

# First Lutheran Church



One Hundred Years In Knoxville

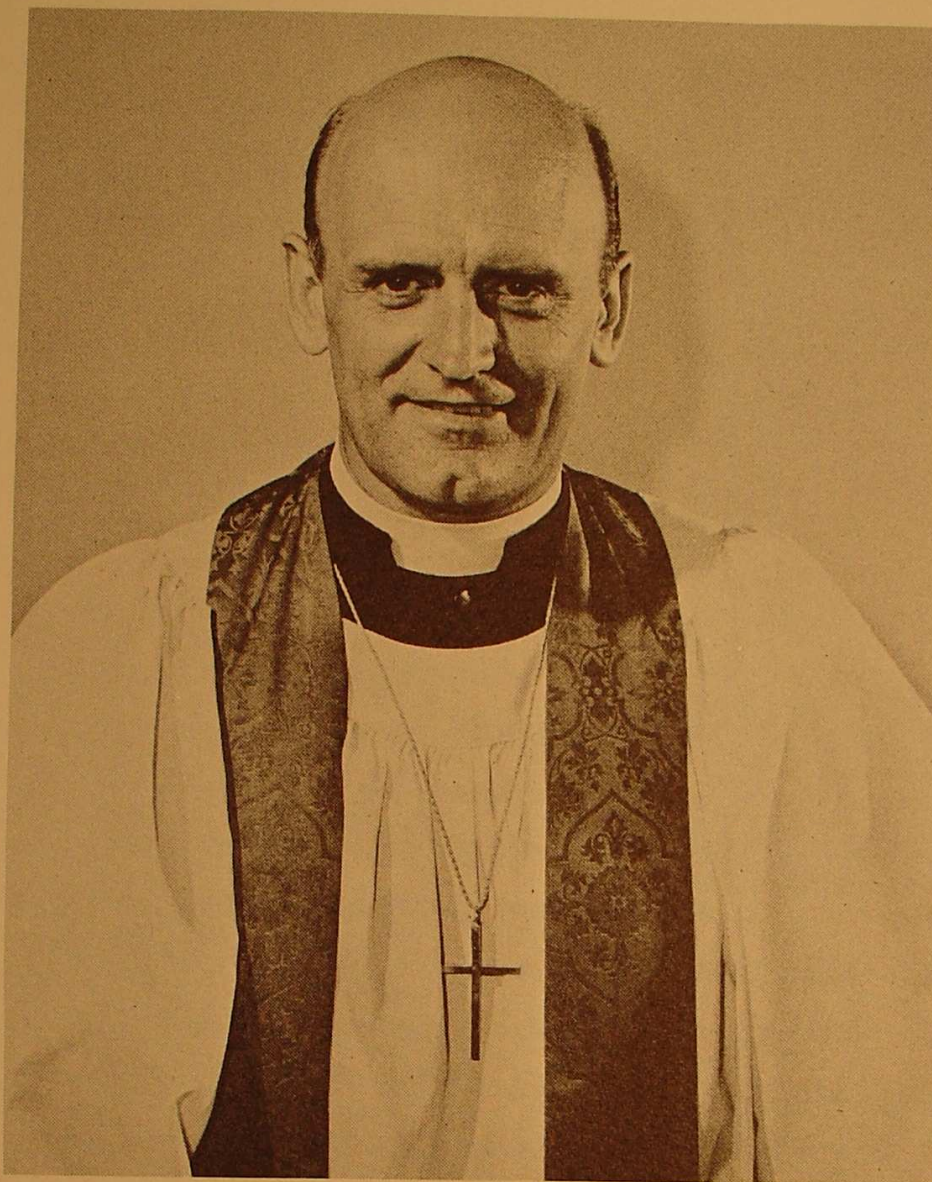
# Dedication

“Lord, Thou hast been our dwelling place in all generations.”

A centennial is a pause in the history of a congregation to look first of all at its past. This is a thankful glance, because we perceive the good hand of God blessing and guiding. We see God at work. There is the long line of faithful men and women with the story of their labors, endurance, and accomplishments. There is the record of pastors and teachers, officers, Sunday School teachers, loyal women, choir members; their testimony stands in the tradition of Christ's people over the ages.

The pause for our anniversary also affords a moment to view the future. We too shall have our share of work to do, our generation's calling under Christ. We know that the same God who sustained and blessed in the past is our dwelling place. God's plan of salvation is still working its way out in history. Jesus is the same yesterday and today and forever.

It is our anniversary prayer that Christ would help us continue in the word of His grace proclaimed by Martin Luther, that we may never be ashamed of the Gospel, the power of God unto salvation.



The Rev. Harry D. Smith was installed as pastor on May 5, 1963. He was born in Milwaukee, Wisconsin in 1924 to Louise Ischer Smith, daughter of Swiss parents and Harry D. Smith, Sr. of Tuscaloosa, Alabama. Pastor Smith's education through high school was in Covington, Kentucky. He attended Concordia College, Ft. Wayne, Indiana, 1942-1944, graduating from Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, in 1948 with the degree, Bachelor of Divinity. After one year of mission school he received the Master of Sacred Theology Degree. He was ordained in his home church, Bethany, of Covington, Kentucky, in 1949.

From 1950 to 1956 Pastor and Mrs. Smith served in Ernakulam, South India; and from 1956 to 1963 at Zion Lutheran Church, Cincinnati, Ohio.

In 1947 Rev. Smith and Dorothy Husmann, daughter of Rev. and Mrs. E. S. Husmann of Dayton, Ohio, were married. God has blessed them with six children: Martin, age 20, Fred, 18, Carol, 13, Karen, 11, Marilyn, 7, and Eric, 3.

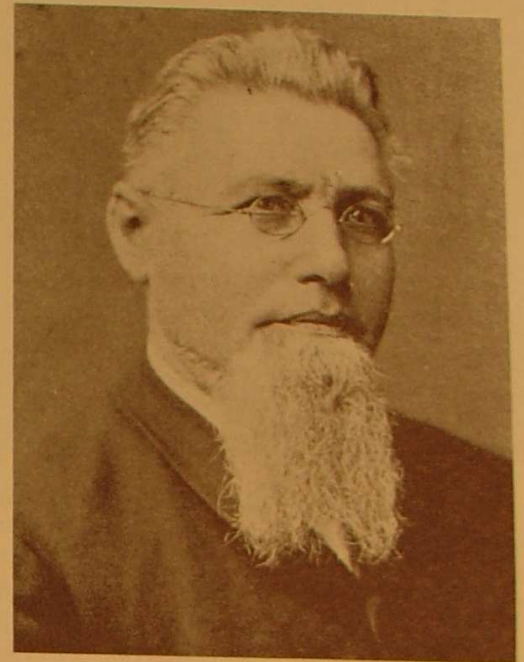
*The officers and members of First Lutheran Church are most appreciative of the many members and friends who have contributed to and participated in the preparations for this Centennial event. It is impossible to mention by name all those who have given of their time and talents. We wish, however, to express our gratitude especially to Mrs. Gertrude Tauscher, Historian; Mrs. William McConnell, Special Arrangements; Mr. Hugh Lunsford, Photography; Mrs. Margaret Kinnick, Guest Registry; Pastor Dautenhahn, the Centennial Service; and Mr. Roscoe Barring and the Lutheran Laymen's League, sponsors of the first event.*

# First Lutheran Church - The First Century

The exact date of the coming of the first Lutheran adherents to Knoxville is unknown. However, it is a matter of record that as early as 1813, Lutheran missionaries made regular trips through East Tennessee in order to minister to their Lutheran brethren scattered throughout this section of the state, and there is some evidence that they also included Knoxville on their itineraries. The number of Lutherans in the city, if any, evidently was quite small during the first half of the nineteenth century.

