

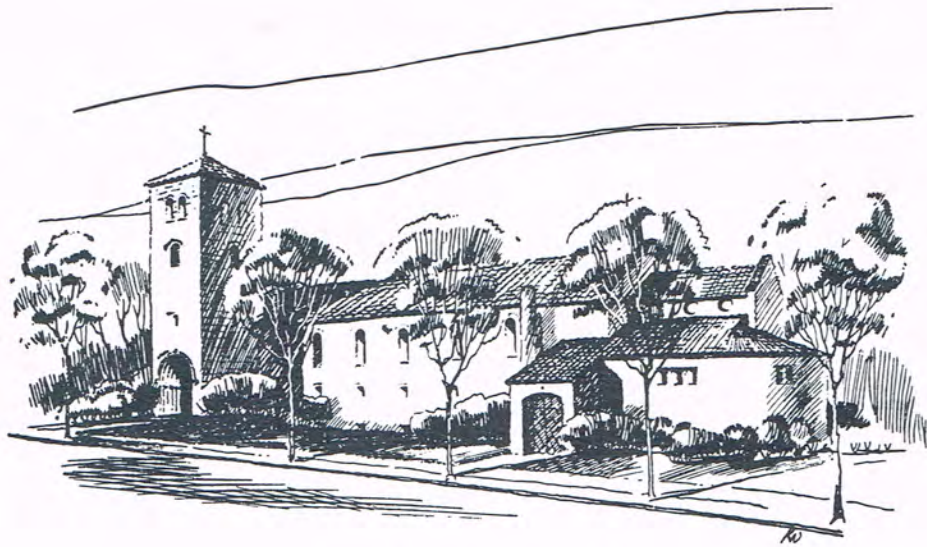
1867 • 1967

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH



Our Centennial Vision of Gratitude

Our cover design symbolizes the motto "Our Centennial Vision of Gratitude". The folded hands within the triangle represents Trinity congregation expressing gratitude for 100 years of prayer blessings, symbolized by the cross. The living plant, rooted in the cross, symbolizes that Trinity is a living organism with a future vision. The artistic design was created by Robert Gahuck.



TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH
Rochester, Minnesota

*In thankfulness to God for one hundred years of grace,
this centennial booklet is dedicated:*

*To the glory and honor of the God of our salvation,
Father, Son and Holy Ghost,
in appreciation of His undeserved loving kindness
and abiding presence in Word and Sacrament
through one hundred years;
To the inspiring memory of those men of faith,
who in the fear and love of God established this church
for the ministry of reconciliation
through Christ, our Savior;*

*To the faithful pastors and teachers
who have had the oversight of the sheep and lambs
of the Good Shepherd in this place;
And to the members who, according to our Savior's command,
have scattered the precious seed of God's word
in and from this place through several generations.*

TO GOD ALONE BE GLORY



Rev. Henry E. Gaertner

The celebration of our Centennial Year, the observance of the 450th Anniversary of the Reformation with our fellow Lutherans, and participation in the Ebenezer Program of our synod, has made 1967 a year of expressing special gratitude to our God.

When God permits a Christian congregation for 100 years to grow and prosper, to erect beautiful facilities, to enjoy the spiritual blessings of His Word and Sacraments, and to share in bringing the gospel of salvation to mankind; this is a mark of divine favor and due to His grace alone. Therefore, we say with the psalmist: "Not unto us, O Lord, not unto us, but unto thy name give glory, for thy mercy and for thy truth's sake." Ps. 115, 1.

May "Our Centennial Vision of Gratitude" inspire our congregation to do great things in the faith that God has always helped us in the past as we begin a new century of grace at Trinity Lutheran Church.

Henry E. Gaertner

Rev. Walter W. Eifert



Anniversaries afford opportunity for rejoicing and serious reflection. The Centennial of Trinity Lutheran Congregation is no exception. As we pause at this important milestone in the history of the congregation, we may experience a variety of emotions. However, the feeling of humility and gratitude must predominate. With a deep consciousness of our own unworthiness we must acknowledge repeated evidences of weakness of faith, of neglected opportunities, of reluctance and failure to follow the Lord's directions.

And then, when we consider how, in spite of our frailties and failures, the gracious Lord has preserved to us His regenerating and sanctifying Word and Sacraments, how He has continued to use us weak vessels to help build His Kingdom here and elsewhere, how He has singularly blessed our humble efforts, then our hearts must be filled with joyous praise and thanksgiving for His wonderful benefits.

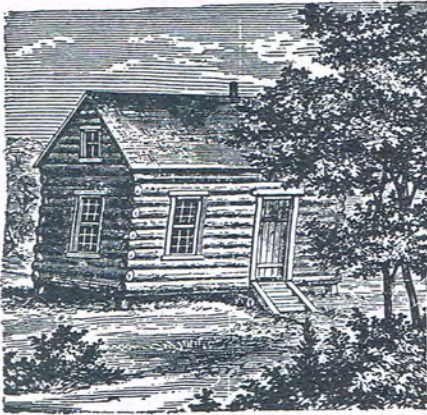
As we look forward, we do so with the fervent prayer that the Lord would continue to bless and keep us, make His face shine upon us and be gracious unto us, and lift up His countenance upon us and grant us peace.

Walter W. Eifert

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The Centennial Booklet Committee, having spent months researching and collecting the materials for this book, wishes to acknowledge the assistance and generosity of the individuals who contributed to the project. Because many recorded facts often contained discrepancies in dates, figures and names, it was difficult to reconcile these details and arrive at the absolute facts. In other cases data may have been omitted simply because the Committee was not aware of it. Also it was decided that long lists of names and committees would not enhance the readability of the book, and only where necessary were they included.

What is represented here is Trinity's history, in what we believe is an interesting narrative form. For human oversights and errors we would ask your indulgence.



The First Log Cabin Seminary

Blumer, and Brandt, organized in the summer of 1860, the Evangelical Lutheran Minnesota Synod which constituted the first synodical body of German Lutherans in the state. The work of the synodical group expanded to other areas of Minnesota between the years 1860 to 1866, during the great Civil War.

1866 was the year in which five businessmen from Wisconsin, Friedrich Siekert, Theodore Adler, Carl and August Brendemuehl and Karl Oesterreich settled in the thriving little Rochester community. A year later they became the five founding fathers who sought to give new life to a struggling Missouri Synod congregation, which they named Trinity Lutheran Church.

Rochester numbered about 3,000 and the two Lutheran bodies . . . German and Norwegian . . . attempting to organize their congregations here were pitifully few in number, probably comprising a combined total of less than 75 souls. The faith and loyalty of those pioneer Lutherans were severely tested; yet, they remained steadfast in spite of a lack of pastors to serve their flocks, primitive facilities for worship, and the zealous promotion of sectarian churches already well-established in the town.

Sturdy Christians they were, who organized Trinity in 1867. Worship, sacraments and formal religious instruction for the young were provided only through intermittent, though faithful, services of pastors from area congregations: Pastors John Herzer and Johl from Claremont; Pastors Theodore Krumsig and G. P. A. Schaaf of Lewiston; and Pastor Sippel of Potsdam. In the absence of a minister, one of the members would read a sermon to the assembled congregation.

Numerically small and financially unable to support even its own pastor during the first eight years of its existence, the congregation then could hardly have envisioned that its church would, over the years, baptize more than 4,400 souls and pledge more than 3,000 confirmands to communicant membership.

In the year 1849, soon after the Minnesota Territory had been formed, a steady stream of settlers, of all nationalities, came to Minnesota, including many of German descent. It was not until 1855, after the territory had become a state, that three Lutheran ministers first set foot on Minnesota soil. They were Pastors William Thompson, William Weir, and Matthew Mallinson who arrived in Cannon Falls, and from there spread their Gospel mission to various communities of Southern Minnesota.

These three men, together with Pastors Heyer,



Rochester, Minnesota—1868

Pastor Krumsig recorded the first official pastoral acts performed for our founders' families: a daughter of the Adlers was baptized in March 1868; the Oesterreich daughter was confirmed the third Sunday in Advent, 1868; and 18 year old Wilhelmine Brendemuehl received a Christian burial in 1869.



Mr. and Mrs. Theodore Adler

The very character of Trinity congregation, shaped and moulded by the ethnic and religious traditions and close family relationships of its earliest members, still retains a measure of that century-old spirit. Sons and daughters married within the faith and thus a substantial lineage has lengthened, broadened and woven itself strongly into the fabric of the congregation's present-day church life.

An example is the marriage of Olga Adler and Ernst Maass, Sr., in the late 1880's. The blessings of this union spans six generations of continuous membership since the inception of Trinity Lutheran Church. Other families, too, can be traced from our earliest records, and their proud heritage is further distinguished by loyal service and dedication to our church and school institutions.

It has been noted by our historians that in those early winters the roof of our first "modest" church leaked, and on more than one occasion the pastors stood on patches of ice as services were conducted in the cold, drafty building. The parishioners considered themselves fortunate, nevertheless; the Norwegian Lutherans were unable to locate or build suitable facilities. They petitioned for and were granted use of our church on Sunday afternoons, and in return, they furnished the pulpit, altar and other church furnishings.

By 1875, Trinity had grown sufficiently to warrant calling a resident pastor who would devote his entire time to the spiritual care of its people. Pastor Von Schenk was ordained and installed, serving as pastor and Christian Day School teacher for three years.

Pastors G. P. A. Schaaf, H. G. Schmidt, and Karl Schmidt served in close succession during periods which varied from six to fifteen months. Such frequent changes might have discouraged the congregation; still, the number of worshippers and day school enrollment increased to such an extent that in 1882, Trinity was compelled to enlarge its house of worship.

The original 24 X 30 foot structure built in 1869, now was enlarged, and a steeple constructed . . . all at a cost of \$300.00.



A scene after the cyclone of August 21, 1883.

In 1883, the devastating cyclone which was such a critical factor in Rochester's ultimate development as a medical center, also wrought havoc upon the newly renovated church, located as it was on the north edge of town. No lives were lost from the congregation, but some members were injured and many suffered property damage, especially those who lived in northwest Rochester where the cyclone struck hardest.

Pastor Schmidt held a service after the catastrophe in a room of the public school, comforting his stricken parishioners with the words from Hosea 6, 1: "Come, and let us return to the Lord, for He hath torn, and He will heal us; He hath smitten, and He will bind us up."

A plea for help was published in "der Lutheraner," synod's publication, and one of the first donations received was from Dr. C. F. W. Walther. Gifts of food and clothing were received from other congregations and their monetary contributions provided the finan-



Among the ruins of a home near Cascade Park. Twenty homes destroyed—8 persons killed.

cial assistance needed for repairs on the church building.

The re-dedication, as described in the early records, was an occasion of heartfelt joy and gratitude. The congregation literally "cried out" their hymns of praise and thanksgiving. It is also noted that the first service to be preached in the English language was conducted at the Sunday evening re-dedication services in that year of 1883.

The ladies of Trinity soon recognized the areas of need where they could contribute a measure of assistance, and, organizing themselves as the German Ladies Aid in 1878, they developed a society vital to the promotion of church welfare. Considered by many as the oldest group established within the congregation, its causes have been the support of charitable institutions, furthering the cause of missions, support of the Lutheran Hour, and the collection and making of clothes for needy students.

• • •

Pastor C. W. Nickels, installed at Trinity in 1884, provided the able, consecrated leadership which for the next 28 years was to see Trinity grow and become one of the largest congregations in Minnesota.

Within ten years of his installation, the erection of a new church edifice was planned at a site on Center Street and Third Avenue Southwest, presently occupied by the Mayo Medical Museum and Damon Parkade.

The cornerstone of the new building was laid in July 1894,* and the new eight thousand dollar church, built to accommodate 500 worshippers, was dedicated the first Sunday in Advent, 1894. At last, the members were able to gather in a beautiful, spacious house of worship.

*Contents of cornerstone box revealed on page 19.



Pastor C. W. Nickels and Family
(12 children blessed this marriage)



Around 1900

"The Lord hath done great things for us whereof we are glad."



1942

A pipe organ installed in 1905 was pumped by hand and the congregation paid 50¢ a Sunday for this service, until the Walther League Society furnished an electric organ blower. Just when the blower was installed is not made clear, but records show that electric wiring and fixtures were installed in the church in 1920, and an organ concert was performed in 1921. A logical assumption would be that certain stalwart individuals pumped the organ for more than fifteen years.



Confirmation Class, Palm Sunday, 1909. Note evergreens hung in the church and the crepe paper "Arch of Honor" hung over center aisle and the gas lantern chandelier.

In the year 1909, the congregation, mindful of the diligent labors of Pastor Nickels in their midst, celebrated the 25th Anniversary of his ministry in Rochester.

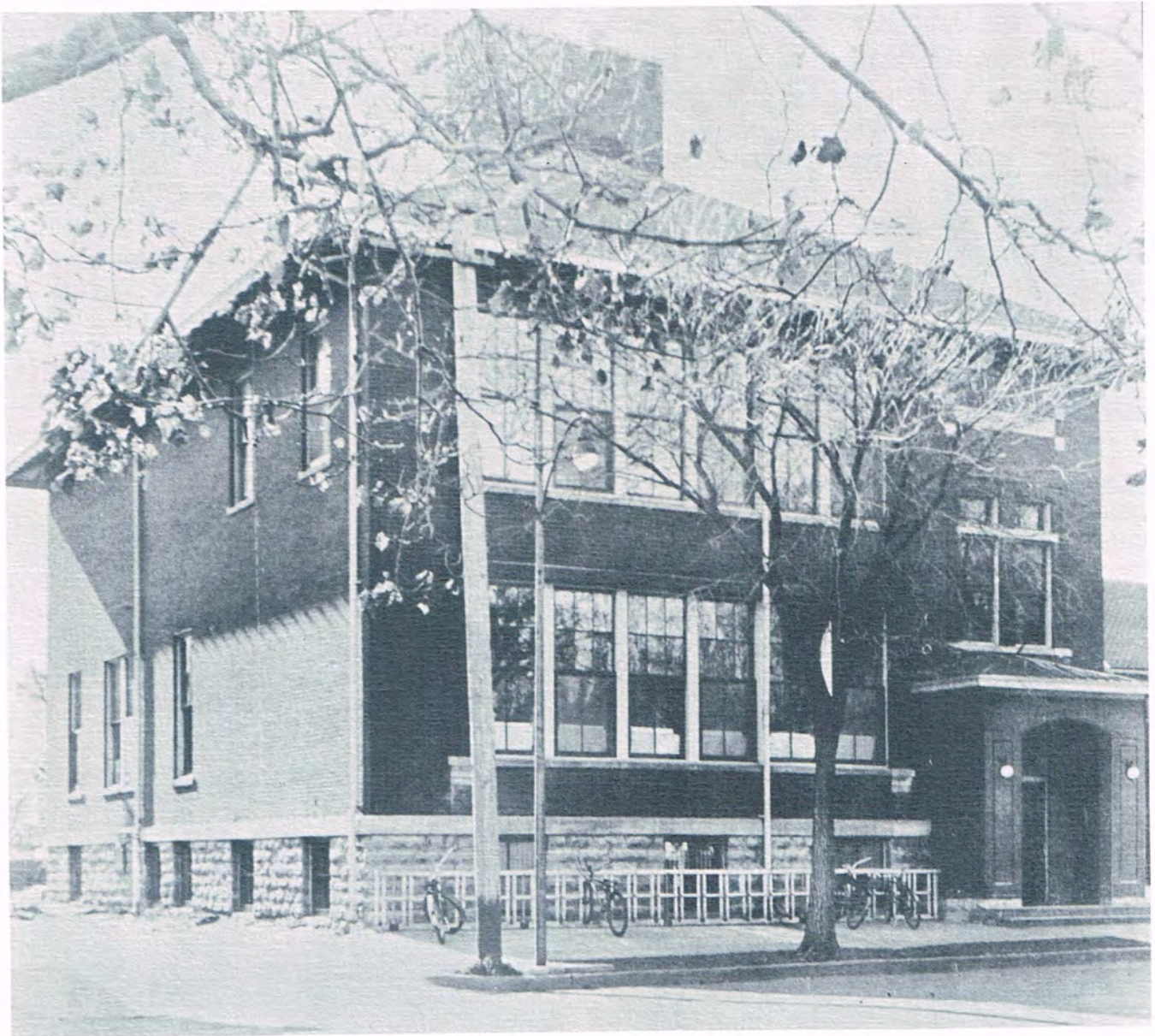
Regretably, before his years of faithful service were ended in 1911, dark periods of internal conflict caused division and strife within the congregation. Several investigations were conducted by synod officials before peace and order were again restored.



Reverend Martin Weinhold

It was in the year 1911, that the Reverend Martin Weinhold of Lester Prairie was installed as pastor of an ever-growing parish. By the grace of God he served Trinity until 1941 as full-time pastor, and from 1941 to 1953 as associate pastor.

From the standpoint of history, Pastor Weinhold personally witnessed almost half the events which transpired here in this century. His 42-year pastorate is a record of service rarely equaled in one congregation. We rejoice that his work was visibly blessed by the Lord of the Church Who permitted him to see the fruits of his labors. He died in Christ, June 17, 1956.



A milestone in the history of Trinity Lutheran School was the construction of a modern, two-story brick building at the corner of Second Street and Second Avenue Northwest, at a cost of \$13,000. Dedicated in 1913, the school also served as a meeting place for most of Trinity congregation's social and business functions for some 38 years.

Young people of the church contributed funds they had personally raised in support of

the school building program. Their gift of \$2,000 represents a considerable sum by current monetary standards; in 1913 a donation of such size was a remarkable achievement.

With the opening of the new school, the dwelling beside it used as a parsonage by Rev. Weinhold and his family was given over to use as a teacherage. The new two-story parsonage built adjacent to the church on Center Street was occupied by the Weinholds in 1913.

An important year was 1917, marking the Golden Anniversary of Trinity, and the Quadri-Centennial of the Reformation. Nearly 1500 persons attended the three jubilee services conducted July 15. Reverend John Herzer, Trinity's first pastor, was among the guest speakers. Statistically the congregation numbered 890 souls, 640 communicants, and 150 voters.

Forty-three young men from Trinity heeded their country's call in World War I, among them Carl Sonnenberg, who lost his life in the Argonne offensive, October 13, 1918.

