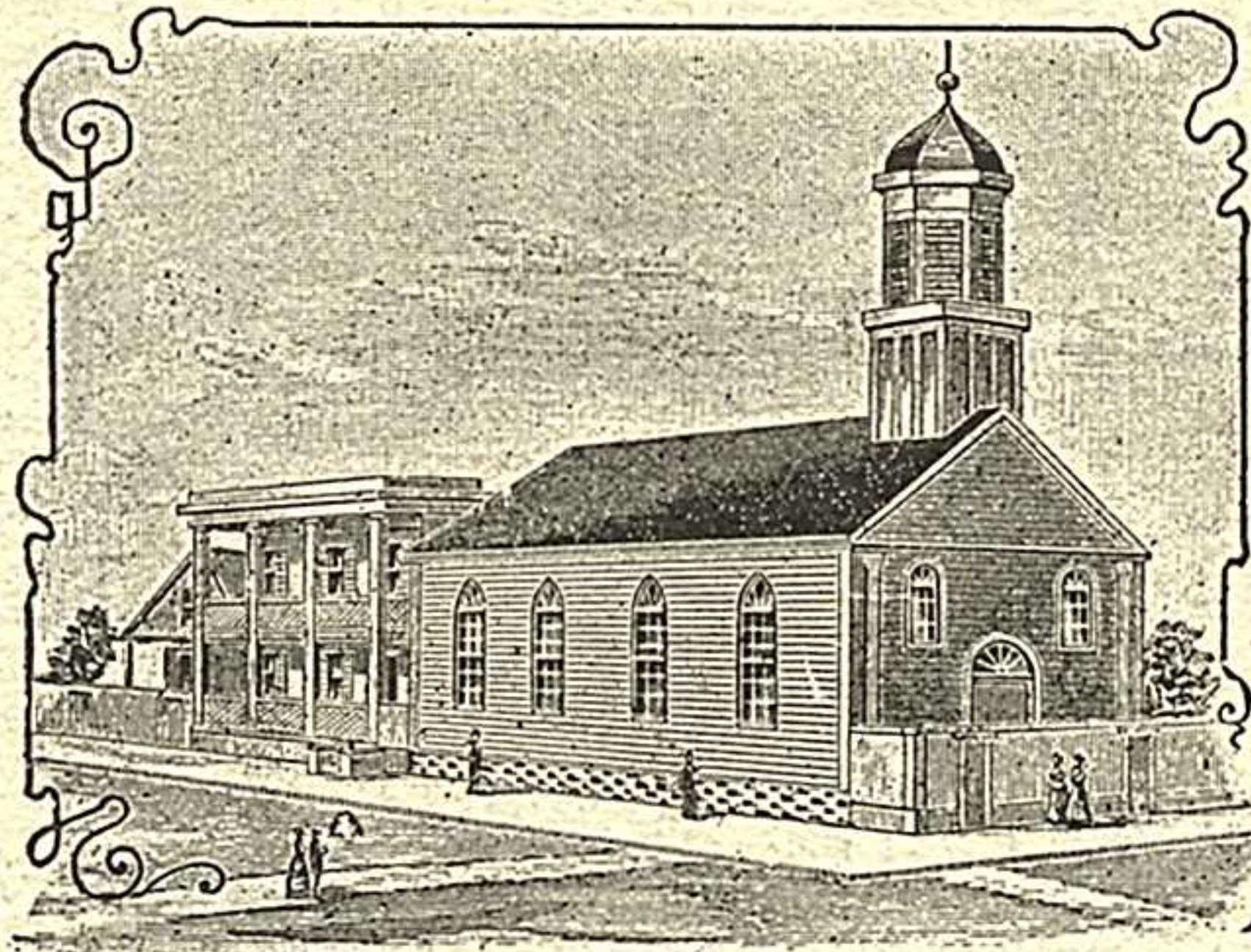


# Port & Burgundy

A  
Pictorial  
History

ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH  
NEW ORLEANS



1840

*This congregation shall be incorporated under the name of First German Lutheran Congregation of New Orleans.*

1990



SEPTEMBER, 1889



## PREFACE



SEPTEMBER, 1989

When I began working at St. Paul, I was between jobs and figured that this would hold me over until I found something else. That was in November of 1980. I have been 'held over' ever since.

As editor of the monthly newsletter, *The Visitor*, I started writing a series of historical features about St. Paul as early as 1981 under the title, "Port & Burgundy." While researching these articles, I was astounded at the number of photographs and documents that had been collecting in file drawers over the years. Making a clean sweep of the entire building, I was amazed at what I found. . . and what I didn't find. School attendance records from the 1860's were stashed in the attic and 1912 Trustee minutes were found covered with years of debris under the basement stairwell. I also discovered how much had been simply thrown away over the years during the periodic 'house-cleanings'. Items that had survived four fires, several hurricanes, and even the Civil War, eventually fell victim to the greater forces of indifference.

Many of these treasures were irreplaceable; others, perhaps . . . The word went out in 1984 to every member of St. Paul — 'please lend or donate any photos or documents in your possession relating to St. Paul to the archives.'

An inundation followed.

I have since organized literally thousands of items which now comprise the archives of St. Paul Lutheran Church.

So much had been written about St. Paul throughout the years that anyone with an interest in such things could always read or hear about its history — but no one could see it. None of our members had ever seen a picture of Rev. Christian Sans who founded this church. Very few had ever laid eyes on the actual document declaring this a Lutheran Congregation. Never before could the members of St. Paul share family documents and photographs with each other; some going back six generations.

A Pictorial History was just the thing. With the generous blessing of the members of St. Paul and the unconditional support of the 150th Anniversary Committee, a 96-page project has now blossomed into 150 pages — one page per year.

If only I could have worked at that pace.

I hereby acknowledge the following people:

Louis F. Wilken, Henry C. Hartmann, Gerald Jenny, Melvin Daigrepont, and Woody Keim for their contributions to the photographic record; as well as all of the dear members and friends of St. Paul who shared their cherished photographs and documents.

Sabine Laird, Brigitte Pfeiffer, Rev. Frederick Zucker, Rev. Ronald B. Unger, and Martine Unger for their help in breaking the language barrier by translating many of our old German records.

Michael B. Riemer, Lynne Venturella, Mr. & Mrs. George H. Heintzen, Sr., and Jack Stewart for spending hours proofreading text and verifying a seemingly endless combination of photos, names, and dates.

Betty Cooper, a very special lady who assisted with biographical research and generously gave so much of her time doing my work around the office so I could complete this book on time.

Buddy Ganier of Dixie Printing and Judy Johnson of Judy's Typesetting for insisting that I meet agreed upon deadlines, even at times when I would have preferred to be asleep.

And finally, those who have contributed to the vast written record, and from whom I borrowed so freely: J. Hanno Deiler, Rev. Dr. John F. Nau, Rev. Dr. Erich H. Heintzen, Rev. Dr. Richard H. Meyer, Richard W. Wismar, Sr., Rev. William F. Wedig, F. W. Niermann, Rev. Herbert B. Roepe, Lyle Saxon, John Lau, Edwin Friedrich, Harold Sinclair, John Theodore Mueller, and especially my great-grandfather, Rev. G. J. Wegener and his family, to whom I dedicate this work.

New Orleans  
November, 1989

Kevin Bozant

# F O R E W O R D . . .

## FORWARD... WITH GOD

Dear Celebrators:

These photographs are marvelous! We see ourselves, our ancestors, our spiritual forebearers, pastors and teachers, caught forever, both time-bound and timeless.

Pictures do that.

They freeze the moment in stillness. That is what makes them so invaluable, and this volume such a treasure.

But they are also deceptive. Such photos show us and our ancestors in only brief slices of inactivity. They do not show us what led up to the event or what followed.

Look at that confirmation class. Can you see the hours of class preparation and memorization? Can you see how those young people kept their vows under difficult circumstances for the next 20, 50, or even 70 years?

Look at the photo of that pastor. Can you see the hours spent in hospital visits, at members' deathbeds, counseling, teaching, and preparing next week's sermon?

Look at the wedding certificate. Can you see the years of birthing, parenting, and faithful loving which followed?

Most of these pictures have caught us in posed moments of inactivity.

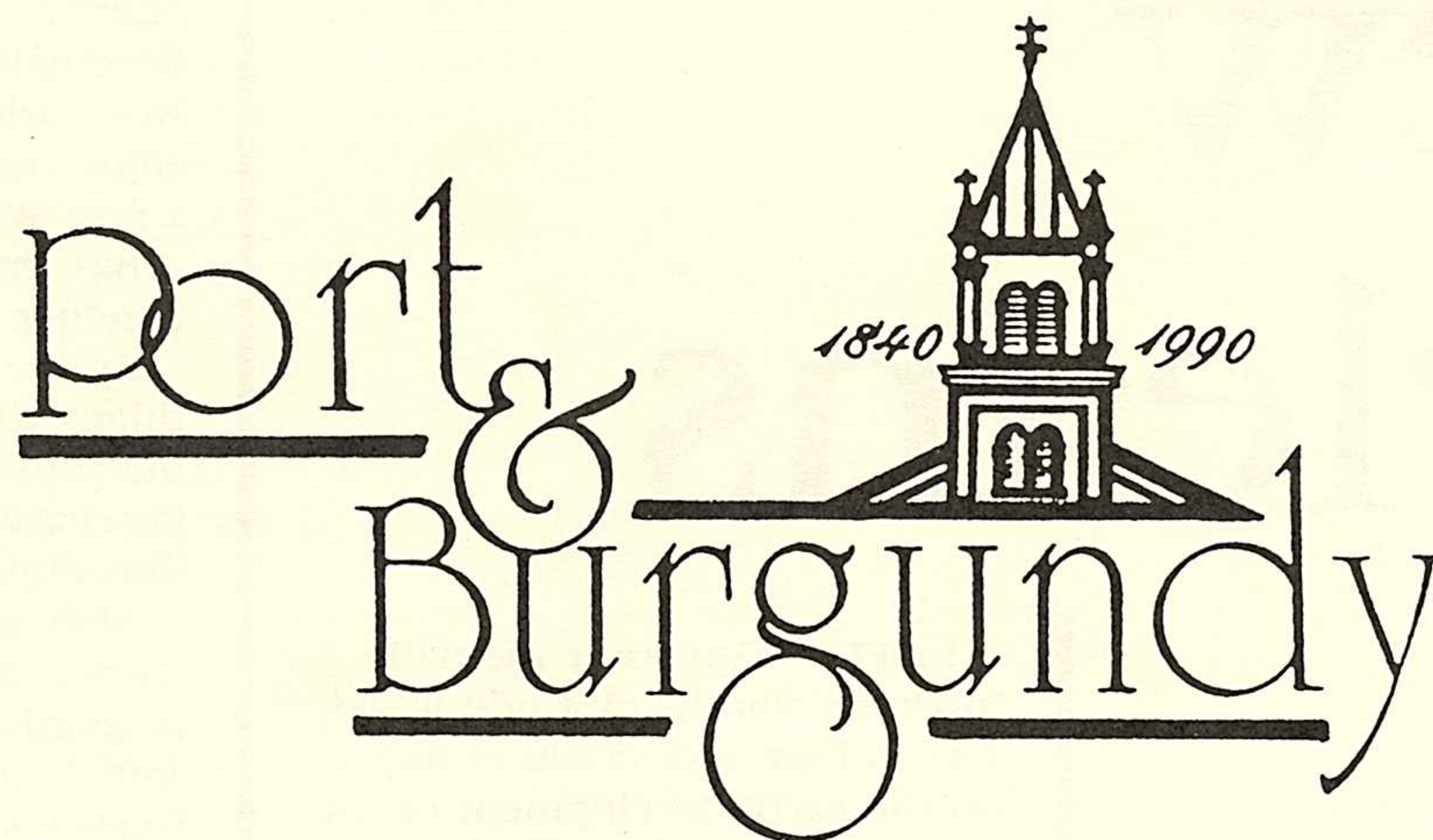
But, that is not the history of our congregation these past 150 years! We have been exceptionally active people, hardly standing still long enough for the photographer to do his work.

We have been too busy doing our own worshiping, teaching, learning, serving, fellowshiping, enjoying, growing, dying, and living again. No photo has captured that!

Let your mind and your memories fill the lines between the photographs. There is where our history is, in the faithful activity of our people...

...And of our Lord.

*Pastor Unger*



A PICTORIAL HISTORY  
PUBLISHED IN COMMEMORATION  
OF THE  
SESQUICENTENNIAL  
OF

**Saint Paul Lutheran Church**

2624 BURGUNDY STREET  
NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA 70117

RESEARCHED AND EDITED BY  
**Kevin Bozant**

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# New Orleans

**T**he precise date for the establishment of the first French settlement on the banks of the Mississippi River has never been completely agreed upon. There was never any doubt, however, that it would be named in honor of the Regent of France, Philippe, Duc d'Orleans.

In 1718, Jean Baptiste Le Moyne, Sieur de Bienville, chose a location thirty leagues from the mouth of the River where Bayou St. John runs from Lake Pontchartrain to within a very short distance of the Mississippi River.

Long before the Europeans came to the New World, the Indians enjoyed the advantages of this portage connecting the River and the Lake. Here Bienville built his city.

In 1724, Governor Bienville instituted the Black Code which was to have a devastating impact on the early development of the Protestant church in New Orleans.

## THE BLACK CODE

### Article III

*"All public services of any religion other than the Apostolic Roman Catholic will be considered rebellious to our commandments and will therefore be punished."*

The city of New Orleans would see a steady increase in its population due to a constant stream of immigrants coming in search of the "land of milk and honey" so widely advertised in Europe.

Many of these settlers were "redemptioners", impoverished Germans who had bound themselves to serve for a period of three to eight years in payment of their passage. They

were "sold" to Louisiana's planters by the ship captains. Eventually, they would settle in New Orleans where they could enjoy freedom, opportunity, and a new way of life.

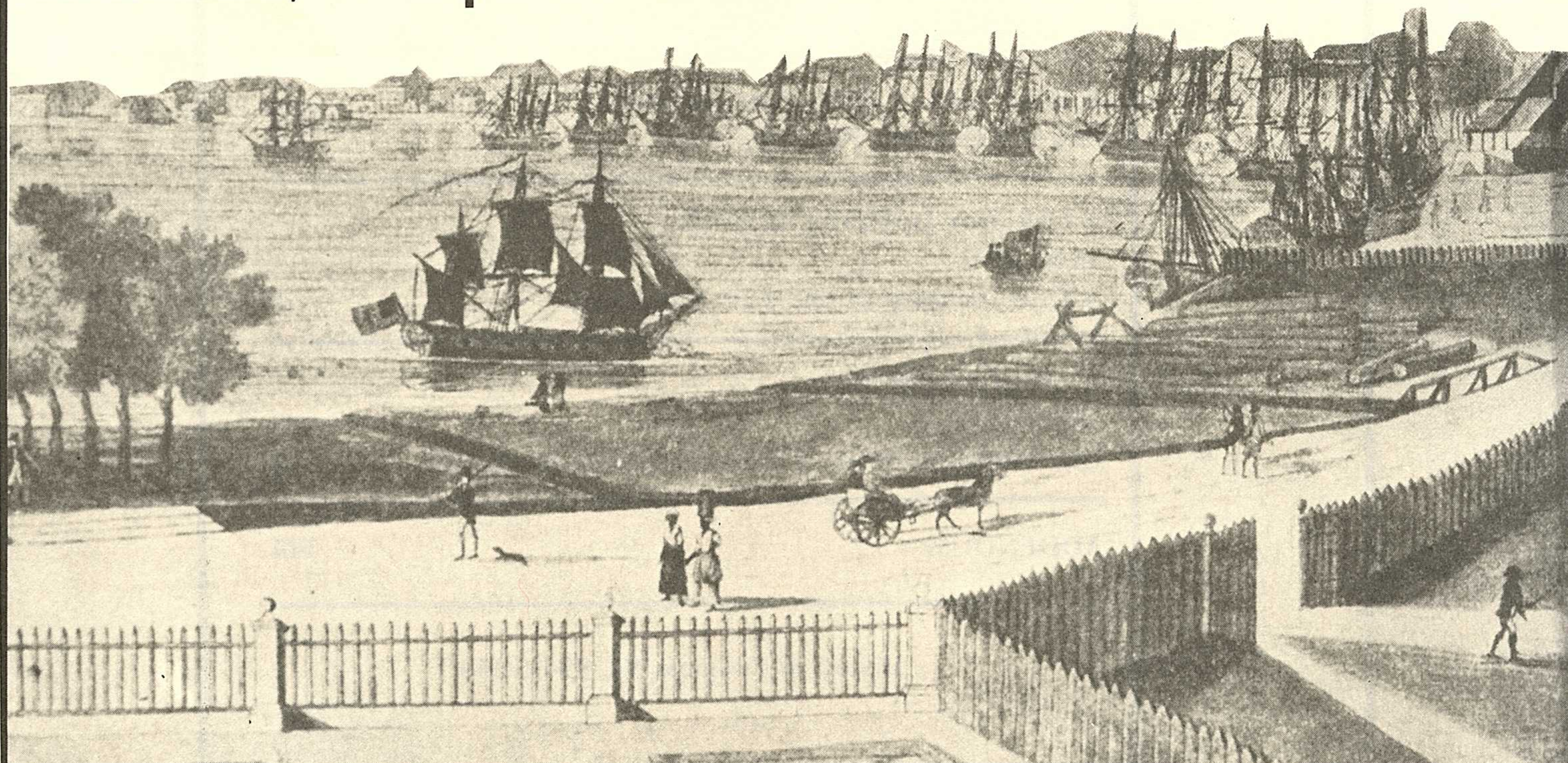
But they could not worship together.

By the turn of the century, things would change. In 1803, the Louisiana Territory was purchased by the United States thus eliminating the Black Code.

Also, religious intolerance, famine, and political oppression plagued Europeans in the early 1800's. From 1820-1850, 53,909 Germans left the fatherland to seek a new life in New Orleans. The population here was growing more rapidly than any other U.S. city.

## THE NEW ORLEANS DAILY PICAYUNE

*"A large immigrant ship arrived with a load of steerage passengers. Their style of beauty proclaimed them German, and if that was not sufficient to ensure conviction, the grunting gutterals of their language, their meershaums, and picture-book clothing would have been conclusive. Little fraus and frauleins waddled around the deck and surveyed with prodigious leaden eyes, the land of promise."*



A VIEW OF NEW ORLEANS TAKEN IN

Germany was rocked by revolution with the death of King Frederick William III of Prussia in 1840. This contributed to a new wave of immigration. Many of these were well-educated political refugees, scientists, engineers, businessmen, physicians, and religious leaders. Among them was a 27 year-old pastor by the name of **Christian Sans**.

He came to New Orleans to serve the growing German population in the city by forming a protestant congregation here. This would not be easy.

#### NAU

*"As far as religious persuasion was concerned, there were Catholics, Protestants, and free-thinkers among these German immigrants. Composing the Protestant element were Reformed, Evangelical, and Lutherans.*

*All were without any clear conception as to the distinction of these three. This was the result of the spiritual condition in their homeland, largely the outcome of the Prussian Union of 1817."*

This confusion was very apparent in the early years. In the first sixteen years, Sans' congregation would have four different names and six pastors of various religious backgrounds.

#### GERMAN PIONEERS

*"Fabulous New Orleans"*

Lyle Saxon

John Law realized that he needed good farmers to make his concessions in Louisiana valuable. In his propaganda-scattering, he had not forgotten Germany. There is a pamphlet printed in German and bearing the date 1720 which gives a good idea of the fantastic lies told of Louisiana. The following paragraph is characteristic:

*"The land is filled with gold, silver, copper, and lead mines. There he will surely draw pieces of silver out of the earth. Soon we shall find healing remedies for the most dangerous wounds, yes, also, so they say, infallible ones for the fruits of love."*

Historians tells us that as a result, more than ten thousand Germans set sail for Louisiana between 1718 and 1724. So inadequately provisioned, many of these pioneers never lived to reach the shores of America. Many shiploads managed to make their way upriver to Arkansas where they founded a colony of their own on Law's concession.

The Germans soon became dissatisfied in their settlement and left Law's concession. They built rafts and made pirogues and floated down the river to New Orleans. Some settled in the city proper, others took up residence on the river bank near the city — still called "The German Coast." Others penetrated the forests which lay near the city, and the town of Des Allemands remains as a record of their travels.

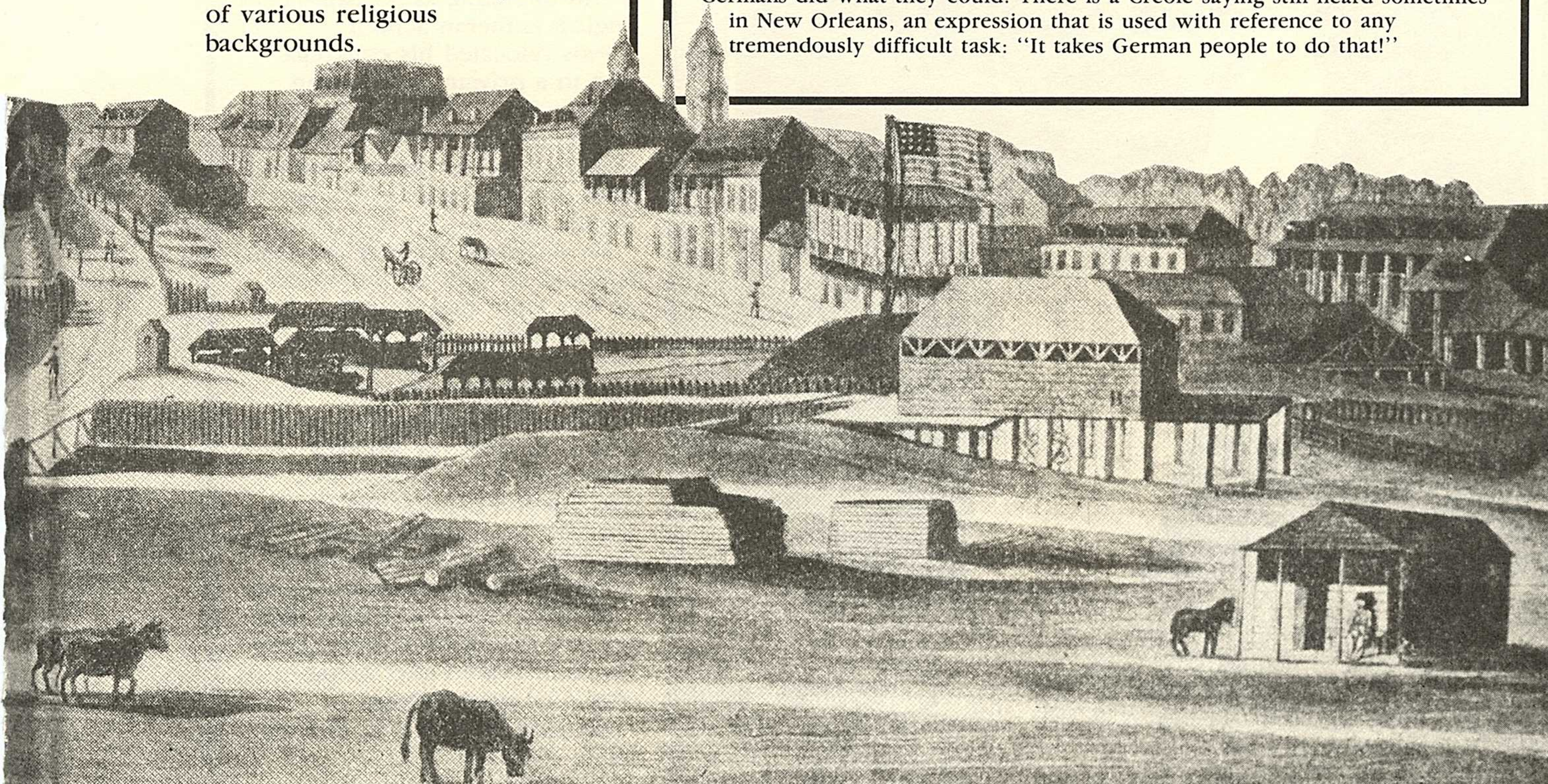
These Germans were a strong and healthy lot, for the weak had died before they reached Louisiana. Some of the oldest and proudest Creole families of today trace their ancestry back to these stalwart men and women.

It is strange to see how many of the German names disappeared or were altered beyond recognition in this French world. One explanation lies in church records. The priests were all Frenchmen, and it is probable that they found the German names impossible to pronounce. For example, Weber became Webre; Kamper became Cambre; Buchwalter became Bouchvaldre; Wichner became Vicknair. Schexnayder, a good Creole name was once Schneider. Zweig was translated bodily and is now Labranch.

When Law's Mississippi Bubble burst, the news arrived in Louisiana just at the time the Germans appeared in New Orleans. They had come to demand passage back to Germany. When they found the Company of the West in such circumstances that it was impossible, they remained and made the best of it.

German industry and energy conquered in the end. Although hundreds perished, the survivors wrested a living from the soil and in the course of time they attained a high degree of prosperity. The thrifty Germans would row down the Mississippi to sell their produce on Sunday mornings in front of the church. Twice, it is said, their produce saved the city from famine.

The best was none too good. Through years of back-breaking labor, the Germans did what they could. There is a Creole saying still heard sometimes in New Orleans, an expression that is used with reference to any tremendously difficult task: "It takes German people to do that!"

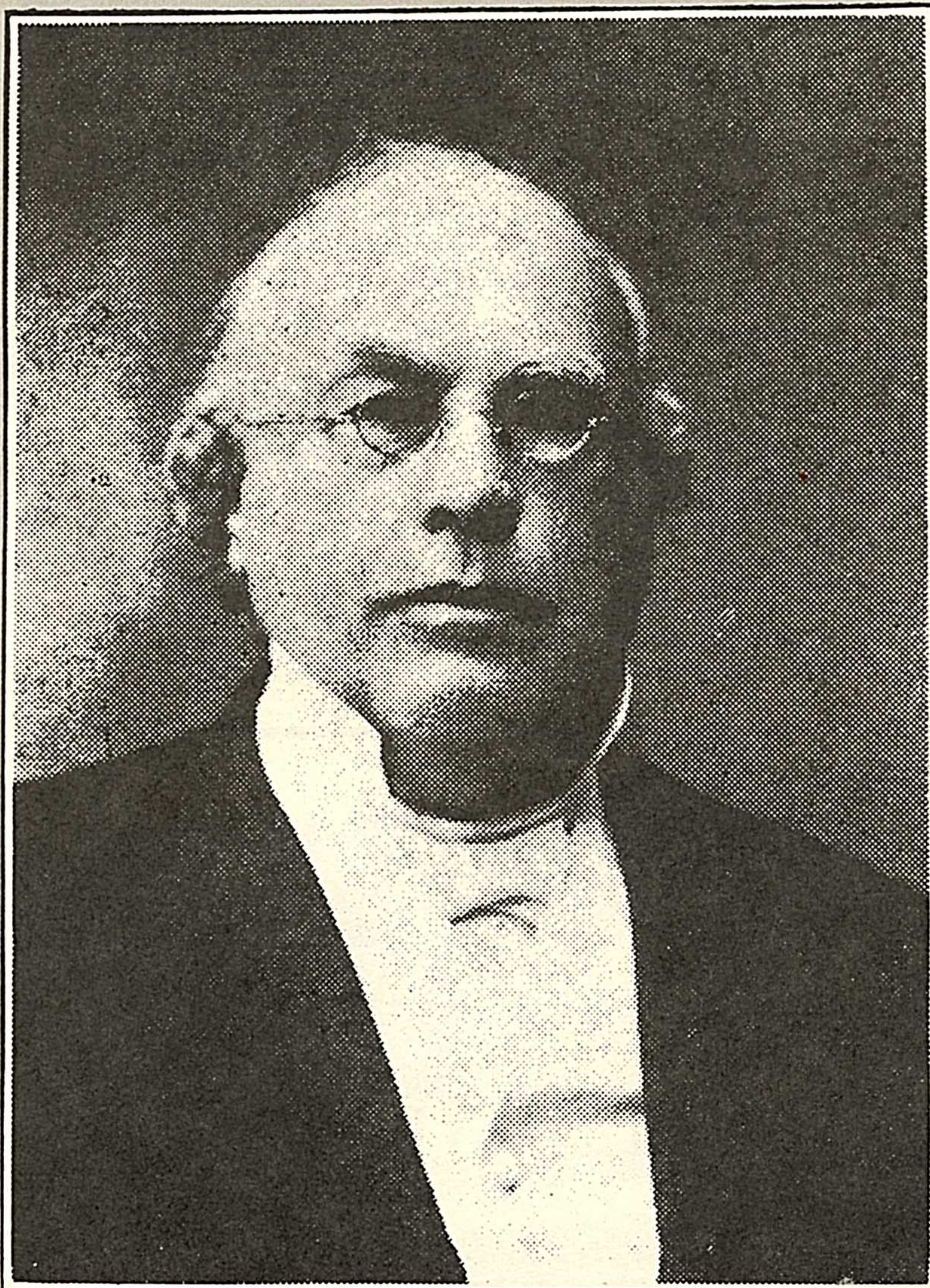


FROM THE PLANTATION OF MARIIGNY

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*“Sans relocated his congregation to a private dwelling on Moreau Street, between St. Ferdinand and Port when the new owner of the engine house began charging rent.”*

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CHRISTIAN SANS

**R**ev. Christian Sans was born in the Kingdom of Westphalia, Prussia on June 9, 1813. He received his theological education in his native province and left for America in the spring of 1840.

He came to New Orleans in May with the intent to establish a German Protestant congregation. Sans received permission to use the facilities of a Methodist church on Carondelet and Poydras but was removed when he showed no signs of conforming to Methodism. For a while he was able to use the home of a Methodist minister **Carl Bremer**, on Tchoupitoulas and Suzette Streets. Later he moved his congregation to a warehouse on Julia Street.

During the summer of 1840, Sans decided to take his ministry into the Third District of New Orleans. He placed an advertisement in a local German newspaper that a German Protestant service would be held at the old Phoenix Fire Company's engine house on Moreau Street (Chartres) between Clouet and Louisa on August 2nd.

This service marks the beginning of what would eventually be known as St. Paul Lutheran Church.

In that same year, Sans, along with **John and Jacob Ueber**, founded a German church school at this same location. It is still operating as St. Paul-First English Lutheran School.

Sans relocated his congregation to a private dwelling on Moreau Street, between St. Ferdinand and Port when the new owner of the fire-house, **John Fink**, began charging \$40 per month rent.

He dedicated his first church building in 1843 on the corner of Port and Craps Streets.

Shortly thereafter, he was stricken with yellow fever and decided to move North.

Sans journeyed to New York where, in 1845, he married **Miss Ann Mary Ueber**, the sister of John and Jacob. He went on to establish several churches and schools in Pennsylvania, Wisconsin, and Illinois.

In 1890, after more than fifty years in the ministry, Rev. Christian Sans retired after being overcome with asthma.

He died on March 8, 1891 in Joliet, Illinois.

John and Jacob Ueber are generally given credit for the founding of our Christian Day School in 1840. They were born in Bingen-on-the-Rhine in Hesse Darmstadt, Jacob in 1822 and John in 1829. They settled in New Orleans with their mother in 1840 where they met up with Rev. Christian Sans, who taught them English.

Jacob, then 18 years old, and John, barely 11, assisted Sans in establishing a school in association with the German congregation on Moreau Street. This school began on August 7, 1840.

Sans' friend, Methodist minister Carl Bremer, also assisted in the operation of the Moreau Street school as principal until 1843.

Sans had also established a sister congregation in Lafayette\* with a school under the direction of one Louis Pagan. Not much is known about this church or school. By 1842, however, there were a total of 315 children enrolled at both locations.

*\*New Orleans was divided into three municipalities, or independent commonwealths from 1836-1850. Also, Lafayette, Jefferson City, and Carrollton were independent cities.*

Both schools were closed for a short period of time while Sans and the Uebers solicited money in Mississippi and Alabama. After a successful collection, they were able to build their first church on Port and Burgundy Streets which also housed the school in 1843. With the departure of Bremer, John and Jakob were placed in charge of the younger boys.

During Jacob Buehler's pastorate, difficulties developed between the board of directors and the members of the congregation. The board resolved to remove the Ueber brothers from the school. At least 175 members protested the expulsion with their signatures, but the board persevered.

Jacob, a Methodist, and John, a devout Presbyterian, left St. Paul in 1850 and in August of that year, started another school on St. Ferdinand and Port Sts. Many parents withdrew their children from Port & Burgundy to send them to the new Ueber school, as they used Luther's small catechism.

The Ueber brothers operated this school until 1901, by which time they had become two of the most highly respected educators in the city of New Orleans.

Jacob died in 1897; John died on March 20, 1906.

