

HISTORIC NAME: German Evangelical Lutheran Church St. Johns COUNTY: Isanti *Minnesota*
 CURRENT NAME: St. John's Lutheran Church CITY/TWP.: Bradford

LEGAL DESC.: Begin at a point 200 feet west of the NE corner of ADDRESS: Highway 5, west of
 Sec. 26 T35R24. Commence south 200 feet, thence west 200 feet, Isanti
 thence north 200 feet, thence east 200 feet to beginning.

CLASSIFICATION:	CONDITION:	SIGNIFICANCE:	THEME/S:
Building <u> X </u>	Excellent <u> </u>	Local <u> X </u>	Primary <u> </u> Settlement <u> </u>
Structure <u> </u>	Good <u> </u> X	State <u> </u>	Secondary <u> </u> Religion <u> </u>
Object <u> </u>	Fair <u> </u>	National <u> </u>	Others <u> </u> Architecture <u> </u>
District <u> </u>	Deteriorated <u> </u>		

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC:	Yes <u> </u> No <u> </u> Restricted <u> X </u>	PRESENT USE:
VISIBLE FROM THE ROAD:	Yes <u> X </u> No <u> </u>	Museum (church)
OCCUPIED:	Yes <u> X </u> No <u> </u>	

DATE CONSTRUCTED: 1882	ORIGINAL USE: Church
ORIGINAL OWNER: German Evangelical Lutheran Congregation	ARCHITECT/BUILDER:

OWNER'S NAME AND ADDRESS: Isanti County Historical Society Box 525 Cambridge, MN 55008	ACREAGE: Less than one acre <u> X </u>
LOCAL CONTACT/ORG.: Lillian Bergstrom, Isanti County Historical Society, Box 525, Cambridge, MN 55008	UTM REFERENCE: St. Francis Quad. 15 / 477565 / 5038285
FORM PREPARED BY: Britta Bloomberg	
DATE: December 1979	

DESCRIPTION:
 St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church is located on the south side of County Road 5 in Bradford Township about a mile west of the city of Isanti. The building is situated in a rural settling with a small cemetery to the west and a grove of trees to the east and south. The one story building, constructed in 1882, is a simple frame Greek Revival structure sheathed in white clapboard. The gable roof is covered with shingles and pierced by a chimney at the south end. The gable returns, small central doorway and steps, and round wooden plaque carrying the date 1882 are the only features adorning the north facade. Simple fenestration on the east and west sides consists of three evenly spaced windows on each side framed by wooden segmental arches. Double hung windows are concealed by wooden shutters, which remain closed when the building is not in use.

The building's interior is as simple and unspoiled as its exterior. Wide plank floors, wood wainscoting, and primitive hand hewn pews and pulpit remain. A woodstove is located near the doorway. The only modernization to the interior has been the conversion of the original kerosene lanterns to gas.

St. John's is being maintained by the Isanti County Historical Society and is opened for special Historical Society functions during the year. It has also been used for Memorial Day services annually since 1974.

SIGNIFICANCE:
 St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church at Bradford is primarily significant for its association with the German population of Isanti County. It is also significant as a well-preserved example of the small churches that have served Isanti County's rural population throughout the county's history. The Germans were among the earliest ethnic groups to settle Isanti County. Their presence has been overshadowed by the vast numbers of Swedish immigrants who followed them, but isolated German settlements survive in southwestern Isanti County and in the southeastern part of Bradford Township. The German Lutheran homesteaders of Bradford Township organized and built St. John's in 1882. The congregation was never large, and during most of its history the church shared a pastor with the German Lutheran congregations at either Crown or Weber, the two other German settlements in the county. In 1956 the congregation closed the church to merge with the St. John's Lutheran Church at Weber. The Isanti County Historical Society acquired the church building from the Weber congregation in 1973. St. John's is representative of the many rural churches scattered across Isanti County which served the important function of binding together the small ethnic communities comprising the county's rural population. The surviving churches record the concentration areas of the ethnic groups and denominations. The extremely well-preserved condition of St. John's make it an important link with the county's German immigrant population.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

for Keeper Melvin Lynn
11/19/89

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National Park Service

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**Note: These changes apply to
German Evangelical Lutheran Church
in Isanti County, Minnesota.**

REFERENCE NUMBER: 80002072

STATE: MINNESOTA

COUNTY: Isanti

RESOURCE NAME (HISTORIC): St. John's Lutheran Church

CITY:

VICINITY OF: Isanti

ADDRESS: Co. Hwy. 5

CERTIFICATION DATE:

REMOVED DATE:

COMMENTS:

Nina M. Archabal

Nina M. Archabal
State Historic Preservation Officer

JUN 17 1988

Date

German Evangelical Lutheran Church, St. John's, Bradford Twp., Isanti Co., MN, 1979, SE 03257/9a



German Evangelical Lutheran Church
St. John's
Bradford Twp., Isanti Co., MN
UTM References
15 / 477565 / 5038285

MINNESOTA
ADMINISTRATION

MINNESOTA
ADMINISTRATION

ST. FRANCIS QUADRANGLE
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)
NE/4 ST. FRANCIS 15' QUADRANGLE

MINNESOTA

1735
(CAMBRIDGE)

