windows repainted.

Education Building: half of the roof was re-shingled; Inside was repainted and the woodwork refinished; outside and inside lights were installed in the garage at the parsonage.

*Worship and Music:* The Sunday Communion service the first Sunday of the month has grown that we will need to add another service next year; youth ushers were introduced into the service; choirs continued their hard work as evidenced by the anthems that are enjoyed by our congregation.

*LCW:* made drapes for the big windows of the foyer of the Education Building; our LCW hosted the Spring Fling at St. Stephen's since our Education Building was being used by the school; packed and sent seventeen pounds of soap to Lutheran Relief; sold homemade articles at June Day at the Moorestown Home; served lunch at the Pastors' workshop held at St. John's; at Christmas we made and delivered fruit baskets to our members and friends a Moorestown Home and gave gifts to our shut-ins; sent contribution to Rocky Boy Mission.

*Sunday School:* went with a new program geared to a more open and flexible classroom; mission project was contributing to the "Hope for Hungry" a program of the Christian Children's Fund; upper grades took a trip to the Vineland State School and distribute gifts collected during Advent; Strawberry Festival was sponsored by the Sunday School staff; Sunday School picnic went well; VBS was changed to one week and we had 77 children in attendance.

*A Youth Fellowship Group:* a new group was formed; they visited Brooklyn Methodist Church for an evening of Blue Grass Gospel music; helped decorate the Christmas tree; made gifts for shut-ins and joined the Catechetical classes to carol to shut-ins.

*The Adult discussion groups:* used a book called "Living the Adventure"; Bible study group progressed through the stories of Creation, the Patriarchs, the stay in Egypt, the Exodus and wandering in the wilderness for 40 years; completed the Book of Joshua and the return to the "Promised Land"; sewed cancer dressings for the American Cancer Society; through Christian Children's Fund we adopted a 12 year old Oklahoma Indian boy whom we support monthly.

**1977**

*Property: Parsonage:* A new hot water heater was installed as well as an air conditioner; lights were installed in the garage; buildings were repaired and painted. *Church:* sign facing Main Street was painted and carpeting in the upstairs of the church was steam cleaned.

*Education Building:* floor of stage refinished; tile floors in lower level stripped, cleaned and re-waxed; nursery classroom was painted and decorated. *Grounds:* parking lot was blacktopped in front of the building and new sign was approved.

*Worship and Music:* Continued growth brought about the decision to continue with the 11:15 service on Communion Sundays; youth ushers became a vital part of the service. *Choir:* Angelus, Junior and Senior choirs continue to serve faithfully; Senior choir and St. Mary's joined in the 80th Anniversary celebration singing "Now Thank We All Our God" with three trumpets and a trombone and after our service went to St. Mary's 12:00 Mass and presented the anthem there also; other anthems included finger cymbals, tambourine, drum, flute, clarinet and hand clapping by choirs and congregation.

*LCW:* helped with congregational dinner; took Christmas decorations down; served coffee and cake for Southwestern District Meeting; attended Spring Fling at Bethany Lutheran Church, Gloucester; participated in June Day at Moorestown Home; helped make decorations for the 80th Anniversary celebration; served at Retired Teachers Christmas Tea; delivered gifts to shut-ins and Lutheran Home; sent contribution to Rocky Boy Mission.

*Christian Education:* VBS was held in July with 49 children; Youth Fellowship is in it's second year; fifteen youth attended the Youth Convention in Atlantic City; held two hoagie sales and a flea market to help pay for convention; they designed, built and entered a float in the Williamstown Halloween Parade, taking first place - "80 Years of Kolacka".

## **1978**

*Property:* new back door was installed in the parsonage; *Education Building:* storm door was installed on the nursery entrance; one dozen small folding chairs were purchased for Sunday School; two dozen small wooden chairs were repaired; exterior trim over the main entrance was repainted. *Grounds:* Parking slots were striped in the Education Parking Lot; As deterrent against thru-way traffic, new posts

and a chain was installed across the driveway between the church and parsonage.

*Worship and Music:* The music program consisted of an Angelus, Junior and Senior choir: two services were started the first Sunday of each month to accommodate large attendance; our choirs provided music at Vespers at the Moorestown Home, Confirmation Service, Lenten Services and this year singing at St. James, Folsom; we also had members sing duets and play clarinet, guitar and bells with our choirs.

*LCW:* packed 25 cartons of soap; gave birthday and Christmas gifts to the shut-ins; made fruit baskets and distributed them; donations sent to Rocky Boy India Mission and Moorestown Home; sorted, packed and distributed food collected Harvest Home Sunday for the needy.

*Christian Education:* all classes now meet for a group opening at the beginning of Sunday School; the 5th and 6th grade requirements were modified; average attendance was 64; in addition to studying the Bible the Bible Study group works on cancer pads and sponsors a boy through Christian Children's Fund; maintains a continuous prayer list; VBS had 48 students enrolled.

*Youth fellowship:* was disbanded due to lack of leadership

*Evangelism:* a brochure was printed describing St. John's, its services and organizations. This brochure is to be distributed throughout some of the new developments in our community. An evangelism committee was formed.

## **1979**

A Reformation "fill-a-pew" Sunday was begun; two services continued first Sunday of the month; two services on Palm and Easter Sunday has continued; Altar Guild continued to take care of the Vestment changes, candelabra's, communion glasses, setting out communion cards, etc.; a special Yule Tide decorating and un-decorating Committee was formed; nursery during services still available, but underused. The Bible Study Group continues to meet and make cancer dressings and sponsor an Indian boy in Oklahoma.

Choirs: Angelus, Junior (13) and Senior (12) choirs still active; anthems are chosen based on the liturgical season or special theme for worship.

*Sunday School:* Strawberry Festival, hoagie sale and flea market were

held; held an egg hunt and an Easter Program was presented; due to lack of interest the seventh grade Sunday School class was disbanded; Church picnic was successful; VBS was held in July. With no registration fee this year and attendance rocketed to 104.

*LCW:* provided coffee, tea, rolls and homemade cakes and helped at the Congregational Dinner; sent 34 pounds of quilts and lap robes to Lutheran World Relief; attended the Spring Fling at St. Stephen's, Woodbury; gave donation to Moorestown Home for June Day; contributed to Rocky Boy Mission.

## **1980**

The congregation sent Pastor and his wife to Germany for two weeks, funding was through special fundraisers; Fill-a-pew Sunday is becoming a tradition; members' addresses and family information was updated; visitors who attend the church are now sent Thank You notes; welcome letter was updated and mailed to new families in the area; the church picnic and Strawberry Festival was held; Catechetical Class went on a retreat to Lums' Pond State Park.

*Sunday School:* average Sunday School enrollment is 76; an Easter program "The Life of Christ from Birth to Resurrection" was held during Sunday School; a Christmas program, "Celebrate the Gift" was presented during Sunday School; VBS was held for one week in July and had an attendance of 77.

*Choir:* choirs again grew in numbers, as well as experience and devotion; Junior (15), Senior (14); Angelus choir sang in April; the Senior Choir presented the cantata "The Music of Christmas" with many extra rehearsals.

*LCW:* helped with congregational dinner; sent 261 pounds of soap and 32 pounds of quilts to Lutheran World Relief; attended the Spring Fling at St. James, Pitman; cleaned 60 quarts of strawberries; sent \$25 to Moorestown Home for June Fair; took fruit, writing paper, stamps to our members at Moorestown Home; sent \$25 to Rocky Boy Mission; visited shut-ins, offered the Advent Book Corner.

## **1981**

A new tradition began allowing 7th and 8th graders to take communion after instruction; 5th and 6th graders are taking the same instruction so they may also take communion; Catechetical Class spent

weekend at Lums' Pond State Park; 42 new people joined the church during this year; two services the first Sunday of the month continued; there were 205 people at the first service and 70 at the second service for "Fill a Pew Sunday"; new speaker system was installed in the lounge downstairs for when the sanctuary is filled, children are restless or for latecomers.

*Choirs:* Junior Choir (17) acquired new red cassocks with white squared necked cassocks; Senior Choir ( 17) will soon have new robes, kits for gowns and scapulars have been delivered and new crosses donated.

*Educational Ministry:* Average Sunday School attendance 77; Sunday School Recognition was followed by the Strawberry Festival; there was a church picnic at Kandle Lake; VBS was held in July with 60 children in attendance; our Bible Study Group continued to meet and make cancer dressings, plus support an Indian boy.

*Property:* new dropped ceiling in the upstairs area of the Education Building; new wiring and lights were installed; the ceiling was plastered and painted in the entrance area.

*LCW:* helped with the congregational dinner; book marks were made for the choir and for all the hymnals; attended Spring Fling; donation was given toward the children's choir gowns; donations sent to Moorestown Home and Rocky Boy Mission.

## **1982**

*Choir:* Senior Choir (11) and Junior Choir (10); Senior Choir received new wine colored robes with white scapulars made by church members; choirs provided special music for the 85th Anniversary week celebration.

*Worship:* the first Sunday of the year found the church using the Athanasian Creed instead of the Nicene Creed; weekly Lenten Services were offered; 11:15 service was terminated for the summer; the 85th was kicked off with a banquet; there was a ecumenical service the week of our 85th as well as Thanksgiving Eve.

*Education Ministry:* Sunday School recognition was held followed by the Strawberry Festival with music by "Hammonton Bicentennial Band; Church picnic was at Kandle Lake; VBS was held in July, no registration fee with 75 children; Bible Study Group continued to meet.

*Social Ministry:* a sewing circle was formed making lap robes and advent calendars for shut-ins; a small group of women have been visiting shut-ins; went on trip to Lutheran Center and Glenn Ford for lunch and tour; visited Brigantine National Wildlife Reserve for lunch and shopping at Smithville.

*Property:* new drapes and stage curtains were installed in the Education Building made by members of the congregation; only minor repairs were done.