---

*"John, barely 11, assisted Sans in establishing a school in association with the German congregation on Moreau Street."*

---



J O H N  
U E B E R

**JANUARY 29, 1842**  
**LAFAYETTE CITY ADVERTISER**

*"Our particular attention has lately been called to the efforts of the Reverend C. Sans, pastor of the German Church of this city, to promote the cause of religion and education among his countrymen around him. It is estimated that there are upwards of 14,000 Germans, forming a large class of our most industrious and intelligent citizens. Among these, Mr. Sans, by great labor and perseverance, has formed a church and a large congregation. He has established two large school containing in all nearly three hundred scholars. One of the school in the second municipality, corner of Race and Constance Streets, the other in the third municipality in Moreau Street. In each of these schools several assistants are employed."*



On March 22, 1842, "The German Orthodox Evangelical Congregation of New Orleans and Lafayette" obtained a charter. The first members of this new congregation were represented by the following signatures:

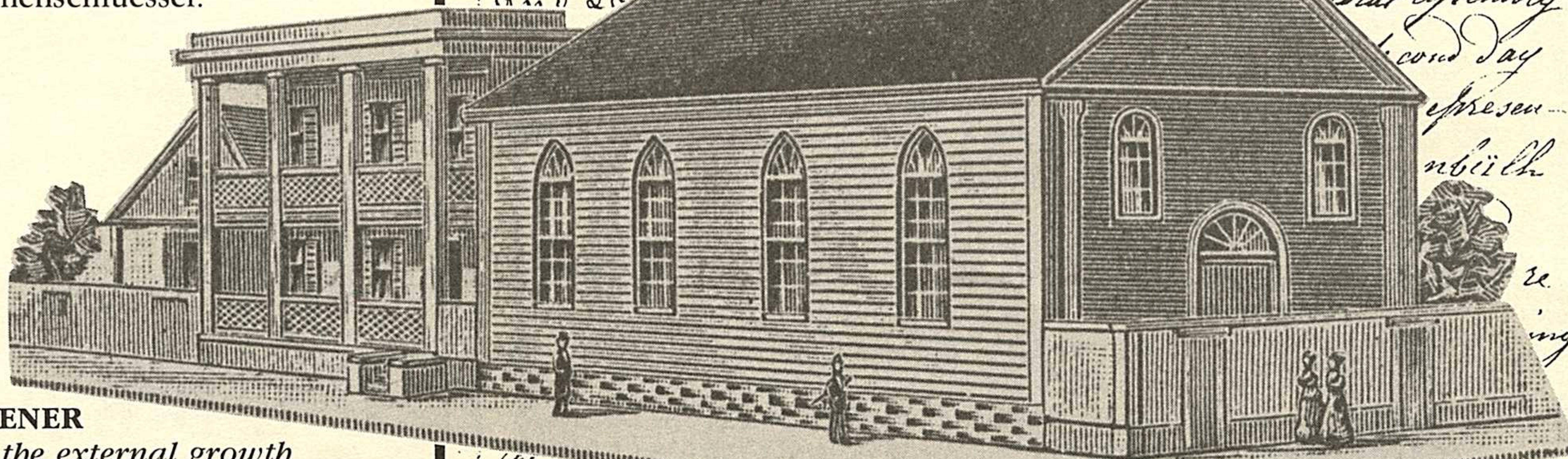
- Rev. Christian Sans
- Geo. Lugenbuhl
- Carl Zehler
- Ernst Kieseckamp
- Wilhelm Ahlert
- Hein. Meyer
- Wilhelm Volker
- Hein. Lehde
- Jakob Weinfurter
- Jakob Benzing
- Job. Kemmick
- F. T. Braun
- Math. Flaur

After a successful "Kollektionsreisen" of Alabama and Mississippi, Sans and the Ueber brothers began preparations to build their first real church.

On April 20, 1843, a lot was purchased on the corner of Port and Craps Streets for \$300 and the cornerstone was laid on July 9th.

The building measured 65 by 27 feet and had a 75 foot steeple. It was constructed of plain, unfinished lumber called "flatboards" and served as both church and school.

Shortly after the dedication on October 1, 1843, "Pfarrer and Schulinspektor" Sans left New Orleans. In his absence, dissension erupted between the board of directors and the majority of the membership over control of the "Kirchenschluessel."



**WEGENER**

"For the external growth of the congregation the best opportunity had been provided. Almost anyone could join, whoever had a desire, especially if they were willing to pay a monthly contribution."

# A certain lot

... lying and being in the Suburb Washington of this City of New Orleans designated by the number fourteen in square number eight.

APRIL 20, 1843  
Deed to the property on Port and Craps Streets

United States of America.

STATE OF LOUISIANA—CITY OF NEW-ORLEANS.

Be it Remembered, That this day the Twentieth of the month of April one thousand eight hundred and thirty three and the fifty sixth year of the Independence of the United States of America,

Before me, LOUIS T. CAIRE, Notary Public, in and for the City and Parish of NEW-ORLEANS, duly commissioned and sworn, and in presence of the witnesses hereafter named and subscribed,

Personally appeared Andre Greviere a f. m. of e. residing in this City, Craps near Port Street, who declared and said that he does by these presents bargain sell, convey, transfer, abandon and release with full and complete guarantee against all his present debts mortgages existing, alienation and other incumbrances of whatsoever nature.

That the President and the German Orthodox Evangelical Congregation of New Orleans Second Day of July 1843 present and said

purchasing for the said... and their successors. A certain lot of ground lying and being in the Suburb Washington of this City of New Orleans designated by the number fourteen in square number eight on a plan drawn by Joseph Pili dated

# of ground...

DECEMBER 9, 1843

This list of contributing members accompanies the minutes of the second meeting of Rev. J. E. Schneider's German Evangelical Lutheran Congregation of New Orleans, Third Municipality. One of the first items on their agenda was to determine the funds necessary to build a school.

Namen der Gemeindeglieder der Deutsch-Evangelischen  
Lutherischen Gemeinde von New Orleans. Dritte Municipalität  
3<sup>te</sup> Municipalität Louisiana

Nr.	Messung der Gabe	\$	Cts
1.	Ludw. Weyhoff.	Greatman St.	35 <sup>0</sup>
2.	Johann Link.	Louisa St. corner of ...	00
3.	Günther (Sohn)	"	00
4.	Leinwand Metzger.	Toulouse Street	50
5.	Günther Günther (Mintzer)	Congress St. between Greatm. & Craps	50
6.	Johann Middendorf.	"	66 <sup>3</sup>
7.	Leinwand Hoffmann.	"	50
8.	Johann Reinert.	"	50
9.	Johann Günther (Sohn)	"	41 <sup>3</sup>
10.	Günther Müller.	"	75
11.	Johann Fink.	Cara Calvo St. between Louisa & ...	35 <sup>0</sup>
12.	Johann Leinwand (Sohn)	"	50
13.	Leinwand (Sohn)	corner of Cara Calvo St. Ferdinand	00
14.	Leinwand (Sohn)	"	50 <sup>0</sup>
15.	Johann G. W. ...	"	66 <sup>3</sup>
16.	Leinwand (Sohn)	"	66 <sup>3</sup>
17.	G. G. von ...	"	20
18.	Günther (Sohn)	"	00
19.	Günther (Sohn)	"	00
20.	Johann Gull.	"	00
21.	Günther (Sohn)	"	50
22.	Günther (Sohn)	"	25
23.	Günther (Sohn)	"	12 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>
24.	Jacob G. ...	corner of St. Ferdinand & ...	25
25.	M. G. ...	"	50
26.	J. G. ...	"	50
27.	G. M. ...	"	50
28.	H. ...	"	25
29.	M. ...	corner of Greatman & ...	25
30.	Günther (Sohn)	"	25
31.	L. ...	"	50

## DEILER

"Now came stormy days for the congregation. The board of directors elected **Pastor Rudolf Korndörffer**, while the majority of the congregation wished to have as pastor, **Rev. J. E. Schneider**. Consequently, it came to deeds of violence and heated struggle over the possession of the church on three consecutive Sundays. The keys were in the possession of Schneider's party, and even **Mayor Montegut**, who appeared at the place of battle with thirty policemen, could not prevent the throwing of stones.

Finally, it was agreed, on Montegut's motion, that the election of the pastor would take place at a regular meeting of the whole congregation, rather than the board of directors. Korndörffer was elected by a majority as he had many adherents among the grocers. These gentlemen campaigned for him and served refreshments from carts on election day."

The followers of Schneider relinquished possession of the Craps Street building and returned to the firehouse on Moreau Street originally used by Sans. There, they formed the "German Evangelical Lutheran Congregation of New Orleans, Third Municipality."

Secretary **F. H. Zerneck**'s minutes from the first meeting contain the following motion:

DECEMBER 2, 1843

"The president proposed and it was agreed upon not to induce to the members of the congregation the annual offering, but to let it be to everyone's free will what one wants to give."

The president was one **John Fink**, who also happened to be the owner of the firehouse. At a subsequent meeting, **Fink** proposed that the congregation pay him a monthly rent of \$15 for use of the facility (considerably less than he intended to charge **Pastor Sans** earlier). Following a check of financial contributions by the Treasurer, **C. Westholz**, they realized it would be impossible to pay **Schneider's** annual salary of \$400 in addition to the rent. **Fink's** motion was tabled.

Schneider left his new congregation in early 1844 and was eventually succeeded by **Christian Schrenk**. Schrenk was also serving a congregation on Clio Street.

In January 1845, Schrenk attempted to merge the Clio and Moreau St. congregations. Failing to do so, he left Clio St. and continued to serve the German Lutherans.

Four months later, a fire broke out in the stables of the engine house, destroying it; thus robbing the German Lutheran Congregation of its church. They moved closer to Esplanade Ave.

Meanwhile, everything was not going well for Korndorffer back on Port and Craps Streets.

**DEILER**

"The friends that had elected him were very slack churchgoers, and, in his displeasure thereover, the pastor (as old church members report) 'over zealous in his sermons, too violently thundered at them.' "

Korndorffer resigned on May 11, 1845.

**MARCH 24, 1846**

Marriage Certificate in Korndorffer's own hand of a wedding performed by him on April 8, 1845 while still pastor of the "German Orthodox Evangelical Congregation of New Orleans and Lafayette" on Port and Craps Streets.

He resigned one month later.

*Handwritten title in German: "Handwritten title in German: 'Herrn Pastor von Kurieren' and 'Herrn Luiferus' and 'Rindfleisch Orlans'." (Note: The text is partially obscured and difficult to read due to the handwriting and ink bleed-through.)*

*Handwritten text in German, likely a church record or certificate, mentioning a date of April 8, 1845, and names of the couple.*

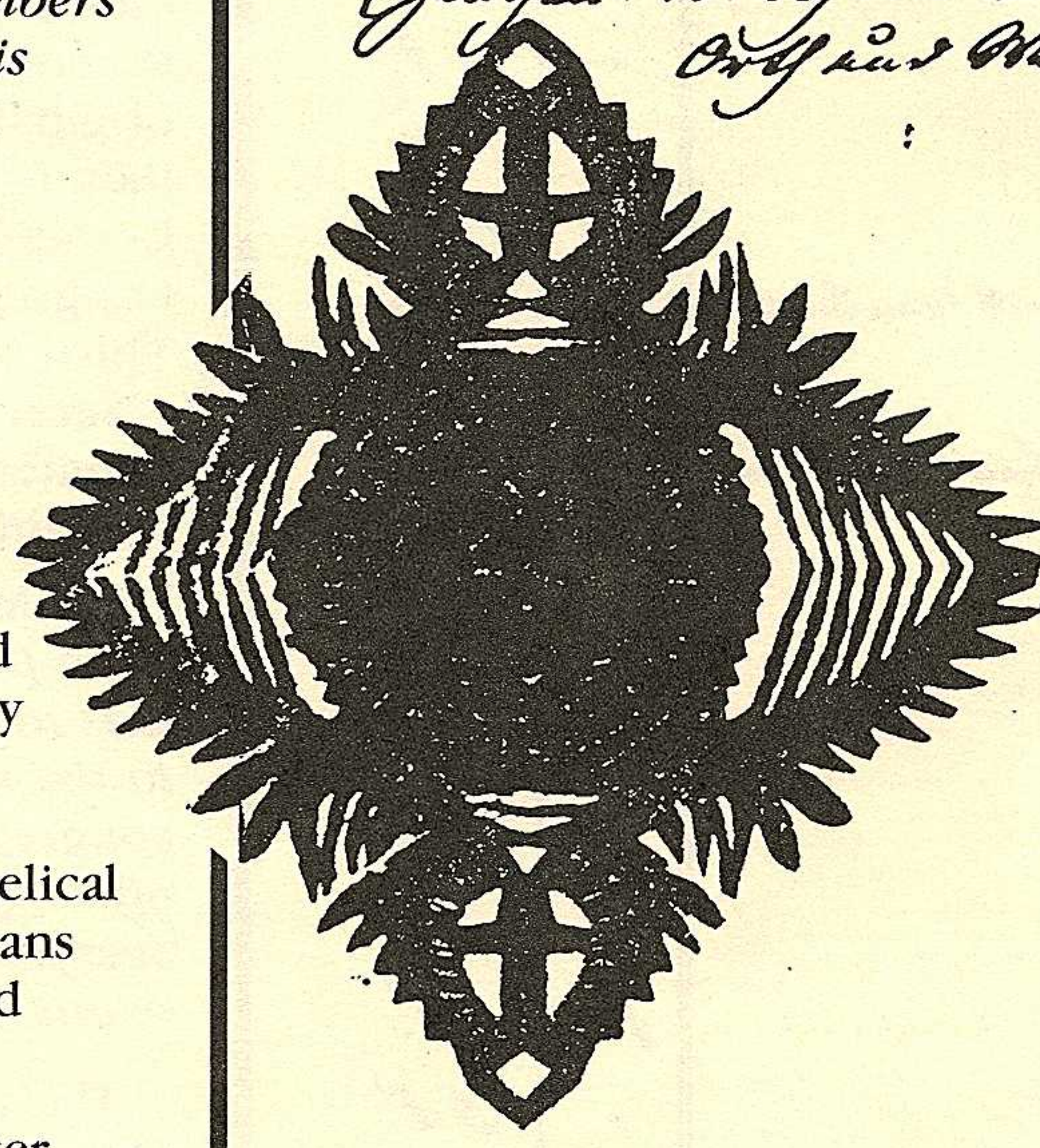
*Handwritten signature: "H. Jacob Matz, (a wheelwright, Morgan) ..."*

*Handwritten text mentioning "Miss Maria Orth" and "N. Orleans, 8<sup>ten</sup> April 1845."*

*Handwritten signature: "Korndorffer"*

*Handwritten text: "N. Orleans, 24<sup>th</sup> of March 1846."*

*Handwritten signature: "Korndorffer"*



**CHRISTIAN RUDOLPH KORNDÖRFFER** was born on March 14, 1811. He came to America with a group of fellow countrymen in 1833. His party became disrupted on the trip from Hesse-Darmstadt, and he arrived in St. Louis without any means of support. He worked for a time as a common laborer. He was married to Caroline Wilhelmina Frantz and had four children. He arrived in New Orleans in 1839 and began to advertise his intent to hold German worship services in the city. Being an associate of Sans, Korndorffer was elected to succeed him at Port and Craps Streets. After his resignation there in 1845, he never held a position with another congregation. Newspaper advertisements testify to the fact that he opened a pastor's office at 257 Bourbon St. and later at Phillip and Main St. There he arranged appointments for marriages, baptisms, and funeral orations. He died in New Orleans on March 3, 1850 and was buried at Greenwood Cemetery.

154

Confirmation Class

1. Jakob Gieseler  
 2. August Leutmann  
 3. Johann Blum  
 4. Carl Lichten  
 5. Johann Menner

confirmed 1845

1845

Confirmation Record  
 Christian Schrenk's first Confirmation Class after he reunited the Schneider and Korndörffer factions into one church at Port and Craps Streets

This is also the earliest record of a Confirmation Class in St. Paul's history

New-Orleans (2nd & Magazine Sts)  
 Pastor: Rev. Schrenk

SEPTEMBER 27, 1849  
 Baptismal Record

Handwritten certificate by Rev. Jakob Buehler  
 One of the 185 Baptisms performed by him in 1849

With Schrenk's guidance, the Craps and the Moreau St. congregations were reunited under a new name; "The German Evangelical Orthodox Church in New Orleans." Schrenk served his new congregation at Port and Craps Sts. until early 1848.

Years of tremendous growth followed. In February of 1848, Jakob Buehler became the pastor of this, the only German Protestant church in the territory below Canal Street. In the ten years following Buehler's arrival, 227,000 Germans entered the United States through New Orleans. Almost 60,000 remained here.

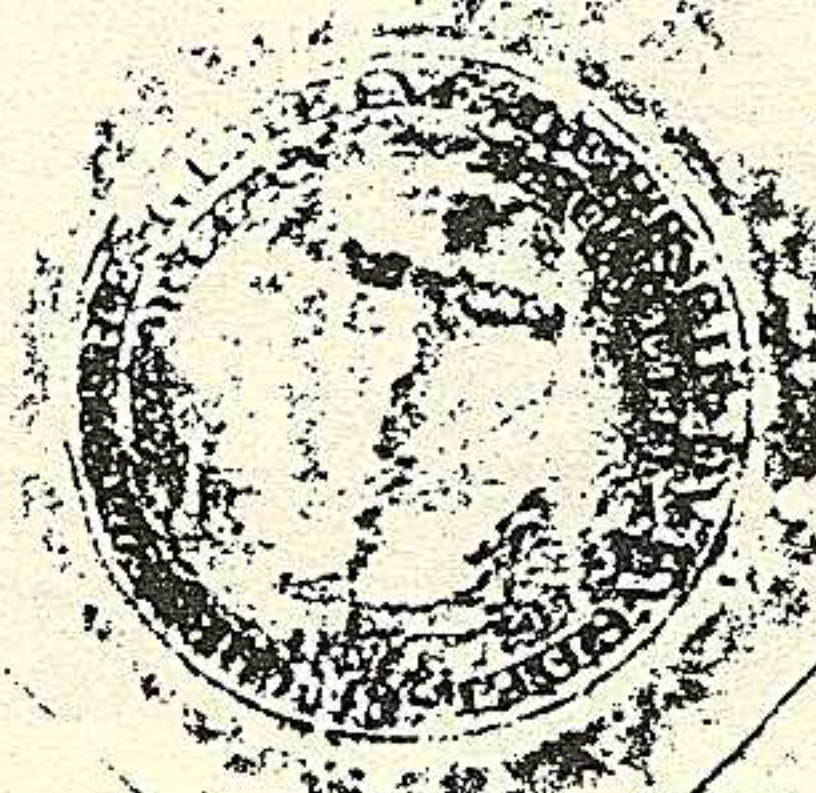
Buehler's church records give evidence of the success of this congregation. In one year, 1850, he performed 251 Baptisms, 46 Confirmations, and 114 Marriages.

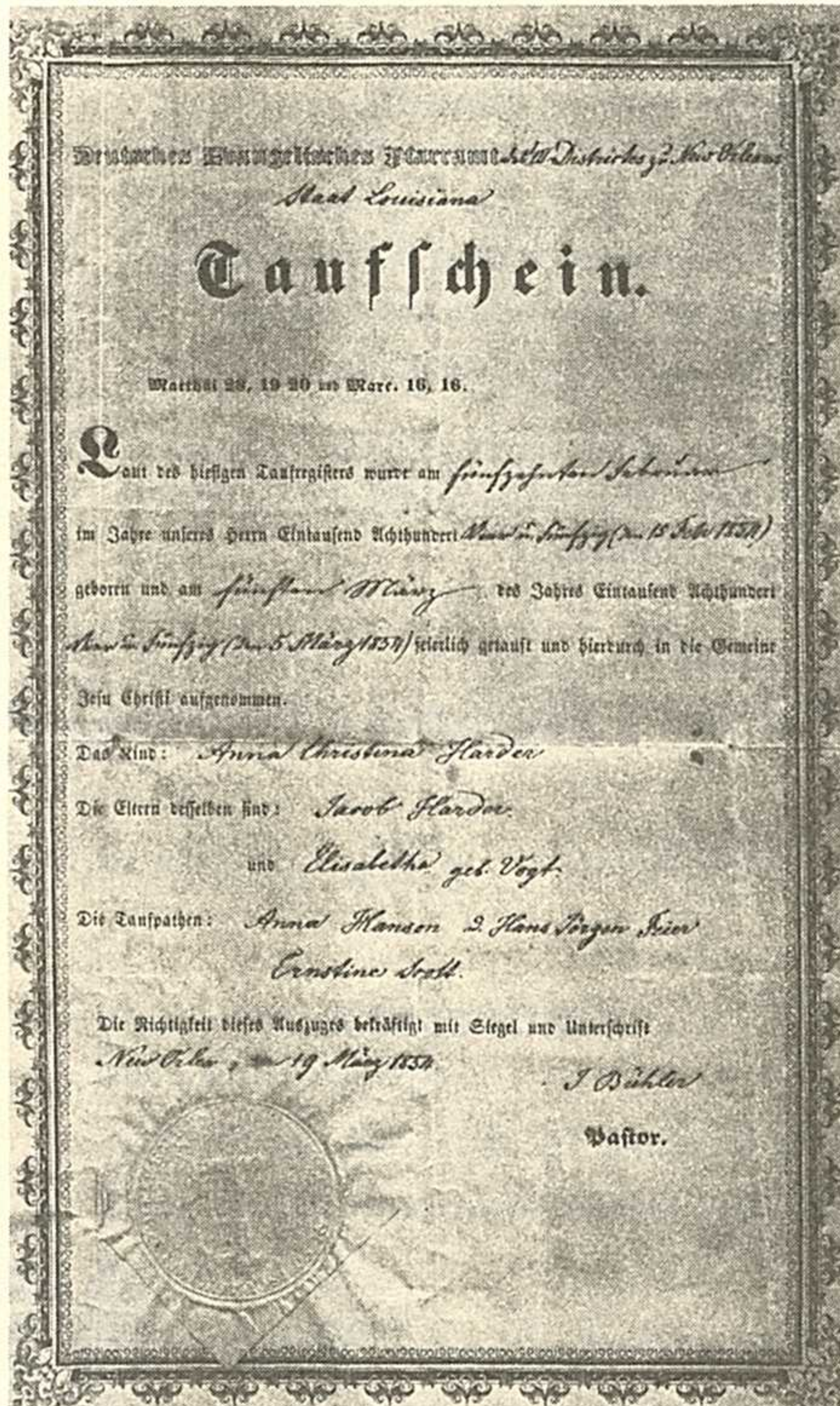
Buehler served the congregation until May of 1856. During these years it retained the same name and confessional standing it had assumed under Schrenk.

**WEGENER**

"Lutherans and Reformed, as it is creditably reported and confirmed, participated in Holy Communion at one altar, and according to the Reformed ritual. Without previous announcement anyone who happened to be present in the church could partake of the Sacrament. Altogether the church practice was thoroughly unionistic and lax in the highest degree."

Handwritten certificate in German, titled "Taufschein" (Baptismal Certificate). The text describes the baptism of a child named Georg, performed by Rev. Jakob Buehler on September 27, 1849, in New Orleans. It lists the names of the godparents: Tobias Cornelius Beunser, Anna Maria Mayer, Georg Helmer, and Maria Nehe geb. Schmidt. The certificate is signed by Jakob Buehler, Pastor.





**MARCH 19, 1854**  
 Baptismal Certificate of  
 Anna Christina Harder  
 Baptized March 5, 1854

**J**ohann Jakob Buehler was born on August 27, 1820 in Adelberg Schorndorf, Kingdom of Wurttemberg, Germany. He received his education in Germany. In 1847, he came to the United States and in February of the next year, he began serving "The German Evangelical Orthodox Church in New Orleans on Port and Craps Streets. He took over from his good friend, Christian Schrenk, after Schrenk returned to the Clio Street church.

He had recently married **Susettle Maeglin** in Germany, but she did not accompany Buehler on his first trip to America. Eventually she came to the United States and they had their first child on September 5, 1850. Ten days later Susettle died of childbed fever in the church parsonage.

**BUEHLER**

*"What shall I write, in what shall I dip my pen, in tears or in ink? The dearest treasure of my life, my dear beloved Susettle, is not here with me anymore, she went home to Eternity..."*

*In the evening Reverend Schrenk came, who had heard the news. We fell in each other's arms and cried. I became very tired, and became older. Sunday came, the burial day of my dear beloved, at which I physically and spiritually went down. That morning I had a wedding and a 9:30 church service which of course I could not conduct. A teacher read a sermon. During that time I wrote an obituary of my dear Susettle, then I had another wedding and at 12 o'clock I had to baptize two children.*

*At 2 o'clock we went to the church which was filled. The casket of my dear one was placed before the altar. Schrenk had a strong Baptismal sermon for the congregation and my dear child was baptized above the casket of her dear Mother."*

**J.  
 JAKOB  
 BUEHLER**



**JAKOB  
 BUEHLER**  
 Pastor  
 1848-1856  
 with his  
 second wife,  
 Mathilda

Eventually, Buehler traveled back to Germany again. He married **Mathilda Kummerle**. They had six children. The first two were born while Buehler was still pastor at Port and Burgundy. Buehler left here in May of 1856 and moved to Warrenton, Indiana. Ironically, when their sixth child was ten days old, Mathilda also died of childbed fever, leaving Jakob alone with seven children.

He again returned to Germany and met and married **Christiana** who returned to the U.S. with him to mother his children.

Pastor Buehler was said to have been conversant in seven languages. Susettle used to help him with his French in New Orleans. He was a strict parent, never allowing any play for his children on Sunday.

Jakob Buehler died in Marshall, Illinois on November 2, 1900.

*Jakob Buehler*  
*Pastor*

# YELLOW FEVER

*(Northern Register)*

1854.

1. *Johann (Jung), aus Göttingen, Landwehr Mann in Bayern, starb am 22 Juli 1854. Nachmittags 3 Uhr. in einem Krankenzimmer auf dem Gottesacker des III. Districtes am 28 Juli 1854 Morgens 9 Uhr.*
2. *Nicolaus (Krause), Kind. Pfr. aus Göttingen, geboren in Göttingen Landwehr, (Kriegs) Mann in Bayern, starb am gelben Fieber den 22 August 1854. in einem Krankenzimmer am 23 August Nachmittags um 9 Uhr 1854.*
3. *Christian (Schulze) Zimmermann, geboren in Hildesheim in Niedersachsen starb am gelben Fieber den 10 September 1854, Nachmittags zwischen 9 u. 10 Uhr in einem Krankenzimmer am selben Tage. 10 Sept. 1854. Am 6 Uhr auf dem Gottesacker des III. Districtes.*
4. *Anton (Ludwig), aus Göttingen in der Provinz Hannover starb am gelben Fieber den 10 September 1854, Morgens am 10 September 1854. Am 5 Uhr am 10 Sept. 1854.*
5. *(6) Anton (Meyer) Schulze, Zimmermann, geboren den 29 April 1810 in Göttingen in Hannover, starb am gelben Fieber (Schulze) den 22 Juli 1854, Morgens um 23 Juli 1854. Nachmittags 10 Uhr, auf dem Gottesacker des III. Districtes.*
6. *(5) Carl Anton (Ludwig) Schulze, geboren in Göttingen in der Provinz Hannover, starb am gelben Fieber den 7 Juli 1854 in einem Krankenzimmer am 8 Juli 1854, auf dem Gottesacker des III. Districtes. New Orleans.*

## 1854 Death Records

streets became swamps with weeds growing shoulder high from between the cracks in the banquette. Hundreds of funerals moved to the cemeteries with great difficulty, and burials continued around the clock. Men, women, and children were stricken wherever they stood. Police and firemen were incapacitated. Fire alarms went unanswered, only the constant rains keeping the city from burning to the ground.

By August 22, there were 283 deaths, one every five minutes.

City officials, wishing to be of some use, ordered the burning of barrels of tar in the streets hoping that the pall of black smoke would have some effect. Cannon were also fired day and night at regular intervals, which only sent the sick reeling into further convulsions. In all there were 30,000 cases of Yellow Fever with 11,000 deaths, including two protestant ministers and some thirteen Catholic priests.

The earliest records of burials at St. Paul begin in the year following the Great Epidemic.

Of the first six deaths recorded here, three were the result of "gelbes fieber."

Locals persisted in regarding the fever as the "Stranger's Disease." Of the 11,000 deaths in 1853, only 87 native-born New Orleanians perished.

In 1850, three churches on "Craps Street" — the Second Methodist, St. Peter & Paul, and St. Paul Lutheran — petitioned the city of New Orleans to change the name of the street named after the gambling game introduced to America by Baron Bernard Marigny. He had developed the area called Faubourg-Marigny, in 1809 out of his plantation in order to pay debts, largely the result of his losses at the game. This ordinance changed the name of 75 other streets in New Orleans to connect with streets in the Vieux Carre. Thus Craps became Burgundy Street.

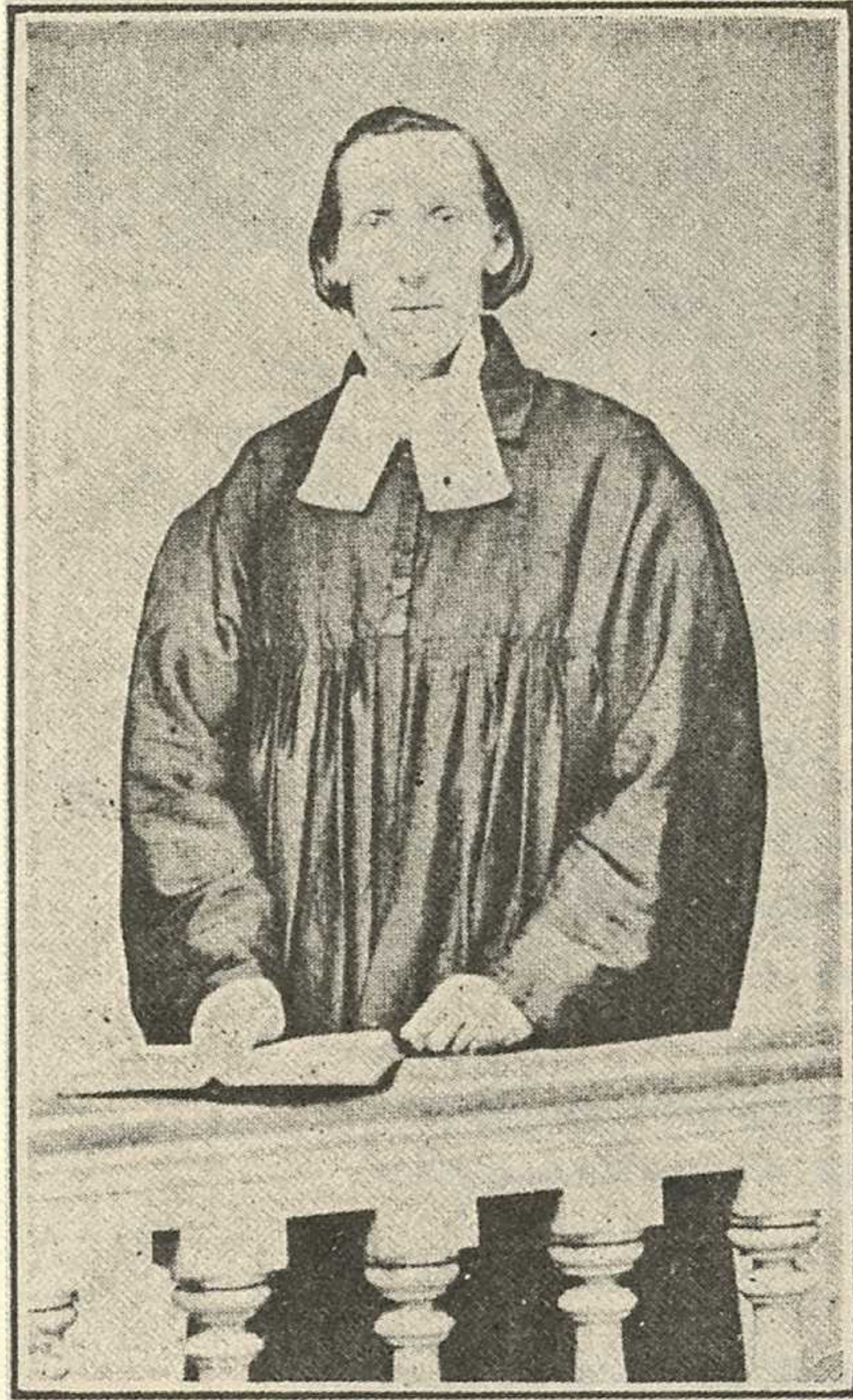
In 1850, New Orleans was one of the most thriving centers of commercial activity in America. Railroads connected it to Chicago and the Atlantic coast and the mighty Mississippi River opened up trade to the rest of the country as well as Europe. Cotton was the chief economic staple of the city accounting for 45% of the city's commerce. Sailing vessels and steamboats lined the wharves two and three deep.

