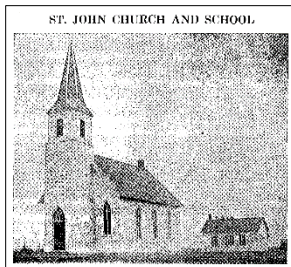


ZSJ HISTORY 1885-1895

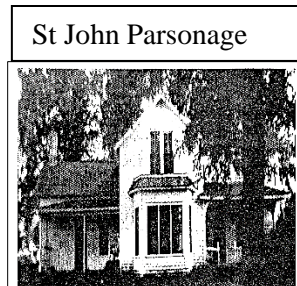
The fledgling congregation of St John Lutheran began to grow and in 1886, they called Pastor E C Schlutz to be their leader. A parsonage was built to house the pastor and his family. In 1893, Pastor E Barkow was called as the new pastor. In the same year, the school building for religious education was built. During this growing time,



many families from the west side of Sheffield were making the 5 mile trip (one way) to church in wagon, buggy or on horseback each Sunday. On April 3, 1893, these families with the help of Pastor Barkow, established the town church, called Friedens Gemeinde (Peace Church). Until a building could be built, they met in the Oelkers schoolhouse. St John was commonly referred to as

the “mother church.” Pastor Barkow served both churches for the next two years but retired in 1895 due to poor health. During this time many joint mission festivals were held in the groves east of Sheffield in cooperation with the churches in Rockwell. These were very well attended and included many baptisms. Services and religious instruction were conducted in German and Holy Communion was only offered four times a year. The dress for services was very formal. Men wore wool suits, winter or summer, and the women always wore hats. If there was a death in the family, the

women wore black dresses for at least 6 months. Boys wore knee pants until they were confirmed and then they were allowed to wear long pants. Men sat on the east side of the sanctuary and women and children on the west. The deacons sat in the front row. Yes, the FRONT ROW! The deacons and men always communed first.



As these two churches grew, they celebrated many milestones. During these 10 years, there were 86 baptisms, 54 confirmations, and 14 marriages at St John. At Peace, there were 15 baptisms. All confirmations were held at St John, with children from both congregations participating. The first recorded marriage was not until 1897. Sadly, there were 12 deaths recorded in the St John congregation, 5 of which were children or infants. The first recorded funeral at Peace was Herman Gerfen in 1895.

Other notable historical events in national and world history were:

- 1885, the Washington Monument is completed; ATT is incorporated; the Statue of Liberty arrives in NY harbor; the Canadian transcontinental RR is completed; the first Flag Day was recognized.
- 1886, The Haymarket riots erupt in Chicago; poet Emily Dickenson dies; President Grover Cleveland gets married in the White House; The Benz Patent Motorwagen, considered the first automobile, was patented; Coca Cola was invented.
- 1887, Queen Victoria celebrates her Golden Jubilee; Sir Arthur Conan Doyle debuts the detective genius, Sherlock Holmes; George Westinghouse was granted a patent for a new and improved transformer.
- 1888, a Great Blizzard engulfs the US east coast; Jack the Ripper claims his first victim in London.
- 1889, The Johnstown Flood kills 2000 in PA; Nellie Bly, a reporter from the NY World starts an epic 72 day race around the world which she will complete in early 1890; Congress authorizes the Oklahoma land rush; during the Berlin conference, the western powers divide Africa.
- 1890, Beginning of the Gay nineties; Vincent Van Gogh dies; Yosemite becomes a national park; hundreds of the Lakota people are massacred by the US army at Wounded Knee.
- 1891, Carnegie Hall opens in NYC; commercial production of automobiles began in France; the glider aircraft was created in Germany.
- 1892, the Sierra Club is founded; the diesel engine was created in France.
- 1893, Thomas Edison creates a motion picture studio; The World’s Fair opens in Chicago; the stock market crash results in the Panic of 1893; New Zealand grants women the right to vote.
- 1894, many workers strike in response to the Panic of 1893; Pierre de Coubertin begins organizing the first modern Olympics; the Labor day holiday is created in the US.
- 1895, Teddy Roosevelt is elected NY police commissioner; The White House Christmas tree is lit with Edison electric bulbs; Alfred Nobel establishes the Nobel Peace Prize