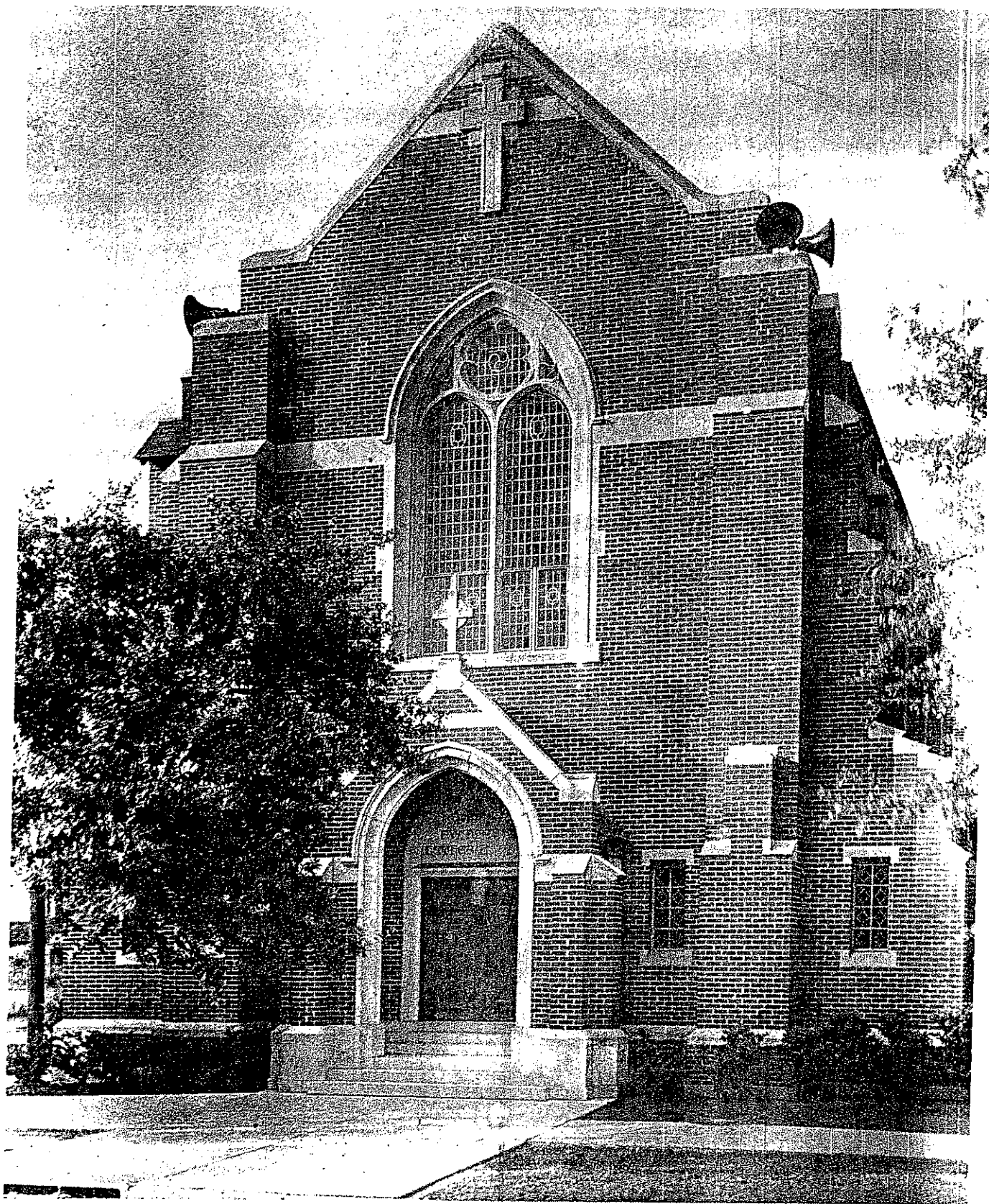


1852

1952

CENTENNIAL
of
ST. JOHN'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN
CONGREGATION



Acknowledgments

The following brief history of St. John's congregation is, for the most part, a condensation of a history written by Teacher J. H. Schoenhardt and published on the occasion of the 75th anniversary celebration in 1927. In that souvenir booklet, Teacher Schoenhardt states that he received valuable assistance from a prior history compiled by Mr. Henry C. Lind, which covered the years from 1852 to 1882. That the present "historian" is greatly indebted to these preceding writers goes without saying.

Information covering the period from 1927 to date was gleaned almost entirely from the minutes of the meetings of the Voting Members; and this acknowledgement is made with sincere gratitude to those responsible for the comprehensive manner in which these proceedings were recorded.

ST. JOHN EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CONGREGATION
New Orleans, Louisiana

Behold, I have set before thee an open door . . . (Rev. 3:8)

One hundred years ago—in January, 1852—the Messrs. M. Haas, L. Metz, and H. Hollander, after severing their connection with the Clio Street Protestant Church, reached a decision to organize a Lutheran congregation in the Second District. Mr. Fred Robbert, also in favor of organizing a Lutheran congregation, joined them. Use of a site on Prieur near Iberville (then Customhouse) Street, was granted, and a small "House of Prayer" was erected. The Lutheran Congregation in Customhouse Street, as it was called, was served by Brother Hollander as pastor without remuneration.

The little "House of Prayer" soon became too small, and it was resolved to build a church. The name "St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Congregation" was agreed upon. In December the first Board of Trustees was elected, and consisted of Messrs. M. Haas, L. Metz, J. D. Koehnke, H. Raake, C. Walther, C. Waessner and Fred Robbert. This Board called on the President of the Texas Synod to send them a faithful servant of the Word. After a long wait, a pastor from that synod came, but in the meantime the congregation had secured a Pastor Presser from the North. After preaching twice Pastor Presser was dismissed, and Brother Hollander again served the congregation.

On Palm Sunday, March 20, 1853, the new church was dedicated. About this time there was an article published in a New Orleans newspaper on "The Protestant Churches of the City", and mention was made of the congregation which had separated itself from all other Protestant churches and called itself "Evangelical Lutheran". The article, having been read in St. Louis, caused the sending of Candidate George Volk to investigate; and Candidate Volk, after having talked matters over with the congregation, was authorized to see to it that a pastor of the Missouri Synod be sent to them. In a letter from the President of the Missouri Synod, Rev. Wyneken, the name of Candidate Volk was proposed to the congregation, and he was unanimously accepted as pastor. He was thereupon ordained and installed.

Up to this time, women had had the right to vote. At a meeting held May 21, 1853, this custom was abolished. New hymnals, a donation from St. Louis, were introduced.

On September 5, 1853, Pastor Volk succumbed to an attack of yellow fever. President Wyneken was immediately informed, and in due course proposed Pastor Schieferdecker as a candidate. Pastor Schieferdecker was called and arrived in April, 1854, to serve only temporarily.

When Pastor Schieferdecker began to introduce Lutheran practice, he met with considerable opposition. It was pointed out that he had not been able to obtain a peaceful dismissal from his own congregation and was serving only until another pastor could arrive; but some members declared that under no circumstances would they submit to the calling of another pastor of the Missouri Synod. As a result of the dissension three members resigned, and the remaining four called Pastor Fick of the Missouri Synod. Pastor Fick declining, Pastor Metz was then called and accepted. He arrived on the 24th and was installed on the 27th of August.

During the succeeding months the congregation became convinced that in the Missouri Synod the Word of God was taught in its truth and purity and the sacraments administered according to the Savior's institution. Application for membership was made, and in May, 1855, the congregation was accepted into the the Missouri Synod.

While serving the congregation, Pastor Schieferdecker had started a Christian day school, in which he instructed the children three days a week. The congregation had acquired an adjacent cottage for use as a school, and in January, 1857, succeeded in obtaining Teacher Knoche. Under his capable leadership the number of pupils increased to such an extent that the school building became inadequate. A lot on Johnson Street, between Iberville and Bienville, was acquired, a larger school erected, and the building dedicated on August 9. The school continued to flourish, and efforts were made to secure a second teacher.

