1906

† After worshipping for many years in Zion Lutheran Church, Bensenville, and for 13 years in the chapel of Concordia Teachers College, at that time located in Addison, those Lu-



The Evangelical Lutheran Seminary

therans living in and around Addison officially founded and established a new congregation on July 10. The name of the congregation was the German Evangelical Lutheran St. Paul's Congregation, and the initial membership included 45 voting members.

- † The congregation's first pastor, Rev. Adolf Pfotenhauer, of Lemont, was installed.
- † Six and two-thirds acres of land were purchased on Army Trail Road, formerly known as St. Charles Road, at a cost of \$1,050.
- † Plans for the new church edifice were accepted. The seating capacity of the church was to be approximately 750 and modeled after St. John Lutheran Church, (Mayfair) Chicago.
- † The Cornerstone for the new church was laid on Oct. 14.
- † Activities of the congregation's first year included building new wagon sheds before winter, and Advent and children's Christmas services. Church pews were purchased for \$1,425, and the pulpit and lectern were purchased for \$400.
- † School enrollment stood at 211. The school, which had been in operation since 1849, had its own elders, voting body, chairman and secretary.
- † Application was made for membership in The Evangelical Lutheran Church of Missouri, Ohio, and Other States (now known as The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod).
- † Fifteen Voters' Meetings were held, and the voting roster numbered 131 people at the end of the year.
- † Communion was celebrated once a month. Those wishing to commune were required to personally announce to the pastor the previous Friday.

- † The congregation conducted three Mission Festivals with the offerings going to Negro Missions, the Orphan Home, and the Chicago Inner City Mission. Such special offerings for various charities and causes were authorized quite frequently by the young congregation.
- † Lenten services were begun.
- † Insurance coverage for the church was increased to \$10,000.

- † A 1,500-pound bell was ordered for \$570. The new church was to have electric lighting and use 260 lights in the main chandelier. The cost of the fixture was \$250.
- † Teacher Starke was to be paid \$25 per year for his services.
- † Arrangements were made to construct a new privy.
- † It was decided the bodies of those members who had died from contagious diseases could be brought into the church, but they must be covered with glass.
- † The Ladies' Aid organization was established.
- † Mr. Hoefner presented a cut-stone baptismal font.
- † The new church building was completed at a cost of \$30,716 and was dedicated on May 26. A brief address in English was included in the dedication service. The seminary band furnished the music. Ham, cheese, butter, soda water, ice cream and cigars were sold after the service.
- † The church also served the faculty and students of Concordia Teachers College and the Lutheran Orphan Home, both located in Addison, therefore, the congregation was given permission to circularize the synod for contributions to the Building Fund. Financial assistance was received.
- † The job description for the custodian listed 16 specific The baptismal font. items, including working the organ bellows, ringing the church bells on New Year's Eve, and locking the "water closet" after each service. His annual salary was set at \$75.
- † The congregation decided on the following seating arrangement in the new church: women on the east side, men on the west side, students upstairs, and confirmands in the front on the main floor.
- † Difficulties arose between St. Paul and Zion about releases of membership to St. Paul. Letters and meetings went on for nearly a year.

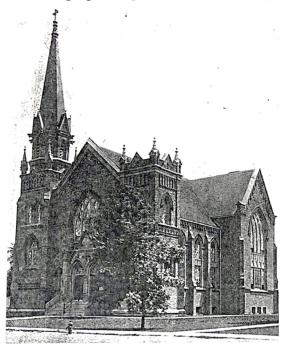
1908

- † The congregation authorized the building of a parsonage for \$3,759.43, including heating, lighting and an adjoining barn. The basement was to be used for confirmation classes.
- † The congregation purchased land for its own cemetery for \$600.

- † The debt on the church building stood at \$19,175, and on the cemetery at \$500.
- † The pastor received four weeks of vacation.



- † Seminary students who preached for the pastor were to receive \$3.
- † A congregation picnic was set for July 4.



St. Paul Church, circa mid- to early-1900s.

1910

† Families agreed to pay the custodian \$1 for his help at weddings and funerals.

1911

- † The congregation issued a strong protest to Synod for trying to move the Addison Seminary from Addison.
- † The church had heating problems.