It was not until several years prior to the Civil War that we find a definite record of Lutheran services being conducted in Knoxville. These services were held at irregular intervals by the Rev. John W. Wilken, Pastor of St. Paul's Lutheran Church at Wartburg, Tennessee. Following his acceptance of a call as professor at the Seminary in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, in 1866, two pastors of Nashville, Tennessee, the Reverends Eggers and Bachman, looked after the spiritual interests of the Knoxville Lutherans. During these years, 1866-1868, various efforts were made to organize a congregation. Although, as a result of these efforts, a number of Lutherans banded themselves together and bought a lot in the fall of 1868 for the purpose of erecting a church building and even secured a charter in the spring of 1868, no formal organization was effected. The year 1868 also marked the beginning of a Lutheran Sunday School of which our present Sunday School is a continuation. The Sunday School sessions were held in the home of the superintendent, Dr. Ed. Goetz.\* The Messrs. John and Julius Aurin, whose descendants are active in the Lutheran Church in Knoxville and Oak Ridge today, were the teachers.

In the first week of October, 1869, the Reverend John Heckel of Mendota, Illinois, who had been sent out by the Iowa Synod in order to make a tour of inspection of East Tennessee, arrived in Knoxville. He gathered various Lutheran people in the city, and on Sunday, October 10, he addressed them in a sermon in which he urged the establishment of a congregation. Reverend Heckel's words met with an immediate response, for on the evening of the next day about 20 Lutherans gathered in Peter Kern's Hall, No. 7 Market Square, and resolved to organize a Lutheran congregation. A constitution was drawn up and adopted. On the next evening, Tuesday, October 12, 1869, another meeting was held in which the formal organization of First German Evangelical Lutheran Church, U. A. C., of Knoxville, Tennessee, was effected.



The Rev. John Heckel

Twenty two men signed the constitution: John A. Aurin, Dr. Ed. Goetz, Ferdinand Aurin, Carl Baum, George Fuchs, Ferdinand Miller, T. E. Aurin, Christian Sturm, Carl Aurin, John Lichtenwanger, Julius Aurin, H. J. Haverkorn, A. Setzpfand, John Hiller, Leonhard Schweickert, C. Belitz, John Meeh, John Marquardt, George Nagel, Joseph Fanz, Peter Kern, and William Fischer. It is of interest to note that of this founding group, Dr. Goetz and Mr. Miller are known to have seen the fiftieth anniversary of the founding of the congregation.

During the same meeting, Dr. Goetz was elected President of the congregation, and Mr. Peter Kern, Treasurer. These men, together with the Messrs. Carl Baum, John A. Aurin, George Fuchs and Ferd. Aurin, made up the first Church Council of the congregation.

A week later, October 19, 1869, the newly formed congregation voted to call the Reverend Mr. Heckel as its first pastor. Reverend Heckel accepted the call, and he delivered his inaugural sermon December 19, in one of the local Methodist churches. Thereafter the congregation rented the old Hampden-Sydney Academy, on the corner of Commerce and State Streets, where services were held and a Christian Day School was begun.

In January, 1870, the congregation let a contract to Mr. M. B. Fahnenstock & Company for the building of a church on the lot which had

\*In this Centennial year, we note that two granddaughters of Dr. Goetz still reside in Knoxville: Mrs. Rufus Johnson and Mrs. Thomas Kennedy.



**The first Church, constructed in 1870**

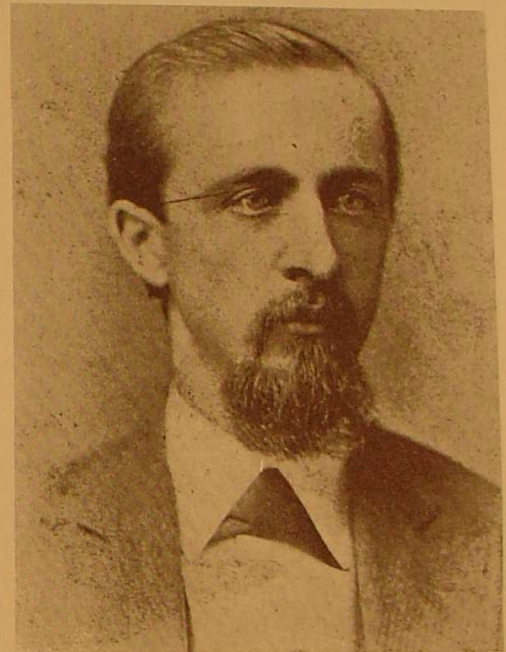
been acquired earlier. This lot was on the corner of Broad and Asylum (now Western Avenue) Streets, and had cost \$900.00. By the month of June the basement of the church was finished, which the congregation then used as its place of worship until the completion of the church in September. Dedicatory ceremonies were held September 25, 1870. The Pastor, Reverend Heckel, delivered the German sermon, and the Reverend Abel J. Brown, D. D., of Blountville, Tennessee, spoke in English.

The total cost of the church was slightly in excess of \$5,000.00. This amount was paid in full before the close of another year. Among the larger contributors, special mention must be made of Peter Kern and Ferd. Miller, Sr. The glass for the windows was furnished by John L. Lichtenwanger. Some of this glass later was incorporated into a school building.

After five years of faithful service as pastor of the congregation and teacher of the Day School, the Reverend Heckel accepted a call to Nashville, Tennessee. Mr. J. G. Schaid, a candidate for the ministry from Philadelphia Theological Seminary, of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, was called, and he was installed July 16, 1875, by the Reverend G. H. Cox, President of the Evangelical Lutheran Holston Synod.

The Reverend Schaid was a man of recognized piety and ability. He held various offices in the Holston Synod, even serving as its president in the year 1879. It was probably due to his influence that the congregation affiliated with the Holston Synod. Records reveal that in a meeting on August 22, 1880, the congregation elected its first delegates to the Holston Synod convention, which was held in Bethel Church, four miles from Knoxville. The delegates elected were Mr. Charles Geschwind, with Mr. Peter Kern, alternate.

During the ministry of Reverend Schaid, a pipe organ, dedicated on August 2, 1881, was bought for the church for the sum of \$560.00. Of this amount \$500.00 was donated by Mr. E. W. Eckhardt. Apparently the Ladies Society was organized in 1882, for in January of that year Reverend Schaid secured the permission of the congregation to form this society. In 1883, the congregation purchased a lot on Union Street for \$600.00 on which to erect a parsonage. Due to financial difficulties the parsonage was not built, and the lot was sold in 1886 for twice the purchase price. The proceeds were used to buy a house and lot on 140 Luttrell Street. This property was the first parsonage of the congregation. Its total cost, including necessary improvements, was \$1568.32.

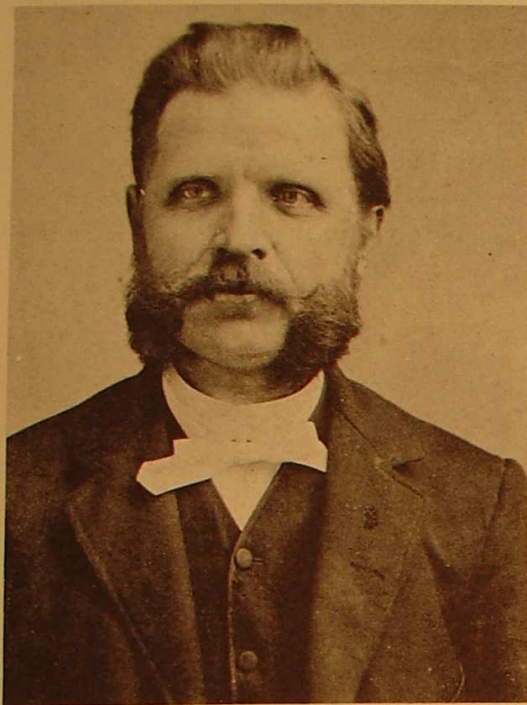


**The Rev. J. G. Schaid**

Reverend Schaid accepted a call to the presidency of North Carolina College at Mt. Pleasant, North Carolina, in July, 1887. The vacancy was filled in August, when the congregation called Mr. J. R. Lauritzen, a former Missouri Synod pastor in the state of Michigan, who had come South on a lecture tour in behalf of the Temperance cause.