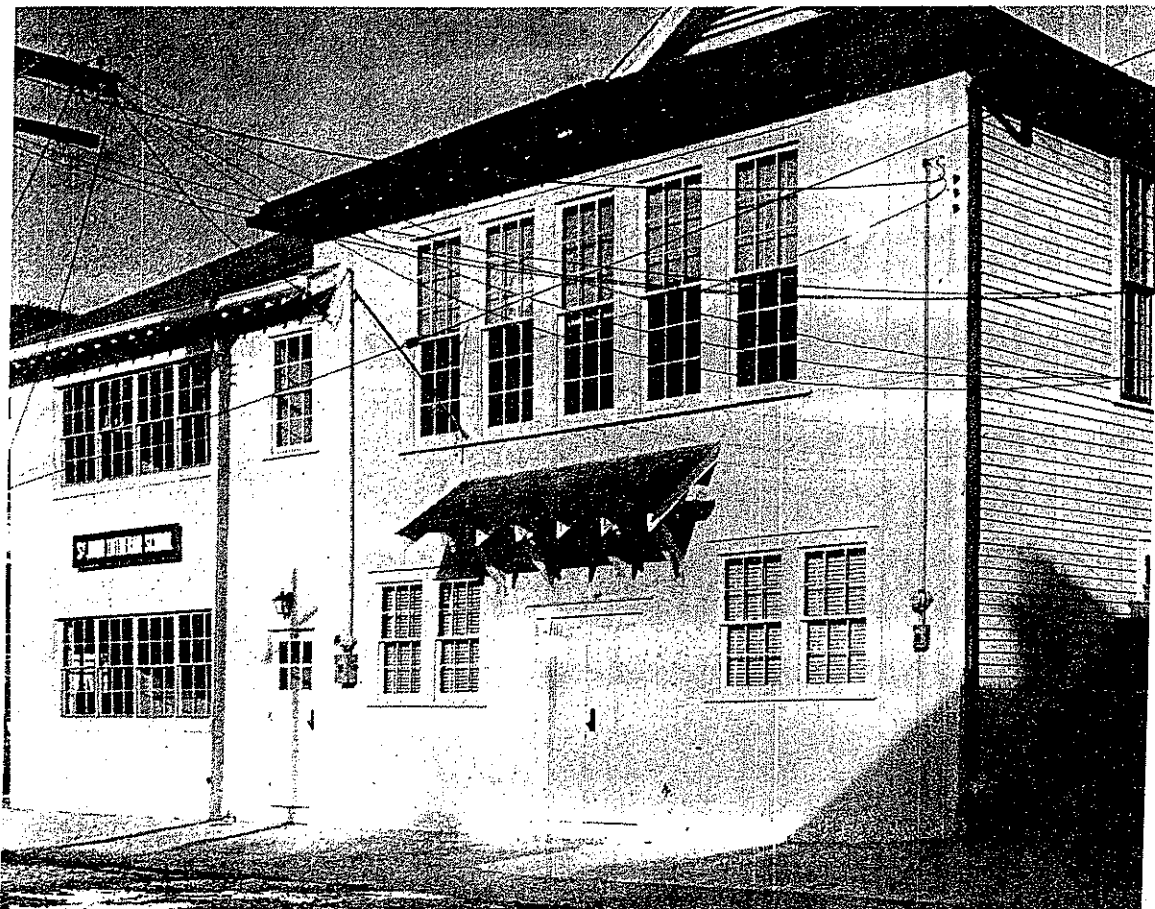
However, after a little over a year had elapsed, Teacher Knoche found it necessary to resign because of ill health. There followed a succession of teachers, each serving a short time, until in 1866 Teacher Chas. W. Saver accepted the call and was installed on September 17.

In this same year, the congregation acquired the first four lots for a cemetery. The cemetery was dedicated August 18, Pastor Hoppe of Zion Church officiating. (The congregation purchased nine more lots in July 1868 and the remaining thirteen lots of the square were added in June 1883.)

When in 1867 Pastor Metz resigned, Pastors Ruhland, Lochner, and John Walther successively declined calls to serve the congregation. Two members of the Board of Trustees, attending the celebration of the 350th anniversary of the Reformation (in St. Louis) returned in November bringing with them Pastor Liebe, a missionary. Pastor Liebe was inducted into office by Pastor Hoppe on the first Sunday in Advent.

Because of the increase in enrollment during the school term 1867-1868, it was felt a second teacher should be called and another room added to the school. Teacher Pott was called and accepted. He was installed April 20, and the school dedicated June 14. Teacher Pott served until the summer of 1869; then, because of failing health, he tendered his resignation, which was accepted with deep regret. A young teacher, one G. Berlin, arriving from Germany, served the congregation until the end of the school term in 1870. Application was then made for a graduate of our Teachers' Seminary. This call was given to Candidate A. C. Reisig, who accepted and was installed September 5. The number of pupils increased steadily and soon both rooms were overcrowded. A small cottage adjoining the parsonage was rented (later purchased) and Teacher Koehnke called. He accepted and began teaching on October 12.

In May, 1872, the 25th anniversary of the Missouri Synod was celebrated. About this time a Mission Association was organized; and Candidate Hattstaedt was called as missionary for the Southern States. He was ordained and installed in our church as missionary and assistant pastor of our congregation. After serving but one year, he died of yellow fever September 17, 1873.



The School

In the spring of this year Pastor Liebe's health began to fail, and he thought it advisable to resign. He remained until July 8, and, although the congregation had taken steps for calling a pastor as early as May, it was not until September 29 that Pastor C. A. Frank arrived.

Gas fixtures were installed in the church in July, 1874, and services were held at night. Sunday School was discontinued and "Christenlehre" after the sermon was substituted.

In 1876 Pastor Frank received a call from his former congregation in Lancaster, Ohio. Since his wife had been ailing for some time and a change of climate had been advised by her doctor, the congregation granted him a peaceful dismissal. Upon Pastor Liebe's recommendation, Pastor Bauman was called. He accepted, and arrived in January of 1877. The following year—during which occurred one of the greatest epidemics of yellow fever in the history of the city—both Pastor Bauman and his wife died.

In the meantime, because of the panic of 1876, many members were out of work, and the congregation could not meet its expenses. Teacher Koehnke offered to resign, and his resignation was accepted. Shortly thereafter, Teacher Sauer accepted a call to St. Paul's congregation. Teacher Reisig, returning from vacation after the lifting of the yellow fever quarantine, took over all grades, which numbered more than one hundred pupils. This arrangement prevailed until 1879, when on August 31, Teacher J. H. Schoenhardt was installed as teacher of the three lower grades.

After the death of Pastor Bauman, Pastor J. F. Doescher served as supply pastor. Pastor Doescher had been sent to begin a mission among the Negroes of the city, and had received permission to serve as supply pastor for Zion and Trinity as well as our own congregation. In March, 1879, the Mission Board urged the congregation to see to it that they be supplied otherwise; Pastor Doescher was thereupon called. He accepted and was installed on Easter Sunday afternoon.

The first English service was held in December, 1880, and Pastor Doescher was given permission to hold English services twice a month. Pastor Doescher later rented a hall, without the knowledge or consent of the congregation, and held English services every Sunday. This led to his suspension, and, when he also held German services in the hall, he was dismissed. Calls were issued to a number of pastors who declined, and during the vacancy the congregation was served by Pastor Roesener of Zion and Student M. Albrecht. In July, 1882, Pastor Stiemke of Houston, Texas was called.

After serving the congregation faithfully for six years, Pastor Stiemke accepted a call to Baltimore. He was succeeded by Pastor C. J. Cramer. On the second Sunday in Advent of Pastor Cramer's first year a new two manual organ was dedicated, funds having been collected by the Young Men's Association.

In March, 1891, the parsonage and the little house in the rear were destroyed by fire, and the roof of the sacristy damaged. A new parsonage was erected, and other repairs and improvements made. The following year, during the vacation period, the school building was moved to the center of the lot and raised, the church was painted, and the walls papered. In October of 1893 the congregation began holding English services once a month. These services were so well attended that at the January meeting it was resolved to hold two such services each month.

The 50th anniversary of the Missouri Synod was celebrated in May, 1897. A joint festival was held in the afternoon at St. Paul's Church. At a special service held November 7, Candidate F. W. Siebelitz, a former pupil of our Christian day school, was ordained.

The present church being in need of extensive repairs, the congregation in 1901 voted to build a new church. It was the intention of the congregation to dedicate the new church on the 50th anniversary of the dedication of the old church (March 20, 1853). For various reasons, this could not be done, and it was not until August, 1903, that the farewell service in the old church was held. On September 1 the first brick of the new church building was laid, and on October 4, the corner stone. Services during the construction were held in the school house.

