

# *Diamond Jubilee*

1869-1944



FIRST EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

*Missouri Synod*

KNOXVILLE, TENNESSEE

# *Diamond Jubilee*

*1869-1944*



FIRST EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

*Missouri Synod*

KNOXVILLE, TENNESSEE



**T**O those Christians who seventy-five years ago founded First Lutheran Church, and to all who have since given it their loyal support and who are responsible for the preservation of sound, conservative Lutheranism in the city of Knoxville, we dedicate with gratitude to God this jubilee booklet.



*"I was glad when they said unto me, let us go into the  
House of the Lord"*



FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH  
KNOXVILLE, TENNESSEE



THE REV. ROLAND FRERKING

*Pastor of First Lutheran since 1943*

# HISTORICAL SKETCH

## FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

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. But the number of Lutherans in the city, if any, was evidently quite small during the first half of the nineteenth century.

It was not until several years prior to the Civil War that we have any 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, Penn., in 1866, two pastors of Nashville, Tenn., the Revs. 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, and although, as a result of these efforts, a number of Lutherans banded themselves together and bought a lot in the Fall of 1867 for the purpose of erecting a church building and, in the Spring of 1868, secured a charter, no formal organization was effected. The year 1868 also marked the beginning of a Lutheran Sunday School of which our present Sunday School is but a continuation. The Sunday School sessions were held in the home of the superintendent, Dr. Ed. Goetz. And the Messrs. John and Julius Aurin, and Miss Pauline Sturm, were the teachers.

In the first week of October, 1869, the Rev. John Heckel of Mendota, Ill., who had been sent out by the Iowa Synod in order to make a tour of inspection of East Tennessee, arrived in Knoxville. He looked up various Lutheran people in the city, and on Sunday, October 10, addressed them in a sermon in which he urged the establishment of an organization. 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. And 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. Twenty-two men signed the constitution, viz: John A. Aurin, Dr. Ed. Goetz, Ferd. Aurin, Carl Baum, George Fuchs, Ferd. Miller, T. E. Aurin, Christian Sturm, Carl Aurin, John Lichtenwanger, Julius Aurin, H. J. Haverkorn, A. Setzepfand, John Hiller, Leonhard Schweickerd, C. Belitz, John Meeh, John Marquardt, George Nagel, Joseph Fanz, Peter Kern, William Fischer.

In the same meeting, Dr. Ed. Goetz was elected President of the congregation, and Mr. Peter Kern, Treasurer, who, 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 Rev. Mr. Heckel as its first pastor. Reverend Heckel accepted the call, and 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.



THE FIRST CHURCH

In January, 1870, the congregation let a contract to Mr. M. B. Fahnenstock & Co., for the building of a church on the lot that had been previously acquired by the aforementioned group of interested parties. 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 proceeded to use as its place of worship until September, when the church was completed. Dedication ceremonies were held September 25, 1870. The pastor, the Rev. John Heckel,

delivered the German sermon, and the Rev. Abel J. Brown, D. D., of Blountville, Tenn., spoke in English.

The total cost of the church was slightly in excess of \$5000.00, which 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 is still in the windows of our present schoolroom.

After five years of faithful service as pastor of the congregation and teacher of the Day School, the Reverend Heckel, in December, 1874, accepted a call to Nashville, Tenn., whereupon, Mr. J. G. Schaid, a candidate for the ministry from Philadelphia Theological Seminary, of Philadelphia, Pa., was called. Mr. Schaid accepted the call, and was installed July 16, 1875, by the Rev. G. H. Cox, President of the Ev. 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 aforementioned Synod. At any rate, the records reveal that in a meeting on August 22, 1880, the congregation elected its first delegates to the Holston Synod convention, which was to be held in Bethel Church, four miles from Knoxville. The delegates elected were Mr. Charles Geschwind and Mr. Peter Kern, alternate.