Up to this time, and for a number of years thereafter, the services of the congregation were conducted exclusively in the German language. Thus it came about in November, 1888, that a group of Lutherans who were interested in organizing an English Lutheran congregation in Knoxville, requested permission to use the church building for the purpose of conducting English services. The request was granted. This group of Lutherans, which was subsequently organized into St. John's Lutheran Church in our city, continued to use the church building until June, 1890, when it acquired property of its own.

On February 19, 1889, the parsonage on Luttrell Street was sold for \$1,800.00, and on the same day,



**The Rev. J. R. Lauritzen**

the congregation resolved to build a parsonage on the rear of the church lot on Broad Street. The new parsonage was completed in June, 1889, at a cost slightly less than was realized from the sale of the Luttrell Street property.

The Rev. Lauritzen resigned his pastorate in February, 1892. He was succeeded in office by the

Reverend Julius Friedrich, who had been called from Immanuel Lutheran Church at Chattanooga, Tennessee. Reverend Friedrich was installed on the 12th of June, 1892, by the Reverend C. C. Schmidt, President of the Western District of the Missouri Synod.

One of Reverend Friedrich's first acts was to prevail upon the congregation to reopen the Christian Day school which had been discontinued several years earlier. On the opening day, September 6, 1892, 26 pupils were enrolled. Still living in this Centennial year are five pupils of that day: Mrs. Clara Baird, Mr. Albert Heins, Sr., Mrs. U. G. Neas, Miss Hulda Schultz, and Karl Maulshagen of Birmingham, Ala. The Reverend Friedrich taught the school for two years, until the installation of Professor O. Katthain as the first principal in 1894.

The congregation withdrew from the Holston Synod in October, 1892. It remained independent of synodical affiliations until 1897 when, in October of that year, it was received into membership of the Western District of the Missouri Synod. The congregation remained a member of this District until 1967, when it became a member of the newly formed Mid-South District, composed of the states of Tennessee, Arkansas, and South and Western Kentucky.

Special services commemorating the 25th anniversary of the congregation's founding were held September 30, 1894. The membership at that time numbered 172 communicants.



**Confirmation 1890**



**The Rev. J. Friedrich**

During the ministry of the Reverend Friedrich, regular services in the English language were introduced. They were held bimonthly for a time, on Sunday evenings; but by the Fall of 1895, all evening services were in English. On June 25-29, 1896, the congregation, for the first time, entertained the East Tennessee Pastoral Conference in its midst. The Conference was attended by Pastors Goehringer of Wartburg, Klein of Chattanooga, and Friedrich of Knoxville. (By way of comparison, there are 18 congregations affiliated with the Mid-South District within this geographical area, East Tennessee, in 1969). In October, 1897, the congregation elected Mr. Walter Aurin as its first delegate to a convention of the Western District.

In November, 1897, the first Lutheran services for the deaf in the city were held in the church. The Reverend Mr. Bentrup was the officiating minister. First Lutheran Church has been associated with work with the Deaf ever since. Pastor Walter A. Westermann has held monthly services for the Deaf since 1941, first at the Tennessee School for the Deaf and in recent years in our sanctuary. He retired in May, 1969, to be succeeded by Pastor Donald Leber of Memphis. Since 1965, the Lutheran children attending the School for the Deaf have been brought to the Sunday School, where they are taught God's word by Mr. Lawrence Randall, and to the Sunday Service, which is translated into sign language by Mrs. Elizabeth Randall.

In the year 1899, Professor George Maahs succeeded Mr. Katthain as principal of the Christian Day School. Two years later, in February, 1901, Reverend Friedrich accepted a call to Immanuel Congregation in St. Charles, Missouri. He remained with the congregation, however, to install his successor, Reverend William Brand of Milwaukee, Wisconsin, on April 14, 1901.

Reverend Brand introduced the Wednesday evening Bible studies, which were conducted, with but few interruptions, for the next 25 years. In the summer of 1902, Professor Maahs accepted a call to Mobile, Alabama. The school was taught for one year by Reverend Brand, for one year by Reverend Koehler, and beginning September, 1904, and thereafter, by Mr. William Kamrath, who succeeded Mr. Maahs.



**The Rev. William Brand**

On December 7, 1902, the congregation sold its property on Broad and Asylum Streets to the Louisville and Nashville Railroad. The sale price, exclusive of buildings, was \$14,000. During the following month, the congregation purchased the property on the corner of Fifth and Broadway from a Mr. E. C. Camp for the sum of \$5,000. The cornerstone of the new church was laid on this property on June 28, 1903, with Reverend Koehler of Mosheim Institute, Mosheim, Tennessee, officiating. The new church was dedicated March 20, 1904. The Reverend P. G. Heckel of Chattanooga, the son of the founder and first pastor of the congregation, preached the dedicatory sermon. The total sum expended for the property on Fifth and Broadway, including the cost of the lot, the building of the church, and the rebuilding of the parsonage which was disassembled at the old property and rebuilt on the new site, was \$16,843.00.

Reverend Brand accepted a call to Pittsburg, Pennsylvania, in June, 1903, and the congregation promptly extended a call to Reverend Koehler. He accepted, and was installed October 11. Pastor Koehler served the congregation until January, 1909, when he left to serve as professor at the Lutheran Normal School in Addison, Illinois. During the vacancy which followed, Mr. E. J. Fried-





**The second Church, constructed in 1903**

rich, a ministerial student and the son of the former pastor, served the congregation. The vacancy terminated May 2, 1909, when Reverend C. J. Fricke of Aurora, Illinois, was installed as pastor.

Meanwhile, in 1907, Mr. Kammrath accepted a call to Zion Congregation in Chicago, Illinois and left in June, 1907. Mrs. Martha Coutant was em-



**The Rev. C. V. Fricke**

ployed as a school teacher for the next two years. Immediately after Pastor Fricke's arrival, a call was extended to Mr. William Buck as teacher of the Day School. Upon his acceptance of the call, the congregation initiated a search for a suitable teacher's residence and purchased the Heidel property at 535 West Fifth Avenue in July, 1909, for \$3,500.00. Mr. Buck resigned after two years, whereupon Mrs. O. Katthain, the widow of the first called teacher, took over the work in the schoolroom. She taught until June, 1913.

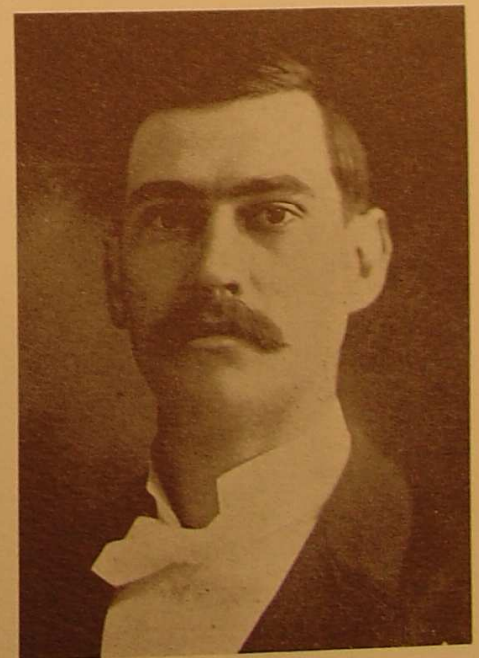
During the next several years, offices of both the pastorate and the principalship were vacated after brief periods of service by the incumbents. Reverend Fricke accepted a call to his former con-



**The Rev. Ed Koehler**



**The Rev. C. L. Mueller**



**The Rev. H. Kellerman**



**The Rev. K. Kretschmar**

gregation in Aurora, Illinois. His successors were Reverend C. L. Mueller, who came to Knoxville from Hemlock, Michigan, and in May, 1916, by Reverend H. Kellerman of St. Louis. Stability was achieved through the installation in April, 1918, of Reverend K. Kretschmar, of Hastings, Nebraska, as Pastor, and Mr. W. W. Rittamel of Staplehurst, Nebraska, as Principal of the school.