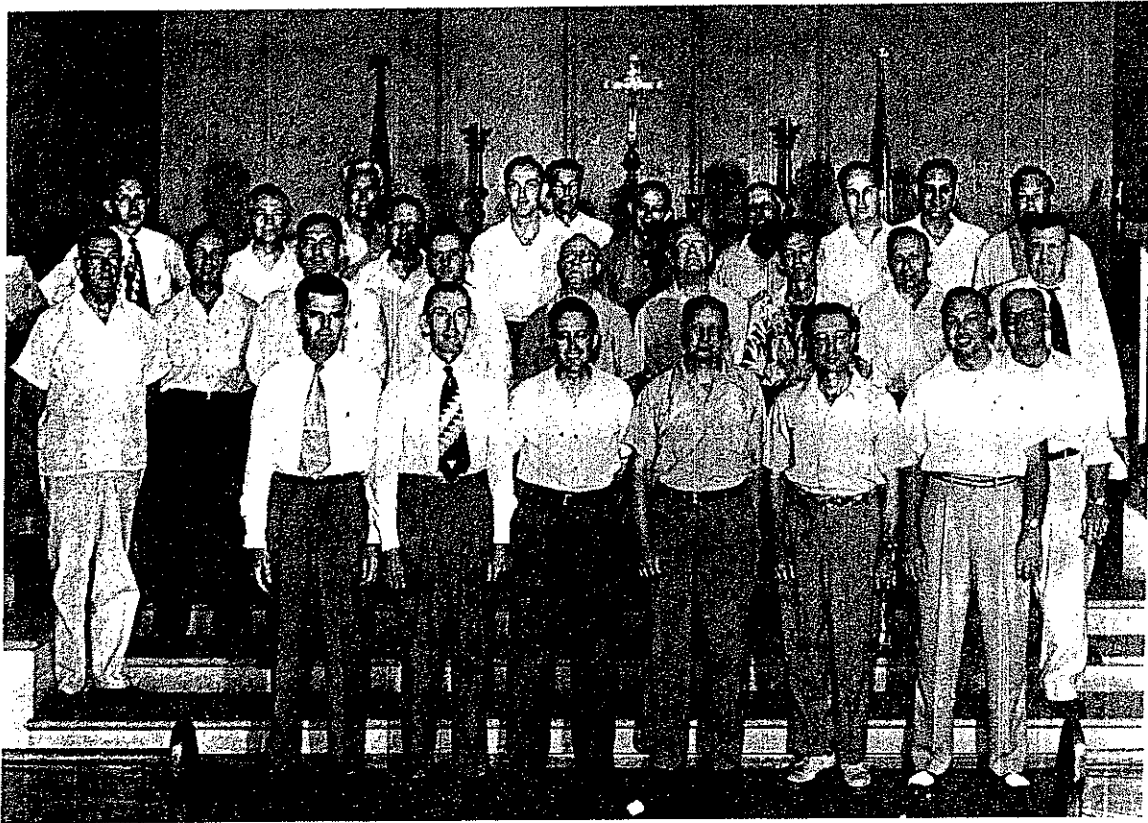
Previously, all religious instruction in school had been given in the German language. After transferring the pupils of the third grade into Teacher Reisig's room, all religious instruction was gradually given in English.

On Sunday, March 20, 1904, the new church was dedicated. Three services were held, with Pastor Wegener, President of the Southern District, officiating at the German morning service, Pastor Lankenau in the afternoon English service, and Pastor Hartmann at the Monday night English service. The new church, including bells, organ remodeling, pews, etc. cost approximately \$14,600.00. From this time on all Sunday night services were conducted in English, and English confirmation only was held.

The weekly envelope system was established in 1905. On New Year's Day, after the sermon, Pastor Cramer tendered his resignation, which was accepted by the congregation. After several unsuccessful calls, Pastor M. J. von der Au accepted and was installed September 16.

Because the English Sunday night services were being poorly attended, the congregation in 1907 began holding all English services at eight o'clock in the morning, and the German services at ten o'clock. From this time on the attendance at the English services gradually increased, and the attendance at the German services decreased proportionately. Also in this year, on the first Sunday in November, Sunday School was begun.

After serving the congregation faithfully for thirty-eight years, Teacher Reisig, because of failing health, tendered his resignation. At the congregation's request, he withdrew his resignation and agreed to take a year's rest. During this period Student R. W. Wismar filled the vacancy. In May, 1909, upon the advice of his doctor, Teacher Reisig again tendered his resignation, and the congregation, with deep regret, accepted. The new teacher for the upper grades, Mr. K. E. Dube of Klein, Texas, was installed September 19.



The Voters Assembly—1952

Because of climatic conditions to which he could not become accustomed, Pastor von der Au, after serving the congregation almost four years, accepted a call to Ft. Dodge, Iowa. He was succeeded by Pastor Albert Witt, who was inducted into office September, 1910, by President Wegener. Soon afterward, the residence at 119 South Cortez Street was rented, Sunday School started, and Sunday night services held.

In 1912 the constitution of the congregation was revised and translated into the English language; and thereafter all meetings were conducted in English and the proceedings recorded in English. In November of the following year the property at 121 South Cortez Street was purchased for use as a chapel for our mission and as a hall for the young people; and five months later the mission moved into its new quarters.

For valid reasons, Pastor Witt was requested to tender his resignation, which was accepted by the congregation at a special meeting held September 21, 1915. Pastor Kuss acted as supply pastor until early the following year, when on the first Sunday in February, Pastor A. O. Friedrich was installed.

Since the majority of members having children of school age now lived west of Broad Street, the congregation resolved to transfer the school on Johnson Street to our Cortez mission. After the building had been remodeled, school opened on September 11, 1917.

Some years before, the members had been approached by an agent representing two colored congregations who were interested in purchasing the church. Negotiations were entered into, but nothing developed at the time. In January of 1917, however, the sale of the church and parsonage was consummated, the price agreed upon being \$13,500.00. Various sites for a new church were considered at almost every meeting, and the site on Pierce and Canal Streets was finally decided upon. Purchase of the property for \$10,200.00 was authorized at a special meeting held August 13. The building on the site was used as a parsonage; a small chapel was erected, and the dedication took place March 2, 1919.

After serving for nine years, Teacher Dube accepted a call to Giddings, Texas. At the opening of school in September 1918 the congregation had no replacement for Teacher Dube, and Pastor Friedrich took over the upper grades. Teacher G. A. Jacobik later accepted our call and was installed January 19, but left at the end of June to accept a call to Detroit. Pastor Friedrich again took charge of the upper grades during the vacancy.

The building of a new school was discussed at several meetings, and it was decided to build on our church site. The school was erected during the summer months and dedicated on September 22, 1919. Soon after, the congregation acquired the property at 116 North Pierce Street and the Cortez Street property was sold.

On February 8, 1920, Teacher E. H. Heintzen, who accepted our call conditionally, began his work at the school. A few months later he informed the congregation that he could definitely accept the call, and he was formally installed on May 23.

At the closing exercises parents expressed the wish that we add an eighth grade to the school. It was resolved that this be done, and another teacher, Student Wallner, was called to take care of the fourth and fifth grades. It was also decided to call a graduate for the third and fourth grades, but because of the shortage of candidates none could be supplied. For the term 1921-1922 Student E. Behrens was engaged, and he was succeeded by Student Wiederaenders for the next term. During the summer of 1922 a new room was added to the school building.

In 1921, Pastor Friedrich contracted a cold which later developed into tuberculosis. He continued to attend his ministerial duties to the end of the year, when the congregation persuaded him to follow the advice of his physician and take a vacation. Only a few months later, on June 7, 1922, the Lord called his faithful servant home.

The congregation was served from January to November by Pastors Gebauer and Nau and Student Behrens. At a special meeting held October 15, a letter from Rev. M. M. H. Holls was read, in which he accepted our call. He was installed at a special service held November 5, Dr. Nau officiating.

On Sunday, September 2, 1923, Mr. E. H. Eggersmann, a graduate of the Seminary at River Forest, was installed as teacher of the fourth and fifth grades.