*LCW:* helped with congregational dinner; attended Spring Fling at Turnersville Lutheran Church; made stars, angels and other ornaments for the Christmas tree; helped with the Strawberry Festival; gave a donation to June Day at Moorestown Home; served lunch for a funeral; helped mark and wrap toys for the township nurse to give to needy children for Christmas; gave angels and fruit baskets to shut-ins.

Easter Sunrise Services were begun on the lawn by the Black Horse Pike; a Christmas Bazaar was begun; the number of congregational fellowship dinners a year was increased; installed a chair lift in the church; first ecumenical service with St. Mary's Roman Catholic Church.

## **1983**

Celebrated Martin Luther's 500th birthday and the "Goodtimers" were organized.

*Choir:* numbers were down this year Junior Choir (7), Senior Choir (10); a new filing system was put into place; presented a special anthem at the combined ecumenical Thanksgiving Eve Service at St. John's; Christmas caroling at Pennsylvania Hospital.

*Worship:* second service on communion Sunday continues; Lenten Services were offer; fifth graders were instructed on the meaning of communion; lighter attendance for "Fill a Pew" Sunday as well as Thanksgiving service.

*Education Ministry:* Christmas Program was "The Gift of Love"; VBS was held in July with 85 in attendance with no charge; the church picnic was at Kandle Lake; Bible Study group continued to meet, made cancer dressings, sponsored an Indian boy in Oklahoma and sent contributions to Rough Edge Farm; the Youth Fellowship started up again.

*Property:* new roof was installed on the Education Building; exterior woodwork was covered with aluminum; carpet was installed in the nursery; outside windows of the Educational Building were also painted and broken glass replaced; heating system in the church was repaired.

*LCW:* helped un-trim the Christmas tree, put away the decorations; donations were given to Lutheran Auxiliary and the Lutheran Seminary; helped serve lunch for ministerium meeting at First Methodist Church; old hymnals were repaired and new ribbons were added; helped with the congregational dinner; attended “Spring Fling” at Gloucester City Lutheran Church; donated to June Day at Moorestown Home; cleaned berries for the Strawberry Festival; made squares for afghans which were donated to Lutheran World Relief; baskets were made for the needy on Harvest Home Sunday; gifts were made and delivered to our shut-ins and members a Moorestown Home.

#### **1984**

*Property:* Our cemetery sign was repainted; a “coming events” sign was installed facing the Black Horse Pike; the “Last Lutheran Church” sign was repainted; Good News Bibles were replaced in the pews; concrete walk was poured along the side of the church; storm windows and new rear entry door were installed in the nursery room in the Education Building; the Good Shepherd window was lighted; a speaker system and clock was installed in the nursery; “greeters became a familiar sight in the narthex of the church; we began two church services every Sunday in October.

#### **1985**

The congregation voted to hold a mortgage for Pastor and Linda Phillips so they would be able to purchase their own house.

*Social Ministry Committee:* sponsored trips to Longwood Gardens for Easter and Christmas and also to Wheaton Village.

*Property:* The interior of the church was repainted; carpeting was installed in the lower level of the Education building in the center room and hall; former parsonage was designated as the Education Building annex and used by the Youth Group and the Sunday School to provide much needed space; new roof installed on the church; the

parking lot re-stripped; 48 new child size chairs purchased for Sunday School; office set up for Sunday School Superintendent on the side of the stage; mail slot installed in front door of church; cemetery sign re-erected after being blown down; a new roof was installed on the church; additional rain gutter was installed on Education Building; a light over the pulpit was installed on a separate circuit.

*Choir:* Junior (5) and Senior Choirs (6); used two part anthems because we lack male voices; on some Sunday's Senior Choir sings at both services; Junior choir sings at 11:00 service but leave early for Sunday School; provided anthems at all three services Easter Sunday; provided music for the 7:30 service Christmas Eve.

*Worship and Music:* Christmas services 7:30 (250) and 11:00 (131); total of 471 people attended three Easter services 6:30 am (129), 9:30 am (187) and 11:00 am (155).

*LCW:* sponsored a bus trip to Reading, PA; helped with the congregational dinner; served donuts and coffee at Fastnacht Social; acolyte robes were washed and repaired; Easter lilies were delivered to shut-ins; helped with Strawberry Festival cleaning strawberries, baking cakes and serving; made five layettes which were taken to the LCW convention for Lutheran World Relief; kitchen area in the lower level of the church was cleaned and straightened; had a table of homemade candy and gifts at the Craft Bazaar; crafts and books sold in Advent Book Corner; helped decorate the Christmas tree and the church, then took decorations down; baskets were made and filled with flowers and given to shut-ins for Christmas.

*Education Ministry:* eight classes and youth group; Church picnic held in July at Kandle Lake.

*Youth Group:* met every Sunday at 11:00 am in Education Building annex; activities included: skating, decorating eggs for the Sunday School Easter egg hunt; supplying refreshments between services Easter Sunday. Service: flea market and table at Christmas Bazaar; helped decorate church for Christmas; restriped lines in parking lot.

*VBS:* Held one week in July 9:00 am to 12:00pm; no registration fee charged

*Bible Study Group:* met Wednesday morning; made cancer dressings as they studied the Bible; sponsored an Indian Boy in Oklahoma;

## 1986

*Cemetery:* The Veterans Council of Monroe Township installed a flag pole and memorial in our cemetery honoring veterans of all faiths.

*Property:* a new heating system was installed in the church; new hymnal racks were installed to accommodate the Bibles and hymnals; the church steeple was repainted; installation of phone in lower level of church; installation of door between kitchen and dining room area in the annex for Sunday School room.

*LCW:* helped with the congregational dinner; made homemade donuts for the Fastnacht Social; cleaned drapes in the Educational Building; purchased stainless steel flatware for the kitchen; four quilts and four afghans were completed and mailed to Lutheran World Relief; twenty school kits were made and sent; cakes were made to serve at the congregational dinner in the spring; cleaned strawberries, baked cakes and served at Strawberry Festival; made hanging decorations for Christmas and shut-ins; had a table at the Craft Show providing handmade gifts and homemade candies; helped to decorate tree and church for Christmas; the "coffee hour" was instituted to be held between services in the lower level of the church.

*Worship and Music:* World Hunger jar in narthex of church; response for ushers, greeters, altar guild and music was super; three services were offered Christmas Eve.

*Educational Ministry:* Christmas program was held in church during the 11:00 am service; Church picnic held in July at Kandle Lake;

*Youth Group:* met during 11:00 Sunday School hour; activities: visit to McDonald's; decorating eggs for Sunday School Easter egg hunt; provided refreshments between services Easter Sunday; visit to Philadelphia at Christmas time; sold pretzels at Christmas Bazaar; helped with VBS.

*VBS:* held a week in July in the morning; no registration fee.

*Bible Study:* continues to make cancer dressings; sponsor an Indian boy in Oklahoma.

*Early Communion Class:* Maundy Thursday, eleven children joined the congregation at the altar rail for their First Communion. Four weeks of instruction preceded this joyful celebration.

*Stewardship:* mission to create more opportunities to grow in Christian Faith; began a coffee hour with goodies between services in lower level of church; a valuable tool distributed last year, "Time and Talent" will help identify various areas of involvement and recruitment.

## **1987**

*Social Ministry:* our newest initiative, a food drive, was a huge success. The amount of food and monetary donations was astonishing. Food baskets were made and delivered to those families in need over the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays.

*Worship and Music:* the World Hunger jar continues; the establishment of a prayer chain is a comfort to many; the time and talent surveys brought forth a harvest of people willing to serve on projects/committees; the response for holiday decorating was so large the task was completed in about an hour and a half; the response for ushers and greeters was fantastic; the Easter and Christmas programs were a huge success being held at the 11:00 am service.

*Choir:* Junior Choir (8) and Senior Choir (10); even with our ups and downs we were consistent in providing special music for our services; special music was also provided by flute solos, trumpet trios and solos; guitar music and a fantastic bass voice; Angelus Choir did a fantastic presentation on Music Sunday.

*Lutheran Church Women:* helped with the congregational dinner; Fastnacht Social; a luncheon for Pastor's 25th Anniversary in the ministry and at our church; we hosted the spring fling; we prepared a luncheon for Pastors and church workers who held a seminar in our Educational Building; we cleaned strawberries, baked cakes and served at the annual Strawberry Festival; helped make the 90th banner for the Anniversary Celebration; we held a Christmas Craft Fair; served coffee and donuts at the Ecumenical Thanksgiving Eve Service; a small coffee urn was purchased to make serving coffee at coffee hour between services in the lower level of the church easier; two school uniform kits were purchased and completed to be sent to Lutheran World Relief; cookies were delivered to shut-ins.

*Educational Ministry:* Sunday School attendance was great; classes participated in some worship services, presented songs and skits; a special project was a hat, scarf and mitten tree; items collected went to Sioux Indian Reservation in South Dakota; *Youth Group* met in annex

of Education Building with 14 youth attending; activities were Easter Sunday donuts and coffee between services; tubing during the summer; annual visit to Philadelphia at Christmas time; first Sunday of the month fellowship at McDonald's and breakfast. VBS was held for a week in July with no registration fee, 84 children attended. Bible Study group continues to meet on Wednesday mornings.

*Stewardship:* "One in Mission" project was started midway through the year; the Annual Time and Talent survey was conducted on Stewardship Sunday; sponsored an Advent afternoon with singing, crafts and refreshments; cookie exchange was fantastic with no two cookie batches alike.

*Early Communion:* This program continues with younger children taking four weeks of instruction before joining their families at the altar rail.

Our 90th Anniversary was celebrated.

*Property:* A chair lift was installed.

## **1988**

The first annual yard sale was held.

*Property:* parking lot lights were installed; kitchen in the education building was renovated including a new floor, ceiling, sinks and refrigerator; bathrooms were painted; closed circuit TV was installed in the nursery; a water cooler was installed in the lower level of the church; chair and table carts were purchased; crash bars and emergency exit lighting were installed in the Education Building; second story rooms in the annex (former parsonage) were prepared for Sunday School classroom use.