Much earlier, in 1903, the congregation appropriately changed its name from First German to the German-English Evangelical Lutheran Church, since at that time half the services were being conducted in English. Shortly after Pastor Kretschmar's arrival, in April, 1919, the name of the congregation was changed again, to the name it bears today, the First Evangelical Lutheran Church. Also shortly after Pastor Kretschmar's installation, the old parsonage was abandoned as a parsonage and rented, and the teacher's residence on West Fifth Avenue was sold. On October 12 and 13, the congregation celebrated its 50th anniversary, with two former pastors, Reverend Koehler and Reverend Friedrich delivering the sermons. At this time, the communicant membership was 125.

Early in January, 1921, the few remaining members of Zion Lutheran Church (Missouri Synod), several miles east of Knoxville, turned over their church property to the congregation as a gift. A dispute developed, however, over the title to the land on which the church was built which the congregation decided not to press, and it accepted the building only in compromise. The building was then sold for a minor sum—\$300.00—and torn down, and the furnishings were donated to the congregation at Oakdale, Tennessee.

During the pastorate of Reverend Kretschmar, the constitution of the congregation was translated into English and revised, the Sunday bulletins made their first appearance, and the envelope system for the collection of offerings was adopted.

Reverend Kretschmar also was instrumental in uniting the Young People's Society with the Walthier League, and in the formation of the League's Dixie District. He also organized the congregation's Parent-Teacher Association, now known as the Parent-Teacher's League. As the result of his labors, the congregation, which had suffered a great deal throughout preceding years because of the frequent changes in its pastorate, was restored to a flourishing condition.

Reverend Kretschmar accepted a call to First Lutheran Church in Fort Smith, Arkansas, on December 12, 1923. The congregation then extended a call to Reverend W. C. Krueger of Gordonville, Missouri. He was installed March 23, 1924.

Upon Reverend Krueger's arrival in Knoxville, the congregation rented a home at 2437 North Broadway as his living quarters, and shortly after purchased this home for a parsonage, at a price of \$5,500. This property was sold in 1957. The old parsonage at 605 North Broadway was remodeled and made into a parish house in January, 1929. The apartment on the second floor, however, was untouched, and it was used for the next 16 years as living quarters for the custodians of the church property.

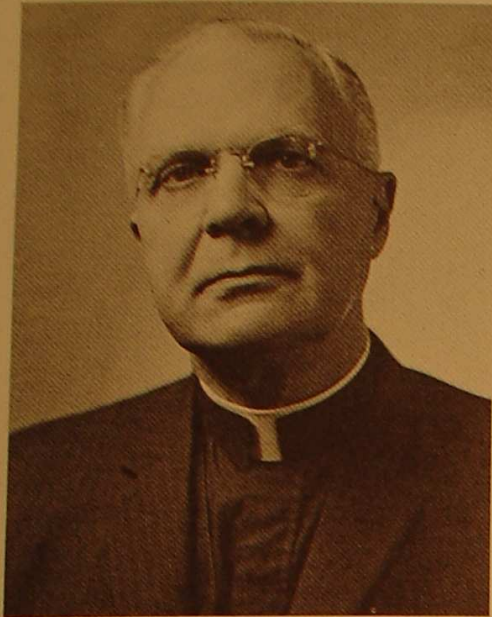
In January, 1932, after 14 years of service, Mr. Rittamel resigned his position as principal, but he continued his work in the school to the conclusion of the term. Thereafter the congregation employed a number of ministerial students as



**The Rev. W. C. Krueger**

school teachers. These were Mr. Fred Lammert, Mr. Walter Gerken, Mr. Ewald Otto, Mr. Walter Strickert, Mr. Everett Grese, and Mr. Lorenz Blankenbuehler. Mr. Grese is currently Reverend Grese, the Executive Secretary of Missions and Christian Education of the Mid-South District.

A building on 510 Market Street was acquired in 1937 as a bequest by Mr. Ferd. Miller, in honor of his mother, Mrs. Wilhelmine Miller. This property was sold in February, 1939. After payment of back taxes and other expenses, the congregation



**The Rev. R. Frerking**

realized the net sum of \$11,850 from the sale price of \$20,000. The proceeds were used in May, 1939, towards the purchase of the Francis property at Broadway and Wells Avenue at a cost of \$12,000.

In the course of Reverend Krueger's ministry the Ladies Aid Society affiliated with the Lutheran Woman's League. The conclusion of his ministry also marked the passing of the last vestiges of German that was still in use in the congregation, an early morning service conducted on the first Sunday of the month.

Rev. Krueger served the congregation for nearly 19 years, longer, by seven years, than any of his predecessors. He was called to the Institutional Ministry in Memphis, Tennessee, in January, 1942.

In June, 1943, the congregation called Reverend Roland Frerking of Joplin, Missouri. He was installed on August 8, and in November, Mr. Harold Jagels, son-in-law of Mrs. Lula Frankenberg and brother-in-law of Mrs. Robert Columber and Mrs. Robert Kerekes, was installed as principal of the school.

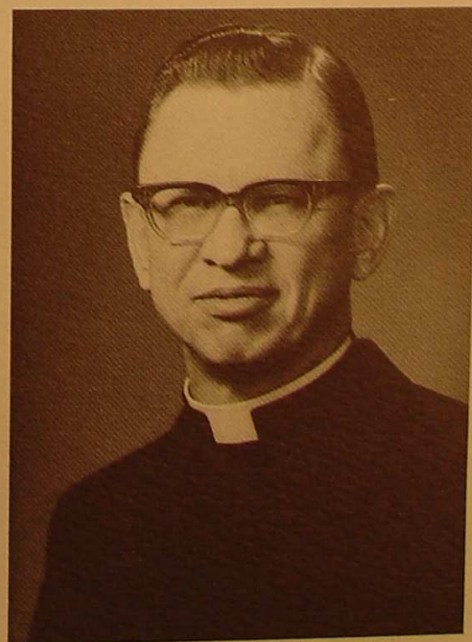
## The Past Quarter Century

In 1946, the property on Fifth Avenue was sold, and the congregation worshipped in the house on the Francis property until the present school structure was completed in June of 1947. The Francis house was then demolished, and the congregation turned its efforts toward acquisition of the present sanctuary, which was dedicated on May 15, 1955. It is worth noting that this structure, completed at a cost approaching \$200,000, was begun in March, 1954, with an accumulation of \$85,000 in the Building Fund, an additional \$16,000 from the Adult Bible Class, and \$200 from the Sunday School. Throughout the years preceding construction and for many years thereafter, until all indebtedness was discharged, the Building Fund was administered very capably by Mr. Alfred Frankenburg, recently deceased. The present organ was a contribution by Mr. Albert Heins, Sr. The stained glass windows, the carpeting, and other appointments were acquired during subsequent years as memorials and gifts by members and friends.

Pastor Frerking was an ardent, enthusiastic, and fruitful worker for the Kingdom. During his early years in Knoxville he served the German prisoners-of-war at Crossville. The Evening Division of the L.W.M.L. was begun. After the end of the war he served a mission station in Morristown, Tennessee for several years, under the auspices of the L.L.L. This station ultimately became a congregation, Our Saviour Lutheran Church. First Lutheran Church enjoyed an almost phenomenal growth, with membership rising to just under 500 communicants and an enrollment of 210 in the Sunday School immediately prior to the founding of the first of its

daughter congregations. Property in Bearden was acquired, to become the future home of Grace Lutheran Church.