Of the 116,375 people living here, 11,425 were German, not counting the children born to them in their new country. This very active German colony received 126,006 additional immigrants during the first half of the 1850's, with the peak year of 1854, bringing 40,006 to the city. In this flourishing economy, every German desiring to work had no trouble finding a job.

Since the early 1800's New Orleanians were well aware of the frequency and rapidity with which a yellow fever outbreak could wreak havoc on the city. Fevers of 1832-33 claimed 10,000 people. The tremendous economic growth leading into the 1850's coincided with the city's continuing reputation of being the "graveyard of the nation." Everyone seemed to deny it, but New Orleans was the most unhealthy city in America with a death rate twice the national average. Garbage and sewerage were disposed of directly into the stone gutters at the edge of the banquette. With inadequate drainage in a city below sea-level, the constant rains simply mixed everything together and it surrounded every city block. This would prove to be a sorry set of circumstances for what was to come.

In May of 1853, what would be called the "Great Epidemic" arrived by way of 5 ships docked at the wharves. The crews came ashore and visited their favorite barrooms and brothels. The city could neither have planned a better nor more thorough infection. On July 2nd there were 25 deaths; by July 16th there were 200. A mass and frantic exodus from the city took place, mainly to the Gulf Coast.

To make matters worse it is said to have rained everyday for two months. Miles of unpaved



C. G. MOEDINGER  
Pastor,  
1855-1890

In the fall of 1855, Christian Gottlieb Moedinger was appointed as Assistant for the Parochial School and also to assist Pastor Buehler in the ministry. He delivered his first sermon on Christmas Day and was called to succeed Buehler on June 28, 1856.

Up until this point in the history of the congregation, no pastor attempted to force his beliefs on the membership. This was about to change, drastically.

Immediately upon his appointment, Moedinger personally joined the Evangelical Lutheran Synod of Texas, without the authorization of the congregation. He introduced the wafer at Holy Communion, required the individual announcement of communicants, and adopted the Pennsylvania Songbook. These acts led to sharp clashes and division within the congregation. Those members who still adhered to the Reformed viewpoint left the congregation.

By 1858, things began to settle down. After much instruction by Moedinger on the doctrines and practices of the Lutheran Church, the congregation adopted a new constitution under the name of "The First German Evangelical Lutheran Congregation of New Orleans, La." on December 19, 1858.

**MOEDINGER**

"At the first reading of the new constitution, not more than two or three members were ready to sign it, and only gradually did the remaining members become ready to sign."

Opposite:  
AUGUST 26, 1858

The new charter of the incorporation of the "First German Lutheran Congregation"

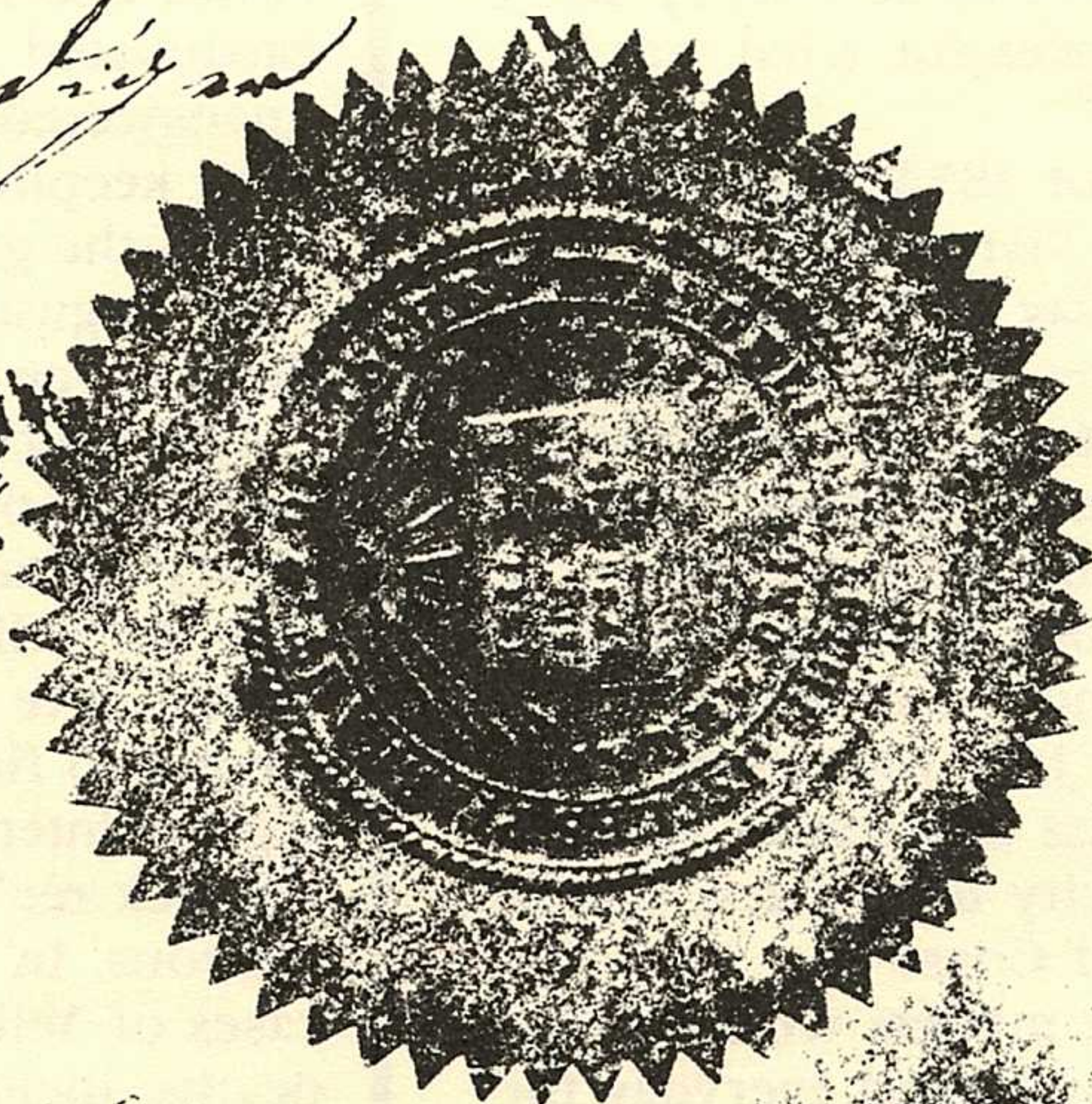
**WEGENER**

"In this constitution the congregation expressly affirmed its allegiance 'to all the Symbolical Books of the Evangelical Lutheran Church, as the form and norm drawn from Word of God, according to which, because it is taken from God's Word, not only the teaching in our congregation, must be performed and tested, but all eventual doctrinal and religious differences are to be judged and regulated.' That this confessional standpoint was to be taken seriously is obvious from another paragraph of the same constitution in which anyone to be received into membership is placed under the obligation 'that he should not only in a general way declare himself in agreement with the Evangelical Lutheran church, but expressly to our Evangelical Lutheran Church.'

"While it must be admitted that this Constitution contained some things not in keeping with the confessional paragraph quoted above, and that, for some time to come, doctrine and practice still fell short of the true and full measure of the Lutheran spirit, yet this action meant a considerable step forward on the way to the right goal."

*Unterzeichnet am 19. December 1858.*

1. *C. G. Moedinger, Prediger*
2. ~~*Jacob Broders*~~
3. *Jacob Hornum*
4. ~~*Jacob Broders*~~
5. *Jacob Broders*
6. *Peter Meyer, A. G.*
7. *Jacob Finck*



S. B. No. H. Solo 202

United States of America

State of Louisiana

Parish of Orleans

City of New Orleans

Be it known

That on this day the twenty eighth of the month of July in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and fifty eight, and the eighty third of the independence of the United States of America

Before me William

Joseph Gastell a Notary Public in and for the Parish of Orleans, duly commissioned and qualified, and in presence of the witnesses hereinafter named and undersigned, personally came and appeared the parties whose names are hereunto subscribed, Trustees and Members of the German Orthodox Evangelical Congregation of the Cities of New Orleans and Lafayette, an association duly incorporated by special act of the Legislature of this State "approved 22<sup>nd</sup> March 1842".



Which appearers declared, that at a special meeting of the Congregation of Said association held on the twenty seventh of June 1858 in the church corner of Grap and Port streets in the Third District of this City, certain amendments to the aforesaid charter of incorporation were passed, a duly certified copy of which amendments, signed by the President and Secretary of Said association is and remains hereto annexed for reference.

Now therefore in consideration of said amendments, we the Said appearers, acting for and in the name of the Said German Orthodox Evangelical Congregation of the Cities of New Orleans and Lafayette, by virtue of authority in us vested to that effect, and in accordance with the resolutions and amendments made at Said meeting aforesaid, do by these presents, alter and amend the original charter of incorporation of Said association, so as to comply and conform with the before mentioned amendments, which amendments read as follows, and which we adopt acting as aforesaid, for the future guidance and as part of the principles of the Congregation of Said association

1<sup>st</sup>  
This Congregation shall be incorporated under the name of First German Lutheran Congregation of New Orleans.

2<sup>nd</sup>  
The Congregation and each individual member shall acknowledge as standard of faith, the word of God, and the confessions of faith of the Lutheran Church, to wit. The old and new testaments, the confessions of Augsburg, and the Symbolic books.  
The Congregation shall have the right to elect their own trustees, and pastor, and no one shall be a voting member of this Congregation, except he be of good moral character have passed six months of probation, and have signed the laws of the Congregation.

3<sup>rd</sup>

No one shall be elected Pastor except he be a member of an Evangelical Lutheran Synod, and administer the holy sacrament according to the rights of the Evangelical Lutheran church, he shall be elected by a majority of votes and deposed by the same, but only for good cause.

4<sup>th</sup>

The business affairs of the congregation shall be transacted by seven trustees who shall be elected annually in the month of November, and five of them shall constitute a quorum. They shall at the same time go out of office, have the right to propose, and nominate the trustees of the congregation, who are to be elected, and no one shall be nominated except he has been a voting member for three years.

5<sup>th</sup>

The trustees shall elect from among themselves, a President, Secretary and Treasurer.

Resolution

Resolved That the present trustees be appointed a Committee to take the necessary steps to have the act of incorporation amended "as aforesaid according to law".

And furthermore the said appears declared, that in all other matters and things, said association or incorporation shall remain under the laws and regulations set forth in the charter and by laws of the said German Orthodox Evangelical Congregation of the cities of New Orleans and Lafayette, the only alterations made in said charter &c. are the amendments embodied in this act.

Thus done and passed in my office at the City of New Orleans, this day month and year first above written, in presence of Messrs Thomas H Howard and J. Pours Competent witnesses



State of Louisiana }  
Parish of Orleans }  
I, Marcellus A. }  
Judicial District }  
of which district }  
mentioned in the }  
is fixed - do hereby }  
- since out of the }  
- firm of others }  
- Constitution was }  
New Orleans Dec 20<sup>th</sup> 1838 }  
in General Act containing

District Attorney of the Parish of Orleans of the State of Louisiana do hereby certify that I have examined the original and copy and of the instrument that I have examined and find that the same is a true and correct copy of the original and that the same is a true and correct copy of the original and that the same is a true and correct copy of the original.

residing in this City who herewith sign their names together with said appearers, and me Notary after the reading of the whole.

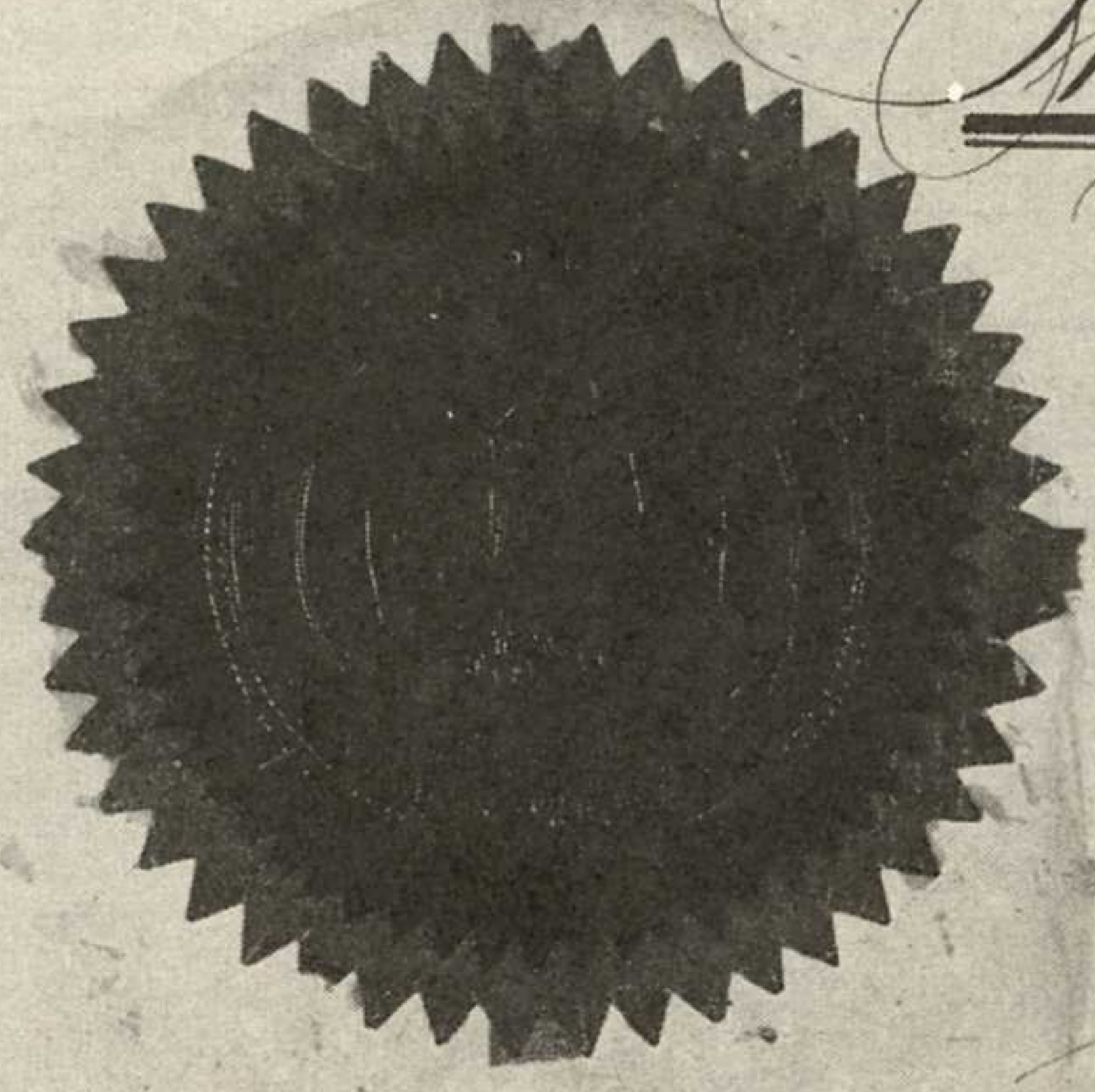
Signed

C. F. Wesner  
Jacob Klees  
Philip Maurer  
Jacob Hardar  
Matthew Gaundel  
Frederick Spehr  
Georg Haub

Thos H Howard  
3rd Jours

W. J. Castell Not Pub

I certify the above and foregoing to  
be a true copy of the Original act extant in my Current Register. -



In Faith and Testimony whereof  
I grant these presents under my  
Signature and the impress of my  
Seal of office.  
New Orleans 20<sup>th</sup> August 1838

W. J. Castell  
Not Pub

# THE CITY.

**EXTENSIVE CONFLAGRATION.—Over Two Squares Destroyed.**—The Third District was again visited this morning, by one of those terrible fires that come off periodically to check its growth, sweeping away whole squares of buildings and reducing numerous families to poverty and despair. The disasters which have occurred in this and the Fourth District, from the inadequate supply of water, have long since proved the necessity of action on the part of our municipal authorities, and it is to be regretted that the plan for a city water works, mooted so long ago in the Council, should have been delayed and postponed. When one of these extensive conflagrations takes place, much is said and many projects formed under the impulse of the moment, but when the excitement is over, the community and Council resume the even tenor of their ways, forgetting the danger as soon as it is over. This procrastination of measures of vital importance to the interests of the city has caused many irreparable losses.

About 8 o'clock this morning, a fire broke out in the wadding manufactory of William Langen, on Greatmen street, between Enghien and Port streets; a heavy wind, total absence of water and a neighborhood consisting entirely of frame buildings, made it impossible to check the fire immediately and it soon spread right and left, with fearful rapidity, devouring building after building. The engines arrived on the ground with their usual alacrity, and the firemen displayed their wonted energy and activity, but it was of no avail. The steam engine was immediately stationed on the levee, forcing water from the river into the gutters, and the hand engine judiciously placed so as to render the most efficient service in combating the fiery element as it swept along borne by the wind.

The scene was one awful and sad to behold. At a distance of several squares, families were moving out their furniture, panic-stricken by the remembrance of former disasters, and being before the fire as before the simoon of the Arabian desert, for its fiery breath brought destruction.

In two hours, two squares in one of the most populated sections of the district, were reduced to a pile of ashes, and a third square had begun burning. The greater number of the buildings destroyed were small tenements, but there were several fine two-story frame houses on both Enghien and Greatmen streets, and the German Congregation Church, at the corner of Craps and Port, was a well finished and tasteful building, valued, at least, at \$15,000.

We are indebted to the kindness of Mr. J. Charbonnet, assessor for the Third District, for the following information, concerning the names of the property holders and the value of the property destroyed, taken from the assessment roll. The value of the buildings is set down after due allowance for the lots.

In the square bounded by Craps, Greatmen, Port and Enghien streets, entirely destroyed, we note the following: Anthony Pouch, \$1000; Urban Vinet, \$200; John Powers, \$200; Catherine Lachaise, \$200; Wm. Lanyer, two buildings, \$2000; stock, \$250; Wm. Shanberg, \$500; Ernest Schaffer, \$1700; Widow Bernard Eiman, \$2000; Henry Jensen, \$500; Martin Hoey, \$1100; J. G. Kapsky, \$500; German Congregation Church, \$15,000; J. J. Lugenthal, \$1000; John Grashoff, \$200; Philip Eckenroff, \$200; John Rickerson, \$200; P. A. & J. P. Marie, \$1700; Geo. Brewer, \$500; Wm. Diner, \$400; Charles Gerard, \$200; G. W. Thompson, \$200.

In the square bounded by Greatmen, Cascalvo, Enghien and Port, three houses were saved, and the following were destroyed: Lulalie Rouvan, \$1200; Joseph Roux, \$500; C. Cousin, \$1500; Michel Bailey, \$200; Capt. Barisford, \$1800—a very fine dwelling; Wm. A. Daulty, \$1200; Widow Bernard Eimar, \$1800; James Gibney, \$1000; Wm. Brown, \$250; John Sharkey, \$1200; Jean Bernard, \$1200; Wm. Schaumberg, \$1000; Wm. Trelford, \$1000; Mrs. Bouzere, \$1000; Theodule Bachemin, \$1200; Capt. Peter Martin's fine residence, \$2500; Ann Mary Blomer, \$500; Henry Oberding, \$1200; Capt. Widmau, \$1000; Widow Thomas Gibney, grocery stock, \$400.

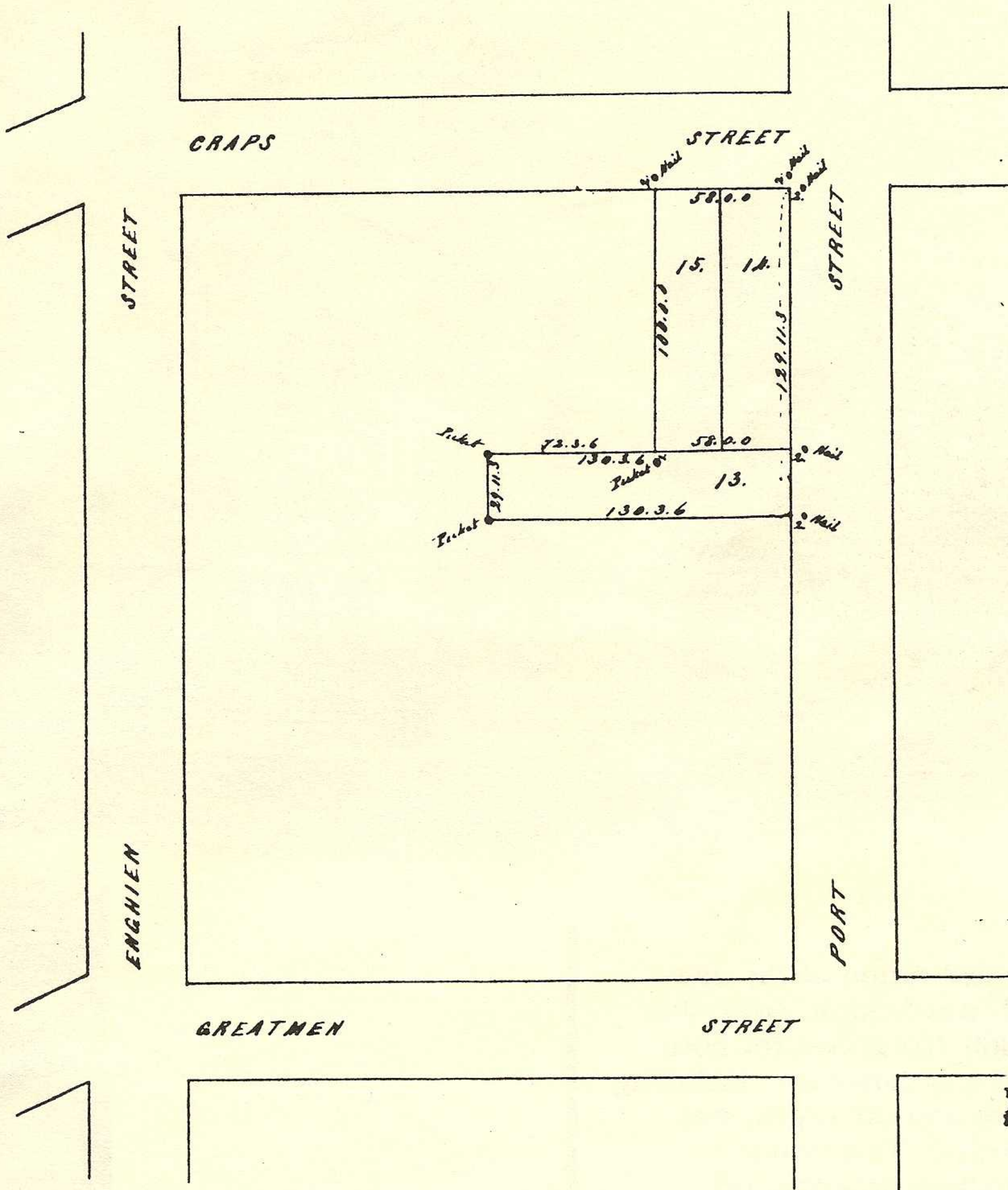
JUNE 20, 1860  
Surveyor's Map  
establishing the boundaries  
of the church property  
following the great fire  
of 1860

APRIL 29, 1860  
The Daily Picayune

Fire broke out in the William Langen wadding factory on the morning of April 28, 1860. In just two hours, two whole squares and over fifty buildings were reduced to ashes, including the church building, the school and the parsonage.

This tragedy came just as the internal difficulties of the congrega-

tion had begun to subside. The members managed to maintain the courage and joy necessary to rebuild under such trying circumstances. Facing a lack of funds, still owing a debt on the burned building; experiencing the loss of members during the constitutional struggle; and feeling the ever-growing threat of war with the North, the congregation succeeded in building an even larger church.

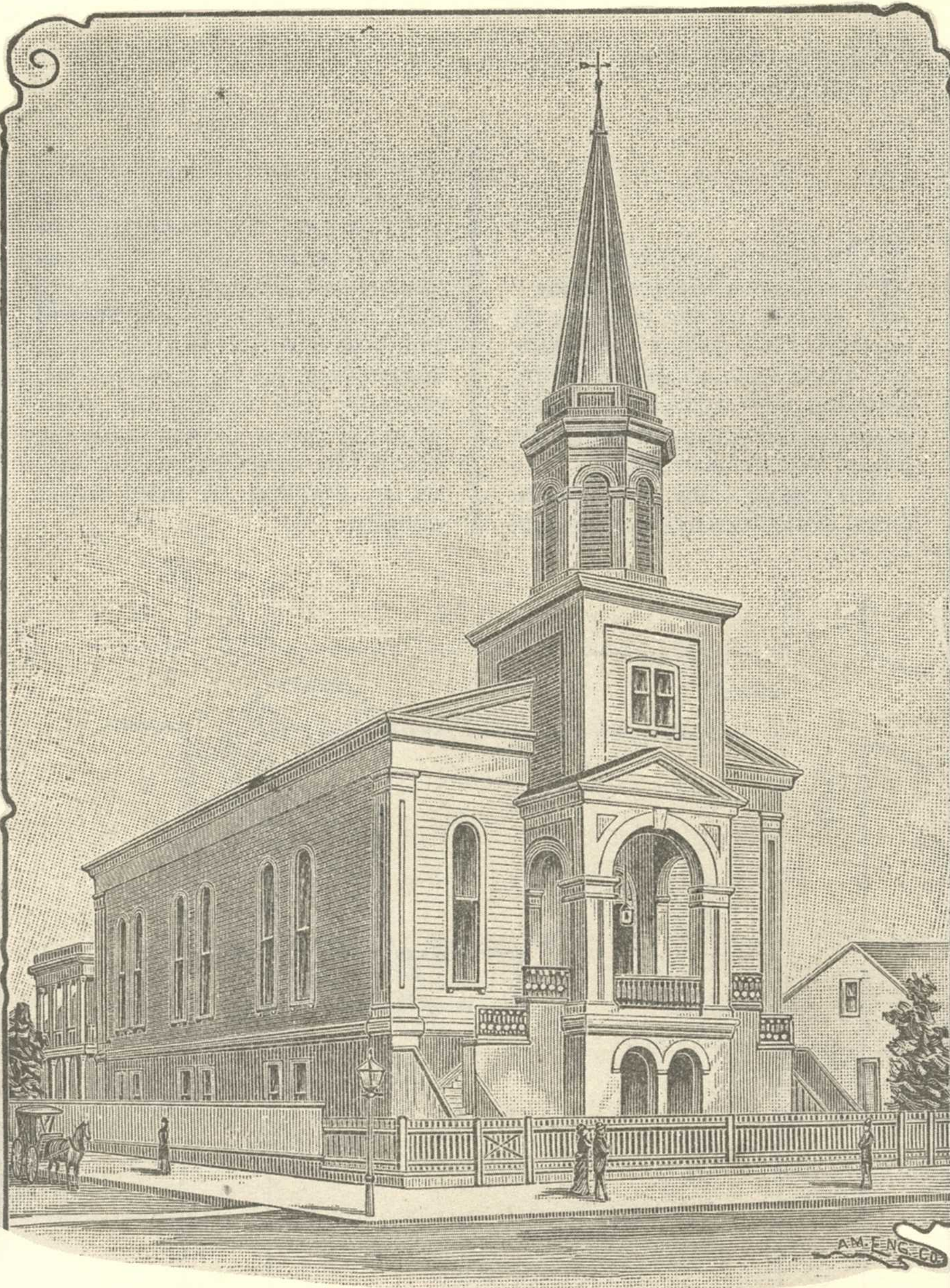


*This is to certify that, at the request of Mr. Jacob Hees, I have fixed the limits of three lots of ground situated in the square bounded by Port, Enghien, Craps & Greatmen streets, designated by Nos. 13, 14 & 15, and having such shape and dimensions as represented in the above sketch.*  
New Orleans, June 20<sup>th</sup> 1860.

Due for fees \$ 11.57

J. A. D'Herme court  
Deputy Surveyor

per  
J. A. Justice  
Surveyor



**DECEMBER 16, 1860**

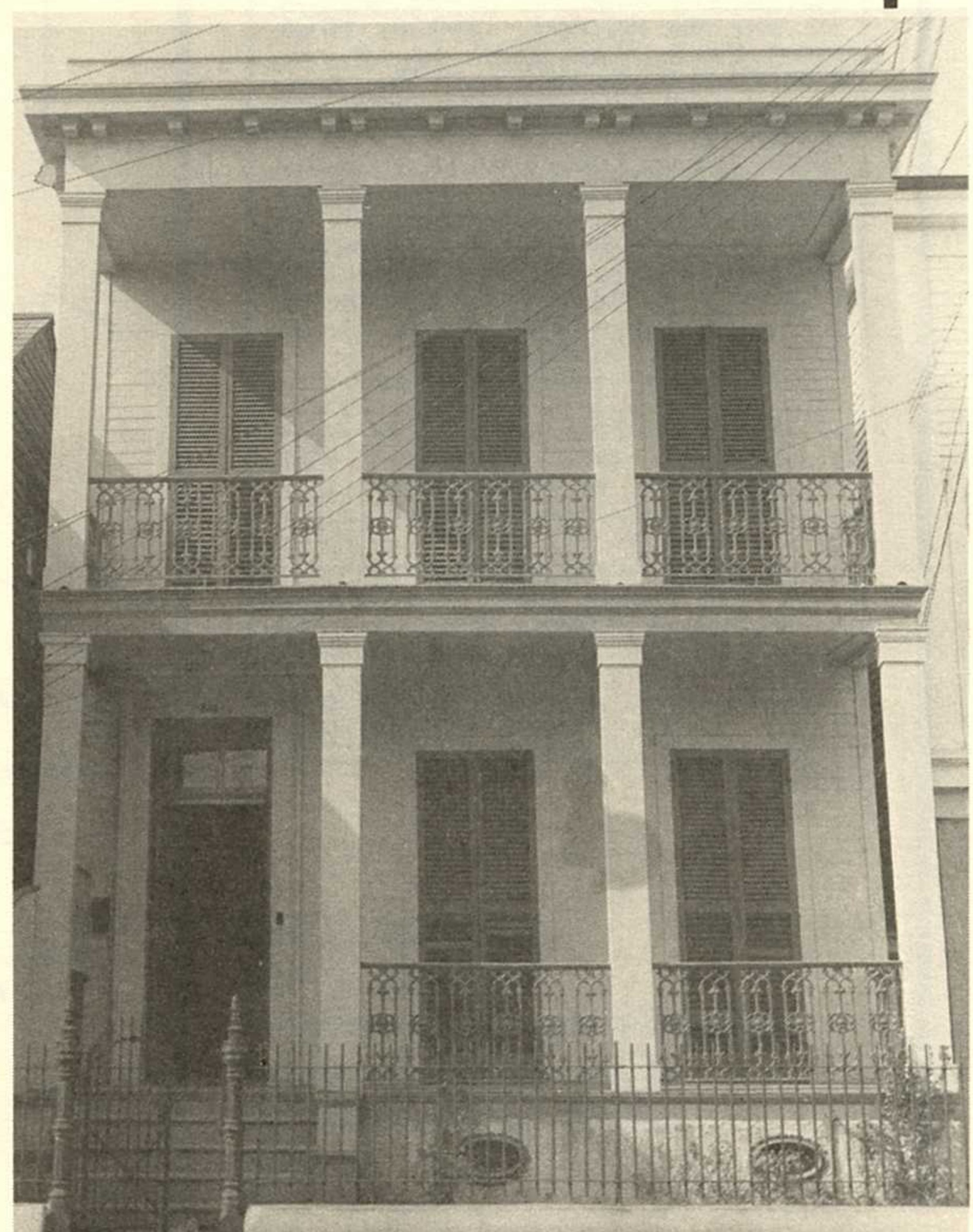
The new building measured 80 by 44 feet with ground level being used as the school. The steeple was 125 feet high. The building could seat 800 worshippers.

The dedication of the new church was held on December 16, 1860. Total cost for both church and parsonage, including the bells and the organ, was \$17,000.00. This heavy indebtedness was paid off through house-to-house collections.

Though the voting members during this period numbered around forty, the services were well-attended. By year's end, the congregation, which had for twenty years remained without any synodical connection, joined the Evangelical Lutheran Synod of Texas.

The congregation continued to grow. In 1860, Moedinger baptized 286 children, confirmed 53, solemnized 108 marriages and buried 46 persons.

In that same year, 1860, a two-story parsonage was built on the adjoining property on Port Street



# THE CIVIL WAR

## IN PERIOD OF STORM AND STRESS

"The German People of New Orleans"

Dr. John F. Nau

At the opening of the second half of the nineteenth century, many political issues were disturbing the thoughts and actions of the American people. Particularly troublesome was the problem of slavery.