## **1989**

*Stewardship:* involved in: One in Mission appeal; Church directory preparation; Time and Abilities questionnaire; Third Annual Advent Afternoon of activities; refreshments between services; offering envelope distribution; computer purchase.

*Social Ministry:* Strawberry Festival successful with music by the Brass Company; Fall Flea Market with rented space and tables of our congregation, Youth Group sold soft pretzels; plea for clothing for Hurricane Hugo Victims, clothing sent to Puerto Rico; food baskets for

families in need Thanksgiving and Christmas; collection for Lutheran World Hunger.

*Evangelism:* bookmarks placed in card rack on pews for prayer concerns and special needs, given to usher; video tapes of Baptism were given to parents of 28 baptized children; \$100 Savings bonds presented to graduating seniors from our congregation; one dozen Bibles were purchased to be used a Pastor's discretion.

*Property:* refinished the floor in Education Building (upstairs); Fixed downspouts and drains around Education Building; three large trees removed; two new front doors and "crash bars" installed in Education Building and also rear door of church.

*WELCA:* packed old dishes from kitchen into sets of six and offered to congregation; put flowers in church for Easter; April new name was adopted "Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America"; new curtains were made and hung in the kitchen of the Education Building; cleaned strawberries and helped out at Strawberry Festival; attended Southwestern Cluster meeting in Vineland; sent four layettes to Rocky Boy; sent clothes to Puerto Rico; served coffee and donuts after the Thanksgiving Eve Service; sent 10 boxes of clothing to Rocky Boy; sold hot dogs, cupcakes, donuts, coffee and soda at the Annual Craft Show; packed 10 tins of cookies and delivered them to shut-ins.

*Education:* Sunday School classes continued taking turns presenting songs, verses or something they learned at the 11:00 am service on the fourth Sunday; ended the year with a very nice program by the children; Sunday School classes presented at Christmas Program in church as part of the 11:00 service; average attendance 98 with 132 enrolled.

A four week communion instruction was given to the 5th grade class and communed Maundy Thursday, 1989.

*Youth Group:* meets 11:00 am Sunday in the "annex"; participated in activities in addition to selling soft pretzels at Flea Market and Christmas Craft Show; shopping trip to Franklin Mills; trip to Philadelphia to see the "Nutcracker".

*Vacation Church School:* held in July with average attendance 60.

*Bible Study Group:* continued to meet on Wednesday; studied the life of David; sponsored a Cherokee Indian boy who lives in Oklahoma.

## 1990

*Property:* cathedral ceiling closed off since 1937 to conserve heat was reopened; insulation and wainscoting was installed; interior of the church was repainted and the doors and window trim was wood grained (by hand) by Artist, Peter the Painter; new carpeting and emergency lighting was installed; new cross by Peter the Painter was installed over the alter and dedicated in memory of Linda Phillips; red dossal (curtain) was removed to give full view of the “Good Shepherd” window.

*Education:* enrolled children (123) with average attendance 100; each month a class was responsible for the timely decorations in the front windows of the Education Building; classes took turns sharing songs, Bible verses, or activity with the congregation at the 11:00 am service on the fourth Sunday; at Recognition Sunday the children presented a program at the 11:00 am service; Sunday evening before Christmas, the children presented a Christmas play for family and friends, Youth Group assisted with lighting, ushering and serving refreshments; four week communion instruction class for 5th graders held.

*Youth Group* continued meeting at 11:00 am in annex; topical discussions and fellowship; currently 15 members; members responsible for maintenance of grass, shrubs, planting flowers; help with Bible School, Christmas program, flea market, craft show; activities: Clementon Park, Halloween Party.

*Vacation Bible School:* held in July with 73 children enrolled.

*Bible Study:* continued to meet Wednesday mornings.

*WELCA:* helped serve at congregational dinner, Fastnacht Social, Thanksgiving Eve fellowship gathering; attended Southwestern Cluster Meeting in Turnersville; collected jewelry and other small articles to be given to Meadowview Nursing Home for use in bingo games; sent a carton of quilts to Lutheran World Relief; cleaned strawberries for Strawberry Festival; sent 8 layettes to Rocky Boy Indian Reservation in Montana; collected eye glasses to be sent to Wayfaring Ministries for use in Phillipines; sponsored the Christmas Craft Show and Bazaar; made new drapes for the nursery; bought new coffee pot for the church; visited shut-ins and gave them large print subscription to Lutheran Women Today.

*Choir:* Senior Choir (9); our director, Linda Phillips, passed away this year and she will be missed, but her spirit lives on in our music.

*Stewardship:* we continue to support One In Mission; church directory preparation; Time and Abilities questionnaire; Advent Afternoon Social; refreshments between services; offering envelope distribution.

*Social Ministry:* our projects this year include World Hunger Jar; special offering for world hunger twice a year; Strawberry Festival with the Brass Company music; Flea Market (Lutheran Brotherhood matches funds received at this fundraiser); clothing collection for Camden Lutheran Ministries; Harvest Home donations enabling us to help families in need - Gift certificates included with each basket distributed; kept a food pantry to be used throughout the year for those in need.

*Worship:* designed and constructed new holiday decorations for the church.

## **1991**

Mrs. Marie Gommel, the flower lady passed. Council began inquiring about the purchase of the "Channel" property adjacent to the Dobbins property.

## **1992**

The Tamsens moved to Florida. Elsie's artistic designs are well know. She designed the Narthex of St. Johns and the illuminated sign in the front of the church. Her designs can be seen in many of our annual reports. She also designed bulletin covers for the Lutheran Publication House.

*Property:* Repairs were needed due to a break-in at the church (TV, VCR plus some cash were stolen); leaks in Parsonage porch were repaired; grass and grounds maintained by Youth Group; new custom lighting was installed in the sanctuary; new gas heaters and air conditioners were installed; new water line was installed in the church and the annex; chain link fence was installed at St. John's cemetery; new organ was purchased by generous donations in memory of Linda Phillips (the installation was quite involved); some old and dying trees were removed.

*Education:* Sunday School had approximately 115 children enrolled; a

four week Communion Instruction was taught to 5th graders, they communed for the first time Maunday Thursday.

*Vacation Bible School:* held in July for four days due to holiday falling during week. Average attendance-84.

*ELCW:* new name for the women's group; attended cluster meeting at Apostles Lutheran Church; asked for pictures or materials to be used for 95 celebration of our church; money sent to Moorestown Home Fair; helped with Strawberry Festival; bought 30 cup coffee pot; served coffee and donuts at Thanksgiving Eve Service; donations to memorial fund, organ fund.

*Stewardship:* One-In-Mission; selling calendars to benefit Organ Fund; Time and Talent drive; donation envelopes prepared; additional hymns were purchased to replace worn ones.

*Social Ministry:* Fastnacht Social, Strawberry Festival; Flea Market; Brass Company providing music at events; distributed food collected at Harvest Home, four families helped at Thanksgiving and five at Christmas; World Hunger Jar in narthex, \$492.28 and special offering, \$319 totaled \$811.78 sent to Lutheran World Hunger; outpouring of support from the congregation to help victims of Hurricane Andrew.

*Choir:* An anthem was prepared for every service as well as special music for Easter and Christmas.

### **1993**

The Channel property was purchased and the buildings were demolished for additional parking.

*Property:* south side of Narthex roof and the roof over the "Good Shepherd" window were re-shingled.

*Youth Group:* was busy serving the church through lawn cutting; planting flowers; assisting with the Strawberry Festival; serving pastries at Easter Sunrise Service; organizing a haunted house; sponsored successful dance at community center; activities: bowling night; sleep over in Education Building; saw a member perform in the "Nutcracker"; Christmas shopping together; monthly trips to McDonald's and Burger King.

*Social Ministry:* World Hunger Jar—\$363.55; shared responsibility for Fastnacht with WELCA; shared responsibility for Strawberry Festival;

held annual fall Flea Market; families enjoyed square dancing at “Western Night” and “Oktoberfest” with oompah music by the Brass Company (in residence at St. John’s) and wonderful German style food.

*Stewardship:* continued to support One In Mission; Time and Abilities questionnaire; Advent Afternoon Social; offering envelope distribution. Stewardship Campaign: “Maybe it’s time to volunteer your special abilities to the service of our Lord and St. John’s and see where it can lead. This is your church, we want your help to make it everything you think it should be! The spiritual benefits to be realized from your special offering will surprise you. And, we promise to appreciate it!”

*Choir:* Senior Choir (10); a creative group of women who reinvent themselves into duets, trios and quartets, as well as a choir of sopranos and altos; with the new organ, we are able to sing our favorite songs in the range appropriate for our voices; a youth choir has formed and will present selections in the very near future.

*Educational Ministry:* a Junior Choir has been organized for the Sunday School children.

*Vacation Bible School:* held in July with 80 enrolled.

*Communion:* a four week Communion instruction was offered to 5th graders. These young people communed for the first time Maundy Thursday.

*WELCA:* helped with congregational dinner; helped with coffee and donuts at Fastnacht Social; we packed 26 school kits for Lutheran World Relief; served punch and cookies after our new organ concert; cleaned strawberries and helped with the Strawberry Festival; organized Craft Fair; renewed Lutheran Magazine for our shut-ins.

## **1994**

New pink and grey choir gowns were purchased for our Senior Choir. The women of WELCA introduced a “Touch of Italy” night featuring a home cooked spaghetti dinner. Evening Bible Study groups held through the year.

*Stewardship:* want ads were published in order to generate more volunteerism; distributed enough red hymnals to fill the main level of the church.

*Social Ministry;* contributed \$500.99 to World Hunger through your

contributions in the World Hunger Jar in the narthex; through Harvest Home contributions, we made Thanksgiving and Christmas a little better for some families; we planned three evenings of family fun; we supported the Fastnacht Social, planning a Mardi Gras theme with DJ, decorating masks and a crazy “hat” contest; Strawberry Festival with music by Brass Company; second Annual Oktoberfest with the Brass Company providing German Music, German supper, German decorations; Flea Market.

