

Morning Star

The Birth of a Daughter

by
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for
Professor Brenner
Senior Church History

The Conception and Birth of Morning Star

- March 1, 1994 Special Joint Meeting of David's Star Church Council and Building Committee to discuss options to handle the rapid growth in the church and school.
- March 29, 1994 Special Joint Meeting of David's Star Church Council and Building Committee to discuss how to recommend to the voters the plan to start a new daughter congregation with a school in Jackson.
- April 16, 1994 Quarterly Voters' Meeting. Vote to form a Daughter Congregation Study Committee. The conception of Morning Star.
- May 7, 1994 First meeting of the Daughter Congregation Study Committee. Meeting was devoted to brainstorming--looking at reasons for beginning a daughter congregation, ultimate goals, and problems that might be associated with a daughter congregation.
- July 21, 1994 Quarterly congregational meeting. Study Committee makes preliminary report.
- July 28, 1994 Meeting at Kettle Moraine Lutheran High School of the congregational representatives from Good Shepherd, St. Paul, Crown of Life, Trinity, and David's Star.
- August 1, 1994 Study Committee meeting held in order to react to the voter's meeting and the meeting of the five area congregations. Also begin to brainstorm for the Open Forum on September 8.
- September 8, 1994 Open Forum. The people are able to raise questions and concerns, and also offer ideas. They are able to view their options for handling their growth.
- October 6, 1994 Second meeting with the neighboring congregations in order to obtain more feedback.
- October 13, 1994 Congregational Voter's Assembly. Study Committee recommends to the congregation to begin holding worship services in Jackson for a trial period of three months in order to determine what interest there would be in establishing a daughter congregation there.

November 8, 1994 Study Committee meets to try to find solutions to some important needs: A place to rent; search for land; exact date for beginning worship; time of worship; preacher; Bible class/Sunday school; organists; and name for the congregation. The only definite decision was to begin holding worship services on January 15, 1995 at 10:30 am.

December 1994 The name "Morning Star" is chosen to be the name of the daughter congregation.

January 15, 1995 First Worship Service held at the Jackson Fire Hall (160 attend). David's Star pastor is the vacancy pastor.

March 1995 Serious search for land begins.

May 1995 Pastor assigned to Morning Star from Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary. Teacher is assigned from Dr. Martin Luther College. Principal accepts call.

June 4, 1995 Morning Star is incorporated at a special service at David's Star (Pentecost Sunday).

June 1995 Possible land is found -- \$320,000 for 10 acres. The deal falls through.

June 1995 Morning Star is accepted into the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod at convention.

August 1995 Land owner changes mind -- \$80,000 for 8 acres. Morning Star quickly purchases the land.

September 1995 Building project and plans begin (8 classrooms & jr. high-size gym). This is to be an estimated \$1.1 million project. David's Star promises to give a gift of \$700,000 toward this and Morning Star will pay \$400,000.

"Together Shining Like the Stars Committee" begins. This is a joint committee between David's Star and Morning Star which is formed in order to organize the Celebration Sunday and an on-going financing of the project.

January 14, 1996 One year anniversary service (175 attend).

February 25, 1996 Celebration Sunday. \$1,000 gift from each family is asked for. Goal is to raise \$550,000. Raise half of that amount--\$280,000.

August 1996 Expected opening of Morning Star Lutheran School (60-90 children expected). Plan to have three full-time teachers and one part-time teacher.

THE BIRTH OF A DAUGHTER

Rapid Growth in Washington County and the Village of Jackson

David's Star, Jackson, Wisconsin, is the second oldest Lutheran congregation in Wisconsin. The congregation was founded by a group of Prussian Lutherans who came to America in 1843. When this group of Prussian men and women settled north of Milwaukee they named their settlement *Kirchhayn* which means "the church in the wildwoods." ¹ When they settled in the area, they were surrounded by trees, shrubs, fields, and scores of wild animals. Until recently that area had remained rather rural. "It used to be nothing but farmland," says David's Star school principal Frederick Mahnke. "That has changed." ² Now new homes and businesses are mushrooming all over. Washington County, the village of Jackson, and the David's Star congregation are all growing at tremendous leaps and bounds. There is a great influx ^{of} new people moving into the area around that old Prussian settlement of Kirchhayn.

Washington County, which is just north and west of Milwaukee County, has been experiencing tremendous growth between 1990 and 1994. Washington County is one of the ten fastest-growing counties by percentage growth in all of the state of Wisconsin. Washington County has the biggest percentage increase of growth of any of these counties, showing a 10.3% gain in the population since 1990, the last year a census of the area was taken. According to the state

¹ Sonntog, Dorothy. "Looking forward while looking back." *Northwestern Lutheran* June 1995: 10-11.

² Sonntog, Dorothy. "Looking forward while looking back." *Northwestern Lutheran* June 1995: 10-11.

Department of Administration, it is estimated that the population of Washington County has increased 9,777, to a total population of 105,105 in 1994.³

The village of Jackson is one of the fastest growing communities in Washington County. The sign at the village limits says "Population 2,486." That figure was accurate in 1990. The state's estimate for January 1, 1994, was that the village had grown to a population of 3,549 residents. That is an astounding 42.8% rate of growth in four years.⁴

Growth can be seen everywhere around the village. There are 527 residential units under construction. Developers are talking about and planning for other major subdivisions. New sewage lines are being developed. Water towers are being built and new wells are being dug. Planning and zoning is constant. Business development is also booming, most notably with a \$10 million distribution center being planned by the Sysco Corporation.⁵ Sysco is a national food distributor. The Sysco Corporation plans to bring 335 jobs to the area, including 50 to 80 new employees.⁶ This is just one example of the many new businesses moving into the flourishing area and bringing jobs and people with them.

Del Beaver, the village of Jackson administrator was quoted in the Milwaukee Journal as saying: "The village is in such a spot in Washington County and on Highway 45, that it will grow

³ Jones, Richard P. "Population grows 7% in 3 metro counties." *The Milwaukee Journal* 1994

⁴ Silvers, Amy Rabideau. "While village is happy, it worries about border areas." *The Milwaukee Journal* November 16, 1994.

⁵ Silvers, Amy Rabideau. "While village is happy, it worries about border areas." *The Milwaukee Journal* November 16, 1994.

⁶ Silvers, Amy Rabideau. "Jackson moves strategically for Sysco distribution center." *The Milwaukee Journal* August 10, 1994.

whether we want it to or not. It's in too prime a location. Prime east-west access. Prime north-south access. Within 30 minutes of downtown Milwaukee. How do you *not* grow in a situation like that?"⁷

Some people in Jackson were asked by a newspaper reporter to give their reasons for moving into the area. One person said of the small-town atmosphere of Jackson: "This is perfect for us. I've been a small-town person all my life. It's central. It's a real easy jump onto the freeway. We love the neighborhood." Another person was quoted as saying: "I went to school in Milwaukee. When I first moved there 12 years ago you hardly ever heard of a murder. After a while, when you see what's going and nobody's doing anything about it, you want to go someplace else. This (move to the Jackson area) was good for us."⁸ It seems that many people are tired of the big city life and want to get away from it if they can. So, these people move to a small rural town about thirty to forty-five minutes away from the city. One person said of this trend: "Everyone wants the country life, but many don't want to move that far from the city."⁹

Del Beaver, the village administrator, said that he thought the residents had a certain image in their minds of what a village was when they moved to the village of Jackson--"quiet, slower-paced, green, friendly, family-oriented, safe."¹⁰

⁷ Silvers, Amy Rabideau. "While village is happy, it worries about border areas." *The Milwaukee Journal* November 16, 1994.

⁸ Lisher, Mark. "Population has risen by more than 10% since '90." *The Milwaukee Journal* August 14, 1994.

⁹ Silvers, Amy Ravideau. "All around village, change is moving in." *The Milwaukee Journal* November 17, 1994.

¹⁰ Bishop, Brian. "Jackson takes a good look in the mirror." *The Milwaukee Journal* 1994.

There are a lot of people moving into the area and a large percentage of them are families. Families seem to be very important to a majority of the people moving into Jackson and Washington County. According to the 1990 U.S. census for Washington County, families make up more than 75% of the households in that county. Of that percentage, about 42% are families with children.¹¹ Many believe that the area is a wonderful place to raise children.

Many of these new families to the area are coming to David's Star. "We're growing by at least 100 members a year," explained Pastor Richard Gurgel, pastor at David's Star.¹² Some of those new members are transfers from other WELS churches; others are converts. About a quarter of the growth at David's Star can be attributed to transfers. There are just a lot of WELS people moving into the area. However, most of the growth has come from young families who were searching for a school for their children. Pastor Gurgel said of this:

I think we are in a day and age when we see the public school struggling. But the parents see something different in our school. They may not know that what they see is the results of a Savior. God is using our grade school and pre-school as a great tool for reaching out. Parents are sending their children here as an alternative to the public school. Soon they find out their children are receiving more than a good education. They have found something for the whole family--a Savior.¹³

Mel Heckendorf, the head elder at David's Star, mentioned in an interview that some new members at David's Star had told him that Kettle Moraine Lutheran High School, just outside of the village limits, was a big reason why they had moved into the area. They didn't know of too many other places in our Synod where a family could find a Christian day school and high school within

¹¹ "Washington County: A portrait of families." *The Milwaukee Journal* 1994.

¹² Gurgel, Pastor Richard. Personal interview. March 6, 1996.

¹³ Gurgel, Pastor Richard. Personal interview. March 6, 1996.

a mile of each other. ¹⁴ Young families are interested in moving into the area and one of the alluring reasons is that they feel that their children will receive a fine Christian education at both the grade school and high school levels.

Rapid Growth at David's Star

Washington County and the village of Jackson experienced tremendous growth in their population between 1990 and 1994. David's Star Lutheran Church and School also experienced a dramatic increase in the number of souls God had given them to serve during those years. In 1990, the number of souls entrusted to the care of the church was 974. Of this number 746 were communicant members. By 1994, there were 1,269 souls to care for and 922 communicant members. This was an increase of 295 souls and 176 communicant members. A rate of growth, by God's grace, of 23.25%. It was estimated that by the end of 1995 there could be, by the gracious will of God, a total of 1,400 souls and 1,000 communicant members to care for with Word and Sacrament. ¹⁵

David's Star Lutheran School experienced the same rapid growth pattern over the same five year period. In 1990 there was a total enrollment of 208 children in Preschool through Grade 8. By the 1995 school year, there were 278 children enrolled in the school. An increase of 70 children within a five year period. ¹⁶ This indicates a growth pattern of 15 to 20 students per year over the past five years.

With this awesome growth in attendance at both the church and school, the members of

¹⁴ Heckendorf, Mel. Personal interview. March 11, 1996.

¹⁵ *Together Shining Like the Stars . . . To the Glory of His Name*

¹⁶ *Together Shining Like the Stars . . . To the Glory of His Name*

David's Star were beginning to become concerned. Where were they going to put all the people? How could they continue to serve all the precious souls coming to David's Star if everything was full?