The war pointed up dramatically the need for more communication in the language of our country, particularly in the areas of

Christian Day School and catechetical instruction. On July 7, 1918, it was resolved to give religious instruction in English, and "children were to be confirmed in German or English according to the wishes of their parents." Thus, in the post-war era, Trinity's first class of 10 members was confirmed in the English language, April 10, 1921. The transition also made possible the organization of an English Sunday School in 1923 which opened with an enrollment of 170 children. A 40-member adult Bible Class was begun the same year. Confirmation instructions continued to be given in both tongues until 1927, from which time both children and adults have been confirmed exclusively in English.



Men's Club 1942

The Men's Club was established in 1919, although a record book dating back to the year 1904 suggests that a group somewhat resembling a men's club was organized earlier. Certain men have argued that no self-respecting men's club would resolve "to have an entertainment with the girls of the church" as was noted in the 1904 minutes. More than likely this group was a forerunner of the young people's society. It disbanded in 1905.

There was a large turnout of men at the first meeting held in 1919, but when it was learned that the club had definite objectives of service in mind, rather than just a good

time, most potential members did not return for a second meeting.

At first the group sought to function as a citizen's group to deal with post-war problems. Later it took interest in the affairs of the Christian Day School, furnishing athletic and classroom equipment. In 1939, the club affiliated with the Lutheran Layman's League and concerned itself with the support of the Lutheran Hour. The organization has enjoyed many forms of recreational programs, and a big annual work-project has been the swiss steak dinner held each spring. Club funds support a scholarship program for student pastors and teachers.



Julius J. Reiter

While studying an old photograph of the Men's Club, a former mayor of Rochester was identified. It further developed that two members of Trinity have served as mayors! The first was Julius Reiter, a very colorful and forceful man who carried a cane, and who was said to have used it on occasion to keep order during heated council debates. He kept things humming at City Hall in four different terms: 1907-1909; 1917-1919; 1923-1925; and 1931-1935, which gives some indication of his tenacity. His ten years in office had made him the undisputed record holder until the present mayor, Alex Smekta, was elected to his most recent term. It appears to be only a matter of time until Mr. Reiter's longevity record is surpassed.

Fred Haase, the second mayor elected from our membership, served one term in office, from 1928 to 1929.



Fred Haase

From time to time it has been noted here that Trinity's Walther League made significant contributions to church projects, and the zeal of these young people was extraordinary. The list of their accomplishments beginning from the year 1904 crowds several pages of our church annals.

Occasionally, however, even the best-planned project mis-fired and one disastrous occasion lends a bit of humor to the otherwise overwhelming statistics. A rally had been planned which included a large number of out-of-town participants. The prospective guests indicated they would be interested in eating

the noon and evening meals with our local Leaguers, therefore, the accommodating hosts arranged for two catered meals, ordering quantities of watermelon for dessert.

The appointed day came, and the guests arrived, but somehow they neglected to keep both engagements. Our dismayed young people were deeply obligated to the owner of a local restaurant and the quantities of melon which had been cut and could not be returned were eaten "in rather big chunks," as one member recalls it. After many months of hard work and special projects (including home-grown plays) the debt was repaid.



The Walther League of the 1920's, at work and play. Photo at left shows the young people in their refreshment stand at the annual school picnic held in Stoppel's Grove. (Note the striped stockings, girls!) Photo at right shows maidens and young blades on a picnic outing in 1924: Front row, from left...Minna Schellin Rutz, Thelma Reiter Degel, Mildred Bethke Beilke, Amanda Jenssen Sperling, Lila Reiter Jewell, Alma Jenssen Schoen, Lydia Heyn Maass. Second row...Carl Podolske, Elsa Mundt Banholzer, Lena Podolske, Malvina Mau, Violet Vihstadt, Dora Schellin, Anna Kionka Kath. Back row...Oscar Maass, Art Stoltenberg, William Radke, Ella Wenning, William Podolske, Raleigh Zuehlke, William F. Sperling, Carl Theel, Theodore Podolske, Walter Wiechmann, Fred Podolske and Lorenz Wenning.

Another anecdote concerns the first graduation program held in our school the spring of 1925. Although there were only three members in the class, a fine closing program was planned. All the elements of a wild spring storm were unleashed that night and the rains poured down in a cloudburst.

The guest speaker, a busy man who relied upon a prepared script rather than a memorized speech, was somewhat bewildered when the lights went out...and on...then out again. Crashes of thunder punctuated his message, but the speaker resolutely determined to finish his speech, with...or without...the script.

Afterward, children who attended the ceremony were driven home in Mr. Fred Maass' seven-passenger Nash. Pastor Weinhold, unable to negotiate the three-block walk to the parsonage because of the torrent on Center Street, remained at the teacher's residence.



Edwin E. Zielske

for any but the most dedicated man. For thirty-three years, Mr. Zielske carried out his responsibilities with unusual vigor and good cheer.

We are indebted to him for the exhaustive research detailed so beautifully in the published account of our 75 years of church history released at the time of Trinity's Diamond Jubilee celebration.

Trinity's pastors had ministered to those whose physical ills brought them to Rochester for treatment or hospitalization. This ministry continued until the needs of our congregation would not allow one man to carry the burden of responsibility for both efforts. Therefore, in 1925, the District Mission Board called and inducted our first chaplain, Rev. G. Drews, who brought spiritual care and comfort to fellow Lutherans from all parts of the world. He was called to his eternal rest in 1933. Chaplains who have served to the present day include Pastors Earl O. Schwerman, H. F. Brauer, William Petzke and Paul H. Panning.



1925 Flood Scene at Mayo Park

By dawn's early light one saw the results of the storm. Much of Rochester was flooded. The animals in the small zoo at Mayo Park swam about in their cages, some perched in tree tops, and deer were released from their enclosures to spare them a watery grave.

Christian Day School commencement exercises have been an annual event since 1925, but none so dramatic as the first.

Nor has any new school principal received such a precipitous initiation!

• • •

The man who was to become one of Trinity's most faithful servants, Edwin E. Zielske, was installed as principal of the school in the year of that memorable storm.

He was called from Detroit to serve as administrator, instructor, church organist, choir director and secretary to the vestry and congregation. This, together with extensive committee assignments would have constituted a heavy work load

1927 was eventful in many ways.

It was during Holy Week of that year when Noon-day Lenten Services were first conducted at a downtown theater. The services continue to be an annual event and enjoy a good measure of success.

The congregation celebrated Pastor and Mrs. Weinhold's Silver Wedding Anniversary in May of 1927.

During the early morning hours of September 23, a fire of undetermined origin threatened the church but early detection prevented total destruction. Fire, smoke and water damage was covered by insurance and repairs were effected in time for Reformation services in October.

The state of the congregation's treasury late in 1927 necessitated some ambitious campaigning for funds to liquidate a \$6,000 deficit. Parishioners responded generously with pledges exceeding \$8,000. The surplus, after debt liquidation, ultimately formed the base for a new Church Building Fund.

The German Ladies Aid observed their 50th Anniversary in 1928, a milestone in our history reminding the congregation that it was coming of age.

A certain austerity was imposed upon most areas of activity in American life, secular and religious, during the years of the depression. Since this was true also at Trinity, the decade of the 1930's saw a much smaller degree of financial progress achieved in our church programs.

The historic celebrations continued undiminished, however poor the monetary situation! Twenty-five neighboring congregations joined Trinity in a mass observance to commemorate the Quadri-Centennial of Luther's Small Catechism on July 28, 1929. Morning services were held in the Armory, and during afternoon services at Mayo Park, the Rochester Park Band and the Mayo Clinic Carillon joined the celebrants by making special music for the occasion.

A year later the Luther and Walther Leagues jointly presented a pageant at the Armory to commemorate the Augsburg Confession.

Jubilee services to mark the "Centennial of the Saxon Immigration" were sponsored by the Southeast Conference of the Minnesota District-Missouri Synod churches in September 1939.

Without a doubt the most successful Lutheran event ever to be held in Rochester was the Lutheran Hour Rally in September 1940, when Synodical Conference members from throughout southeastern Minnesota came in buses, car caravans or whatever means of transportation was available, to jam Mayo Arena to the very rafters. Standees in the overflow crowd stayed throughout the service which featured Lutheran Hour speaker Dr. Walter A. Maier. The offering was \$1,711.22.

Only in very recent years has such a throng been counted again at any single event held in Rochester. It was a day to remember!



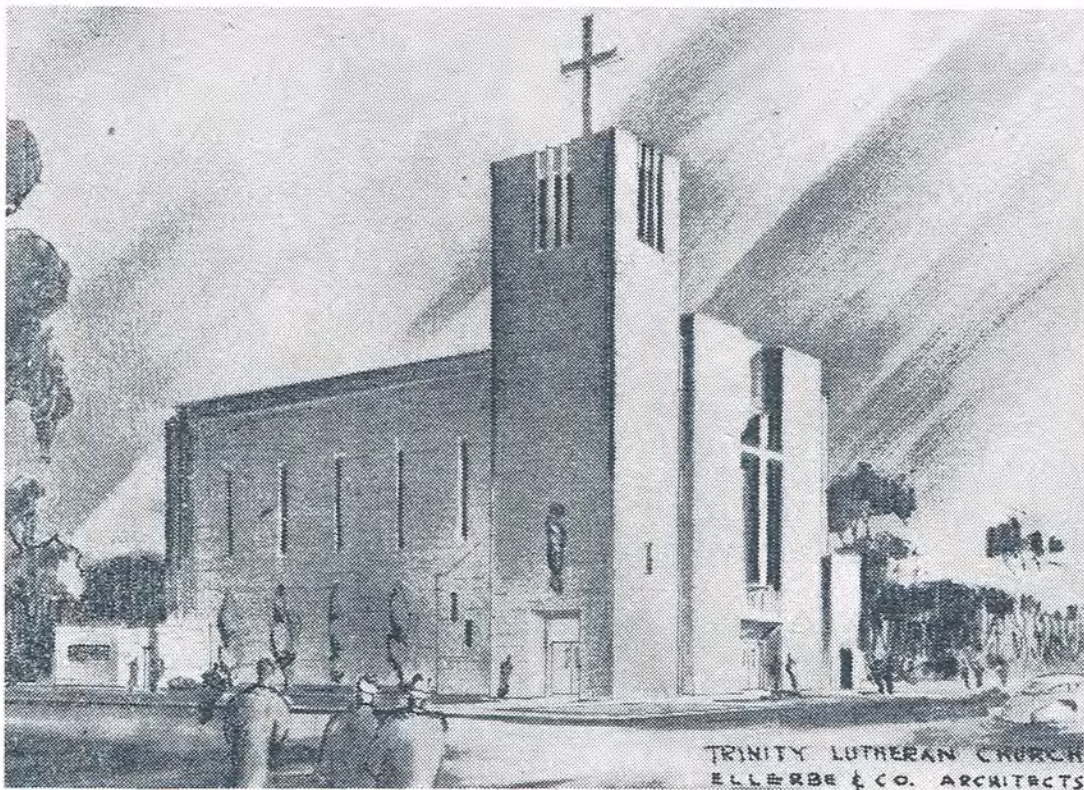
Erwin Rutz (third from left, first row) shown here with a group of Sunday School teachers in 1942, served 25 years as Trinity Sunday School Superintendent.

A survey revealed the need for a mission station in southeast Rochester, and after a few months of existence as a Sunday School mission taught by volunteer teachers from Trinity, Carl S. Meyer was installed as the pastor of the new church in 1931. This was Redeemer Lutheran Church, the first of our sister congregations in the city.

As the years passed, our own membership grew to 1500 and the congregation was faced with the problem of insufficient seating capacity during worship services. Plans for a new building did not materialize, although a proposed sketch actually reached the stage of publication in the Rochester Post Bulletin.

A solution for the problem was the introduction of three divine worship services held each Sunday morning. Two services were conducted in English and one in German. Candidate Armin Deye was the first man to be engaged as Pastor Weinhold's assistant in carrying out his pastoral duties.

At a special voter's meeting in 1941 the congregation resolved to make a change in the pastorate of Trinity Lutheran Church whereby a new minister was to be called and Rev. Weinhold would become associate pastor. A call was extended to Rev. W. W. Eifert of Alberta, Canada, and he arrived here with his family to serve as full-time pastor in October, 1941.



Architect's drawing of church building planned for construction at Center Street and Third Avenue Southwest with completion scheduled by 1942.
Rochester Post Bulletin, April 11, 1939.



TRINITY SENIOR CHOIR—1942

First Row: Viola Zimmermann, Virginia Haack, Cordelia Wentenkamp, Gertrude Wiechmann, Bertha Wilbrecht, Mr. Zielske, Director, Bernelda Polikowsky, Mrs. Wallace Haack, Mrs. W. F. Sperling, Joan Maass, Mrs. V. G. Abresch, Mrs. E. C. Rutz. Second Row: E. C. Rutz, Martha Bornfleth, Elaine Wyman, Mrs. W. W. Eifert, Margaret Nuernberger, Adeline Limpert, Pauline Maass, R. E. Schulz. Third Row: Marvin Stehr, William Radke, Edwin Zielske, Harold Polikowsky, William Schroeder, Elmer Gottschalk, V. G. Abresch.

Trinity Choir appeared in vestments for the first time in 1941, when it sang Handel's "Messiah" as a special Christmas presentation at the church.* This was one of a number of cantatas undertaken every few years under Mr. Zielske's direction, and was a continuance of the tradition of choral music begun at Trinity as early as 1870. Although the records make references to this early-day choir, as well as a men's choir in 1904, and a flourishing group in 1911, Trinity Choir was officially organized on December 19, 1919, under the direction of Teacher Kath. The choir has participated in

large local and regional musical events on a number of occasions. It has also sponsored the appearance of many touring college groups and several organ concert-artists. A junior choral organization also in existence as early as 1913, has continued through the years with varying degrees of success. It probably reached its highest point of achievement in the late 1930's and early 1940's. The High School Girl's Choir which included several girls with exceptional voices, often sang with the Senior Choir, and their efforts were much enjoyed and appreciated by the congregation.



Wm. F. Rutz, Wm. Sperling, Fred Maass, Trustees

As we embarked upon our 75th year in 1942, all was in readiness for the celebration. The two ministers who served the congregation, the three teachers in the school, the Sunday School instructors and the choir worked to prepare the minds and hearts of the people for the joyous event. The church, parsonage and school too, had been newly redecorated, improved or altered.

Vesper services of preparation were conducted in the week prior to Jubilee Festival Sunday, with the purpose of inspiring and consecrating the membership to true penitence and thankful hearts.

*After twenty-six years of unusually serviceable wear, the maroon gowns were replaced in 1967 by new garments of green trimmed with gold.

Three Diamond Jubilee Services and a reunion of confirmation classes were held November 29, 1942, with Synod President, Dr. J. W. Behnken, and District President, Pastor R. G. Heyne, in attendance as special Festival guest speakers. Between services, members and visitors enjoyed fellowship and viewed the historical display assembled at Trinity Lutheran School for the benefit of confirmation classes attending the reunion.

If the complete joy of the celebration was somewhat dimmed, one has only to recall the chaotic state of world affairs, the sorrow felt for our beloved country at war on two continents and concern for loved ones involved in the conflict.

Before World War II ended in 1945, several hundred of Trinity's young men had answered the call to duty. Ten had given their lives for the preservation of American ideals:

Lt. G. David Schroeder

Lt. Vernon W. Meyer

2nd Lt. Donald Palas

Lt. Milton Sell

Lt. Walter Garbisch

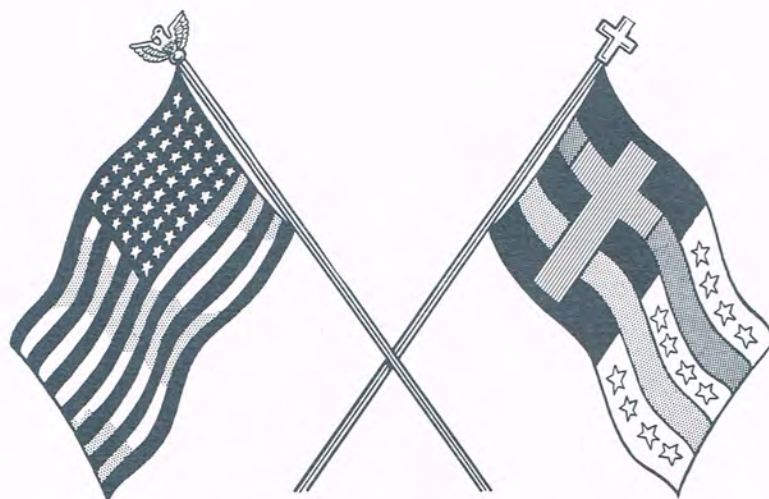
Sgt. Reuben O. Schulz

Sgt. Stanley A. Fischer

Sgt. Gordon L. Stewart

Sgt. Arthur H. Zuehlke

Cpl. John L. Campbell



FOR GOD AND COUNTRY

Social functions of the English Ladies Aid were voluntarily curtailed during the war while its members busied themselves with Red Cross work. The organization, founded 20 years earlier, had previously concerned itself with such projects as the formation of the English

Sunday School and charitable activities on behalf of the Lutheran Children's Friend Society. Now, when the war had taken sons, brothers and husbands to distant places, it was natural that the women directed their efforts toward assisting the war effort.

It was imperative that construction of a new, larger facility get underway just as soon as materials would again be available for construction after the war.

In the interim a Building Committee was organized and charged with the responsibility of obtaining suitable land for the project, planning the new building, and making arrangements for the disposition of the old church property once we had moved to our new plant. The congregation voted to sell the property to the Kahler Corporation in 1943, with the stipulation that the congregation would have use of the church and parsonage until the new church was completed.

After studying a number of sites, the committee recommended for purchase a piece of property on Third Street and Sixth Avenue Southwest. In due time the property was acquired. Ellerbe and Company, with Mr. E. W. Buenger as local representative, were chosen as architects. The plans they submitted for a church and parsonage were adopted by the congregation, and Mr. Alvin E. Benike was awarded the general contract for construction.

The Building Committee agreed that the use of stone for the new church altar would be most appropriate, and a carving for beautification of the altar would also be desirable. Cost of such a project was set somewhere between \$14,000 and \$20,000. Ladies of the Trinity Guild decided to adopt the project and in the following 13 years worked tirelessly toward attaining their goal.