During the ministry of Reverend Schaid, a pipe organ was bought for the church for the sum of \$560.00. Of this amount \$500.00 was donated by Mr. E. W. Eckhardt. The organ was dedicated August 21, 1881. The next year, in all likelihood, a Ladies Society was organized. At least, it was in January, 1882, that Reverend Schaid secured the congregation's permission to form such a society. And in 1883, the congregation purchased a lot on Union Street for \$600.00, for the purpose of building a parsonage. But due to financial difficulties building operations were not undertaken, and the lot was eventually sold in 1886 for \$1200.00. 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 after making the necessary improvements was \$1568.32.

In July, 1887, Reverend Schaid accepted a call to the presidency of North Carolina College at Mt. Pleasant, N. C. The vacancy was filled, August 28, when the congregation called Mr. J. R. Lauritzen, a former Mo. 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 of the year



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. And 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 \$1800.00, and on the same day, 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, and cost \$1,742.68.

The Rev. Mr. Lauritzen resigned his pastorate in February, 1892. He was succeeded in office by the Rev. Julius A. Friedrich, who had been called from Immanuel Lutheran Church at Chattanooga, Tenn. The Reverend Friedrich was installed on the 12th day of June, 1892, by the Rev. C. C. Schmidt of St. Louis, Mo., 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 a number of years previously. On the day of opening, September 6, 1892, twenty-six children were enrolled. The Reverend Friedrich himself taught the school the first two terms, until the Fall of 1894, when Prof. O. Katthain was installed as its first principal.

It was likewise shortly after Reverend Friedrich's arrival, on October 7, 1892, that the congregation resolved to withdraw from the Holston Synod. Following this withdrawal, the congregation remained independent of synodical affiliations until 1897 (October 14), when it was received into membership of the Western District of the Missouri Synod. The decision to apply for membership in this body with which the congregation is still united had been made in the previous October.

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

During the ministry of the Reverend Friedrich, regular services in the English language were introduced. They were held bi-monthly for a time, on Sunday evenings; but by the Fall of 1895, all evening services were English. June 25-29, 1896, the congregation, for the first time, entertained the East Tennessee Pastoral Conference in its midst. The Conference was composed of the Pastors Goehringer of Wartburg, Klein of Chattanooga, and Friedrich of Knoxville. The same year, the Woodlawn Cemetery Association presented the congregation two burial lots, one of which was reserved for pastors and teachers, and the other for the poor. In October, 1897, the congregation elected Mr. Walter Aurin as

its first delegate to a Convention of the Western District. And in the following month, Nov. 7, the first Lutheran services for the deaf in the city were held in the church. The Rev. Mr. Bentrup was the officiating minister.

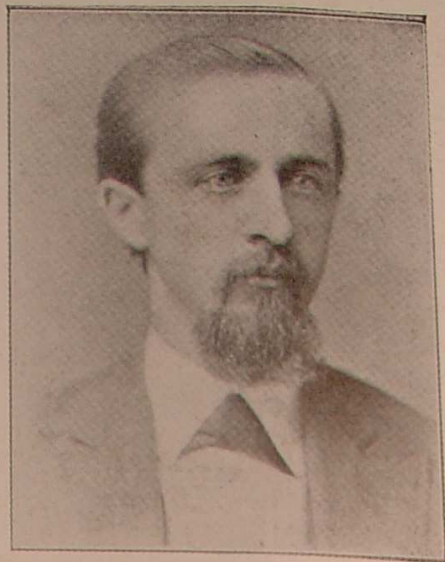
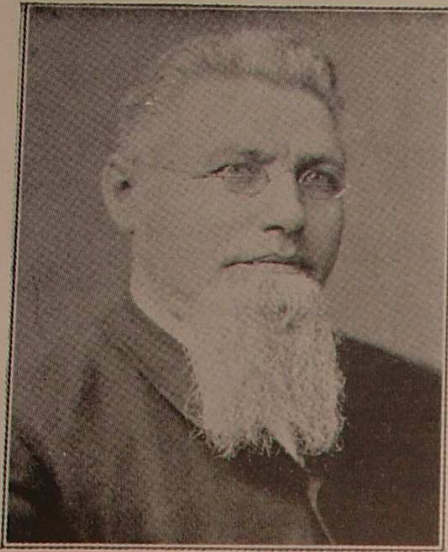
In the year 1899, Prof. George Maahs succeeded O. Katthain as principal of the Christian Day School. And two years later, February 3, 1901, the Rev. Julius A. Friedrich, whose tireless and faithful labors are still remembered by the older members of the congregation, accepted a call to Immanuel Congregation in St. Charles, Mo. Reverend Friedrich remained with the congregation, however, until he had installed his successor, the Rev. William Brand of Milwaukee, Wis. The installation took place April 14, 1901.