*Evangelism:* Outreach team was trained to acknowledge visitors with a card to be filled out and dropped into offering plate; packet was made to be delivered within 48 hours unannounced, to thank them, answer questions and invite them to attend again.

*Choir:* new choir gowns were purchased for the Senior Choir: choir continues to provide meaningful music for services; Youth Choir is in full swing and are an inspiration to others.

*WELCA:* cleaned strawberries for Strawberry Festival; offered “Touch of Italy” spaghetti dinner; sponsored Craft Fair; donated money to Lutheran Auxiliary, Rocky Boy, Sunshine Foundation; ABC quilts; National Community to prevent Child Abuse.

*Educational Ministry:* enrollment, 100 in classes nursery through 6th grade; classes took turns decorating the picture window in the front of the Education Building

*Communion:* Four week Communion Instruction Class held for 5th graders. Communed first time, Maundy Thursday.

*Vacation Bible School:* held in July for ages 4—11. Enrollment 80 children; children shared their songs and Bible verses with the congregation the Sunday following the close of Bible School.

*Property:* Youth Group mowed lawns, raked leaves and did general cleanup; bathrooms in the Education Building and church were painted; painted the rear stairway into the church; exterior doors to the church were painted; ceiling in the choir room was replaced.

## **1995**

Helen Gommel, daughter of Marie, passed. A generous endowment of their two estates was given to St. John’s. A quote from the Stewardship News 1995, “We have a responsibility as Stewards of her

selfless gift to intelligently safeguard and perpetuate her gift, that it may “keeping going” for innumerable years to come, as would have been her wish.”

*Youth Group:* continued to meet at 11:00 am Sunday; total membership is 19; open to grades 6-12; events/activities: canoe trip in the Pine Barrens; Valentine Dance for group of disabled young adults at Bancroft School, Mullica Hill; provided games and prizes for Strawberry Festival; held haunted houses in annex basement; cut the grass and assisted with grounds maintenance; helped “tame the Jungles” of the Channel property; planted flowers donated by members of the church; served as narrators for the Sunday School Christmas Program; had a couch donated for the Youth Group Room.

*Social Ministry:* World Hunger Jar netted \$533.60; helped one of our families in need and helped 6 families have a nice Thanksgiving with bounty of Harvest Home; family events were: Fastnacht Social; annual square dance; Strawberry Festival and Oktoberfest; Brass Company provided a variety of music; held Flea Market which netted \$499.05.

*Property:* The Education Building was cleaned and painted; brightly colored classroom furniture and cabinets created a cheerful learning atmosphere; some repair work was also completed in the Annex; additional land area was cleared at the cemetery which allowed the creation of 100 new grave sites; new water service to Education Building; clearing of trees and brush from new property.

*Choir:* participated in Unity Choir Festival at St. Mary’s Church with local churches; Senior and Youth continued to provide special music each Sunday.

*WELCA:* helped with the congregational dinner; cleaned strawberries for the Strawberry Festival; held 2nd Annual Spaghetti Dinner (Touch of Italy); Craft Fair held in Education Building; donations to: MADD, Angel Tree, Lutheran Women’s Home, Rocky Boy; Ministerium; SeaFares; Lutheran Special Education; Philadelphia Zoo.

*Educational Ministry:* Evening Bible Study with St. John’s Methodist Church, Turnersville

*Communion:* instruction class for 5th graders with first communion Maundy Thursday.

*Vacation Bible School* held in July

*Sunday School:* new materials “Good News Explorers”.

## **1996**

The 100th anniversary kicked off the year long event with an “Oktoberfest”. The loan for the organ was repaid, St. John’s hosted the S. W. Cluster Reformation Service and the Brass Company presented “Sounds of the Season” concert.

100th Anniversary Committees: History; Photography; Commemoratives/Fund Raising; Church Directory; Publicity; Entertainment/Special Events; Banquet; Finance.

*Social Ministry:* World Hunger Jar \$1,266.71; Strawberry Festival; Flea Market; Oktoberfest; Harvest Home helped five families at Thanksgiving.

*Evangelism:* sent letters to visitors within a week; added information to the mailing list for new children whose parents are not yet on the list; visitors’ card is being used as well as the sign in register.

*Choir Report:* participated in Williamstown Ecumenical Christian Unity gathering; both Youth and Senior choirs provide beautiful music every Sunday.

*WELCA:* helped at congregational dinner; cleaned strawberries for the Strawberry Festival; held “Touch of Italy” spaghetti dinner; hosted the Cluster dinner; hosted Church Craft Fair with members selling baked goods and working the food concessions; completed the 100th Anniversary quilt; completed the children’s hand print quilt.

*Education:* Sunday School had 121 enrolled. Children collected food for the needy and decorated the window in the Educational Building; participated in the worship service at the second service once a month; presented a program at Christmas.

*Communion:* instruction offered to 5th graders with first communion on Maundy Thursday.

VBS was held second week of July with 60 in attendance.

*Property Committee:* fall and spring cleanups supported by volunteers.

*Stewardship:* Bookmarks were purchased and placed in hymnals; calendars were sold; Time and Talent appeal was conducted; News and Notes publication sent out regularly to members of the church.

*Youth Group:* participated in Spring Cleanup Day; donuts were served between Easter services; lock-in Fastnacht Follies planning session/ breakfast/church cleanup/Bar-B-Q; trip to Franklin Mills for shopping; helped with Sunday School Christmas Program; Caroling for shut-ins; created a grim and scary Haunted House.

**1997**

### **100th Anniversary Celebration Year I**

*Social Ministries:* Strawberry Festival; Pig Roast; Flea Market; World Hunger \$436; Harvest Home yield three baskets for the needy; Advent wreath making.

*Choir:* choir disbanded in November by Council.

*WELCA:* assisted with congregational dinner; provided donuts and coffee for Fastnacht evening; cleaned strawberries for Strawberry Festival; held “Touch of Italy” spaghetti dinner; sent cards to confirmed in church; sent delegates to Annual State Convention; worked with Sunday School to collect personal items for a Health Kit Drive, 25 kits assembled during Advent wreath making social which were sent to Lutheran World Relief; held Christmas Bazaar and Fair.

*Education:* enrollment 89; children collected food for needy and donated hats and mittens to Carpenter House; decorated Education Building window.

*Communion:* yearly 5th grade communion class had 19 students who communed for the first time Maundy Thursday.

*VBS:* Held mid July with 68 children in attendance—theme “Adventure Fair, God’s Kids in Action”.

*Youth Group:* 20 active teens; organized many activities; Souper Bowl Sunday; First Annual “Fastnacht Follies”; Haunted House.

*Property:* improvements to the church included carpeting in the robbing room, choir room, Pastor’s office (lower level of church) and the nursery room; a new stage curtain; Education Building was spray washed.

*100th Anniversary happenings:* St. John’s created a 100th Anniversary Cookbook and was sold out immediately; quilt was made from the renderings of the Sunday School students; members of the

congregation worked together to complete the renderings and then assemble the quilt; children of the church also completed a hand print tapestry; there was also a youth essay and poster contest, awards were presented at the Sunday School Recognition Program which was followed by the Strawberry Festival where everyone enjoyed great food and games; "Homecoming Sunday" was shared by current and past members; members traveled to Hopewell Methodist Church in Downingtown, PA, to watch The Passion Play; other festivities for the 100th included: a pig roast, Mother/Daughter Dinner prepared by the men of the church; a program of spirituals, Dixieland, Big Band sounds and other favorites by The Brass Company; Reformation Sunday Centennial Celebration with Bishop Roy Riley in attendance. The year of celebration ended with a celebration banquet with Pastor Charles Rinck, Jr., the oldest living former pastor of St. John's sharing his memories.

## **1998**

December, 1998, Pastor Phillips said farewell to St. John's after 36 1/2 years of dedicated service. Retirement was his destination. The Education Building was renamed at the Christmas Pageant, "The Stanley M. Phillips Education Building".

*WELCA:* supported fun, fellowship and worthy causes; helped at congregational dinner; provided donuts and coffee for Fastnacht Follies; "Touch of Italy Night" spaghetti dinner; helped with Strawberry Festival; organized the Craft Fair; hosted a farewell coffee hour between Pastor's final services; presented Pastor and Fran with basket full of gifts.

*Education:* 90 students are currently enrolled; children collected food for the needy and donated mittens to Carpenter House, a shelter for women and children; each month a different class decorated the window; participated in church services; presented a Christmas program.

*Communion:* a four week course for 5th graders who take first communion Maundy Thursday-14 students.

*Vacation Bible School:* 49 students participated in "Hope World Tour: God's Kids Pray".

*Youth Group:* sponsored Fastnacht Follies; Haunted House; a large

screen TV was purchased through a memorial; offered Friday Night at the Movies using the new TV; had “Super Bowl Sunday” event with new TV; 20 active students

*Property:* Built a park on old Channel property in Memory of Marie and Helen Gommel; exterior of Education Building finished to match exterior of church; sign near the Black Horse Pike was replaced.

*Stewardship:* direct approach and pledge cards ruled out for increasing giving; reminded ELCA forbids fundraising drives to be used to support the budget; purchased a computer and appropriate software to create a data base of members to advise them of church activities through a new communication, News-N-Notes; created a digital calendar accessed by computer; computerized address list.

*Worship and Music:* New choir was formed under leadership of our organist and now Director of Music; many people have volunteered to be greeters, lectors, acolytes or communion assistants.

*Evangelism:* evangelism is the key to growth of the church through new members and community outreach. You can be involved by saying hi to a new face in church, sending a warm welcome to an unfamiliar family in the pews, telling your neighbor on your block about this great church.

*Social Ministries:* events include Strawberry Festival; Pig Roast; Family picnic; Friday Night at the Movies.

## **1999-2015**

During this time period, the congregation continued to be served by many pastors. The church returned to its beginnings, being served by full-time, part-time and interim pastors as well as the faithful members of the congregation.