Pastor Eifert at Church Groundbreaking Ceremony

A year after the war was ended, construction projects mushroomed all across the country. Excavation for Trinity officially began at groundbreaking ceremonies held on August 12, 1947. Material shortages continually hampered the project, causing unbelievable delays in delivery and installation. The entire effort ground to a halt when several labor unions called a general strike against local contractors.



Pouring Foundation for Church Building

Congregational building bees were held to advance the project as men made their services available. The Building Committee faced continuing financial crises. It took nearly 3½ years to build the new church.

On July 30, 1949, the cornerstone was removed from the old church. The box which had been sealed in for 55 years, was opened and revealed that most of the contents were badly damaged by moisture. They included a brief history of the parish written in faded German script, copies of the Rochester Daily Post, The Rochester Daily Record and Union of July 13, 1894, and various church periodicals of that time which were mostly printed in the German language.

Three weeks later a cornerstone-laying service was held at the new church site. This box contained the Bible, synodical catechism, the Lutheran Witness, der Lutheraner, Minnesota Lutheran, Rochester Post Bulletin Yearbook for 1948, history and constitutions of the congregation, church bulletin, school news, order of service for the cornerstone-laying, names of the President, Governor, Mayor, the Building Committee and officers of the congregation.

By the end of 1950, work on the church was nearing completion. Delays in the delivery of pews, the organ, and other furnishings denied use of the new facilities until 1951. Limited space in the old church building forced the issue and the congregation voted to install a temporary musical instrument in the church so the structure could be used before formal dedication.

On Palm Sunday . . . March 18, 1951, the congregation conducted two farewell services in the old church, took leave, then met for confirmation services in the new house of worship. Attendance was 757 in spite of a heavy snowfall.

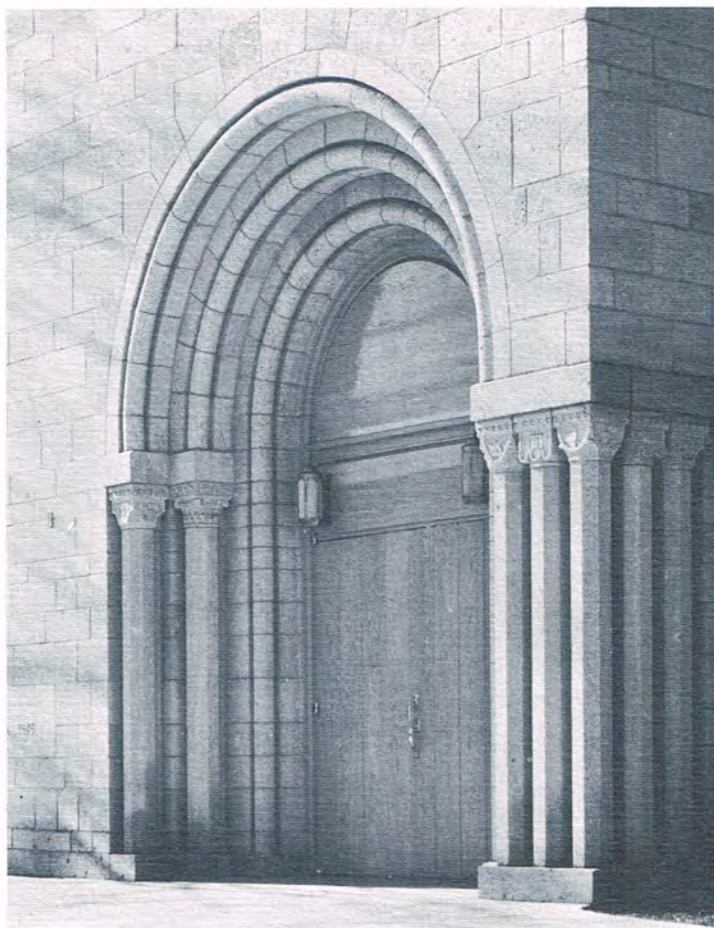
We left behind that day a sanctuary more than half a century old. It had served us well. Its creaking floors, worn pews and outmoded choir loft, the brown stained entrance doors through which we and our loved ones had passed to hear His message, our happy memories and those filled with sorrow, all were bound up in its history.

Now we were moving, in and by the direction of God's holy spirit and love, into a new sanctuary. The visionary years of work and planning, the seed of growth first planted in the minds of our membership more than two decades earlier had become a reality.



"Lord I have loved the habitation of Thy house, and the place where Thine honour dwelleth." Psalm 26, 8.

The call to worship at formal Dedication Services on June 10, 1951, was sounded by one of the last remaining church bells in the city. Trinity's old 1,600 pound bell, presented as a gift to the congregation in 1916, rang out its familiar note from the new 70-foot bell-tower in a continuing summons of the faithful to the House of God.



"Enter into His gates with thanksgiving and into His courts with praise." Ps. 100, 4.

Professor Martin J. Neeb and the Reverend William Buege were guest speakers at the day's festival services and Dr. Theodore Stelzer played an evening concert on the new three-manual Reuter pipe organ. It was a day of great rejoicing and thanksgiving. Large crowds filled the church: nearly 1,500 crowded the nave, chapel and basement at morning services; an estimated 1,400 persons were served a noon luncheon by the Ladies Aid; about 1,000 at-

tended the afternoon service; and some 900 people enjoyed the evening recital.

The completion and dedication of the new, imposing structure, whose value at that time was estimated at \$435,000, was a culmination of the consecrated efforts put forth by members of the congregation who had labored long and diligently for this blessed fulfillment of their fervent prayers. Trinity Lutheran Church on this day numbered 2,000 souls, 1,540 communicants, and 210 voters.



"One thing have I desired of the Lord, that I will seek after: that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, and to behold the beauty of the Lord, and to inquire in His temple." Psalms 27, 4.

The term "Italian Romanesque" is used to describe the architecture of Trinity Lutheran Church, designed to meet the congregation's needs yet recognizing also the traditional and liturgical heritage of the Lutheran Church. Although it draws inspiration from the past, the architecture carefully avoids copying of any historical details. Its character is well-established in the classical spirit rather than in classical reproduction.

Man's early efforts to use stone as a building medium were seen at Stonehenge, in Egypt and ancient Greece. It was copied and exploited by the Romans and revived two thou-

sand years later during the Renaissance. These classical motives were applied to the structure which was designed and built for our house of worship.

Its stone exterior is dominated by a tower whose entrance is flanked by columns of carved stone. The pillars feature symbols of the Holy Trinity, the Word, the Holy Sacraments, the Holy Christian Church, and The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod. On the interior, the beautifully carved stone reredos, the massive marble altar and baptismal font in the Chancel restate in eloquent witness the foundation and strength of our faith.

At the time of dedication, Trinity, the half-million dollar edifice was bare of the traditional stained glass windows, the altar was not completed and the chapel contained only altar and pews. Individuals and organizations undertook various projects to assist in furnishing the church.

The German Ladies Aid donated the rose window over the balcony.

The English Ladies Aid equipped the church kitchen with dishes, utensils, and linens.

Trinity Twosome couples spearheaded a folding door project for the Sunday School department.

The Men's Club tiled the basement floors, landscaped, painted the basement and provided other materials, equipment and services.

The Buenger family established a fund to furnish the Chapel with stained glass windows, a small organ, the specially-designed baptismal font and the beautiful brass lighting fixtures.

Already having donated the Altar rail and baptismal font for the main Chancel, the Trinity Guild continued to work for the day when the Altar reredos project would reach its fruition.



In 1955 the time seemed right to initiate a search for the 'right' sculptor and the architect did so, at the request of the Building Committee. Early in the 1950's he worked in association with some of the country's foremost artists when the Mayo Clinic art program was being developed, therefore was in a position to make the necessary inquiries and contacts.

Artists and art critics alike consider Ivan Mestrovic* a man of monumental achievement. The Mayo Clinic had commissioned him to create the sculpture which is mounted above the north entrance of the Mayo Building. That such a man would consider Trinity's project was almost more than the committee dared hope.

They received Mestrovic's courteous reply and request for information concerning the project. The committee suggested the theme which was considered most appropriate for the altar carving: the subject of sacrifice.

He replied, "The subject representing the supreme sacrifice of our Lord as a focus of Christian religion is the one which interests me most." Mestrovic was engaged to create a design for the reredos.

The committee traveled to the sculptor's Indiana studio to inspect and, subsequently, approve, a plaster model of "The Crucifixion." Cast at full size, eight feet wide and twenty-two feet high, the model was shipped to Rochester in July 1956.

A Nave window was removed and the model passed inside. From there it was swung into place against the Chancel wall and braced with scaffolding. Then a partition was erected to close off the Sanctuary.



E. W. Buenger, Wm. Radke and Artist Mestrovic

**Mestrovic, a professor who taught art at Notre Dame University, came to America following World War II, a Yugoslavian in self-exile who wished to live and create in an atmosphere of freedom.*

The ladies of the Altar Society, well-trained to their duties in preparing and maintaining the Sanctuary must be commended here for their devotion in the months which followed. Theirs was a fine appreciation for things liturgical, both in the elements of the worship service and the altar furnishings in their care such as the sacred vessels, the linens, candles and flowers. But now the endless sifting, settling dust pervaded the whole area of the temporary altar and baptismal, in spite of the partition, and a strenuous cleaning operation was necessary each week before preparation of the altar could begin.

Mestrovic selected St. Paul sculptor, Anthony Caponi, chairman of the Macalaster College Art Department, to carve the design in the limestone reredos panel.

Caponi traveled to Rochester on long weekends and intermittent weekdays, working at a furious, exhausting pace between his college classes. Four months later, when the work was near completion, Mestrovic visited Rochester to inspect the project. The 73-year-old master was pleased with the work of his young colleague whom he met for the first time that day. He suggested minor changes, then approved the sculpture.

Agencies outside the church took note of Mestrovic's visit here. Representatives of art institutions exhibited keen interest in the altar carving since Mestrovic's work is ranked with the finest art of modern times. The press was interested in Mestrovic the political figure, whose election and appointment to political offices were declined. He was twice imprisoned, in both World Wars, and was marked for execution by the Nazis.

The sculpture was completed. Partitioning and scaffolding came down, the plaster model was cut into sections and removed, and a tremendous accumulation of dust was cleaned away in preparation for the dedication.



Artists Anthony Caponi and Ivan Mestrovic



"Now there stood by the cross of Jesus his mother, and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Cleophas and Mary Magdalene. When Jesus therefore saw his mother and the disciple standing by, whom He loved, He saith unto his mother, Woman behold thy son! Then saith He to the disciple, Behold thy mother! After this, Jesus knowing that all things were now accomplished . . . He said, IT IS FINISHED." John 19, 25:30.

One thousand four hundred persons attended the reredos dedication services early in Advent, 1956. Artists, professional people and parishioners alike were strong in their praise for the crucifixion masterpiece. The Building Committee and Ladies Guild felt special pride at having attained their goal. Three months later, when Lent had just begun, the church was again crowded with many of the same people, and more. All had come to pay their final respects to Edgar Buenger whose accidental death had shocked and grieved them.

But this man of vision had wisely charted a course to point their direction into the future.* Artist Robert Metcalf was at work in Ohio creating the stained glass windows, their themes drawn from months of research and study directed by Mr. Buenger.

A wood carving for which he had created the lettering was installed within two months of his untimely passing

Everywhere in Trinity there is evidence of his thoughtful planning for a beautiful house of worship.

He would never have been content to see the work end, however, for he agreed with Mestrovic's** philosophy: "A church never finished is a growing church."

Another person who played an important role in the development of research for art themes in our church was Associate Pastor Arden Malotky. It was under his direction that the Trinity Tribune was published also, keeping the congregation abreast of the church news and its art program.



Charles Tannert, a member of the Building Committee
and ~~James~~ Robert Metcalf, stained glass window artist.

*The Edgar Buenger Memorial Health Center was one of 43 buildings dedicated at the all-new Concordia Senior College campus in Fort Wayne on May 30, 1958, in grateful recognition for extensive service so freely given as Synod consultant in the vast college and seminary building program.

**Mestrovic died in 1962, at the age of 79 years.



75th Anniversary Celebration of German Ladies Aid in 1953

Pastor Weinhold announced his retirement in 1952, effective as soon as a successor was installed. Candidate Arden Malotky was installed Associate Pastor in August 1953, and one week later Pastor Weinhold preached his farewell sermon.

A second parsonage was purchased at Eighth Avenue and Eleventh Street Northwest in 1955.

It was also in 1955 that Dr. and Mrs. Eric Lofgren of our congregation were commissioned to serve Synod's hospital mission in Eket, Nigeria. Through their correspondence we learned that many materials were in short supply at the hospital and assistance was sorely needed to supply them. Ladies Aid circle members undertook the preparation and shipment of bandages made from worn bed linens. Later, when an operating room table and lights were made available from St. Marys hospital, various church organizations contributed money to help defray cost of its shipment to the African outpost.

December of 1955 saw the installation of the first stained glass window in the Nave. It was, appropriately, the Nativity window.

Trinity Twosome erected a manger scene on the south lawn of the church, in 1955, and held a carol-fest there on a freezing winter's night. The Chamber of Commerce awarded the club first prize in its Christmas lighting contest.



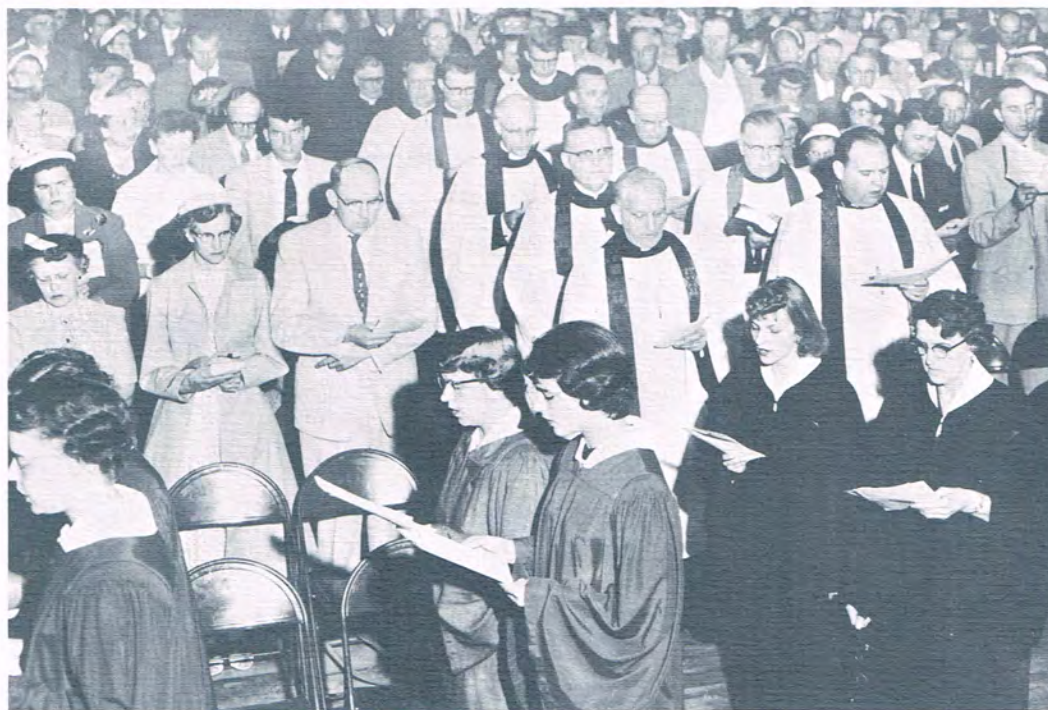
The end of an era was marked January 1, 1957, when German services were discontinued at the church.

In May of the same year, the carved panel was installed over the guest registry in the Narthex, its inscription cut by Trinity parishioner, Charles Tannert. An earlier work of Mr. Tannert's was a walnut relief, created as a memorial to those who lost their lives in World War II. After its unveiling at a special banquet honoring our returning servicemen in 1946, the panel was later installed near the south entrance in the new church Narthex.

Eight months after Pastor Malotky was released to accept a call in Glen Lake, Pastor Roger Polansky was installed an associate pastor at Trinity, June 30, 1957. He served here sixteen months.

Nearly 3,000 persons attended a Lutheran Hour Rally held at Mayo Civic Arena in July 1957. It was the highlight of a Lutheran Laymen's League convention for which Trinity was host congregation. Dr. Oswald Hoffman, Lutheran Hour speaker, and Elmer Kraemer (currently editor of the Lutheran-Witness Reporter) were honored guests.

A circuit-wide Preaching-Teaching-Reaching mission was undertaken by 15 area congregations in November 1957. "Missioners" from surrounding cities and states were assigned to each Missouri Synod congregation for one week of evangelism and community outreach. The community religious census here reached 80 new prospects for membership.



Procession of massed choirs and clergy led by Minnesota District President H. A. Gamber and Dr. Oswald Hoffman.

Frederic Nitschke, a parochial school teacher and organist who was called to fill the vacancy left by teacher Alvin Roth, arrived in August 1958.

While visiting his son's home in Minneapolis during the Thanksgiving holiday, Edwin Zielske suffered a heart attack and was hospitalized in that city. Late in December he was returned to Rochester by ambulance and was called to his heavenly home shortly before Christmas, 1958.

Mr. Nitschke was appointed acting principal of the school and was named director of music at the church the following year. In March 1959 a call was extended to Henry Rediger to serve as school principal, which he accepted.

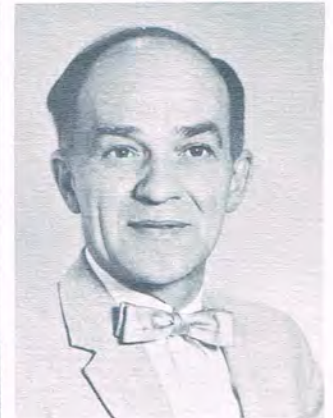
During the closing months of 1959 and in many months that followed, the congregation engaged in the consideration of building a new Christian Day School. Already in 1955 an option on a proposed site at Eighth Avenue and Fifth Street Northwest was relinquished. Now the pressing question was whether to purchase lots adjacent to existing church property and build there, or to move out to build on the Geselle property which we had optioned in far northwest Rochester.