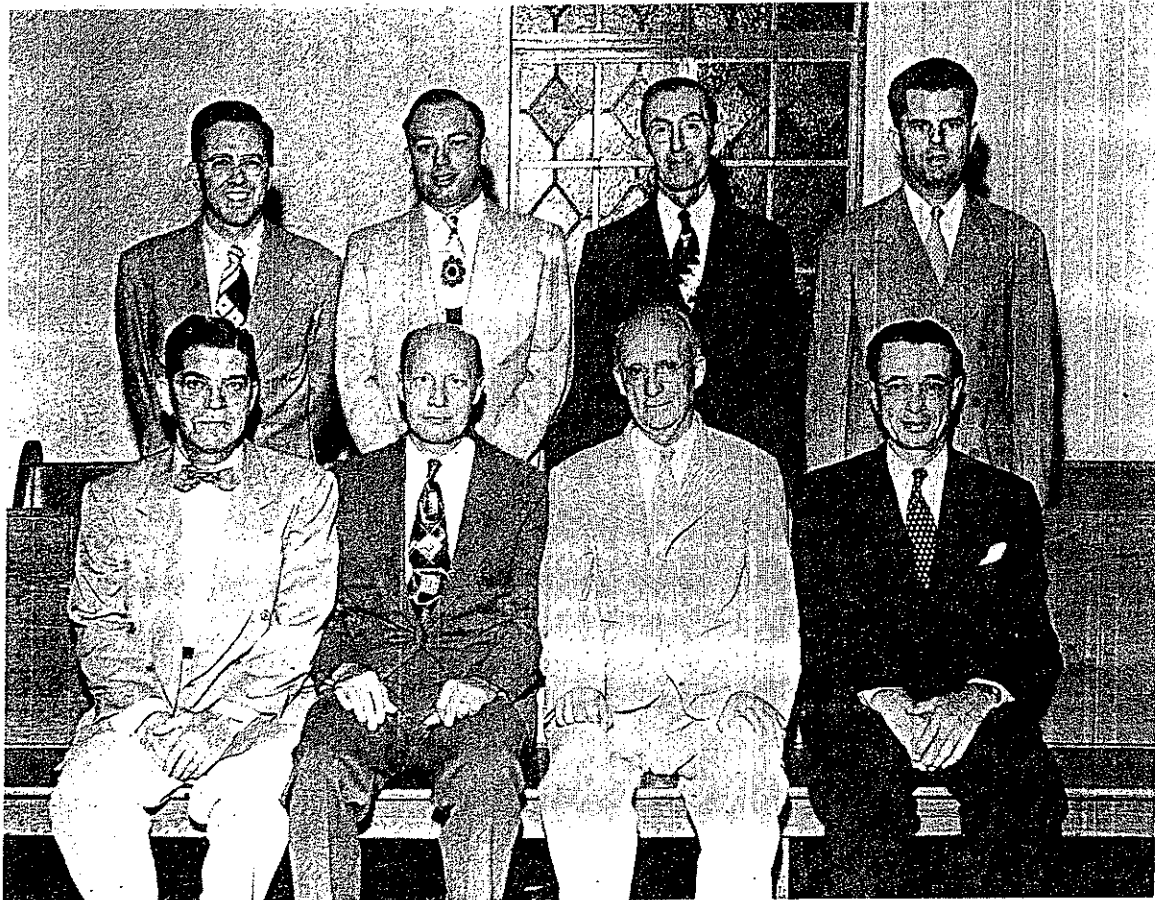
The building of a new church had been considerably delayed because of conditions following the war, but on June 12, 1924, the demolishing of the chapel was begun; on the 24th the parsonage was removed, and on the 30th the first piling for the new structure was driven. On August 24 the corner stone was laid, Pastor LeCron preaching the sermon and Pastor Holls performing the official act. The dedication followed four months later, on the fourth Sunday in Advent. While the new church was being built, services were held on Sunday morning at the Carrollton Theater.

During the summer of 1925 our new organ arrived and was installed. The heating system in the church and school was also installed during this summer.

The following year, because of poor attendance, the German services were discontinued. Also in this year Teacher Eggersmann accepted a call to Schaumburg, Illinois. Miss Loula Coyner, of Waynesboro, Va., accepted our call and took charge of the fourth, fifth and sixth grades. This year also marked the introduction of confessional services one-half hour before each communion service.

In February of 1927 Rev. G. J. Wegener, having served as District President for thirty-six years, found it necessary to resign because of advancing age and increasing work in his own large congregation. Rev. Holls was elected to succeed him.

The 75th anniversary of our congregation was observed this year with a Diamond Jubilee Service on Sunday, May 15, at 7:00 p. m. Rev. F. W. Siebelitz preached the sermon. The 60th anniversary of the Ladies Aid was also celebrated at a special service held December 15.



The Board of Trustees for 1952

During the early months of 1929 a call to Waynesboro, Va. was received by Rev. Holls. Considering the need of our congregation, and after prayerful consideration, the call was returned.

The Ladies Aid, having worked diligently to collect funds for a bell, saw their efforts rewarded at the Confirmation Service on Sunday, April 2, when the 500-lb. Tone "C" bell was dedicated. This same month an offer was made to the congregation for the cemetery, the purchaser to assume paving costs (which amounted to a considerable sum) and to pay the congregation \$2,000.00. This offer was accepted.

During the summer months the school was remodeled at a cost of approximately \$4,300.00. Miss Coyner having resigned, Teacher Carl Wegener was engaged to take over the middle grades, and was installed September 1. On December 29 a special anniversary service was held for Teacher J. H. Schoenhardt, commemorating 50 years of teaching at our school.

Donations of an altar rail of stone, to harmonize with other altar furnishings, and a reredos of stone for the rear of the altar, added considerably to the beauty of the interior of our church.

In April 1930 a call was extended to Pastor Holls by the Southern District asking that he serve as full time President and General Executive. The call was returned.

After careful study by a committee appointed for that purpose, final recommendations on the revision of the charter and amendments thereto were submitted in May, 1931. The name of the congregation, as adopted, became St. John Evangelical Lutheran Congregation of the Unaltered Augsburg Confession (of New Orleans, La.).

A few years later, in 1935, authorization to organize the Men's Club was granted. Originally planned for recreational purposes and to promote fellowship, this organization later became affiliated with the Lutheran Laymen's League and now additionally participates in the work of this nationwide group.

In April of the following year Teacher Schoenhardt became ill, and Pastor Holls took over his teaching duties. A few weeks later, after fifty-seven years of teaching at St. John, Teacher Schoenhardt tendered his resignation, which was regretfully accepted by the congregation. Seventh and eighth grades were graduated together, and thereafter eighth grade was discontinued.

During early 1937 the partition in the vestibule of the church was erected. The Ladies Aid recommended that the separate communion for men and women be discontinued so that families might partake of communion together, and it was so voted at the June meeting.

In 1939 Rev. Holls was re-elected President of the Southern District and, because of the time devoted to District business, it was agreed that an assistant should be supplied to help in congregational work. Within a few months, Candidate Fred Zucker reported as City missionary, and while in this capacity, assisted our pastor in serving the congregation.

Toward the end of the year the speaker system was installed in the church. The succeeding months were marked by renovations in an attempt to stop the leaks in the building, the repainting of the pews, and the installation of the altar floodlights. In 1941, the heating system was converted to oil.

The present hymnals were adopted early the following year, which also saw the inauguration of the two communion services each month, instead of one as heretofore. The flags of our church and our country were purchased and dedicated at the 11:00 o'clock service on July 29. Rev. Zucker, having since been ordained to the ministry, accepted a call to Miami Beach, Florida.

During the summer of 1943, Teacher Carl Wegener resigned and Mrs. Adella Borcharding was hired for the succeeding school year. Following the procedure in the public schools, eighth grade was restored in September 1944. Teacher Fred Jackisch, a graduate of River Forest College, reported to fill the vacancy temporarily occupied by Mrs. Borcharding.

This year was one of special rejoicing for the congregation, since it marked the payment in full of the church building debt. Note thereof was taken at the Thanksgiving service.

In 1945 the neon cross was donated. This year also a drive was begun to raise funds for the purchase of carillon bells. Early the following year the Chime Fund, which had begun in 1944, was merged with the bell fund, and at a special service in August of 1946 the carillon bells were dedicated to the glory of God and in recognition of the faithful service rendered by the young men and women of our congregation to their country during World War II.

When school began the following month, another step forward was taken in the opening of a Kindergarten. Mrs. E. Bode served as teacher. The first class numbered seventeen pupils, of which eleven were actually under kindergarten age. Shortly after the beginning of the school year, a Parent-Teacher Association was organized, and this group immediately began to lay plans for operating a kitchen to serve lunches to the school children.

Ever since the departure of Pastor Zucker, attempts had been made to arrange for an assistant to help Rev. Holls in his congregational work. Because the number of calls always exceeded the number of candidates, these efforts were of no avail. However, arrangements were made to have a vicar serve a year at our church, and in 1948 Mr. J. Arft arrived. After serving his year, he was succeeded by Mr. H.W. Kamman, who was here but a few weeks before being sent to another congregation more urgently in need.



The Church Interior

To solve the problem of ever increasing enrollment in our school, the congregation decided to add to the teaching staff for the school year beginning September 1948. Teacher Jackisch having meanwhile accepted a call to Ft. Wayne, Indiana, it was decided to call Teacher William Borcharding of Trinity congregation in Algiers to replace him, and his wife, Mrs. Adella Borcharding, to serve as the fourth teacher. Asphalt tile was installed over the concrete floor in the basement, and a section of this hall was used by Mrs. Borcharding as a classroom. Plans looking to the further expansion of the school were taken under consideration.

In further efforts to stop the leaks in the church, repairs were made to the roofing and the sheet metal work. This proved ineffective, and additional measures were deemed necessary. Various plans were considered, and it was finally decided to cut out the defective concrete joints and repoint them. This was done, and the spots on the interior repainted. The job proved most satisfactory. Termite proofing was also undertaken, and followed through to a successful culmination.