Louisiana and New Orleans were a distinct part of the South and its way of life. Slavery as an institution had been well established on its soil since the days of the French and Spanish governments. Louisiana had always been conservative in its sentiments, and its citizens had always been loyal lovers of the Union. Being a slave-holding state, however, Louisiana's duty to itself and to its sister slave-holding states came into painful conflict.

On January 26, 1861, the final vote at the Secession Convention was in favor of secession by a vote of 113 to 17.

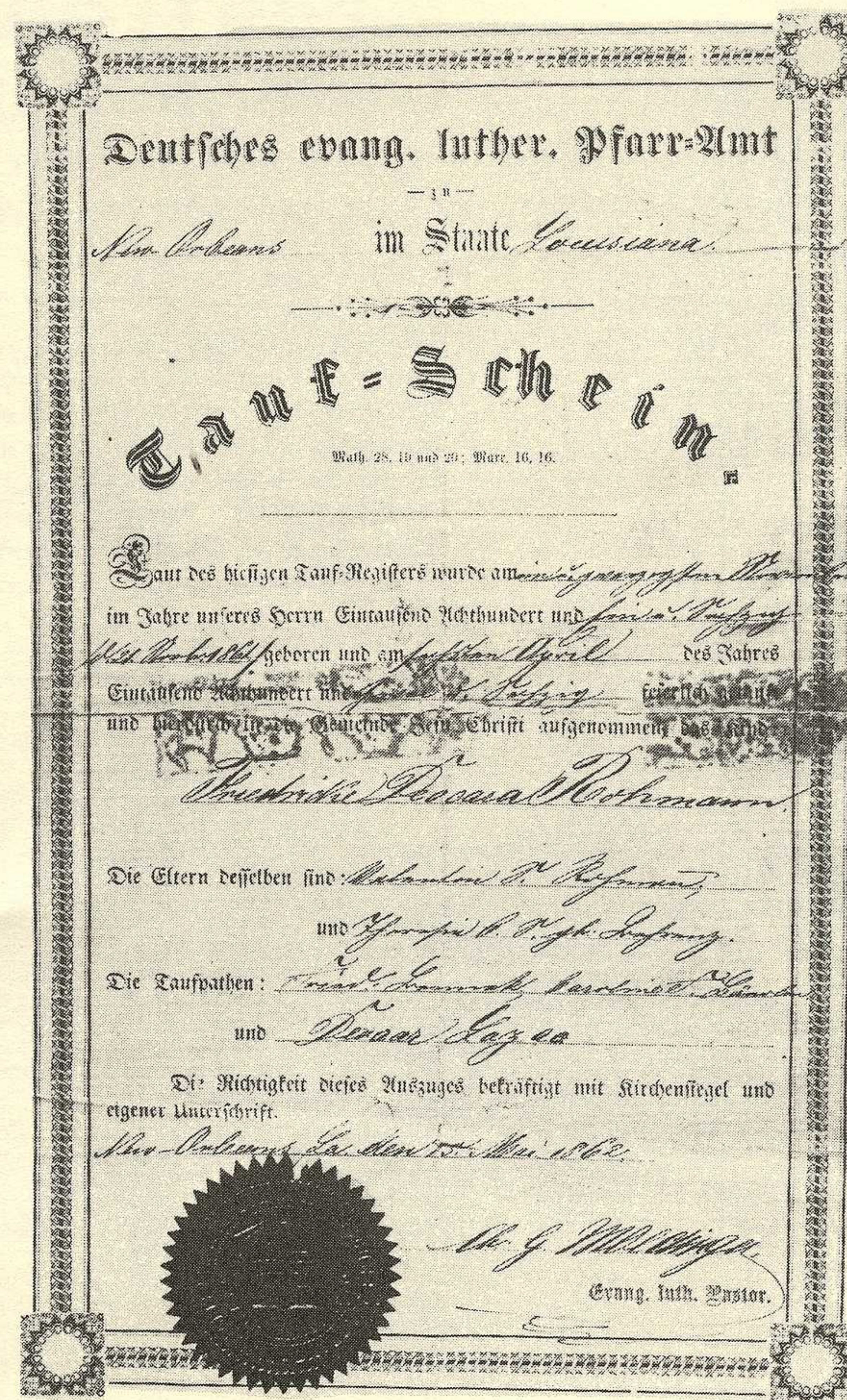
Church bells proclaimed the fact in vibrating tones, while the deep voice of cannon announced it more loudly and boldly. From public buildings, hotels, and private buildings, the Pelican flag was hoisted, and displayed its ample folds to the breeze. In the streets people met in groups, inquiring about the news and exchanging congratulations or comments upon the important step taken by the people of Louisiana and New Orleans.

In the midst of such serious political issues, the German people of New Orleans were not altogether impassive. In spite of their language difficulties and their desire to succeed in their newly adopted homeland, they were confronted by certain problems which could not keep them politically impassive but forced them into the political scene with some measure of activity.

The most pressing political problem of the decade centered around slavery and secession. On the question of slavery, German feeling was divided, with perhaps more of them opposed to it than in favor. The reasons for this were that few Germans owned slaves and few were in competition with slave labor. At the same time, the natural German attitude was anti-slavery. Undoubtedly, the German view on the subject of slavery and emancipation fearlessly and openly expressed by some, were a cause for the hatred that many New Orleanians had for their German neighbors during the Civil War. Though, there were some Germans however, who were just as enthusiastic about the need of the institution as those opposed to it. These, of course, owned slaves themselves.

Germans of the city were caught in the maelstrom of war. Rising prices and scarcity of money greatly affected them. Yet, the business of the city was going its normal way, to judge from the surface. Even the natural gaiety of the city was hard to suppress. There was great rejoicing among the Germans of the city when one of its members succeeded in running the Federal blockade with a shipment of Nuernberg beer, while many of the particular German institutions, such as churches and schools, thrived during the days of war and reconstruction.

The Union troops took the city and on May 1, 1862, General Benjamin Butler set up federal rule. Members of the German churches in the city observed special days of prayer and thanksgiving when requested by Jefferson Davis and some of their religious leaders and pastors were very reluctant in taking the oath of allegiance required by General Butler. Nevertheless, the silent attitude of the members of the churches, as attested by the proceedings of their church meetings during the war years, seemed to convey the feeling that they were not much concerned about the outcome of the struggle nor the rule by the Union forces.



MAY 15, 1862  
 Baptismal Certificate  
 Friedricke Rohmann  
 Baptized April 6, 1862

That same month, the Federal fleet passed the Confederate forts defending the mouth of the river and appeared before New Orleans.

During the years of the Civil War, 1861-1865, the city of New Orleans suffered greatly. This congregation, however, never really met with any unusual hardship. If anything, it prospered. It is reported that in those days, even the large new church, on many occasions, proved too small for the large number of worshippers assembled there.



Marc. 10, 13-16.

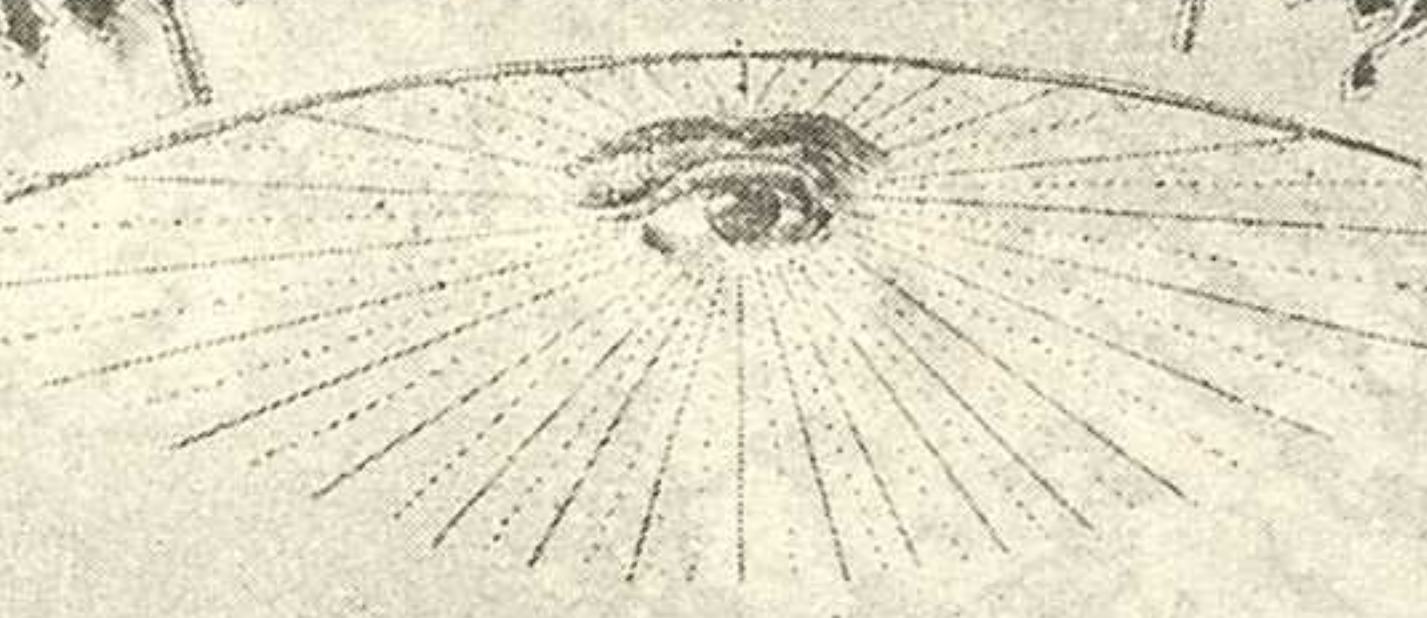


I Cor. 13, 13.



I Petr. 1, 18, 19.

# Confirmationschein



wurde nach empfangenem Unterrichte aus dem Worte Gottes, nach Anleitung des *Lehrers* Katechismus, am *18* in dem Gotteshause der *St. Michaels Kirche*



2 Petr. 1, 19.



2 Mos. 6.

## confirmirt

und zum heiligen Abendmahle zugelassen. Solches bezeuget unter erneuerter Anwartsung des göttlichen Segens und mit ernstlicher Hinweisung auf



Til. 3, 5.



I Cor. 11, 26.

Bewahr' mir, Herr! durch Deinen Geist  
Den Glauben, der sich stark bewirkt,  
Der nach dem neuen Wesen ringt!  
Und edle Lebensfrüchte bringt!  
Dann bleib' ich, o Herr, Dein Christ!  
In Dir, der Du mein Leben bist,  
Dann sieg' ich über Welt und Noth,  
Bin Dein im Leben und im Tod.



Röm. 5.

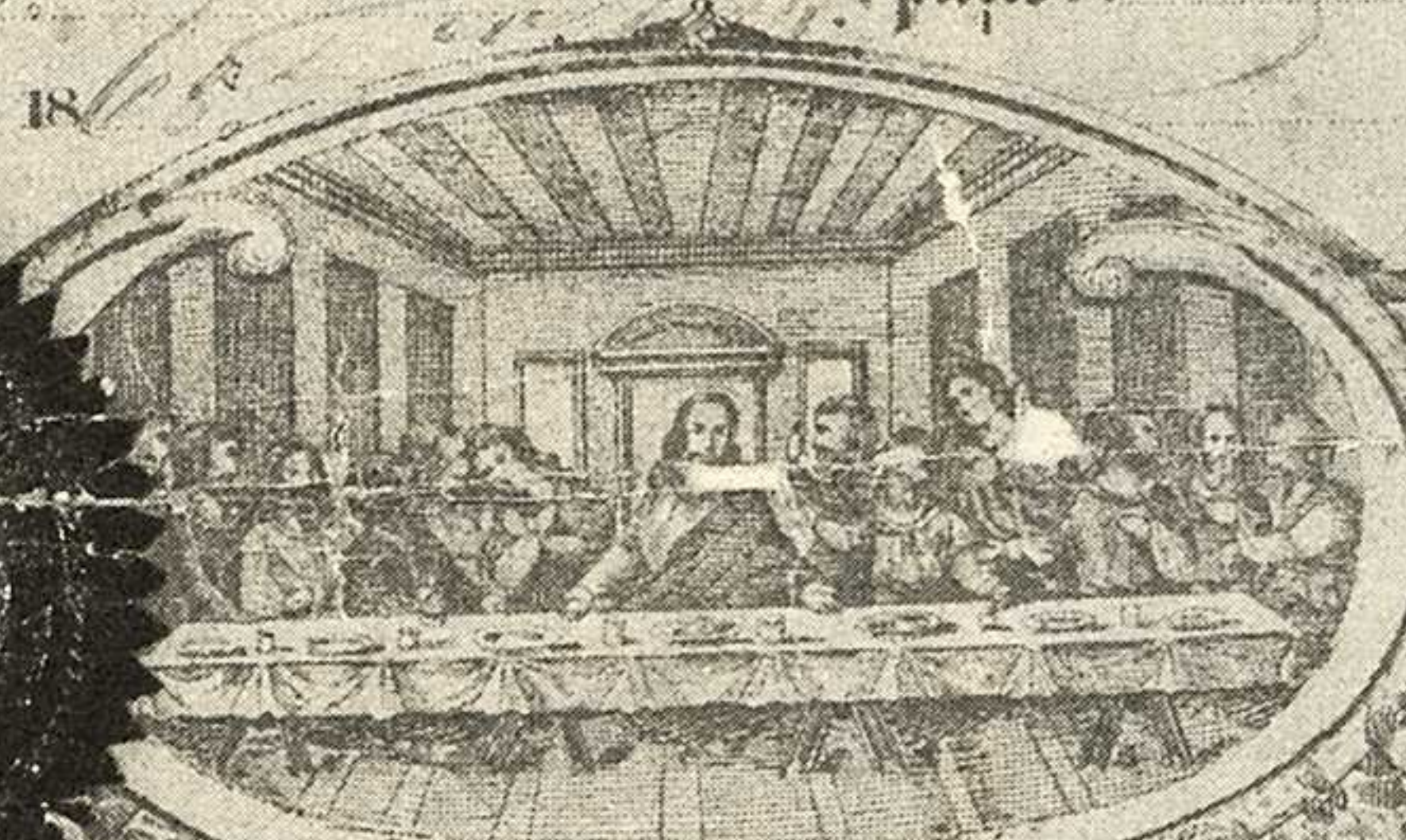


I Cor. 15, 42, 43.

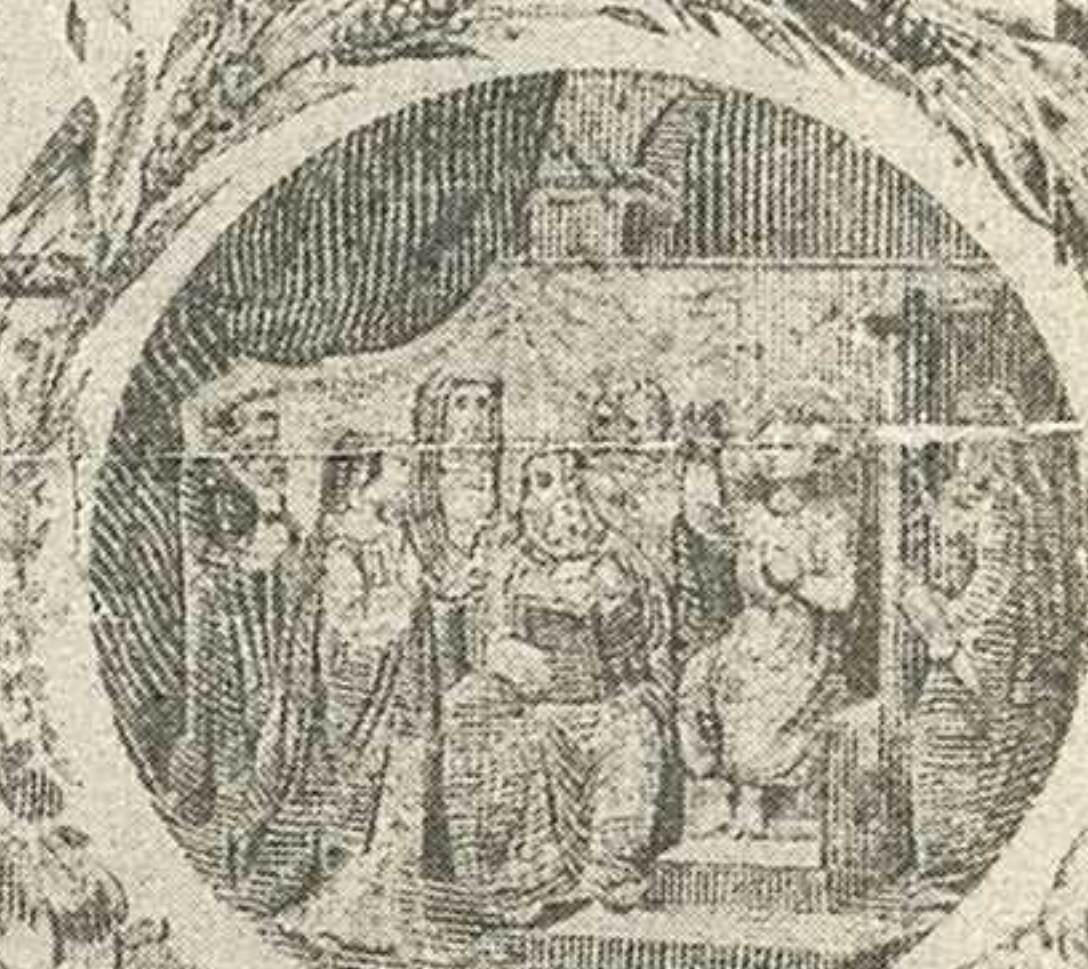
am *18* 18*85* Pastor.



Luc. 2, 7-14.



Joh. 6, 55.



Luc. 2, 46-47.

Entered according to Act of Congress in the year 1885, by J. E. Stohmann, in the Clerk's Office of the District Court of the Southern District of New York.

Zu haben bei J.E. Stohmann, N° 24 North William St, New York.

*Opposite*  
**APRIL 19, 1868**  
Confirmation Certificate  
of Wilhelm Washington  
Waldow

In 1868, 108 children were confirmed

After the war, in 1866, Moedinger recognized the necessity for providing support for orphans in the city. He organized a society within the congregation called: "Orphan Asylum Association of the First German Lutheran Congregation of the Third District, New Orleans, La." Funds amounting to over \$4,000 had been raised for this endeavor.

In 1867, a Sunday School was established specifically for the Christian education of children not attending the Christian Day School.

In November of 1868, one **F. O. Koelle**, a student of the St. Chrischona Mission Institute, was called to assist Moedinger. After only a few months, however, Koelle suddenly turned his back on the congregation and the Lutheran church altogether. Apparently

he had only pretended to be Lutheran, and with little or no notice to Pastor Moedinger, he accepted the pastorate of the 2nd German Presbyterian Church which just happened to be nearby and vacant. He continued to pretend to be Lutheran, thus drawing with him a number of members from this congregation. Many of them, confused by Koelle's lack of conviction, eventually returned to Moedinger's church. Moedinger often spoke of this as one of the saddest experiences he would have in his long ministry here.

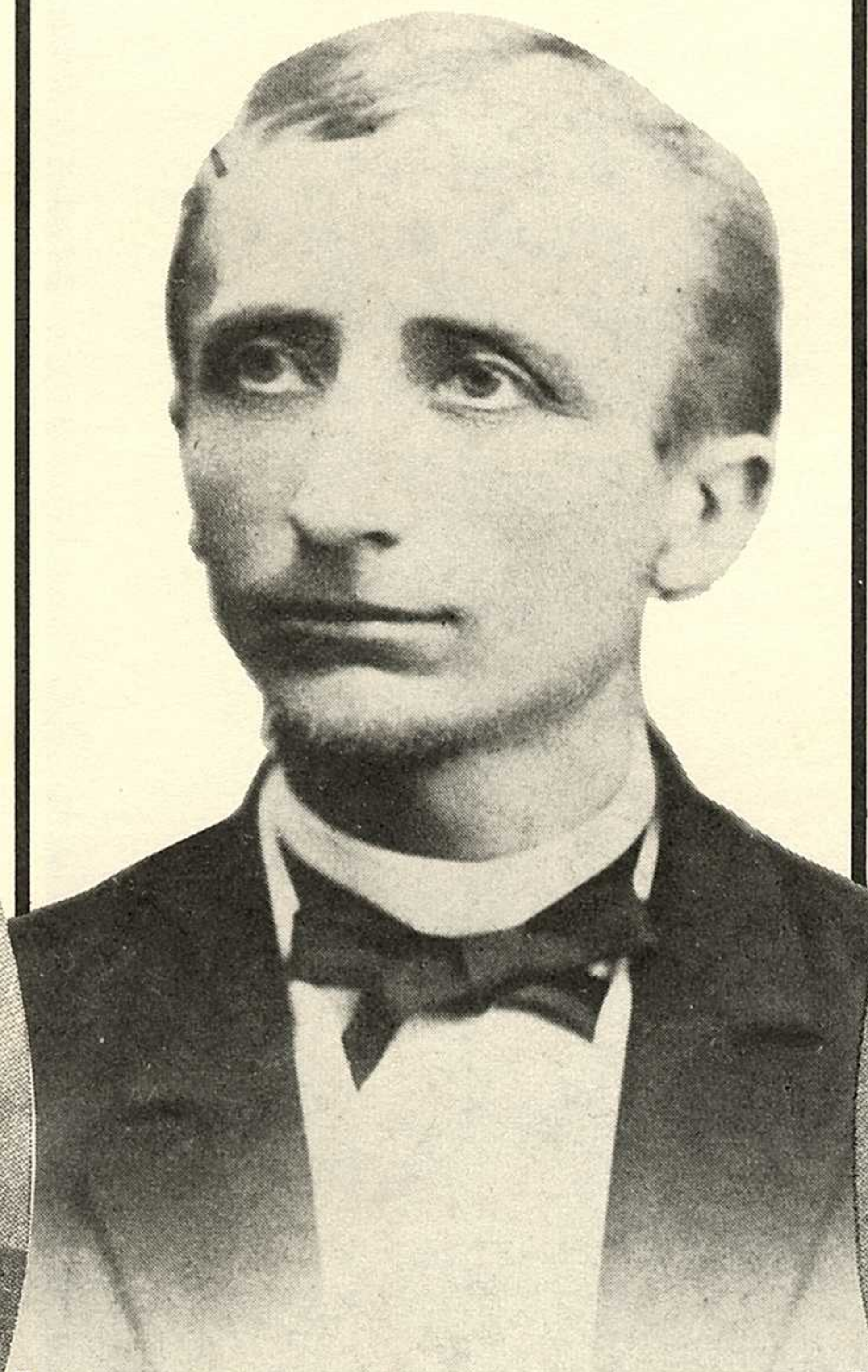
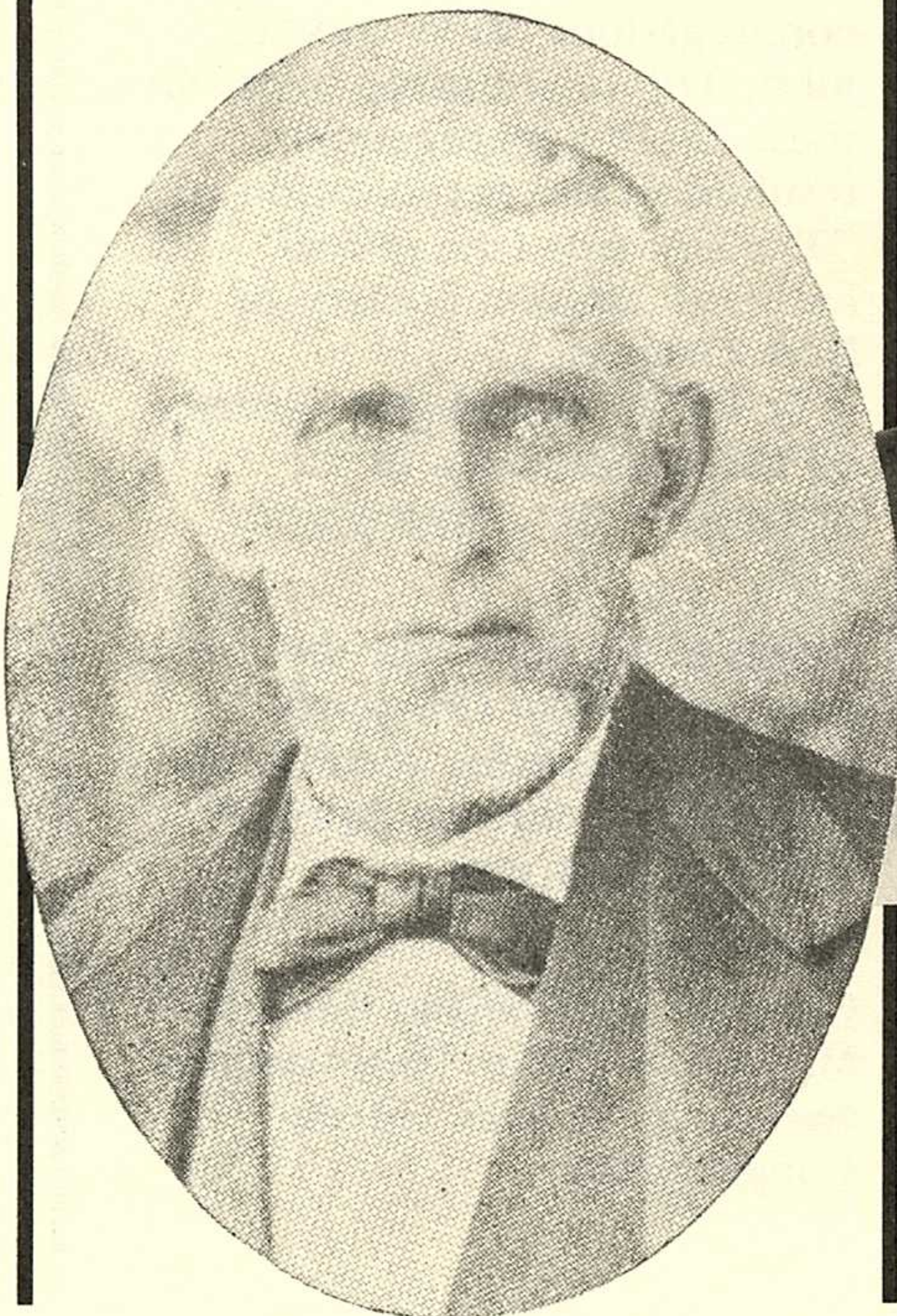
**WEGENER**

*"But even such an experience could not lastingly damage the congregation. Both the Pastor and the congregation were richer by another valuable experience. The valuable result was that our people became more and more wary of indifferentism and unionism, and were all the more serious in maintaining the Lutheran confession."*

For some time now, Pastor Moedinger felt that it was not proper for himself nor the congregation to be affiliated with the Texas Synod any longer. In 1870, he convinced his church to follow him in leaving that synod. He and the congregation were inclined to join the "Evangelical-Lutheran Synod of Missouri, Ohio, and other States" for two reasons. The Synod had a clear record of faithful adherence to the Lutheran Confessions, and it would provide them with the prospect of obtaining suitable teachers for the parochial school. As with everything else, this move to change synods would meet with controversy and internal conflicts. Nevertheless, the first Missouri Synod teacher, **Mr. H.L. Huettmann** was called in 1870, and **Mr. C. F. K. Zeige** and **H. D. Schroeder** were called in 1871.

**J. JACOB BRODERS**

Teacher  
1868-1884

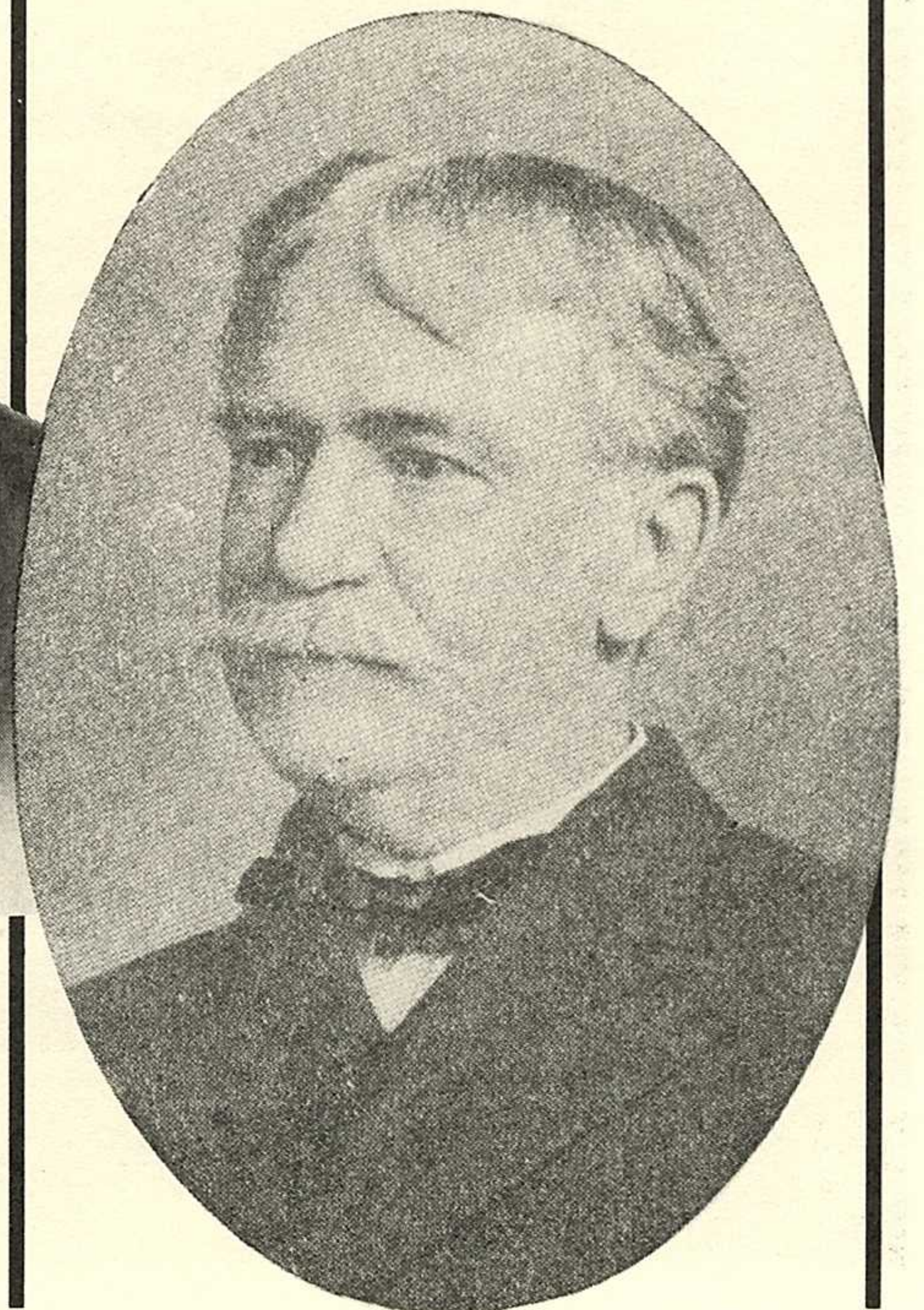


**HERMANN D. SCHROEDER**

Teacher  
1871-1875

**H. L. HUETTMANN**

Teacher  
1870-1871







Mr. and Mrs. PETER THORMAEHLEN

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*St. Paul's German Lutheran Church, N.O., La.*

Year	Name	Amount
1867	Mr. J. M. ...	7.00
1868	Mr. J. M. ...	12.00
1869	Mr. J. M. ...	6.00
	J. H. ...	1.00
	J. B. ...	1.00
	J. C. ...	1.00
	J. I. ...	1.00
	J. F. ...	1.00
	J. W. ...	1.00
1870	J. I. ...	1.00
1870	J. I. ...	1.00
	J. E. ...	1.00
	J. C. ...	1.00
	J. F. ...	1.00
	J. H. ...	1.00
	J. W. ...	2.00
	J. S. ...	2.00
	J. M. ...	1.00
	J. J. ...	1.00
1871	J. I. ...	1.00
	J. E. ...	3.00
	J. C. ...	1.00
	J. F. ...	1.00
	J. H. ...	2.00
	J. W. ...	2.00
	J. S. ...	1.00
	J. M. ...	1.00
1872	J. I. ...	1.00
	J. E. ...	2.00
	J. C. ...	1.00
	J. F. ...	2.00
	J. H. ...	1.00

Thirty years had passed and the 1842 charter was about to expire. The Constitution was carefully scrutinized in reference to the Scriptures and the Confessions. Several paragraphs were changed in anticipation of joining the Missouri Synod.