Surely things couldn't stay the same way for long. Something needed to be done. And it needed to be done soon. Pastor Gurgel and the Church Council studied newspaper articles from the Milwaukee Journal and the local newspapers which had written about the rapid growth in Jackson and the surrounding Washington County. Pastor Gurgel said that these articles "were helpful in pointing out that there were a ton of people moving into the area." He told the Church Council, "It is time we realize we are going to have a large group of people to serve. We need to study how we can best serve the souls God is sending to us."¹⁷

There was overcrowding in the church. Chairs were being set up in the aisles and even in the narthex. Often times the balcony was being used by the choirs so it couldn't be used for seating other people. Everything was full. And the church was experiencing these types of crowded conditions every Sunday. It was even more of a challenge to find a seat for one of the festival services, like Easter, Christmas or Confirmation. "There were some services when you started going twenty minutes early, just so you could sit as a family. I think this was a factor for getting the people to see that something needed to be done, and done soon."¹⁸

The grade school was facing the same kinds of crowded conditions. Some of the classes were already over 30 students. The average student to teacher ratio in the school, between kindergarten and grade 8, was 27 to 1. The synod wide student to teacher ratio is 18.4 to 1. Both the teachers

¹⁷ Gurgel, Pastor Richard. Personal interview. March 6, 1996.

¹⁸ Schramm, Darwin. Personal interview. March 11, 1996.

and the parents were becoming concerned about the time a teacher could personally with each individual student. It worked out to only 15 minutes of teacher time for each individual student.¹⁹ The rapid growth between 1990 and 1994 also forced the school to go beyond its intended maximum enrollment. The hallways were even being used for temporary classrooms. The teachers and the Education Board were concerned that they were going to have to start turning away families because of the lack of room for their children.²⁰

The people were beginning to ask themselves questions like: "Do we want to tear down this old church that we are all so familiar with and love so dearly? Do we start another service, a fourth service besides the two on Sunday and the Saturday service? Do we have to add on to our school or do we have to set a limit to the number of children that can enroll in our school?"²¹ These questions were being raised and people began to become aware of the challenge God was setting before them.

David's Star members were wondering what they should do next. Throughout the history of David's Star, the congregation has had only one pastor serving it at a time. But by 1992 the total number of souls under the congregation's and the lone pastor's care was over 1,000. Pastor Janke had been caring for all of these people for years, but his health had quickly begun to deteriorate during the last year of his full-time ministry. The congregation then decided to extend a call for a second full-time pastor in order to help Pastor Janke in the care of so many souls. Pastor Richard Gurgel accepted the call to be the associate pastor at David's Star in 1992. Soon after Pastor Gurgel

¹⁹ Daughter Congregation Study Committee bulletin insert #5 of 7 "School"

²⁰ *Together Shining Like the Stars . . . To the Glory of His Name*

²¹ Schramm, Darwin. Personal interview. March 11, 1996.

arrived, Pastor Janke began discussing with him the idea of a daughter congregation, possibly in nearby Germantown. The two pastors determined that the goal for starting a daughter congregation was to care for more souls with the gospel. Only secondarily was the goal to alleviate the overcrowding at David's Star. (Within a year after Pastor Gurgel was called, Pastor Janke had a stroke and has only recently been able to make hospital and shut-in visits to the members of David's Star.)

First Attempt at a Daughter Congregation

At the 150th anniversary of David's Star in 1993, the Church Council presented a proposal to the congregation to have a special offering in order to start a daughter congregation in Germantown. The daughter concept was voted down. Part of the problem was that it would take cooperation with quite a few different WELS congregations in that area. David's Star did not have enough of its own members who lived in the Germantown area. There wasn't a large enough nucleus to start a daughter congregation. It would have taken the help of other congregations in the area like Bethlehem, Menomonee Falls, Trinity, West Mequon, and Salem, Milwaukee. However, none of these congregations were very interested at this time. They all had building projects and other plans of their own. So, David's Star would have been working alone on this endeavor. The daughter concept in Germantown fell through because David's Star neither had the numbers of people to start a daughter congregation, nor did they have the support from the mother congregation to start a daughter at that time.

Pastor Gurgel talked about the reasons why this idea didn't work in Germantown. He said, "I think a lot of times God lets you stumble a few times first. So that was our stumbling. It was like God was saying, 'I'll tell you what. I'll let you think about going towards Germantown. You're never going to build anything there, but stumble around in that area for a while, because there's something

in the future in this direction I want you to do."²² In this way the Lord led the members of David's Star, a year later, to study Jackson more closely.

There were some definite obstacles God led David's Star to overcome before they even reached the decision to study putting a daughter congregation in the village of Jackson. Pastor Gurgel summarized these obstacles by saying:

God let us stumble into putting our daughter congregation in Jackson. We went to Germantown in 1993. But that wasn't it. So our building project here was going to have to be really big. The Church Council presented to the congregation a \$1.1 million building project confining eight new classrooms, an expansion of the gym, and plans to redo the present church or build a brand new church within five years. Well, that idea was shot down. Boom! We fell on our face. So what did we do? We backed off. About fall of 1993 we came to the congregation with a \$800,000 building program containing six classrooms, we would leave the gymnasium as it is, we would fix up the kitchen a little bit, and we would do something with the church building. So we had a fund drive for this. But the money didn't come in any numbers that could support the project. So now Germantown wasn't it, the big building project went down, and a smaller project was floundering. But we still had to do something.

In February of 1994, I attended a special Council meeting where the Church Council and the Building Committee were coming together to figure out some kind of plan. The men on the Council and Building Committee had been trying desperately to come up with a plan the congregation would support. So I brought a proposal of "A," "B," and "C." Option "A" was that we build everything here and become a mega-church. We become a church of 2,000. We plan to build a brand new church five years in the future. Or, if we keep saying "No" to things, option "C" is that we tell people to go away. We tell the people, "Sorry, we're full. We just don't have the room for you."

Those at the meeting decided that clearly "C" was no good and we have been struggling with option "A." So what do we do? Do we build a great big place here and become a great big mega-church where people don't know their pastors, the pastors don't know their people, and the school is 300 to 400 children? But where has been the (congregational) support for that? Maybe what God is doing is leading us to consider option "B"--study a daughter congregation and plant it in Jackson.²³

²² Gurgel, Pastor Richard. Personal interview. March 6, 1996.

²³ Gurgel, Pastor Richard. Personal interview. March 6, 1996.

Proposal for a Daughter Congregation in Jackson

The Church Council decided to find out if there was a fairly large nucleus of David's Star members inside the village and within a mile radius surrounding Jackson. With a little studying the Church Council learned that there were 300 congregational members within the village limits. With this knowledge, they decided to study further if it might be feasible to plant a church there. If this happened, it might alleviate some of the pressure the present church building was feeling because of the overcrowding. The present building could be used for a few more years without any major renovations. Additions to the school would not need to be quite so extensive. And of course, this new congregation would be another satellite for spreading the gospel message.

The Church Council presented their desire to study the daughter congregation concept to the congregation at the April Voter's meeting. The Church Council presented a goal for the people to examine--"the goal must be to serve the souls God has given into our care in the best possible way." The members were asked if "it is better to serve people from two smaller congregations in two locations, or can they be served better by one large congregation?"²⁴ The members of David's Star then had to decide if they wanted to become a mega-church with everything in one place or if they wanted to plant a small church and school inside of Jackson where all the growth was occurring.

Daughtering was something new. The people didn't know too much about it. There hadn't been a true daughter congregation in the WELS in over 20 years. This was something that needed to be studied carefully. After turning down the concept of a daughter congregation in Germantown two years earlier, the people were eager for more information on what a daughter congregation

²⁴ September 8, 1994. Letter to the members of David's Star.

really entailed, but they were also very cautious. They wanted to be knowledgeable about all the facts. The Church Council began by explaining what a daughter congregation was. They told the members that a daughter congregation would be a new church and school that would be started directly by willing members of the mother congregation with the support from the whole congregation. Unlike a mission congregation which is begun and supported directly by the Wisconsin Synod, the mother congregation would take on the responsibility of planning and starting the daughter.²⁵ Many at the congregational meeting began to see that a daughter congregation might really be the better way to serve souls in the Jackson area.

Daughter Congregation Study Committee is formed

So at the April congregational meeting the voters gave the Church Council the assignment to appoint a study committee to look into the possibility of establishing a daughter congregation. On May 7, 1994, the Daughter Congregation Study Committee had its first meeting. The members of this committee were: Darwin Schramm, chairman, John Moldenhauer, secretary, Henry Herrian, Curt Jahn, Al Kison, Bill Taglienti, Bill Vogel, and also Pastor Gurgel who sat in on the meetings as an advisory member.²⁶

These men were all chosen for their varying talents, abilities, and viewpoints. There were specific reasons why each of these men volunteered and were chosen. Chairman of the Study Committee, Darwin Schramm, mentioned in an interview why these six particular men were chosen.

For the Study Committee we chose some men who would probably transfer, who lived in the area we were looking at in order to start a congregation. We chose one or two who were

²⁵ Q. & A. "Questions & Answers".

²⁶ Letter to David's Star Congregation by the Daughter Congregation Study Committee/September 8, 1994.

good at working with figures and numbers to handle the financial matters. We also made sure we had some who were probably going to stay at David's Star because of tradition and their families. We wanted to make sure we had a nice cross-section of people.

In the beginning, two or three men on the committee were against the daughter concept. After we had done the study and had gone through the advantages and disadvantages of it all, then even though some weren't going to transfer they saw value in this and that there was a purpose in doing it.²⁷

The men of the Committee were all active and committed members. They were all experienced in leadership. Certain men knew about purchasing land, dealing with red tape or knowing how to work with architects. Certain men had a "good finger on the pulse of the congregation" and were able to relate to the Study Committee where the level of understanding was among the congregation's members. All of the men were very mission-minded. They were all upbeat and optimistic. No one sat back and was passive in the meetings. The goal was always to reach more souls with the gospel. They were all eager to do that.²⁸

Darwin Schramm mentioned that the average length of their meetings during the months of study and planning was about three hours. "However," he said, "sometimes our meetings began at 7:00 pm and didn't end until 11:00 pm. We tried ending the meetings in two hours but we just got so involved that we couldn't tear ourselves away. Everything was so exciting that we didn't want to leave. There was a zeal to do the Lord's work."²⁹

Most of the first meeting of the Study Committee, on May 7, was devoted to brainstorming. The committee members were looking for reasons for beginning a daughter congregation, the ultimate goals for starting a daughter congregation, and also problems that might be associated with

²⁷ Schramm, Darwin. Personal interview. March 11, 1996.

²⁸ Jahn, Pastor Curt. Personal interview. March 11, 1996.

²⁹ Schramm, Darwin. Personal interview. March 11, 1996.

the David's Star congregation or possible problems with a daughter congregation. Over the next number of meetings, the Study Committee continued to develop their ideas and planned to present their information to the congregation in a series of bulletin inserts over the next four months.

