

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN • LAKE BENTON, MN

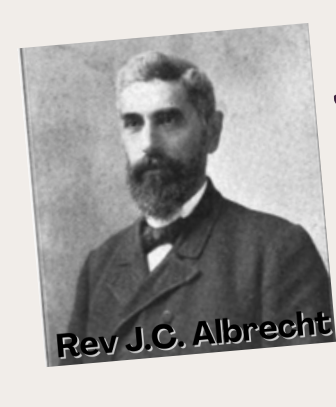


Clay Jars

2 Corinthians 4:7-9

Pastoral History

A brief historical synopsis of the faithful pastors serving at Lake Benton, Minnesota and associated congregations.



1891

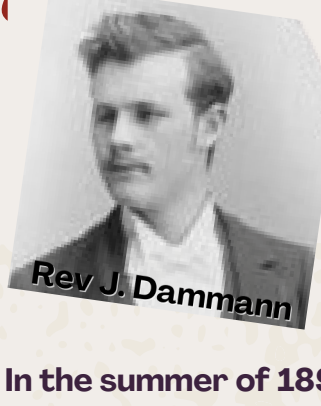
St. John's Evangelical Lutheran church was organized March 8, 1891, with Reverend Johann Christian Albrecht presiding at the organizing meeting.

Rev. George Heinrich Schoemperlen was called to serve St. John's in Lake Benton and Trinity Lutheran in Elkton, South Dakota. Schoemperlen served until 1895.



1892

Rev. Julius Dammann began ministry on Sept. 1, 1895 in conjunction with Elkton and Ward, S. Dakota. In 1897, Immanuel Lutheran of Verdi township was added as a preaching parish.

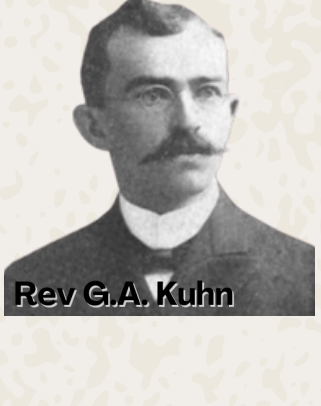


1895

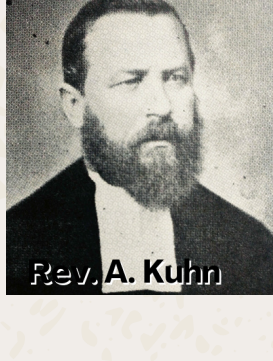
In the summer of 1899, a suitable parsonage building was erected on a lot at 210 Bluff Street in Lake Benton. The lot was donated by layman H. Nansen.

1899

The Rev. Gustave A. Kuhn, fresh from seminary soon succeeded as pastor of the parish. In the same year his father Rev. Albert Kuhn, was called as assistant pastor of the congregation. Both of these men served from August 1900 to the beginning of May 1907.

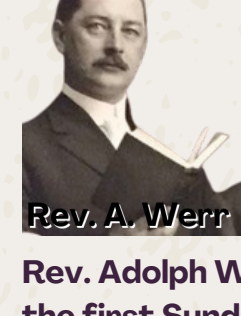


1900



On June 16, 1907, Polish born Rev. Theodore Engel was installed as pastor of the parish. Rev. Engel helped organize a Ladies Aid Society who worked to secure a church building.

1907



1914

In January 1914, the St. John's Lutheran congregation resolved to purchase the Congregational church property in Lake Benton. On August 2, 1914, the newly acquired church was dedicated.

Rev. Adolph W. Werr was installed on the first Sunday of August 1916. Rev. Werr took a call in 1922 to Wisconsin.

1916



1922

On July 30, 1922, the Rev. Paul W. Spaude, a pastor from Mason City, Iowa, came to Lake Benton to serve. Rev. Spaude organized Sunday School, a Walther League for young people, and started the Dorcas Society - an English women's society. Rev. Spaude was at Lake Benton for 24 years until 1946 when he took a call to Woodbury, MN.

Rev. Adolph Henry Birner served St. John's in Lake Benton from 1947 to 1958. Rev. Birner had a heart attack while conducting a funeral service. He passed away on 9 Sept, 1958.

1947

In 1956, the old church building was torn down and a new church constructed and dedicated in 1957.



1956

1958

Gerhardt W. Birkholz born in 1927 in Marshfield MN., graduated seminary in 1952 and was installed at St. John's in 1958. He enjoyed working with the youth. Rev. Birkholz served until April 1970. From 1978 to 1992, Rev. Birkholz served as the MN District President.

Rev. Louis W. Meyer who began ministry in the East Fork Apache Lutheran High School, served from 1970 to 1977.

1970



Rev. L. Meyer



1978

Rev. Paul W. Alliet graduated from Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary in 1975. Pastor Alliet served St. John's from 1977 until 1989.

Rev. Donald Charles Windsperger graduated from seminary in 1989 and was assigned to St. John's at Lake Benton, MN. Rev. Windsperger served until 2012.

1989



Rev. D. Windsperger

Rev. Joel A. McKenney was assigned out of Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary in 2012 after tutoring at Michigan Lutheran Seminary. Rev. McKenney is the great-grandson of Rev. Paul W. Spaude.

2012



Rev. J. McKenney

2017



Rev. D. Furno

In January 2017 when Pastor David J. Furno accepted the call to St. John's. Rev. Furno served until April 30, 2021 when he retired from ministry.

The dedication of the new parsonage at 208 Garfield, Lake Benton was held October 18, 2020.

2020



Rev. E.P. Lund

2023

Rev. Erik P. Lund was installed on July 23, 2023 as the 16th full time pastor.

<http://stjohnslb.com/>



Vacancy Pastors

- Rev. B. Frohmader (1958)
- Rev. R. Bittorf (1970)
- Rev. T. Kutz (1989)
- Rev. R. Schmidt (2012)
- Rev. P. Naumann (2016)
- Rev. P. Gunderson (2021-23)