The year following his arrival in Knoxville, the Rev. Mr. Brand introduced the Wednesday evening Bible Studies, which were conducted, with but few interruptions, for the next 25 years. In the summer of the same year, 1902, Prof. George Maahs accepted a call to Mobile, Ala., and Reverend Brand took over the duties in the school the ensuing term. It was likewise in the year, 1902, on December 7, that the congregation sold its property on Broad and Asylum Streets to the Louisville & Nashville Railroad. The sale price, exclusive of the buildings, was \$14,000.00. And in the following month, January 25, 1903, the lot on the corner of Fifth and Broadway was purchased from Mr. E. C. Camp for the sum of \$5000.00.

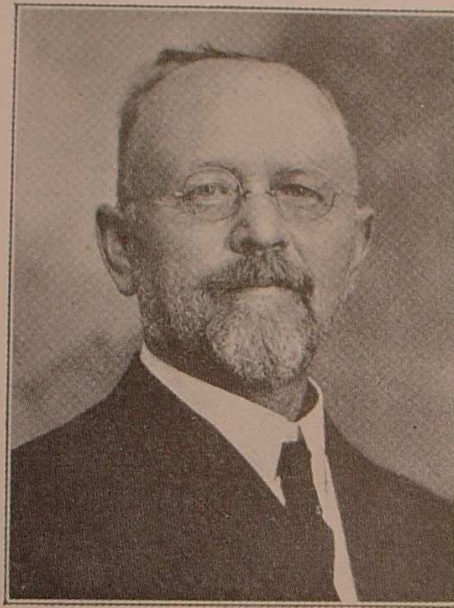
Since half of the services of the congregation were being conducted in the English language, and had been for a number of years, the congregation, in March, 1903, appropriately changed its name from First German to German-English Ev. Lutheran Church.

On the twenty-eighth day of June, 1903, the cornerstone of the new church was laid, Prof. Ed. Koehler of Mosheim Institute, Mosheim, Tenn., officiating. Three months later, September 13, the Rev. Mr. Brand accepted a call to Pittsburg, Pa. On the same day, the congregation extended a call to Prof. Ed Koehler of Mosheim. He accepted, and was installed Oct. 11. The Reverend Koehler also taught the school after his arrival, and completed the term 1903-1904.

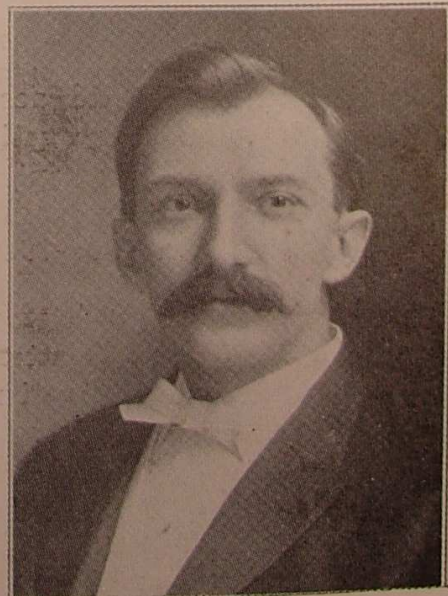
The new church was dedicated March 20, 1904. The Rev. P. G. Heckel of Chattanooga, the son of the founder and first pastor of the congregation, preached the dedicatory sermon. The total sum expended for the property on Fifth and Broadway, including the cost of the lot, the building of the church, and the rebuilding of the parsonage (which had been torn down on the old property and reassembled on the new) was \$16,843.00. During the building operations, services and school were conducted in a