1912

- † The grave digger earned \$5 for digging large graves, \$4 for digging small graves.
- † The congregation issued a protest to President Taft for permitting Catholic monks and nuns to teach in the Indian government school in their regalia.
- † The pastor's salary was raised from \$58 to \$70 per month.
- † The congregation voted not to give its annual report on membership and offerings to the district.

1913

- † After much discussion, the electric lights that were decided upon in 1907 for the church were finally installed, an organ motor was installed, and electric lights were installed in the parsonage.
- † The custodian's pay was raised to \$100 per year.
- † The cemetery was vandalized, flowers were damaged and stone was strewn on the graves.
- † The congregation canceled its service on the occasion of the 75th anniversary of Zion, Bensenville, to permit and encourage St. Paul members to attend the special services at Zion.

- † The General Fund had its first debt—\$48. The overall church debt was reduced to \$9,529.
- † Cement sidewalks were laid in front of the church and parsonage.
- † Members complained that the Synod was wasting money by moving the Seminary from

Addison to River Forest.

† It was felt that using candles on the church's Christmas tree was too dangerous so the young people were advised to purchase electric lights.

1915

† The pastor was encouraged to wear clergy robes during Bible Class.

1916

- † Orphan Home children attending services at St. Paul were to sit in the front two rows.
- † The General Fund deficit totaled \$338.14.

1917

- † A joint Reformation Service was held between St. Paul and Zion, Bensenville.
- † Several committees that included ladies were appointed, something unusual for the time.

1918

- † The General Fund was in the black.
- † The Ladies' Aid was given permission to put electric lights on the altar.
- † Absenteeism was a problem in the children's Confirmation Class.
- † The congregation voted "no" to Daylight Savings Time.
- † The pastor's salary was raised to \$1,000 per year.

1919

- † School teachers suggested religion classes be taught in English.
- † Discussion began on dissolving the school as a separate entity and that the church and school should become one unit.

1920

- † A young people's society was established.
- † The congregation resolved to redecorate the church at a cost of about \$2,000 or less.

1921

- † The congregation agreed to buy a car for the pastor and it must have a "starter."
- † The congregation resolved not to adopt "Chicago" time.

1922

† The congregation observed the 75th anniversary of the Synod.

An Ode to St. Paul

By Ruth Rittmueller

Praise and Honor to Our Savior
Praise to Christ our Only King
Praises to Him - oh - so - holy
Ever more our praise we sing.
One hundred years of faith and glory
All that time to worship Him
Looking forward to Salvation
Knowing that our souls He'll win.

1928

- † Water was to be piped into the church and parsonage.
- † A Vapor Vacuum System was installed to heat the church.

1929

- † The church installed a new roof.
- † The Cemetery Constitution was translated from German to English.

1930

- † Insurance coverage for church properties was raised to \$40,000.
- † A front porch was built on to the parsonage.

1931

† The congregation celebrated its 25th anniversary with special services May 31.

1932

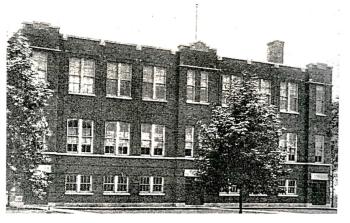
- † The first 24 English hymnals were purchased for guests in Sunday services.
- † The use of violins and other musical instruments in worship services was encouraged.
- † A committee was elected to consider the inclusion of more English services to "keep peace." The final decision was to have an English service the first Sunday of the month in the evenings, plus an English service at 11 a.m. on the third Sunday of each month. Prior to this time, English services were only conducted once a month.

1933

- † English Communion services were instituted four times a year and in the evening service.
- † Church societies were granted permission to have anniversary services in English.
- † "Christenlehre" (instruction of children during church services) was dropped.
- † The Children's Christmas service was conducted in German and English. Three teachers took care of the German and two teachers took care of the English parts.

1934

- † Once again it was agreed to drop the "Christenlehre," but it was also agreed the pastor could preach from the Catechism.
- † Advent services continued to be conducted in German.



In 1919, the school and church began discussion regarding combining the two into one entity. The east school building, pictured, was built in 1924.

1935

- † The Orphan Home Association requested more English services since so many children did not know German.
- † German and English services were conducted every Sunday morning, and announcements were also made in both languages.
- † It was decided ushers were to be at least 21 years old.