On February 20, 1872, the congregation renewed its charter and adopted the title: "The German Evangelical Lutheran St. Paul's Congregation, Unaltered Augsburg Confession, of New Orleans, La." On March 18, **Jacob Harder, Peter Thormaehlen and Jacob Trier** appeared, as representatives for the First German Lutheran Congregation, before Notary Joseph Cohn, and transferred the ownership, including 81 shares of the Citizen's Bank to **Jacob Thomas, Heinrich Gassner and Ludwig Frantz**, representing St. Paul's. That same month, the congregation decided by a majority vote to send the Pastor and a layperson to St. Louis for the Convention of the Western District. This resolution was later reconsidered and was finally made unanimous in December of 1873.

Pastor Moedinger and the congregation were received into membership of the Missouri Synod in June 1874.\*

In addition to the availability of good teachers, connection with the Missouri Synod had other advantages. It brought us into communion with our sister congregations; Zion and St. John. The relationship between these three congregations resulted in the organization of "The German Evangelical Lutheran Mission Society of New Orleans, La."

In 1875, Moedinger confirmed the largest class in the history of the congregation; 119.

\*Wegener records the date of June 1874. The Concordia Historical Institute records the Convention dates as April 29 - May 4 of that year.

**1867-1872**  
Church Contribution Records  
Mr. & Mrs. Peter Thormaehlen  
two early "pillars" of the  
Congregation

*Gemeine Ludwig Frantz*

1869. J. 9. November für 100 Pf.	5.00.
J. 15. November	00.50.
J. 2. Sept.	00.50.
1870. J. 24. Jan. für zwei Monate	1.00.
J. 10. May	00.50.
J. 3. April	00.50.
J. 1. Juni für zwei Monate	1.00.
J. 26. Juli	00.50.
J. 1. August	00.50.
J. 5. Sept.	00.50.
J. 4. November	1.00.
1871. J. 31. Jan. für zwei Monate	3.00.
J. 31. Juli für zwei Monate	3.00.
1872. J. 2. May für zwei Monate	3.00.
J. 26. August für zwei Monate	3.00.
1873. J. 1. Juli für zwei Monate	3.00.
J. 22. Juli für zwei Monate	3.00.
1874. J. 6. Sept. für zwei Monate	3.00.
J. 27. Oct.	3.00.
1875. J. 19. Nov.	3.00.
J. 13. Sept.	3.00.
1876. J. 22. April	3.00.
1877. J. 24. Juli	3.00.
1878. J. 6. Aug.	3.00.
1879. J. 29. Sept.	3.00.
1880. J. 14. Sept.	3.00.
1881. J. 9. Aug.	3.00.
1882. J. 24. Oct.	3.00.



**Mr. and Mrs. HENRY L. FRANTZ**

Mr. Heinrich Ludwig Frantz was born in Alsace, but could really be called a native New Orleanian since he came here in his early youth. He was confirmed in 1861 and he and his wife were very active members. For more than 25 years, he was the President of the congregation. He was a business partner of Jacob Schoen around the turn of the century and he and Mrs. Frantz were avid supporters of the Bethlehem Orphan Asylum.

Mr. Frantz died at the age of 78 on December 16, 1925 leaving over \$25,000 to the Bethlehem Orphan Asylum Association.

1875. J. 19. Nov.  
 1876. J. 22. April  
 1877. J. 24. Juli  
 1878. J. 6. Aug.  
 1879. J. 29. Sept.  
 1880. J. 14. Sept.  
 1881. J. 9. Aug.  
 1882. J. 24. Oct.

*Katherina Augustina Hankel*  
 geboren den 28. April 1876, ist am  
 28. August 1876 in Gegenwart der  
 Eltern:  
 v. vater u. Mutter geb. v. vater  
 u. v. Mutter geb. v. vater  
 u. v. Mutter geb. v. vater  
 im Namen des  
**Dreieinigen Gottes**  
 getauft worden, welches hierdurch  
 glaubwürdig bescheinigt wird.  
 v. vater u. Mutter geb. v. vater  
 1876. v. vater

**GEHAUPT WIRD DER WIRD  
 DER WIRD VERDAMMT  
 SELIG WERDEN  
 WERDEN**

**GLAUBET U.  
 WERDEN**

**1 COR. 15, 33, 37**

*Above left*  
**1869-1882**  
 Church Contribution  
 Records of  
 Mr. & Mrs. Henry Frantz

*Left*  
**AUGUST, 1876**  
 Baptismal Certificate  
 Katherina A. Hankel  
 Baptized May 28, 1876

*Overleaf*  
**OCTOBER 21, 1880**  
 Marriage Certificate  
 Wilhelm Washington  
 Waldo and  
 Julia Catharina Tanzman

1850



# CRAUSCHEN

W. Wilhelm Maschington, Malder  
 aus New Orleans, Louisiana  
 und Fäulung Julia Katharina Taugman  
 aus New Orleans, Louisiana  
 sind am 21. Octbr 1850 durch Unterzeichneten

in Gegenwart der Zeugen:

August Taugman, Theresia Malder  
 Johann Taugman

## Ehelich verbunden,

welches hierdurch glaubwürdig bezeugt wird.  
 New Orleans, La. den 21. Octbr  
 1. D. Ein tausend acht hundert und achtzig.

W. G. Nöding  
 Pastor

Über: Du willst unser Gleisman sein,  
 Und mit uns gehen aus und ein,  
 Und zeigen alle Sieg' und Sieg',  
 Wenn dem Unfall auf dem Weg.  
 Amen.

Herr Christ Du bist der rechte Weg,  
 Zum Himmel und der einzige Steg,  
 Hilf uns pilgern ins Vaterland,  
 Weil Du Dein Blut hast dran gewandt.  
 Amen.



Der 127 Psalm.  
 1. Wo der Herr nicht das Haus bauet,  
 so arbeiten umsonst, die daran bauen.  
 Wo der Herr nicht die Stadt behüet,  
 so wachet der Wächter umsonst.  
 2. Es ist umsonst, dass ihr frühe auf-  
 steht, und hernach lange sitzt, und  
 esset euer Brod mit Sorgen, denn  
 seinen Freunden giebt er es schlafend.  
 3. Siehe, Kinder sind eine Gabe des  
 Herrn, und Leibesfrucht ist ein Geschenk.  
 4. Wie die Pfeile in der Hand eines  
 Starken, also gerathen die jun-  
 gen Knaben.  
 5. Wohl dem, der seinen Köcher  
 derselben voll hat, die werden nicht  
 zu schanden, wenn sie mit ihren  
 Feinden handeln im Thor.



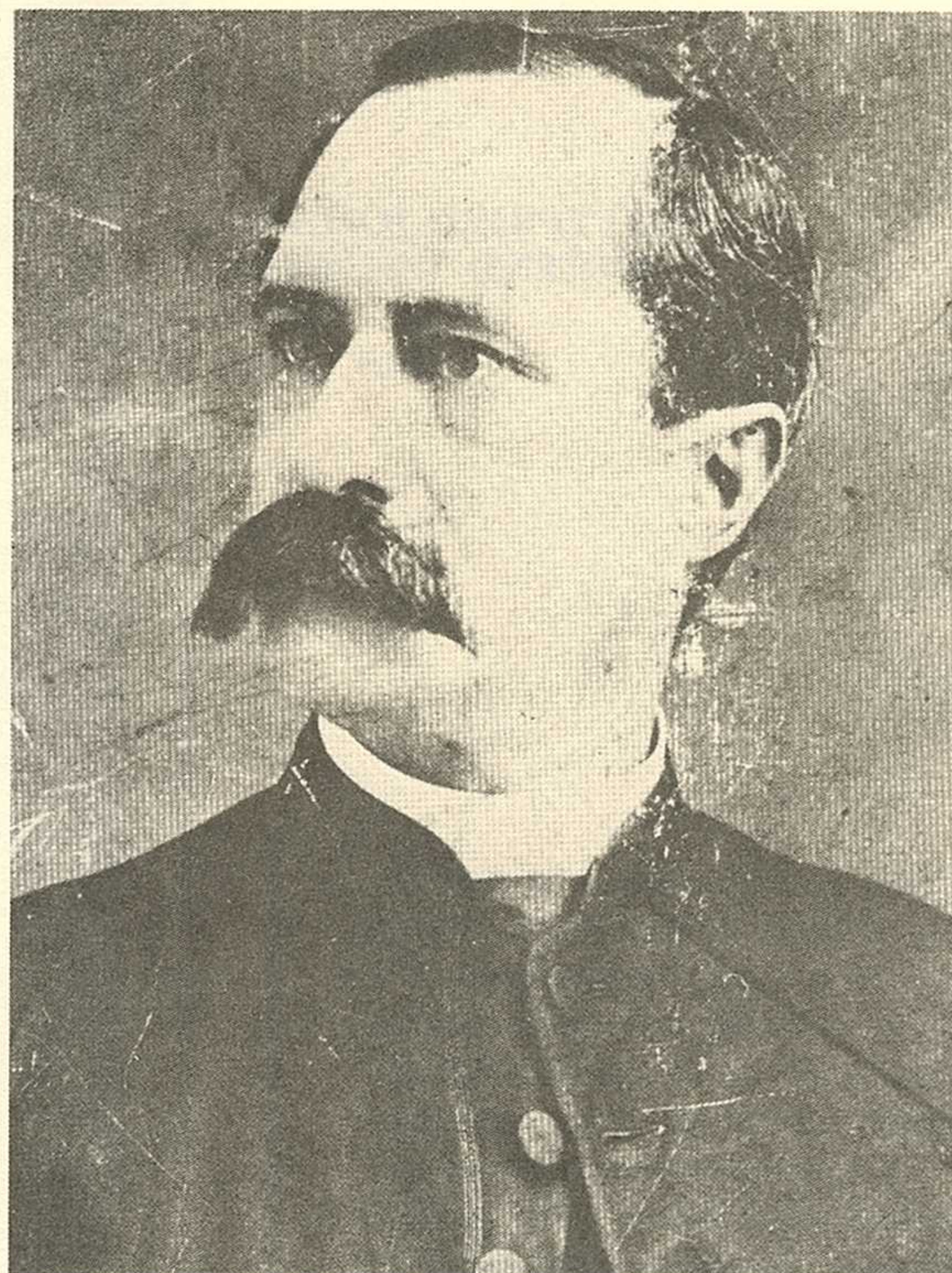
Der 128 Psalm.  
 1. Wohl dem, der den Herrn fürch-  
 tet, und auf seinen Wegen gehet.  
 2. Du wirst dich nähren deiner  
 Hände Arbeit, wohl dir, du hast  
 es gut.  
 3. Dein Weib wird sein wie ein  
 fruchtbarer Weinstock um dein  
 Haus herum, deine Kinder wie die  
 Oelzweige um deinen Tisch her.  
 4. Siehe, also wird gesegnet der  
 Mann, der den Herrn fürchtet.  
 5. Der Herr wird dich segnen aus  
 Zion, dass du sehest das Glück  
 Jerusalems dein Lebentag.  
 6. Und sehest deiner Kinder  
 Friede über Jerusalem.



Another epidemic of yellow fever swept through New Orleans in 1878 bringing with it another 3,800 deaths and a mass exodus to the Gulf Coast. The nature of the disease was still unknown.

During the summer and fall of that year, Moedinger served his congregation tirelessly, continuously visiting the sick and dying members of St. Paul and three other congregations in New Orleans. A relief committee's appeal for help was generously met with the outpouring of aid from the North. Many donations were received for the poor and needy members of St. Paul. In all, 96 members of St. Paul died that year, perhaps reminding the members of their 1866 commitment to establish a Lutheran Orphanage in the city.

This goal was realized when on June 7, 1881, 16 members of St. Paul, led by Pastor Moedinger, signed the original charter legally incorporating the Bethlehem Orphan Asylum Association. They were joined the following year by St. John's and Zion Congregations on November 15th, 1882. At this time St. Paul turned over the \$4,000 it had been collecting since 1866 to the new organization for the purchase of an old plantation house on the River for the new Asylum.



**GEORGE  
CHRISTIAN  
FRANKE**  
Pastor, 1884-87

The Southern District of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod was organized on February 8, 1882, in which St. Paul actively participated.

On July 8, 1883, the Bethlehem Orphan Asylum was officially opened and **J. M. Maish** was called as its first superintendent. He was also called by St. Paul to assist Moedinger. During Maish's year at St. Paul, he helped organize the Ladies' Aid Society or "Frauenverein."

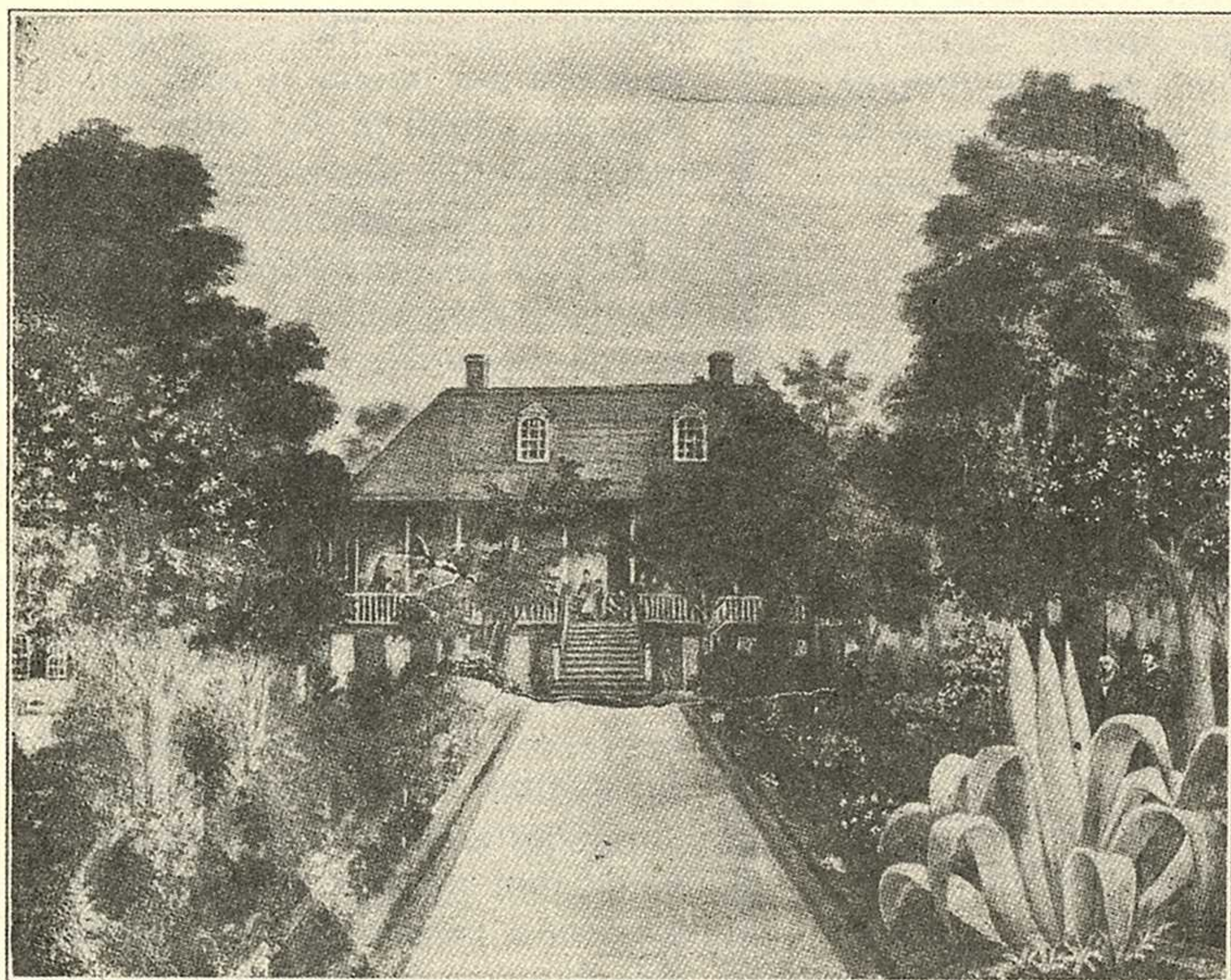
At this time, the need for sermons and services in English

became more apparent. Many young people of the congregation, not having schooling in German, could not speak the language or understand enough German to attain the desired effect of worship services or Confirmation instruction. In 1883, the first English services were allowed at St. Paul, which were conducted by pastors of local sister congregations; N. J. Bakke, August Burgdorf and G.C. Franke.

In the spring of 1884, St. Paul introduced the first regular Sunday evening English services at St. Paul. Moedinger could not speak English so **George Christian Franke** was called to handle the English work at St. Paul. He soon organized the English speaking members as a congregation within St. Paul. That year, 16 children were confirmed in English in addition to the 100 German confirmations conducted by Moedinger.

Under Franke's guidance, "The English Group" decided to organize themselves further. On July 13, 1885 a group of men met to establish an English Evangelical Lutheran Congregation. Franke presided over this meeting and Moedinger was elected treasurer. A constitution was framed and the name, "The English Evangelical Lutheran St. Paul's Congregation" was adopted.

**JULY 8, 1883**  
Bethlehem Orphan Asylum



**GOTTFRIED JOHANN  
BEREND WEGENER**

Pastor  
1887-1946

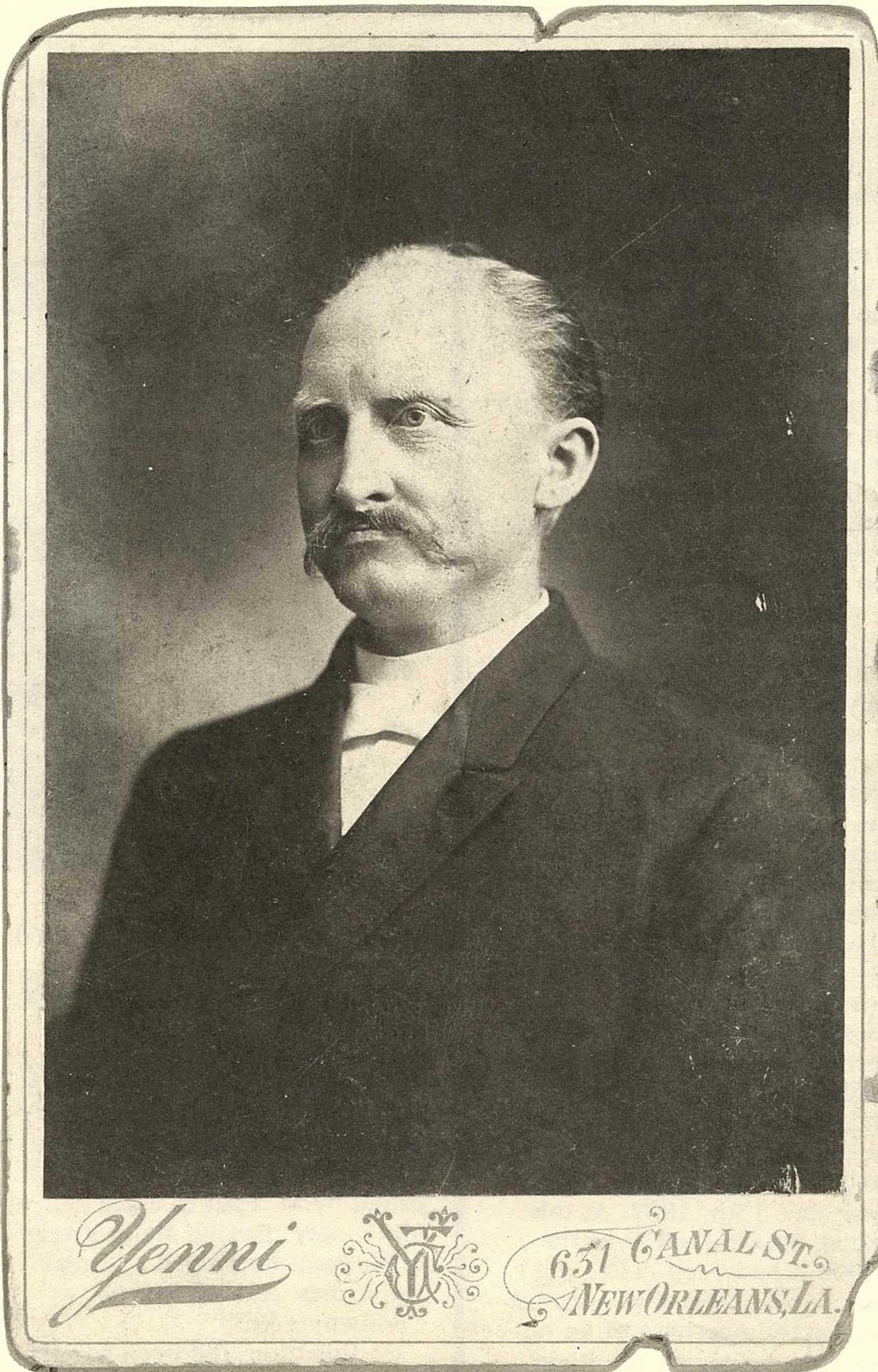
This group agreed to pay St. Paul fifteen dollars each month for the use of the facilities. This was eventually raised to thirty dollars. Services were held on Sunday evening. They purchased 25 English hymnals and an English altar Bible. This group retained its connection with the mother church, but operated independently with its own officers. Things went well for a time, but conditions arose which eventually caused Franke to accept a Call to Closter, N.J. in the summer of 1887.

During Franke's three years here, he confirmed about 150 children in the English language. Without him, there was no English and no English group.

That same summer, Moedinger would preach his last sermon. After serving his congregation since 1855, failing health forced him to retire from the difficult work required of such a large congregation. He proposed that St. Paul call a successor. For the next five months St. Paul remained without a pastor.

**WEGENER**

*"I cannot express in words what a surprise came to me with this Call. I, a humble country pastor, only 26 years old, and with only five years experience - to become the pastor of the oldest and by far the largest congregation in the great city of New Orleans and in the entire Southland! I, together with my wife and two infant children, to go down into the "Deep South" and expose myself to the ravages of "yellow fever."  
"No," said my dear mother.  
"No," said other relatives and*



*friends, "do not go down into that pest-stricken country." And my own trembling, fluttering heart asked: "Shall I be able to meet the requirements and do the work involved in a congregation of some 1,800 souls?"*

On November, 13, 1887, the 23rd Sunday after Trinity, **Gottfried Johann Berend Wegener** was installed at St. Paul by Pastor Moedinger. Wegener preached his first sermon on the following Sunday, in German of course. With the departure of Franke, the congregation adopted a very determined resolution to have "No more English in its midst."

Upon his arrival, Wegener was faced with a class of 79 catechumens, 38 of which had already announced for instruction in English. The congregation did not object to him instructing them in the only language they knew, but continued to hold firmly to the policy of no preaching in English. This policy would of course deny the English catechumens access to the means of grace. After some discussions with the congregation, Wegener was "permitted" to conduct English services on Sunday nights on one condition. All members who could no longer be served in German were to organize their own English congregation. A resolution was made that all such members be granted a peaceful dismissal to this new congregation.

New Orleans Nov. 28<sup>th</sup> 1888

To The Officers and Members of the  
 Mixed Choir of Luth. St. Pauli Church  
 of New Orleans, La.

Dear Friends!

Whereas the English Congregation purchased  
 of an organ for their new church, but not in condition financially  
 to purchase a new one and whereas we lay claim jointly with  
 the choir on the Melodion or Organ purchased from Roche & Co.  
 of New Orleans, which we subscribed on half the amount thereof  
 at time of purchase, it was the sense & resolution passed in our  
 meeting held Nov. 1888 that we agreed to the respective choir and  
 willingness to refund to them their private subscription to the  
 cost of the instrument in question & ask that they accept our  
 proposition & relinquish their claim thereby on said instrument  
 & aiding help our congregation as become brethren in the Faith.  
 We await your pleasure & if agreeable please appoint a com-  
 mittee to meet in place to confer with our congregation

Yours Christianly,  
 Frank J. Schaefer  
 Secy. Treas.

Pastor Wegener called a meeting with seven members who were interested in English work. After serious deliberations, they organized "The First English Evangelical Lutheran Congregation of New Orleans, La." on July 17, 1888. Pastor Wegener conducted services for them until Theo. J. A. Huegli was called on October 7th. On January 13, 1889, First English dedicated its first building on the corner of Port and St. Claude.

This partitioning of the congregation was accomplished only with great difficulty. Many were concerned about the future of the German church and were distressed about the division.

Barely three weeks after rejoicing with its new sister congregation, the members of St. Paul faced another sad experience in their history.

On February 4th, 1889, Pastor Wegener, a teacher and a lay-delegate left the city to attend the Southern District convention in Houston, Texas.

On February 5th, St. Paul church burned down to the foundation.

**FEBRUARY 9, 1889**  
 THE N.O. DEUTSCHE  
 ZIETUNG

"There lie all indications that an arsonist hitherto unknown, has addressed himself to the problem of destroying the property belonging to the Evangelical Lutheran St. Paul Congregation in the Third District. Tuesday evening the pretty church on the corner of Port and Burgundy streets, burned down to the ground. It was discovered that fire was planted in four different parts of the building.

On Wednesday fire was discovered in the second story of the rectory behind the church — soon enough, however, to prevent the destruction of the building.

The villainous arsonists were still not content with this success and on Thursday evening set a rear building near the church on the side of the schoolhouse on fire. This fire was also quenched before considerable damage could be effected."

**NOVEMBER 28, 1888**  
 First correspondence received from our new sister congregation

**FEBRUARY 6, 1889**  
 The Times-Democrat

**CHURCH BURNED.**

**Destruction of the German Lutheran Church in the Third District.**

About 7 o'clock last evening an alarm was sounded from box 612, followed shortly after by another from box No. 414, for a fire that originated under the staircase on the Port street side of the St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran German church, corner of Port and Burgundy streets, of which Rev. Mr. Wagner is the pastor.

The church and entire contents were totally destroyed, involving a loss of about \$15,000. The church, bell, organ and other furniture were insured for \$12,000 in the Firemen's, Teutonia and Home Companies.

The double frame cottage at the southeast corner of Port and Burgundy streets, owned and occupied by J. F. Thompson, was damaged to the amount of \$250. by the church steeple falling against its side and crushing through the wall. The building was also slightly damaged by fire. It was insured for \$2500 in the Merchants' Company. The furniture was insured for \$1000 in the Germania Company. The origin of the fire is not known.

**FEBRUARY 11, 1889**  
 Daily Picayune

"The persistent efforts of incendiaries to set fire to the German Lutheran church, corner of Port and Burgundy streets, is astonishing. Last night another attempt was made to set the building on fire, which attracted the attention of a crowd.

Corporal Grass saw the crowd and went to the place, and in company with Officer William Evans of Farrell's force, who is stationed at the school-house, examined the building and found the house saturated with coal oil in several places. The miscreants, however, forgot to apply the match, and an officer of the regular force was ordered to remain around the place with Officer Evans to prevent the incendiary from accomplishing his work."

The Trustees of the German Evangelical Lutheran St. Paul's Church, corner Port and Burgundy, which was destroyed by fire last Tuesday, desire to inform the members and friends that the regular services will hereafter be held Sundays at 3 o'clock in the German Methodist Church, on Burgundy street, between Ruyheim and Port streets. Sunday school in same building at 2 o'clock. The classes of our parochial school under Mr. Thompson, will be continued on Monday in the old schoolhouse, corner Port and Burgundy. The classes in charge of Mr. Doecke, will be instructed from Monday on in Thomann's Hall, on Dauphine, near Louis street.

P. THORMANN, President.  
 H. J. RINGHOFF, Secretary.

Only the brick walls of the lower floor of the church remained. Fortunately neither the school nor parsonage were severely damaged and all of the old church records remained untouched by the flames.

On September 13, 1989, the cornerstone was opened and the contents removed. The items found therein were placed on display at the 150th Anniversary Initial Service which commemorated the 100th Anniversary of the present church building. This service was held on September 17, 1989.

One of the items was a handwritten history of the congregation, in German, by Pastor Wegener. Since it was retrieved in time for publication, I am including several pages with translations since they are relevant to this period.

—ed

**P. THORMÆHLEN,**  
 65 CHARTRES ST.,  
 NEW ORLEANS.  
 Between Bienville & Conti.  
 DEALER IN  
**LEATHER & FINDINGS,**  
 —ALSO IN—  
 Tanners' and Curriers' Tools and Oils.  
 All kinds of FITTINGS made to order at short notice.

**WEGENER**

"We are diligently at work now for two weeks, and today, Palm Sunday, April 14, 1889, the cornerstone of the new church shall be put in place in the name of the Holy Trinity. This short story of the congregation we shall commit to the cornerstone in order that, God willing, our descendents will bear witness to that which our Lord God in his generosity has bestowed upon us all.

"In closing we add an account of the present standing of our congregation:

1. The congregation count now 66 males and approximately 160 female members. The communicants number between 900 and 1000. The count of souls stands at about 2000 persons.

2. The parish school, which suffered to some extent because of the interruptions due to the fire, presently has 150 pupils.

3. The Ladies' Auxiliary whose head count has nearly doubled during the last 3 months has now 70 members.

4. The Young Men's Guild which was founded on November 11, 1888 now has 30 members.

As we put this history of our congregation into the cornerstone of our new church, for the benefit of our descendents, our heart is full of praise and thanks to God for all his Mercy and Grace which He has bestowed upon us, and we beseech Him that He will preserve for us, our children His Holy Word and Sacrament in this place; that we and they may find solace and eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen."

New Orleans, La.  
 April 14, 1889  
 Gottfried J. Wegener  
 Ev. Luth. Pastor

1. Die Gemeinde zählt jetzt 66 männliche in etwa 160 weibliche Mitglieder, die Zahl der Kommunikanten beträgt zw. 900 u. 1000, die Psalmenge etwa 2000 Personen.

2. Die Gemeindefrauen, welche durch die von dem Feuerbrand verursachten Höningen etwas gelitten sind, zählt gegenwärtig 150 Pupillen.

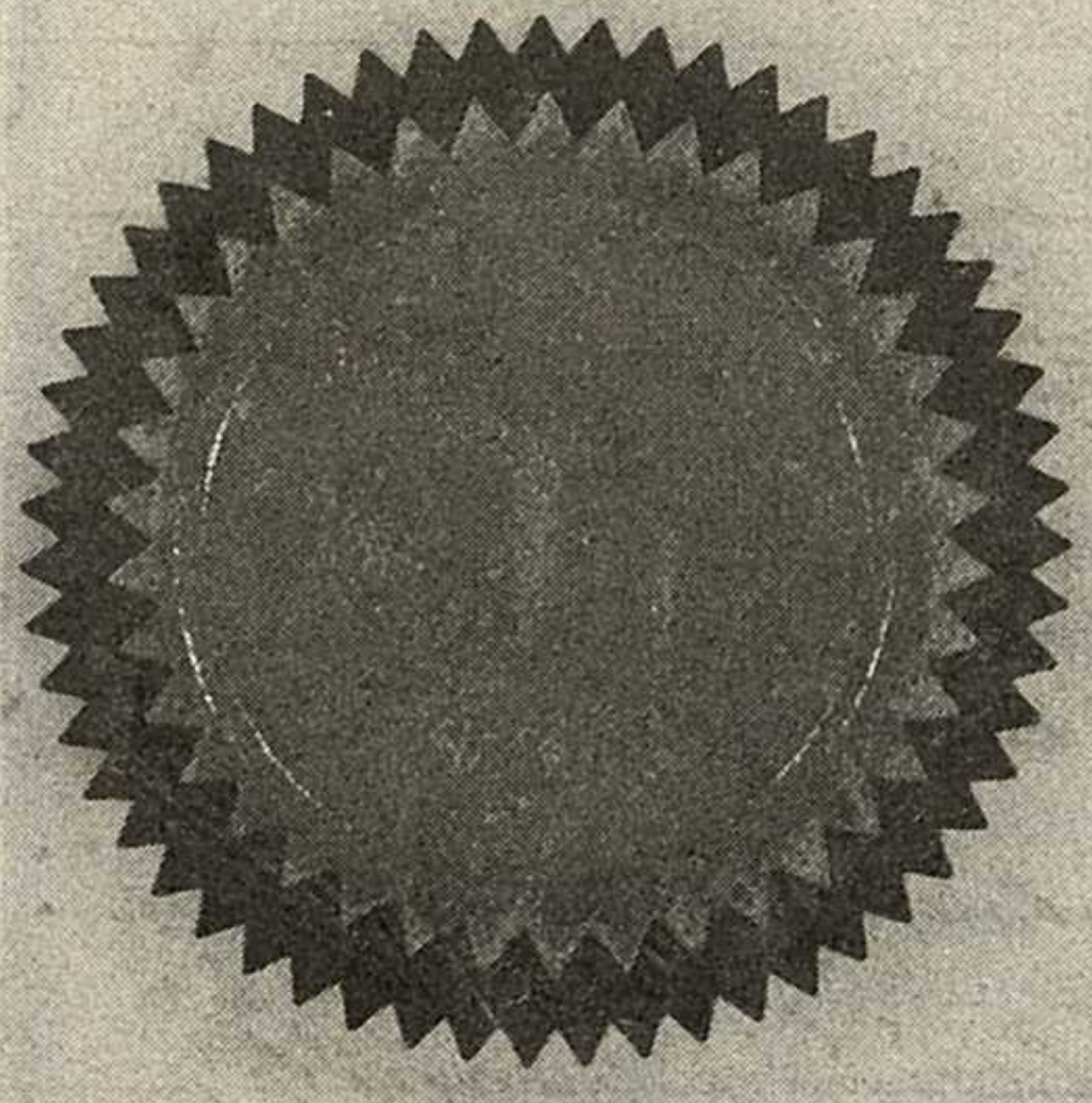
3. Das Frauenverein, dessen Gliederzahl sich in den letzten drei Monaten fast verdoppelt hat, zählt jetzt 70 Glieder.