FORMER



PASTORS



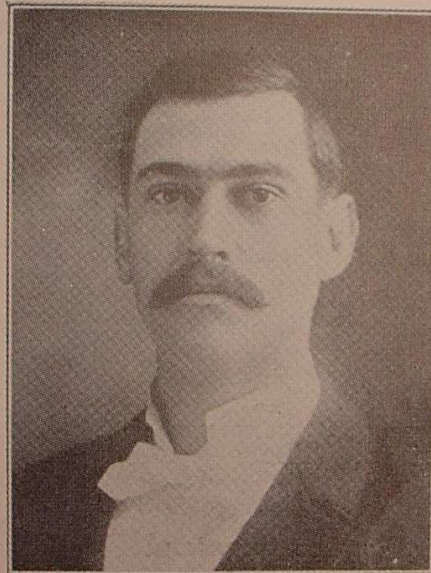
THE REV. JOHN HECKEL  
THE REV. WILLIAM BRAND

THE REV. JUL. FRIEDRICH

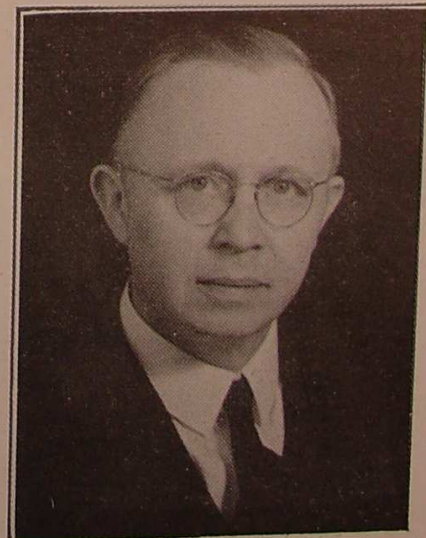
THE REV. J. G. SCHLID  
THE REV. ED. KOEHLER



FORMER



PASTORS



THE REV. C. J. FRICKE  
THE REV. K. KRETZSCHMAR

THE REV. H. KELLERMAN

THE REV. C. L. MUELLER  
THE REV. W. C. KRUEGER

temporary building which had been erected on the present school grounds.

In June, 1904, Prof. William Kammrath accepted the call to teach in the school, and served until June, 1907, when he was called to Zion Congregation in Chicago, Ill. After he left, the congregation employed Mrs. Martha Coutant as school teacher. She taught the next two terms, until 1909.

In September, 1908, the Rev. Ed. Koehler accepted a call as Professor at the Lutheran Normal School in Addison, Ill., but continued to serve the congregation until January 3, 1909, when he preached his farewell sermon. During the vacancy which followed Mr. E. J. Friedrich, a ministerial student, and the son of the former pastor, was in charge of the congregation. The vacancy terminated May 2, 1909, when the Rev. C. J. Fricke of Aurora, Ill., was installed as pastor.

Immediately after the Rev. Mr. Fricke's arrival, a call was extended Prof. William Buck as teacher of the Day School. After his acceptance of the call, May 22, the congregation began to look about for a suitable teacher's residence, and, in the following July, purchased the Heidel property at 535 West Fifth Avenue for \$3500.00. Professor Buck taught the school for two years, resigning in August, 1911, whereupon Mrs. O. Katthain, the widow of the first teacher, took over the work in the schoolroom. She taught until June, 1913.

Under the leadership of Reverend Fricke, the Young Peoples' Society was organized. The organization was effected June 29, 1909.

On Nov. 26, 1911, the Reverend Fricke accepted a call to his former congregation in Aurora, Ill. However, he did not leave Knoxville until his successor, the Rev. C. L. Mueller of Hemlock, Mich., had accepted the congregation's call, which was March 31, 1912. The Rev. Mr. Mueller was installed June 2, by Professor Weiss of Concordia College, Conover, N. C.

The next year, August 17, 1913, Prof. F. B. Miller was installed as teacher of the Day School. He served for one year, resigning on September 6, 1914. Three days later, Reverend Mueller proceeded to open the school, but was soon relieved of the duties of teaching by Mr. J. E. Moore, a student at the State University, who taught the remainder of the term. The next school term, 1915-1916, Mr. A. Sander, a ministerial student, served as teacher.

