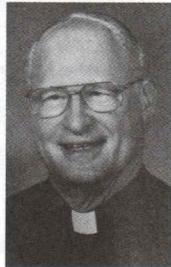


Gather in New Minden for hymn festival

A hymn festival, “Hymns from Our History,” will be held at 7 p.m. on Sunday, Nov. 21, at St. John’s Lutheran Church, New Minden. The festival will be preceded by an organ recital beginning at 6:30 p.m.

Rev. Dr. Arthur Eichhorn will serve as guest organist. Rev. Tim Mueller, who has served as St. John’s pastor since his ordination there in January 1988, will share devotional anecdotes and pictures from the congregation’s long history. The program will focus on hymns that were known to be sung on various occasions.



Eichhorn

“Hymn writers have a gift of taking the truth of the Scriptures, both Law and Gospel, and putting them into words that sing the faith into the human heart,” Pastor Mueller said. “The singing of Christ-centered hymns has been one of the ways God has sustained the congregation through many trying times, including drought and pestilence, the Civil War, two world wars, the Great Depression and three tornadoes — not to mention countless personal losses.

“They have also voiced praises to God over blessings received and prayers answered. We plan to tell the story of various occasions, look at some pictures, examine the hymn that was sung and its supporting Scripture, and then let God speak to us anew as we sing the hymn.”

Half of the offering will go toward the St. John’s Organ Fund (for tuning and maintenance). Half will go to LCMS Disaster Response, which was very supportive of St. John’s in the aftermath of a tornado in November 2013.

In his pre-service recital, Pastor Eichhorn will play compositions by Bach, Manz, Karg-Elert, Vierne and Widor. Pastor Eichhorn studied organ with Thomas Gieschen at Concordia University Chicago (then known as Concordia Teachers College) and with Pat Partridge at Christ Church Cathedral in St. Louis. For over 45 years he has been the organist at Lutheran churches in suburban Chicago, Springfield, Ill., and St. Louis. He is best known for his time as music director at Holy Cross Lutheran Church, St. Louis. Eichhorn is still a chapel organist at Concordia Seminary, St. Louis. He currently serves as pastor of St. Salvator Lutheran Church, Venedy, and St. Peter’s Lutheran Church, New Memphis.

The festival is part of a year-long celebration of St. John’s 175th anniversary, under the theme “Rooted and Growing in Christ.” The congregation was organized on Nov. 8, 1846. On that day, C.F.W. Scholz was ordained and installed as pastor (Scholz was trained in Germany by Rev. Wilhelm Loehe and sent to New Minden by Rev. C.F.W. Walther). A congregation



LCMS/Errik M. Lunsford

was chartered, and Friedrich Hoffman donated 55 acres to the new congregation — a farm he had purchased for his son, Carl, who had recently died just shy of his 19th birthday. The congregation still owns 42 of those acres today.

St. John’s has planned the following events for the anniversary:

- ▶ **Congregational Birthday Sunday** will be held on Nov. 7. The 10 a.m. Divine Service will welcome Rev. Dr. Charles Arand, Concordia Seminary professor and former St. John’s pastor, as guest preacher.
- ▶ **Synodical Birthday Sunday** will be held on April 24. The 10 a.m. service will welcome Rev. Dr. Dale Meyer, who retired as Concordia Seminary president last year, as guest preacher. The Synod was organized on April 26, 1847, with St. John’s as a charter member. A hymn festival for the Southern Illinois District will be held at 7 p.m.
- ▶ **The Trinity-St. John Lutheran School alumni reunion and joint worship with Trinity Nashville** will be held at 10 a.m. on June 26. Rev. Glen Emery, former Trinity-St. John teacher, will be the guest preacher. After a light lunch, Richard Cohrs, first Trinity-St. John principal (1974-77) will give a presentation titled “The Stones Shout His Praise,” sharing inspiration from his trips to the Holy Land.
- ▶ **Confirmation Reunion Sunday** will be held on July 31. All classes are invited. A catered meal will follow the 10 a.m. worship service. Rev. Jacob Mueller, son of the congregation and pastor of Holy Cross, Emma, Mo., will be the guest preacher.

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Rev. Tim Mueller

Also during spring 2022, an old-fashioned “church raising” will be held. God willing, the 1847 church/school/parsonage/shed (a 20’ x 33’ timber-frame structure flattened in the 2013 tornado) will be rebuilt as the “Jesus Sends You Missionary Chapel.”

Because of changing COVID-19 guidelines, those who plan to attend are urged to visit stjohnsnewminden.org, click “175th Anniversary” to check for updates.