Grace Lutheran Church was formally organized under the pastorate of Reverend Dautenhahn, who succeeded Pastor Frerking in June, 1958. Forty three communicants and 31 children were released to this congregation in 1959. This congregation, also, has enjoyed excellent growth, with the membership rising to 176 communicants and 89 chil-



**The Rev. D. D. Dautenhahn**

dren as of July, 1969, first under the founding pastor, Reverend Robert Kuntz, and the present pastor, Edward Melchior.

During Pastor Dautenhahn's tenure, the congregation was preoccupied with reducing its indebtedness. Other accomplishments were the initiation of the Morning Division of the L.W.M.L. and the employment of the first full-time secretary.

Pastor Harry D. Smith was installed as Pastor Dautenhahn's successor May 5, 1963. Pastor Smith has effected the transition involved in serving Lutheran children from the School for the Deaf to the school and church for Sunday School and church services, in compliance with legislation affecting the relationship between Church and State. The Lutheran Center at the University of Tennessee was begun in 1965. Now in their own home at 1801 Melrose Place, the Center is being served by Pastor Joseph Meixner. The student work is supported by the cooperative effort of several Lutheran bodies.

The second daughter congregation, Christus Victor, located on Central Avenue Pike, was formally organized in April, 1967, with 43 communicant members and 36 baptized members. Under the guidance of Pastor Irwin Goehring, who accepted a call to New Mexico earlier this year, the

church has grown to 61 communicant members and 41 baptized members. Its second pastor, Reverend George Peterson, was installed August 3, 1969.

In 1968, air conditioning was installed in the sanctuary, and extensive repairs, renovations, and reshaping of the grounds was begun. The Young Couples Club also was organized during this year.

The Christian Day School also has had its succession of principals. Mr. William Colcher succeeded Mr. Jagels in October, 1945. Mr. Wilbur Krause became the principal on May 12, 1951, and during his tenure the enrollment in the school reached its zenith, with 158 pupils and a teaching staff of five teachers. Mr. Krause accepted a call to Dallas, Texas, during the summer of 1962. Mr. Reynold Kuntz served as principal for one year, after which he returned to Texas. Mr. Herbert Wilkey served as principal from 1964 to July, 1969. His successor, Mr. Ronald Royuk, was installed as principal on August 17, 1969.

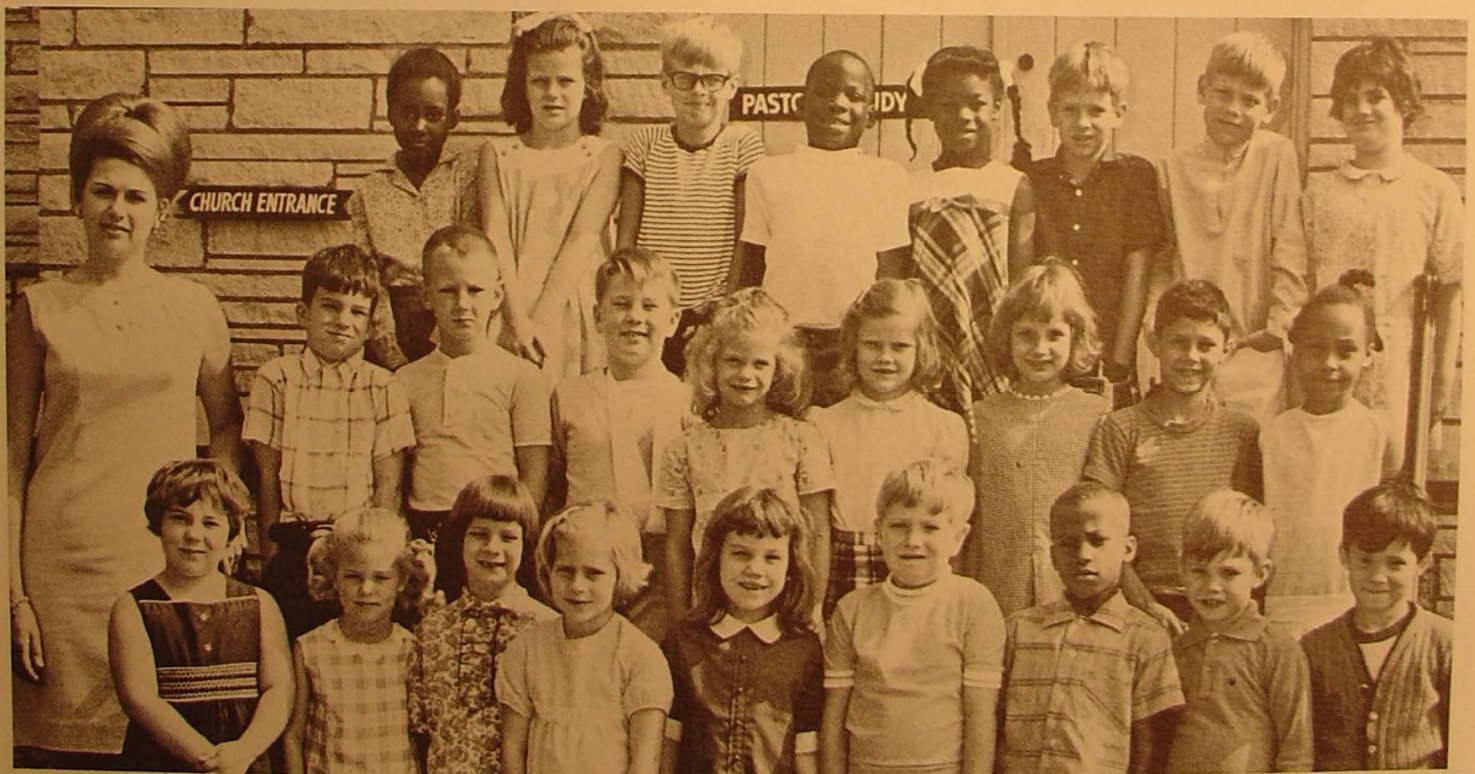
A historical overview would not be complete without a statistical recitation. Thus we find that during the first hundred years of its existence, in First Lutheran Church, there were 304 weddings; 1,329 baptisms; 960 were confirmed; and, 483 were given Christian burial. There are, on the membership rolls, 403 communicants and 510 souls.





#### KINDERGARTEN

Front Row, L.-R.—Mrs. Ursula Pruitt, Tony White, Beth Harris, Heidi Fleck, Victoria Wilkey. Second Row, L.-R.—David Williams Jeff Hutchins, Nancy Spence, Donna Cameron, Gena Trowbridge, Karen Reynolds, David Disney, Debbie Petree. Third Row, L.-R.—Karl Holloway, Joey Eschman, Kevin Whaley, Jeff Lewis, Kelley Richardson, Susan Bock, Karen Courtney.



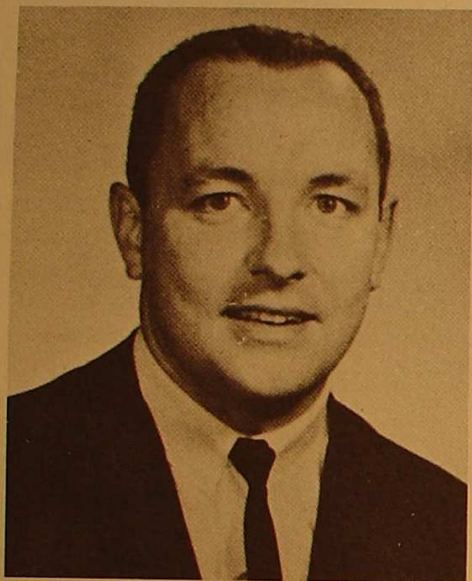
#### FIRST AND SECOND GRADES

First Row, L.-R.—Sharon Roberts, Eva Ferrell, Katrina Balch, Jill Eschman, Debbie Disney, Billy McConnell, Ronald Owens, Blair Brooke, Jim Gore. Second Row, L.-R.—Mrs. Jean Stevenson, David Melchior, Greg Lawson, Teddie Lowe, Marilyn Smith, Kellie Mutz, Karen McElyea, Jeff Roberts, Renita Proby. Third Row, L.-R.—Damita Tate, Rise' Acuff, Martin Slomski, Lynn Holloway, Elaine Houston, Kevin McElyea, Jeff Herbold, Margaret Cooter.

