

St. Paul Lutheran Church, ELCA  
1912-20121



On September 22 and 23, 2012 the people of St. Paul Lutheran Church in Neenah celebrated the church's 100<sup>th</sup> birthday in style. Parishioners welcomed former ministers, past and present members, church neighbors and relatives of charter members for an opportunity to revisit the history of the first "English speaking" church in the Twin cities of Neenah and Menasha. Pictures flooded the narthex and halls of St. Paul generating conversation and memories and reminding visitors of events and people who, with courageous conviction, endless faith and God's grace, kept the church going over a century of time. An open house on Saturday provided attendees the chance to tour the church, enjoy musical and edible treats and reminisce with people they hadn't seen for many years. Before the Sunday service officially began, parishioners gathered to sing favorite hymns. By service time the church auditorium was filled. Over the next two hours, spoken word and music provided a time for all to reflect on and be thankful for the many blessings bestowed on the St. Paul congregation.

At two times during St. Paul's one hundred year history the church grew so mightily that parishioners decided the time was right to donate members and form mission congregations. Thus, St. Timothy's in Menasha and St. Mark's in Neenah were born. On the centennial occasion of St. Paul members of St. Mark's helped in the kitchen and served the celebratory meal to members of their parent church and guests. St. Mark's choristers joined the voices of St. Paul's Sanctuary choir to offer musical selections during the Sunday morning service. Archival church records show that this practice of "helping out" other congregations for special events was common in the past, probably because personal connections between churches were still strong in the early years and time commitments to church activities were of higher priority than today. In 2012 St Paul was not only blessed to still have personal connections with the people of St. Mark's , but also blessed by their willingness to aid our efforts . We heartily thank the people from that church who helped make our celebration so special. Ann Sager—  
Centennial Committee member