

- **1855** – Bishop John Martin Henni established a German parish in New Berlin named St. Valerius – now called Holy Apostles. A white frame and log church were built just west of our present-day bell tower. A local farmer and wife, Bernard & Catherine Casper, donated 3 acres of land for the church and cemetery. *Bernard's gravestone can be found in the Holy Apostles cemetery.*
- **1862** - The first Catholic parish school in New Berlin was established at St. Valerius, taught by "Seminary Sisters" in a log cabin. *New Berlin's first school was started 1840-41.*
- **1865** – A one-story brick veneer school was built. A student's tuition at that time was \$4.80 per year. Enrollment at the opening of school in 1865 was 81 pupils. Sister Mary Alfons was first Superior. *School was taught by the Sisters of St. Francis, who received a total of \$250 for a ten-month period. Living conditions were inadequate, suffering from lack of food and unbearable cold, and in time they were recalled to their motherhouse. Lay teachers then taught at St. Valerius school for an undetermined length of time.*
- **1876** – The parish built a new two-story brick rectory for the priests. The rectory was “widely known as the most handsome and the most commodious rectory for miles around”.
- **1883** – Rev. Joseph Moder, the new pastor, refurbished and reopened the school, securing the services of the Sisters of St. Francis. The sisters taught for 2 years, until the pastor transferred. Lay teachers took over, but the school soon closed.
- **May 14, 1889** – A new larger brick and cut stone Gothic structure church was built, with an impressive 134-foot steeple. The name was changed from St. Valerius to Holy Apostles, sometimes referred to as Saints Peter and Paul. With the building of Holy Apostles church, a sidewalk was built that extended the church to Casper's Inn/Post Office. It claimed to be the only sidewalk in the world connecting a church and tavern.
- **September 3, 1893** – Holy Apostles School opened with 35 students in a 2-room schoolhouse. The Franciscan sisters returned to teach.
- **1896** – A new two-story, brick veneer schoolhouse and convent building opened. The first floor served grades 5-8, with an altar on the opposite side of the building. While the second floor served grades 1-4. The Sisters' residence was an adjoining building. Average of 62 students enrolled per year.
- **1897** – Holy Apostles acquired just over an acre of land for additional cemetery space from John Casper.
- **July 3, 1907** – A bolt of lightning struck the 134-foot church steeple of Holy Apostles, setting it ablaze. It soon fell upon the school/convent and all buildings were destroyed in about two hours. The brick shell of the church remained. The pastor's barn was used to hold mass until a new church could be built.
- **January 17, 1908** – Tragedy strikes again. Six and one-half months after the church, school and convent were destroyed, a chimney fire destroyed the rectory.
- **Fall 1908** – A new church and rectory were built. The church footprint is where the present-day bell tower and Adoration Chapel are, while the rectory footprint would be where the 1966-2017 rectory was and current Welcome Center.
- **1910** – Under Fr. Albert Lofy, plans were approved, and a new three-story brick school and convent were built. The school footprint was in the present-day main church parking lot.
- **March 4, 1927** – A special meeting was called to plan for remodeling and enlarging the church. Work was approved and completed December 1, 1927.
- **October 23, 1931** – Congregation purchased 9 acres to be used for cemetery.
- **February 23, 1934** – Holy Apostles School caught fire; destroying the attic and 3rd floor. Two days later wind caused the upper gable and chimney to crash. Reconstruction and remodeling started immediately. The 3rd floor was not rebuilt, leaving the school a 2-story structure. Classes were held despite the fire damage, and the June 1934 8th grade graduation class consisted of 6 boys and 3 girls.
- **1937** – German sermons were discontinued.
- **1945** – The weekly church bulletin started.
- **March 1949** – The Sisters' residence was built. It currently is the site of the Parish Center
- **August 12, 1951** – The first Holy Apostles Festival and Pot Luck was held.

- **September 10, 1951** – The school has an enrollment of 195 children in 4 rooms. The parish census showed 475 families with more than 1,000 people over 18 years of age.
- **September 1953** – A new school was ready for occupancy. With the usage of the old (est. 1910) and new school buildings, 7 classrooms were in operation.
- **October 1953** – The last devastating fire struck. Reckless teenagers set an outbuilding, associated with the old school building, on fire.
- **1954 - 1955** - The church (est. 1907) got a major remodeling; wooden statues were placed, two side altars were removed, walls were washed and painted, a new communion rale was installed, and new pews were affixed.
- **September 1954** – The Sister’s sacrificed their parlor and allowed that to be converted to a classroom, allowing 8 classrooms to be in operation between the old and new school buildings.
- **1955** – School enrollment is 363 children.
- **1959** – Additional school space was needed, and the current gym, auditorium, 9 classrooms, kitchen, lavatories and office rooms were built.
- **Early 1960’s** – Another addition to the north side of the school. New classrooms and a multi-purpose room erected.
- **1961** – New Berlin’s first library opened, which was organized by Holy Apostles in the church basement.
- **1966** – The new, present day Holy Apostles church, Lofy Hall, kitchen and rectory were built. Fr. Trost celebrated the first mass in the new church on Christmas Eve 1966. The church was packed to its capacity of almost 1,400.
- **March 25, 1984** – The dedication of a new organ and pipes set in the sanctuary.
- **1998** – Parish and school facility renovations including the Gathering Place/Parish Office Lobby, the elevator to Lofy Hall, meeting rooms, and the school science lab, the computer lab and library were built.
- **2005** - 150th Anniversary of Holy Apostles Catholic Parish.
- **January 23, 2005** - In celebration of our sesquicentennial a new sanctuary crucifix greeted parishioners at Mass. It measures 17.5 feet high and the cross beam is 10.5 feet long.
- **March 2017** – Talented parishioners perform the musical “Song of Mark”, written by Marty Haugen.
- **2008-2011** - The Faith in Our Future campaign resulted in additional parking and the new church lighting.
- **June 2017** – Demolition of the parish rectory and groundbreaking of Adoration Chapel.
- **January 2018** – Construction was completed on the Adoration Chapel.
- **June 2018** – New playground equipment for the school was installed.
- **Fall 2018** – Celebration of the 125th school anniversary.
- **June 8-9, 2019** – Grand opening of the Holy Apostles Welcome Center.
- **August 2020** –Fr. Arul Ponnaiyan begins leading our parish and school. He is the 30th priest to serve Holy Apostles since 1855.
- **March 2022** – Parishioner, Elisa Neckar and Music Director, Jeff Honore, wrote and composed “A Marian Musical: Full of Grace”. Produced and performed by parishioner.

Today:

Holy Apostles is nothing without its people. As of January 2022, Holy Apostles’ revenue generation is provided by its generous and giving parishioners (6,800+)/families (2,100+). While the school enrollment averages 400+ students/year. We also depend on our parishioners to volunteer for our 85 ministries that are needed to maintain our parish and school.

We continue to be invited to go and make disciples, to provide the hospitality so that all feel welcome, and to serve the lost, the least, and the lonely. What we do today will be the story for the future!

Building Summary:

Church buildings (4) – 1855, 1889, 1907, 1966
 School buildings (4) – 1865, 1896, 1910, 1953
 Rectory buildings (3) – 1876, 1908, 1966 (demo 2017)
 Convent buildings (3) – 1896, 1910, 1949