The Study Committee found these reasons to consider beginning a daughter congregation:

1. Is David's Star congregation "too big" right now?
 - a. Church building too small (both Sunday services are usually crowded, even the Saturday service is averaging in excess of 140 worshipers)
 - b. School building too small (two classrooms with more than 30 students in them, three others in the high twenties)
 - c. Too many members do not know each other
2. David's Star congregation has been growing by an average of 14 souls per month for the last 16 months
3. Rapid growth of the Jackson area
 - a. Increased opportunities for evangelism in Jackson
 - b. Opportunity to begin Christian day school in Jackson
 - c. Currently no other religious denomination actively evangelizing there³⁰

The Study Committee also brainstormed what the goals for the David's Star congregation would be while contemplating the concept of a daughter congregation:

1. To serve souls better
 - a. To allow our called staff to serve our own members better
 - b. To serve the community better with the gospel (evangelism)
 - c. To increase opportunities for each person to be a soul-saver (priesthood of all believers)
2. To be the best stewards possible of God's gifts to us
3. To be able to use our current sanctuary and school building without major renovations in the immediate future ³¹

The Study Committee also came upon some areas of concern by members of David's Star and possible challenges to the starting of a daughter congregation:

1. Current operating deficit is seen by many as a major obstacle to moving forward with any plan or program
2. Complacency of members (perception: "It's somebody else's problem!")

³⁰ Daughter Congregation Study Committee bulletin insert #2 of 7 "Reasons and Goals"

³¹ Daughter Congregation Study Committee bulletin insert #2 of 7 "Reasons and Goals"

3. Daughter congregation may not solve deficit difficulties
4. Daughter congregation may not solve the other problems either
5. Growth of the daughter congregation will be somewhat limited by the proximity of the surrounding congregations

Wisconsin Synod and Area Pastors Are Informed

As soon as the committee was formed, they contacted Pastor Randy Siegel, who is the Chairman of the District Board for Home Missions. The committee also contacted WELS and ELS pastors in the immediate area about what David's Star was hoping to begin. They also contacted the Home Mission Board at the Synod Office and were put in touch with the Mission Counselor for their District, Pastor Wayne Schulz. The Study Committee told these people that they were looking to start a new congregation. This was going to be an established congregation that was truly forming a daughter. This wasn't going to be a nucleus that was going off and starting a little mission. "We told them that we wanted to be sensitive to whatever concerns they had," said Pastor Jahn, a member of the Study Committee.

Both Pastor Schulz and Pastor Siegel came to David's Star to present information on May 21 to anyone who was interested and also answer anyone's questions. The Study Committee was told by Pastor Schulz that according to the Synod's guidelines, the work of daughtering was strictly limited to the involvement of the mother congregation. The Synod does not become involved in starting a daughter congregation.

However, at that meeting and for a long time after that there were a few people from David's Star who felt that if there was going to be a congregation in Jackson it should be a mission congregation, instead of a daughter, and that the Synod should take the major role in starting it. There was also an element who thought that if the Synod wasn't going to do it, then David's Star

should cut their mission offerings because they were doing their mission efforts already. Mel Heckendorf, head elder at David's Star, said in an interview, "I personally fought this very bitterly. I told those people that if they did that, and then found themselves in need of a pastor, they shouldn't look for one to be supplied by the Synod. It would be like cutting of your own hand. Our Synod offerings go toward worker training and not just starting new missions. I'm not so sure people always understand the concept of the Synod. There is an education lapse. The people needed to see that there is a larger picture out there."³²

"Mission Counselor Wayne Schulz told us that if we were going to do this, it was going to be all on our own. It wasn't going to be the Synod." said Darwin Schramm. "But in looking back at everything that has happened to start this new congregation, I am thankful that the Synod did become involved. They sent Pastor Schulz to talk to us, he watched us, he gave us whatever information he could, and he guided us whenever and however he could. Plus CEF gave us a construction loan, a lower interest rate on the loan, and they have decided to help us with the changing of the title of the property. I think all that was a big plus. Our people became enlivened. They felt that some of their money given toward the Synod was coming back and helping them."³³

On August 1, the Study Committee met with the neighboring congregations to see if there would be opposition from any of them toward starting a congregation in Jackson. They wanted to know if it would affect these other congregations in any way. The Study Committee didn't want anything to be viewed as "sheep stealing". They found that many of the pastors said that it wouldn't affect them that much because of the distances between all the various congregations. They should

³² Heckendorf, Mel. Personal interview. March 11, 1996.

³³ Schramm, Darwin. Personal interview. March 11, 1996.

go ahead with the plans, with their blessings.

The Study Committee asked if any of the other congregations would like to help support this new congregation. However, none of the neighboring WELS or ELS congregations were able to help financially support David's Star daughter, but many of them did make this the mission project for their Christian Day School or Sunday School. "All of the area pastors specifically expressed their support for what David's Star was doing. Even though some of the pastors thought that they might lose a few members to this, they said that was all right because we need to have more of a presence right inside of Jackson."³⁴

Throughout the studying of this concept, everyone was kept well-informed by the Study Committee. The committee sent copies of the minutes of all their meetings to Pastor Siegel, Pastor Schulz, and all the area pastors who had requested them.

The Wisconsin Synod and the area WELS and ELS pastors were in favor of a daughter congregation in Jackson, however, some of the David's Star members said that they thought David's Star was already close enough to Jackson. They felt that if people wanted to come to the church, it was only a quick drive away. Pastor Gurgel responded to these comments at the meeting by saying, "We are five miles outside of Jackson. The dedicated WELS person will drive to find us out here. The "middle-of-the-road" WELS person, the unchurched, the person looking for something but not too willing to find it, may not come to us. So, we need to put a congregation where these people are--in Jackson." Many in the congregation understood that. They began to see the need. The idea of a daughter congregation inside of Jackson slowly began to gain some momentum. "But we got there by stumbling," was Gurgel's comment.

³⁴ Jahn, Pastor Curt. Personal interview. March 11, 1996.

David's Star Members are Kept Informed

All of the David's Star members were kept well-informed by the Study Committee of everything they had talked about and discovered. One of the first things that was handed out was a question and answer pamphlet called *Q. & A. Planning for the Future at David's Star*. This informative pamphlet was presented to the congregation in the hopes that it would "wet the appetites" of the people and they would begin to search themselves if they felt God wanted them to daughter a congregation in Jackson. The *Q. & A.* pamphlet was handed out at worship services so people could begin thinking about this important decision.

The members also received bulletin inserts about the daughter congregation twice a month. These inserts contained information about reasons and goals for starting a daughter congregation, busing lines, cemetery rights, a study of population statistics, the over-crowding in the school, dealing with financial considerations at both congregations, building considerations at both congregations, and the possible impact of a daughter congregation on David's Star. The Study Committee also had speakers after worship services to explain some of these inserts. August 25 through August 28, a summary packet of information, containing the pamphlet and the inserts, were handed out at church. Those who did not receive this packet in church had it mailed to them. The Study Committee wanted everyone to have the opportunity to raise questions, offer suggestions, and be able to raise their voices in support or in opposition. Pastor Gurgel said of this continuous stream of information to the people, "Someone had to almost live in a cave not to know something major was being worked on here." All of the people the author interviewed mentioned that in order for people to put their support behind something they needed to be informed. They needed to know what was going on.

After the people had been receiving information for four months, the Study Committee held an open forum on September 8 so that the whole congregation could discuss the daughter congregation subject. All of the committees at David's Star were asked to be present to answer questions. Members from the Daughter Congregation Study Committee, the Building Committee, the School Board, the Stewardship Committee, the Cemetery Committee, and the Church Council were all present. The people asked their questions and they were given straight-forward, truthful answers. That is why the open forum was such a success. The people wanted information and answers to their questions. They received much of what they were looking for in the inserts, pamphlets, the reports after the services, and especially the open forum.

Everyone was well-informed, but not everyone was excited about this project. In the information packets received by every family at David's Star there was included a survey of the congregation asking whether they would consider joining such a daughter congregation. The Study Committee commented on the survey results: "We probably shouldn't have been, but we were disappointed with the survey results (only 30% of the congregation responded, 50% of the respondees had attended the open forum, 50 of the 132 responding indicated some degree of interest in joining the daughter congregation." ³⁵

Various Moods and Opinions Surface

Pastor Gurgel mentioned that there were different moods among the people in the congregation towards this new challenge facing David's Star members:

A significant number wanted to be a part of this challenge. Many of these were the 120 who eventually became members at Morning Star. They were the most excited. But there was also another large group who realized that this was what needed to be done. Many knew they

³⁵ May 3, 1995, Cover letter for call extended for principal of Morning Star.

had to do something, but were rather "laid back" in their support. And there was a small group who thought that this was a crazy idea. There was a group who forgot that this was going to save the use of our present buildings for possibly another ten years. There were some selfish reasons involved. There was a little bit of a mindset among this group that they would say "No!" to anything that was going to cost some money, and there was no doubt that this was going to cost some dollars, some big dollars.

Unfortunately, some of the opposition was selfish. This was disheartening. They weren't a large part of the congregation, but they tended to be vocal. The greatest challenge was to have people see the benefits of this for the Kingdom of God in general, and not their private pocketbook or personal preference.

Some of the lack of excitement was understandable. Some people admitted that, "Hey, my grandfather went here (to David's Star), my father went here, I'm here, my kids go here, and now my grandchildren are supposed to go to another congregation?"

Some families have been attending David's Star for generations and didn't want to see their families broken up into two congregations. We tried to remind everyone that they needed to look long term, way down the road. When suddenly we have two good-sized congregations serving the Lord here, where our children call their home church is not the key. The key is whom they call their Savior. If this is better for serving souls, then it is better for everyone.

I could understand some of their sentiments. But I think some of the people forgot about what their great-grandparents did. They left Germany for the Lord's work and came here. They wanted to have a church for the children. Well, if the people today are going to have a church and school for all the children God is going to bring us here, we have to do something equally as risky. Well, not equally as risky. Not really. It's nothing close to what our ancestors did to pick up and move and plant a new church across an ocean. We are going just five miles. Our lives are not at risk here. Theirs were. I think sometimes some people forgot that this was really in keeping with the spiritual commitment and the strength of the founding fathers of David's Star. It's the same kind of idea they pursued. Not because of religious persecution this time, but because there are souls to serve.³⁶

Still, many people began seeing this as fulfilling the Great Commission. One older woman related to Pastor Gurgel what she had said to some of her own family members who opposed what was going on. She told them: "We have to look beyond ourselves. We have the Lord's work to do here. We should be thankful for what we have here. Why wouldn't we want to share it with others?"

³⁶ Gurgel, Pastor Richard. Personal interview. March 6, 1996.

Why not build another church and school like our own for those people who are moving out here?"³⁷ On this, Pastor Gurgel remarked, "People are feeling great joy just to be a part of all of this. And this was a person whose family name is on the cemetery gravestones many times over. This was a long-time family."³⁸

If there were people who were concerned about what was being proposed and had questions about it, Pastor Gurgel, the Board of Elders, and Study Committee visited them at home. The topic of the daughter congregation was also often raised as applications in sermons and in Bible classes. The people were constantly reminded that "the Lord has work for us to do. God is giving us a challenge. Are we ready for it?"³⁹

During the months leading up to the next congregational meeting, there was even more private encouraging with the people. Pastor Gurgel and the Study Committee sought others out. They made home visits, talked on the phone, met people in the narthex after church, and caught people after congregational meetings in order to purposefully speak with those who were vocally against a daughter congregation. There was a great deal of "one-on-one" contact with people in order to help them see the importance of this project. Pastor Gurgel said of this approach, "We were hoping that this would help people change their minds from thinking 'This is crazy.' and 'Why are we doing this?' to 'Hey, I really think this is what the Lord wants.'"⁴⁰

The Study Committee continued their work in studying and preparing for the October 13

³⁷ Gurgel, Pastor Richard. Personal interview. March 6, 1996.