# Educational Agencies

## THE CHRISTIAN DAY SCHOOL

Since the days of Luther and the Reformation, the Lutheran Church has recognized the supreme importance of giving children a Christian education. It is a conviction of the Church that inclusion of religion in the program of education provides the child with those influences which make for the development of character and spirituality. The child is also made to realize the importance of religion and its application to the real business of everyday life. This conviction prompted the Lutheran Church to establish the Christian Day School



**Mr. Ronald Royuk**

system, which enables the teaching of religion in addition to the regular subjects taught in the public schools.

First Lutheran School was established immediately after the founding of the congregation in 1870. It has maintained a continuous operation since 1892. A full eight grade course of instruction is offered. A kindergarten was established in 1943.

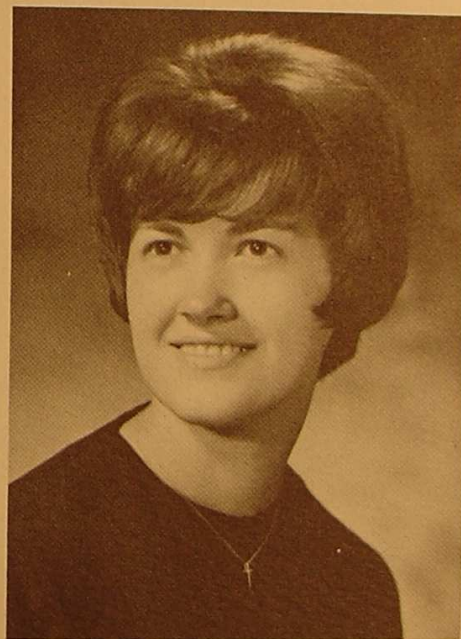
The school, with a staff of five teachers, will have an enrollment of over 100 pupils this year. For the past several years, the cafeteria has been operated under the supervision of Mrs. Lula Frankenberg. The Parent-Teachers League provides much support to the school. More than half the enrollment is made up of children of non-Lutherans, with whom the congregation cheerfully shares its blessings of a Christian education.

Three staff members are in their first year. Mr. Ronald Royuk, a graduate of the college at Seward, Nebraska, teaches the Seventh and Eighth grades, is the Minister of Music, and Acting Principal. Miss Carole Heimsoth is a graduate of the college at River Forest, Illinois, and teaches the First and Second grades. Mrs. Kaethe McSween, educated in

Berlin, Germany, and a graduate of the Evangelical Lutheran Seminary at Bethanien, Germany, teaches the Third and Fourth grades.

## THE SUNDAY SCHOOL

The Sunday School is the oldest organization within the Church. It has functioned continuously since its establishment in 1868. It is impossible to name the many dedicated teachers and administrators who have served the Sunday School during the past quarter century. Those who have been or are affiliated with the Sunday School for many years include Mrs. Tea Acuff, Mrs. R. Barringer, Mrs. F. Berendy, Mrs. George Cockrum, Mrs. Louise Cobb, Miss Mary R. Knaffl, Mrs. H. Lunsford, Mr. D. Mutz, Mrs. B. F. Patrick, Mrs. E. Sienknecht, Mrs. S. Tillery, Mr. and Mrs. James Boyle, and Mr. Barry Mitchell. No words of praise are adequate for the nearly fifty years of faithful and consecrated service by our most beloved teacher, Mrs. U. E. Neas, who has retired.



**Miss Carole Heimsoth**

Four superintendents have guided the Sunday School during the past quarter century. Mr. Herbert Etzler was succeeded for a brief period by Mr. Norman Wengert. Dr. J. O. Mundt served as superintendent for 17 years, and the present incumbent, Mr. Roscoe Barringer, is now in his third year. For a number of years Mr. Louis Mehlhorn has served as the administrative assistant, and Mrs. Jack Perkins as the secretary-treasurer.

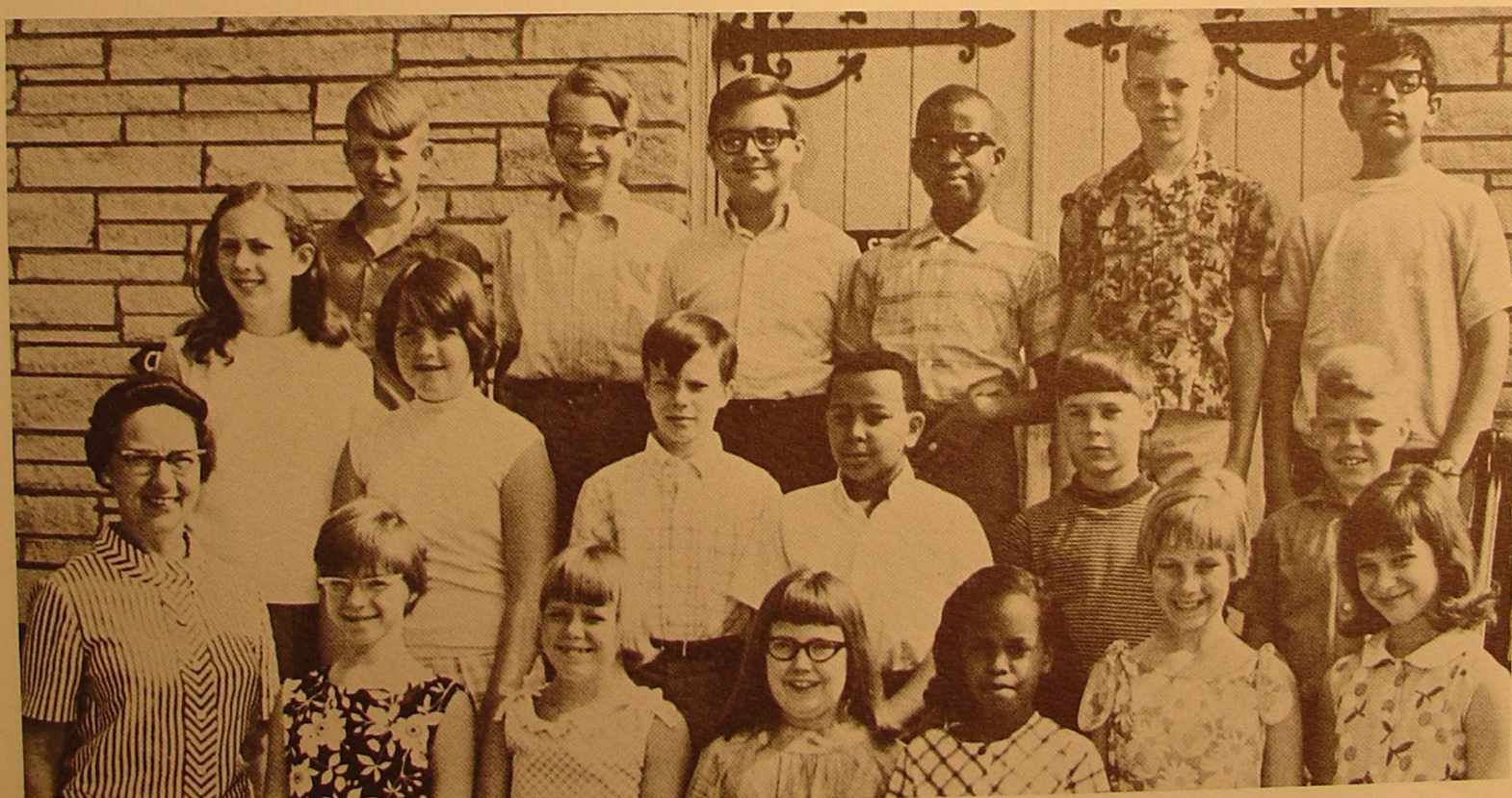
## THE BIBLE CLASS

First Lutheran Church has four Bible classes which meet on Sunday mornings. Three are affiliated with the Sunday School. These are two High School classes and the recently organized Young



### THIRD AND FOURTH GRADES

First Row, L.-R.—Mrs. Doris Acuff, Kathryn Gore, Melissa McClure, Tim Palmer, Melcena Dunn, Carla Thompson, Denise Disney. Second Row, L.-R.—Rocky Smith, Ann Cooter, Sheila Basler, Anita Reynolds, David Provine, Larry Coleman, Barry Brooke. Third Row L.-R.—John Harris, Brian Whaley, Selina Thompson, Sylvia Dunn, Lisa Potter, Teresa Reynolds.