On November 26, 1915, the Rev. C. L. Mueller accepted a call to Black Jack, Mo., and preached his farewell sermon December 19. He was succeeded by the Rev. H. Kellermann of St. Louis, Mo., who was installed May 14, 1916. And in July of the same

year, Prof. C. Michel accepted the call as teacher of the Day School. Both pastor and teacher resigned in October of the following year, the former because of ill health, and the latter because of failing eyesight. The Rev. H. Kellermann preached his farewell sermon November 11, 1917. In the meantime, Mrs. Ida Trotter had been engaged to teach the school. She taught the remainder of the term.

The pipe organ which is still in use was installed in the church in December, 1917. The price of the new organ was \$1,540.00.

In March, 1918, the Rev. K. Kretzschmar of Hastings, Neb., accepted the call as pastor, and was installed by the Rev. O. Graebner of Chattanooga, on April 14. And in the following September, Prof. W. W. Rittamel of Staplehurst, Neb., was installed as principal of the school.

Soon after Reverend Kretzschmar's arrival, the old parsonage was abandoned as a parsonage. The building was rented, and the rental money was turned over to the pastor, who bought a home of his own on Wells Avenue. And in the month of February, 1919, the teacher's residence, 535 West Fifth Avenue, which had been rented for a number of years, was sold for \$3500.00.

In April, 1919, the name of the congregation was changed for the second time. The new name adopted was First Evangelical Lutheran Church, the name the congregation bears today. In the Fall of the same year, October 12 and 13, the congregation celebrated its 50th anniversary. Two former pastors, Prof. Ed Koehler and the Rev. Jul. Friedrich, delivered the sermons. The communicant membership of the congregation at the time was about 125.

A new heating plant costing \$2500.00 was bought for the church in February, 1920.

Early in January, 1921, the few remaining members of Zion Lutheran Church (Mo. Synod), several miles east of Knoxville, turned over their church property to the congregation as a gift. But as some dispute developed over the title to the land on which this church was built, the congregation decided not to press its claims, and compromised, by accepting the building only. The building was then sold for \$300.00 and torn down. Its furnishings were donated to the congregation at Oakdale, Tenn.

During the pastorate of the Rev. Mr. Kretzschmar, 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 Kretzschmar was also instrumental in uniting the Young People's Society with the Walther League, and in the formation of the League's Dixie District. He also organized the congregation's Parent-Teacher Association. 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.

On December 12, 1923, the Rev. K. Kretzschmar accepted a call to First Lutheran Church in Ft. Smith, Ark. He preached his farewell sermon in January, 1924. The congregation then extended a call to the Rev. W. C. Krueger of Gordonville, Mo. He accepted, and was installed March 23, 1924.

Upon Reverend Krueger's arrival in Knoxville, the congregation rented the house at 2437 North Broadway as his living quarters, and soon after, June 2, 1924, bought the property for its parsonage. The purchase price was \$5500.00.

In July, 1926, the congregation decided to sell the farm which it had acquired by bequest from Mr. George Houser, one of the members of the disbanded Zion Church east of the city. The sale was made, and the transaction netted the congregation \$3073.93.

The old parsonage, 605 North Broadway, which had been changed into a duplex apartment, was remodeled, and made into a parish house in January, 1929. The apartment on the second floor, however, was left untouched, and it has been used ever since as living quarters for the custodians of the church property.

Professor Rittamel, who had served since 1918 as principal of the Christian Day School, resigned his position in January, 1932, but continued his work in the school until the conclusion of the term. Thereafter the congregation employed a number of ministerial students as school teachers. They were: Mr. Fred Lammert, who taught two terms, 1932-34; Mr. Walter Gerken, two terms, 1934-36; Mr. Ewald Otto, two terms, 1936-38; Mr. Walter Strickert, two terms, 1938-40; Mr. Everett Grese, one term, 1940-41; Mr. Lorenz Blankenbuehler, one term, 1941-42.