³⁸ Gurgel, Pastor Richard. Personal interview. March 6, 1996.

³⁹ Gurgel, Pastor Richard. Personal interview. March 6, 1996.

⁴⁰ Gurgel, Pastor Richard. Personal interview. March 6, 1996.

Congregational Voters' Meeting. Pastor Gurgel, Pastor Janke, and the Study Committee all firmly believed that a daughter congregation inside the village of Jackson was what the Lord wanted David's Star to do. So they planned to present a recommendation to the Voters' Assembly to start the daughter congregation and hold its first services in January, 1995.

Conception of the Daughter Congregation

Darwin Schramm said of this, "It was with a degree of fear and trepidation that we came to the congregational meeting October 13 with the proposal for David's Star to allow worship services to begin in January in Jackson somewhere and that David's Star would support the daughter congregation's construction of a new school up to \$700,000. Oh we of little faith." ⁴¹ The resolution was adopted by a vote of 69-23. The majority was for it, but there were still some people against it. "There is a small percentage who will never support this. But then, there is a small percentage who will never support any building project we ever have here. There are some with a little bit of a blind spot. They don't see that the Lord's work isn't about dollars. It is about souls. But, God does ask us to use the dollars he gives us to do that work." said Pastor Gurgel. ⁴²

There were some people against giving birth to a daughter, but the majority voted for it. During the voters' meeting, discussion had ^{gone} went back and forth because some were still undecided and wanted to know all the positives and negatives before they cast their vote. Finally, one man stood up at the voters' meeting. This was a man who never really said much of anything, but just kind of always sat back quietly and listened. This quiet man stood up and said, "The reason we

⁴¹ May 3, 1995, Cover letter for call extended for principal of Morning Star.

⁴² Gurgel, Pastor Richard. Personal interview. March 6, 1996.

should start this daughter congregation is because I don't know you people. I never will." ⁴³ Shortly after that they took the vote. The congregation was willing to support a daughter congregation.

Naming of the Daughter

After the vote the Daughter Congregation Study Committee changed its name to the Daughter Congregation Committee. The next meetings of this committee dealt with a list of items that needed to be addressed. The Daughter Committee had to decide on a place to rent for services; they had to begin searching for land; they had to decide on the exact date and time for worship; and also what to do for a preacher and organists. And just like any parent, they had to decide on a name for the daughter who was going to be born.

The Daughter Committee handed out a survey for all the adults and children to fill out with their suggestions of what the daughter's name should be. There were 50 names submitted by students and another 20 by adults. The Daughter Committee had a meeting on December 5, 1994 to narrow the list of possible daughter names. The committee had a list of five principles that were to be followed for compiling the list. These principles were:

- 1) Do not duplicate the name of any other church in the area.
- 2) Stay away from "traditional" church names.
- 3) Possibly use various names for God or doctrines of the Bible.
- 4) Include an explanation for the selection.
- 5) Since Scripture is essentially Christ centered we should choose a name that reflects our Savior or his actions on our behalf. ⁴⁴

After much discussion the committee arrived at three names for the new congregation. Since

⁴³ Gurgel, Pastor Richard and Pastor Dan Schroeder. Lecture. Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary mission seminar. March 1, 1996.

⁴⁴ December 5, 1994. Letter to Daughter Congregation Committee from Pastor Moldenhauer.

parents choose their child's name, and in a sense all the members at David's Star would be parents to this congregation, the communicant members were given the opportunity, in a bulletin insert survey, to participate in the naming process. The three choices they were given were:

Lamb of God John 1:29 "Look, the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world!"
Christian Worship 268 and 354.

Morning Star Revelation 22:16 "I, Jesus. . . am the Root and the Offspring of David, and the bright Morning Star." Christian Worship 79.

King of Glory Psalm 24:10 "Who is he, this King of glory? The LORD Almighty - he is the King of glory." Christian Worship 3. ⁴⁵

The parents overwhelmingly chose *Morning Star* to be the name of their soon-to-be-born daughter.

The Birth of the Daughter

The birth occurred as planned, under God's blessing, on January 15, 1995. Pastor Gurgel was quoted in the June, 1995 issue of *Northwestern Lutheran* as saying, "We may be 152 years old, but we are still of child-bearing age." ⁴⁶ Pastor Gurgel was also quoted in the *Milwaukee Journal* as saying, "(Our daughter congregation) was conceived April 16, 1994, and it was born January 15, 1995, one day short of nine months. It was a full-term of planning. We had a few chuckles about that." ⁴⁷

January 15, 1995 saw 169 worshipers join together their hearts and voices for the first time

⁴⁵ December 1994. Opinion survey "Naming the Daughter" opinion survey.

⁴⁶ Sonntag, Dorothy. "Looking forward while looking back." *Northwestern Lutheran* June 1995: 10-11.

⁴⁷ Cioni, Tom. "Another Star is born as church sets up shop." *The Milwaukee Journal* 1995.

at Morning Star Evangelical Lutheran Church. After a few months of worship in the Community Room of the Jackson Fire Hall, a number of answers to some interesting questions some members had were answered: "Will the pastor arrive on time?" Pastor Gurgel was making the trips after the service at David's Star in order to preach for Morning Star. Sometimes it was a little close. (The second verse of the sermon hymn had been the latest he had arrived.) "How will the congregation react if the organ suddenly stops playing?" (They kept right on singing.) "How disturbing will the fire trucks be if there is a fire?" (They weren't, because the firemen carefully didn't turn on their sirens until well out of the building.) "Will there be enough interest without an immediate prospect of a permanent worship facility?" (Morning Star has averaged 103 worshipers, 25 in Bible Class, and 11 in Sunday School each Sunday. And they have more volunteers than committees for them to serve on. There is intense interest.) To say the least, the members of Morning Star are thrilled. Certainly the Lord has blessed them in every way. ⁴⁸

The Called Workers and Incorporation of the Congregation

The whole Wisconsin Synod ^{was} is thrilled and ^dhas been watching what was happening at Morning Star. The members of David's Star were also carefully watching what was happening at the Fire Hall in Jackson. The members of Morning Star were also excited to be a part of what was happening in this new area for service in the Lord's ministry. Everyone was eager to see the Lord's work being done in Jackson, and the Lord provided very gifted and able servants to lead the congregation and the school. In May, 1995 Morning Star was assigned Daniel Schroeder from the Seminary to be their pastor. Miss Maxine Harvey was assigned from Dr. Martin Luther College to

⁴⁸ Bulletin insert "A History Lesson" written by the Morning Star Committee.

be the lower grades teacher. And Mr. Michael Maas accepted the call to be the principal of the new school.

Maxine Harvey, Morning Star's first teacher, has been teaching full days at David's Star during the 1995/96 school year. She has been kept very busy with her duties at David's Star, but she has also been busy planning how she will teach at a brand new school. Michael Maas, Morning Star's first principal, has been sharing teaching duties at David's Star for half-days. Mainly, he has been kept busy the first year with administrative duties, such as establishing a curriculum and ordering books, conducting enrollment surveys, establishing a rapport with David's Star students for a smoother transition to the new school, establishing busing lines, writing students' and teachers' handbooks, monitoring government regulations and forms, helping order classroom furnishings, scheduling athletic events, and just getting ready to run a school.⁴⁹

Pastor Schroeder has also been kept busy since his call in May, 1995. Not only is he busy with preaching sermons, teaching Bible classes, having devotions for Church Council meetings, making evangelism calls, teaching Catechism classes, and teaching Bible information classes, but he is also kept pleasantly occupied with all of the new members joining Morning Star. Every month there are new people becoming members of the congregation through transfers, professions of faith, and baptisms. All three of these called workers are excitedly working to spread God's kingdom.

June 4, 1995 was another big day for Morning Star. The congregation was officially incorporated at a special service at David's Star. Certain members from David's Star were also commissioned to start Morning Star. June 4 was also the day Pentecost Sunday was celebrated, the day which marked the start of the Christian church.

⁴⁹ May 3, 1995, Cover letter for call extended for principal of Morning Star.

Purchasing Land to Build a School

Ever since the Study Committee was given the permission on October 13 to start a daughter congregation, the committee had been searching for land to purchase for their building their church and school on. A farmer in Jackson owned 10 acres of land with two homes on it. He was asking \$300,000 for the land. But in June 1995, the deal fell through. The farmer got "cold feet" and decided that he wasn't ready to sell his land. However, in August of that same year, the Lord granted a change of heart. The man wanted to sell. He offered Morning Star eight acres of land for \$80,000, a considerable price reduction. This was now affordable and the land was bought quickly by Morning Star.⁵⁰

In September, Morning Star started a Building Committee. The Building Committee worked with architects to plan to build a school with eight classrooms and a gym that would be used for worshipping in. The Study Committee, in their planning for a daughter congregation, discovered that there were 77 David's Star children of grade school age for the 1995 - 1996 school year who were living in the village of Jackson. So, Morning Star plans to have somewhere between 60 and 90 students in their school's first year, with three full-time teachers and one part-time teacher on staff. After the school is built, Morning Star plans to build a church building in eight to ten years.⁵¹

Pastor Jahn from the Daughter Congregation Study Committee, in an interview, talked about why Morning Star would want to plan to build a school with a gymnasium first and then plan to

⁵⁰ Gurgel, Pastor Richard and Pastor Dan Schroeder. Lecture. Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary mission seminar. March 1, 1996.

⁵¹ Gurgel, Pastor Richard and Pastor Dan Schroeder. Lecture. Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary mission seminar. March 1, 1996.

build a church building later:

Before the committee was formed, the idea of starting a daughter congregation in Jackson was really Pastor Gurgel's idea. He talked to me about it and asked what I thought of the idea. I told him I thought it would work. But, I very strongly emphasized that the congregation would have to have a school. It has to. If it doesn't, I could see families paying tuition to send their children to David's Star and their families are split up between the two congregations. And pretty soon the school starts pulling more strongly than the home church and they switch their membership. So I said it had to have a school.

The original thought was school and church, but I said "No. School and gym. Pastor Gurgel asked me why the gym? I told him, "Put yourself in the shoes of a WELS family who moves out from Milwaukee, locates near the Jackson area because they want the Christian education with KML here and so on. They look at David's Star, who has a gym, the athletic program, and everything else that can be done with a gym. Then they compare it to another, smaller congregation, who is without a gym. Where do you think they will go? I know where I would send my kids--to David's Star who has a gym so my kids can play basketball and do everything else you can do in a gym. Pastor Gurgel thought that maybe we could share the gym between the two congregations. But I told him that wouldn't work because the schedule is full in that gym the way it is. Its hard to fit one school schedule into the gym, let alone try to fit another school schedule into the same gym. There is going to be friction then. He said to me, "Curt, you have a point."