March 20, 1949, marked the beginning of the Nursery, operated on Sunday morning during the eleven o'clock service. Asphalt tile was placed over the flooring in the upstairs rooms also during this year. Mr. Paul Vojtko, our new vicar, arrived in July; and at the termination of his year in 1950, he was succeeded by Mr. Robert Dittmann.

In this, his fortieth year in the ministry, a degree of Doctor of Divinity was conferred upon Rev. Holls by Concordia Theological Seminary of St. Louis.

School expansion began in earnest during the summer of 1950. A fifth teacher, Miss Edna Zoch, was engaged for the 1950-51 term. The garage and store room in the school yard were removed, the yard graded and paved, and a shelter erected on the site of the old store room. Two classrooms were added to the school, and the old building painted inside and out. The total cost of the entire renovation program was just over \$24,500.00. The new school was dedicated at a special service held January 28, 1951.

Miss Lydia Wenzel, a graduate of Concordia Teachers' College at Seward, Nebraska, began her work at our school in 1951, succeeding Miss Zoch. Mr. Fred Mattil arrived to serve the congregation as vicar for one year, and was followed in 1952 by Mr. Carleton Kjergaard.

Indications again pointed to increased enrollment for the school year beginning September 1952. A room in the school building formerly operated by them was offered by Mt. Calvary for our use, and was gratefully accepted. The sixth, seventh, and eighth grades were transferred there temporarily, the arrangement being made for one year only, until something more satisfactory could be worked out. Because of the great number of children in the lower grades, a sixth teacher was engaged to teach the second grade. One of our own members with teaching experience, Mrs. George Muller, accepted this position.

During 1951 a Centennial Committee was appointed to plan and arrange a suitable program to observe the 100th anniversary of the organization of the congregation. The month of October, 1952, was designated for the centennial celebration, and appropriate services planned.

In reviewing the events of our first century of existence as a Lutheran church body, we cannot help but feel that God, in His loving kindness, has blessed us through the years with faithful pastors, capable teachers, and competent lay leaders.

We cannot help but observe how the great Lord of the church has led us through every difficulty which arose, strengthening us in adversity that we might progress in His work.

And certainly, trusting in His gracious promises and confident in the knowledge of their fulfillment, we cannot help but move forward, again and again, through the door of opportunity which He himself holds open for us.



Rev. M. W. H. Holls

PASTORS

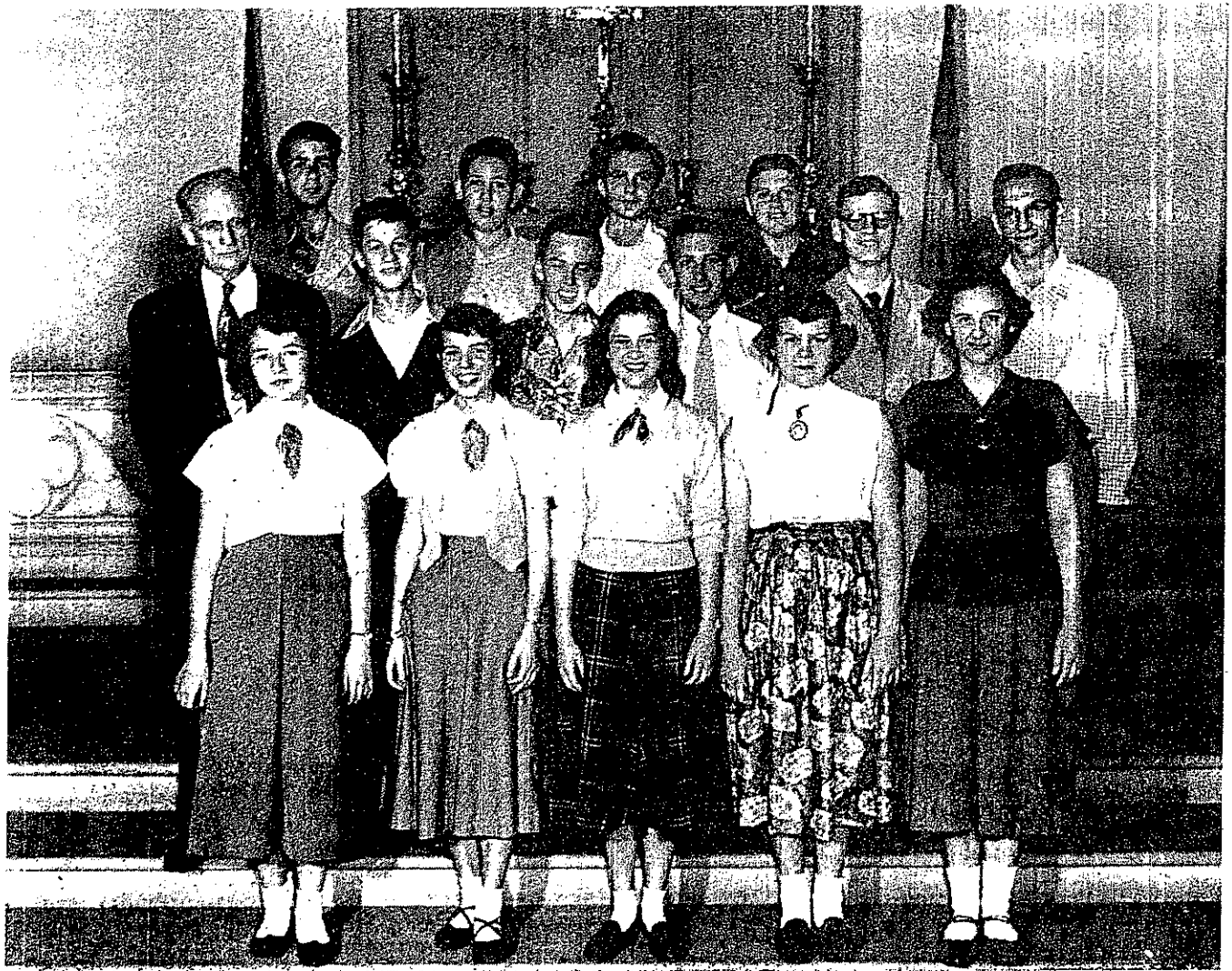
1852-1853—Brother H. Hollander	1879-1881—Pastor J. F. Doescher
1853—Pastor George Volk	1882-1888—Pastor T. Stiemke
1854—Pastor G. A. Schieferdecker	1888-1905—Pastor C. J. Cramer
1854-1867—Pastor Metz	1905-1910—Pastor M. J. Von der Au
1867-1873—Pastor Liebe	1910-1915—Pastor Albert Witt
1873-1876—Pastor C. A. Frank	1916-1921—Pastor A. O. Friedrich
1877-1878—Pastor Bauman	1922—Pastor M. W. H. Holls



School Teachers—1952: Mr. W. Borcharding, Mrs. G. Muller, Mr. E. H. Heintzen, Mrs. W. Borcharding, Mrs. E. Bode, Miss L. Wenzel.

TEACHERS

1857—Teacher Knoche	1920—Student Wallner
1857—Teachers De Busier, Rauh, Klein	1921-1922—Student E. Behrens
1860-1865—Pastor List	1922-1923—Student Wiederaenders
1865—Teachers J. D. Koehnke, M. Goetz	1923-1926—Teacher E. H. Eggersmann
1866—Teacher Lehnick	1926-1929—Miss Loula Coyner
1866-1878—Teacher Sauer	1929-1943—Teacher Carl Wegener
1868-1869—Teacher Pott	1943-1944—Mrs. Adella Borcharding
1869-1870—Teacher G. Berlin	1944-1948—Teacher Fred Jackisch
1870-1909—Teacher A. C. Reisig	1946- —Mrs. E. Bode
1870-1876—Teacher Koehnke	1948- —Teacher Wm. Borcharding
1879-1936—Teacher J. H. Schoenhardt	1948- —Mrs. Adella Borcharding
1908—Student R. W. Wismar	1950-1951—Miss Edna Zo-h
1909-1918—Teacher K. E. Dube	1951- —Miss Lydia Wenzel
1919—Teacher G. A. Jacobik	1952- —Mrs. G. E. Muller
1920- —Teacher E. H. Heintzen	



The Junior Walther League 1952

FACTS AND FIGURES

I remember the days of old; I meditate on all thy works; I muse on the work of thy hands.
(Psalm 143:5)