### **1999**

*Property:* MHSR Associates Property, located adjacent to the Parsonage on the South side, was purchased. The structure, a raised rancher with offices on the first floor and living quarters on the second floor provided much needed space for offices and classrooms for Christian Education; CD/Cassette players were purchased for the classrooms as well as 50 new youth Bibles; the 4th, 5th and 6th grade classes moved from the parsonage to the newly purchased building;

the roof of the Education Building was replaced

*Worship:* During the summer of 1999 the Lutheran Book of Worship (Green Book) and With One Voice (WOV) were introduced to the congregation; the actual books were purchased in 2000; a third service (5:30) was added to Christmas Eve Services; a new Advent wreath was purchased as well as candles, Blue Paraments for Advent and new red candleholders for Christmas Eve; lectors, reading the first and second lessons, the Psalms and assisting with Baptism, were introduced as well as lay communion assistants; changes to communion were instituted. Communion is now served at both services on the 1st and 3rd Sundays. Sharing of the peace was also begun.

*Choirs:* An adult fledgling choir (Chancel Choir), formed the end of 1998, grew in faith, strength and dedication; an Advent Cantata with music and narration, a huge undertaking and hard work for a beginning choir, was very exciting and moving for both the choir members and the congregation. Approximately 400 people attended the two services; Handbells were obtained from Williamstown High School in November. Through an aggressive campaign, money was donated to refurbish the three octave set and purchase of new cases. The eleven members of the fledgling bell choir practiced at First United Methodist Church of Glassboro until our bells were ready in February; twelve new gowns (cream colored) and stoles for each of the seasons, were donated by members of the congregation. An additional eight were purchased by the church.

## **2000**

The year 2000 was a time for change. We began the process of calling a new full-time Pastor to our church. A Call Committee was formed and with the guidance of Synod a new Pastor began her service with St. John's April 2001.

*VBS:* Vacation Bible School was moved to evenings because of decreasing attendance.

*Choirs:* The Bell Choir rang their bells at a service for the first time in January; in addition to the eleven member, three octave choir, there was a spin off of six ringers who performed ensemble music; we were also blessed with the addition of an Angelus Choir and Youth Choir; Chancel Choir continues to grow; A trio and quartet developed one night in the parking lot after choir rehearsal; an electronic piano was

purchased for the sanctuary.

*Property:* The parsonage was demolished to make room for more parking; driveway skirt that went to the “Dobbins House” was removed; Parish House was painted and new carpeting laid in the first floor.

The church held a food drive for the Ministerium’s pantry.

*WELCA:* continued helping with many activities.

## **2001**

In April 2001 a new full-time Pastor was called to our church. Pastor Ramins was the first female pastor called to serve St. John’s. As with all churches change is difficult, but the people of the church were strong and supportive.

*Choirs:* the Bell Choir played and the Chancel Choir sang at the Williamstown Ministerium Ecumenical Service; individual instrumentalists stepped up to play solos and an instrumental ensemble was formed; St. John’s was on the Williamstown House tour in December. Through our Music Ministry program we were able to provide six hours of music for the tour; the Christmas cantata “Season of Praise” was presented at both services the Sunday before Christmas; the Chancel Choir presented “Darkness”, a Tenebrae service for Good Friday; participated in the Lutheran Southwestern Cluster choir program as well as provided anthems for the services; Spring Festival of Music was presented to welcome our new pastor.

*WELCA:* helped with congregational dinner; Strawberry Festival; annual spaghetti dinner; craft show; attended WELCA Convention and provided stockings full of goodies for teenage girls of Victory House.

*Sunday School:* the 4th, 5th and 6th grade classes moved to the upper level of the Parish House: 1st, 2nd and 3rd remained in the Education along with the nursery.

*Cemetery:* now completed surrounded by a cyclone fence; new section of the cemetery will be available very soon; cemetery records are computerized.

*Property:* area where the parsonage stood was paved; carpet in the sanctuary was replaced; rail around the choir loft and pews in loft area were removed to accommodate for the growing choir; first pews in the

sanctuary on either side of the aisle were removed and pews were re-spaced for more leg room; chancel area was enlarged and electrical outlets were rewired; all work done by congregation members with the exception of the carpeting; organ, which was in the corner of the right hand side of the church was moved out, closer to the congregation, allowing more space around the alter area for communion; lighting was installed on the church steeple.

## **2002**

With a new pastor, there was a lot of change and reinvention of almost everything we did. From change of service times, to change of our Constitution and By-Laws to change in our Christian Education with all new materials. The Constitution and By Laws of St. John's were updated. Changes were minor but requested by the New Jersey Synod; St. John's stepped into the electronic world by developing a website; parishioners participated in Lutheran Day at Great Adventure; new church directory was in the making.

A stained glass and wood processional cross was made by a member of the congregation and donated to the church.

*Worship:* Replaced communion cards with a Friendship Record book to record attendance and partaking of communion. A book was placed in each pew and then passed down during the service. Pages are taken out after each service and recorded.

*Christian Education:* took on a new look; Pastor provided a children's sermon, Danny Illi (one of our young adults) led the singing accompanied by his guitar for the opening each week; Bible school remained in the evening and the theme was "Son Canyon River Adventure".

*Music Ministry:* continued to grow with special music as preludes; vocal duets, trios, quartets, instrumental duets and solos, plus instrumental and vocal mixes; April was the month for a new initiative, St. John's Version of a "Country Hoe Down"; Chancel and Youth choirs continued to grow; two members of the Bell choir stepped out their comfort zone and played a duet. That's a lot of bells for two people to play at one time; The text for the cantata this year was written by our Director of Music/Organist. The music was a varied selection of Advent and Christmas music.

*Property:* grass cutting was hired out; cracks over doors were repaired; bathroom fixtures in the Parish House fixed; padding on kneelers was considered, but not acted on, many other maintenance issues put on hold due to budget restraints.

*Social Outreach Ministry:* money raised by these events to help those less fortunate: Chicken Fest, Strawberry Festival, The Golf Outing. Continued support of the Monroe Township Ministerium's Food Closet and contributed to the township's Food Basket efforts Thanksgiving and Christmas; activities: Church Picnic, Red Cross Blood Drive, and pancake breakfast.

*WELCA:* busy with many activities; Fathers' Day bookmarks; Touch of Italy dinner; Christmas Bazaar and Craft Show; Annual Garden Party at Moorestown Home; attended WELCA annual convention; gift bags for girls of Victory House; made school kits.

*Altar Guild:* volunteers served as Lectors, Greeters, Communion Assistant, Acolytes, Crucifers and Nursery helpers.

## **2003**

During 2003 there was a change in Pastor to an interim Pastor; A Family Service the 1st Sunday of the month was instituted; reintroduction of Lay Assistants in worship and Communion Assistants who distribute communion to our shut-ins; delivered fruit baskets to elderly members and friends of the congregation at Christmas while caroling; supported a family from Williamstown who was about to be evicted by providing them with lovely Christmas gifts and supported them in their finding safe affordable housing.

*Music Ministry:* growing in skill, size and willingness to step out of their comfort zone; Chancel Choir participated in the annual Cluster Festival; 2nd annual church show "Waaaaay Off Broadway"; presented the Christmas Cantata "Sing Noel"; Bell Choir also participated in the annual show playing "Teddy Bear's Picnic"; bells were also used during the Christmas Cantata; two octave set of choir chimes were purchased to give our children an opportunity to ring; Youth Choir continued under new direction and teen accompanist, sing during the Family Service the 1st Sunday of the month; Youth Choir also sang at the 5:30 Christmas Eve Service.

Worship: Service times were changed to 9:00 am and 10:30 am;

Sunday School was changed to 10:30 am; members of the Youth Group acted out the sermon during the Children's Address the 1st Sunday of the month; three services Christmas Eve 5:30, 7:30, 10:30.

*Property:* three furnaces in the church were brought up to code and exhaust pipes were rerouted to the chimney rather than going out the side wall; smoke piping for the Parish House was also brought up to code; units were cleaned and serviced; two oil burners in the Education Building were repaired and were connected to the chimney; water heater in the Education Building was replaced.

Outside of the *church*; windows, side door frame were primed and painted; *Education Building* lower level windows, front wood trim around picture window and double doors were painted; doors were also refurbished; partitions in the bathrooms were stripped and painted; lines in the parking lot were restriped; lawn is being mowed by a professional service.

*WELCA:* activities: Strawberry Festival; Touch of Italy dinner; Christmas Bazaar and Craft Show; prepared gift bags for the girls of Victory House; attended WECLA Cluster Summer Gathering.

## **2004**

Membership continued to increase; new setting of the liturgy was learned during the summer, as well as new hymns; investments were consolidated into easily managed, fiscally sound funds; separate fund was set up for the cemetery's perpetual care; annual golf outing proceeds were given to the Vineland Sled Stars; interim pastor extended her term another year.

***Vacation Bible School:*** had a new director; theme was "Donut Man Explores Miracles".

*Sunday School:* Under new direction: curriculum was changed to a Rotation Model; classrooms received a major transformation; one room, Tent Tales, draped with material across the ceiling and down the walls; Creation Station with a tree and clouds; Noah's Ark-Cade with bright colors; Hollywood Studios with black walls, special lighting and theatre chairs.

*Music Ministry:* continued to be a vital part of the church; Chancel Choir presented "Celebrate the Promise" Christmas cantata; participated in the Southwestern Cluster Choir program; Bell and

Chime choirs increased their numbers; Bells incorporated the use of drum and cymbals as well as inviting the Chancel Choir to sing with them; a bell tree was purchased allowing one person to ring many bells; duet playing continues to be popular; Youth Choir remains strong; with arrival of the Chimes, came the arrival of another choir, the Chime Choir; unique in the fact no one needed a musical background and the ages ranged from 5—60+; annual show, “Walk Down Memory Lane”, was a big hit.