The thing is, if you start with the gym and worship there, everybody is going to want the worship sanctuary. There won't be a debate about it. And everybody is going to be willing to support it when it is the right time. On the other hand, if you start with a church and school and no gym, and then some day you want to add a gym, there is plenty of proof that the same amount of support won't be there. Plenty of congregations have done it that way. People will generally look at themselves and their own needs and say, "I don't need a gym. Therefore I'm not going to support building a gym." That type of thing goes on all time. But nobody will object to building a church. Everybody will want that.⁵²

Celebration Sunday

This building project would cost an estimated \$1.1 million. Morning Star and David's Star decided to form a joint committee called "Together Shining Like the Stars Committee." This joint committee would plan for a Celebration Sunday and an on-going financing of the project.

The people on this joint committee decided that they would try to raise \$550,000--half of the

⁵² Jahn, Pastor Curt. Personal interview. March 11, 1996.

\$1.1 million. The committee urged each family at both David's Star and Morning Star to bring a gift of \$1,000 or more for this special offering for Morning Star's building fund. The committee felt that \$1,000 gift for the special offering was certainly reasonable. They realized that certain families would not be able to give this kind of offering. But, for the most part, they figured that most families could do it if they were allowed enough time to plan and save. "If people really looked and worked at it, you would be surprised how much money you can save and set aside" commented Darwin Schramm.⁵³

"Most people didn't balk too much when they saw how they would have to increase their giving. We dug a little deeper, re-adjusted a few things. We tried to impress upon the people that when a parent raises a child and that child needs braces for the first time, the parent pays for the braces. The parent may not pay for the stereo the child wants because that is a luxury. But I think to get started the mother congregation needs to pay for some of the things for her daughter."⁵⁴

Celebration Sunday was held on February 25, 1996. This was a special joint Morning Star/David's Star worship service held at Kettle Moraine Lutheran High School. This was the only service at either congregation for that weekend. Professor Valleskey from Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary was invited to be the guest preacher. Members from both congregations filled the KML's gymnasium and \$280,000 was raised.

The goal had been set at raising \$550,000. That goal wasn't met. They met half of it. \$280,000 was received. They had set a human goal to work for, which has to be done in many areas of this life. But the fact was, they did collect over a quarter of a million dollars. This was up-

⁵³ Schramm, Darwin. Personal interview. March 11, 1996.

⁵⁴ Schramm, Darwin. Personal interview. March 11, 1996.

front money. There were no commitments or promises. This was "money-in-hand" that they would never have to pay interest on. To this special offering Pastor Gurgel remarked, "Yes, it wasn't the goal we had set. It is going to cost us a little more interest than we wanted it to. But, I can't be disappointed. God's people brought a gift of a quarter of a million dollars. I would have to say that I don't know too many other examples in our Synod where a congregation has committed that many dollars to something not for itself. The people put the money where their convictions were. We should be on our knees in thanks to our God. It was great day. It really was."⁵⁵

One Year Old

On January 14, 1996, Morning Star celebrated its first birthday. The daughter was now only a year old, but had grown quickly. The final 1995 statistics were:

Sunday Worship Service average attendance:	110/Sunday
Sunday Bible Study average attendance:	33/Sunday
Sunday School average attendance:	15/Sunday
Communicant members:	98
Children:	56
Total membership at Morning Star (1995):	154 souls ⁵⁶

Final Thoughts

Each of the people the author of this paper interviewed were asked if there was anything else that they wanted to say about what God had graciously done for each congregation, David's Star and Morning Star. The following is what each of them had to say.

⁵⁵ Gurgel, Pastor Richard. Personal interview. March 6, 1996.

⁵⁶ February 1996. The Morning Star newsletter.

Darwin Schramm, Daughter Congregation Study Committee Chairman and presently the Morning Star Church Council Chairman:

We have 160 members and are starting to average around 120 on a given Sunday. There aren't too many people not coming to church. The giving has also increased at both Morning Star and David's Star. Since we started last year, we have an increase of over \$100,000 in giving between the two congregations. Bible study is up 60%. Average attendance between the two congregations has increased over 100 members per Sunday. Giving to Synod and to KML are up 12%. There are also many more opportunities to serve because there are now two congregations to serve in instead of only one. This was the right thing to do. I think this is the right thing for more people at more congregations to look at, consider and do.⁵⁷

Mel Heckendorf, head elder at David's Star:

We couldn't go anywhere to ask for a lot of help. This was so new. We just had to try it and trust that the Lord would lead us from there. This took complete trust in the Lord because we knew we were totally helpless on our own.⁵⁸

Pastor Curt Jahn, Daughter Congregation Study Committee member, member of the Morning Star Church Council:

This has all been exciting. And I don't think you will find anyone at Morning Star who will tell you differently. With this congregation we have another church to spread God's Word from. It is in an area that is growing rapidly. There are three pastors instead of only two (plus Pastor Janke who is semi-retired). That has a great advantage because the number of people the pastors are serving has gotten smaller. The goal for starting Morning Star was always to care for more souls with the gospel. Only secondarily was the goal to alleviate the over-crowding at David's Star. God has allowed us to accomplish both goals.⁵⁹

Pastor Richard Gurgel, pastor at David's Star:

There is a growing confidence that as we take God at his Word and "go out on a limb", God promises not to saw it off behind us. We have taken some chances with something that might fall apart. We had a pastor, a principal, and a teacher. That is a lot of extra called workers

⁵⁷ Schramm, Darwin. Personal interview. March 11, 1996.

⁵⁸ Heckendorf, Mel. Personal interview. March 11, 1996.

⁵⁹ Jahn, Pastor Curt. Personal interview. March 11, 1996.

to support all in one year--supported by Morning Star and David's Star. That is kind of like "going out on a limb." God hasn't sawed it off yet. And we are confident that the work that is being done is work that needs to be done. There are souls to serve and we trust God to bless us in every way he so chooses.⁶⁰

⁶⁰ Gurgel, Pastor Richard and Pastor Dan Schroeder. Lecture. Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary mission seminar. March 1, 1996.

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**Recommendation to the Congregational Voters' Assembly
October 13, 1994
From the Daughter Congregation Study Committee**

1- Whereas. David's Star congregation's recent rapid growth is having a negative effect on our school, where two classrooms are already in excess of 30 students, and

2- Whereas. adding classrooms to the present school could require retrofitting the building for an elevator (\$60,000) and redoing the septic bed (\$80,000) before any additional rooms can be added, and

3- Whereas. adding to the school building at David's Star would require an investment of some \$900,000 to meet current student and administrative needs, and

4- Whereas. adding to the school doesn't even address the needs for an enlarged worship sanctuary or possibly even abandoning the 1856 church and building a new larger one to accommodate our needs, and

5- Whereas. crowding at special services has caused some worshipers to choose not to worship by not coming at all or has turned some away at the door, and

6- Whereas. even though there is a sizable operating fund deficit, we dare not lose sight of the souls that need to be served with the gospel by our congregation, and

7- Whereas. no bank will loan us money to build anything because of the operating fund debt, and

8- Whereas. more than 100 students currently attending our school live in the village of Jackson, and

9- Whereas. for an estimated \$1.1 million dollars a six room school with accompanying gymnasium could be built on 15-20 acres of land in the Jackson area, and

10- Whereas. the daughter congregation survey provided very inconclusive results (only 31% of the congregation responded), therefore be it

1- Resolved. that we praise our gracious God because he is giving our congregation the opportunity to serve so many people with the gospel, both in our school as well as from the pulpit, and be it further

2- Resolved. that we rededicate ourselves to the purpose of our congregation's existence, that of spreading the gospel, both here and elsewhere, and be it further

3- Resolved. that on January 8, 1995 we begin holding worship services in Jackson in a location yet to be named, and be it further

4- Resolved. that these services be held on Sunday for a trial period of three months in order to determine what interest there is in establishing a daughter congregation and be it further

5- Resolved. that all envelope offerings from local fellowship congregations be remitted to those congregations, that all loose plate offerings be used for the services' expenses, and be it finally

6- Resolved. that at the end of the trial period the Daughter Congregation Study Committee reevaluate the situation and report to the congregation.

Simply there are only three choices:

- 1-Build at David's Star, addition to school immediately, addition to church in future
- 2-Build school and church elsewhere
- 3-Cap enrollment at David's Star School

Either build at David's Star (one large congregation, possibly getting as large as 2000 or more with a school well in excess of 300 students) or building a church and school elsewhere to maintain a relatively smaller congregation and school.

Either we build very soon or else we will have to put a cap on the students we bring into our school. The logical first step would be to eliminate all non-David's Star students (no tuition students at all), then eventually since there is absolutely no place to put students then we will address deficit.

New (and First) Members at Morning Star

1. Behm	David, Diane, Stephanie, Daniel, Ryan	2/3
2. Berg	Nancy, Melissa, Angela	1/2
3. Bourgeois	Nancy	1/0
4. Brunner	Mark, Holly, Sarah, Rachel, Daniel, Hannah	3/3
5. Cacchione	Holly, Sarah, Lisa	1/2
6. Campbell	Charles, Catherine, Nicholas, Patrick	2/2
7. Collyard	Leonard, Kathryn, Christopher	3/0
8. Cvikel	Randy, Valerie, Zachary, Sarah	2/2
9. Fenske	James, Janet, Andrew, Janelle	4/0
10. Haas	Jerry, Betty, Adam, Janelle	2/2
11. Herrian	Henry, Jean	2/0
12. Hirsch	Mark, Yvonda, Bailey, Hannah	2/2
13. Jahn	Curtis, Susan, Julie, Timothy	2/2
14. Johnson	Rebecca	1/0
15. Kleinschmidt	Jesse, Lynette, Jessica, Kevin, Brian Schschinske Roberta & Nathan Heintz	3/4
16. Kosciesza	Robert, Robin, Ashley, Branden, Tyler	2/3
17. Lober	Paul, Marlene, Andrew	3/0
18. Maas	Michael, Linda, Jeremy, Jenna	3/1
19. Maloney	Kevin, Suzanne, Erin, Kyle	2/2
20. Martin	Craig, Sharon, Sara, Douglas	2/2
21. Moldenhauer	John, Erika, Lucas, Lara, Julia, Jessica, Anita, Andrea	8/0
22. Mueller	Dale, Sue, Sarah, Emily	4/0
23. Naylor	Geraldine	1/0
24. Nunez	David, Justin, Jason & Jeffrey Tetzlaff	3/1
25. Oestereich	Mark, Ginger, Christopher, Robert	2/2
26. Peters	Gregory	1/0
27. Schramm	Darwin, Bonnie, Jennifer, Janette, Julie, Justin	5/1
28. Schroeder	Daniel, Linka, Philip	2/1
29. Shine	Timothy, Brenda, Jaimie, Jessica	2/2
30. Taglienti	William, Karen, Jill	3/0
31. Thompson	Robert, Jennifer, Lindsey, Jacob, David	2/3
32. Vorpahl	Daniel	1/0
33. Walther	John, Pam, Philip, Elisabeth, Peter	3/2
34. Weber	Terry, Susan, Austin, Rachel	2/2
35. Wilde	Paul, Cynthia	2/0
36. Zaporski	Randolph, Kim, Kaelyn, Krysten, Kellye, Ryan	2/4

Total as of 10/1/95: 86/50
(136)

86 Communicants / 50 Children

* There are approximately 18 people for whom we are waiting letters of transfer, confirmation, etc. to be received into membership at Morning Star.