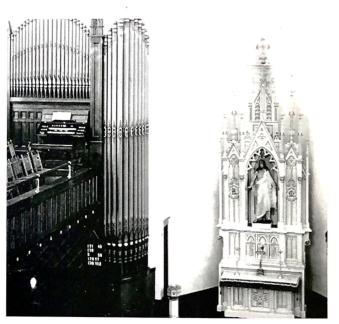
1936

- † Confirmands were allowed to attend Communion on Maundy Thursday either at the morning English service or the evening German service.
- † School children were to sit downstairs so the pastor could see them during services.
- † Thought was given to joining the school and congregation treasuries.
- † Unusual winter weather caused the organ to stop during one of the services.
- † The Synodical Convention report was made only in English.
- † A committee was set up to revise the English liturgy.

1937

- † The English liturgy followed the English Hymnal.
- † A petition was circulated against Bible reading in public schools.
- † The Board of Elders purchased a safe "at bargain price."
- † The assistant pastor was given \$25 per month toward his housing allowance because no housing was provided.
- † English and German were both used for the annual Mission Festival service.
- † The bowling alley was closed during worship services.

- † Communion attendance averaged two-and-a-half times per communicant per year.
- † A toilet was removed from the church and the congregation was asked to use the facilities in the school. A new toilet was placed in back of the organ for the pastor's use.
- † Pastor Pfotenhauer lamented the fact that church attendance was only at 45 percent.



Originally, the organ was located on the southeast side of the church, next to the altar. In 1944, it was remodeled and relocated to the northern end of the balcony.

† Congregation singing at funerals conducted in the funeral home was discontinued, but the use of a soloist was permitted.

† Zion, Bensenville thanked the congregation for use of the church during reconstruction of its building after a fire.

1939

† English Communion services were increased from three to six per year.

- † The treasurer reported church attendance had dropped to 41 percent and "too many pennies" were being put into the offering plates. Thought was given to establishing a Stewardship Committee.
- † The congregation discontinued use of the so-called "scandal sheet" in which the contributions of each member had been published and distributed throughout the congregation.



Church and surrounding area around 1915

- † The pastor's car allowance is set at \$10 per month, and a private telephone line was installed in the parsonage.
- † Offering baskets were used during all festival services.
- † The back pews on the east side were reserved for mothers with small children.

1940

- † Church attendance averaged 351, and the offerings average was 6.25 cents per Sunday, per person.
- † A decision was made to redecorate and rewire the church, but 50 percent of the money was required to come in before the project was started.
- † Advent services continued only in German while the Lenten services alternated each wee between English and German.
- † The use of the new English hymnal was approved.

- † Husbands and wives began to take Communion together.
- † The name of the congregation was officially changed to The Evangelical Lutheran Churof St. Paul.
- † The minutes of the Voters' Assembly began to be taken and recorded in English.
- † The congregation ordered 350 new English hymnals.

- The examination and confirmation of juniors took place in English.
- German services were held each week at 9:30 a.m. and English at 11 a.m.

1942

- The "Bloomingdale School" in Bloomingdale Township that the congregation had also been operating since 1906 for the elementary religious and secular training of its children was discontinued.
- A new congregation constitution and bylaws were adopted and went into effect.
- Addison State Bank was selected as the depository of congregation funds.

1943

- Because the treasury was full, all workers of the congregation were given a \$10 bonus.
- St. Paul School petitioned the church to take over its assets, liabilities, etc. The congregation agreed to do so.
- A new teacher arrived and his moving bill was \$146.
- The term "Addison School" continued to be used to designate the St. Paul school community.

1944

The congregation completed a major redecorating project and the church was rededicated on Easter Sunday. The project included: improving ventilation, repairing and restoring the floors, refinishing all the woodwork—including the altar and the pulpit, lowering the pulpit, restoring the stained glass windows, rebuilding the organ and installing hearing aid

outlets and new carpet. The rebuilt pipe organ was relocated to the north end of the balcony and dedicated on

Nov. 26.

The Maundy Thursday German service was dropped

1945

- The Sunday School was organized and met for the first time in June.
- A new well was drilled in the cemetery.

1946

The congregation joined the Chicago Lutheran High School Association.



This building housed St. Paul's first school, the May Street School. It was built in 1849 and later served as a youth center until 1974. Teacher Bartling lived, as well as taught, here.

1947

- † Two acres were added to the south side of the cemetery at a cost of \$800.
- † The 40th anniversary of the church was celebrated on June 1.

