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## 90th Anniversary of St, Luke's Lutheran Church

St. Luke's Lutheran Church

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## A Humble Beginning ...

St. Luke's Lutheran Church is intertwined with the history of Slavia Colony, near Oviedo, which was settled in 1912 by a group of Slovak immigrants who had lived briefly in Cleveland and were now seeking land on which they could farm, build a new community, and practice their Christian (Lutheran) faith.

Their first church was created using abandoned turpentine shacks. The congregation numbered just 25 baptized souls in 1912.



The first church stood in what is now the cemetery near the intersection of SR426 and Chapman Road. The building was recently returned to this site, pending restoration.



### *St. Luke's Lutheran Church* *The Lutheran Church ~ Missouri Synod*

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St. Luke's Lutheran Church  
1912 ~ 2002

## *90<sup>th</sup>* *Anniversary* *Celebration*



October 27, 2002

# St. Luke's Lutheran Church

## The Early Years ...

During its first 22 years, the congregation not only worshiped in a primitive wooden structure, they did not even have a Pastor of their own.

The poignant story of those difficult early years has been recorded by Dr. Paul Wehr in the book, *Like a Mustard Seed: the Slavia Settlement*.



Slavia train depot. The "General Store" in the background still stands today.

Yes, Slavia had its own little train depot in those early days. The railroad carried the celery grown by the Slavia farmers for many years, though the depot disappeared long ago.

The old "general store" in the background still stands, however, privately owned by a descendent of its original owner, and now emblazoned with "Slavia" across its front.

In 1934, a permanent Pastor was assigned, and five years later St. Luke's erected its first permanent, brick structure.



## The School ...

The education of the children was of utmost importance to the congregation. In 1947, the old wooden church building was moved behind the new church and converted into a one-room schoolhouse, which served their needs until they could erect a new school (K-8) in 1949.



The old wooden church building was converted to a one-room schoolhouse in 1947.



The new two-story school opened in 2000.

With several additions, the 1949 building served until the erection of a new, two-story structure in 2000, which accommodates more than 650 students.

## The Church Grows ...

By 1957, the congregation had grown to a size



that warranted the expansion of the brick church. Two large transoms were added, and the

resulting design was a church—capable of seating more than 400 people—in the shape of a cross. The worship services were now transmitted via live radio broadcasts, and the congregation and school continued to grow.



Lutheran Haven was built in 1949 on land adjacent to the church.

St. Luke's grew in ministry, as well. In 1949, a children's home and a home for the aged were built on land adjacent to the church. "Lutheran Haven" has evolved in the last 50 years into a large retirement complex, with nursing home and assisted living facility, and also houses an Early Childhood Center that serves the community-at-large.

In 1993, the current sanctuary was dedicated. The unusual design incorporates the original 1929 brick structure, which now serves as a chapel. The main sanctuary can seat up to 1,000. Four worship services each week serve the 3,200 baptized members. Three pastors and a staff of 80 serve this congregation, which began so humbly in 1912.