The Board of Christian Education was instructed to make the intention of a new building known to other synodical congregations in the Rochester area and, hopefully, obtain their favorable action in the establishment and implementation of a Central School Association.

Purchase of the Geselle property was completed December 31, 1958, the first payment toward it in the amount of \$10,000. The Minnesota District indicated an interest in the site for possible development of a mission church adjacent to the School. Total cost of the 15-acre tract was \$38,000.



Frederic Nitschke



Henry Rediger



From left: Rev. Earl O. Schwerman, Redeemer Lutheran Church, Principal Henry J. Rediger, Pastor Eifert and Rev. Walton W. Doering of Grace Lutheran Church at signing of constitution for Rochester Lutheran School Association.

Additional progress toward the realization of a new school was made when Trinity, Grace and Redeemer Lutheran Churches met in March 1959 to evaluate our proposals for the Central School Association. In May, Trinity's Board of Christian Education recommended that our trustees be authorized to sign an agreement with the Association. On November 12, 1959, the resolution was passed unanimously: Trinity was to transfer ownership of real estate in northwest Rochester to the Central School Association for the purpose of constructing a new school. The estimated value of our outright gift to the association was \$163,000.

Groundbreaking services for the new school were held April 7, 1963. Classes commenced in the beautiful new building on September 5 of the same year, but faculty and students found some of the most basic modern conveniences still missing.



Opening day in our 1963 school.



The fiftieth and final "opening day" at our 1913 school.

Sewer and water lines had not yet been extended to the school site by the city. This caused certain hardships for students and faculty which were aggravated by heavy rains and a sea of mud surrounding the school. Buses could not drive to the school yard; students climbed from the bottom of the hill on planks laid over the mud. The portable sanitary installations outside were reminiscent of "olden days" at the little country school house. But despite having to "rough it" for a period of time, everyone cheerfully carried on.



1967-68 Staff Rochester Lutheran School, from the left: Principal Henry Rediger, Mrs. Lorraine Zabel, Frederic Nitschke, Mrs. Gurene Putz, Miss Betty Gullickson, Velmer Goebel, Mrs. Phyllis Breimeier, Mrs. Barbara Bjorn, Mrs. Marjorie Ollhoff, secretary. Missing from photo: Mrs. Mary Rohe, Donald Lubbert, maintenance engineer, and Mrs. Ruth Reimers and Mrs. Dolores Swanson, cooks.

Dedication, cornerstone laying and open house for the new building was held January 12, 1964.

The old schoolhouse located on Second Street Northwest had been sold to the Methodist Hospital Association for \$130,000 and now serves as a classroom facility for nurses.

As in the past, Trinity was again provided an opportunity to assist with the establishment of another local mission. Redeemer Lutheran Church founded in 1931, was followed by Grace Lutheran established as a mission in Northwest Rochester in 1941, and Christ Lutheran on Highway 52 South in 1959.

Now at a congregational meeting in January 1961, the congregation urged the Minnesota District Board of Missions to consider early establishment of a church on the new school site, and pledged to assist in the formation of such a congregation by permitting transfers to its members. The district accepted the recommendation and subsequently purchased three of the original fifteen acres from the school property.

The church was named Holy Cross and its pastor, Rev. Donald Lutz, was installed in August 1962. Fifteen communicant members who transferred from Trinity were a part of the new congregation.



Trinity Education Wing and Parish Hall

As the community grew, so also did Trinity congregation whose Sunday School enrollment had increased to the point where finding space in which to conduct classes was becoming a problem. Once plans for the new Central Lutheran School were underway, the congregation then turned its attention to the building of a new Sunday School wing and Parish Hall. Groundbreaking ceremonies were held August 28, 1960 and construction completed in September 1961 at a cost of \$140,000.

The local need of Christian education for the mentally retarded also had made itself known. This was another opportunity for a unique Christian mission, as was the case in

1925, when a department for the deaf was organized in our Sunday School. The blessing upon more than 17 years of work in that area resulted in the confirmation of several deaf children at Trinity.

Now, in 1963, Sunday School classes for the mentally retarded were organized under the direction of Mrs. Harold Wallman, and they continue to this day as weekly sessions, held every Thursday with an enrollment of 10 members.

Since Trinity is the only local congregation to offer special religious instruction for these children, some enrollees are counted from outside our immediate church family.



First Row (from left): Mrs. Jos. Hampel, Helene Idolovic, Katherine Romischowsky, Dora Schellin, Mrs. Otto Kiecker, Lillian Miller, Edith Ranfranz, Mrs. Frieda Steck, Mrs. Wm. Risto, Mrs. Carl Schott, Carl Schott. Second Row: Mrs. M. J. Meyer, Ruth Schmuck, Mesdames William Schellin, Elfrieda Cheney, Conrad Maass, Harold Quandt, Fred Maass, Sophie Meyer, Lawrence Haglund, Benjamin Green, Fred Zimmerman, Ida Krause. Third Row: Mesdames Adolph Wachholz, Otto Moehnke, Edwin Zielske, Ben Zimdars, Chas. Steck, Emma Bowman, Louise Betcher, Walter Lambrecht, E. Herzberg, E. Kirmis, also Harold Quandt, Walter Lambrecht. Fourth Row: Mesdames W. Fiebelkorn, Arnold Klause, Alice Sell, Harry Purves, Eva Garbisch. Standing: Mrs. Henry Hoffman, Mrs. Wm. Theel, Nettie Henke, Mrs. Jos. Roth, Mrs. Arl Cordes.

It was in June 1963 that a group drawn from the ranks of Trinity's elder parishioners was organized into a Senior Citizen's Club. It not only qualifies as our youngest organization by virtue of its short period of existence, but

also by the spirit which prevails when its 45 members meet monthly . . . a fine testimonial to the ideals of good Christian fellowship shared by the young-at-heart.

Pastor Walter Eifert was stricken by a heart attack in March 1960, and hospitalized. The Lord granted him strength and healing, and upon his recovery he returned to his duties in September. Associate Pastor C. P. Brenner who had been serving Trinity about a year, ministered to the needs of the congregation during Pastor Eifert's convalescence.

A surprise party commemorating Pastor Eifert's 40th year in the ministry was attended by nearly 450 well-wishers on October 13, 1963.

It was shortly after Pastor Brenner had accepted a call to Michigan in 1964, that the minutes of a congregational meeting record a letter from Pastor Eifert. He made these points: he had served in the Holy Ministry some 41 years; the duties and responsibilities of his office were likely to increase; he had reached an age which might make the bearing of greater responsibility more difficult; and that an experienced man might be more inclined to accept

a call and serve as first pastor at Trinity rather than as associate. He therefore requested that a change in his status be made and that the congregation relieve him of the responsibilities of administrative pastor, allowing him to serve as second pastor.

The congregation after due consideration accepted the suggestions contained in the letter.

In 1965 individuals of the congregation planned to finance a trip to the Holy Land as a special gift for Pastor and Mrs. Eifert in recognition of 25 years of service to Trinity. Plans were soon disclosed to the general membership and a special fund established for the trip. Later the Eiferts departed on a flight to Europe and the Holy Land. Upon their return they shared the experiences of their six-week tour abroad by showing colored slides during a social evening at the church.



From left: Donald Eifert and his son Mark, Rev. and Mrs. Eifert, Karen and John, children of Rev. Edwin Eifert of Ortonville.

A call to serve as our administrative pastor was sent to Pastor Henry E. Gaertner of Bloomington, Minnesota. Following his acceptance he was installed at an evening service March 14, 1965.

Considerable discussion and thought had been given to enhancing the lagging youth program of the parish, and in June 1965 it was resolved to investigate the possibility of hiring a synod-trained youth worker. Pastor Gaertner was empowered to contact Valparaiso University in search of a qualified candidate.



Ed. Thiel

Efforts bore fruit and Mr. Ed. Thiel was hired. He assumed his duties in February 1967. Problems in the administration of the youth program developed, however, and Mr. Thiel submitted his resignation in November 1967.

In preparation for Trinity's Centennial celebration in 1967, a preliminary meeting was held in May 1966, when a Centennial Committee was appointed. Members were to begin planning immediately the means of financing, speakers, historical booklet, special events and public relations. It was agreed that the observance would be a year-long undertaking with the year divided into quarterly segments. Each quarter was assigned a theme and special activities were to emphasize the fulfillment of those themes. Soon monthly meetings were held and the wheels set in motion for the operation of an extensive program.

Centennial Year, 1967, was soon underway, a year of social unrest and world upheaval. Rochester's first serviceman to give his life in the Viet Nam conflict, Sgt. David Wehrs, was buried from our church with full military honors in February.

Large scale building programs near downtown Rochester sent high-rise structures towering above Trinity.

Weekly broadcasts of our Sunday worship service were begun over a local FM-stereo station on October 1. Plans call for an improvement of the technical quality through a better arrangement of the sound-system.

Late in 1966 the Men's Club was given permission to carpet the center and side aisles and the front of the church Nave. The work was completed in 1967.



Rev. Eifert, William Radke, William Sperling, Erwin Rutz, Rev. Gaertner

Thanksgiving Day was more than a civil holiday marked by religious services. Members of the Building Committee joined the pastors for a short ceremony in which the \$450,000 mortgage was burned. This represented the bond issue negotiated for our present church building, which, by the grace of God, we were able to pay off three years before the actual due date. It was truly a day for thanks-giving.

Early in the year computers and statisti-

cians established that the medical center of the world, Rochester, Minnesota, had attained a population of 50,000 persons. Later a church survey determined that the city was also a Lutheran stronghold of some consequence, since more than 17,000 souls (better than one-third of the citizenry) confessed the Lutheran faith. This was a far cry from the 3,000 to 75 ratio which existed here in 1876 when the Germans and Norwegians struggled to maintain even the smallest foothold in the community.



In 1967, "Life, New Life" was the theme of 450th Reformation Anniversary observances held throughout the country and in Rochester, where most of the thirteen Lutheran congregations of our city participated in intersynodical activities commemorating the event.

A century ago, in the 350th Reformation year, our founding fathers might well have been dedicated to the same 'new life' premise. Blessed with new-life vitality in a new world, through the Lord's divine guidance Trinity has flourished and grown; sustaining also her four sister congregations who have drawn heavily upon her membership for their own life. Still she remains strong . . . one of the largest congregations of District and Synod, attesting to the blessings of a century of grace.

The Norwegians, too, have prospered and their central church, Zumbro, will soon undertake an ambitious construction program.

Situated as we are in the developing cultural area near downtown Rochester, with its hotels, motels, tourist homes, hospitals, bustling commercial center and high-rise apartments, it is obvious that our growth depends upon a ministry of mission and service to those whose activities are centralized in the heart of the city.

We pray that the Lord will continue to bless us with faith and love, and daily bring into His fold such as shall be saved.

Now, dear Christian friends, "abide in Him, that when He shall appear, we may have confidence and not be ashamed before Him at His coming." Amen.



THE VICE PRESIDENT

WASHINGTON

20510

June 7, 1967

To Trinity Lutheran Church
Rochester, Minnesota:

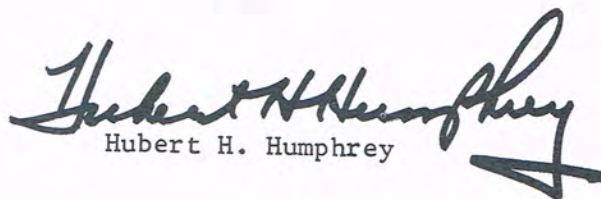
June 18 will be a joyous day for Trinity Lutheran Church and for all those who have felt the wonderful impact of its spiritual leadership. I convey my warmest greetings on the occasion of Centennial Reunion Day. For those who have the pleasure of celebrating with you in person, this day will surely be a highlight in their lives. But wherever your members will be, in our state, elsewhere in our nation and overseas, this centennial year will be a time for gratitude and for remembrance.

Minnesota's and America's strength is aided immeasurably by Churches which play so strong and inspiring a role in the lives of our fellow citizens and their communities.

May this next Century of Trinity Lutheran Church witness even greater achievements in the service of God and our fellow man.

My warmest greetings.

Sincerely,


Hubert H. Humphrey

Trinity Lutheran School — 1867-1959



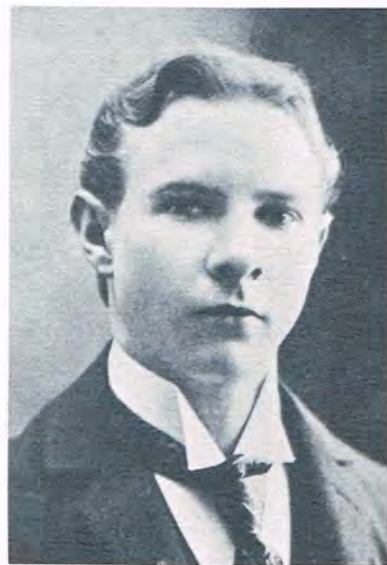
"Little German School"

Our forefathers, from the very beginning of Trinity's existence as a congregation, made provisions for the spiritual training of the young.

Pastor von Schenk instituted the first regular courses of instruction in 1875 with an enrollment of eleven pupils. By 1882, thirty-five children attended the four-day weekly classes. The first small church building of 1869 was converted to use as a weekday classroom through the ingenious installation of hinged writing boards to the backs of pews. These could be raised and used as desks, or conveniently lowered during Sunday services. Classes were held here until 1883, with Catechism, Bible History, German reading and writing as the principal subjects.

The Brendemuehl residence was rented for temporary school quarters until an 18 x 24 foot building was constructed in 1884. A 12 foot addition was appended in 1886. Ten years later when our new church was completed on Center Street, the old church was converted to use as a school. Although time wrought many changes in the actual structure, the address remained constant for 79 years: Second Avenue and Second Street Northwest.

Pastor Nickels and his daughter taught the classes until our first called teacher arrived in 1892. He was Gustave Frank whose seven years of service here resulted in an enrollment increase from 45 to 108 pupils.



Gustave Frank, Trinity's first called teacher, 1892.



Teacher Gustave Stephani and the 81 young scholars he taught in the year 1903.

Succeeding Mr. Frank were teacher C. Cutkowsky who taught two terms; Pastor Nickels who again filled a vacancy; Gustave Stephani, another called teacher who served for five years; and teacher B. Stellwagen, who resigned for reasons of ill health in 1911.

The newly-arrived Pastor Weinhold taught until Mr. H. A. Roeglin was installed. The school building (formerly the church) had stood 42 years, and was in such a state of decay that the erection of a new school was inevitable. Teacher Roeglin worked enthusiastically for the new school project, yet, in 1913 the joyous year of its dedication, the congregation also mourned the loss of this faithful servant, stricken by a fatal illness.

Teacher C. Bahe was called to replace Mr. Roeglin. A motion was defeated to hire a second teacher to assist him, but a janitor was hired to lighten the chore of maintenance and heating for the building.

Following dedication services for the new school held on August 10, 1913, at the church, the congregation then marched in a processional from the church on Center Street to the school three blocks away. As the first marchers reached the school, the last were just leaving the church . . . so large was the processional body.

Teacher Bahe's successor was Mr. K. F. G. Kath, installed June 4, 1916. It was the same year that the congregation was persuaded at last to hire a second teacher, Miss Anna Kionka.

Data gleaned from the congregational minutes of the next few years shows that the custom of "schulpruefung" continued until the practice of six-week report cards was initiated; also, in 1921 the motion to have eight grades was defeated; later, it was thought better of, and passed in 1924.

Teacher Kath resigned in 1924 after eight years of dedicated labors, and a year later, Mr. Edwin Zielske took up his duties here.

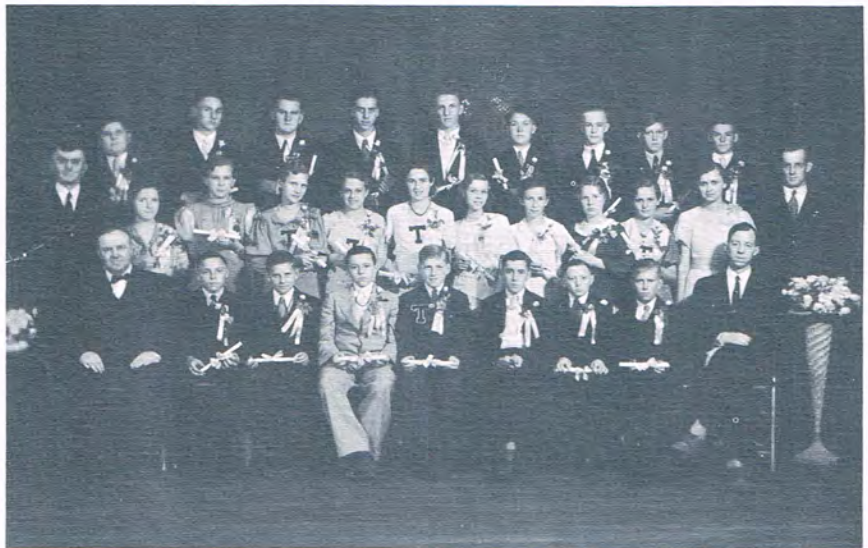
This concluded a period when the congregation was almost constantly confronted by problems of buildings, locating and keeping teachers, vacancies, and the physical facilities of the school plant. The era of expansion and enrichment lay just ahead.

Summer vacations were utilized by the teachers, the pastor and representatives of the School Board who visited every home of the congregation and invited the families to enroll their children in the school. Their efforts bore fruit with a substantial increase in enrollment, until a peak of 141 pupils was registered in 1931.