The building on 510 Market Street, which had been bequeathed the congregation in 1937, by Mr. Ferd. Miller, in honor of his mother, Mrs. Wilhelmine Miller, was sold in February, 1939, for \$20,000.00. After the payment of back taxes and other expenses, however, the amount derived by the congregation from the bequest was \$11,848.40. The proceeds were then used, May 1, 1939, to purchase the Francis property on Broadway and Wells Avenue, where the congregation contemplates erecting a new church building in the future. The property cost \$12,000.00.

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

The Rev. W. C. Krueger accepted a call as Institutional Missionary in the city of Memphis, Tenn., January 11, 1943. He

served the congregation for well nigh nineteen years, longer, by seven years, than any of his predecessors.

On June 22, 1943, the congregation called the present pastor, the Rev. R. Frerking of Joplin, Mo. He was installed by the Rev. R. C. Jahn of Chattanooga, August 8. And on the fourteenth day of November, Mr. Harold Jagels, who had served in the school since the fall of 1942 on a temporary basis, was installed as the school's principal.

Within the past year the Men's Club was organized, which has since affiliated with the Lutheran Laymen's League. A building fund for the purpose of erecting a new church has likewise been set up. And this Fall, the congregation launched on a school expansion program, adding the eighth grade and opening a kindergarten. Miss Marie Stichweh has been engaged to teach the kindergarten, and to assist in the work of the school.

Throughout the years, the congregation has been the recipient of a number of bequests in addition to those received from the late Messrs. Houser and Miller. The sum of \$100.00 was received from each of the following: Mr. C. Sturm, Mrs. C. Sturm, Miss Lizzie Aurin, Mr. Jacob Friedrich, Mrs. E. Belitz, Mrs. O. Katthain, and \$300.00 each from Mrs. Rosalie Heidel and Mr. E. W. Eckhardt. The monies derived from these bequests, or what remains of them after the losses sustained during the depression, are held in the endowment fund, which, at this time, has total assets of approximately \$3700.00.

In the seventy-five years of the congregation's existence, a total number of 813 persons were baptized; 433 were confirmed; 203 weddings were performed, and 367 were given Christian burial.

The congregation, at present, has a membership of 200 communicants. Its officers are:

MR. W. J. DURBIN	-----	<i>President</i>
MR. FRED ASQUITH	-----	<i>Vice-President</i>
MR. H. W. ASQUITH	-----	<i>Secretary</i>
MR. A. W. SIENKNECHT	-----	<i>Treasurer</i>
MR. W. A. FRANKENBERG	-----	<i>Asst. Secretary</i>

These officers, together with Mr. Fred Roettger, and the pastor and teacher, make up the Church Council.



## EDUCATIONAL AGENCIES

### THE CHRISTIAN DAY SCHOOL

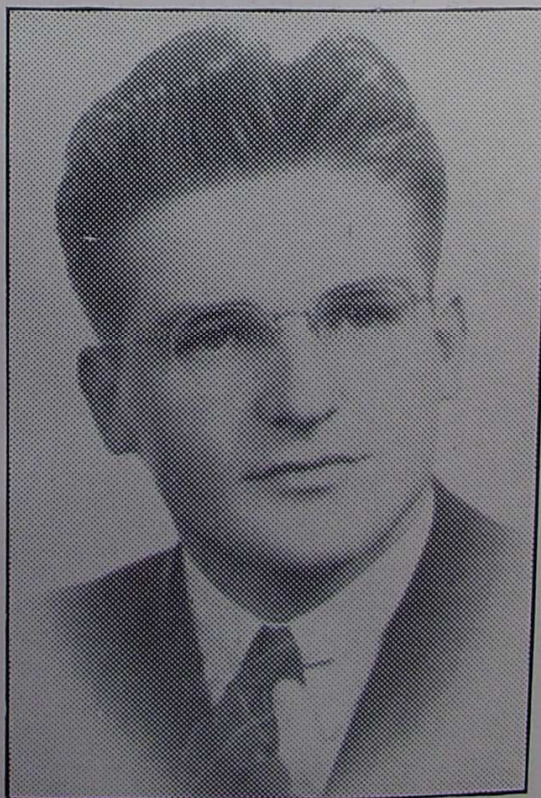
Since the days of Luther and the Reformation, the Lutheran Church has recognized the supreme importance of giving children a Christian education. It believes that the omission of religion from the program of education not only deprives the child of those influences which make for the development of character and spirituality, but that its very omission has a deleterious effect upon the child in that he draws the conclusion that religion is unimportant or irrelevant to the real business of life. This conviction is what prompted the Lutheran Church to establish the Christian Day School system, which permits the teaching of religion in addition to the regular subjects taught in the public schools.