Property: choir entrance door in the church was replaced; window in church office replaced; window air conditioners installed in Education Building; Children’s Garden created outside of Education Building; Sunday School rooms in Education building were revamped; high efficiency gas heater replaced the oil heater in the Education Building

*WELCA*: continued supporting and sponsoring a myriad of activities: Strawberry Festival; *WELCA* Cluster Event; Spaghetti Dinner; Craft Show; provided a gift certificate to every girl in Victory House; proceeds from Spaghetti Dinner and Craft show went to Lutheran Disaster Relief.

## **2005**

Pastor became Part-time Permanent. The congregation is alive with energy and enthusiasm for Christ’s ministry. They gave \$3500 to Lutheran Disaster Relief; hurricane Katrina and needy families in Monroe Township; supported Fair Trade by purchasing candy, coffee and gifts made from third world countries; willing brought to reality the Interfaith Hospitality Network by opening the upstairs of the Parish House to be used as the Family Day Center and served as a Host Congregation; golf outing raised \$4,000 to help the Network get off the ground; generously gave \$20,000 to pay down the cost of a new heating system in both the Education Building and Church.

**Vacation Bible School** theme was “Davey and Goliath’s Circus Spectacular”; the circus went on the road as St. John’s entered a very large float in the Williamstown Halloween parade. A huge pink circus tent followed by circus cars made out of boxes placed on wheels being towed down the street. The float was suppose to be an evangelism tool, but also took 3rd place in the large float division.

Sunday School: Sept 2004-May 2005 was the first full year of the rotation model; children rotate from station to station on a weekly

basis learning the Bible story of the month; concept uses all of the different learning styles of the children; they heard stories in “Tent Tales”, made arts and crafts in “Creation Station”, played games in “Noah’s Ark-Cade”, made yummy things to eat in “Heaven Scent Café”, and watched movies in “Hollywood Studios”; volunteers signed up to run the same station for 3-4 weeks, with a different group of children coming to them each week.

*Music Ministry:* choirs continue to grow; Chancel and Bell choirs participated in the Williamstown Ecumenical Choir Festival and Lutheran Cluster Festival; Christmas Cantata was “The Great and Mighty Wonder”; Bell Choir continued to play the 2nd Sunday of every month; had fun at the Lutheran Cluster Festival by dressing in character as they played a medley from the “Wizard of Oz”; Youth Choir continues to grow and added rhythm instruments to the mix; Youth and Chime Choirs provided special music the 1st and 3rd Sunday of the month; 4th Sunday of the month was dedicated to special musical talents of members of the congregation; 4th Annual Spring Fling was “All Washed up”.

*Property:* New upstairs heaters were installed in the church January 2005; new downstairs heaters were installed December 2005; lower level check valve failed, new one installed; ceramic tile was installed in the basement of church; heater ducts in the sanctuary were enclosed in wood; exterior painting continued; second floor of the Parish House was completely renovated; Interfaith now occupying second floor; Education Building downstairs painting completed; all electrical circuits were upgraded.

## **2006**

We completed the first year of hosting the Family Day Center for Interfaith Hospitality Network; also hosted families for dinner and overnight lodging four separate weeks during the year; contributed shelf stable milk every week to the Community Food Cupboard; gave \$1,000 in gift cards to the community Christmas collection; participated in the Fair Trade coffee and chocolate program; contributed \$600 to the ELCA World Hunger Program collected at our weekly Lenten soup supper.

The church participated in the Williamstown Halloween Parade with a float based on the VBS theme. Youth group shared lots of activities, as

well as doing a makeover on their newly acquired room (The Youth Group Room) in the basement of the Education Building.

*Music:* added third octave to the chimes to accommodate the growing number of youth learning to ring; we now have two three octave bell choirs, one three octave chime choir; Youth Choir presented “Angels’ Aware” Christmas Program with the help many other members of the congregation; Chancel Choir and Bell Choir participated in the Williamstown Ecumenical Church Choir Unity Program; music program presented the 5th Annual Spring Fling show “Reel Flicks”; lighting on the stage in the Education Building was updated and additional scrim curtains were added.

*Sunday School:* continues to use the rotation model.

Properties: men and ladies rooms in the church were painted and dressed up; new post and light installed in front of church; new blue choir chairs purchase for sanctuary; new screens purchased both levels of Parish House; new cabinets and work counter area installed in office; upstairs of the Education Building painted; eight new ceiling fans installed in the Social Hall; window air conditioner installed, Gommel Garden cleaned, trimmed and soaker hoses installed; other gardens under the guardianship of faithful members and look beautiful; brick sign on Black Horse Pike overhauled with new garden.

*St. John’s women of WELCA:* continued to sponsor the Spaghetti Dinner; Christmas Craft Show; Strawberry Festival as well as other events that involve helping where they are needed; major effort this year was the Interfaith Hospitality Network program. Because we were the hosting church for both the day center and overnight accommodations, many hours were directed toward that endeavor; several women attended the WELCA cluster events as well as the State Convention.

## **2007**

The congregation is growing in spirit and energy. Continued revitalization and growth of the Sunday School, VBS, the adult Bible Studies. Accomplishments: published our own photo church directory; the beginning of our monthly pot-luck lunches; the beginning of a Strategic Planning process; kitchen renovation, oil tank removal and the new roof on the Parish House; the development of new position descriptions for our staff; all are outward signs of the presence of

God's work in our midst.

*Property: Church:* an electrical problem with our chair lift was repaired; caulking was done in the church basement after major flooding; *Parish House:* new roof was installed, \$5,000; a window air conditioner was purchased and installed on the second floor until heaters and air conditioner could be replaced; gas lines were run to the Parish House and the air conditioners and heaters were up and running by August. \$15,324; cabinets and countertops were installed in the Parish House in preparation for the Tea Room; oil tanks were removed from the Parish House and Educational Building; attic stairs in upstairs apartment were repaired. *Education Building* received hard wired smoke alarms; minor repairs in the lower level back entrance to redirect rain water; kitchen completely gutted, rewired and redone; new floor, new countertops, cabinets, sinks faucets, two new industrial stoves, two microwaves and a new freezer. \$8,000; store room in the basement (dungeon) was cleaned out, shelving installed; sprinkler system was repaired; dimmer switches were installed offstage and a security box built around them; top hat lighting was installed on the ceiling of the stage to provide better light for shows; outlets in the building were replaced.

*Cemetery:* new pump was installed by the Corkery Lane entrance to provide water; new flag post and flag have been installed.

*Outreach programs:* included ELCA Global Barnyard project, \$1,318 was donated by congregation members; donations for rabbits, quilts, wells and turkeys totaling \$1,979; purchase of third world crafts, chocolate and coffee, \$537; purchase of Christmas gift cards for Williamstown teens, \$720

*Interfaith Hospitality Network/Family Promise;* a non-profit organization that is housed in the 2nd floor of the Parish House, has since its opening December 2005, assisted 27 families (92 individuals).

*WELCA:* again hosted the "Touch of Italy" spaghetti dinner; Christmas Craft Show; Strawberry Festival; Lenten Soup suppers; attended the 20th WELCA Celebration.

Coffee Hour in the Education Building continues to grow. It meets immediately after the 9:30 service.

## **2008**

Through a planning process that began in January 2008 and continued

through June 2008 the Council identified our first priority to be Stewardship. The goal established was to reduce dependency on our endowment by raising giving of our membership. The 2008 budget was balanced by increasing giving, cutting costs and securing some additional funds through rental income (IHN). Also new opportunities for Outreach to grow our membership. Through this effort a Tea Room was added. Members and friends are invited to join us for tea, information and fellowship. The 2nd service which was at 10:30 is now at 10:40 to accommodate parents dropping their children at Sunday School and making the service on time. The service is more informal and draws upon a Gospel/Blue Grass musical feel. We have put together a wonderful band made up of our own members who lead the congregation in lively song.

The congregation continues to reach out to the community by supporting the food pantry, Interfaith Hospitality Network, ELCA world hunger projects, and disaster relief needs.

*Sunday School:* continues to increase in membership; rotation curriculum is working well and this year's focus is on Jesus' parables; also included discussion on pilgrimages and learning about St. Nicholas.

In Fall 2007, a special group within the Sunday School comprised of 6th -8th graders called "C.I.A.", Christians in Action, began; discussions are pertinent to the age group: talking about traditions, television today, school challenges; spent many weeks on prayer shawls and cards for our shut-ins that were delivered during the St. John's annual Christmas caroling excursion.

*VBS:* theme for 2008 was "Power Lab"; Education Building was turned into one large science lab; children "walked on water", learned how it felt to be cast aside by differences like the lepers of old, sang animated songs while viewing the video on a large screen; treated to seeing themselves in a visual production each night-watching themselves relive the story of the day. How awesome!

*Youth group:* enjoyed relaxing, talking, playing volleyball, watching movies, playing games, etc.; also staffed the bake sale table at the Summer Yard Sale; assisted with the Church's float in the Williamstown Halloween Parade; assisted with room setup and decorations, baked cupcakes, helped vendors bring in their crafts for the annual Craft Fair; went Christmas caroling; had a Lock-in.

*Music Ministry:* keeps growing and recreating itself; In 2008 a new chime choir was established for beginner ringers (Chimettes); a band was created to play at the 2nd service; program consists of six choirs: Chancel and Youth vocal choirs, two bell choirs and 2 chimes choirs and a band; Bell I and the Chancel Choir participated in Williamstown Ecumenical Unity Week Choir Fest; we hosted the Southwestern Cluster Music Festival at St. Stephen's Church in Woodbury (our church was too small for us to host), both Bell Choirs, Chime Choir, Youth Choir and Chancel Choir participated; St. John's Director of Music wrote the program which was entitled "Seasons of the Liturgical Church Year" with scripture and music. Each church/choir choose a season and presented an appropriate musical selection and the churches combined their voices in one choral ensemble to sing the "Hallelujah Chorus" and "The Lord is Risen This Morning". What a joyful noise.

Chancel Choir presented the cantata "Christ Is Risen" on palm Sunday and an intergenerational cast presented "Secret Service" during advent. "Secret Service" was the story of St. Nicholas.