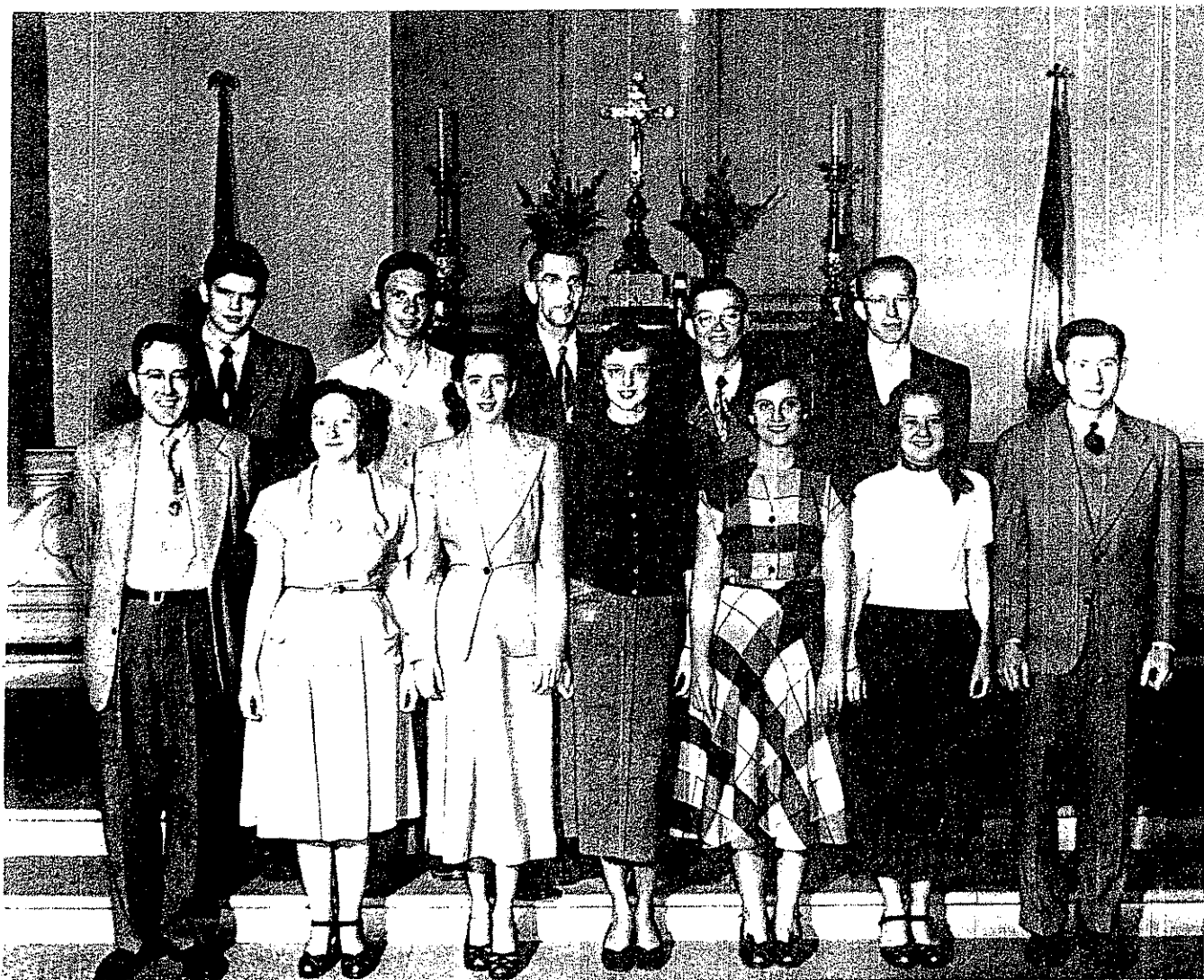
During one hundred years there have been 4,259 baptisms in our congregation. The first child to be baptized at St. John's was Louise Sherting, in March, 1853. Dr. C. F. W. Walther of St. Louis, Missouri, officiated.

The first catechumens were confirmed in 1855. This class consisted of two boys and four girls. Our total number of confirmations has now reached the sum of 2,093.

In 1854 our church saw its first marriage solemnized, that of Rudolph Geisler and Anna Toebelmann. Since that time, 1,337 ceremonies have been performed.

Pastor George Volk, the first Missouri Synod pastor to serve the congregation was also the first member to be carried to his last resting place. He died on September 5, 1853, at the age of 22. One thousand three hundred and seventy-one members have since followed him into eternity.

At present there are 906 communicant members on our records. We pray that the Lord may make all of them diligent and faithful members of His church.



The Senior Walther League—1952

THE WALTHER LEAGUES

Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way? By taking heed thereto according to thy word. (Psalm 119:9)

Holding the young people after confirmation and keeping them interested in its work has always been a prime objective of our church. When the International Walther League began its era of expansion, St. John's Young People's Society, as it was then called, joined this body and became "St. John Walther League."

When in 1922 separate Junior Leagues were organized, the society took the name "St. John's Senior Walther League". A junior organization was formed with the confirmation class of that year.

One of the foremost functions of the League is the promotion of Bible Study. With this in mind, the monthly business meetings include a topic discussion, affording opportunity for further searching of the scriptures. In addition, the League interests itself in the general work of the church. Since World War II, a German family has been "adopted", and CARE packages are sent regularly. Currently, the group is raising funds for the purchase of a bulletin board for the front of the church.

Social activities are also held monthly, many times jointly. During the warmer months, outdoor jaunts such as truck rides, picnics, and watermelon parties are the vogue. Plays and other entertainments are held from time to time, the proceeds being applied toward the various League projects.

At the recent elections, the Senior body voted Miss Margery Abadie for President; Mr. Philip Ziegler, Jr., Vice-President; Miss Joyce Randolph, Secretary; and Miss Lydia Wenzel, Treasurer. The Junior officers are Mr. Donald Dunlap, President; Mr. Robert Laudun, Vice-President; Miss Jackie Randall, Secretary; and Miss Pat Loflin, Treasurer.



The Afternoon Circle—Inset: Mrs. A. Durel, President



The Ladies' Aid Society—1952



The Ladies' Aid Society—1952

LADIES' AID SOCIETY

And all the women that were wise hearted did spin with their hands, and brought that which they had spun . . . a willing offering unto the Lord. (Exodus 35: 25 and 29)

St. John's Ladies' Aid Society was organized in December, 1867. Mrs. M. Halbritter was the first president, and held that office for twenty-five years. She was succeeded by Mrs. M. A. Schoenhardt, who was followed by Mrs. Seibel. Mrs. Victor Huber and Mrs. M. Holls served for many years following. In recent years the term of office was limited so that an officer may not serve more than two consecutive years.

When the 75th anniversary of our church was celebrated, Mrs. Ed Wegener was our president; and twenty-five years later, for the Centennial, another Mrs. Wegener is president. The present officers are Mrs. Carl Wegener, President; Mrs. William Hagstette, Vice-President; Mrs. Ed Rinderle, Treasurer; Mrs. Richard Oster, Recording Secretary, and Mrs. Fred J. Michaelis, Corresponding Secretary.

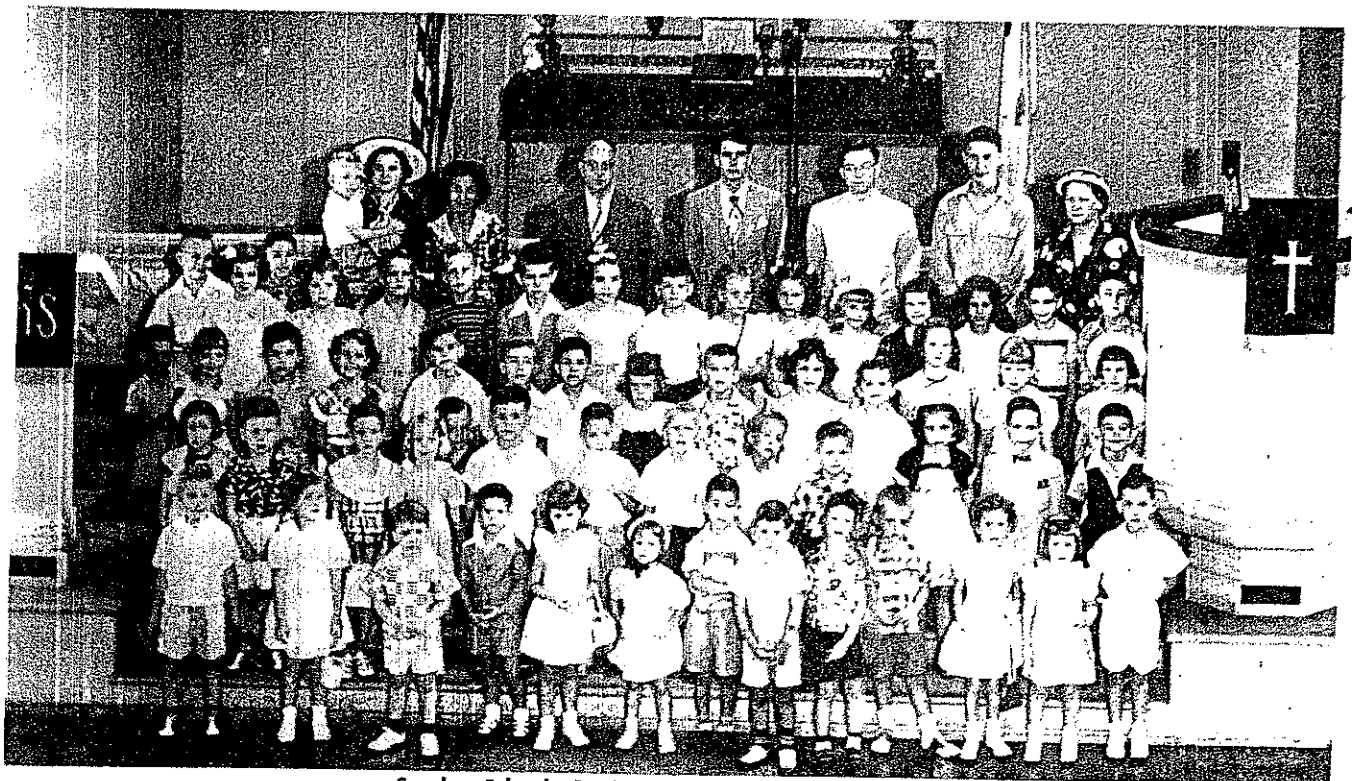
The Ladies' Aid has always contributed liberally for the support of our school, the Indigent Students Fund, and the Relief Fund. Recently we have added to our charities European Relief and the American Red Cross.