### FIFTH AND SIXTH GRADES

First Row, L.-R.—Mrs. Thelma Hickey, Karen Smith, Jami Heins, Jenniver Provine, Valuri Reid, Carol Herbold, Christie Melchior. Second Row, L.-R.—Donna Knighton, Traci Smith, Jimmy Boyle, Mike Moore, Mike Roberts, Mark Woolard. Third Row, L.-R.—Victor Balch, Lloyd Hefton, Benny Lunsford, Raymond Owens, Johnny Tauscher, Wilber Jones.

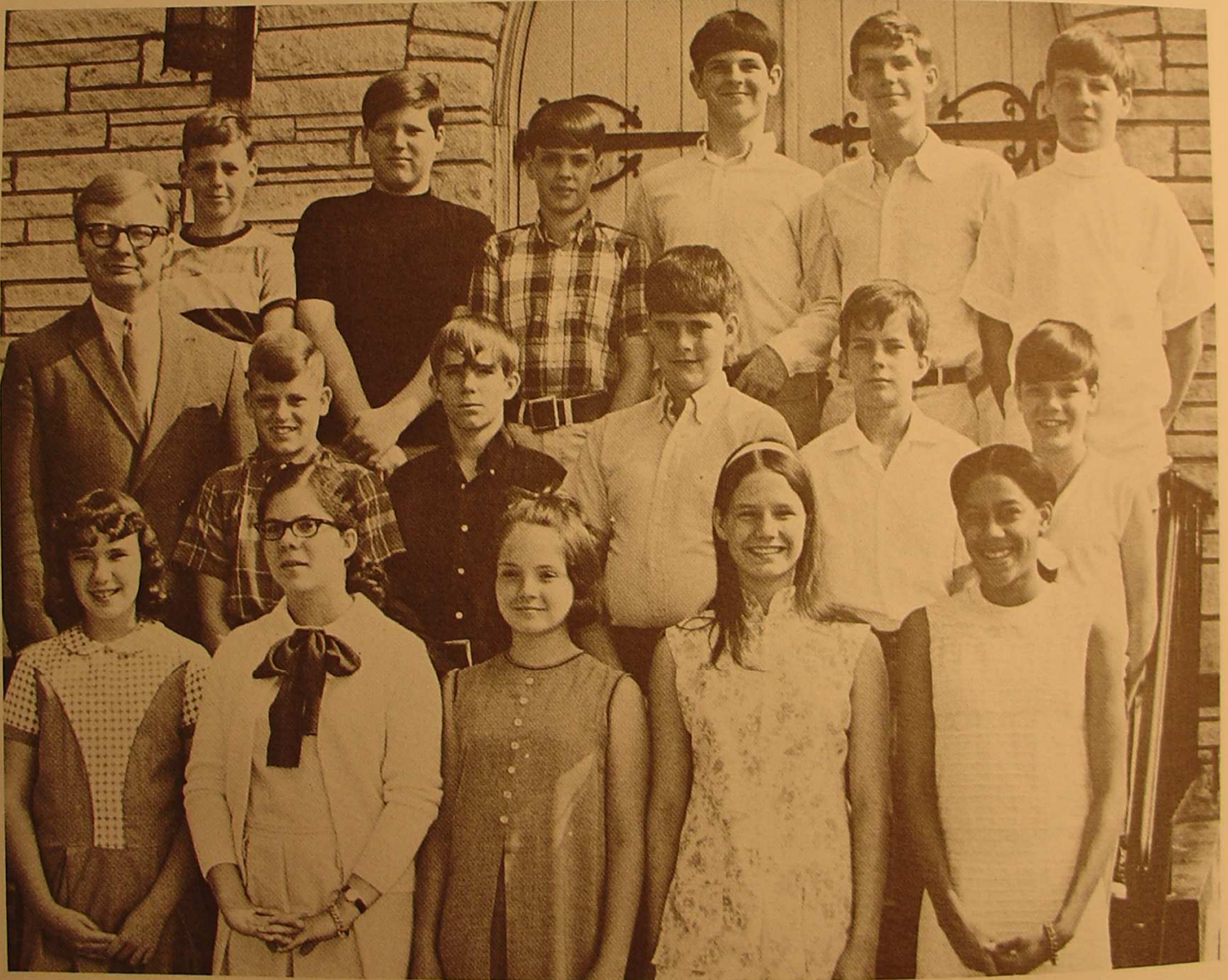
Adults class. The Adult Bible Class exists as a separate organization, with its own officers and treasury. It is taught as occasion demands by the Pastor or by one of several laymen.

#### CONFIRMATION AND CHURCH MEMBERSHIP CLASSES

The Confirmation Class is a time-honored institution in the Lutheran Church. In this class the Pastor gives the children an intensive course in the fundamental doctrines of Christianity and pre-

pares them for communicant membership in the church. Usually two classes are held each week during the school year: one for the children enrolled in the Christian Day School, and the other for the children attending school elsewhere.

Church membership classes are held twice each year, with ten weekly sessions, to prepare adults for membership in the Church. The adults are instructed in the truths of the Christian religion. Many of these have become the most loyal and faithful members of the congregation.



#### SEVENTH AND EIGHTH GRADES

First Row, L.-R.—Susan Basler, Teresa Perry, Melissa Hummel, Sharon Lowery, Yvonne Moore. Second Row, L.-R.—Herbert C. Wilkey, Tim Woolard, Olin Dunn, Henry Sabom, Jerry Eschman, Tim Abrams. Third Row, L.-R.—Karl Tauscher, Steve Harrison, Rocky Dunn, Benjy Bowen, Billy Mehlhorn, George Herbold.



# Societies And Organizations

## THE LUTHERAN WOMEN'S MISSIONARY LEAGUE

Standing on the threshold of our hundredth anniversary, we look back upon the founding of a Ladies Society in 1882, then reorganized into a Ladies Aid Society in 1904 with an active membership of 32. Throughout the years, under capable leadership and God's blessings, much has been done to assist the congregation and charitable institutions. After affiliation with the District and National Lutheran Women's Leagues in 1943, the name was changed to the Lutheran Women's League. In January, 1948, the Evening Division was organized, and in September, 1960, the Morning Division had its beginning. Together with the parent Afternoon Division, the combined member-

ship of 68 makes this the most active group in First Lutheran Church. Each Division is assigned a service responsibility within the church as to the needs of the altar, the nursery, the visitors, and the guest registry. In cooperation with the national League, "Mites" which average several hundred dollars each year are gathered and sent to the National Treasury, to be given as grants to new mission stations throughout the world. The groups bring members of the Church together at its suppers and other social functions. They encourage personal evangelism, work to integrate new members into the congregation, and foster Christian fellowship.



## CHOIR, EASTER SERVICE, 1969

Front Row, L.-R.—Janice Barringer, Janet Stiefel, Carol Hefton, Marcia Boyle, Barbara Asquith, Cindy Stiefel. Second Row, L.-R.—Randall Dyer, Diana McConnell, Dorothy Smith, Melodie Wilkey, Geri Hathcote, Diane Smith, Mary Ruth Asquith. Third Row, L.-R.—Barry Mitchell, Charles Asquith, Michael Russell, Clifford Tauscher, Jean Stevenson, Mary Ellen Tauscher, Fred Smith, Martin Smith.