4. Das Junglingsverein, welcher am 11 Novemb., 1888 gegründet wurde, hat jetzt etwa 30 Glieder.

Endlich wir diese Geschichte unserer Gemeinde für unsere Musikanten in der Kirche zu unsern neuen Kirche legen, ist unser Herz voll Lob u. Dank gegen Gott für alle Barmherzigkeit und Gnade, die er bisher uns reich geschenkt, in uns erhalten ist, so wollen wir, unsere Kinder u. Kinderkinder seine heilige Worte u. Sacrament an diesem Ort aufhalten, daß wir in die Ewigkeit erhalten werden zum ewigen Leben in Christo Jesu unserm Herrn. Amen.

New Orleans, La., d. 14. April, 1889.

Gottfried J. Wegener,  
 ev. luth. Pastor.



*Nennungsliste der Mitglieder  
Kommunität und Offiziere  
der Gemeinde.*

*1. Pastoren:*

*Gottfried J. Wegener.  
C. G. Moedinger.*

*2. Lehrer:*

*J. Friedrich Thomson.  
Friedrich Doepke.*

*3. Offiziere:*

*P. Thomählen, Pres.  
D. Amerland, Vice Pres.  
H. Ringhoff, Sec.  
L. Schulz, Satz Meister  
H. H. Ortland  
J. H. Gassner.  
J. J. Thomas*

*4. Mitglieder:*

- |                               |                                   |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| <i>1. Georg Duchmann</i>      | <i>8. Matth. Bauer</i>            |
| <i>2. Johannes Pflüger</i>    | <i>9. Rudolph Stahl</i>           |
| <i>3. Jakob Broders</i>       | <i>10. Heinrich Mohr</i>          |
| <i>4. Wilhelm Stegelmeier</i> | <i>11. Ludwig Hornung</i>         |
| <i>5. Joh. Martin Stoll</i>   | <i>12. Joh. Fried. Brandt</i>     |
| <i>6. Heinr. L. Frantz</i>    | <i>13. Christ. Theod. Schmalz</i> |
|                               | <i>14. Daniel Thomas</i>          |
|                               | <i>15. Jakob Schneider</i>        |
|                               | <i>16. Conrad Rubenkönig</i>      |
|                               | <i>17. Herman Ortland</i>         |
|                               | <i>18. Johann Waldt</i>           |
|                               | <i>19. Johann Keim</i>            |
|                               | <i>20. Johann Reppel</i>          |
|                               | <i>21. Heinrich Duker</i>         |
|                               | <i>22. Heinrich Ulmer</i>         |
|                               | <i>23. Phil. Pet. Manger</i>      |
|                               | <i>24. Johann Friedr. Klein</i>   |
|                               | <i>25. Wilh. Aug. Brunssan</i>    |
|                               | <i>26. Christ. Heinr. Rohling</i> |
|                               | <i>27. Johann Goller</i>          |
|                               | <i>28. August Meyer</i>           |
|                               | <i>29. J. Heinr. Leonhardt</i>    |
|                               | <i>30. Karl W. Nolting</i>        |
|                               | <i>31. Georg D. Fust</i>          |

Roster of Names of present Officers and Members of the Congregation.

1. Pastors:  
Gottfried J. Wegener  
C. G. Moedinger
2. Teachers:  
J. Friedrich Thomson  
Friedrich Doepke
3. Officers:  
P. Thomählen, Pres.  
D. Amerland, V. Pres.  
H. Ringhoff, Sec.  
L. Schulz, Treas.  
H. H. Ortland  
J. H. Gassner  
J. J. Thomas
4. Members:  
1. Georg Duchmann  
2. Johannes Pflüger  
3. Jakob Broders  
4. Wilhelm Stegelmeier  
5. Joh. Martin Stoll  
6. Heinr. L. Frantz

7. Michael Pons
8. Matth. Bauer
9. Rudolph Stahl
10. Heinrich Mohr
11. Ludwig Hornung
12. John. Fried. Brandt
13. Christ. Theod. Schmalz
14. Daniel Thomas
15. Jakob Schneider
16. Conrad Rubenkönig
17. Herman Ortland
18. Johann Waldt
19. Johann Keim
20. Johann Reppel
21. Heinrich Duker
22. Heinrich Ulmer
23. Phil. Pet. Manger
24. Johann Friedr. Klein
25. Wilh. Aug. Brunssan
26. Christ. Heinr. Rohling
27. Johann Goller
28. August Meyer
29. J. Heinr. Leonhardt
30. Karl W. Nolting
31. Georg D. Fust

32. Friedr. Nunga
33. Gustav Suhring
34. Friedr. Honold
35. Philipp Honold
36. Ferdinand von Behren
37. Wilhelm Durker
38. Karl Fusch
39. Gust. Ad. Modinger
40. Gottlieb Harder
41. Joh. Jakob Wust
42. Dietrich Imwolde
43. Johann Baumer
44. Ferdinand Nolting
45. Friedr. W. Wurdemann
46. Johannes Meyer
47. C. F. C. Rickert

- |                                   |                                 |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| <i>15. Jakob Schneider</i>        | <i>36. Ferdinand von Behren</i> |
| <i>16. Conrad Rubenkönig</i>      | <i>37. Wilhelm Durker</i>       |
| <i>17. Hermann Ortland</i>        | <i>38. Karl Fusch</i>           |
| <i>18. Johann Waldt</i>           | <i>39. Gust. Ad. Modinger</i>   |
| <i>19. Johann Keim</i>            | <i>40. Gottlieb Harder</i>      |
| <i>20. Johann Reppel</i>          | <i>41. Joh. Jakob Wust</i>      |
| <i>21. Heinrich Duker</i>         | <i>42. Dietrich Imwolde</i>     |
| <i>22. Heinrich Ulmer</i>         | <i>43. Johann Baumer</i>        |
| <i>23. Phil. Pet. Manger</i>      | <i>44. Ferdinand Nolting</i>    |
| <i>24. Johann Friedr. Klein</i>   | <i>45. Friedr. W. Wurdemann</i> |
| <i>25. Wilh. Aug. Brunssan</i>    | <i>46. Johannes Meyer</i>       |
| <i>26. Christ. Heinr. Rohling</i> | <i>47. C. F. C. Rickert</i>     |
| <i>27. Johann Goller</i>          |                                 |
| <i>28. August Meyer</i>           |                                 |
| <i>29. J. Heinr. Leonhardt</i>    |                                 |
| <i>30. Karl W. Nolting</i>        |                                 |
| <i>31. Georg D. Fust</i>          |                                 |

48. Gustav Broders
49. Heinrich Liern
50. Adolph Bergmann
51. Friedrich Wurdemann
52. Peter Mischler
53. Georg Gleber
54. Johann Gerholdt
55. Max Berndt
56. Christian Dannecker
57. Johann Baum

JACOB SCHOEN.

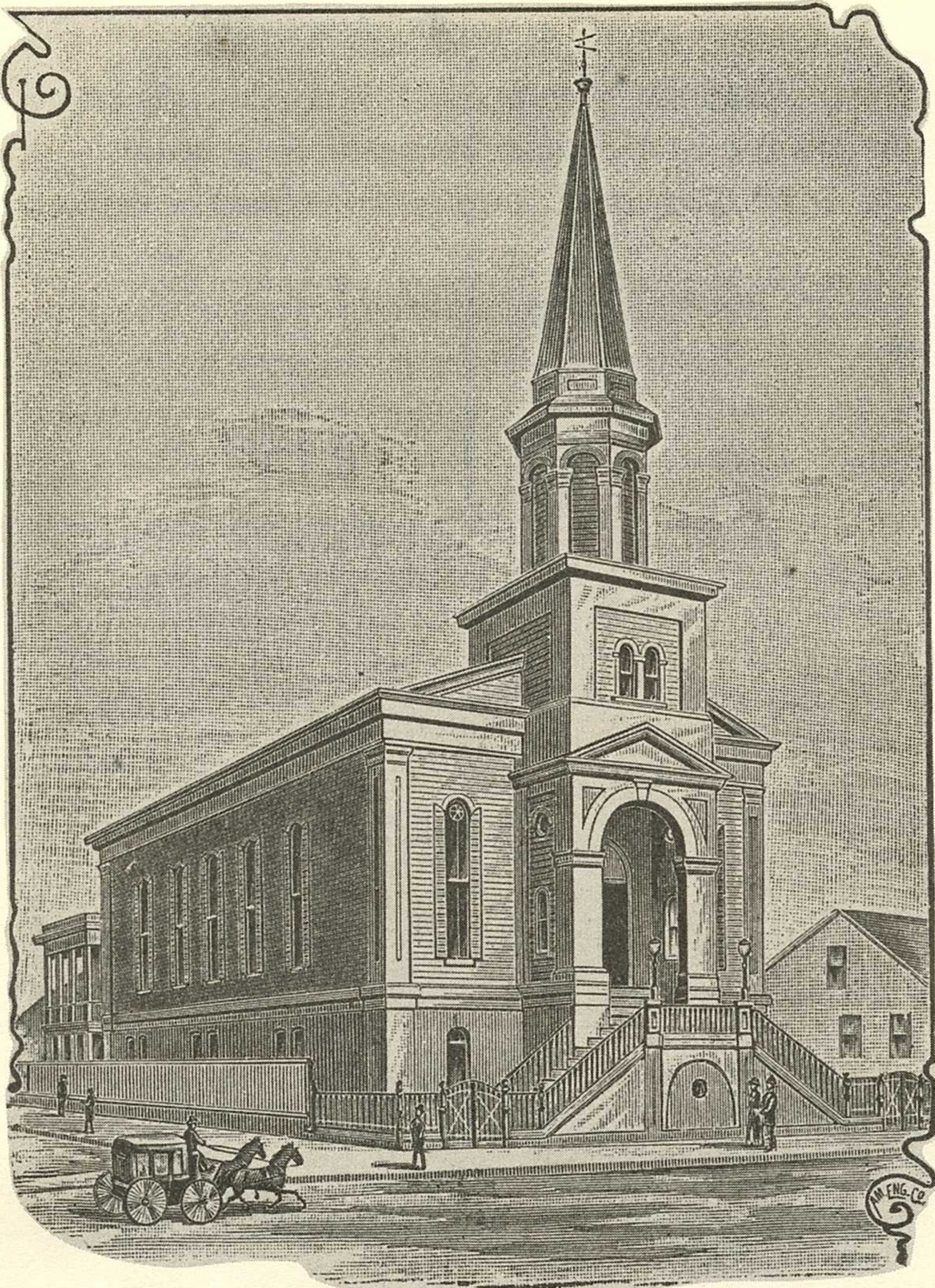
H. L. FRANTZ.

# FRANTZ & SCHOEN, Undertakers,

155 & 156 North Peters, late Front Levee St.  
BETWEEN MONTEGUT AND CLOUET STS.  
\*Branch 35 & 37 Elysian Fields Street,  
Third District, NEW ORLEANS.

ORDERS CAN BE SENT BY TELEPHONE No. 1001.





*“Destroyed by fire  
February 5th, 1889  
Rebuilt 1889”*

Since the foundation walls were still intact, they were repaired and elevated somewhat. Although the new building was built on the same plan as the old one, the exterior made quite a different impression and the inside arrangement was entirely new.

Five months passed between the laying of the cornerstone and the dedication of the new church. On September 15, 1889, the 13th Sunday after Trinity, the members of St. Paul entered their new house of worship and dedicated it to the service of God.

Their aged and faithful pastor, C. G. Moedinger was able to attend this joyful celebration, just four months before he passed away.

**SEPTEMBER, 1889**  
The new sanctuary

The congregation remained homeless for seven months, holding services at the nearby German Methodist church on Sunday evenings. But as in the past, the members of St. Paul refused to lay idle. They immediately began the rebuilding of a new church. The cornerstone was laid on Palm Sunday, April 14th, 1889, in the presence of a large number of people. This cornerstone was cut of white marble and bears this inscription in gold letters: “German Evangelical Lutheran St. Paul’s Church. Destroyed by fire February 5, 1889. Rebuilt 1889. Built on the foundation of the Apostles and Prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the Chief Cornerstone. Ephesians 2:20.”

Some of the items placed in the stone include a congregational history and constitution, a list of officers and voting members, a hymnal, a catechism, several publications concerning the synod, a list of U.S. presidents, several coins and copies of local newspapers.



A  
FAMILY  
ALBUM  
1890-1990

*Beiträge zur Tilgung der Kirchenschulden,  
geschlossene 1890.*

Aus der Sonntagsschule			
	aus Frauenverein	\$ 102.00	
	" " Jungfrauenverein	50.00	
	" " Jünglingsverein	50.00	\$ 310.00
Aus stammfähigen Gliedern:			
1.	Herrn J. G. Kasper	\$ 10.00	
2.	" P. Thormählen	100.00	
3.	" Jak. Proders	5.00	
4.	" W. Stegelmeier	1.00	
5.	" Hinn. Ringhoff	5.00	
6.	" Joh. A. Stoll	5.00	
7.	" H. L. Franz (geb. 1850, 20. 12. 1872)	100.00	
8.	" Ludw. Schulz	25.00	
9.	" M. Bauer	2.00	
10.	" Oind. Stahl	5.00	
11.	" Ludw. Stornung	5.00	
12.	" Joh. F. Brandt	25.00	
13.	" Chr. Thes. Schmalz	5.00	
14.	" Daniel Thomas	5.00	
15.	" Jakob Schneider	10.00	
16.	" Conrad Rübentking	5.00	
17.	" Hermann Ortland	2.00	
18.	" Johann Walde	1.00	
19.	" Johann Reppel	2.50	
20.	" Heinrich Dicker	2.00	
21.	" Joh. F. Klein	1.00	
22.	" W. A. Brummsen	2.00	
23.	" Chr. Th. Roeling	1.50	
24.	" August Meyer	10.00	
25.	" Heinrich Ortland	10.00	
26.	" Gustav Sühning	5.00	
27.	" Friedr. Arnoldt	5.00	
28.	" Ferd. von Behren	10.00	
29.	" Hrn. Dierker	5.00	
30.	" Carl Fusch	1.00	
31.	" Joh. J. Wüst	3.00	
32.	" Friedr. Döpfke (geb. 1840)	5.00	
33.	" D. Jonwolde	5.00	
34.	" Joh. Baumer	1.00	
35.	" Joh. Meyer	5.00	\$ 1220.00

*Aus weiblichen Mitgliedern*

1.	Fräulein Elisabeth Waldow	\$ 50.00	
2.	" Elisabeth Pott	1.00	
3.	" Anna Lubben	1.00	
4.	" Henriette Young	3.00	
5.	" Charlotte Hofmeier	3.00	
6.	" Katharine Biehorst	5.00	
7.	" Anna Kerken	.25	
8.	" Marie Timmermann	2.00	
9.	" Marie Provenaal	1.00	
10.	" Louise Hoefner	5.00	
11.	" Barbara Dürst	5.00	
12.	" Anna Walz	1.00	
13.	" Elisabeth Kattenbock	.25	
14.	" Katharine Frahm	3.00	
15.	" Marie Bonck	5.00	
16.	" Elisabeth Seim	1.50	
17.	" Eva Hauschild	5.00	
18.	" Sophie Markhoff	5.00	
19.	" Louise Lehmann	1.00	
20.	" Kühle	2.00	
21.	" Dorothea Meusel	5.00	
22.	" Franziska Wagner	2.00	
23.	" Marie Bremermann	2.00	
24.	" Sophie Nelson	1.00	
25.	" Margarete Kachel	.50	
26.	" Margarete Fisk	1.00	
27.	" Marie Becker (geb. 1840)	1.00	
28.	" Magdalena Frey	1.00	
29.	Fräulein Marie K. Kibel	2.00	
30.	Fräulein Elisabeth Roth	5.00	
31.	" Anna C. Biehorst	5.00	
32.	" Louise Olesen	1.00	
33.	" Barbara Müller	5.00	
34.	" Charlotte Döschmann	.50	
35.	" Caroline Rappanias	1.00	
36.	" Anna K. Schmidt	5.00	
37.	" Ida Schneider	1.00	
38.	" Katharine Ried	1.00	
39.	" Katharine Ervine	5.00	
40.	" F. Becker (Rampart St.)	5.00	
41.	" Katharine Lüthgens	5.00	\$ 155.00

100 YEARS OF  
PHOTOGRAPHS  
AND  
MEMORIES

## Kurzgefaßte Geschichte

der deutschen

Evangelisch-Lutherischen

## St. Paulus - Gemeinde

U. A. C.

in

New Orleans, La.

Auf Beschluß der Gemeinde zur Erinnerung an ihr 50jähriges  
Jubiläum verfaßt und dem Druck übergeben

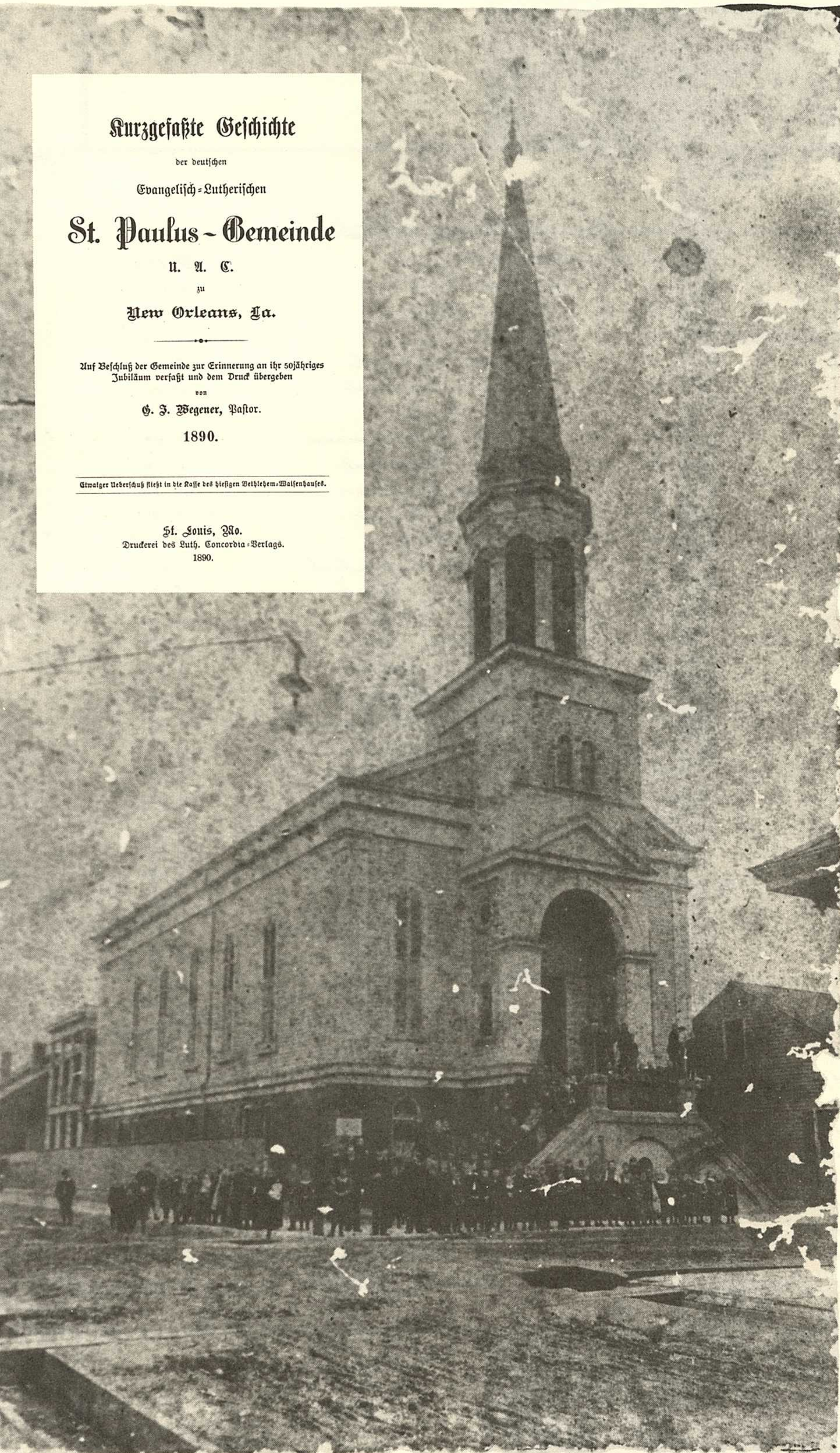
von

G. J. Wegener, Pastor.

1890.

Umsatzpreis Uebersetzung liegt in die Kasse des hiesigen Wittelshaus.

St. Louis, Mo.  
Druckerei des Luth. Concordia-Verlags.  
1890.



### JANUARY 25, 1890

Pastor Moedinger died at age 58

### AUGUST 3, 1890

The celebration of the 50th Anniversary of St. Paul Lutheran church was held in the new sanctuary.

A German service was held in the morning by Pastor F. Koesterling and an English service was conducted that evening by Pastor Wm. Dau.

On Monday an open air celebration was held at Southern Park where German and English addresses were delivered by Pastors J. Friedrich and N. J. Bakke respectively.

A history of St. Paul, written by Pastor Wegener, was published in German by Concordia Publishing in 1890.

### APRIL, 1892

Concordia Young People's Society organized

### OCTOBER 1, 1893

Regular English services began on Sunday evenings

German and English religion instruction in the school

### FEBRUARY 10, 1895

Resolution allowing English to be used in Congregation meetings

### SPRING, 1896

Exteriors of church, parsonage, and school buildings painted

### DECEMBER 13, 1896

Charter and Constitution translated into English

### SEPTEMBER, 1897

School temporarily closed due to Yellow Fever

### FEBRUARY 28, 1898

Ladies' Mission Society Founded

### JUNE 5, 1898

Sunday English services moved from 7:30 pm to 7:30 am. German services held at 10:00 am

### SUMMER, 1898

Interior of church frescoed

### SPRING, 1899

English services with Holy Communion introduced on Good Friday and Christmas Day

CHRISTIAN  
GOTTLIEB  
MOEDINGER

Christian Gottlieb Moedinger was born "aus Strumpfelbach, Amt Waiblingen, Wurttemberg" on April 11, 1831. He came to New Orleans from Galveston, Texas in the fall of 1855 as "Schulgehilfe und Assistent." After Buehler left, Moedinger became the "Hauptpastor" of the congregation on June 28, 1856. Although he had been trained in a unionistic institution, Moedinger apparently had a sincere desire to be a Lutheran. He was convinced of the correctness of the practice of Evangelical-Lutheranism and was dissatisfied with his new congregation's utter lack of a confessional standing. Upon his arrival, the Protestants here were of some fifteen different denominations. He was the first pastor to attempt to persuade the membership to conform to his personal beliefs. After many controversial changes, Moedinger finally convinced the congregation to become the "First German Evangelical Lutheran Congregation of New Orleans" in 1858. Many families left this new Lutheran congregation and eventually went on to form the Second German Presbyterian Church of New Orleans. This was the first of many challenges to be faced by Pastor Moedinger during his thirty-four-year ministry here at St. Paul.

In 1860 the entire neighborhood burned to the ground taking the church along with it; and less than a year later, the vicious Civil War broke out causing enormous suffering throughout New Orleans. One of Moedinger's greatest tests was the outbreak of yellow fever in 1878. During the summer and fall of that year, Pastor Moedinger served his Church tirelessly. St. John's Lutheran Church lost Pastor G. Baumann and his wife to the fever, Pastor A. Erlich from Trinity also died, and Pastor M. Tirenstein of Zion was away in the North. Pastor Moedinger, alone, ministered to these con-



WEGENER

*"It is only right and proper that we should here devote a few words to this servant of the Lord. For next to God's blessing, it is due to this faithful pastor that this congregation has become what she is now. He led his congregation onward and upward and labored unremittingly according to the measure of the gifts and powers that God had given him. Through many years he preached twice every Sunday and once on a weekday. Added to that were the many other duties of his ministry that will ever have to be done in a congregation. He placed all his strength into the service of the Lord and His Church. Everyone must bear witness that he literally sacrificed himself for the congregation, and often worked beyond his strength. When you compare the situation of the congregation in earlier times and now it becomes very clear that Pastor Moedinger's work was crowned with truly great blessing."*

gregations; continuously visiting the sick and burying the dead of all four churches at the height of the epidemic. At St. Paul, he would bury 96 of his parishioners.

One of Pastor Moedinger's most lasting achievements was the founding of the "Orphan Asylum Association of the First German Evangelical Lutheran Congregation of the Third District of New Orleans." His legacy remains with us today as "Lutheran Social Services of the South." It was during Moedinger's pastorate that the Sunday School was formed in 1867, we became known as St. Paul Lutheran Church in 1872, and we joined the Missouri Synod in 1874. Moedinger was also instrumental in challenging the language barrier by instituting some English services as early as 1883.

By 1887, Moedinger withdrew himself from active ministry at St. Paul due to his deteriorating health, and Pastor Wegener was called to succeed him. Here and there, Moedinger was still able to help with ministerial acts. He preached to his beloved congregation for the last time just before Pentecost, 1887. His final years were filled with great suffering due to heart problems and epilepsy.

Although he had to endure the pain of watching his church burn to the ground for a second time, he also shared in the joy of its rebuilding and dedication in September of 1889. Four months later, on January 25, 1890, Pastor Moedinger died. With truly grand participation, his body was accompanied by all the Lutheran pastors to its final resting place, among hundreds of his former parishioners, at St. Vincent de Paul Cemetery.

*Ch. G. Moedinger*  
*ev. luth. Pastors*  
*llc.*

Opposite  
MARCH 8, 1892

St. Paul's German-English  
School. Both church and  
school began making  
adjustments in the  
"No English" policy.

By the summer, the  
possibility of English  
services were being  
discussed. All motions  
were tabled until  
next year.

SEPTEMBER, 1890  
School Tuition Records of  
J. F. Thomson

New Orleans, Oct. 21, 1890.

Mrs. Meyer

Copy of the 20th

To the GERMAN-ENGLISH SCHOOL

of the German Ev. Luth. St. Paul's Congregation, 3d Dist.

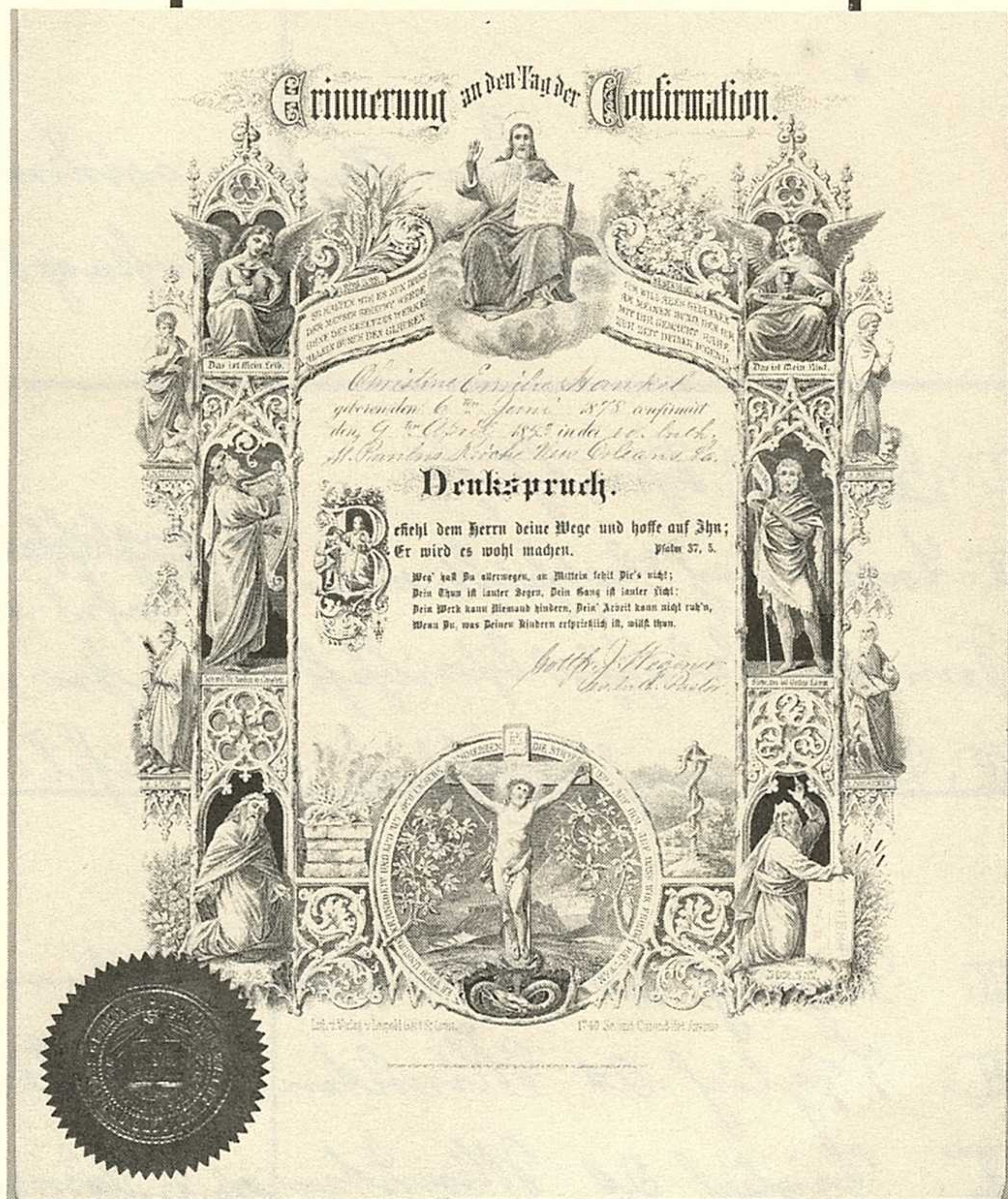
Tuition for 2 months Joseph \$2.00

Received payment,

J. F. Thomson, Teacher.

108

	Sept.	Other	October	November	January	March
1. Anderson Peter	.50	.50	.50	.50	.50	.50
2. Baum Chas.				1/2 mo.	abs.	abs.
3. Willie	...	1.00	1.00			
4. Brüning Hugo	1.00	...	2.00	.50	1.00	2.00
5. Böhmann Albert	.50	abs.	.50	.50	.50	abs.
6. Barkmann Richard	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
7. Christianus Sophus	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
8. Dicker Harry	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
9. Dinkgraven Emma	.50	.50	.50	.50	.50	.50
10. Frach Chas.	...	...	0.00	Sept.	...	...
11. Fusch	1.00	...	2.00	abs.	...	2.00
12. Gema Philip	...	2.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
13. Gissler Albert	1.00	...	2.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
14. Gray Joseph	1.00	1.00	...	1.00	2.00	1.00
15. Hebel John	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
16. Höffner Adam	3.00	...	...	4.00	...	...
17. Jürgens Henry	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
18. Köbel Fred.	.50	.50	.50	.50	.50	.50
19. Kühne Chas.	1.00	1.00	2.00	...	abs.	1.00
20. Kraut Paul	1.50	1.50	1.50	1.50	1.50	1.50
21. Kasper Louis	...	...	...	...	...	...
22. McDonald Richard	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
23. Müller Peter	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
24. Philip	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
25. Meyer Joseph	...	1.00	.50	.50	Said in Apr 91	...
26. Peters Frank	1.00	1.00	1.00	.50	1.00	1.00
27. Ross Emil	1.50	1.50	1.50	1.50	1.50	1.50
28. Rueger John Fried.	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
29. Schulz Mary	1.50	1.50	1.50	1.50	1.50	1.50
	26.00	26.00	27.00	25.00	22.00	21.00



**J. F. THOMSON**  
Teacher  
1879-1906

**G. J. WEGENER**  
Pastor

**F. W. A. BEESKOW**  
Teacher  
1891-1894

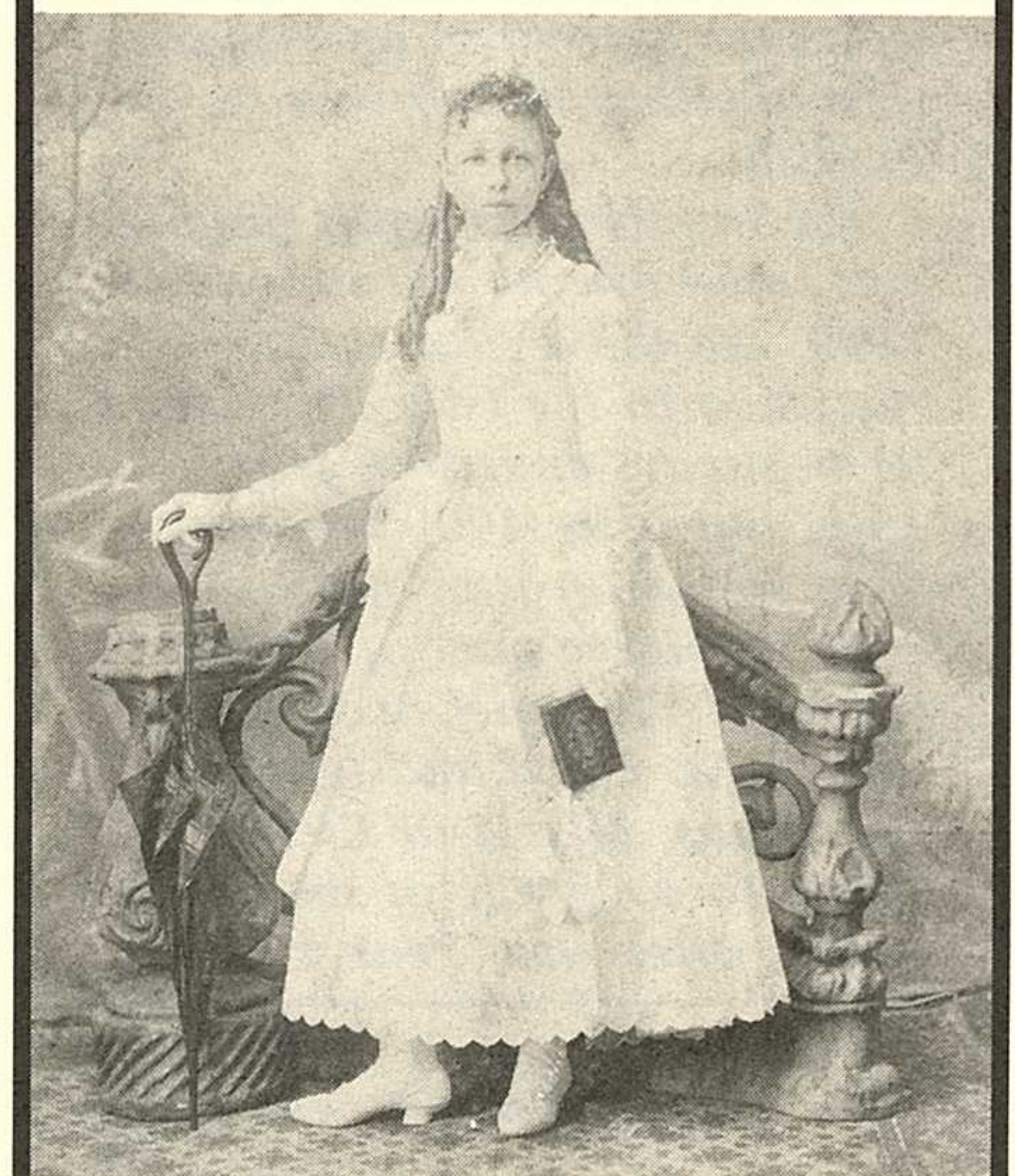
**STATISTICS FOR 1892**  
Baptized Members: 1,600  
Communicant Members: 1,134  
Voting: 67  
Teachers: 2 School: 145  
Baptisms: 102  
Confirmations: 35  
Burials: 44  
Sunday School: 200

**APRIL 9, 1893**  
Confirmation portrait  
and certificate of  
Christine Emilie Hankel

One of the last 44  
catechumens for whom  
instruction was available  
in German only

**APRIL 15, 1894**  
First program at St. Paul  
for the Confirmation of  
English Catechumens

The class of 1894  
consisted of 16 English  
and 30 German students



# Confirmation of English Catechumens, St. Paul's Ev. Luth. Church, Sunday, April 15th., 1894, at 3 o'clock P. M.

**HEINTZEN**

"The language question became important in St. Paul's Congregation during the last decade of the 19th century.