In twenty-five years we have grown from a membership of 83 to 117. To accommodate those ladies who are unable to attend the night meetings, an afternoon circle was organized during the past year, with a membership of thirteen.

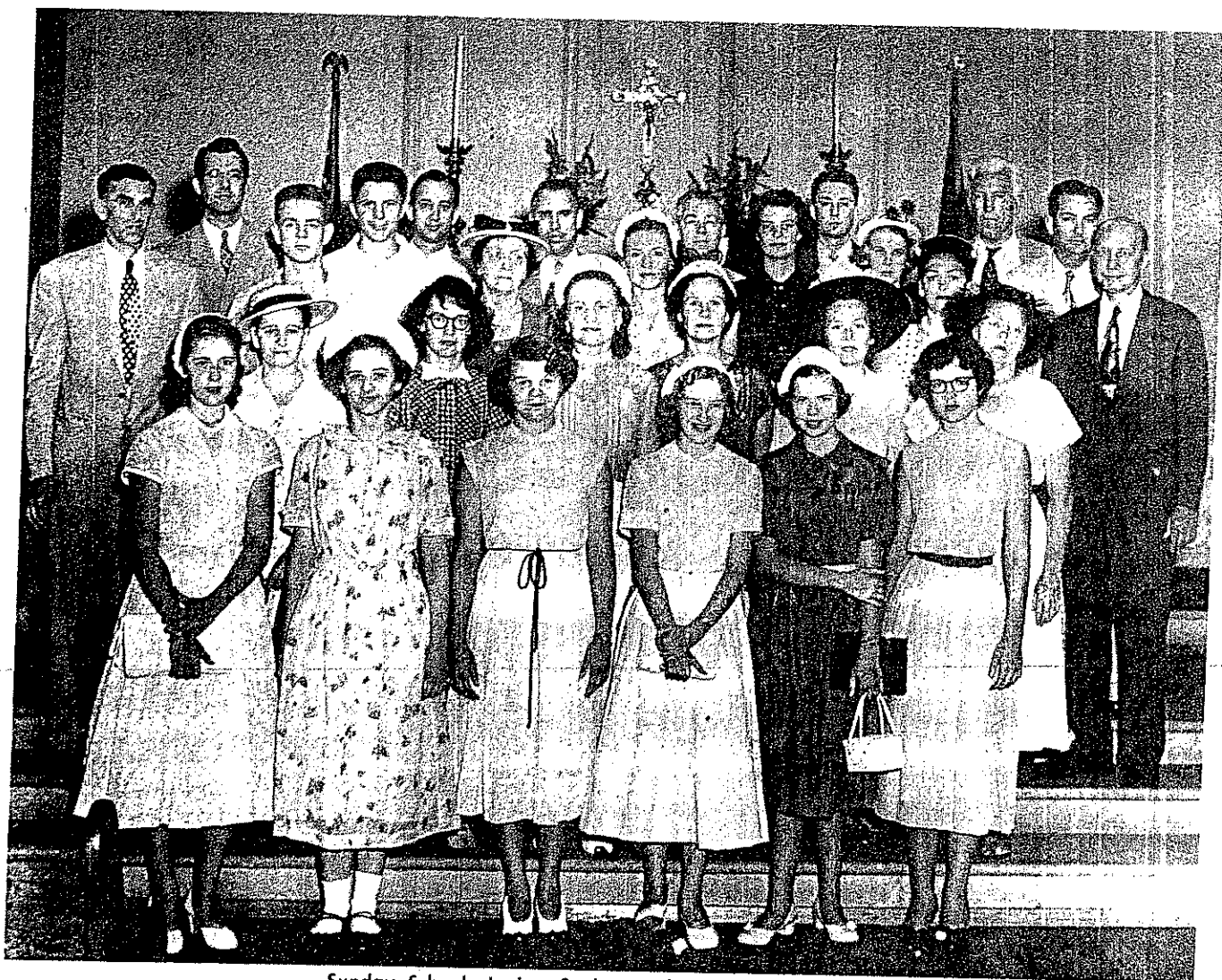
Our organization has prospered for eighty-five years, and we ask the Lord's blessing that we may continue in His work.



Sunday School: Intermediate, Junior, & Senior Departments



Sunday School: Beginners & Primary Departments



Sunday School: Junior, Senior, and Adult Bible Classes

THE SUNDAY SCHOOL

And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart: and thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children. (Deut. 6:6-7)

During Pastor Cramer's time, many attempts were made to introduce an English Sunday School; but since the majority of the older members were in favor of the "Christenlehre", all efforts failed. However, during the pastorate of the Rev. M. J. Von der Au, the matter again came up for discussion, and on the first Sunday of November, 1907, the Sunday School was begun.

With the establishing of the mission on Cortez Street, a branch Sunday School was started. After the sale of the Cortez Street property, both branches of the Sunday School met in the chapel at Pierce and Canal Streets.

Enrollment now is 170, with an average attendance of 110 each Sunday.

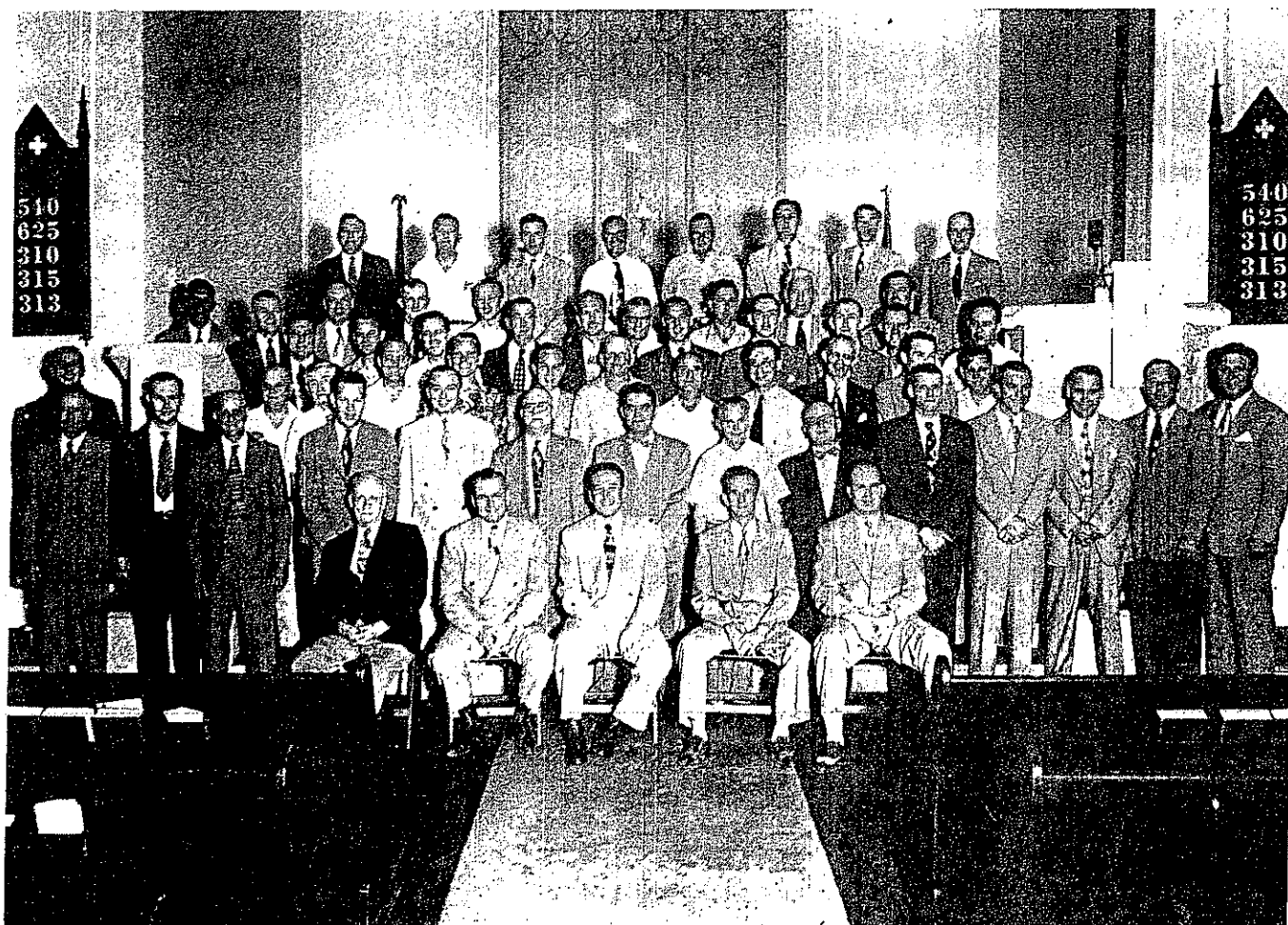
The Sunday School is divided into three departments: Beginners and Primary; Junior, Intermediate, and Senior; Junior, Senior and Adult Bible Classes.

