St. Paul, Cascade, celebrates four milestone anniversaries

Throughout 2006, members of St. Paul, Cascade, celebrated the 140th anniversary of their congregation, the 100th anniversary of their present church building, the 20th anniversary of the ordination of their pastor, Rev. Richard M. Bidinger, and the 50th anniversary of their ladies guild which is affiliated with LWML.

St. Paul was organized in Cascade in 1886. Rev. J. List of Sherman Center initially conducted services on the second floor of a harness shop. Their first church was built in 1875. On April 6, 1905 the congregation decided to build a new church at the present site for $8,385. Rev. J.W. Halboth dedicated the new church on July 8, 1906.

St. Paul began the year of special anniversaries by honoring their members, age 80 and older, and their married couples, married 50 years and longer, at a fellowship dinner on Feb. 12.

On July 9, the congregation commemorated the 100th anniversary of their present church building with "A Look Back," a special church service followed by an old-fashioned picnic. Rev. Timothy P. Halboth of Grace, Redford, Mich., was the guest preacher. Halboth is the great-grandson of Rev. John W. Halboth who served the congregation from 1900 to 1931.

In addition to the picnic meal, everyone enjoyed a new wall display of more than 100 confirmation pictures, a historic display of members' wedding dresses and pictures, confirmation dresses and baptismal gowns, a collection of Cascade memorabilia and an exhibit of old working steam engines. Present and former members also had fun with bingo, children's games, sack races, three-legged races, an egg toss and tug-of-war challenges.

On Sept. 10, the ladies' guild celebrated their 50th anniversary by sponsoring a lunch and ice cream social and a hymn sing.

On Oct. 8, members concluded their anniversary celebrations with "A Look Ahead" a special church service followed by a meal. Rev. Dr. Daniel Paavola, theology professor at Concordia University Wisconsin, preached an inspiring message blending St. Paul's past and present with God's plan for the future.

The Julieta Ringers bell choir from Concordia University Wisconsin, directed by Dr. John Behnke, and St. John Lutheran praise band from Plymouth, performed before, during and after the service.

After the service, Rod Kuszyński, St. Paul's president, surprised Pastor Bidinger with a gift from the congregation in honor of the 20th anniversary of his ordination. Bidinger graduated from Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, Mo., and was ordained in August 1986 at St. Paul, Modena, Wisc. He served the dual parish of St. Paul, Modena and Trinity, Gilmanton until July 1988 when he came to St. Paul, Cascade. Bidinger and his wife, Jenny, were married in 1993. They have three children: Tessa, Tricia and Ethan.