In 1894, Teacher Beeskow received a Call to First English School and St. Paul called a graduate from Addison Teachers' Seminary. Candidate L. T.

Knief was given the Call and took charge of the lower grades on September 3, 1894. English was the mother tongue of most of the children, and only a few understood German.

During the Fall of 1895 the number of pupils in the lower grades increased to 90 and a third class was organized on November 4, 1895. Miss Anna Klein was placed in charge of the class of 33 pupils.

In the second class, religion was now taught first in English and repeated in German, which however, took too much time.

After almost two school terms, this matter was considered by the congregation and it was decided to teach religion in the lower grades only in English.

In the upper grades, Teacher J. F. Thomson gave parents the choice of letting their children learn the catechism and be confirmed either in German or English.

The number of pupils having decreased during the summer of 1899, the third class was not reopened in the Fall. The school term always ended on July 15th; but after 1900 the school term ended on June 30th.

In the latter part of 1902, teacher L. T. Knief accepted a Call to St. Louis and left by Christmas. Miss Ann Klein again took charge of the lower grades after New Year 1903."

Opposite:  
**NOVEMBER 19, 1895**

J. F. Thomson  
Rev. G. J. Wegener

**1895**  
Anna Klein, Teacher  
1895-99, 1903-04

**1895**  
Louis T. Knief  
Teacher, 1894-1902

Zeit.	Montag.	Dienstag
9-9.45 9.45-10	Biblische Gesichte. I. u. II. Auflegen des Betsch. III. Gesalteschreiben nach Horstschiff.	Dotation III. Auflegen des Betsch. u. Lekt. I. u. II. Schreiben nach Horstschiff im Betsch. b.
10-10.45	III. Betsch. u. Lekt. I. u. II. Auflegen des Betsch. u. Lekt. I. u. II. Schreiben nach Horstschiff im Betsch. b.	Dotation III. Betsch. u. Lekt. I. u. II. Auflegen des Betsch. u. Lekt. I. u. II. Schreiben nach Horstschiff im Betsch. b.
10.45-11.	Dotation	Dotation
11-12.	Dotation	Dotation
1-1.30.	I. Biblische Gesichte II. Gesalteschreiben nach Horstschiff; im 2. Semester biblische Gesichte. III. Gesalteschreiben nach Horstschiff.	I. Biblische Gesichte II. Gesalteschreiben nach Horstschiff; im 2. Semester biblische Gesichte. III. Gesalteschreiben nach Horstschiff.
1.30-2.30	III. Täglich 20 Minuten Vertauscht II. Täglich 20 Minuten im 1. Semester I. Täglich 20 Minuten im 1. Semester zu	III. Täglich 20 Minuten Vertauscht II. Täglich 20 Minuten im 1. Semester I. Täglich 20 Minuten im 1. Semester zu
2.30-3.	Dotation	Dotation

in der Unterklasse der W. Paulus Schule.

Lehrer.  
Klasse.  
Datschbinnis,  
Klassenraum.  
Die Klasse, nach  
Lernfeld anordnen.

Mittwoch.  
Biblische Geschichten.  
John Montague

Donnerstag.  
Biblisches.

Freitag.  
Biblische Geschichten.

1. Lesestunde mit vollen Absichten  
in 15 Minuten nach Beginn  
2. Lesestunde, ebenfalls Absichten der Lesestunde  
in 15 Minuten Unterricht: 1. Textbuch  
2. Textbuch Absichten der Unterrichts, grammatische Übungen.



Arithmetik.  
Die Abfertigung täglich 20 Minuten  
11.30 bis 12 Uhr = in Textbuch



Schreiben - Writing  
Schreiben in 2.  
Schreibschrift  
Kurzschrift.  
Zusammen mit vollen  
Übungen, I in einem  
Jahr, II & III auf der Karte

English Reading & Spelling  
Reading Charts in Primer, in 2.  
I Reader, in 2. Semester nach Fertigstellung der  
I Reader, in 2. Semester nach Fertigstellung der  
II Reader, in 2. Semester nach Fertigstellung der  
III Reader, in 2. Semester nach Fertigstellung der  
IV Reader, in 2. Semester nach Fertigstellung der



Singen.  
Singen.

in Jahrgang.





**APRIL 25, 1897**  
The "Deutsche" Confirmation Class

**MAY 16, 1897**  
English Confirmation Class



August Bohnet	Caroline Trogg	John Rupp	Marie Feindel	Henry Grote	Katie Bruder	William Luthjens
Frank Mischler	Louise Kuttruff	Christian Nehlig	Augusta Semm	Bernhard Spierer	Hans Moths	Pastor Wegener
William Lemmler	Charles Gaisser	Johanna Schmalz	Christian Schmidt	Caroline Hankel	Henry Van Waesberge	Frederick Steinfels

*Confirmation* 1897.

I. Dornen.	
1. Schüle, August Carl	x Apr. 16, 1883 Joh. 12, 26
2. Klein, Johann Friederich	x Apr. 20, 1883 Jes. 43, 17.
3. Nauffmann, Oswald Edward	May 29, 1883 Eph. 6, 10, 11, 16, 17.
4. Beckmeyer, Ernst Rudolph Wilh.	Oct. 11, 1883 Ps. 119, 33, 34.
5. Eberhardt, Carl Dieterich	+ Nov. 6, 1883 Math. 11, 28, 29.
6. Danneker, Johann Leonhard	+ Nov. 18, 1883 Jac. 1, 12.
7. Stegmeier, Friederich Wilhelm	July 9, 1884, 2 Tim. 2, 8.
8. Dückert, Otto Louis	July 15, 1884, 1 Pet. 5, 6, 7.
9. Surbeck, Johann Jakob	x Sept. 23, 1884, 1 Cor. 16, 13, 14.
10. Schillingkamp, Arnold Franz Friedr.	Apr. 26, 1885, Joh. 10, 24, 25.
II. Wäldchen.	
1. Tidemann, Wilhelmine Heriße	x Sept. 12, 1882, Rom. 8, 35, 37.
2. Lindemann, Christine Friederike	Jan. 26, 1883, Ps. 37, 57.
3. Winkler, Auguste Margarethe	x Oct. 13, 1883, Ps. 42, 12.
4. Gerhold, Emma	x Oct. 25, 1883, Rom. 8, 33, 34.
5. Neppler, Katharine	x Nov. 5, 1883, Joh. 16, 33.
6. Bauer, Marie Mathilde	x Jan. 8, 1884, Luc. 10, 42.
7. Dürker, Adeline Albertine Louise	Jan. 20, 1884, Off. 3, 20.
8. Hennings, Marie Kath. Elisabeth	May 23, 1884, Joh. 15, 5.
9. Frisch, Clara Wilhelmine Henriette	Apr. 12, 1884, Ps. 62, 2, 3.
10. Schroeder, Emilie Sophie	x Apr. 26, 1884, Jes. 40, 31.
11. Wegener, Juliane Caroline Auguste	May 31, 1884, Jes. 43, 1.
12. Lemay, Marie Louise	x June 3, 1884, Jer. 32, 40.
13. Siegfried, Katharine Elisabeth	x June 9, 1884, Ps. 121, 7, 8.
14. Stohmann, Franziska Sophie	x Aug. 18, 1884, P. 143, 10.
15. Thomson, Therese Concordia	x Sept. 11, 1884, Off. 3, 11.
16. Vossler, Marie Elisabeth	x Sept. 17, 1884, Mat. 3, 24, 25.
17. Bremermann, Doretha Hermine	Sept. 22, 1884, 1 Cor. 6, 20.
18. Pies, Lydia Regina	x Oct. 22, 1884, Jes. 41, 10.
19. Landwehr, Anne Josephine Marie	x Oct. 26, 1884, Jes. 54, 10.
20. Walz, Mathilde Anna (son)	x Apr. 25, 1885, Ps. 32, 8.
21. Rudeau, Emma Therese	x May 12, 1885, Ps. 73, 25, 26.
22. Beckmeyer, Henriette Emma	x May 31, 1885, Math. 23, 20.

Confirmation Dom. Inasimodag mit, d. 25. April  
1897 u. am folgenden Sonntag zum fest. Abends 8 Uhr.  
G. J. Wegener  
Pastor

**APRIL 25, 1897**  
Pastor Wegener's record of the German Confirmation class members including their birthdays and Confirmation verses

**WEGENER**  
"It began to dawn on the members that by a "No English" policy, they were beginning to dig their own grave, with no prospects for future growth and development, and actually jeopardizing their very existence. Old German members dying, German Confirmation rapidly decreasing, all pointed in the one direction of retrogression and ultimate extinction.

"During 1898, there were 72 German services and 52 English services, all weekday and holiday services still being in German only. During the year, Holy Communion was celebrated 13 times in German and only 5 times in English."

**MAY 16, 1897**  
Confirmation photo and certificate of Caroline Hankel (Walsh)





**SEPTEMBER, 1900**

German religious instruction discontinued in the school.

**NOVEMBER, 1900**

Resolved to have German and English Lenten services on Wednesday and Friday evenings respectively.

**FEBRUARY, 1901**

Congregation removes the word 'German' from its name.

**DECEMBER, 1901**

English Advent services introduced along with German. Children's Christmas service held in English only. Confirmation instruction available in English only for class of 1901-02



**APRIL 6, 1902**

Confirmation Sunday in English only from 1902 on. Additional English services introduced on Ascension, Thanksgiving, and New Year's Eve.

**APRIL, 1904**

A new floor was laid in the basement. German Advent services were discontinued.

**SUMMER, 1905**

A second story was added to the rear of the parsonage. Exteriors of the church, parsonage and adjoining building were painted. The Sunday School donated a new altar and carpet for the church.



*Pigas & Conner*  
NEW ORLEANS, LA.  
1007 CANAL ST.

**APRIL 9, 1899**

Confirmation  
Georgiana Dinkgreve  
(Emmer)



*Pigas & Conner*  
3220  
N. CANAL ST.  
N.O., LA.

**APRIL 21, 1901**

Confirmation  
Dorothea H. Feindel  
(Stumpf)

**APRIL 10, 1904**

Confirmation  
Stephanie H. Kepler  
(Beckemeyer)

**FEBRUARY, 1901**

"The Evangelical Lutheran  
St. Paul's Congregation,  
Unaltered Augsburg  
Confession of  
New Orleans, La."

Under the Congregation's new name, the German and English speaking members were now given equal rights and privileges, even under the laws of the State.



1901		Confirmation	Confirmation
Englische Confirmation		Month	Day
1. Langhoff, Carl Hermann Heinrich	May 18, 1886		
2. Poek, Paul Alfred	Oct. 10, 1886	1 Mos. 15, 1.	
3. Schenck, Heinrich	Nov. 16, 1887	1 Tim. 4, 5.	
4. Vaughn, John James	Jan. 18, 1888		
5. Thomson, Friedrich Carl	Feb. 13, 1888	5 Mos. 32, 46.	
6. Winkler, Carl Heinrich	May 15, 1888	Matth. 24, 42.	
7. Bonak, Harry	Nov. 27, 1888	Co. 119, 123.	
II Bestätigung.			
1. Jacobi, Catharina Anna Marie	Nov. 12, 1887	Joh. 16, 13.	
2. Wegner, Lydia Hermine Louise	Feb. 4, 1888	Rom. 8, 3.	
3. Kipfler, Catharina Elisabeth Henriette	Juli 23, 1888	Co. 145, 18.	
4. Cooper, Wilhelmine Louise	Sept. 11, 1888	Joh. 6, 68.	
5. Krass, Helene Friederike Marie	Sept. 16, 1888	2 Cor. 12, 9.	
6. Schäfer, Auguste Louise	Nov. 6, 1888	Rom. 8, 31, 32.	
Confirmation Dom. Quasimodogenit, d. 14. April 1901 in ein Dom. Jubiläum, d. 28. April zum ersten mal zum ersten mal zugehört.			
G. Wegner, Pastor.			
Englische Confirmation			
I. Eintrag.			
1. Knappmann, Arthur Charles	June 3, 1886	Co. 145, 18, 19.	
2. Sary, Andrew John	July 16, 1886	Matth. 6, 33.	
3. Schmalz, Friedrich	Sept. 29, 1887	Co. 37, 11.	
4. Thawill, William	Nov. 9, 1887	2 Pet. 3, 18.	
5. Roscher, Adolph August	Dec. 6, 1887	1 Tim. 4, 8.	
6. Beckmeyer, Henry William	Dec. 19, 1887	1 Tim. 6, 12.	
7. Kovier, Charles Kenneth	Jan. 2, 1888	1 Tim. 6, 12.	
8. Schurz, John August	Feb. 25, 1888	Col. 3, 17.	
9. Steinfeld, Valentina John	March 6, 1888	Matth. 26, 11.	
10. Lang, John Charles	May 9, 1888	2 Cor. 5, 15.	
11. Cathover, Frederick Hermann	June 6, 1888	Matth. 10, 2, 3, 3.	
12. Taylor, Oliver	June 27, 1888	Joh. 3, 16.	
13. Lemmer, Charles Emil	July 21, 1888	Joh. 1, 1.	
14. Fleischer, Hermann Henry Conrad	Sept. 27, 1888	Co. 111, 11.	
15. Perrot, Victor George	Jan. 1, 1889	Co. 37, 11.	

Page (1901) Continued		Month	Day	Year	Confirmation
1. Hall, John Hermann		Jan.	4,	1889	Gen. 15, 1.
2. Seltzer, Jules John		Jan.	25,	1889	Rom. 1, 16.
3. Sigrund, Henry William		Feb.	5,	1889	Ps. 111, 10.
4. Walz, Adolph Anton		Feb.	14,	1889	Joh. 6, 68.
II. Bestätigung.					
1. Davis, Frances					Joh. 3, 16.
2. Eberhardt, Helene Wilhelmine		Aug.	29,	1889	Joh. 10, 27, 28.
3. Mastio, Viola Augusta		Sept.	20,	1889	Matth. 6, 33.
4. Schmalz, Marietta Louise		Sept.	29,	1889	Luc. 11, 28.
5. Bruder, Bertha					Matth. 10, 32, 33.
6. Schurz, Sidonia Luella		Dec.	9,	1889	Co. 37, 4.
7. Sprudel, Elizabeth Agnes		Jan.	8,	1888	2 Pet. 3, 18.
8. Heine, Louise Wilhelmine		Jan.	30,	1888	Neb. 13, 5.
9. Feridel, Dorothea Henriette		Feb.	3,	1888	1 Cor. 6, 20.
10. Danneker, Catharina Casilia		Feb.	12,	1888	Offend. 2, 10.
11. Bremermann, Clara Henriette		April	5,	1888	2 Cor. 5, 15.
12. Lan, Eleonora Franziska		May	9,	1888	Joh. 6, 68.
13. Wagner, Clara		June	4,	1888	Col. 3, 17.
14. Schmitz, Benwieu Luella		June	8,	1888	Matth. 26, 41.
15. Walde, Wilhelmine		Aug.	11,	1888	2 Pet. 3, 18.
16. Lahn, Isabella Maria		Aug.	22,	1888	Joh. 14, 6.
17. Schmalz, Agnes Charlotte		Aug.	29,	1888	Co. 37, 5.
18. Veran, Cecilie		Sept.	23,	1888	Co. 111, 10.
19. Knappmann, Alma Estelle		Oct.	1,	1888	1 Tim. 4, 8.
20. Schmidt, Rosine		Oct.	11,	1888	1 Tim. 6, 12.
21. Bergmann, Florentine Wilhelmine		Dec.	9,	1888	Gen. 15, 1.
22. Swensson, Emma Catharine		Jan.	13,	1889	Rom. 1, 16.
23. Schüringkamp, Isabella Louise		Feb.	27,	1889	Joh. 6, 68.
24. Hehlig, Louise Christine		April	26,	1889	Co. 37, 5.
25. Hoffmann, Anna Marie		Aug.	18,	1889	Luc. 10, 42.
26. France, Bertha Margaret		Sept.	2,	1889	Gen. 15, 1.
Confirmation Dom. Misericordias Domini, d. 21. April 1901 in am folgenden Sonntag Jubiläum, d. 28. April zum ersten mal zum ersten mal zugehört.					
G. Wegner, Pastor.					



**1901**  
The Interior of St. Paul's  
at the turn of the century.

By 1903, the number of English services exceeded German for the first time.

**APRIL 14 & 21, 1901**  
The first Confirmation Classes  
of the new century;  
and the last to include  
instruction in German  
  
The number of German  
Catechumens numbered  
12 in 1900, 13 in 1901,  
and only 1 in 1902

**JANUARY, 1906**  
Minutes of the congregation  
recorded in English and Ger-  
man. German evening services  
were abolished.

**DECEMBER, 1907**  
The Order of English Services,  
and the custom of kneeling at  
Holy Communion were  
introduced.

**JANUARY, 1908**  
School temporarily closed due  
to Small Pox.

**MARCH, 1908**  
The envelope system for collec-  
ting contributions was  
inaugurated.

**JANUARY, 1909**  
All official records of the con-  
gregation were kept in English.  
Cradle Roll introduced in the  
Sunday School.



**1903 SOUTHERN PARK**  
Members of the  
"Milk Pail Drill"  
at the Annual Parochial  
and Sunday School Picnic

**JULIA WEGENER**

*"There is one thing I will always remember, that is the Annual School Picnic. We would get a new dress and hat for the occasion. Mother made us the prettiest dresses and fancy white pinafores to wear over them. We would all meet in the school yard and each child got a different colored badge with St. Paul's School printed on it. We were accompanied by several large flags and a brass band which played the famous marches. We would then march down to Dauphine Street where there were special cars to take us to the Old Southern Park. We would ride out Esplanade to the picnic grounds. There were all sorts of games and always a tug-of-war contest. And who could forget the greasy pig contest? Whoever caught it could keep it. In the afternoon there were fancy drills, such as the Milk Pail Drill and the Flag Drill..."*



c. 1905  
Portrait of the annual  
"picnickers"

c. 1905  
Members of one of the  
"fancy drills"





J. F. THOMSON.

T. C. THOMSON.

New Orleans, Oct. 19, 1905.  
*To Concordia Young Men's Assn*  
**To J. F. Thomson & Co.**  
**Music and Book Store,**  
 2700 Burgundy, Cor. Port Street.



*Simon* ARISTOTYPE 929 CANAL ST. NEW ORLEANS.

1905  
 School Portrait

**STATISTICS FOR 1905**

Baptized Members: 1,600  
 Communicant Members: 1,271  
 Voting Members: 75  
 Teachers: 2  
 Pupils: 85  
 Baptisms: 48  
 Confirmations: 55  
 Marriages: 12  
 Burials: 32  
 S. S. Pupils: 300

**APRIL 22, 1906**

Confirmation  
 Catharine H. Stumpf  
 (Hemel)

Teacher J. F. Thomson  
 Rev. G. J. Wegener

**Young Peoples Re-Union**

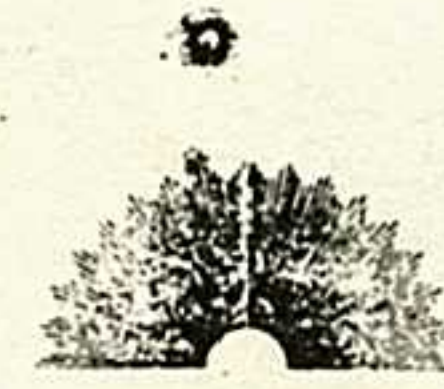
AT

**Evangelical Lutheran St. Paul's Church.**

New Orleans, La.,

Sunday, April, 7th, 1907.

7:30 P. M.



**DEAR FRIENDS:**

This year's class of Catechumens is the twentieth class instructed and confirmed by me in our congregation. The following list gives the names of all the different classes and the date of their confirmation. The total number is 967. By virtue of their solemn vow and promise on the day of their confirmation, they all became communicant members of our congregation. But many of them are no longer on our communicant list. Some have departed this life; others have removed to other places, and some have joined other Lutheran congregations. Of those who have died as christians it is written, "Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord." Those who are now connected with some other Lutheran congregation have our best wishes, and we pray that God would keep both them and us steadfast in His word and in the true faith unto our end. But what shall we do about those who have gone astray and drifted away from church, and are no more seen at our altar? Oh, let us do all we can to bring them back to their Savior and their church! Let all look over the names of their classmates and especially remember their partners, and then go and speak a kind word to them. Tell them how sadly they are missed, and how gladly we would welcome their return. Nay, say to them that their Lord and Savior to whom they once vowed faithfulness unto death, is still waiting for them, and wants to bless them as of old; and if you can do no more, pray for them and say:

Lord Jesus, all that strayed from Thee,  
 O gently seek! Thy healing be  
 To every wounded conscience given,  
 And let them also share Thy heaven.

Finally, to you who read this the Savior says, "Be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life." Rev. 2, 10.

Yours sincerely,

G. J. WEGENER, Pastor.

New Orleans, La., April 7th, 1907.





**NIERMANN**

"Mr. J. F. Thomson had resigned in 1906. I was called from Washington, Missouri and arrived on February 13, 1907. The school consisted of six grades, 1-3 being instructed by Magdalena Brunig Kuppler until the end of the 1907 term. Mr. O. H. Burger replaced her until November 2, 1909. My daughter, Rosa, was placed in charge of the lower grades until I accepted a call in 1911. Mr. Louis Huettmann substituted again as he had done after the resignation of Mr. Thomson.

St. Paul's school roster stood at about 65-70 in 1907 and about 90 in 1911. The upper grades were housed under the church and the lower in the parish house next to the church. Religion was taught only in English as were also all the secular branches; German was optional.

A praiseworthy custom since the regime of Rev. Moedinger and Mr. Thomson's, was the fact that every child would shake hands with the teacher when entering and leaving, which was also done with the pastor who presented himself five minutes before opening of school. Very laudable indeed, but dangerous when a contagious disease is prevalent. So a little boy with a mild case of small pox, by contact, passed it on to me. I was laid low for a month, January, 1908, when the school was closed by the health authorities for a few weeks.

St. Paul's teachers often acted as organist. Funerals were always conducted at 3 p.m. when school closed; an opportunity to service for which, as a rule, they received \$2.50.

Mr. Thomson's ability as organist and choir leader was outstanding. The members of St. Paul's choir under his direction until his resignation, remained faithful the following four years."

**APRIL 26, 1908**  
Confirmation  
G. W. Frederick Honold

In August, 1908, it was established that catechumens be at least 12 years old on the first of January preceding Confirmation

**JANUARY 10, 1909**

**STATEMENT OF  
REV. WEGENER**

**He Denies That He Refused to Attend Reimuth Funeral Because Deceased Had Been a Barkeeper.**

The charge that he had refused to officiate at a funeral because the dead man had been a barkeeper, made by August Graf, president of the Bartenders' Union, was denied last night by Rev. Gottfried Wegener, pastor of St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church.

Rev. Mr. Wegener admitted his refusal to officiate at the funeral services, but explained that it was on the ground, not that the man had been a bartender, but that he had not known him to be connected with the Lutheran Church and was, therefore, by the rule of the church, prevented from officiating at the services.

According to Mr. Graf, who made a statement concerning the matter yesterday afternoon at the office of the Daily States, Rev. Mr. Wegener refused to conduct the services, which were for Louis Reimuth, 3140 Burgundy street, because the man had been a bartender.

"I explained to Rev. Mr. Wegener," continued Mr. Graf, that the bartenders' ritual, which we had proposed to perform at the funeral, would be eliminated if he so desired, but he would not consent to officiate."

In regard to Rev. O. J. Schilling, of Immanuel's Lutheran Church, who is also reported to have refused to conduct the services, Mr. Graf said: I did not see Mr. Schilling, so I can not say whether he refused or not. Members of Mr. Reimuth's family saw him. But I did see Rev. Mr. Wegener, and he refused to conduct the services because Reimuth had tended bar."

Rev. Mr. Wegener's statement, made to a representative of the Daily States last night, was to the effect that the dead man's occupation had nothing to do with his refusal. "Mr. Graf," he continued, "came for me about five minutes before the funeral was to be held. We have a rule in our church that provides that we shall officiate at funerals of members of our church only. I had not known the dead man, and had no time to learn to what church he had belonged. Mr. Graf simply told me that he had been a Protestant. As for his occupation I did not take that into account at all. Lutheran ministers have buried bartenders who belonged to the Lutheran Church, and it was only because I did not know of his church connections, and had no time to learn, that I refused."

Mr. Graf, in his statement at The Daily States office yesterday said that he intended to bring the matter to the attention of the Trades and Labor Council.

**APRIL 18, 1909**  
Confirmation  
Louis F. Stumpf

**Concordia Young People's Ass'n,**  
Cor. Port and Burgundy Sts.  
FRIEND: You are hereby notified to attend the Regular Monthly Meeting of this Association, to be held on THURSDAY, May 17 1906 at 7:30 P. M., sharp. Please don't fail to attend. By order of E. Bruning Secretary.  
JOS. H. STUMPF, President.

**STATEMENT**  
*New Orleans, May 8 1904*  
*St. Paul's E. L. P. School*  
**TO GUS NEFF, DR.**  
DEALER IN  
**FANCY AND STAPLE GROCERIES,  
WINES AND LIQUORS**  
COR. ST. ROCH AVE. AND MARAIS STREET  
Phone Hamlock 1544

Amount Bill Requested	
4 gals. Has Syrup	2.25
100# L. Sugar	6.25
2 Box N. Cigarettes	2.65
1 " Matchless	.05
1 gal. Cassia	.20
Sausage	4.40
Bread	.50
100# R. B. Cigars	3.50
1/2 Sack Coal	.20
2 Bot Whiskey	2.50
1 Gal. Tea	.15
100 Cigars	2.00
Pop	3.50
	<b>\$ 28.15</b>
Lemons Ret	15.0
	<b>26.65</b>
Paid May 4/08 Gus Neff-	

**MAY 8, 1909**  
Shopping list for the Annual School Picnic





Nüttmann Louis A. C., d. 29. (münd. d. 26. (puffen) W. Geo. Schaefer  
 26 J. alt, umb New Orleans, La., münd. (münd. d. 26. (puffen) Juni Arnold Klein  
 Sohn von H. Louis Nüttmann Juni 1911 von Dep. Fred C. Thomson  
 u. Friederike, geb. Odendahl, 1911 Recorder P. Henry Lulu J. Waldow  
 2774. Wit Theresia C. Thomson in der Dörfs. Lananga Norma Thomson  
 26 J. alt, umb New Orleans, La. (Engl.)  
 Tochter von J. Friederich Thomson G. Wegener  
 u. Theresia, geb. Waldow Pastor.

Trosclair-Oliver Jr., d. 19. (münd. d. 17. (puffen) Fred Trosclair  
 22 J. alt, umb Terrebonne (puffen) Juli 1911 Gertrude Thedy  
 Sohn von Lawrence Trosclair Juli 1911 von Dep. Recorder Andrew Röscher  
 u. Emily, geb. Henry 1911 P. Henry Lananga  
 2775. Wit Lisette M. Röscher in der Dörfs.  
 20 J. alt, umb New Orleans, La. (Engl.)  
 Tochter von Wilhelm Röscher G. Wegener  
 u. Anna, geb. Thedy Pastor.

Robichaux-Emile C., d. 6. (puffen) d. 31. (münd. Wilhem F. Stegelmeier  
 22 J. alt, umb Raceland, La., September d. 31. (münd. August Albert Robichaux  
 Sohn von Clermont C. Robichaux 1911 1911 von dem Lizzie Lugenbühl  
 u. Lucienne, geb. Depouilly, im Jahr der Dep. Recorder  
 2776. Wit Catharine A. Stegelmeier in der Dörfs. P. Henry Lananga  
 23 J. alt, umb New Orleans, La., Land, (Engl.)  
 Tochter von Wilhelm F. Stegelmeier G. Wegener  
 u. Catharine, geb. Walt Pastor.