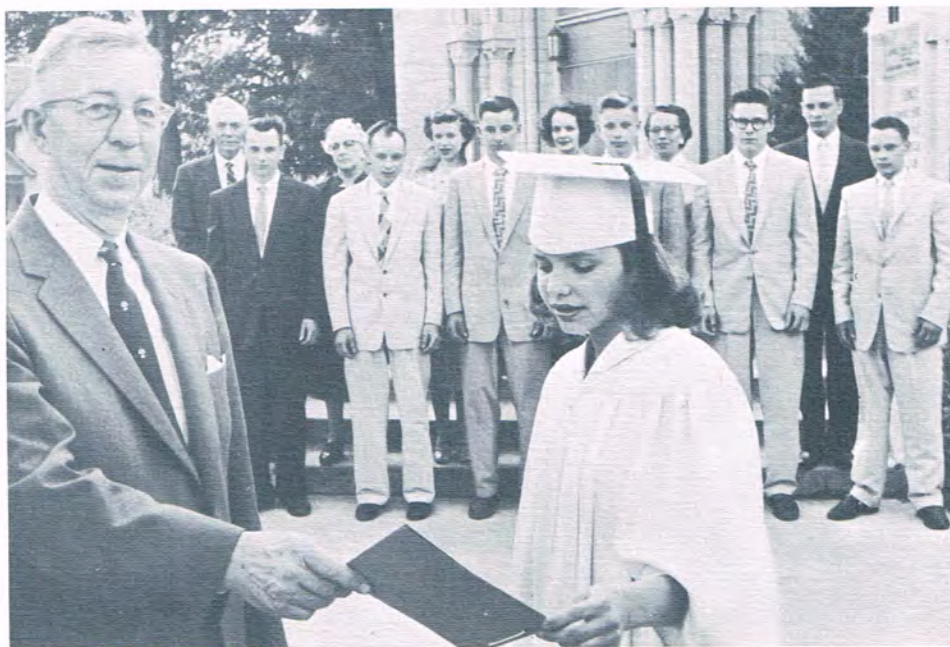
A third teacher was engaged and the possibility of even a fourth teacher on the staff seemed imminent. Early steps toward enlargement of the school also were under serious consideration. But hopes were dashed by talk of "the depression," and a thought was expressed that "the teachers should not do quite so much" and "we should try to get along with three teachers."

It is significant that a distinct decline in school enrollment was noted in the following years: from the high of 141 pupils in 1931, to the 88 pupils counted ten years later. In retrospect, it seems that a golden opportunity for the growth of Kingdom work was overlooked and lost.

The dream of a bigger and better school facility refused to die, however, and we see the result of that vision in the present Rochester Central Lutheran School now located in Elton Hills.



A typical graduation class of the 1930's, where boys wore satin streamers in their lapels and certain students were proud to wear the school letter "T," for Trinity."



June 4, 1958—The Arthur Hoffman family looks on proudly as Edwin E. Zielske presents a diploma to Charlotte Hoffman, fourteenth member of the family to have been graduated from Trinity Lutheran School. This was Mr. Zielske's last graduating class.

A second called teacher, H. P. Westermann, arrived in 1945, followed in 1947 by his successor, Alvin Roth.

In the ensuing post-war years, late in the 1940's and early 1950's, the old school was remodeled. Halls, large rooms and the basement were re-designed to provide more classroom space. The chore of maintenance was ever-present.

Enrollment climbed to a high of 178 in 1958 and six teachers comprised the faculty. Frederic Nitschke had been installed as the second called teacher to fill the vacancy left by Mr. Roth in 1958. Later, a third called teacher, Mr. Velmer Goebel, was added to the staff.

Alas, the untiring and consecrated efforts of many years spent striving for the erection of a new school by Mr. Zielske were never realized in his time. He would have known great joy and satisfaction in seeing the achievement of this goal which was realized five years after his death.

Mr. Henry Rediger, the last called teacher-principal of Trinity Lutheran School in 1959, was released that same year together with Frederic Nitschke, both to accept calls as teachers to the newly-organized Rochester Central Lutheran School.

And thus the institution which began a singular existence as Trinity's "little German School" nine decades earlier had become a chapter in history.

Over the years the students, parents, and faculty have felt justifiable pride in the accomplishments and recognition accorded the school's organization's: its musical groups, athletic teams, the Junior Red Cross, School Patrol, as well as Boy and Girl Scout groups.



Trinity Football Team



Representing several hundred youngsters of the city, a Trinity School Patrol Captain lights candles in celebration of the 32nd Anniversary of Rochester's School Patrol organization. City and county law officers, P.T.A. officials, city government leaders and A.A.A. executives attended the ceremonies. Above are Paul Grassle, Enoch Dison and Mayor Smekta.



Trinity Bobcat Cheerleaders



A happy group of Trinity Girl Scouts.



The School Choir as it appeared in a television concert.



The entire student body and teachers gathered outside the old school to pay tribute to their friend, the crossing patrolman, who had helped to keep their intersection safe. After this day the school closed for the last time.

The school orchestra, and its drum and bugle corps afforded a certain enrichment to the curriculum and stimulated an early interest in the study of music; the accordion band was a participant in the Chicagoland Music Festival of 1957; and the school's fine choirs have made numerous appearances in the city, on local and Twin Cities radio stations and on television. Alumni have gone on into teaching, the ministry, or youth work. Even now one young man called to teach in St. Louis, Roger Gottschalk, serves on occasion as organist for the Lutheran Hour and Chorus.

In spite of many difficult times and, perhaps, an absence of the most up-to-date conveniences in furnishings or equipment, the spirit and resourcefulness manifested by the faculty, school board and students has been an inspiration and blessing to many who shared the Christian Day School experience.

Most important of all, the primary function of our parochial school has borne out the Gospel admonition, *"The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom: a good understanding have they that do His commandments: His praise endureth forever."*

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=REVEREND HENRY GAERTNER, TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH=

6 AVE AND 3 ST SOUTHWEST ROCHESTER MINN=

DEAR REVEREND GAERTNER: PLEASE EXPRESS TO THE ENTIRE CONGREGATION OF TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH MY MOST SINCERE CONGRATULATIONS ON THE OCCASION ~~OF~~ THE CENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY YOU ARE CELEBRATING. THE SERVICE OF TRINITY LUTHERAN TO THE COMMUNITY OF ROCHESTER OVER THE PAST 100 YEARS IS WELL KNOWN NOT ONLY LOCALLY BUT THROUGHOUT THE STATE OF MINNESOTA. ALSO PLEASE EXPRESS MY BEST PERSONAL WISHES= GOVERNOR HAROLD LEVANDER=

Our Centennial Year

God in his grace and mercy has granted our congregation one hundred years of life and growth. Whereas the congregation and committee recognize that our years of blessing also bring obligations to strengthen and promote the work of the Church, to give increasing support to the missionary spread of the Gospel, and to carry out the many activities through which we glorify God and further His kingdom; and Whereas these ends can be attained through a joyous but reverent year of celebration:

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the year 1967 be officially proclaimed as the Centennial Year for Trinity Lutheran Church of Rochester, Minnesota.

BE IT RESOLVED that the official motto is "Our Centennial Vision of Gratitude."

BE IT RESOLVED "Built On The Rock The Church Doth Stand" is designated our Centennial hymn.

BE IT RESOLVED that an official emblem for the year be designed.

BE IT RESOLVED that an historical Centennial booklet be published.

BE IT RESOLVED that all organizations in the congregation be encouraged to seek, develop ideas and plan appropriate ways to emphasize the theme of thanksgiving and rededication.



Dr. Oliver Harms
President, Lutheran Church
Missouri Synod

Our Centennial Speakers

First Quarter:

January through March 1967

Theme:

Thanksgiving for Past Blessings
and
Rededication for the Future

Gospel Text:

"And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief corner stone;

In whom all the building fitly framed together groweth unto an holy temple in the Lord:

In whom ye also are builded together for an habitation of God through the Spirit.

Ephesians 2, 20-22.

Dr. Oliver Harms, President of the three-million-member Lutheran Church, Missouri Synod since 1962, played a significant role in the development of the Lutheran Council in the United States which became official January 1, 1967.

Discussing the ecumenical movement, he commented that "members of the Missouri Synod must continue to give clear testimony of what the scriptures tell us about salvation. When we converse with persons of other persuasions, we cannot act as if no differences exist. We must hold to our convictions and not join with everybody else just to be joining."

He did not foresee a merger with other Lutheran bodies in the near future, but hopefully anticipated unity in doctrine to allow altar and pulpit fellowship.

Dr. Harms was questioned about his

views concerning church involvement in the areas of political action, such as the war in Viet Nam. He answered: "The church has a distinct function. The state has a distinct function. They should not be mixed and the church should not tell a political group what to do. It should not be asked to speak as a corporate body in political actions. Such involvements as wars are things in which the government must say whether we enter one or not. Members of the church will support the state in every action of a righteous war. The church will do well to educate its people in the ways of Christianity so that its individual members will act as the conscience of the community, state and nation.

"In the areas of community and social action," he said "the community should receive the guidance of people who are living in a morality taught by God."



Rev. Wilber J. Fields

Second Quarter:

April through June 1967

Theme:

Youth and Growth

Gospel Text:

"Remember his marvelous works that he hath done; his wonders, and the judgments of his mouth; O ye seed of Abraham his servant, ye children of Jacob his chosen. He is the Lord our God: his judgments are in all the earth. He hath remembered his covenant forever, the word which he commanded to a thousand generations."

Psalms 105, 5-8.

Reverend Wilber J. Fields, D.D., chaplain to university students and pastor of Memorial Lutheran Church, Ames, Iowa, addressed his remarks especially to the young people because "you will be leading the Church into the 21st Century." Commenting on "The New Morality" he stated it is more a mood than a behavior pattern. Some people have characterized the 'new morality' as old morality in a new dress.

He continued: "Two aspects of new morality make it unique to modern times:

- The insistence on freedoms and rights without attendant responsibilities;
- The assertion that morality is a private, individual matter which concerns no one else.

To some degree, new morality is guided by love, but it is primarily a love of others for selfish, personal gains.

The Christian concept of love, however, is that people should love others only out of genuine concern for their welfare. Young people in love involve not only themselves but their loved ones who share a concern for their futures.

Dr. Fields reminded his listeners that in spite of changing times, Christ's commission to make disciples of all nations had not changed. The method of carrying out this commission varies with each generation. The coffeehouse missions in many large cities today are one means of reaching out to this generation.

Third Quarter:

July through September 1967

Theme:

The Church and The Christian in
The World

Gospel Text:

"Then Samuel took a stone, and
set it between Mizpeh and Shen,
and called the name of it Ebenezer,
saying, Hitherto hath the Lord
helped us."

1 Samuel 7, 12.



Rev. Eugene Seltz

Reverend Eugene Seltz, missionary to Hong Kong from 1929 to 1937 and from 1959 to the present, is Chairman of the Board for the American School, also a teacher of Mandarin and professor at Concordia Seminary in Hong Kong. Mrs. Seltz, a trained deaconess whose special work is among the blind, directs publication of a monthly paper in braille. The Seltzes were on furlough in the United States, where he was delegate to the Synod's National Convention in New York City, July 1967.

A comparison was made between the size of the British Crown Colony with its 490 square miles of mountainous land, to Olmsted County which is 655 square miles. Four million people live in Hong Kong.....or, 400,000

more than live in the entire State of Minnesota. Between two and three million refugees have arrived in Hong Kong since the Communists took over the Chinese mainland 20 years ago. There is little unemployment in the Colony and business forecasts are optimistic, since nearly all of Red China's foreign trade is handled in Hong Kong.

Rev. Seltz stated the Red Guard has practically eliminated the last trace of Christian Church work, begun on the Chinese mainland in 1912, and that contact with Christian groups is all but impossible, if any yet survive.

Presently there are 21 synod congregations in Hong Kong with special mission work among the deaf and blind, as well.



Dr. A. R. Kretzmann

Dr. A. R. Kretzmann, D.D., Litt. D., LL.D., F.I.A.L., pastor of the Lutheran Church of St. Luke in Chicago, is an outstanding clergyman of the Missouri Synod and the nation. Listed in "Who's Who In America," his degrees and accomplishments cover an entire typewritten page.

The only American invited to participate in the 450th Reformation Anniversary observances held in Wittenberg, East Germany, Dr. Kretzmann and his wife visited Rochester just prior to his departure for Europe. As a Fellow in the International Institute of Arts and Letters, he was the unanimous choice of the Lutheran Churches of Rochester as keynote speaker for the month-long Festival of the Arts which commemorated the 450th Reformation Anniversary locally.

In his role as Trinity's Centennial guest speaker, Dr. Kretzmann cautioned in his sermons that "conformity is the greatest danger in the Church today. Because people conform to what everybody else is doing, they feel no urgency in reaching out to others. The Church

Fourth Quarter:

October through December 1967

Theme:

450th Reformation Anniversary

Gospel Text:

"One generation shall praise thy works to another, and shall declare thy mighty acts."

Psalm 145, 4.

of the Reformation never was and never will be a group of self-satisfied, complacent Christians. The Gospel entrusted to you for 100 years is a great treasure and responsibility.

"Among enemies of the church who promote conformity are people in congregations who believe in their own deficiencies," Dr. Kretzmann continued, "using that as an excuse for not getting involved in the proclamation of the Gospel. Helplessness is right alongside of hopelessness, and neither has a place in the church.

"Another enemy of the church is one who stands in the way of change and innovation as people respond in their own way to the Gospel of Christ.

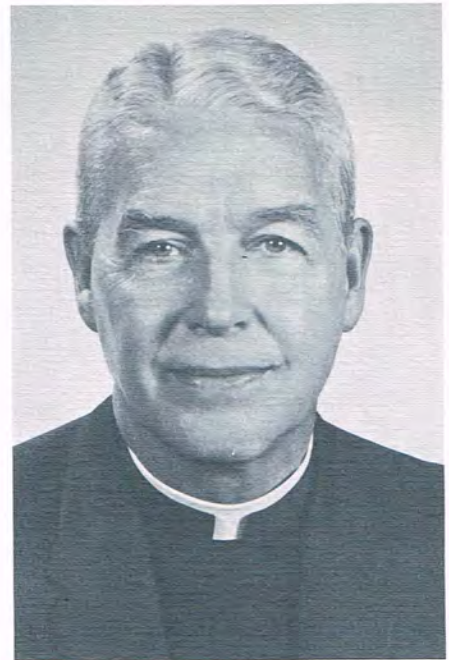
"There are even enemies of the Church in the pulpit, refusing to recognize that they are men of God but instead glorying in the fact they are men of the people, never talking about sins of the people in the pews but of sin in general. The true man of God ought to be an 'awakener' . . . everlastingly restless for the things of God."

On this final evening of Trinity congregation's Centennial year, you must feel inclined to express your sentiments much as Samuel did, of old: "So far, So good!" "Hitherto hath the Lord helped us," 1 Sam. 7, 12. In a sense these words are both an expression of thanks and a solemn promise.

During the past one hundred years God has blessed Trinity. By the grace of God it has had the light of the Gospel. As you look back upon the past years, you are moved to give sincere thanks to God.

The words, "So far, So good," mean also that you trust Him for the future. They are a promise that you are not going to stop in your forward march with, and for, God. I am sure that as you express your gratitude to God for all that He has done for you, you are determined to do even much more for God in the days that lie ahead.

May God continue to bless Trinity Church and enable it to send forth the light of the Gospel in the future as it has in the past.



Rev. Earl Schwerman

CLASS OF SERVICE This is a fast message unless its deferred character is indicated by the proper symbol.	WESTERN UNION TELEGRAM W. P. MARSHALL, PRESIDENT	SYMBOLS DL=Day Letter NL=Night Letter LT=International Letter Telegram
The filing time shown in the date line on domestic telegrams is LOCAL TIME at point of origin. Time of receipt is LOCAL TIME at point of destination.		
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WW ETB175 GOVT PD=BT WASHINGTON DC 16 353P EDT= REV HENRY GAERTNER= TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH SIXTH AVE AND THIRD ST SOUTHWEST ROCHESTER MINN: PLEASE CONVEY MY MOST SINCERE CONGRATULATIONS TO MEMBERS OF TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH ON THE OCCASION OF THE CONGREGATION'S CENTENNIAL. THE CHURCHES OF THE UNITED STATES ARE THE SOLID FOUNDATIONS UPON WHICH THE MORALITY OF OUR NATION RESTS.= ALBERT H QUIE MEMBER OF CONGRESS=		

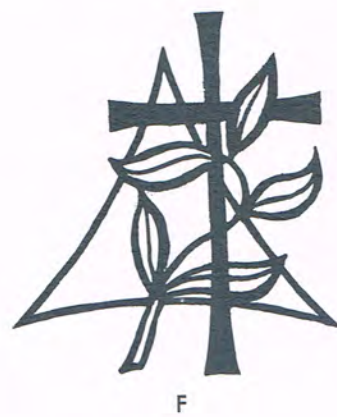
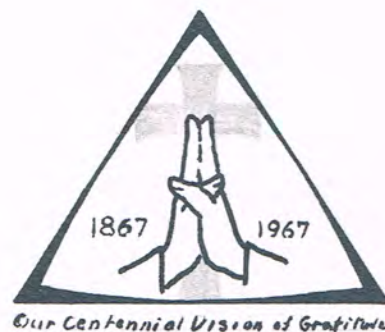


Trinity Centennial Committee: Sterling Mestad, treasurer, Mrs. Harold Geerdes, special events, Rev. Walter W. Eifert, Rev. Henry Gaertner, Elizabeth Buenger, secretary, Erwin Rutz and Donald Brandt, booklet, James Klindworth, ways and means, Edward Kersten, publicity, William Radke, special events, Walter Volberding, chairman, Elmer Gottschalk, speakers. Missing from photo: William Sperling, Oscar Maass and William Klause.

The Centennial Story

It has been suggested that a detailed, written account would best preserve the interesting, unusual and sometimes humorous incidents which occurred in conjunction with our Centennial Year events. Some of the little-known anecdotes disclosed here illustrate the challenges encountered behind-the-scenes as the committee planned, then sought to implement, its broad program of activities which spanned the entire year.

The story actually begins in mid-summer of 1966, soon after the formation of the committee and the development of a few basic "ideas" had emerged. Four artists submitted sketches for the proposed Centennial symbol and at one time more than 25 were laid out for consideration. The selection was finally narrowed down to the work of local artist, Bob Garbisch, and at the committee's request he re-worked and refined several ideas until the final symbol was created and approved. This involved a number of consultations, and certainly the forbearance of the artist. Study the sketches as they progress to the final design, and gain an appreciation for the struggle to define all that needed to be said in just one symbol.



THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE CENTENNIAL SYMBOL

- A. A beginning. The shape of the triangle representing the Trinity was not yet right.
- B. New triangle superimposed on Luther's Rose. The triangle was a popular choice.
- C. The committee liked the praying hands, embodying gratitude.
- D. Everything here was too neatly boxed.
- E. Here, a design that gave the symbol space. Height and style of cross had merit.
- F. The No. 2 triangle, combined with the No. 5 cross, and a vine added to suggest growth. But plant had no roots.
- G. Gratitude, cross, Trinity, and growth, together at last but the design is too fragmented.
- H. Balance is improved by dropping the triangle beneath the cross. But cross and hands hang aimlessly.
- I. Almost there. The hands crowd the triangle. Plant has no roots. The base of the cross is in perfect position.
- J. Vine and tendrils now appear rooted in the cross which stands most powerfully on a proper base. No harsh lines outline the triangle. The hands of gratitude are delicately sketched within it. The design has balance. The cross and growth in Christ receive the main emphasis, as properly they should.

NBC White House newsman, Ray Scherer, was selected as the ideal guest to highlight the Centennial summer quarter and an invitation was dispatched through network channels. Mr. Scherer, a well-known Lutheran Layman of our Synod, quite graciously declined, however, stating that 'covering the President's activities and travels often meant canceling speaking engagements at the last minute' and that he had caused such disappointments just often enough in the past to 'warrant turning down any future invitations.' Each week, he added, at least two inquiries reach him from Missouri Synod congregations. That dispelled any high-flown notions about celebrities.

A summer "Mission Fair" was suggested for possible coordination with the Vacation Bible School courses, but eventually the idea was abandoned and a missionary speaker was slated in the summer quarter.

The Fine Arts Festival sponsored in October 1967 by the city's 450th Reformation Committee was an outgrowth of a plan devised by Trinity for its own Centennial. Lutheran pastors of the city, having learned of our plans, requested permission to cooperate in the project for the purpose of making it a city-wide Reformation-year event. The Centennial Committee agreed to the proposal and several of our members were assigned to serve with the Intersynodical group who carried the project forward from that point.

In the initial stages of Trinity's planning (long before the merger of committees) inclusion of various items of fine and related art were considered, such as: a Reformation Stamp exhibit by Mr. Tannert, a religious coin collection, a display of books and manuscripts of an historical nature, and a beautiful collection of crosses, all in addition to larger works of religious fine art. While these ideas did not materialize, they did form the basis for several evenings' explorations by the Centennial Committee.

The final obstacle to hurdle was finding a means of financing the ambitious program planned for 1967. Some funds had been allocated in the church budget but would have been insufficient to our needs. It seemed proper that the program be entirely self-sustaining without having to resort to using church funds. Following many discussions for ways and means the idea of a patronage plan was devised, whereby donors of sums of \$5.00 or more would receive special cards commemorating the Centennial as well as a free Centennial booklet. Two special patronage appeals went out to the congregation resulting in the generous support of more than 300 donors. To date the program has been entirely self-sustaining having underwritten the cost of congregational dinners, guest-speaker's honorariums and travel costs, visiting choirs, the reunion picnic, our share of the 450th Anniversary activities, as well as a large percentage of the Centennial Book publication costs.

1967 began on a Sunday and ended on a Sunday. Even the calendar was synchronized with our planning!

New Year's Day services were joyful, but simple.

The following Sunday, Synod President Dr. Harms and his wife were our first honored guests at three morning festival services, officially commencing Trinity's Centennial.

For awhile, however, it appeared that we might have lost the speaker! Unbeknown to the committee, the Harms' had come to Minnesota earlier in the week and spent a few days visiting good friends in the area. The committee

had anticipated they would fly direct to Rochester, and became worried when severe weather warnings were broadcast on Thursday. The blizzard descended on Friday and Saturday as predicted, but Dr. Harms, a Texan by birth, had not reckoned with the paralyzing effects of a winter blizzard. He still planned to depart by automobile from Ceylon, Minnesota, on Saturday, a distance which normally could have been covered in about three hours. The trip became a marathon 8-hour endurance run as hazardous driving conditions on snow-clogged, windswept highways forced the Harms couple to consider detouring through Iowa to reach Rochester! Needless to say, all of Saturday's activities were canceled here while the committee worried, telephoned, and waited until after 10:30 p.m., when the honored guests arrived.

Sunday morning was cold and sunny, the storm had passed; but the heavy snow was still a deterrent to a really large church attendance.

The afternoon reception began with an open house for members of the Rochester Ministerial Association and area Lutheran pastors. Those who came to greet Dr. Harms included representatives of Catholic, Presbyterian and Episcopal Churches, an interdenominational gesture that would have been highly unusual 25, or even 10, years ago.



The Eiferts, Oscar Maass, Dr. Harms and Rev. Gaertner at reception table.

Having thus been initiated into the uncertainties and pitfalls of planned programming, we proceeded to the second event of the year, the two Centennial dinners on February 4 and 5.

Parish newsletters, Sunday bulletins and inserts had publicized the dinners well in advance of the dates, yet just five days before the big weekend, only 150 tickets had been sold. To avert total financial disaster on the catered meals, the committee divided the entire membership list into sections and proceeded to telephone personal invitations. A good number of parishioners responded favorably (they had meant to all along!) and, as a result, nearly 350 persons enjoyed the festivities.

The Walter Volberdings and Donald Lubberts had arranged a lovely dining room. The tables were covered with old-fashioned red and white checked cloths and a collection of kerosene lanterns were lit at all the tables. Antique dishes and flowers were decorative additions. The menu was printed in German. Each night five couples, in costume, were seated at the main tables, representing the five founders who formed Trinity Lutheran Church one hundred years ago.

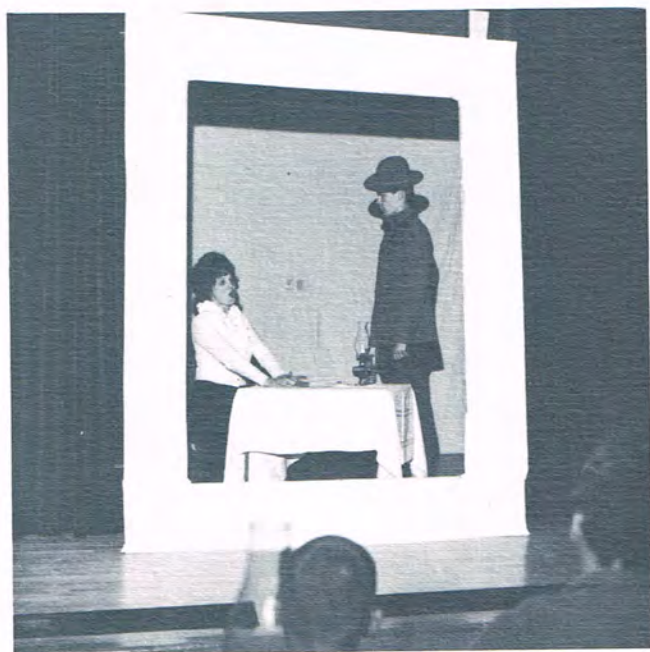
William Radke narrated a program of historical reminiscences drawn from his own vast personal knowledge of past events. His delightful commentary was interspersed with music from every era dating from the Civil War to the present day. The choir furnished talent for costumed presentations staged within a large, antique picture frame. The audience joined in singing songs and a particular enthusiasm was noted during the German numbers.



The three "Ranfranz sisters," Miss Edith Ranfranz, Mrs. Laurence Haglund and Mrs. Benjamin Green, confirmed 70, 69 and 67 years ago respectively, chat with two cast members on stage: Mrs. Ernest Vielhaber and William Schroeder. Note "antique car" in background.



A scene depicting the turn of the century . . . Mrs. Walter Eifert, Mrs. Van Winkle and Mrs. David Busse.



Mrs. Eric Lofgren sings message to loved one in World War I "dream sequence."

Backstage, frantic twelfth-hour crises confronted the production crew as balky curtains, misplaced microphones, split seams, falling props and a World War I hat all played havoc at some strategic moment. These were remedied by such ingenious devices as: a yardstick to push the curtains, coat hangers and masking tape to hang an overhead microphone, safety pins, more masking tape and a small, surprised audio-engineer pushed onstage wearing the hat!

The dinners were pronounced a success, and much credit must be given to the chairmen and their hard-working group of young people who handled all the dining room and kitchen work.

It was important that a site for the Centennial reunion picnic be selected and reserved for June 18, so in the dead of winter several couples from the Centennial Committee spent an afternoon checking out the hills of Maple Valley's Country Club. This location provided the privacy and inspiring outdoor amphitheater setting which we were seeking for morning services, having, in fact, several ideal spots from which to choose. The committee visited them all on a hiking tour that lasted several hours, trudging through stinging winds and, at times, knee-deep, wet snow . . . up and down the hills, trying to envision all the possibilities each site presented. It was agreed that the location was scenically splendid, we could ask for no finer setting. As a location for the picnic, attended by many of our older folk, however, it meant real problems of accessibility by automobile. Reluctantly the committee abandoned this lovely spot.

Later, Ladies Aid members who met to plan the picnic proposed the Olmsted County Fairgrounds as a possible site, with the 4-H Building offering an all-weather facility in case of inclement weather. The recommendation was adopted. Plans were advanced during the spring months as the ladies of Hannah, Joanna and Lydia circles gathered the confirmation reunion lists.

Meanwhile the spring youth event needed co-ordination. Dr. Field of the University of Iowa at Ames had accepted our invitation to speak at festival services and an afternoon program. This commitment was in responsible hands.

It was understood that Concordia College Choir of St. Paul would be invited to sing special music for both morning and afternoon events, a natural choice because several young men of Trinity were members of the choir. Meanwhile, Concordia of Milwaukee approached Trinity for a singing date in Rochester that very weekend, since it would be returning from South Dakota on a concert tour. A change of plans was made to accommodate them, and long distance calls flew to the tour director to lay out an afternoon program for which special "hootenanny" music had been promised. In

spite of repeated assurances from them that all plans were in order and that publicity and programs would soon be forthcoming, nothing happened. By the Thursday prior to their appearance here, it seemed evident something was amiss. With no word from Milwaukee, the hootenanny planned around the choir was set aside, and replaced by a forum on "The New Morality" by Dr. Fields (with incidental music in case it happened).

The morning festival services were beautifully sung by the Concordia group, and our special offering in its behalf was generous. The Sunday School teachers graciously prepared and served the visitors a noon meal. Dr. Field's lecture to the small afternoon audience was well-received and rated fine comments in the local press. The entertainment was, as had been feared, dismal.

The intrepid committee next surveyed details of the Centennial Reunion Picnic.

Men of the congregation volunteered (or were recruited) to prepare and serve a complete chicken barbeque dinner at a nominal fee. No one could predict the number who would respond to the invitations, certainly some of our earlier attendance figures were poor. It was important to remain confident that things would get better.

When all the confirmation lists were at last assembled for study, the three circles were confronted by more than 3,000 names. It seemed unrealistic to pursue information on confirmands prior to the year 1892, the likelihood of a person's survival to that advanced age seemed remote. Even after the first 25 year's names were put aside, 2,654 names still remained. Also, all former pastors and teachers had to be located!

After the first long, particularly-frustrating, and fruitless work session, the project seemed utterly futile! Discouragement was evident, but the ladies did not shirk the responsibility. This was a difficult assignment for many women who were not life-long members acquainted with the congregation's extensive family ties. At this point several long-time members were called in for assistance, Mrs. Mathen, Mrs. Maass, Mrs. Green, William Radke, William Sperling, Lena Podolske, and others who spent long hours checking the lists, providing addresses and contacts, and generally lending encouragement to the project. Noticeable progress was made at the second and third day-long sessions.

Once the great bulk of the lists was processed, private individuals studied them again and broke them down for further research. The telephone calls were interminable.

By early May, more than 1,700 letters were ready for mailing. About two-thirds of the confirmands had been located.... some from as far away as Australia, Guam, Hawaii and Europe. The letters were sorted, zip-coded, stamped and bundled, and once they were on their way, the wonderful, energetic ladies breathed a grateful sigh of relief.

Now the big "mail-watch" began.

Registrations trickled in slowly, but one could see early that the reunion idea had "taken hold." A number of out-of-staters confirmed their reservations for the day's events and once the word was abroad that old and dear relatives, friends, and classmates were home-ward-bound, the local mail took an upward turn. It was evident that reservations would exceed five hundred.

Amid a special chancel setting of palms, reminiscent of a confirmation Sunday, Pastor Richard Kruesel of Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, Canada, one of Trinity's own sons, assisted at Centennial reunion worship services on June 18.

Visitors from ten states and distant points throughout Minnesota streamed to the registration desk, the historical display in the Blue Room and the coffee hour held between morning services. Joyful, surprised folk were seen throughout the morning and afternoon, where the scene of activity shifted to the Olmsted County Fairgrounds.

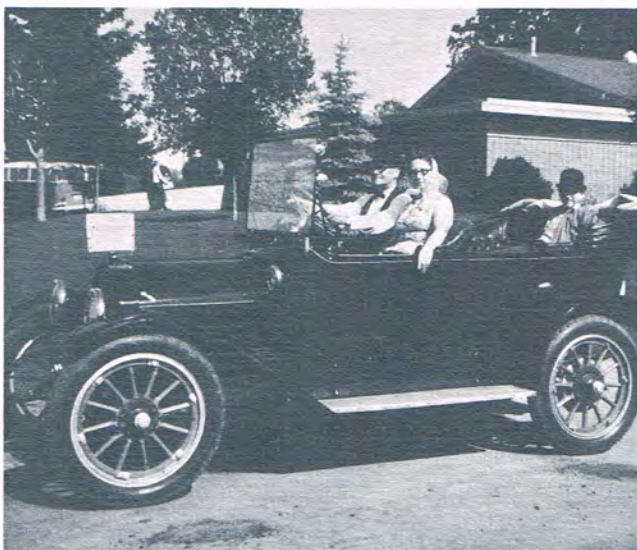
A throng gathered under a glorious summer sky for the delicious outdoor barbeque.

An old time German band made music for the crowd, followed by the lively sounds of a modern young folk-singing group.

Pastor Gaertner read greetings from President Johnson, Vice President Humphrey, Governor Levander and other distinguished government leaders. Spirited community singing followed.

Single carnations were presented to special guests as they were introduced: Mrs. Edwin Zielske; Mrs. Anna Kionka Kath of Milwaukee, first woman teacher at Trinity School; Esther Melchert Hanson of Faribault, another long-time faculty member; also Rev. G. L. Kath of Park Rapids, Minnesota; Rev. Richard Kruesel, and Teacher Lester Gottschalk, Decatur, Indiana, all former Trinity confirmands.

Mrs. Amelia Stolp Conley of Oronoco, Class of 1894, was honored as the oldest confirmand present at the program. Unable to attend was the oldest confirmand of all, Magdalena Thedens Schulz, confined to a local rest home. Hers was the Class of 1892, seventy-five years ago!



Mr. and Mrs. Walt Scharf arrive at the picnic in their antique automobile.



Partial View of Picnic Audience

Special recognition and small gifts were presented to class members through the year 1900. Those residing in Rochester, yet unable to be present, were recipients of bouquets of carnations selected from the altar flowers, placed in vases decorated with a cross and tied with special Centennial ribbon. They were personally delivered Reunion Sunday with words of greeting by members of the Altar Society.

These were the oldest living confirmands:

- 1892 Magdalena Thedens Schulz (rest home)
- 1894 Amelia Stolp Conley, Oronoco
(attended)
- Lina Goldbeck Kuehn, Rochester
(rest home)
- 1895 Mathilda Ritter Wenzel, Rochester
(attended)
- Hugo F. Buchholz, Racine (attended)
- Fredrick Wm. A. L. Koenig, Rochester
(rest home)
- 1897 Edith Ranfranz, Rochester (attended)
- 1898 August Sawinski, Rochester (ill)
- Anna Maria Lind Stewart, Rochester
(rest home)
- Tillie Ranfranz Haglund, Rochester
(attended)
- 1899 Augusta Schrandt Hyde, Rochester
(rest home)
- Eva Karau Gahler, Waukegan, Ill.
(attended)
- 1900 Hulda Ranfranz Green, Rochester
(attended)
- Walter Sonnenberg, Rochester
- Sophia Karau Newell, St. Louis Park
(attended)
- Johanna Sawinski Ralph, Tustin, Calif.
- Minnie Lind Madsen, Miles City, Mont.
- Alfred Prigge, Sun City, Ariz.
(sent greetings).



Dr. Oscar Ranfranz, Birdie Risto, Mrs. Amelia Stolp Conley, Rev. Richard Kruesel

The 'Karau girls' brought special greetings from their 101-year-old mother, also a former member of Trinity now living in Illinois.

Birdie Risto, Class of 1932, was honored for having come from Los Angeles, the greatest distance. Frena Quandt Luedtke was next, from Florida; then Rev. Kruesel from Canada; and Dr. Oscar Ranfranz from Houston, Texas.

The Class of 1938 had the largest number of former confirmands in attendance. Costumed guests were brought to the stage for introduction. Several antique automobiles were on the premises also.

Then, for the remainder of the afternoon children watched movies, rode tandem bikes, or played, while the older folk chatted and clustered around the bulletin board to read the many letters posted there from distant places. Sketches of large 'family trees' were hung on the walls of the auxiliary dining room and members of the larger families wrote their names among the branches.

There were the inevitable problems, of course, like the many people who had to be turned away for barbeque tickets because reservations had not been made, and the clown who



Mr. and Mrs. Stanley Maass, Mrs. Karl Beilke, and Mrs. Henry Elwood and daughter acknowledge applause of audience for their costumes.



Carol Maass Elwood, Cresco, Iowa, with her children, Marina and Laura.

neglected to call and tell us he could not be present to entertain the children. But in light of the day's great successes the difficulties were only minor.

Thanks to the marvelous cooperation of the Ladies Aid Circles who had been assigned the project, Ray Hasley's barbeque and kitchen committees, the registration committee and individuals from the main Centennial Committee, the day was all that we could have wished.

Rev. Seltz's visit here in July was a brief and quiet affair at his own request. His furlough from Hong Kong had become so crowded with speaking engagements that he was truly appreciative of a relaxed and uneventful weekend appearance here.

A description of the events in the fall Centennial quarter must, of necessity, be a review of the 450th Reformation Anniversary events as well, since the formula of the month's activities was originally conceived by Trinity and our members played such an important role in its development as a community-wide project.