1948

† Thirteen students from the congregation were preparing for church work.

1949

† The congregation celebrated the 100th anniversary of the school.

1950

- † The Parent Teachers League was organized and held its first meeting.
- † Secretarial help for the pastor was approved. The salary was \$1 per hour.

1951

- † Kneeling in German Communion services was discontinued.
- † The congregation joined the Synod's pension plan.

1952

† Lenten services were conducted only in English.

1953

† A new school addition that included four classrooms, an auditorium, a kitchen, storage rooms and office space was dedicated Aug. 30. The cost of the new school was \$108,363.

1954

† A school milk program was begun.

1955

- † A monthly church paper ("The Messenger") was begun.
- † Three children's Christmas services were conducted.
- † The church recorded 85 baptisms.
- † The congregation voted to have a non-teaching principal.

1956

† The church recorded 101 baptisms.



The stained glass on the east side of the church depicts Jesus with his flock of sheep

- † Special services were conducted in observance of the congregation's 50th anniversary celebration.
- † Church renovation was begun as a part of the congregation's 50th anniversary celebration.

1957

- † The church renovation program was completed at an approximate cost of \$80,000 with a rededication service on May 26. Included in the remodeling was the addition of a new narthex (which was enclosed), the excavating of the church basement to accommodate various meeting rooms, the complete reworking of the electrical system of the church and new fixtures, including recessed lighting in the nave area, the redecorating of the church interior, and the addition of a new communion rail. A new roof was also installed.
- † The coal and oil bill for the entire year amounted to \$2,513.

1958

† Four classrooms were dedicated on the third floor of the east school.

1959

- † The annual budget totaled \$139,381.
- † The congregation decided to use a card system for Communion announcements.
- † The bowling alleys were removed and the floor was converted into two classrooms and later into the school library and Learning Center.
- † Square dancing in the auditorium was permitted under proper supervision.
- † Five children's Christmas services were conducted, two for the Sunday School and three for the day school.
- † The Lutheran Child Welfare Association's property across from the church was sold to the Village of Addison.
- † The congregation requested the "triangle" across the street from the church remain a park.
- † Communicant membership reached more than 1,000 for the first time.

1960

- † Communion average was three times per communicant per year.
- † A parsonage was purchased at 100 S. Iowa for almost \$20,000.
- † The congregation's debt totaled \$125,230.

1961

- † The congregation wrote to the State of Illinois to object to a bill that would legalize gambling in the state.
- † The congregation offered staff members the option of purchasing their own homes.

1962

† The congregation helped establish a new mission in Glendale Heights.

- † Pastors began to wear the cassock, surplice and stole vestments.
- † Total contributions in the year amounted to \$155,872.
- † School enrollment stood at 437.
- † The complaint continued that people leave church on Sundays prior to communion.
- † The Iowa Street parsonage was sold for \$22,000.

1964

† The choir was permitted to form a cross in the chancel on Good Friday, but was not given permission to sing "Old Rugged Cross."

1965

- † The congregation entered the new Concordia Retirement and Welfare Plan of the synod.
- † New carpet was installed in the church.

1966

- † The congregation celebrated its 60th anniversary.
- † Problems continued in trying to coordinate worship times for both English and German services. The new worship schedule was: English services at 8 and 10:30 a.m., and German service at 9:30 a.m.
- † A new congregation constitution and bylaws went into effect.

1967

- † The 60th anniversary of the church dedication was observed on May 21 with three special services.
- † The youth were given permission for "contemporary" dancing under proper supervision.
- † All congregation accounts were in the black.



Jesus prays in a garden in the stained glass located on the west side of the church.

- † A new parsonage at 141 Army Trail Road was constructed at a cost of \$32,000 and was dedicated on Nov. 3.
- † The Friday evening Communion announcement system was discontinued.
- † A fence was placed around the cemetery.
- † The interior of the church was to be painted at a cost of \$4,385.

- † The congregation accepted property at 149 Army Trail Road as a memorial.
- † The congregation entered the Bethel Bible Series program.

1971

- † The congregation dedicated its new parish hall, gym and church offices on Jan. 17. The cost of the project was \$215,016. Also raised was an additional \$9,377 for office and gym equipment and furnishings, \$8,766 for other capital improvement projects, and \$19,000 for debt reduction.
- † A Weekday School was established for children not attending St. Paul School.
- † In an attempt to increase church attendance, one worship service each week was held in the gym.