First Lutheran School, as far as can be ascertained from the records, was established immediately after the founding of the congregation. It was closed after a number of years, but reopened in the Fall of 1892, from which time it has been maintained without interruption. The school, in which only seven grades were taught prior to this Fall, now offers a full eight grade course of instruction. In addition, a kindergarten has been opened.

The school has an enrollment of 49 in the grades, and 20 in the kindergarten. Two-thirds of the combined enrollment is made up of the children of non-Lutherans, with whom the congregation cheerfully shares its blessings of a Christian education.



MISS MARIE STICHWEH



MR. HAROLD JAGELS

Mr. Harold Jagels, a graduate of Concordia Teacher's College, Seward, Neb., is the principal of the school, as well as the teacher of the grades. He is also assisted by Miss Marie Stichweh, the kindergarten teacher. The present members of the school board are Mr. C. M. Tauscher, chairman, Mr. H. Hunze, secretary, and the pastor and principal.

### THE SUNDAY SCHOOL

First Lutheran Sunday School is the oldest organization within the church, having been organized a year previous to the congregation, in 1868. Since that time it has functioned continuously.

The Sunday school endeavors to give the very best instruction that is possible for such an agency to impart. To help achieve this purpose, the teachers for long years have held monthly meetings with the pastor in which they were given guidance and instruction, and at present, they are taking a special teacher-training course.

The present enrollment of the Sunday school is 65, exclusive of the Adult Bible Class. Mr. T. Herbert Etzler is the superintendent, and Mrs. A. J. Rittamel, secretary-treasurer. The teachers are Mr. Harold Jagels, Mrs. U. E. Neas, Mrs. Alf. Frankenberg, Mrs. Louise Cobb, Miss Mary Ruth Knaffl, Miss Helen Frankenberg, and Mrs. B. F. Patrick.

### THE BIBLE CLASS

First Lutheran Bible Class is an important educational agency for the adult members and friends of the congregation. For many years it was conducted as a department of the Sunday school, but it has recently set itself up as a separate organization. The pastor is its instructor.

The Bible Class has a membership of 56. The officers are: Mr. E. N. Brooks, president; Mr. O. Bassler, vice-president; Mrs. E. N. Brooks, secretary; Mr. A. G. Heins, treasurer.

### THE CONFIRMATION CLASS

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 prepares them for communicant membership in the church. The class is usually organized in the Fall of the year, and is conducted one or more times per week throughout the school term.

Two such classes were begun this fall, the one, consisting of the pupils of the sixth, seventh, and eighth grades in the Day School, and the other of children who are attending schools elsewhere.

### CHURCH MEMBERSHIP CLASSES

From time to time the pastor organizes a Church Membership Class in which adults are instructed in the truths of the Christian religion preparatory to membership in the church. Many adults have received the benefits of such classes and some of them are among the most loyal and faithful members of the congregation.

# SOCIETIES AND ORGANIZATIONS

## THE LUTHERN WOMAN'S LEAGUE

The Lutheran Woman's League is the oldest society in the church. It was organized, in all probability, in the year 1882, and was definitely quite an active organization in 1885. At that time, however, it was known merely as the Ladies' Society. The society was reorganized into the Ladies' Aid Society in 1904, and only last year adopted its present name.

Throughout the years the League has done much to assist the congregation and to support the various charitable institutions of the Lutheran Church. In late years its efforts have been directed increasingly along the lines of missions. The League has been associated with the Lutheran Woman's League of the Western District since 1938.