In October with drums, trumpet, keyboard, bass guitar, and a vocalist our band played their first church service. Another keyboard and guitar were added in November. Our second service became the band service with the group accompanying the hymns and providing preludes, offertory music and postludes. "We're experimenting with style and sound, but with God's help we will find our niche. "

Our 7th annual show, "It's the 70's"; a cast member falls asleep doing a term paper about the 70's and has some really funky dreams.

*Property Committee* : is hard at work keeping our beloved church in great running order; Gommel Garden was weeded, mulched and sprayed; *Church:* outside lights repaired and replaced; a new chairlift was installed in July; the large crack by the cross in the nave of the church was repaired; one speaker of the sound system was turned to face the congregation; honey bees have taken residence in a church wall; the back stairwell continues to flood. *Education Building:* Levolor blinds were installed throughout the building, purchased by WELCA; small air conditioner was installed in the Story Room during VBS; new lighting outside was installed. *Parish House:* Tea Room completed; new garbage disposal installed in the upstairs apartment; toilet in back bathroom of apartment was repaired.

*Outreach projects:* included 570 chicks purchased at Easter, gift cards/certificates for the needy in Williamstown and \$479 donated to the “feed the orphans” project.

*Coffee hour* continues with ever increasing members staying after church to socialize.

*Interfaith Hospitality Network:* helped 12 families (38 individuals); number of meals prepared over the year, 6,981; the program was closed over the summers months while interviewing for a new director. It takes a lot of volunteers to host IHN for one week and we host several times a year. This year 44 volunteers helped with hosting at St. John’s.

*WELCA:* hosted 50 ladies from various churches for the annual WELCA Cluster meeting; continued to organize or help with the Lenten Soup Suppers; Strawberry Festival; “Touch of Italy” spaghetti dinner; Christmas Craft Show; coffee hour.

## **2009**

*Music Ministry:* band continued to lead the 10:40 service, a traditional liturgy set to an upbeat tone; Music Ministry now has two bell choirs, 2 chime choirs, a Youth Choir, Chancel Choir; the band, the highlight of the year, is our new endeavor: held Christmas Concert with the sounds of the season, secular and liturgical, including all the choirs and band; participated in the Williamstown Ecumenical Unity Week Choir Festival, the 8th Annual Show Church show and Easter Cantata.

*Property: Education Building:* men’s bathroom was remodeled; six round tables were purchased, paid for by WELCA; wall between the movie room and classroom was taken down to make a larger room for opening program for Sunday School (coffee hour took over social hall); *Parish House;* damaged sign was repaired; repairs were made to the upstairs bathroom.

*Sunday School:* Fall of 2009 found enrollment in Sunday School increasing to 54. The 2009-2010 theme was “Heroes of the Bible”. Opening program moved to lower level of church.

*WELCA:* continues to offer a variety of activities and events all year. Continues to support the Interfaith Hospitality Network (IHN) by housing guests in the Day Center on the second floor of the Parish house and by hosting families overnight on a rotating basis.

*Cookie Walk:* first cookie walk was held December 9, 2009, in conjunction with the Music Department's Christmas Concert.

## **2010**

Our church has had an incredible giving growth this year. A new stewardship initiative "Buckets of Blessing" was a huge success. A unique approach indeed. Several buckets were dropped off at parishioners' homes, they made a commitment and then dropped it off to the next home on the list. When the last person was done, it was returned to the church. Personal contact was not necessary.

*Worship Ministry:* added 5 additional persons to be worship assistants so we now have 15 worship assistants, 20 ushers and greeters, and 10 acolytes.

*Property Committee: Church:* an upgrade was done to the light switch panel; the Gommel Garden was given a good cleaning out; the old chimney was knocked down and debris removed; work was begun to downstairs to build a robe closet downstairs and to partition off a work area for the Director of Music/Organist; sidewalks and concrete in front of the church was replaced \$3,000; church roof was replaced \$14,000.

*Education Building:* 32 new folding chairs were purchased by WELCA; ladies' room was remodeled \$1,897; repairs made to several overhead lights; upstairs hardwood floor was professionally cleaned and waxed \$200; the right hand wing of the stage was cleaned out and reorganized for kitchen storage; WELCA purchased long white tables.

*Parish House:* Heater for upstairs apartment repaired \$335 + \$172; heater for downstairs repaired \$403; continue to have water in the basement with heavy rains and snow melt.

*Music Ministry:* 50 dedicated individuals make up our 6 choirs ringing and singing and the band getting our blood pumping with their energetic music. Bell I and Chancel Choirs presented music at the Williamstown Ecumenical Unity Week Choir Festival; Chancel Choir presented a Cantata Palm Sunday and our 2nd Annual Christmas Concert was held December 5th; the theme for our 9th Annual Spring Fling Show was "Anything Goes", brought to you by the color blue; band continues to lead the music portion of the 2nd service each Sunday; band played for the outdoor service before the Strawberry Festival.

*VBS:* an evening event with the theme “Song Quest Rainforest”; more and more of our teens are participating as aides and leaders in various positions; participated in the Williamstown Halloween Parade with a float using the VBS theme and playing the music as we made our way down the street.

*Education Ministry;* Sunday School has again increased in numbers with 54 children registered and 15 volunteers; the theme this year was “Heroes of the Bible”, with children learning about amazing men and women using the Rotation Model. The Rotation Model highlights an understanding that students learn through interaction and relationships; there were 11 young people in CIA (Christians in Action) who are 6-9th grade.

*WELCA:* started off the year with the WELCA Cluster Event with a theme Heart and Health; Lenten Soup Suppers continue to be enjoyed by all who attended; gave each of the Confirmands a card and a gift of \$10; Strawberry Festival was a success with great weather; held “Touch of Italy” spaghetti dinner; purchased \$200 in Shop Rite gift cards for turkeys for the Thanksgiving baskets; purchase several long white tables for the Education Building; held Craft Show; Coffee hour after the 9:30 service continues grow.

*Outreach programs:* during lent we collected \$240 from our soup suppers and were able to purchase 24 fruit tree seedlings to be planted in Kenya; held a coffee tasting of the Fair Trade coffees available and sold out quickly; Fair Trade chocolate also sold out in two weeks; profits went to purchase 15 Shop Rite gift cards for the needy and planted an acre of cocoa plants in Africa; collected money to buy shelf-stable milk for area families and collected enough money to buy 166 quarts of shelf stable milk this year.

*Appalachia Service Project (ASP) - July 2010,* 14 of our church members took on the adventure of spending a week in the mountains of Kentucky repairing homes for needy families. Early Saturday morning we started our 650 mile trek to Chavies, Kentucky, with an overnight stop on the way. Adult participants paid for the motel and shared the gas expenses. We had four vehicles, two vans and two work trucks and took our own tools. We were divided into two work groups and worked on 2 homes. One crew installed underpinning and built a deck for a mobile home and the other crew put gutter on a home that was in bad shape. There was also “minor” repair work to be done. At ASP

we stayed in dormitory type rooms, sharing with others also helping on projects. Fundraisers done over the year helped with expenses: Cookie Walk, Chicken Diner, Strawberry Festival and donations from the congregation.

*2nd Annual Cookie Walk:* approximately 175 pounds of cookies were donated by the church members; about 20 volunteers helped box, replenish trays, weighed cookies, cashiered and decorated the boxes; event started at 1:00 and by 1:45 we were sold out of cookies; net profit \$1,211.

## **2011**

The window project was completed (a protective coating covering the stained glass windows); Interfaith Hospitality Network/Family Promise day center moved to Glassboro; improved communications through Weekly News bulletin electronically; continued to develop the second service, known as the "Service of Joy" with the band; Confirmation program has been revamped, meeting every six weeks for a lock-in or long seminar; Wednesday afternoon and night Bible Study groups were offered; Parish House Mortgage was taken over by a church member at a much lower interest rate, saving us money in the coming years.

*Property: Church:* repairs made to the men's urinal; work finished on the new music room; robes moved to their new closet; file cabinets and two movable 3/4 walls were purchased for the music room; lock boxes were installed outside each building containing keys for Fire Department use in case of an emergency \$469; restoration of the stained glass windows was completed; all windows are now covered with a protective covering \$22,200; the Good Shepherd window had a crack in the center so a small section was taken out and repaired \$4,700; inside, all stained glass windows cleaned.

*Education Building:* upstairs wood floor was professionally cleaned and waxed \$300; windows in youth room, large classroom and heater room were broken by vandals and several items were missing. All windows were replaced.

*Parish House:* Repairs made to toilet in apartment; vandals broke windows and doors both floors, only thing missing was a TV/VCR; repair cost of broken glass \$500; IHN moved out in September and left the apartment a mess. There is a lot of work before the apartment can

be occupied again.

*Music Ministry:* the band played at the Williamstown Ecumenical Unity Week Festival, surprising those attending the program; Chancel Choir presented a very moving Cantata Palm Sunday; 3rd Annual Christmas Concert was fantastic with 5 choirs and the band presenting music of the season; 10th Annual show was “Colors of the Rainbow”. The band joined us for the show this year.

*VBS:* this year found us on the beach with “Son Quest Beach Bash”; instead of us doing the closing in the Sanctuary Sunday morning, the congregation was invited to worship in our Beach Bash world. A perfect ending to Bible School. There were 36 children, 16 teen helpers and 15 adults. And as has been the case in the past, the VBS theme continued to the Williamstown Halloween parade.

*WELCA:* supported the Lenten soup suppers; Strawberry Festival; “Touch of Italy” spaghetti dinner; annual Christmas Craft Show and at all other events; sent \$200 each to South Jersey Food Bank, Sunshine Foundation and Robin’s Nest; gave each of St. John’s four high school graduates \$200.

*Tea Room:* Afternoon Tea continued in the Parish House monthly.