1972

- † Women communicant members of the congregation were declared eligible to vote at Voters' Assembly meetings.
- † An Archives Committee was established.



The Memorial Garden was constructed on the site of St. Paul's first school.

- † An Organ Committee of 36 members was appointed.
- † The 9:30 a.m. English service was dropped and a "contemporary" service was held the fourth Sunday of each month at 8 a.m.

1973

† The Board of Elders divided the congregation into zones.

1974

† The congregation observed the 125th anniversary of the school.

1975

† The use of lighted candles in the church was restricted to the altar and chancel areas due to the fire risk.

- † A program to protect the stained glass windows in the church began.
- † A contract for a new organ was signed with the Berghaus Organ Company of Bellwood, IL.

- † The total congregation indebtedness was \$205,759.
- † The congregation property south of Army Trail and between May and School streets was subdivided.

1977

- † The "Memorial Gardens" were dedicated on Sept. 11 at the site of St. Paul's first school, on May Street, south of Army Trail Road.
- † A fire alarm system was installed in the church and school.
- † A special Mission and Ministry committe was established.
- † All english services were returned to the church and German services were conducted in the auditorium.

1978

† The congregation properties to the west of the church and school were subdivided and the teacherage on the corner



The organ was installed in 1980 and still stands today.

- of Army Trail Road and School Street was leveled as part of the village's plan to widen School Street.
- † An outdoor worship was held over the July 4 weekend.
- † The Board of Stewardship embarked on an extensive fall stewardship program that included pledging in the areas of time, talent and treasure.
- † The Order of the Tenebrae was observed on Good Friday and became an annual format for Good Friday worship.
- † Because of our small chancel area and increasing communion attendance, the congregation adopted a "processional" communion procedure for the 9:30 and 11 a.m. services.
- † The Board of Elders sponsored a series of fellowship nights to encourage greater communication and fellowship within the congregation.
- † A highly successful Christian Service Fair was sponsored by the Board of Stewardship.

- † The congregation sold approximately 2 acres of property to the south of the church and adjoining Adlake Home Center for \$125,000.
- † A special Study Committee was set up to research our membership, lands, buildings,
 - anticipated capital improvements, and overall fiscal procedures, with the hope of attaining a plan to arrive at a balanced budget by 1981 or 1982.
- † A 75th Anniversary Committee was appointed.
- † A special Constitution and Bylaws Committee was formed, and a completely revised document was adopted by the congregation, to take effect Jan. 1, 1980.
- † More than 200 members served as callers in the congregation's Every Member Visits program.
- † "Early Communion" was adopted as confirmands received communion instruction at an earlier age and were invited to receive the Sacrament midway through their seventh-grade year.
- † Pre-confirmation children were given offering envelopes as an aid to parents in teaching their children good stewardship habits.
- † A Kitchen Renovation Committee was established and extensive improvements were made to the Parish Hall, formerly called the auditorium, and kitchen areas.
- † A special Recommitment Series of worship services was conducted in the spring.
- † A bigger-than-ever "Holiday Mart" netted about \$6,500 to be used for various congregation programs and projects.



The altar as it stands currently

- † With the adoption of the new bylaws, the congregation began to conduct its business on a fiscal year basis, from July 1 to June 30.
- † Tax assessments were presented against several of our congregation homes and much of our vacant property. The congregation engaged an attorney.
- † The congregation's long-awaited pipe organ was dedicated on June 22.
- † The congregation's budget for fiscal year 1981 to 1982 approached \$500,000.
- † The congregation entered an agreement with the Addison Park District whereby the district would provide for the erection and maintenance of several softball fields in our grove

- area in return for the limited use of the grounds for their programs.
- † The grove became treeless as Dutch Elm Disease took its toll. A replanting program was begun immediately.
- † The congregation prepared to sell the six vacant residential lots between May and School streets.
- † The congregation decided to adopt a Church Redecorating and Debt Reduction project as tangible evidence of its gratitude to God for His blessings over the previous 75 years. The overall goal of the project was set at \$75,000, or \$1,000 for each of the 75 years the congregation had been in existence. The redecorating phase, which was to include paint ing, removing the acoustical tile from the side walls, the refinishing of the floor in the nave, and new carpet was not to exceed \$42,000, and the debt reduction goal was an additional \$33,000.
- † The congregation resolved to make available the individual cup along with the common cup at all 9:30 and 11 a.m. communion services. Not long after, the individual cup was also made available at all 8 a.m. services.
- † Albs were worn by the pastoral staff for the first time on Christmas Eve.

