

A BRIEF HISTORY

ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH, BROOKLYN, BALTIMORE, MARYLAND

- March 24, 1914** Plans were laid for organizing a Lutheran congregation with the support of the General Synod.
- May 20, 1914** Name of St. John was decided.
- September 28, 1914** Constitution proposed by the Home Mission Board was adopted.
- March 28, 1915** First class was confirmed.
- July 25, 1915** Dr. Ernst H. von Hahmann resigned from serving at St. John Mission and Salem Lutheran Church.
- 1915-1916** Pastor Walter Schmitt from Salem Church took pastoral responsibility of St. John also. The 90' x 100' lot at the corner of Third Street and Washington Avenue was purchased for \$1,350.
- June 18, 1916** St. John, Brooklyn, was joined with a church in Lauraville (now Hamilton) to become a two-church parish. The pastor was M. H. Frank.
- 1916** First church building was purchased from Sears, Roebuck and Company.
- January 1917** Dr. Paul C. Burgdorf began serving as pastor for St. John Mission, in addition to his own congregation, Jerusalem, on Belair Road in Baltimore.
- May 10, 1925** Parsonage was dedicated; on June 1, Pastor and Mrs. J. F. Winklebleck became the first residents. Pastor Winklebleck served a year and a half.
- May 5, 1927** I. Wilson Kepner was called to be the first full-time pastor of St. John; he began work on June 1 and was officially installed on July 17, 1927.
- August 26, 1928** Cornerstone for new church building was laid.
- March 24, 1929** New building was dedicated.
- January 1, 1937** St. John became self-supporting.
- April 1950** Work was begun on first part of education building. Cornerstone was laid.
- March 28, 1954** Dedication of education building was held on the 25th anniversary of the church building.
- July 1957** Corner lot at Second and Washburn was purchased for use as playground.
- September 1957** St. John's Christian Day School began with first kindergarten class.
- June 1, 1964** The Rev. Edward E. Donnalld became assistant pastor. He served until 1972.
- July 15, 1964** Pastor Kepner completed 37 years as pastor of St. John, when God called him to the Church Triumphant.
- September 15, 1965** The Rev. John W. Eastlack became pastor. He was called to the Church Triumphant in April 1974.
- June 1970** Day school was expanded to include nursery program and day care center.
- July 1, 1975** The Rev. B. F. Booher became pastor of St. John, serving until February 21, 1982. John E. Myers, Jr. and Gordon Harris were called as deacons.
- June 1, 1982** The Rev. Dennis Schell began his vice-pastorate and served until May 31, 1983.
- December 6, 1982** Charles Fitzhugh, who had served as Minister of Music for 44 years, entered Eternal Life.
- January 23, 1983** Deacon John Myers entered the Church Triumphant.
- November 1, 1983** The Rev. Joseph P. Lettrich began his ministry at St. John; he was installed on January 1, 1984.
- May 31, 1984** Sanctuary renovations were dedicated, including a new altar painting by Stephens Berge.
- May 1988** Parsonage was demolished. On May 29, groundbreaking was held for a new three-classroom addition to the education wing.
- October 1988** Renovated education wing was dedicated as work continued on the new addition. New addition was completed in 1989.

June 25, 1995	Retirement celebration was held for Deacon Gordon Harris. He was recognized as Deacon Emeritus.
November 1, 1998	New archives room was dedicated.
June 27, 1999	Retirement celebration was held for Principal Mary Wright, who had served the day school since 1965. She entered Eternal Life on May 13, 2003.
June 1, 2000	Pastor Joseph Lettrich retired. He was recognized as Pastor Emeritus.
October 2001	The Rev. Andrea Hagen began serving as interim pastor; she served through April 2003.
June 8, 2003	The Rev. Neil O'Farrell began his pastorate at St. John. He was ordained in Boston on July 6 and installed as St. John's pastor on October 18, 2003.
June 11, 2006	The congregation celebrated with an outdoor community event, the 90th Anniversary Fun Fest!
June 2007	St. John's Christian Day School closed after 50 years of nurturing children.
June 2011	St. Veronica's Head Start program began renting space at St. John.
May 3, 2015	The congregation bade farewell and Godspeed to Pastor Neil O'Farrell as his call to St. John, by mutual agreement, ended [officially on May 1] after his 12 years of service to the congregation.
June 1, 2015	The Rev. Dr. K. Robert Schmitt began serving as interim pastor.
January 10, 2016	The congregation begins its year-long celebration of St. John's 100th anniversary.
December 2, 2017	Michael McFarland called as Deacon.