

St. John's UCC – Mantels, Washington, Missouri Celebrating 175 Years

In 1836 Evangelical Lutherans began meeting for Sunday worship at various homes. By 1839 these meetings became regularly scheduled events led by circuit-riding preachers and in 1841 land was purchased. A log church was constructed in 1841 and was named The German Evangelical Lutheran Church of St. John's Township. The Rev. F.E. Mantels began his ministry spanning three decades in 1853, which is where the Mantels Church got its moniker.



In 1875 the present church building was constructed at a cost of \$3,000. That was the same year the 30" diameter bell was forged in St. Louis. It remains in the belfry today and is used every Sunday to summon people to worship. The church also gained a pipe organ that year. English was first spoken in the church in 1938 as a result of Hitler's onslaught of war in Europe.

Another big change occurred in 1957 when the German Evangelical and Reformed Churches joined with the Congregational to form the United Church of Christ. The church building was remodeled that same year.

In later years St. John's became a teaching church supplied by students from Eden Seminary. At this point the church is being nurtured by various supply ministers, the most recent of which was the Rev. Dr. Gilford Bisjak who acted as the Supply Minister for one year. A celebration of the congregation's 175th anniversary will be held in June 2018.