1981

- † The church celebrated its 75th anniversary.
- † The church redecorating was completed.

1982

- † The congregation concluded its 75th anniversary celebration at the Brookwood Country Club.
- † Interpreted services for the deaf were offered on the first and third Sundays of the month in the early service. This ministry continues to be offered on the third Sunday.

1983

† The German service was discontinued.

1984

† A farewell reception was held for Pastor and Mrs. W. Gail Rabe on Aug. 12.

1985

- † The Hispanic Mission held its first service in the church.
- † Reverend W. F. Neumann was installed as pastor on May 19.

- † The church celebrated its 80th anniversary and proceeds from the anniversary fund drive went toward tuckpointing the church building and steeple repair.
- † The Hispanic congregation, Iglesia Evangelical Luterana "San Pablo," began services.

1987

† Danna Goebel, a director of Christian education intern, was assigned to the congregation. She was installed on July 19.

1988

- † This was the last full school year for the school to be known as St. Paul School; it then became Concord School.
- † Kantorei, the adult choir, claimed first place in the CML's church choir contest.

1989

- † There was a school cooperative with Zion Lutheran Church in Bensenville to establish Concord Lutheran School.
- † A new audio system was purchased for the church.
- † The road into the cemetery was blacktopped.

1990

- † The congregation celebrated Carl Burger's 50 years of service in the ministry; he served at St. Paul for 38 years. He first served at St. Paul as principal and choir director for the school for 25 years, then in 1977 served as a teacher. In 1984, he served as minister of parish education.
- † An asbestos abatement program was implemented.

1991

† The congregation celebrated its 85th anniversary.

1992

- † The kitchen in the parish hall was renovated.
- † The confirmands held a reunion in June.

1993

† Reverend Harold Krentz retired after 45 years of service in the Lutheran church. He began service at St. Paul in 1960 as a teacher, and later became St. Paul's associate pastor.

1994

† During the summer, Gene Strattman began serving St. Paul as vicar.

- † A lighted sign was installed at the northwest corner of the church property.
- † The congregation celebrated its 90th Anniversary

- † The Stewardship Board hosted 10 group celebrations to honor church members' birth-days.
- † The church adopted the phrase "Helping people know and grow in Christ" as its mission statement to explain its efforts in the community.

1997

- † Pastor Neumann retired after serving 38 years in the ministry.
- † Pastor Sifuentes left St. Paul, and the Hispanic services were discontinued.

1999

- † The St. Paul cemetery was annexed to the Village of Addison.
- † Pastor W. E. Duey began serving as interim pastor.
- † The church became a part of the historical district of Addison.

2000

- † Reverend Ernest Brooks was installed as pastor.
- † A 5:30 p.m. Saturday church service was added.
- † An agreement was made with the Polish Culture School to meet on St. Paul premises.
- † Church windows were renovated and repaired.

2001

† After the terrorist attack in New York City on Sept. 11, the church held an evening prayer service. Rev. Brooks also participated in the community ecumenical service.

2002

- † Reverend Brooks accepted a call to another congregation, and Pastor Duey returned to serve as the interim pastor.
- † New carpet was installed in the church.

2003

† The church dedicated the new altar statue; a new statue was necessary due to vandalism.

2004

† The Call Committee extended a call to Pastor James Zimmerman.

A St. Paul Anthem

By Ruth Rittmueller

St. Paul, St. Paul, where we worship Where our souls are saved for Him Where our hearts are lain before Him Asking to forgive our sin

All the years of joy and gladness All the years of praise and love Kept our dear St. Paul together Devoted to His Son above.

- † Pastor Zimmerman was installed on Jan. 23.
- † The church began celebrating its 100th anniversary July 17 with a guest preacher, Northern Illinois District President Bill Ameiss, and a picnic.

- † The Christian day school was discontinued, and the Concord School partnership was dissolved. With the conclusion of the day school, plans were set in motion to determine how to best utilize the classrooms for future Christian education. Discussions began with Lutherbrook after the organization expressed its interest in the space.
- † On July 16, the church hosted a 100th anniversary celebration banquet at Alta Villa in Addison.