PRIVILEGED TO SERVE IN 1995

In the Worship Service

Rev. Daniel M. Schroeder	Pastor	675-9222
Rev. Curt Jahn	Communion Assistant	677-3397
Rev. John Moldenhauer	Communion Assistant	677-0114
Mr. Darwin Schramm	Communion Assistant	677-3836
Rev. Paul Wilde	Communion Assistant	677-2474
Mrs. Sue Breitreutz	Organist	677-4632
Mr. Tom Ehnert	Organist	334-7716
Mrs. Jean Herrian	Organist	677-2405
Mr. Mark Hirsch	Organist	677-4763
Mrs. Jan Kieselhorst	Organist	375-3857
Mr. Jerry Kieselhorst	Organist	375-3857
Mrs. Linda Maas	Organist	335-3667
Mrs. Deb Marzinske	Organist	375-4735
Mrs. Erika Moldenhauer	Organist	677-0114
Miss Julie Schramm	Organist	677-3836
Mrs. Sherry Watts	Organist	677-4855
Miss Kaelyn Zaporski	Organist	677-3838
Mrs. Sue Mueller	Choir Director	673-4903

On the Church Council

(Year listed is when term expires)

Mr. Darwin Schramm ('96)	President	677-3836
Rev. John Moldenhauer ('97)	Secretary	677-0114
Mr. David Behm ('98)	Treasurer	677-4935
Mr. Mark Oestreich ('96)	Financial Secretary	677-2864
Mr. Mark Hirsch ('97)	Bd. Education	677-4763
Rev. Curt Jahn ('98)	Bd. Elders	677-3397
Mr. Paul Lober ('96)	Bd. Evangelism	677-2683
Mr. Henry Herrian ('97)	Bd. Stewardship	677-2405
Mr. William Taglienti ('98)	Building Committee	677-2723
Mr. Michael Maas	Principal	335-3667
Rev. Daniel Schroeder	Pastor	675-9222

On the School Faculty

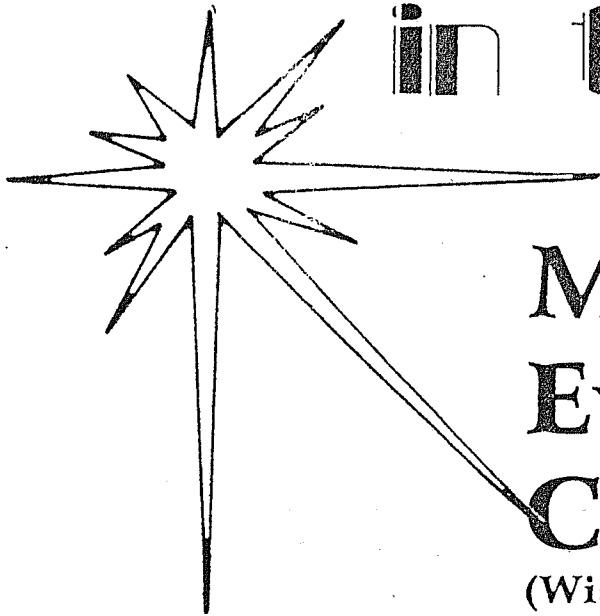
Rev. Daniel Schroeder	Pastor	675-9222
Mr. Michael Maas	Principal	335-3667

In the Sunday School

Sunday School Teachers

Mrs. Diane Behm	677-4935	Mrs. Linka Schroeder	675-9222
Mrs. Yvonda Hirsch	677-4763	Mrs. Kim Zaporski	677-3838
Mrs. Susan Jahn	677-3397	Miss Sarah Mueller*	673-4903
		(*teaching assistant)	

There's a new
STAR
in town!



Morning Star
Ev. Lutheran
Church

(Wisconsin Synod)

Meeting at the Jackson Fire Hall

WORSHIP: 10:30 a.m.
SUNDAY SCHOOL & BIBLE CLASS:
9:15 a.m.

FIRST SERVICE JANUARY 15, 1995

For more information call
David's Star Lutheran Church
677-2412 or
375-1843

*"I, Jesus... am the Root and the Offspring of
David, and the bright Morning Star." Rev. 22:16*

Preamble

WHEREAS, the Apostle Paul sets forth, 1 Corinthians 14:40, that all things in the church shall be done "in a fitting and orderly way," and

WHEREAS, the history of the Christian church of all times shows that certain agreements and regulations are helpful properly to fulfill the purpose and attain the objectives of congregations; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that we, a congregation of Lutheran Christians at Jackson, Wisconsin do herewith, in the name of the Triune God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, and by subscribing our names hereto, adopt the following CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS.

CONSTITUTION

Article I

Name

The name of this congregation shall be Morning Star Evangelical Lutheran Church of Jackson, Wisconsin.

Article II

Articles of Faith

Section 1.

This congregation accepts and confesses all the canonical books of the Old and New Testaments as the verbally inspired and inerrant Word of God and submits to this Word as the only infallible authority of all matters of faith and life (2 Timothy 3:15-17).

Section 2.

This congregation accepts and confesses all the symbolical books of the Evangelical Lutheran Church contained in the Book of Concord of 1580 as true statements of scriptural doctrine. They are:

- A. The three ecumenical Creeds
 - 1) The Apostles'
 - 2) The Nicene
 - 3) The Athanasian
- B. The six Lutheran Confessions
 - 1) Dr. Martin Luther's Small Catechism
 - 2) Dr. Martin Luther's Large Catechism
 - 3) The Unaltered Augsburg Confession
 - 4) The Apology of the Augsburg Confession
 - 5) The Smalcald Articles
 - 6) The Formula of Concord

Section 3.

This congregation accepts and confesses these symbolical books without reservation, not insofar as, but because they are the presentation and explanation of the pure doctrine of the Word of God and a summary of the faith held by the Evangelical Lutheran Church.

Section 4.

Hence, no doctrine shall be taught or tolerated in this congregation which is in any way at variance with these symbolical books and the Holy Scriptures.

Section 5.

Likewise, all controversies which may arise in this congregation shall be decided and adjusted according to this norm of doctrine and practice.

(1 Corinthians 11:28). Only those in the confessional fellowship of faith are permitted to commune at our altar. (Close Communion - 2 Corinthians 6:14-15; Romans 16:17).

C. Our God has given us the privilege and responsibility of being managers over a certain portion of his estate and assures us he will graciously bless such faithful management (2 Corinthians 9:6). Therefore each member of his church will under grace

- 1) Continually remember that all his possessions, time and abilities are really a trust from God.
- 2) Cheerfully decide in his heart (2 Corinthians 9:7) the portion of this trust of possessions, time and abilities which he will regularly devote to the Lord for use in carrying out that which the congregation has made its concern, not omitting the work of the synod (Matthew 28:19; 1 Corinthians 9:14; 16:2; 2 Corinthians 9:6-11; 1 Peter 4:10).
- 3) If eligible, become a voting member and regularly attend the voters' meetings and lend the congregation his counsel and aid.

D. Our God has implanted within us who are Christians the new man, who desires to live righteously (2 Corinthians 5:17; Ephesians 4:24). Consequently, members of his church will

- 1) Not live in obvious acts of the sinful nature (Galatians 5:19-21, but lead a Christian life (Galatians 5:22-25).
- 2) When they have erred, permit themselves to be fraternally admonished and corrected according to Matthew 18:15-18.
- 3) Refuse to hold membership in any organization whose teachings and practices conflict with the Word of God (e.g. lodges). (John 5:23; 8:31,32; 2 Corinthians 6:14-18).

Section 3. Church Discipline and Excommunication

Christian discipline shall be exercised in this congregation in the spirit of Matthew 18:15-20 toward those who err from the faith or who in other ways have given offense. At all times this shall be done in the spirit of the Gospel, namely, to regain the erring as brethren. Those members who finally must be excommunicated, and those who have excluded themselves from the congregation by evading Matthew 18:15-20 lose all their rights in the congregation. For excommunication a unanimous vote of the voters' assembly is required.

Section 4. Reinstatement

When an excommunicated member by the grace of God repents of his sin, he is to be reinstated by the voters' assembly with all former rights and privileges of this congregation (2 Corinthians 2:6-8).

Article VI

Powers and Rights of the Congregation

Section 1.

In all matters of Christian faith and life, the Word of God is supreme (Psalm 119:105).

Section 2.

In all matters not decided by the Word of God, the congregation, represented by the voters' assembly, shall have the right of decision (Romans 12:10; 14:19; Ephesians 5:21).

Section 3.

The church council, any other elected committee or organization within the congregation, and any of its elected or appointed officers shall have no power or authority beyond that conferred upon them by the congregation. However, the church council in an emergency may act in the name and for the welfare of the congregation. Such action must be submitted for ratification at the next voters' meeting.

Article X

Meetings of the Congregation

Meetings of this congregation shall be held at such times and in such manner as stated in the Bylaws. The meetings shall give the voters of the congregation the opportunity to hear, discuss, and take necessary action in matters pertaining to the welfare of this congregation and of the church-at-large.

Article XI

Separation or Dissolution

Section 1.

If at any time a separation should occur in this congregation - may God graciously prevent it - the property and all equipment of this congregation shall remain with that portion of the membership which adheres to this Constitution, regardless of number.

Section 2.

In the event of termination or dissolution of the congregation, the church council shall, after paying or making provision for the payment of all the liabilities of the congregation, dispose of its remaining assets, if any, exclusively for the purposes of the congregation, by distributing, at the direction of the voters' assembly, the remaining assets to (and only to) David's Star Ev. Lutheran Church for a period of ten years after David's Star Ev. Lutheran Church has made final payment of the \$700,000 promised by them for the purchase of land and erection of a school. At that time this section shall be revised.

Article XII

Repeals and Alterations

Section 1.

Articles II, III, IV, V, VI Sections 1&2, VII Sections 1-3, IX, and XII Section 1 of this Constitution, shall be and remain unalterable and irrevocable, inasmuch as they express clear, Scriptural teachings.

Section 2.

Proposals to alter or repeal any article of this Constitution or to add an article shall be submitted in writing to the church council and shall be publicly announced on two Sundays immediately preceding a regular business meeting of the voters' assembly and posted in the church during that period.

Section 3.

Such a proposal shall be discussed in the meeting in which it is presented and voted on in the next regular meeting of the voters' assembly.

Section 4.

A two-thirds vote of the voting members present shall be required to alter or repeal any article of this Constitution or to add an article hereto.

Section 5.

Any and all Bylaws may be repealed or amended by a majority vote of the voting members present at any quarterly meeting, provided that public notice of this proposed action shall have been given the congregation on at least two Sundays prior to the time of the meeting, and provided that the substance of the proposed amendment has been submitted to the church council for its study and recommendation.

Article II**Quorum**

The voting members present at a properly announced meeting of the congregation shall constitute a quorum provided there is an equal number of non-council members present.

Article III**The Church Council****Section 1. Membership**

The church council shall consist of the congregation's president, secretary, financial secretary and treasurer; the chairmen of the following boards: Education, Elders, Evangelism, Stewardship and Trustees, and as many additional men as may be needed to carry on the congregation's business. The pastor of this congregation and the principal of the school shall be *ex officio* voting members of the church council.