On Sunday, October 7, 1951, a Sunday morning Adult Bible Class was started. This class is part of the Sunday School, and the study of the Bible is under the supervision of Dr. Holls.

There are eighteen teachers serving the Sunday School. They meet on Thursday evenings to prepare themselves for Sunday's lessons. This class is under the direction of Dr. Holls.

The Sunday School is self-supporting and helps the congregation financially by regular contributions to the mission budget and other special donations.

The present officers are Mr. H. H. Ehrhardt, Superintendent; Mr. Edwin Weber, Assistant Superintendent; and Mr. Chester Rinderle, Treasurer.



The Men's Club—1952

THE LUTHERAN LAYMEN'S LEAGUE

Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity! (Psalm 133:1)

In 1935 a small group of the men asked and received permission of the congregation to organize the Men's Club. This body met once a month for an evening of sociability and fellowship.

Before very long it became evident that social gatherings alone were not enough to hold the group together, and in 1944 the body became affiliated with the Lutheran Laymen's League. As a part of this nationwide organization, our local chapter has now become actively interested in such projects as the Lutheran Hour, Valparaiso University, and the Lutheran Hospital at Vicksburg. In recent years, a Seminar program has been carried out, and the showing of moving pictures produced under the auspices of the national body has been promoted.

On the lighter side, teams made up of members of this group participate in bowling and softball leagues. An annual minstrel show has been sponsored for the past several years, the proceeds going for such purposes as enumerated above, and to help the congregation in whatever undertaking may be contemplated at the time. Climaxing each year's activity, a Christmas party is held, to which the wives and friends of the members are invited.

The present officers of the Men's Club are Mr. Rene Duffourc, President; Mr. A. W. Koschel, Vice-President; Mr. Chester Rinderle, Secretary; and Mr. Donald Oster, Treasurer.

Under a well integrated program planned and put into operation by the Membership and Entertainment Committee, the group has grown to a membership of 91. We pray that they may grow in faith and in their zeal for the work of the Lord by continuing to carry out the League's motto—"To Aid Synod in Word and Deed."



The Lutheran Women's Missionary League—1952

LUTHERAN WOMEN'S MISSIONARY LEAGUE

A woman that feareth the Lord, she shall be praised. (Proverbs 31:30)

St. John's Lutheran Women's Missionary League was organized on April 28, 1944, with an initial enrollment of twenty-eight ladies. The first officers were Mrs. C. Wegener, President; Mrs. M. W. H. Holls, Vice-President; Mrs. E. Schoenhardt, Secretary-Treasurer, and Miss E. Breisacher, Corresponding Secretary.

The objectives of the L. W. M. L. are to develop and maintain a greater mission consciousness among Lutheran women. Contributions are gathered through free will mite box offerings for the support of mission projects. Of these mite box contributions, seventy-five per cent is used exclusively for the Louisiana District project and the remaining twenty-five per cent is sent to the General Body.

The Louisiana District's latest completed project was the collection of \$3,000.00 to cancel the debt on the L. S. U. Center. St. John's League is helping needy Lutherans in Germany by sending "CARE" packages and used clothing, which are donated by members of the congregation.

Quarterly meetings are held on the third Friday of February, May, August and November. Officers for the past year were Mrs. Philip Ziegler, President; Mrs. G. Muller, Vice-President; Miss Ruth Schramm, Secretary-Treasurer; and Miss Miriam Ehrhardt, Corresponding Secretary. At the May meeting, officers for the current year were elected, the results being as follows: Mrs. W. Henneberg, President; Miss Ruth Schramm, Vice-President; Miss Anna Huber, Secretary-Treasurer; and Mrs. Carroll Daigle, Corresponding Secretary.

The present enrollment is sixty-eight members. May the Lord continue to bless the work of this active group.



Kindergarten Graduates—1952

PARENT — TEACHER CLUB

And ye, fathers, provoke not your children to wrath, but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord. (Ephesians 6:4)

The Parent-Teacher Club of St. John Lutheran School held its organizational meeting in the school hall on the night of September 30, 1947, at the invitation of the Board of Christian Education. This enthusiastic group consisted of thirty-five parents, three teachers (Mr. E. H. Heintzen, Mr. Fred Jackisch and Mrs. E. Bode), two members of the Board of Christian Education (Mr. Carl Wegener and Dr. Richard Oster), and Pastor Holls. The officers elected to serve the first year were Mrs. D. Hearne, President; Mr. W. Hagstette, Vice-President, Mrs. G. Muller, Secretary; and Mrs. V. Kissinger, Treasurer.

At the first meeting, provision was made for the modest beginning of a lunch program to be carried out by volunteers. The club now follows the policy of engaging the services of a Kitchen Manager, who is assisted by volunteer mothers. During the five years of its existence, the club has equipped the kitchen with all necessary modern appliances.

A regular part of each monthly meeting is devoted to an educational topic. Activities include the provision of play equipment for the children and the securing of appropriate magazine subscriptions for all classrooms. On the social side, the club holds an annual Christmas party, an Easter hunt, and a June luncheon for the eighth grade graduates and the faculty.

The club raises most of its fund through yearly dues, semi-annual book reviews, and the sale of refreshments at the school closing exercises. Among items recently purchased for the school are a window fan for the Kindergarten, a spirit duplicator, metal awnings for the Kitchen, a record player, and other smaller articles.

For the session ending in June, there were 124 members. The officers were Mrs. G. Muller, President; Mrs. S. Berlin, Vice-President; Mrs. M. Rosenthal, Secretary; and Mrs. L. Koenig, Treasurer.

May this group continue to foster greater understanding and closer co-operation between the home and the school for the temporal and eternal welfare of Jesus' "little ones."

CENTENNIAL SCHEDULE

Sunday, October 5 — 10:30 a. m.

OPENING SERVICE

Dr. J. W. Behnken, President
The Lutheran Church — Missouri Synod

Monday, October 6 — 8:00 p. m.

PAGEANT

The History of St. John's Congregation

Wednesday, October 8 — 8:00 p. m.

SERVICE DEDICATED TO THE CHILDREN

Rev. John Nau, Columbia, South Carolina

Sunday, October 12 — 8:00 and 11:00 a. m.

REGULAR SERVICES

Rev. E. W. Kuss, New Orleans, Louisiana

Monday, October 13 — 8:00 p. m.

SOCIAL GATHERING

Wednesday, October 15 — 8:00 p. m.

SERVICE DEDICATED TO THE LADIES

Rev. Herbert Wiederaenders, Smithville, Texas

Sunday, October 19 — 8:00 and 11:00 a. m.

REGULAR SERVICES

Rev. Miles S. Gebauer, New Orleans, Louisiana

Wednesday, October 22 — 8:00 p. m.

SERVICE DEDICATED TO THE YOUNG PEOPLE

Rev. Harold Reinhardt, Monroe, Louisiana

Wednesday, October 29 — 8:00 p. m.

SERVICE DEDICATED TO THE MEN

Rev. Edgar Behrens, Arlington Heights, Illinois

Sunday, November 2 — 8:00 and 11:00 a.m.

REGULAR SERVICES

CLOSING THE CELEBRATION YEAR

Dr. M. W. H. Holls