*Outreach Initiatives:* between cash and actual boxes of milk, we were able to donate 700 boxes of shelf stable milk; during lent we sold chocolate, made \$100 and donated the money for Camden needy whose soup kitchen was destroyed by fire; collected barn money and were able to buy a cow and 2 pigs \$560; collected \$200 and purchased 20 pairs of shoes for needy children; Christmas time sale of olive oil, coffee and chocolate gave us a profit of \$260, including the donation of 2 quilts, enabling us to buy an alpaca through God’s Global Barnyard.

*Cookie Walk:* proceeds supported our participation in the Appalachian Service Project; two hundred pounds of cookies, 20 volunteers and lots of customers netted the fundraiser \$1,793, which included a donation of \$500 from an anonymous Mr. and Mrs. Santa Claus.

## **2012**

In 2012 the church embarked on a new worship experience. A Saturday evening service replaced the 10:40 Sunday Service. The band leads the music ministry for the new service. Wednesday afternoon

Bible study continues while the evening study focuses on conversation about contemporary cinema.

*Property: Education Building:* new gas meter and regulator was installed by the gas company due to a gas leak; new timer was installed for outside lights; problem with front doors breaking again; hurricane Sandy blew the front doors off resolving the problem, new doors installed \$1,880.

*Parish House:* The upstairs apartment was rehabilitated; carpets were torn up, new floors put in, kitchen updated, bathrooms repaired, all the walls repainted, inside steps refurbished, \$9,779; member of the congregation moved into the apartment and will be responsible for overseeing and cleaning the properties.

*Parish House Tea Room* was redone: galley kitchen had new cabinets installed; old refrigerator was painted; walls were painted and floors redone; donations from Tea Room paid for the makeover; downstairs men and ladies' room remodeled; swale was dug in back of Parish House in hopes of alleviating the water problem in the basement.

*Music Ministry:* Bell I and the Chancel Choir represented our church at the Williamstown Ecumenical Unity Week Festival; Chancel Choir presented an Easter Cantata Palm Sunday; 4th Annual Christmas Concert had some new aspects with a wind ensemble, a soloist and combined choir/band vocal presentations; wind ensemble played Celtic Silent Night arranged by Ken Weaver; 11th Spring Fling Show was "World Travelers". The show has been taken over by our teenagers; a new bell ensemble was begun to accommodate a new set of ringers.

*The band* is now playing for our new Saturday night service and the reigns of the band and transposing music has been turned over to Ken Weaver.

Since the second service no longer exists the Director of Music attended the Sunday School openings to encourage the children to lift up their voices in song. In addition to singing, percussion instruments were introduced to encourage more participation.

*VBS:* the Education Building became a jungle to bring the theme "Jungle Mania" to life; Jonah and the whale came to life in the story room when a 20' whale was designed so the children could sit inside;

teen volunteers are taking on more leadership roles.

This year there was a big change in our Williamstown Halloween float. The band was added and our theme was “Stairway to Heaven”. Our band really made a big impact on those watching the parade. Lots of clapping and singing to the music.

*WELCA:* helped with the brunch before the Congregational Meeting; offered a Fastnacht Social event with games and donuts; continued to support the Lenten soup suppers; coffee hour; yard sale; Strawberry Festival; Touch of Italy and Craft Show. \$200 gift cards given to active high school graduates who were going on to further their education. \$400 was donated to the Roof and Windows Fund

*Parish House Tea Room:* our monthly Wednesday afternoon tea is still very successful

*Outreach Program:* donated 623 boxes of shelf stable milk; Valentine candy was sold and proceeds plus money collected was sent to the Soup Kitchen on the Arizona Indian Reservation, \$350; sold olive oil and Geo bars profiting \$69. Money was used to purchase 50 plus items for the men’s shelter in Camden.

## **2013**

The church remained a constant until December 29th, when Pastor Sara tenured her resignation as of January 31, 2014. In the Spring of 2013 the new Evangelical Lutheran Worship book was purchased and introduced to the congregation. Setting two of the liturgy was chosen and we spent the summer learning the liturgy and new hymns.

*The Parish House Tea Room:* remains a wonderful opportunity for women of our church to socialize and enjoy an afternoon together.

*Property:* our buildings and grounds are being taken care of by some very vigilant stewards; outdoor cleanups are held twice a year with volunteers tending the gardens regularly.

*Church:* overhead tract lighting was installed to shine on the alter; new faucets were installed in the bathrooms; four pews received new padding and upholstering, \$1,276; rear air conditioner was rebuilt and refrigerant line was flushed out and replaced with new Freon \$3,885; carpet, paneling and drywall were removed from one room in the basement due to a continual leak.

*Education Building:* the right wing of the stage was cleaned out for storage for the Hospitality Luncheons. New window air conditioner installed in kitchen window.

*Parish house:* a kitchen window was replaced \$500 and both heaters were repaired \$195.

*Music Ministry:* is always evolving as evident this year. Ken Weaver volunteered to direct the vocal choirs; Sunday School children through grade 5 were given the opportunity to experience chime ringing as part of their Sunday School program.

The band, Youth and Chancel choirs combined together to present selections at the Williamstown Ecumenical Unity Week Choir Festival; Palm Sunday, the Passion story was presented through scripture and vocal/instrumental music; for the first time a light luncheon was served and participants of the Music Ministry program were recognized; the band continued to lead the Saturday night service; 5th Annual Christmas Concert included five choirs, bell ensemble, band, wind ensemble and soloists as well as St. Nicholas

*Cookie Walk:* the 5th annual Cookie Walk was held with 150 pounds of homemade cookies. Net profit for this event was \$1,246

*WELCA:* hosted a Faschnact Social with donuts and fun games of bingo; supported the Lenten Soup Suppers; provided a brunch after the Palm Sunday Service; coordinated a yard sale in the spring; helped with the Strawberry Festival; provided the Touch of Italy spaghetti dinner; offered a Craft Fair; provided food for the coffee hour after the 9:30 service and hosted luncheons after memorial services at the church.

*VBS:* the staff went all out and created a Camelot atmosphere throughout the Education Building to support the program "Kingdom Rock"; enrollment for the children was down, but the teenage helpers number rose; three of our teens, enthusiastically led the opening and closing each day.

Williamstown Halloween float sported a portion of the castle from VBS. However, the major focus of the float was our band, which delighted all the parade goers.

**2014**

A new program, Safe Church Policy, has been instituted. It includes every classroom having two adults present at all times and adults working with children must have a background check done. A transition team was formed as the first of many steps to call a new Pastor. Focus groups were held, the transition team completed their reports and a Call Committee was put in place.

*Religious Education:* levels were reorganized as follows: pre-K through 4th grade (Sunday School), 5th-7th grade (CIA 1), 8th-12th (CIA 2); a Church Safety Policy is now in affect; new program was chosen and purchased.

*Property: Church:* Doors in all 3 buildings have been rekeyed requiring only one key for all doors \$390; front door was scrapped and painted; four more pews were re-padded and covered and 24 kneelers were reupholstered for \$2,356 (memorial funds); held our first polish and shine in years. Every inch of the church was cleaned.

*Education Building:* extra handrails installed on main staircase; outside windows scrapped and painted; sprinkler system's main pipe broke and was replaced.

*Parish House:* 1st floor had some renovations: closet door's fixed; carpet removed and replaced with new carpet in conference room and two offices; conference room and two offices painted including woodwork; new blinds were installed \$4,253; deck outside upstairs apartment replaced \$882; new faucets installed in bathrooms; new window in Pastor's office installed \$845.

*Parish House Tea Room:* monthly afternoon tea is still well attended. Each month a different program is presented. Members and friends are always welcome.

*Music Ministry:* the band represented our church at the Williamstown Ecumenical Unity Week Music Festival; Palm Sunday a different version of the Passion story was presented through scripture and vocal and instrumental music; in addition to playing for the service before the Strawberry Festival, the band did a gig during the Strawberry Festival; band took over the float for the Williamstown Halloween Parade with a Mardi Gras them and their music was the talk of the town; 6th Annual Holiday Concert was a blessed way to celebrate the Advent/Christmas Season, sharing the music of our five choirs, bell ensemble, band, wind ensemble, trumpet duet and soloists with the

community; Saturday evening band service continues to lift the spirits of those who attend; adult bell choir played at St. Stephen's, Woodbury, for their World Hunger service.

*VBS:* It was a "Circus Spectacular" with the Big Top Worship Center as the main attraction; again this year, the Sunday Worship Service was held in the Education Building, giving the congregation a taste of Bible School.

*WELCA:* hosted a Farewell Luncheon for Pastor Sara; provided a Fastnacht social with donuts and games; supported the Lenten Soup Suppers; held a yard sale in the spring; supported the Strawberry Festival; held their annual Spaghetti Dinner; organized a Craft Fair and collected items for Ancora and the Moorestown Home; they also provided refreshments for the coffee hour after the 9:30 service.

*Outreach:* St. John's supplied the food pantry with 892 boxes of shelf stable milk; during lent we supported a program that enabled 30 children to get immunizations; we collected \$230 to purchase blankets for needy families; we had our first Blessing of the Animals attended by 11 dogs and 4 cats. \$45 was donated to the Gloucester County Humane Society: Christmas project was adopting 6 Williamstown families and providing gifts for the 17 children. Children's wishes and sizes were hung on an angel tree in the narthex of the church. Congregations members took the wishes, fulfilled them and returned the gifts for delivery.

*Cookie Walk:* now in it's sixth year, we received approximately 200 pounds of homemade cookies and candy to sell. This is the first year the Christmas Concert and the Cookie Walk were not held on the same day back to back. The Christmas Concert was Saturday and the Cookie Walk Sunday. The net profit this year was \$1,295.

*Community Outreach Luncheon:* now in it's second year, 1,777 meals were served at the 2014 luncheons for an average of 148 meals per month. The luncheons are free to the community and are offered the second Saturday every month. The meals are financed mainly through our Annual Golf Tournament fundraiser, with donations from Walmart, Williamstown, TASTYKAKE vendor that services this area and ShopRite of Williamstown. The members of the church provide desserts. We also have a special pricing deal with Dietz & Watson.