Section 2. Responsibilities

2.1 The members of the church council shall aid the pastor in the spiritual affairs of the congregation. They shall be accountable for good order in the services. They shall particularly care in love for their fellow members who have special needs (Galatians 6:9-10). The members of the church council shall consult together concerning the total spiritual and physical well-being of the congregation, giving due attention also to the work of the Lord in the church-at-large. The church council shall implement resolutions of the voters' assembly and carry out such assignments as are directed to them by the voters' assembly.

2.2 The church council shall control the corporate property of the congregation according to the direction given to it by the voters' assembly. The church council is hereby empowered to borrow money, pledge the assets of the congregation, sell, lease or otherwise dispose of the real and personal property of the congregation, all at the direction of the voters' assembly. It shall also have the right to acquire property by purchase, trade, gift or devise as directed by the voters' assembly. The president and secretary of the congregation are hereby designated as the persons who shall sign all documents of the congregation.

Section 3. Term of Office

3.1 The term of office for each council member shall be three years. No council member shall serve more than two consecutive terms. He shall again be eligible for election to the council one year after the expiration of his second term of office.

3.2 The term of one third of the members, if possible, shall expire each year, such expired terms to be filled by election at the annual meeting of the voters' assembly.

Section 4. Installation

As soon as possible after the election, the new members of the church council shall be installed in office at a regular service and shall thus be presented to the congregation. If for valid reason a member cannot be installed with the rest of the new members he shall be installed at the next church council meeting.

Section 5. Meetings

The church council shall meet regularly once each month. [Suggested change: replace the previous sentence with: *The church council shall meet regularly to carry out its work.*] Special meetings may be called by the pastor or the president. The church council shall not convene to transact business without the knowledge of the pastor.

Section 6. Majority

No business shall be transacted by the church council unless a majority of the church council members is present.

the school shall be an advisory member of the board of education.

Section 6. Board of Elders

The chairman of the board of elders shall direct the duties of the men whom the congregation has duly elected to assist him. The board of elders shall visit or counsel with, in conjunction with the pastor, those members who are delinquent in attending worship services, partaking of the Lord's Supper, or in giving of their material wealth to the Lord. It shall show its love and concern for all members and especially those members who seem to be weakening in their faith, the troubled, and those who need comforting as well as the poor and needy. This board shall make itself available to the pastor to aid him personally and support him as needed. The members of the board of elders shall also perform such other duties as may be assigned to them by the congregation.

Section 7. Board of Evangelism

The chairman of the board of evangelism shall direct the duties of the men whom the congregation has duly elected to assist him. The board of evangelism shall aid the congregation in establishing and maintaining an active program of outreach to the community as well as inreach to the congregation itself. The members of the board of evangelism shall also perform such other duties as may be assigned to them by the congregation.

Section 8. Board for Stewardship

The chairman of the board for stewardship shall direct the duties of the men whom the congregation has duly elected to assist him. The board for stewardship shall formulate all policies of sound Christian stewardship and present them, by way of the church council, to the congregation for ratification and then shall implement them on the congregational and family levels. The members of the board for stewardship shall also perform such other duties as may be assigned to them by the congregation.

Section 9. Board of Trustees

The chairman of the board of trustees shall direct the duties of the men whom the congregation has duly elected to assist him. The board of trustees shall administer and be responsible for maintaining all the properties of the congregation. It shall present, by way of the church council, to the congregation for ratification all its policies and recommendations for its function of church work. The members of the board of trustees shall also perform such other duties as may be assigned to them by the congregation.

Section 10. Term of Office

10.1 The term of office for each board member shall be three years. No board member shall serve more than two consecutive terms. He shall again be eligible for election to any board or committee one year after the expiration of his second term of office.

10.2 The term of one third of the members, if possible, shall expire each year, such expired terms to be filled by election at the annual meeting of the voters' assembly.

Section 11. Auditing Committee

11.1 This committee shall consist of two members of the congregation (not members of the church council or finance committee) appointed by the president of the congregation at the December council meeting for a term of two years with one member being appointed each year. These appointments shall be ratified by the congregation.

11.2 This committee shall annually audit the financial books of the congregation and of all organizations within the congregation and present a written report of such audits at the annual meeting of the congregation.

Article VI **Transfer or Release from Membership**

Section 1. Transfer

Those desiring a transfer or release from membership shall bring their request to the attention of the pastor or the church council for action to be ratified at the next meeting of the voters' assembly.

Section 2. Release

Transfer of membership shall apply only to those who desire membership in a congregation which is in agreement with this one in doctrine and practice. Release from membership shall apply when affiliation is sought with those denominations not in agreement with our congregation in doctrine and practice.

Section 3. Whereabouts unknown

Those members whose whereabouts are unknown and cannot be established shall be removed by resolution of the voters' assembly and forthwith such membership is terminated.

Section 4. Status

Members transferred, released, excommunicated or self-excluded, relinquish all rights in this congregation. [Suggested change, replace previous sentence with: *Members transferred, released, removed, declared out of fellowship, excommunicated or self-excluded, relinquish all rights in this congregation.*]

Article VII **Delegates to the KMLHS Federation**

This congregation shall be a member of the Kettle Moraine Lutheran High School Federation. The pastor and all male teachers shall be delegates to the General Board meetings. Lay delegates shall be elected at the congregation's annual meeting. The term of office will be three years, with one member elected each year. The member with most seniority will be designated as the "Head Delegate."

Article VIII **Repeals and Amendments of the Bylaws**

Any and all Bylaws may be repealed or amended by a majority vote of the voting members present at any quarterly meeting, provided that public notice of this proposed action shall have been given the congregation on at least two Sundays prior to the time of the meeting and provided that the proposed amendment has been submitted in writing to the church council for its study and recommendation.

First Reading May 2, 1995

Moved, seconded and adopted to accept the above amended Constitution and Bylaws.



Jerry Peters, left, and Craig Jones of Concrete Masonry, spread concrete for footings of the Morning Star School being built on Highland Road in Jackson. (Staff photo: Chad Hug)

Building for the future

Jackson congregation constructs church, school

By BARRY GANTENBEIN

Daily News Staff Writer

JACKSON - The 153 members of Morning Star Lutheran Church have called the Jackson Fire Department home since the church formed one year ago.

But by fall church members will have a school and a church of their very own.

For the next few years the church and school will be one and the same, with church services held in the school gymnasium.

"We'll have services on Sunday, then break everything down and move it out of the way for school on Monday," said Michael Maas, principal of the school.

A church is expected to be built at the 7.1-acre site on Highland Road in five to seven years, Maas said.

Construction of the \$1.1 million building began in late December.

Footings are being put in place now, with finishing and masonry work set to begin when spring weather arrives, said Maas.

The building is expected to be complete in late August or early September, Maas said.

Morning Star Lutheran Church was formed in January 1995 when leaders at David's Star Lutheran church and school in Jackson decided the community would be better served by forming a daughter congregation.

Another Lutheran church and school in Jackson will ease overcrowding at David's Star, Maas said.

"We'll take a little strain off them as far as enrollment. They're using every available space, including a large hallway, for classes," said Maas.

Morning Star School will have seven classrooms, a library, a

gymnasium and office space.

An estimated 70 to 80 students are expected to be enrolled in kindergarten through eighth grade when school starts in the fall, Maas said.

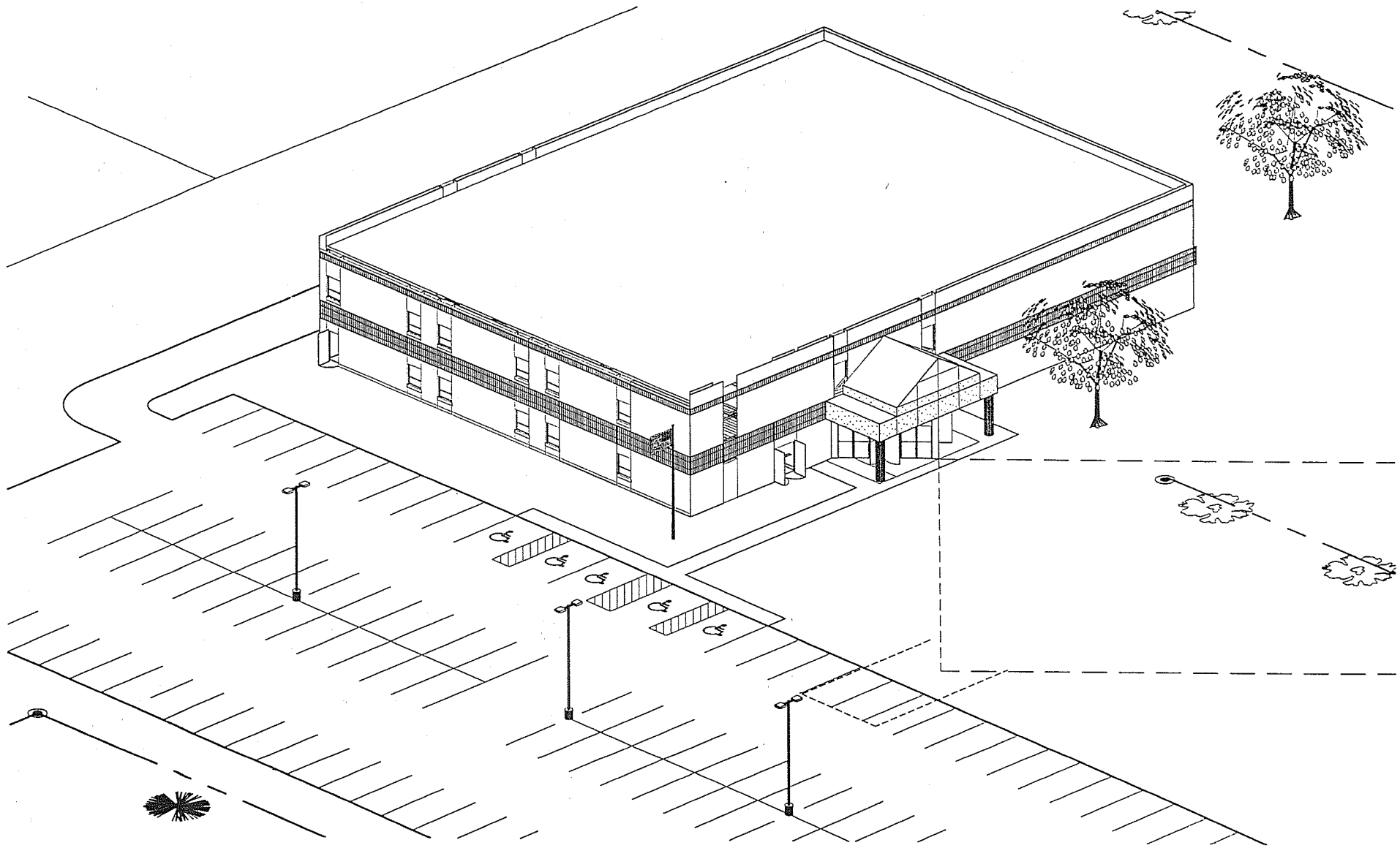
"We're in the process of surveying families in David's Star who are making the change, and we'll promote this in the village of Jackson," said Maas.

