

Celebrating 150 Year's of God's Grace

Praise The Lord: Who Has Not Rejected Your Prayer

September 15, 2019 – Psalm 66:13-20 (NIV)

“I will come to your temple with burnt offerings and fulfill my vows to you— vows my lips promised and my mouth spoke when I was in trouble. I will sacrifice fat animals to you and an offering of rams; I will offer bulls and goats. Come and listen, all you who fear God; let me tell you what he has done for me. I cried out to him with my mouth; his praise was on my tongue. If I had cherished sin in my heart, the Lord would not have listened; but God has surely listened and heard my voice in prayer. Praise be to God, who has not rejected my prayer or withheld his love from me!”

The day of Celebrating 150 years of God's Grace here at St. John's Northfield Twp. has finally arrived!

The 150th Anniversary Committee has put in long hours, together with many others who have assisted in countless ways.

- The 150th Anniversary Church Directory is complete.
- The Historical Booklet is complete and printed.
- The 1994 “I Remember” Booklet has been reprinted.
- The 150 years of God's Grace sign was ordered and put up.
- The 1869 Banner was hung.
- The guest liturgist and guest preacher has arrived.
- The special flowers are in place.
- The meal will soon be served.
- The Historical Photos are up on the walls.

Included in those photos are many Confirmation class photos dating as far back as 1914. Did you know any of the people in the photos? Are you included in any of those photos? On their Confirmation Day those young people would have made a vow, that is, a promise similar to the following:

“Do you intend to continue in the confession of the Evangelical Lutheran Church, Do you intend to faithfully conform all your life in what you think, say and do to the rule of the Divine Word of God, to be diligent in the use of the means of Grace, by regularly hearing and studying God's Word and faithfully receiving the Lord's Supper, and to lead a sober, righteous, and godly life, and to remain faithful to the Triune God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, even unto death.

If so – Then answer by saying – I do so intend with the Help of God.

Are you one of those who made such a promise? Have you kept your promise? Whether you made a confirmation promise or not, have you ever made any other promise?

- A promise at the Marriage altar to be faithful even unto death?
- A promise to your children to attend their school functions?
- A promise to your spouse to go with them to some special function?
- A promise to meet your friends or extended family.

In this Text we hear about A PROMISE – made by the Psalmist. The Psalmist will bring a Burnt Offering to the Temple of the Lord. In the Old Testament the Burnt Offering was an offering of a complete burning up of the offering. This complete burning up of the offering symbolized a complete giving of oneself to the Lord. Putting God first in everything one says and does, and even the way one thinks, and when thoughts which are contrary to the Word of God come to mind, to put those thoughts aside.

We also hear the Psalmist emphasizing that those who fear God, that is those who believe in God will “Come and Listen”. As believers the Psalmist also points out that we will “Tell what God has done and Praise Him with our tongue.”

When Pastor Frederick Schmid came to Ann Arbor, he came to Proclaim the wonders that the Lord has done!

In the Booklet entitled:
The Life and Labors of Pastor Frederick Schmid by Frederick Schmid Jr.

We are told that the first congregation that was organized under Pastor Schmid was:
“*The First German Society in Scio*” which was also called *Zion*. The congregation held its first services in the Church Building in December of 1833 and was incorporated by October 22, 1834.

By September of 1841 Zion began to alternate services every other Sunday in the City of Ann Arbor and the building which was located in the countryside.

By 1845 the city congregation had its own building. Unfortunately it is told that 75 years after the opening of Zion, Zion was sold for \$ 40.00 and torn down.

A Quote from *The Life and Labors of Pastor Frederick Schmid*: “*How wonderful it would be if we at this time could visit it and fall down upon our knees as did our Fathers and Mothers in days gone by. Let us Keep this little Zion Church in memory with REVERENCE.*”

Today here at St. John’s we are gathered to show reverence to GOD Who has not rejected our prayers.

St. John’s has by God’s grace been in existence for 150 years. If all those who are pictured on the walls of the church basement together with their families were here today, just think how many people would be seated in this church building today!

It would be nice if St. John’s –Northfield Twp. remained faithful to the Word of God and the Proclamation of that Word continued until the Lord Jesus returns on Judgment Day. But it may not.

Jesus says, “*Heaven and Earth will pass away, but My Word will never pass away.*” (Matt.24:35)

Even if the earthly building crumbles and is long forgotten, The Message of Salvation in Christ Jesus our Risen Savior continues forever. Even if the vows of many fail, God’s Promises and the Salvation that He won in Christ Jesus is good forever. AMEN