## St. Luke's Lutheran Church

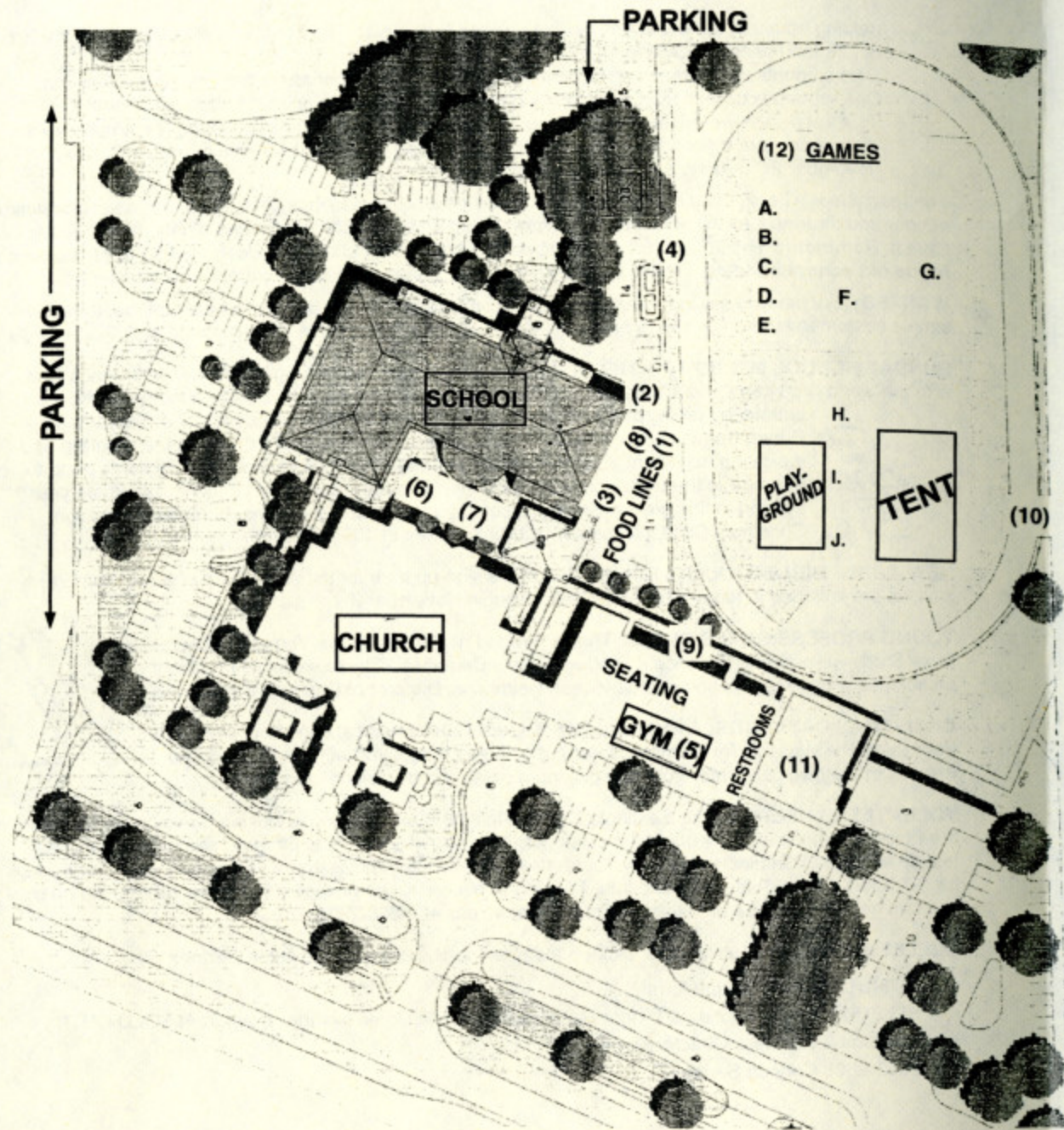
### Worship Services

Sunday morning: 8:00, 9:30 & 11:00 AM

Monday evening: 7:00 PM

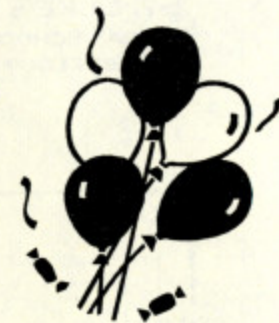
Sunday school: 9:30 AM

Adult Education classes: 9:30 & 11:00 AM



## KEY TO PICNIC CELEBRATION

- (1) FOOD LINES
- (2) DRINKS
- (3) POPCORN
- (4) ICE CREAM
- (5) ENTERTAINMENT IN FOUNDERS' HALL GYM
- (6) BOUNCE HOUSE
- (7) CRAFTS FOR CHILDREN
- (8) FIRST AID
- (9) MEMORY LANE (MEMORABILIA)
- (10) TOURS
- (11) VOLLEYBALL
- (12) GAMES



- A. JUMPING CONTEST
- B. HOT POTATO
- C. THREE-LEGGED RACES
- D. TUG-OF-WAR
- E. LIMBO
- F. EGG TOSS
- G. WATER BALLOONS
- H. FISH POND
- I. SAND BOX
- J. BINGO