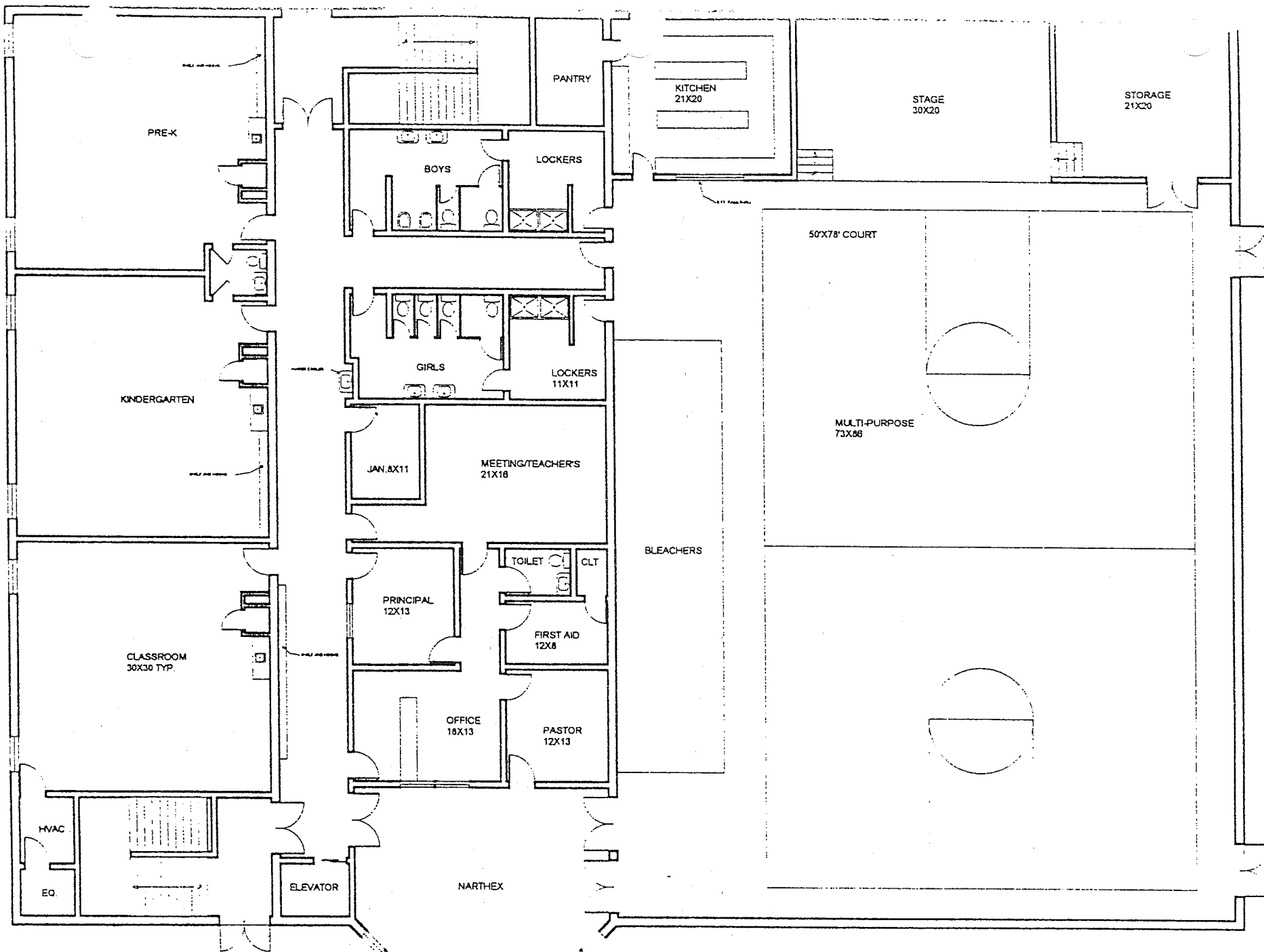
Students from outside the congregation are welcome.

Morning Star Lutheran is affiliated with the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS), which is a conservative, bible-based synod of the Lutheran Church.

Maas is working out of David's Star, laying the groundwork for the new school.

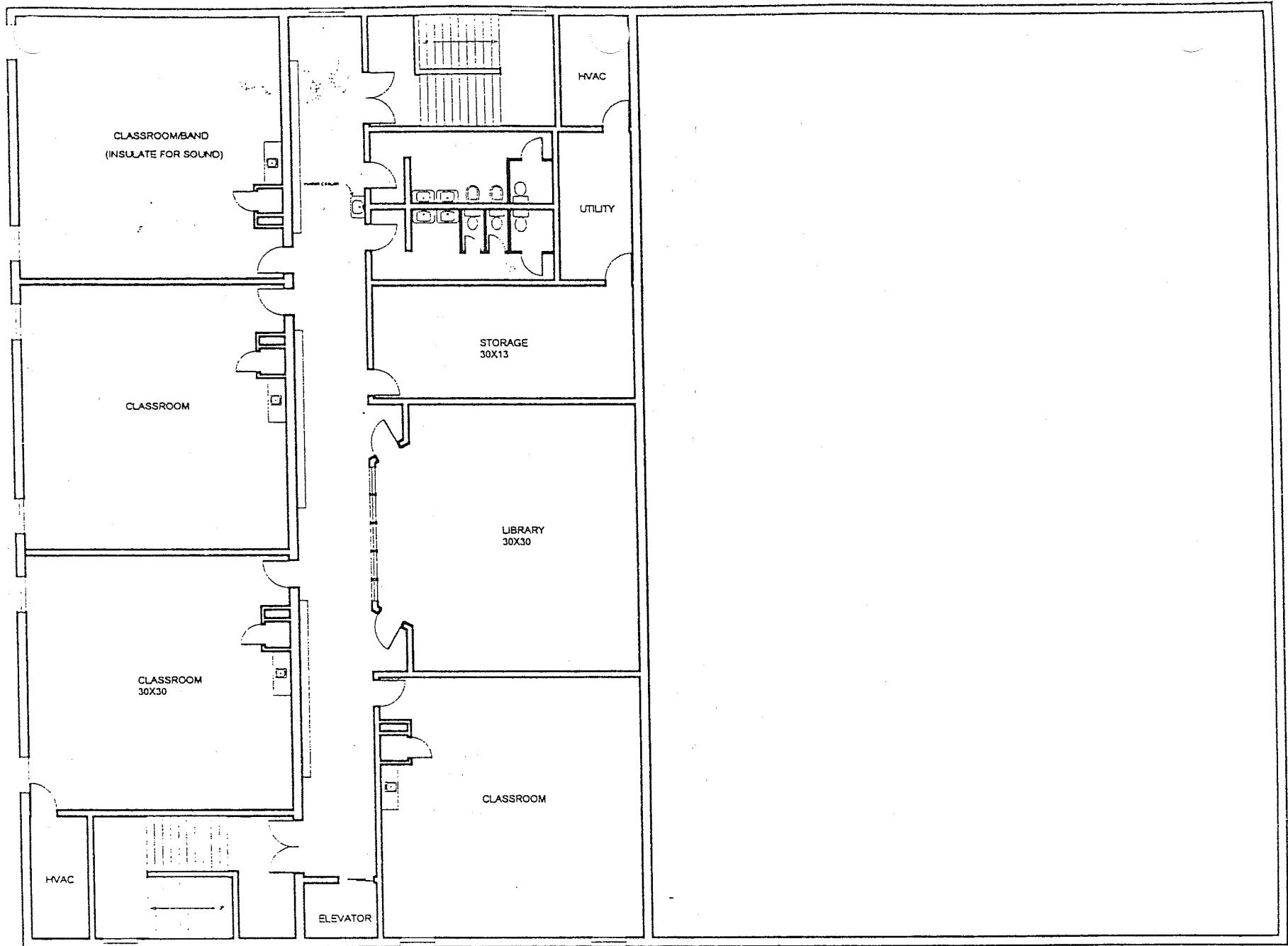
"There's a lot to be done," he said.





(Proposed Plan For Morning Star Lutheran School)

FIRST FLOOR PLAN



(Proposed Plan For Morning Star Lutheran School)

SECOND FLOOR PLAN

Blessings & Struggles of a Daughter Congregation

Blessings of a Daughter Congregation

People excited to serve and get involved.
They want to be part of a mission church.
Mission spirit.

Core group of members are mostly the involved members of the mother church.

Not starting from ground zero

Pastor can get to know his people

"Family atmosphere"/ Sense of belonging

Serving in the Village, A growing area,
Building with the untapped area.

Starting another church in an area lacking churches brings the blessings a church offers.

No traditions

New ideas from members from other churches

Everyone can easily identify visitors.

2nd School (daughter congregation's) can get started - great outreach tool

A Morning Star blessing: Called-workers part of the nucleus
(4 Sem graduates; 19 D.M.L.C. graduates; 2 Sem students).

Struggles of a Daughter Congregation

An instant church, but starting everything from scratch (offering envelopes, forms, bulletins, newsletters)

Little to no equipment/office supplies

Start-up costs

No place to call "home"

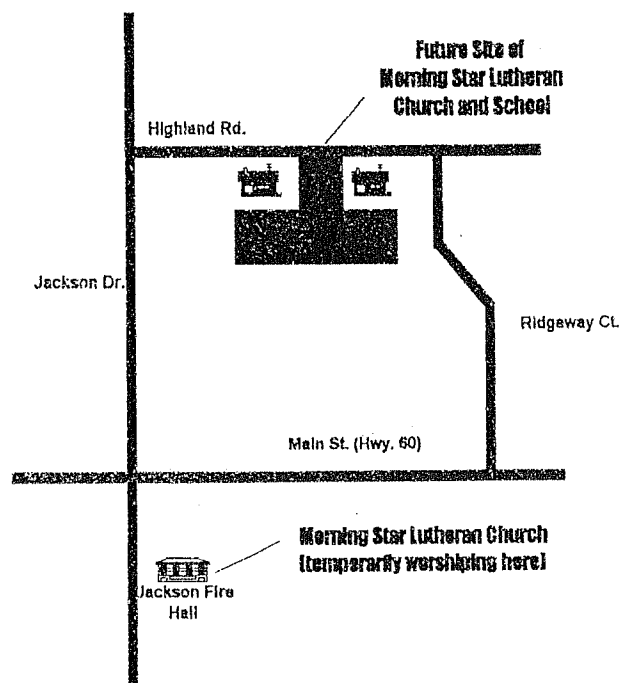
Trying to get own identity (joint services with mother)

School starting - big step (cost & salaries)

Keeping the line to the mother open with information flowing.

People who don't want the daughter congregation started.

*Any "struggle" has a blessing side to it.



Please come and visit any time.
New members are welcome!

Blessings & Struggles of the Mother of a One Year Old Daughter

Blessings of the Mother Congregation

Participation in the ministry of the congregation by more of God's people.

Growing commitment to firstfruit proportionate giving among God's people.

Joy of "hands-on" participation in the beginning of a new congregation and seeing the daughter taking her first steps! A powerful reminder of the purpose of Christ's church!

A growing confidence that as we take God at his Word and go a bit "out on a limb," that God promises not to saw it off behind us!

Stuggles of the Mother Congregation

Overcoming a natural sinful selfishness that can't see beyond the four walls of our congregation.

Fears that our own ministry will suffer since some feel that "those who divide are conquered."