



LIVING GOD'S LOVE

YESTERDAY, TODAY & TOMORROW

150TH ANNIVERSARY RECAP

The 150th Anniversary of St. Paul's Church and School was celebrated in 2022, with the theme "Living God's Love — Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow." Committee members included Ann Benschoter, Bonnie Drenkow, Bev Folkerts, Jo Groth, Pam Hinrichs, Jim Infelt, Meredith Keelan, Ron Matthias, Fran Mueller, Jan Ott, Jan Striepe, Cathy Voights, and co-chairs Dani Gordon, Mary Beth Zelle and Jean Buckingham.

The year long celebration began on Epiphany Sunday with a kick-off brunch and burning of the mortgage from the SPARK Building Campaign.

Thirteen former pastors returned to St. Paul's to preach, also sharing a Saturday evening meal in each of their honor. Those were special weekends of reminiscing, and great fellowship with each dinner lovingly prepared by four faithful members, with the help of countless volunteers.

A special celebration weekend was held on April 30th and May 1st to celebrate the actual anniversary date. A lovely dinner was held and worship was led by Northeastern Iowa Synod Bishop Kevin Jones, featuring our commissioned hymn, "You, Christ, Have Been Our Heritage."

The 150th Mission Fund was announced during this festive weekend. \$19,583 was raised throughout the year that was shared with ministry partners: Lutheran Services of Iowa, ELCA Global Mission, and St. Paul's Lutheran School Pay It Forward campaign.

A special weekend to celebrate St. Paul's School was held during Waverly Heritage Days in July. Guest pastor was Paul Stumme-Diers, an alum of our school. An open house was held to share information.

Two books were published, *The Pilgrimage Continues*, *St Paul's Lutheran Church and School at 150*, a wonderful overview of the 150 years of St. Paul's, written by Michael Sherer, with contributions by Linda Moeller. St. Paul's School Memory Book, a fun pictorial history of the school put together by Jan Ott with much assistance from Mary Graeser.

Six historical reflections were shared during Lent; a special 150th video was produced, plus several smaller topic videos; had a podcast series; participated in 3 parades; held a cemetery tour; a special sign and a 150th banner were hung; offered 150th items; handed out traditional children's treat sacks on Christmas Eve; and closed the year of celebrating on Epiphany Sunday 2023, going forth in light for the next 150 years.