The Fine Arts Festival was an inspiring, memorable tribute to the great, historical event it commemorated. Dr. A. R. Kretzmann, jointly the guest of Trinity's Centennial Committee and the Intersynodical Committee, spent a "shared" weekend which was completely successful and satisfying to both groups.



Extensive press coverage was given his visit by all media.

His marvelous grasp of facts and recall on dates, people and places together with his skill in the art of public relations was a source of constant amazement and delight to his escorting party.

On Saturday evening Dr. and Mrs. Kretzmann were feted at dinner by more than fifty persons on the occasion of the couple's 40th Wedding Anniversary. Dr. Kretzmann was asked to speak informally to the Intersynodical group in attendance, and his impromptu speech was a masterpiece of humor, provocative ideas, inspiration and wisdom. His astute comments ranged over such subjects as ecumenism, liturgical innovations, church art and architecture and the Christian's challenge in this fast-changing society. All were seen in an interesting new light because of Dr. Kretzmann's extensive background and intense interest in church affairs at the international level. His speech was the very element needed to give real impetus to the Intersynodical Committee's October efforts.

Redeemer's Choir was present to sing with Trinity's Choir at services which signalled the beginning of the final quarter of our Centennial Year. October was in full splendor and the church was crowded for both services. Following a luncheon for the Kretzmans, attended by Trinity officials, an afternoon reception was held at Mayo Auditorium North Hall, scene of the Intersynodical Art Exhibit. More than 900 visitors toured the exhibit, and during the reception many out-of-staters came especially to greet Dr. Kretzmann. Guests from eight states and 18 Minnesota communities were registered. In the evening program two fine presentations preceded the main lecture: a powerful art film entitled, "The Gift," and musical selections played by a brass group called "The Posaunchor." Again, about 900 persons heard Dr. Kretzmann speak on "Modern Man and Modern Art."

Rochester and the area were richer for his having been here for such an auspicious occasion.

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Each Sunday evening during October half-hour programs of great religious music were presented over KROC Radio, their research and development on behalf of 450th by Mr. and Mrs. Nitschke and Mrs. Geerdes. Music from the 9th Century to the present day was heard in an historical survey based on recordings drawn from unusually fine collector's albums.

A library display, billboards, and carillon concert further called the public's attention to the 450th Reformation Anniversary. The theme "Life, New Life" was evident everywhere. Four specially designed church bulletin covers created by local Lutheran artists were used during October by ten participating Lutheran churches.



Viewing a 4 x 6 painting exhibited at the 450th Reformation Art Festival and presented to Trinity by women's groups of the congregation are Rev. Eifert, the artist Mrs. Paul Belau, Mrs. E. W. Buenger representing the women's organizations who purchased the piece, and Rev. Gaertner. The mixed media collage which includes a metal cross in its design, was originally untitled at the exhibition, but is now called "Life, New Life."



The youth event held at Trinity, based on the book "Wine in Separate Cups," featured as special guests two young women, Rita Chastang a Roman Catholic from Mobile, Alabama, and Dorothy Eckhoff a Missouri Synod Lutheran from Illinois. Both shared a "live-in" encounter during the summer of 1966, in Chicago. Synod officials were eager to learn the outcome of the local event requesting this information for possible publication in the Lutheran Witness-Reporter. The National Walther League was instrumental in first arranging the 1966 Chicago experiment and the book relating their experiences was subsequently published by the Walther League.

A photograph of Rochester's event appeared in three national synodical publications across the country.

The thrilling choral festival presented the final Sunday of October was the highlight of the entire Reformation-month program.

The massed choir of some 150 voices from Rochester's Lutheran Churches met for rehearsals at different churches each week: Trinity, Gloria Dei, Zumbro and Bethel. Trinity's Frederic Nitschke and Bethel's Robert Oudal

shared director's duties. Their fine offerings during a half-hour concert were enjoyed by a near-capacity audience of about 2,400 persons in Mayo Auditorium Theater.

The Decorah College Nordic Choir, having recently returned from a successful European tour, sang a splendid concert of both religious and secular music. Harpsichord and bass instruments furnished unusual accompaniment for one selection. The renowned College Brass Choir also performed a group of pieces.

The program soared to a soul-stirring climax in the closing selection, "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God," sung by the two choirs and the audience accompanied by four trumpets. It was a memorable evening.

After having experienced a month of such sustained activity it seemed natural that the final days of our Centennial Year would be spent in quiet reflection. The Thanksgiving Day mortgage burning service, while not a Centennial event, was an important milestone reached in our 100th year.

The Centennial book begun early in the year by members of Trinity Guild reached the final stages of research. A rough script was ready for editing and special efforts were still being made to trace important photographs to illustrate the text. The Olmsted County Historical Society gave assistance, as did the Rochester Post Bulletin and a number individuals who lent cherished photographs. After many delayed deadlines the materials were assembled and publication was underway.

The final event for 1967 began with a New Year's Eve fellowship hour, spent reviewing nostalgic old films from Trinity's archives: the groundbreaking and cornerstone-laying ceremonies, Dedication Day—1951, and Pastor Weinhold's retirement services.

The Watch Night Service began at 11:00 p.m., with Rev. Earl O. Schwerman, pastor of our first sister congregation giving the devotional message. Several outstanding organ and vocal solos were offered in this service of 'lessons, lights, and anthems.' Symbolically, just before midnight, candles were lit at the conclusion of the service, illuminating our way into Trinity's second century.

Historical Notes

- 1866—Late summer: Arrival in Rochester of Friedrich Siekert, Theo. Adler, Carl Brendemuehl, and August Brendemuehl.
- 1867—First divine service conducted by Rev. John Herzer of Claremont, Minn.
- 1874—December. Congregation chose name "Evang. Lutherische Dreieinigkeits Gemeinde." Call extended to Rev. Johl of Claremont. He declined.
- 1875—Candidate Ludwig Von Schenk installed as first pastor.
- 1877—Congregation incorporated. First trustees: Gottlieb Podolske, Theo. Adler and Fr. Siekert.
- 1878—German Ladies Aid founded. Charter members: Mrs. F. Siekert, Mrs. Theo. Adler, Mrs. Brendemuehl, Mrs. G. Oesterreich and Mrs. Zingenhagen. First president: Mrs. Theo. Adler.
- 1878—November 11. Pastor G. P. A. Schaaf started a parochial school which was held in the church building.
- 1879—August 10. Congregation was received into membership of Missouri Synod.
- 1882—Church building enlarged at a cost of \$300 with 10% interest paid.
- 1883—August 21. Tornado struck Rochester and also damaged renovated church.
- 1884—August 17. Resolution to build a school 18 x 24, cost not to exceed \$425.
- 1886—January 1. First janitor, F. Witzke, employed at \$15 a year.
- 1889—July 8. Resolved to add an addition of 12 feet to school building.
- 1891—September 26. Resolution to call a teacher.
- 1892—Gust Frank, first called teacher.
- 1893—January 29. Resolved to have a collection for a poor congregation in New York which had appealed for help.
- 1894—January 14. Resolved to erect new church building.
- 1894—February 25. Two lots on 5th and Prospect Streets purchased as building site.
- 1894—July 15. Cornerstone of new church laid.
- 1894—First Sunday in Advent, dedication of new church. Building Committee: Julius Mundt, Reinhold Lietz, Claus Lamprecht, Henry Adler, Theodore Adler, Carl Rabehl, Fred Hoffman, August Behrendt, William Strege and Robert Walde.



German Ladies Aid—Front Row (from left): Mesdames Emil Herzberg, Fred Zimmerman, Martin Weinhold, Arnold Klause, August Harnack, Martin Meyer, Otto Kiecker, Adolph Wachholz. Back Row (from left): Mmes. Emma Munster, Emma Bowman, Otto Moehnke, Ida Krause, Walter W. Eifert, Albert King, William Theel, Fred Maass, Rolla Wood, Henry Hoffman, Walter Lambrecht, John Tews, Louis Tradup.

- 1907—Furnace placed in school.
- 1909—October. Monthly envelope system introduced.
- 1911—Regular evening services in English language introduced.
- 1912—January 1. Resolved to erect new school. Construction begun in September 1912 and completed in August 1913. Cost of building \$13,700. Building Committee: Ernst Maass, F. Vihstadt, Otto Riess, Frank Moehnke, William Theel, Albert Matzke, Julius Mundt, Teacher H. A. Roeglin, Pastor M. Weinhold.
- 1913—May 4. Resolved to build new parsonage adjacent to church.



Mr. and Mrs. August Kutzky

- 1916—1600 pound churchbell valued at \$530 presented to congregation by August Kutzky and Louis Hoffman.
- 1917—July 15. Golden Jubilee of Trinity Congregation observed.
- 1918—Service flag with 34 stars dedicated to memory of young men who served in World War I. Eight additional stars added later.
- 1919—Men's Club organized by Teacher K. F. G. Kath, who served as president the first seven years of its existence. Charter members: Ernst Maass, Sr., Frank Moehnke, Herman Lehmann, Julius Mundt, John Lentfer and George Garbisch.

- 1919—December 19. Trinity Choir officially organized.
- 1919—Weekly offering envelope system introduced.
- 1920—August. Young People's Society with Ladies Aid paid for electric wiring and fixtures in the church.
- 1921—April 10. Confirmation of first English class. Ten members.
- 1921—April. Young People's Society became a member of Walther League.
- 1921—May 8. Congregation discussed enlargement of the church to accommodate people especially on holidays. No action was taken.
- 1921—July 31. Walther League Rally held here. Collection of \$635 for Wheatridge Sanitarium.



Lutheran Womens' Missionary League Birthday Party with past presidents and officers. Seated: Mrs. Fred Maass. Standing (from left): Mrs. Robert Burch, Mrs. Wilbert Dahnert, Mrs. Earl Senst, Mrs. Harold Wallman, Mrs. Carl Walbruch, Mrs. Karl Beilke, Mrs. Elmer Gottschalk.

- 1922—April 19. English Ladies Aid organized. Charter members: Mrs. Martin Weinhold, Mrs. Herman Brown, Mrs. Paul Brumm, Miss Bertha Braun, Mrs. Wm. Enke, Mrs. Walter Ewald, Mrs. John Fricke, Mrs. Fred Goetting, Mrs. Benjamin Green, Mrs. Wm. Holm, Mrs.

Fred Haase, Mrs. Henry Jacobs, Mrs. George Morrison, Mrs. Ernest Maass, Sr., Mrs. Julius Mundt, Mrs. Robert Pfeiffer, Miss Emma Priebe, Mrs. Emma Parker, Mrs. Henry Postier, Mrs. Harry Purves, Mrs. August Sawinski, Mrs. Louis Schuetz, Mrs. Albert Sonnenberg, Mrs. Arthur Stoltenberg, Mrs. Gus Schmidt, Mrs. John Vihstadt, Mrs. Lorenz Wenning, Mrs. Warren Yates, Mrs. Fred Maass and Mrs. Oscar Maass.



Sunday School Registration Day—1967

- 1923—April 15. Opening of Sunday School with 170 children.
- 1923—August 10. Memorial Service honoring President Warren Harding.
- 1923—October 10. Adult Bible Class organized with 40 members.
- 1924—October 29. Teacher Edwin E. Zielske of Detroit, Mich. called. He was installed on January 4, 1925.
- 1925—April 1. Congregational Committee conferred with Mission Board regarding the appointment of Hospital Pastor.
July 1. Rev. G. Drews was called as first Hospital Pastor by the Mission Board.

- 1927—March 20. Class of 12 adults confirmed in the morning service.
- 1927—April 11-14. First Noon-day Lenten Week Services in Lawler Theatre.
- 1927—September 23. Fire of unknown origin damaged the church to the extent of \$2,475.
- 1927—October 30. Reopening of the church.
- 1927—November. Drive for liquidation of \$6,000 debt in the congregational treasury. Pledges totaled over \$8,000.
- 1928—October. Church building fund established.
- 1928—October 14. 50th Anniversary of the German Ladies Aid.
- 1928—Quarterly Parish paper and School News introduced.
- 1930—August. Introduction of Every Member Canvass.
- 1930—October. Supt. of Missions, Rev. J. C. Meyer, conferred with the congregation in the matter of establishing a mission in Southeast Rochester. Rev. H. W. Baily, member of Trinity, made a canvass of that section of the city. Trinity provided Sunday School teachers for new mission and later transferred some of its members to form Redeemer Lutheran Church.
- 1932—Congregational minutes written for the first time in English.
- 1931—May 17. Student Robert Nerger opened the new mission in S.E. Rochester on the corner of 6th Ave. and 11th Street S.E. with 17 Sunday School children.
- 1933—Property south of the teacherage was purchased for \$4,100.



Trinity Ladies Guild, 1967—Front Row (from left): Alma Witzke, Mrs. Ralph Pike, Mrs. Marian Maass. Second Row: Frieda Prigge, Malvina Mau, Lillian Miller, Mrs. Harold Ranfranz, Mrs. Harold Wallman, guest, Nettie Henke, Ilo Pohlman, Lydia Neurenberger, Jean Kalass. Third Row: Dora Schellin, Nora Staage, Lucille Kuhlman, Mrs. Henry Gaertner, Viola Zimmerman, Mrs. Irene Heitman, Mrs. Margaret Paine, Mrs. Walter Eifert, Mrs. Walter Schultz, Mrs. E. C. Rutz.

- 1934—March. Trinity Ladies Guild organized.
- 1935—December 8. First Southeastern Minnesota Lutheran Hour heard over station KROC. Financial support was given by the societies of the congregation.
- 1937—August. Congregation adopted Synod's Pension Plan.
- 1939—Committee formed to study enlargement of church facilities. At a later date this committee became the Church Building Committee consisting of 14 members: William Radke, Chairman, Edwin E. Zielske, Secretary, Fred E. Maass, Oscar A. Maass, Lorenz J. Wenning, William F. Sperling, William F. Rutz, Charles W. Tannert, Glen Schroeder, Walter Lambrecht, Louis Tradup, Alvin Benike, Edgar Buenger, Erwin C. Rutz. (Added later: Victor Kretzmann and Walter W. Eifert.)
- 1940—February 4. Mr. Edwin Zielske's 15th anniversary as principal of Trinity School observed.
- 1941—August 13. Pastor Walter W. Eifert of Bruderheim, Alberta, Canada called. Pastor Eifert was installed by Rev. Weinhold on October 12, 1941.
- 1941—December. New Lutheran Hymnals dedicated.
- 1942—June. United States Flag and Universal Christian Flag, donated by Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Maass, Sr., as well as a service flag, a gift of the Sr. Walter League was dedicated.
- 1942—July. Parsonage on West Center Street painted and Trinity School remodeled.
- 1942—October. Church re-shingled and painted. During interior decoration, services were held for three Sundays in the School Assembly Hall.
- 1942—Preparations finalized for Diamond Jubilee celebration. On Sunday, November 29, Dr. J. W. Behnken, President of the Synod, preached the morning and afternoon services. District President Rev. Robert Heyne preached the evening service. Total thankoffering of \$10,237.23 for debt liquidation. Jubilee book issued.
- 1943—Having received an offer from the Kahler Corporation, it was resolved on June 2 to dispose of the church property on West Center Street for the sum of \$75,000 and in turn to acquire a site facing 3rd St. S.W. between 5th and 6th Avenues for the sum of \$24,500.

- 1943—August. Mr. H. P. Westermann installed as second called teacher of Trinity Lutheran School.
- 1943—December. Mr. Edwin E. Zielske's 25th anniversary in office observed by the congregation.
- 1945—April. Memorial Service in memory of President Franklin D. Roosevelt.
- 1945—Special services of thanksgiving for victory in Europe were held on May 8 and for victory over Japan on Aug. 14 and 15 at 8 p.m.
- 1946—Mr. Zielske declined a call to Zion Lutheran, Detroit. Mr. Westermann released to St. Paul's Lutheran School, Lakefield, Minn.
- 1947—Centennial of Synod observed by congregations of S.E. Minnesota in a mass service in Mayo Auditorium on June 8. Prof. W. Poehler, speaker.
- 1947—August 12. Groundbreaking ceremony on new church site for church and parsonage. Excavation begun.
- 1947—August 27. Mr. Alvin Roth from Woodburn, Indiana was installed as second called teacher of Trinity Lutheran School.
- 1947—November 30. 80th anniversary of Trinity Lutheran Church observed. Thank-offering for the benefit of church building fund totaled \$2,391.05.
- 1948—October 10. German Ladies Aid observed the 70th anniversary of its founding.
- 1948—October 31. Congregation celebrated Pastor Eifert's 25th anniversary of ordination in a special afternoon service. Pastor H. Gamber, Pres. of the Minn. District, preached. Pastor Martin Weinhold served as Liturgist.
- 1949—March. Trinity Twosome Couples Club organized.
- 1949—Tin box from cornerstone of the old church (laid in 1894) was removed. Unfortunately moisture in the box had spoiled most of the documents it contained.
- 1949—August 21. Cornerstone for new church was laid.
- 1950—August. New parsonage at 525 3rd St. S.W. was occupied by Pastor W. Eifert and family.
- 1950—November. Trinity Altar Society organized.
- 1951—March 18 (Palm Sunday). Farewell services 8 a.m. and 9:30 a.m. (German) conducted in old church. Confirmation service at 11 a.m. held in new church. In spite of heavy snowfall, attendance was 757. Congregation resolved to sell furnishings of old church.
- 1951—June 10. Formal dedication of new church. Guest speakers were: Prof. Martin Neeb and Pastor Wm. Buege. Organ concert by Prof. Theo. Stelzer. Ladies served noon meal to about 1100 guests in Fellowship Room.
- 1951—Mr. John Ellermann served as student helper (vicar) from September 1951 to June 1952.



Trinity Twosome's Mississippi Jamboree, 1953, one of many musical productions staged by the Couple's Club.

1952—Pastor M. Weinhold, for 30 years Pastor and for 11 years Associate Pastor, announced his retirement, effective as soon as a successor would be installed.

1953—Candidate Arden Malotky was installed as Associate Pastor on August 16, 1953.

1953—Pastor Weinhold preached his farewell sermon. The resolution of the congregation, passed in November 1952, to reduce the number of services in German from every Sunday and holiday to one per month now became effective.

1954—First Vacation Bible School conducted for two weeks.