## THE LUTHERAN LAYMEN'S LEAGUE

The Lutheran Laymen's League, chartered in 1942, had its beginning in the Men's Club organized one year earlier. Its motto is to "Serve the Church with Word and Deed". It served its Church for many years after World War II by contributing substantially to the District L.L.L. mission fund. This support laid the groundwork for the strong missionary program throughout the eastern half of Tennessee, and it was directly responsible for the growth to 18 congregations in this portion of the state today. Nearly all its members subscribed to the 5 per cent donation plan to assist in the financing of the present church structure. In 1967, its membership was opened to include the women.

## THE WALTHER LEAGUE

The predecessor of the Walther League, the Young Peoples Society, was organized in June, 1909, under the able leadership of Reverend C. J. Fricke. In 1918, Reverend Karl Kretschmar formed the Dixie District of the Walther League with the help of devout First Lutheran leaguers. The District encompassed East Tennessee, Mobile and Birmingham, Alabama, New Orleans, and Florida. The first convention for this group was held in Knoxville in 1920 and the first Walther League Summer Camp was held in Eagle Cliff, Georgia, in 1925.

The objective of the Walther League is to promote Christian fellowship and to keep the young people within the Church. Among recent special gifts are the Baptismal Font and the small stained glass window on the left of the altar.

## C.A.L.L.

"Calling all Loyal Lutherans" gave the name to this evangelistic organization. Developed in 1967, its purpose is to assist the Pastor in making calls on prospective members and to develop the adult instructional classes. The current chairman is Dr. William Brooke.

## THE CHOIRS

One or more choirs have existed in First Lutheran Church since the days of its founding. They are known, as the occasion demands, as the Mixed Chorus, the Ladies Chorus, and the Children's Chorus or Choir. During the past quarter century, under the direction of Mr. Krause, the Introit during services and the Choir Christmas programs were instituted. Beginning this fall, the choir will be under the direction of Mr. Royuk.

## THE PARENT-TEACHER LEAGUE

Founded as the Parent-Teacher Association in 1921, this organization affiliated with the National Council of Parent-Teachers Association in 1946, and withdrew its membership in 1953 to join the Lutheran Parent-Teacher League. The aims and objectives are (1) to promote the general welfare

of the school, (2) to establish and maintain amiable relations between parents and teachers, and (3) to encourage growth of the school. A new constitution, adopted in 1968, gave to it the present name, First Lutheran Parent-Teacher's League, stated as the objective to help parents and teachers achieve greater competence in Christian child training, and opened its ranks to parents of all children enrolled and other interested persons. Interested in the school library from the very beginning, it appropriates \$250.00 each year for the purchase of books, and the League is primarily responsible for the excellent library in the school today. A move to include a cafeteria in the school was initiated in 1944 and realized in 1947. Its budget of approximately \$1,000 per year is met through dues and activities.

## THE STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

This committee seeks the involvement of all members in a continuing, all-inclusive program of stewardship, encompassing the time, talents, and skills of every individual. It seeks to promote in increasing measure the spirit of participation, consecration, and dedication to all aspects of church life. Under the chairmanship of Mr. James Boyle, the members of the committee are Mr. A. G. Heins, Sr., Mr. James Stevenson, and Mrs. Louis Mehlhorn.

## THE YOUNG COUPLES CLUB

The very youngest of our organizations, the Couples Club came into being in 1968 with 30 couples as members and an age limit of 40. The objective is to acquaint young members of the Church with each other and to promote participation in all the congregational activities. Out of this organization has grown the Young Adults Bible Class.

# Officers of The Organization

## CHURCH COUNCIL

President ----- Dr. J. Orvin Mundt  
 Vice-President ----- A. W. Sienknecht  
 Secretary ----- J. Pat Hinds  
 Treasurer ----- Dr. Raymond Leffler  
 Financial Secretary ----- Ralph Mertz  
 The chairmen of the four Boards; Pastor Smith,  
 Mr. Royuk, Dr. Brooke and Mr. Boyle (ex officio).

## BOARD OF ELDERS

A. G. Heins, Sr., Chairman Herbert Hunze  
 James Boyle Dr. Wm. Brooke  
 Howard King Henry Frankenberg  
 Reece Acuff Ernst Zurcher

## BOARD OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

R. C. Richardson, Chairman Paul Reynolds  
 Charles Asquith Clifford Tauscher  
 Louis Mehlhorn Hugh Lunsford

## BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Jack Disney, Chairman Charles Balch  
 John Knighton James Yearwood  
 Gerald Jenkins A. G. Heins, Jr.

## BOARD OF FINANCE

Barry Mitchell, Chairman Arvin Smith  
 Ralph Duncan

## THE SUNDAY SCHOOL

Superintendent ----- Roscoe Barringer  
 Administrative Assistant ----- Louis Mehlhorn  
 Secretary-Treasury ----- Mrs. Jack Perkins  
 Attendance Secretary ----- Mrs. Jack Basler

## THE ADULT BIBLE CLASS

President ----- A. G. Heins, Sr.  
 Vice-President ----- George Cockrum  
 Secretary-Treasurer ----- Mrs. Nadine Bratcher

## LUTHERAN WOMEN'S MISSIONARY LEAGUES

### Afternoon Division (Parent League)

President ----- Mrs. Lillian Durbin  
 Vice-President ----- Mrs. Grace Sienknecht  
 Secretary ----- Mrs. Gertrude Tauscher  
 Treasurer ----- Mrs. Lillian Smith

### Evening Division

President ----- Mrs. Jewell Barringer  
 Vice-President ----- Mrs. Melodie Wilkey

Secretary ----- Mrs. Shirley Disney  
 Treasurer ----- Mrs. Joan Yearwood

### Morning Division

President ----- Mrs. Lucille Boyle  
 Vice-President ----- Mrs. Grace Mutz  
 Secretary ----- Mrs. Harriet Hinds  
 Treasurer ----- Mrs. Betty Basler

## LUTHERAN LAYMEN'S LEAGUE

President ----- Charles Balch  
 Vice-President ----- James Garner  
 Secretary ----- Betty Balch  
 Treasurer ----- Louise Garner

## WALTHER LEAGUE

President ----- Janice Barringer  
 Vice-President ----- Tea Acuff, Jr.  
 Secretary ----- Janet Stiefel  
 Treasurer ----- Jane Stewart  
 Counselors ----- Mr. and Mrs. James Yearwood,  
 Mr. and Mrs. James Hathcote

## PARENT-TEACHERS LEAGUE

President ----- Mrs. Dorothy McElyea  
 Vice-President ----- Mrs. Brenda Lowe  
 Secretary ----- Mrs. Joan Eschman  
 Treasurer ----- Mrs. Lucille Boyle

## COUPLES CLUB

Co-Presidents ----- Mr. and Mrs. Leon Maleug

## STAFF OF THE CHRISTIAN DAY SCHOOL

Principal and Teacher ----- Mr. Ronald Royuk  
 Kindergarten ----- Mrs. Ursula Pruitt  
 First and Second Grades ----- Mrs. Kaethe McSween  
 Third and Fourth Grades ----- Miss Carole Heimsoth  
 Fifth and Sixth Grades ----- Mrs. Herbert Hickey  
 Cafeteria Manager ----- Mrs. Charles Cannup  
 Assistant Manager ----- Mrs. Margaret Roth  
 Secretary ----- Patricia Rice  
 Custodian ----- Inman Freytag

## THE CENTENNIAL PROGRAM

September 26 ----- Covered Dish Supper and  
 Historical Overview of the Past 25 Years  
 October 5 ----- Reunion Communion  
 October 11 ----- Congregational Dinner  
 October 12 ----- The Centennial Service