The local League has a membership of 36. Its officers are: Mrs. C. M. Tauscher, president; Mrs. W. J. Durbin, vice-president; Mrs. T. H. Etzler, recording-secretary; Mrs. U. E. Neas, corresponding-secretary; Mrs. H. Hunze, treasurer.

## THE WALTHER LEAGUE

The Walther League, formerly the Young People's Society, was organized in the year 1909. There had been a young people's society in existence prior to this date, being mentioned already in the congregational records of the early 90's in the last century. But it had evidently disbanded a number of years before the present organization was effected.

As a means of keeping the young people in the church and training them for future positions of leadership in the congregation, the Walther League has served its purpose well. It has also taken an active part in all the projects of the congregation as well as the church at large. The League affiliated with the International Walther League late in the year 1918.

At the present time the League has 26 members. Mr. Cliff Tauscher Jr., is the president; Miss Margaret Engert, vice-president; Miss Mary Ruth Asquith, secretary; Miss Dorothy Frankenberg, treasurer.

## THE MEN'S CLUB

This is the youngest society in the church, having been organized in December of last year. Its purposes are to encourage a more active participation in the work of the church, to promote the cause of Christian education, and to promote Christian fellowship. In June of this year the club united with the Lutheran Laymen's League, the national organization sponsoring the well-known radio program, the Lutheran Hour.

The Men's Club has 20 members. Officers: Mr. H. Asquith, president; Mr. H. Hunze, vice-president; Mr. W. A. Frankenberg, secretary; Mr. T. H. Etzler, treasurer.

## THE PARENT-TEACHER ASSOCIATION

This organization was founded in the year 1922 in order to further the interests of the Christian Day School. It has done much to foster an appreciation of the great blessings of a Christian education in addition to supplying the school with many items that have helped to increase its efficiency.

There are 19 who hold membership in the Association. Its officers are: Mrs. T. H. Etzler, president; Mrs. M. D. Browder, vice-president; Mrs. A. W. Krahwinkel, secretary; Mrs. H. W. Asquith, treasurer.

### THE CHOIRS

First Lutheran, it appears from the records, has practically always had a choir since the days of its founding. Within the past year, however, the number of choirs in the congregation has increased to three. They are the Mixed Chorus, the Ladies' Chorus, and the Children's Chorus. All three are directed by Mr. Harold Jagels. The splendid music they have rendered in the services of the church is deeply appreciated by the entire congregation.

<i>Mixed Chorus</i>	<i>Ladies Chorus</i>	<i>Children's Chorus</i>
Mary Ruth Asquith	Mrs. Lewis	Yvonne Dupes
Ruth Sienknecht	Ruth Sienknecht	Frances Collins
Mrs. Emma Lewis	Elizabeth Frankenberg	Marilyn Hunze
Loranna Rittamel	Dorothy Frankenberg	Barbara Payne
Mr. Herbert Etzler	Mrs. Frankenberg	Shirley Kenner
Mr. A. J. Rittamel	Mrs. Cobb	Betty Collins
Mr. Harold Jagels	Miss Stichweh	Billie Ruth Meadows
Helen Frankenberg	Marjorie Durbin	Paul Frerking
Mrs. Louise Cobb	Mrs. Savery	Mary Frerking
Miss Marie Stichweh	Helen Frankenberg	Ann Krahwinkel
Mrs. Alfred Frankenberg	Mrs. Patrick	Barbara Jones
Mr. Ramon Tauscher	Loranna Rittamel	Jane Orr
Mr. Carl Pfitzer	Mrs. Etzler	Emma Lu Frankenberg
Mr. Alfred Frankenberg	Emma Lu Frankenberg	Mildred Rogers
		Shirley Berry
		Bobby Whitaker
		Ben Earl Walker

**"UNTO THEE, O LORD . . ."**

*Who hast graciously provided the worshippers at First Church with Thy Word and Sacraments for three-quarters of a century; Who hast forgiven the many sins they have poured out before Thee in confession; Who hast comforted them in sorrow, and filled their hearts with peace and hope—we give thanks and praise through Him who loved us and gave Himself for us on Calvary's cross.*