1954—During this year stained glass windows were installed in the Chapel. Furnishings in the Chapel: baptismal font, light fixtures, altar lights, stone cross, and organ, are the gift of Mr. and Mrs. E. W. Buenger in memory of their parents, Dr. and Mrs. Theodore Buenger and Mr. and Mrs. William Weber.

1954—February 11. Social Security granted to employees other than pastors and called teachers.

1954—October 14. Vestry given power to purchase second parsonage.

1954—December 9. Congregation Stewardship Committee formed.

1955—January 13. Resolved not to publish the amounts of individual contributions in the church yearbook.

1955—February 11. Trinity Twosome Couples Club authorized to arrange a Christmas display on the lawn of the church. Second parsonage purchased at 8th Avenue and 11th Street N.W.

1955—April 14. Contributions and donations received sufficient to pay for installation of an electronic organ in the Chapel.

1955—July 14. Option on proposed school site at 8th Avenue and 5th Street N.W. relinquished.

1955—October 15. Study begun for a suitable sculpture for the reredos panel above altar.



1955—December. The Nativity Window installed in the Nave, first of 12 stained glass creations received over a 5-year period from Artist Robert Metcalf.

1956—February 9. Building Committee and Trinity Guild agree upon carving for reredos as presented by Sculptor Ivan Mestrovic. Project also endorsed by Vestry.

1956—May 9. Building Committee granted permission to raise funds for reredos carving.

1956—October 11. Pastor Malotky released to accept a call to Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Glen Lake, Minnesota.

1956—November 9. Resolved to drop German services beginning January 1957.

1956—December 13. Finance Committee instructed to undertake mailing out quarterly statements to members.

An offer of \$120,000 received for school property on 2nd Street and 2nd Avenue N.W., with conditions that church can retain possession up to two years.

1956—December 9. Dedication of altar reredos.



Two members of the Altar Society making preparations for worship services in the working Sacristy.

1957—January 10. Trustees authorized to dispose of second parsonage if opportunity presented itself.

1957—February 14. Trustees given authority to spend \$100 for non-budgeted items.

1957—May 9. Men's Club authorized to finance and arrange blacktopping for all or part of church parking lot.

1957—June 30. Ordination, installation services and reception for Pastor Roger Polansky, new Associate Pastor.

1958—February 13. Frederic Nitschke called as teacher, director of music and youth counselor. He arrived for beginning of 1958-59 school year.

1958—September 11. Sunday evening services discontinued.

Joint boards urged to prepare a resolution in favor of a Central School Association to be brought before their respective congregations.

1958—November. Principal Edwin Zielske stricken by heart attack in Minneapolis during Thanksgiving holiday weekend.

1958—December 11. Frederic Nitschke named acting principal. Mrs. Ronken employed as substitute teacher in Mr. Zielske's absence.

1958—December. Mr. Zielske returned home from Minneapolis by ambulance. He passed away just prior to Christmas.

1958—December. Mrs. Harold Reetz hired as part-time church secretary.

1958—December. School Building Committee authorized to contact architects concerning construction of new school. Trinity congregation voted in favor of a Central School Association. Board of Education instructed to contact area synodical congregations concerning formation of such an association.

1958—December 31. Purchase of Geselle property completed, and reported to voters at January meeting.

1959—February 12. Call extended to C. P. Brenner, Altura, Minnesota, to serve as Associate Pastor.

Mrs. Edwin Zielske granted permission to live in the teacherage rent-free until such time as the congregation had need for the house.



1967 Board of Christian Education—Garfield Kreter, Earl Potvin, Wendell Bass, and Edward Garbisch.

1959—February 12. Because of increasing pupil load, the Board of Christian Education permitted to employ an additional teacher for the 1959-60 school year.

1959—February 12. A general discussion of the advisability of procuring properties north of the church property was held. No motion came before the board.

1959—March 8. Representatives of Trinity, Redeemer and Grace Lutheran Churches met to consider the organization of a Central School Association.

1959—April 9. Pastor C. P. Brenner accepted call as Associate Pastor. Installation service held May 17, 1959.

1959—May 14. Trustees of Congregation authorized to sign the Central School Association agreement. Mr. Henry J. Rediger accepted the call as principal of Trinity Lutheran School.

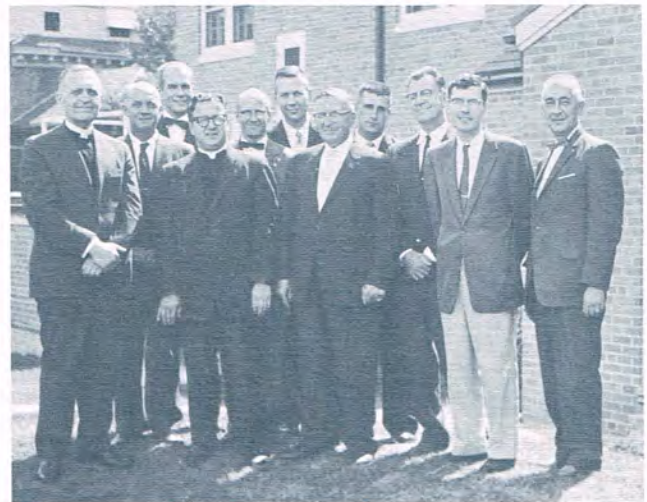
1959—June 11. Board of Elders recommended to the congregation the establishment of a fund: "The Trinity Lutheran Sunday School Building Fund."

1959—July 30. Mr. Henry Rediger and Mr. Frederic Nitschke released from their calls to Trinity Lutheran Church to accept calls to the Rochester Central Lutheran School Association. The releases effective July 31, 1959.

1959—October 8. Necessary notice to convey all church educational properties not located on the church site to Rochester Central Lutheran School Association authorized.

1959—November 12. A Church Music Committee was appointed consisting of Donald Eifert, Walter Prigge, Viola Zimmerman and Mrs. Erwin Rutz.

1960—January 15. The Sunday School Committee granted permission to interview, engage and hire an architect to proceed with plans for the new educational wing. Building Committee: Garfield Kreter, Chairman; Calvin Lubahn, Secretary; Walter Prigge, William Ollhoff, E. C. Rutz, LeRoy Kruger, Marvin Muller, Donald Lubbert, Paul Kreter, Harold Luther, Wm. Fish, Sunday School Superintendent; Carl Brenner, Walter W. Eifert.



Educational Wing—Building Committee and architect at groundbreaking ceremonies, Aug. 28, 1960.

1960—The voter's assembly accepted the financial secretary's recommendation concerning the adoption of a unified budget and division of funds on a percentage basis. Single pocket weekly contribution envelopes to be ordered and used.

- 1960—Architects hired to draw plans for the new Christian Day School and a motion was carried to establish an Edwin Zielske Memorial Library Fund. Building Committee: Richard Maass, Chairman, Carl Volberding, Kenneth Lorenz, Rev. Carl Brenner, Henry J. Rediger.
- 1960—March 9. Pastor Eifert hospitalized as the result of a heart attack.
- 1960—March 10. Voter's assembly informed that all churches in the Central School Association had accepted the Elton Hills site for the construction of the new school.
- 1960—May 12. Voters accepted preliminary plans for new Sunday School wing, but the \$145,000 price submitted was not accepted. Revision and further study suggested.
- 1960—October 13. A committee appointed to study the establishment of a mission church in Elton Hills, Northwest Rochester.
- 1961—Open house and dedication of new Sunday School education wing.
- 1961—Rochester Lutheran Central School Association recommended that congregation accept as a package plan the building and financial plans for the proposed new Rochester Lutheran School. Following lengthy discussion a ballot vote resulted in 58-34 decision in favor of the recommendation.
- 1961—June 8. Minnesota District accepted recommendation to establish new church on the Rochester Lutheran School site.
- 1961—December 14. School property on 2nd Avenue and 2nd Street N.W. sold to Methodist Hospital Association for \$130,000 with occupancy set for June 15, 1963.
- 1962—August 9. Fifteen members of Trinity transferred to Holy Cross Mission Church.
- 1962—September 13. The withdrawal of Grace Lutheran Church from the Central School Association was reported to the voters meeting.
- 1963—April 7. Groundbreaking services held for the new school.
- 1963—Authorization, on a trial basis, for the use of written Communion announcement cards. Regular verbal announcement procedure also still in effect.
- 1963—October 13. Four hundred and fifty well-wishers gathered for a surprise party honoring Pastor Eifert on the 40th year of his ordination into the Holy Ministry. Congregational fund underway to present the Eiferts with a trip to Europe and the Holy Land in recognition of many years of service.
- 1963—June 13. Building progress on new school halted because of a strike.
- 1963—August 7. Grace Lutheran Church rejoins the Central School Association.
- 1963—September 5. First classes begun in the new Rochester Lutheran School. Sewer and water not connected by the City, but promised for near future.
- 1963—October 10. Senior citizens organization approved.



Adolph Butterfass, Harold Ranfranz, Henry Maass, Trustees



Trinity's representatives to the Rochester Central Lutheran School Association—Dr. LaVerne Knappe, Clarence Bolduan, Harold Geerdes, and Donald Kundo.

- 1963—November 11. Funds from Zielske Memorial Library Fund released to Rochester Lutheran School Association for equipping school library.
- 1964—January 12. Dedication service, cornerstone laying and open house held at the new Rochester Lutheran School.
- 1964—August 13. Pastor Brenner released to accept a call to St. Paul, Lapeer, Michigan.
- 1964—September 10. A proposal received from Pastor Eifert suggesting that steps be taken toward calling a new pastor who would serve as administrative pastor of the congregation and that he, Pastor Eifert, serve as second pastor.
A letter of commendation sent from the congregation to Mrs. Myrtle Decker for having taught Sunday School for many years.
- 1964—December 17. Special voter's meeting held for the purpose of extending a call to a pastor. Rev. Henry Gaertner received a majority vote wherewith a unanimous vote was cast. The call was extended to Pastor Gaertner.
- 1965—February 11. Congregational support pledged to the Chapel Center program at the Rochester State Hospital. During the years 1965-66, \$2,500 would be raised for this purpose.
- 1965—March 14. Installation service and reception for Pastor Henry Gaertner.
- 1965—June 10. Board of Christian Education recommends hiring of a synod-trained youth worker.
- 1965—October 14. A new visitor-greeting program inaugurated for a trial period of three months.
- 1966—January 13. Pastor Gaertner empowered to contact Valparaiso University Youth Leadership student, encouraging him to serve at Trinity upon his graduation.
- 1966—February 10. Consideration of a Centennial project consisting of the construction of a multi-purpose building adjacent to the Central Lutheran School.
- 1966—Board of Christian Education recommended hiring Mr. Ed. Thiel as Youth and Education Director at such time he is available.
Centennial Committee appointed: Walter Volberding, Chairman; Sterling Mestad and Elmer Gottschalk, Co-Chairmen; William Radke, Oscar Maass, Ed Kersten, Bette Buenger, Mrs. Harold Geerdes, and both pastors as ex-officio members.
- 1966—October 13. Synod's Ebenezer Thank-offering plan described, whereby every individual would be invited to contribute on his birthday, one dollar or more for every year of his age. Ken Watkins named to coordinate the project.
- 1966—December 8. Proposal to purchase property adjacent to church rejected by one vote.
- 1967—January 8. Three Centennial Festival services begin official year-long observances at Trinity. Synod President, Dr. Oliver Harms, guest speaker at services attended by 1,116 persons.
- 1967—January 12. Men's Club authorized to install carpeting in aisles of church.
- 1967—February 1. Youth and Education Director, Mr. Ed. Thiel, assumes duties at Trinity.

1967—February 4 and 5. Centennial dinners held in Fellowship Hall. Program consisted of skits and narrative of events from past century by Mr. William Radke.

1967—February 19. Installation service and reception for Mr. Ed. Thiel.

1967—April 2. Dr. Wilber Fields, campus chaplain, University of Iowa at Ames, speaker at three morning services and afternoon program, beginning second phase of Centennial events. Concordia College Choir of Milwaukee sang for the festival services.

1967—May. Pot luck suppers held the first three Wednesdays in May. Purpose to promote Christian fellowship and disseminate information about church programs.

1967—May. Choir authorized to proceed with plans for fund-raising to obtain new gowns. Door collection held at two song-services, May 21 and 28.

1967—May 11. Consideration given, once again, to possible purchase of valuable sites north of the church. A secret ballot

resulted in a vote of 37-16 against purchasing property.

Twenty-six percent of congregation had responded to Ebenezer Thankoffering in first quarter of year, resulting in collections of about \$2,300.

1967—June 10. Southern Minnesota District Lutheran Layman's League convention held in Rochester with Trinity as host congregation. Southern Minnesota District President, Rev. Martin Lieske, special guest pastor at morning worship services.

1967—June 18. Centennial Reunion Day. Two worship services and fellowship hour conducted in the morning. Barbeque picnic held at the Olmsted County Fairgrounds in the afternoon. Both events well attended by confirmands, pastors and teachers at some time affiliated with Trinity.

1967—July 23. Dr. Eugene Seltz, Missionary from Hong Kong, speaker at two morning worship services and the Sunday School as part three of our Centennial year activities.



Front Row (left to right): Mrs. Farrell Fenske, Mrs. Harold Quandt, Mrs. Eric Lofgren, Mrs. Walter Behnken, Frederic Nitschke, Carol Buelow, Mrs. Robert Klevene, Viola Zimmerman, Mrs. Leonard Zabel. Second Row: Joanne Eulberg, Mrs. David Busse, Mrs. Edward Garbisch, Mrs. W. W. Eifert, Mrs. Donald Lubbert, Mrs. Ernest Vielhaber, Carol Gardner, Mrs. Van Winkle, Sharon Krueger, Mrs. Erwin Rutz. Third Row: Erwin Rutz, Paul Kreter, Fred Elling, Richard Hagen, Walter Buerkle, Leonard Zabel, William Schroeder. Last Row: Robert Klevene, Duane Riess, Donald Lubbert, David Busse, James Sensenbaugh.



Officers of the Congregation—Henry Rediger, secretary; Sterling Mestad, vice president; Elmer Gottschalk, president; William Ollhoff, treasurer, and Lawrence Wehrs, financial secretary.

1967—October 1. Dr. A. R. Kretzmann of Chicago, speaker at two morning worship services and the Sunday School. Redeemer Lutheran Choir joined Trinity's Choir for the festival services beginning the final quarter of our Centennial year. Dr. Kretzmann and wife were honored guests of the Lutheran Churches of Rochester as they observed the 450th Anniversary of the Reformation. A three-day Fine Arts Festival held at Mayo Civic Auditorium concluded with a lecture and musical program, all sponsored by the 450th Intersynodical Committee. Dr. Kretzmann, guest speaker, discussed "Modern Man and Modern Art."

1967—October 12. Resolved that Trinity underwrite a \$100 per annum contribution over a ten year period to support Camp Omega building project.

A report called attention to radio broadcasts originating from the church during worship services as of October 1, an announcer providing live commentary from a booth with control equipment located in the church proper.

Resolved that Article V of constitution be changed whereby male members of the congregation, having completed their

21st birthday, would be entitled to vote and hold church offices as voting members, providing they are not under church discipline.

1967—October 28. Reformation Choral Festival, an Intersynodical event at the Mayo Civic Theater featuring local massed Lutheran Choirs, the Nordic Choir and Brass Choir of Luther College, Decorah, Iowa . . . closing out a month of observances commemorating the 450th Reformation Anniversary.

1967—November 9. The resignation of Mr. Ed. Thiel, Youth Director, effective January 13, 1968, was accepted.

\$10,300 collected by end of September 1967 for Ebenezer Thankoffering.

1967—November 23. Thanksgiving Day service with burning of mortgage to signify that the debt against the present church building was erased.

1967—December 31. Candlelight Watch Night Service from 11:00 to Midnight concluded Centennial Year events. Rev. Earl O. Schwermann gave brief devotions in a service of lessons, lights and anthems.



Deacons—Front Row (from left): Fred Fieck, Harold Wallman, Stanley DeVaal, Herbert Bornfleth, Richard Maass, chairman. Second Row: Ralph Pike, Theo. Roenfeldt, Arley Carlson, Walter Volberding, Dr. Eric Lofgren, Ray Purves. Missing from photo: Kermit Roerisch.

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

June 12, 1967

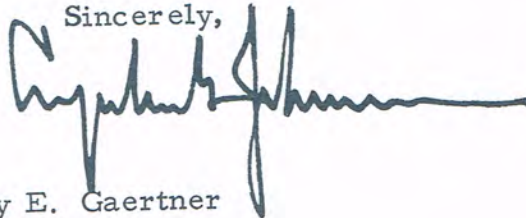
Dear Mr. Gaertner:

I am pleased to learn through State Representative Quirin that Trinity Lutheran Church of Rochester, Minnesota will celebrate its Centennial. I share with you and the members of your congregation the pride which must be yours as you observe this significant milestone in the history of your church.

Over the years your church has been a source of comfort and eternal inspiration to many worshippers. It has rendered an immeasurable service in enriching their spiritual lives and in strengthening the moral fiber of the community.

On this memorable occasion, please accept my grateful thanks for your prayers and my warm good wishes. May the coming years continue to bring you God's abundant blessings.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Henry E. Gaertner', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

The Reverend Henry E. Gaertner
Trinity Lutheran Church
Sixth Avenue and Third Street Southwest
Rochester, Minnesota 55901



Our Centennial Vision of Gratitude

*"Not unto us, O Lord, not unto us, but unto Thy name
give glory, for Thy mercy, and for Thy truth's sake."
Psalm 115, 1.*

This Centennial observance of the founding of our congregation is truly an occasion for giving glory to God. The mercy of our Lord, which has been the heart of the message proclaimed in this blessed place these many years, inspires our hearts to praise and honor Him. In His mercy and compassion, our saving God established the ministry of reconciliation here by which many names have been written in heaven. Unto His name give glory, therefore.

To the glory of God, moreover, His truth has been preserved among us despite all the assaults of Satan, temptations of the world, and weaknesses of our flesh.

May it please the Lord to continue among us hereafter as in the past, to the glory of His name, for His mercy and His truth's sake.

"Not unto us, O Lord, not unto us, but unto THY NAME give glory."

*Published by Trinity Lutheran Church Centennial Committee, Rochester, Minnesota
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