**JANUARY, 1910**  
 Members in vicinity of Fair  
 Grounds released to Mt. Calvary  
 congregation  
**MARCH 29, 1910**  
 Adult Bible Class organized with  
 41 members  
**NOVEMBER, 1910**  
 First annual observance of  
 Memorial Sunday  
**SUMMER, 1911**  
 Sewerage & water works  
 installed in church  
**SEPTEMBER 3, 1911**  
 Installation of Teacher  
 Richard W. Wismar, Sr.  
**NOVEMBER 17, 1912**  
 Pastor Wegener celebrates 25th  
 Anniversary at St. Paul  
**NOVEMBER, 1912**  
 English communion services  
 begun for Thanksgiving Day  
**SEPTEMBER, 1913**  
 Congregation resolves to abolish  
 tuition for the parochial school

**JANUARY, 1914**  
 Major renovations to church in  
 preparation of Diamond Jubilee  
**SEPTEMBER 6, 1914**  
 Chapel arranged in basement for  
 older German members  
**SEPTEMBER 13, 1914**  
 25th Anniversary of church  
 building celebrated  
**MARCH, 1915**  
 Exterior renovations to church  
 and parsonage  
**AUGUST 1 & 2, 1915**  
 Diamond Jubilee celebrated  
**SEPTEMBER 29, 1915**  
 Hurricane destroys steeple of  
 the church as well as other  
 major damage  
**1916**  
 Plea for funding from all church  
 groups to help pay cost of  
 hurricane damage and replace  
 steeple

#### 1910 STATISTICS

Souls: 1,700  
 Communicants: 1,596  
 Voting members: 94  
 Teachers: 2  
 Pupils: 74  
 Baptisms: 56  
 Confirmed: 43  
 Marriages: 21  
 Burials: 28  
 S.S. Pupils: 250

#### 1917

Steeple rebuilt to a lower height

#### 1918

Reduction of German services  
 to twice per month and  
 holidays

#### JANUARY, 1919

First issue of the monthly  
 "VISITOR"

OCTOBER 7, 1912

Trustee Minutes

*"After a discussion, it was agreed to recommend to the congregation, that our members, both male and female, should not confine themselves to sit in any particular locality of the church, but should seat themselves in any and all parts of the church and furthermore that this recommendation apply to the male members particularly."*

**A LUTHERAN OUTING.**

The Evangelical Lutheran St. Paul's Church, corner Port and Burgundy Streets, will give its annual complimentary parochial and Sunday school picnic at Southern Park on Thursday, May 29. The children will leave the schoolhouse at 9 a.m. in a body and take a trolley ride to the park. There will be games for young and old, a drill and special features at night. There will be a concert band in attendance and moving pictures will be shown at 8 p.m. The ladies will conduct a restaurant, and the celebrated German dish, ganspfeffer, and Creole gumbo will be served, and a pleasant evening is promised every one. Special prizes will be awarded in the bowling alley for ladies and gentlemen.



APRIL 14, 1912  
Confirmation  
Ida Cecilia Honold

c. 1913  
St. Paul members spending  
a day at Southern Park



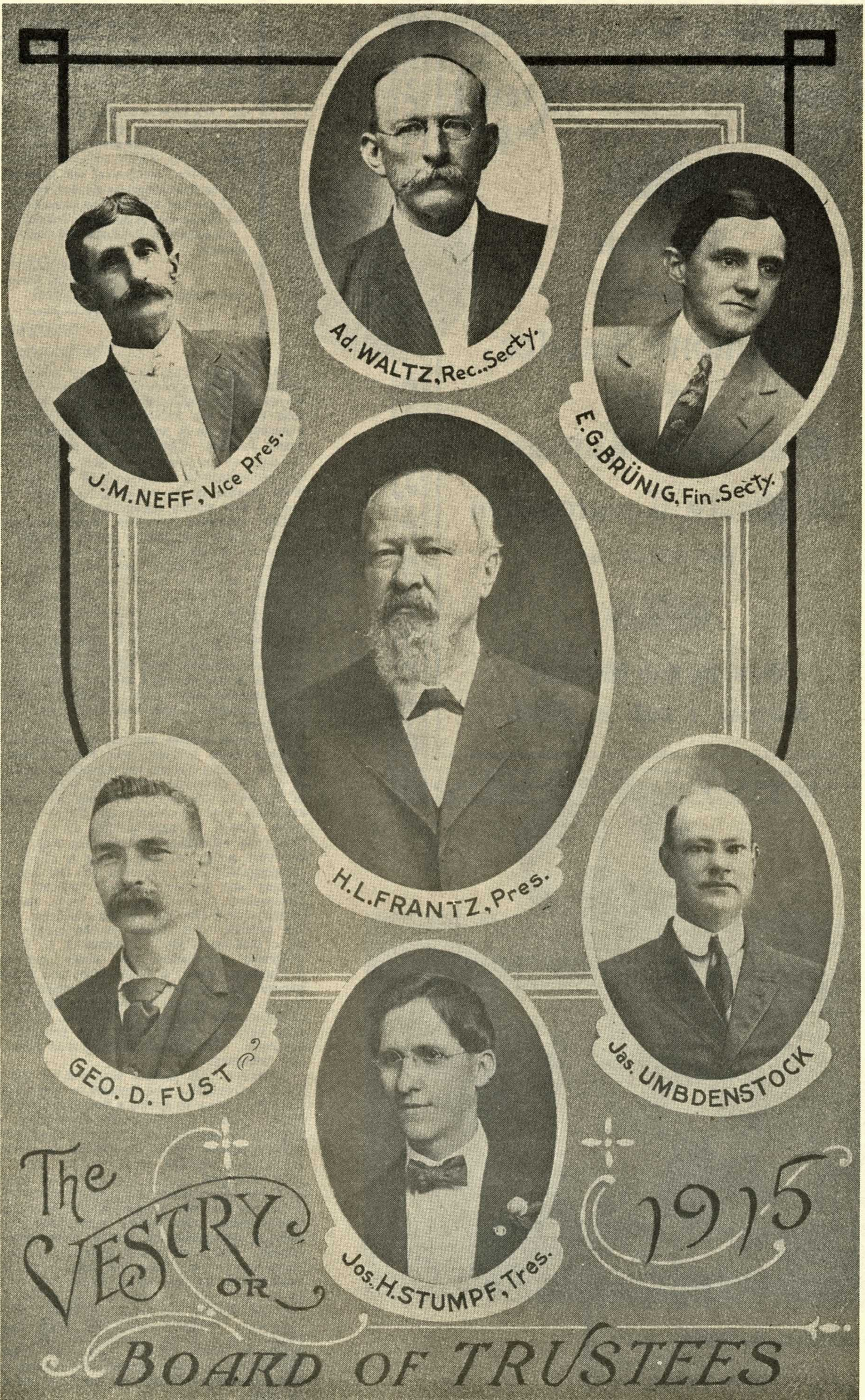
**Rules and Regulations**  
GOVERNING THE  
**Free Parochial School of**  
**St. Paul's Ev. Luth.**  
**Congregation**  
  
New Orleans, La.

**SEPTEMBER 8, 1913**  
The school opens as a free school with thirty new pupils on opening day. This brought the total to 75. By November enrollment reached 90. Children attending the free school were also obliged to attend Sunday School

**SEPTEMBER, 1913**  
**SOUTHERN LUTHERAN**  
*"The congregation, after having the matter up for some time in regard to free school, passed a resolution to conduct a strictly free school, no tuition being charged. Our school will be opened on Monday, September 8th with two classes under the leadership of Mr. Richard W. Wismar, principal, and Miss Millie Schubert, of the Orphan Home, as assistant."*

**1913/14**  
**SCHOOL PORTRAITS**  
R. W. Wismar, Sr.  
Principal  
Emilie Schubert  
Teacher, 1913-16, 1917-20





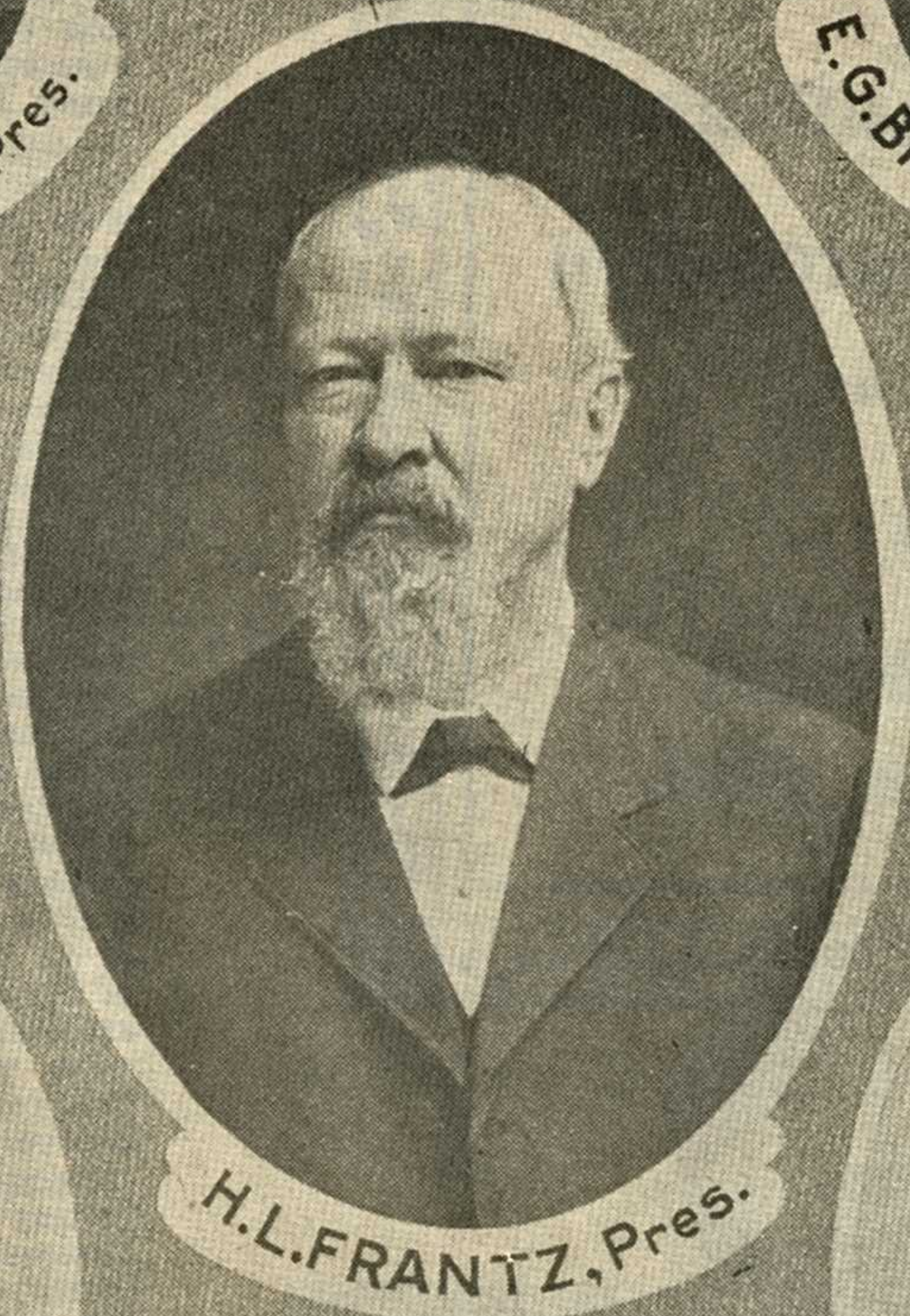
J.M. NEFF, Vice Pres.



Ad. WALTZ, Rec. Secty.



E.G. BRÜNIG, Fin. Secty.



H.L. FRANTZ, Pres.



GEO. D. FUST



Jas. UMBDENSTOCK



Jos. H. STUMPF, Tres.

The VESTRY OR

1915

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

A most cordial invitation and hearty welcome is hereby extended to our fellow Christians,—to the present and former members of St. Paul's and to the members of our local sister congregations—to join us in the celebration of our Seventy-Fifth Anniversary on Sunday, Aug. 1. English and German services will be held at 7.30 and 10 A. M., respectively, with sermon by Rev. Wegener. The main celebration with special musical and other features, will take place at 7.00 P. M., the Rev. J. W. Miller, of Fort Wayne, Ind., First Vice-President of our General Synod, having been chosen as speaker for the occasion.

Come and unite with us in praising the Lord for His bountiful goodness and mercy!

On behalf of Ev. Luth. St. Paul's Congregation.

H. L. FRANTZ, President.  
AD. WALZ, Secretary.

New Orleans, La., July 1, 1915.

SEPTEMBER 1915

"The Southern Lutheran"

St. Paul's—"This is the day which the Lord hath made, we will rejoice and be glad in it." With these words of the Psalmist on its lips, St. Paul's congregation began the celebration of its seventy-fifth anniversary, or, as it was more popularly called, the Diamond Jubilee. The first and second of August, 1915, the days of the jubilee, will stand out as one of the most notable events in the history of our church. Those who were unable to be present, no doubt will be glad to hear a few words regarding it.

The morning services were conducted as usual, but to add to the festive spirit, musical selections were rendered by St. Paul's choir and the Sunday School chorus in the English service, and by St. Paul's Male Quartet and Mr. F. Gensler (violin) in the German service. To induce all the children to be present at the English service, regular Sunday School was dropped. The children formed ranks in the Sunday School room and marched into church singing "Onward Christian Soldiers." Prof. Boecler, the speaker chosen for the main celebration, was kind enough to also deliver a sermon in the German service, which pleased our good old Germans very much. To lend a festive appearance to the church, it was beautifully decorated with palms and ferns.

The main jubilee service, to which all sister congregations were invited, was held in the evening at 7 o'clock. Long before the appointed time crowds began to fill the spacious pews, and when the joyful ringing of the bells announced that service would begin, every available seat was occupied. Extra benches and chairs were placed in anticipation of a large attendance. Everyone attending this service was given a beautiful souvenir program, containing a short history of the congregation and pictures of the board of trustees, former and present pastor, teacher, and church. A procession, headed by the local pastors, board of trustees and Sunday School children, formally opened the service. All joined in the singing of "All Glory be to God on High." Pastors G. C. Franke and Theo. Wegener conducted the altar service, while the A Capella choir, a violin trio, and a male chorus enhanced the service with well-rendered musical selections. The festival orator, the Rev. Prof. O. Boecler, of Concordia College, Springfield, Ill., preached a very able sermon, which was well received by the large audience. The jubilee offering was given to our Synodical treasury.

However, this service was not to end our jubilation. The congregation was invited to come again on the following evening to spend a few hours in Christian sociability. Many followed the invitation, and we were pleased to see that many of the members of the sister congregations were not loathe to come again. The attendance, though much larger than expected, was ably managed by the committee on arrangements. A long and interesting program of much variety was rendered during the course of the evening. During the intermissions the ladies were kept exceedingly busy serving refreshments, which were given free of any charge. With so many present, it is probable that some were overlooked, but this, if so, was wholly unintentional, as the ladies were very anxious to serve every one. The basement was prettily decorated by the committee, the stage especially drew forth much comment. Judging from the many happy faces, the social was a grand success, so that the expense will gladly be borne by St. Paul. We trust to God, who has guided us these seventy-five years, for our further success in the vineyard of the Lord, to whom all glory be given.

1840

1915

Souvenir

of the

Diamond Jubilee

of the

Evangelical Lutheran

St. Paul's Congregation

New Orleans, La.

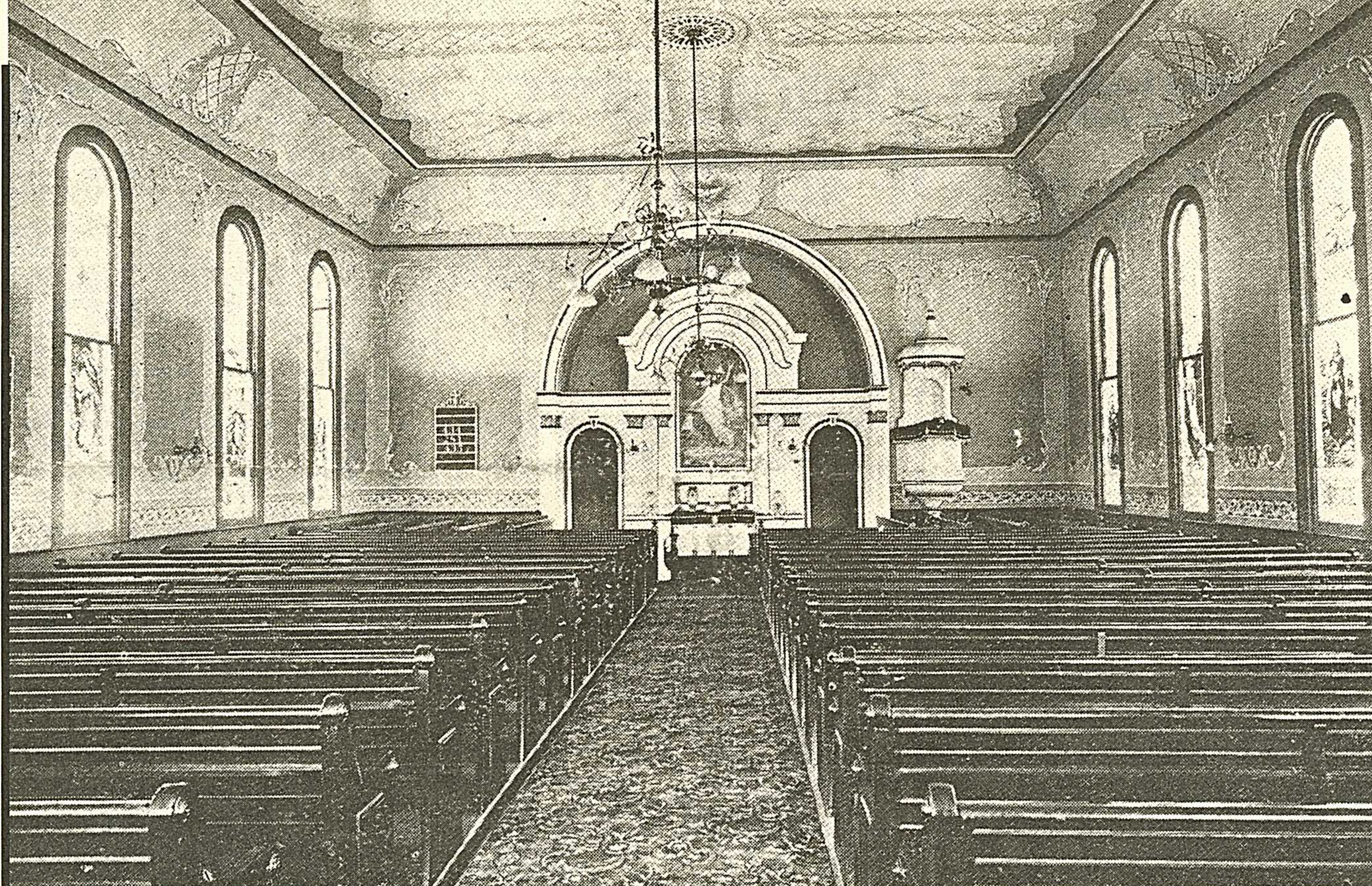
Sunday and Monday

August 1 and 2, 1915.

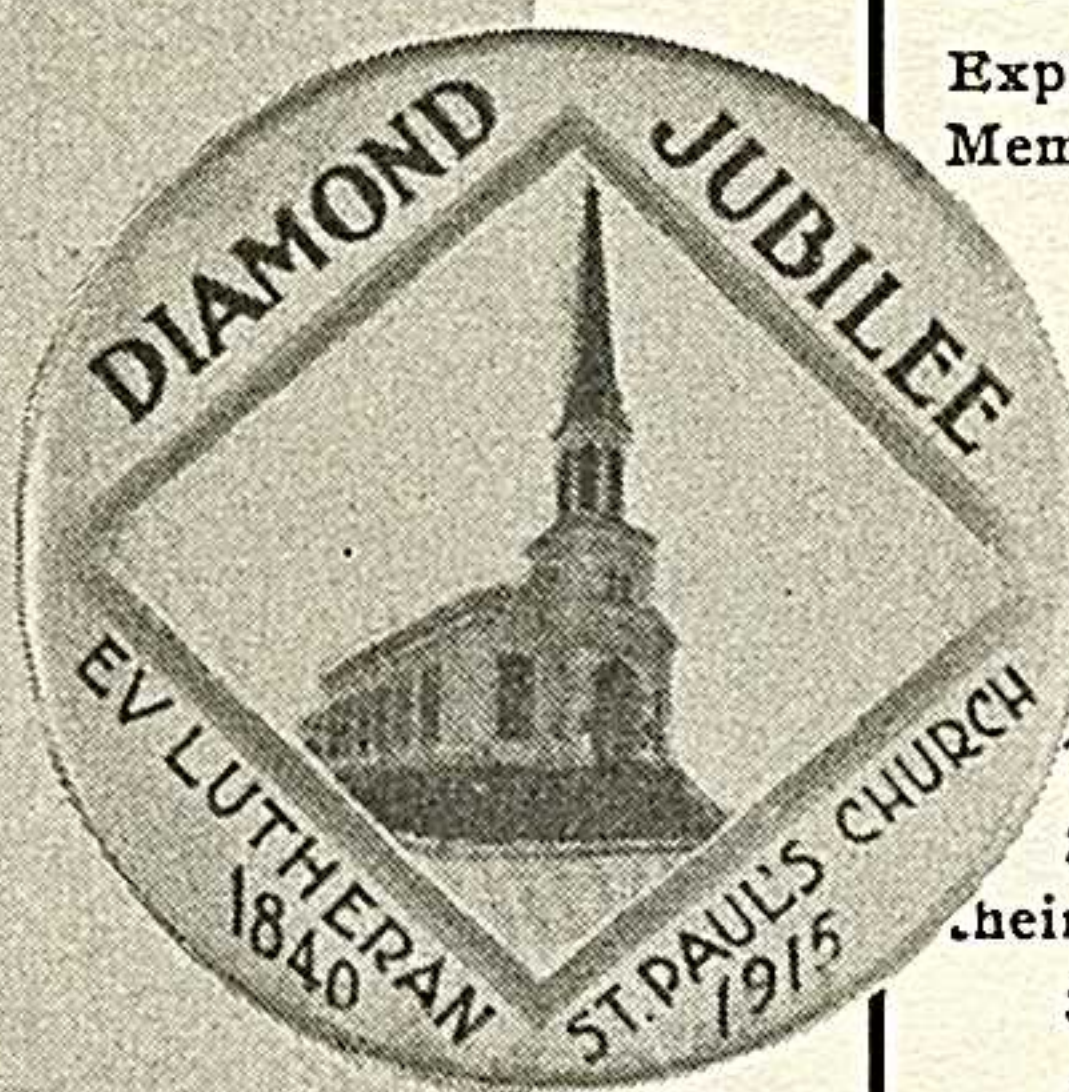
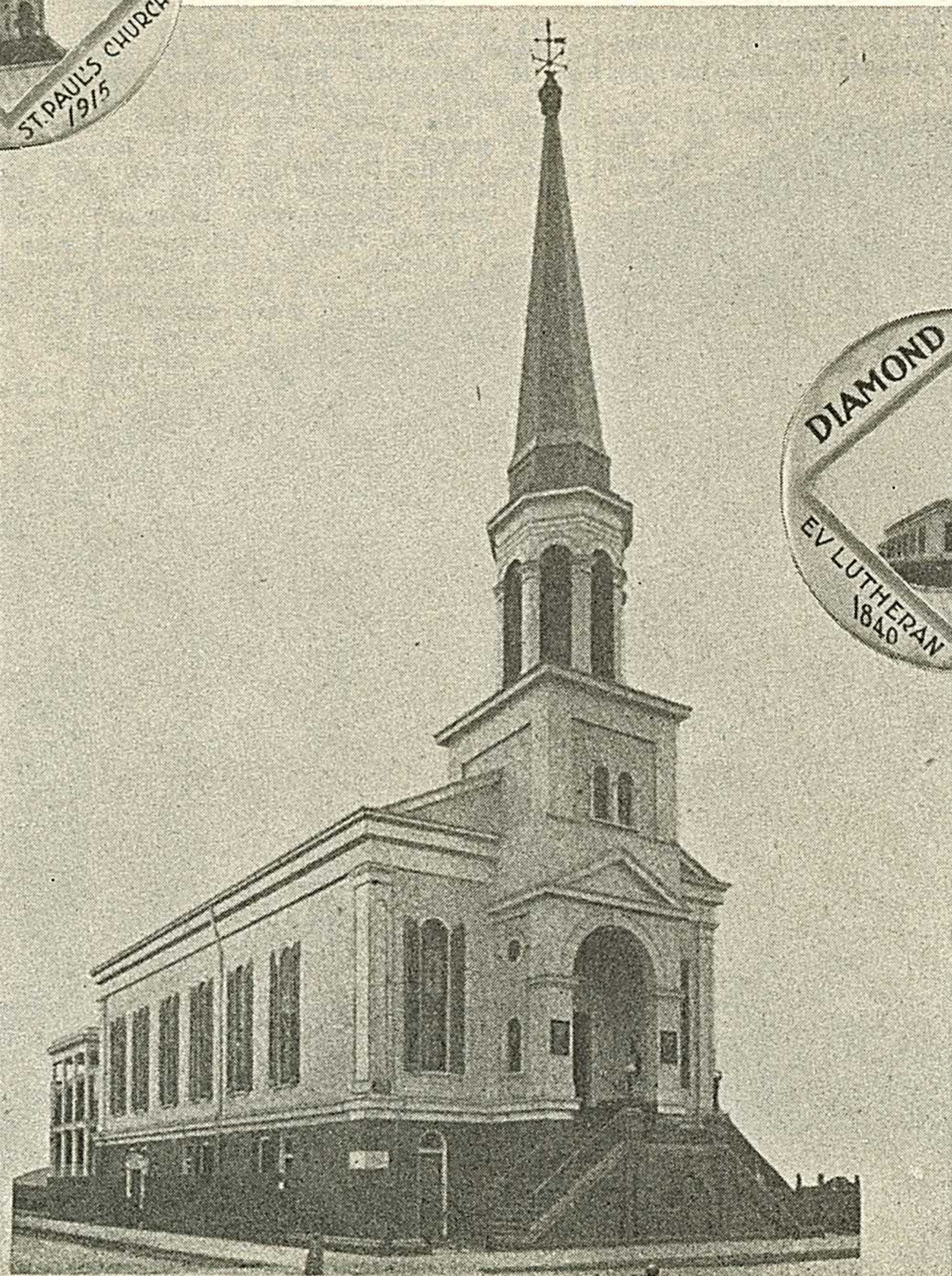
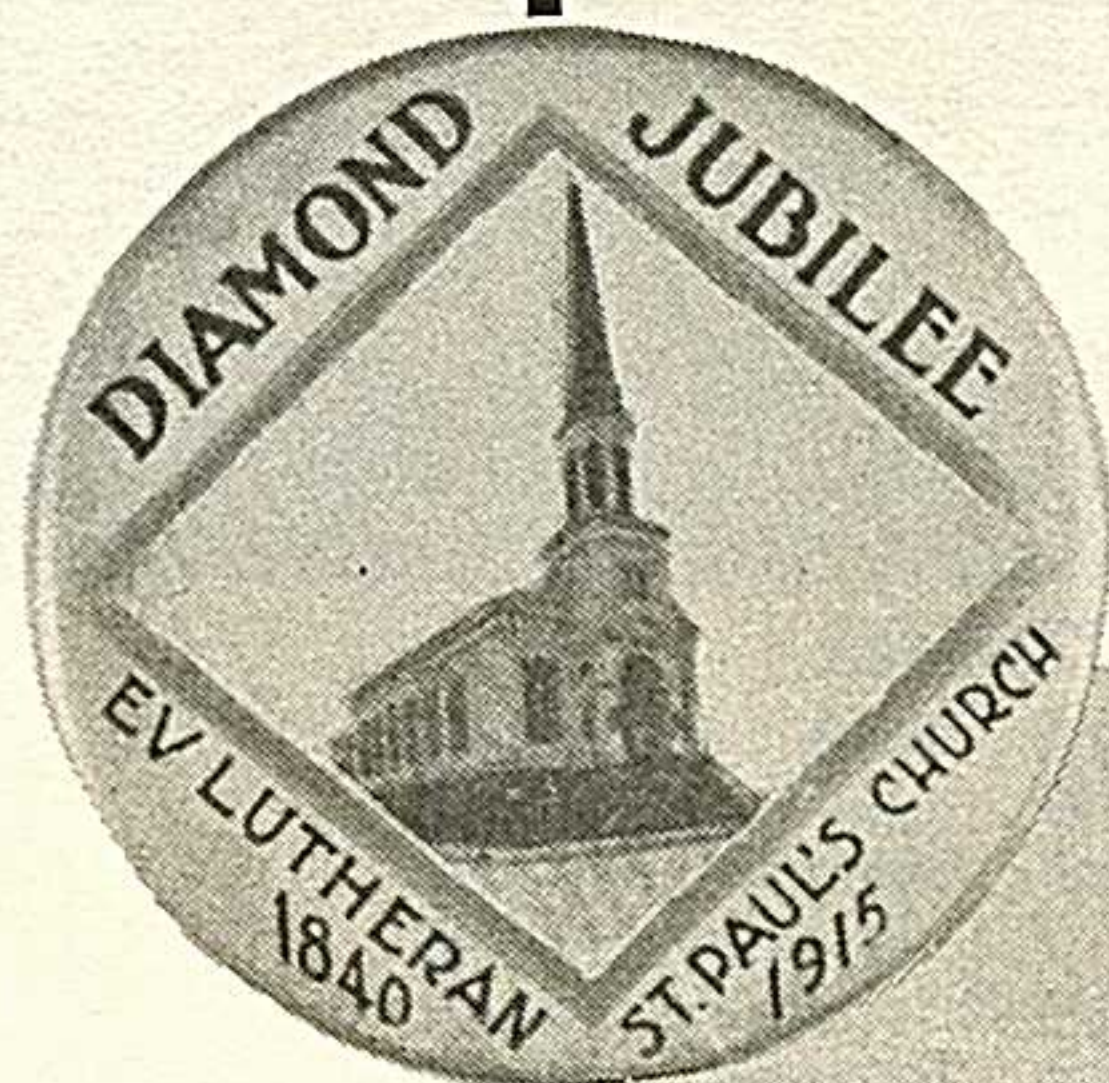


SCHOOL PORTRAIT 1915

Rev. G. J. Wegener  
R. W. Wismar, Sr.



1915  
Interior and Exterior  
following the 1915 renovation



Improvements For Diamond Jubilee.

Sewerage and Water Works.....	\$499.00
New Slate Roof and Gutters .....	500.00
Interior Alterations.....	401.19
Interior Decoration.....	733.00
Electric Light, Church and School .....	471.00
Electric Light, Parsonage .....	82 70
Electric Organ Motor, and Fan .....	242 60
Gas Heaters.....	100.00
Carpets, Pulpit and Altar Coverings .....	200.00
Chapel Expenses .....	138.29
Exterior painting, Church, School and Parsonage .....	695.00
Carpenter Work, Sash and Lumber .....	321.04
Incidental Repairs.....	147.80
Expenses of Jubilee Fund.....	\$4,531.62
Memorial Windows, by indiv. members .....	2,420.00
<b>Total Cost of Improvements .....</b>	<b>\$6,951.62</b>

Memorial Windows.

- The following Memorial Windows have been donated by members of the congregation:
1. St. Paul, the Apostle—In Memory of the Peter Smith Family.
  2. Martin Luther—In Memoriam Mr. and Mrs. W. W. Waldow, their children.
  3. To God—In Memory of our Mother, Wilhelmina Bernigrodt.
  4. Rock of Ages—In Memory of Hoelzel, F. and C. Schlaeger and Melcher Families.
  5. Jesus Knocking at the Door—In Memory of the Manthey Family.
  6. Jesus the Good Shepherd—Memory of Catherine Roth, Anna Marie Bohnet and Elizabeth Grethel.
  7. Mary and the Christ Child—Donated by Mr. and Mrs. Henry L. Frantz.
  8. The Ascension of Christ—In Memory of Louis Schulz and his wife Josephine.
  9. Fine Art Glass Window—Donated by Cath. Bierhost and her niece, W. Keller.
  10. The Guardian Angel—In Memory of the Fusch and Brunssann Families.
  11. Fine Art Glass Window—In Memory of H. Rummel.
  12. Jesus in Gethsemane—In Memory of the Eicke Family.
  13. Jesus Blessing the Children—Donated by the Sunday and Parochial School.
  14. (Not yet installed.)
  15. Fine Art Glass in Vestibule—In Memory of the late Rev. C. G. Moedinger. Donated by members and friends.
- (Total cost of Memorial Windows \$2420.00.)



# CHURCHES SUFFER HEAVILY FROM FURY OF STORM

Scarcely a Single House of  
Worship Escapes Damage.  
Several Must Be Rebuilt.

Scarcely a church in New Orleans escaped the fury of the hurricane, and in several instances it is believed that parts of the structures still standing will have to be torn down, and complete new buildings erected.

The worst damaged are the First Presbyterian, opposite Lafayette park; Felicity Street Methodist Episcopal Church, South, Felicity and Chestnut streets; First German Presbyterian, 821 First street; Church of the Sacred Heart, Canal and South Rendon; St. Anna's Episcopal Church, Esplanade near Marais; Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church, St. Charles avenue and St. Andrew; Our Lady Star of the Sea Catholic Church, St. Roch avenue, between N. Johnson and N. Prieur; Annunciation Catholic Church, Marais, corner Mandeville; First English Lutheran Church, 1032 Port; St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church, Burgundy, corner Port streets, and St. Stephen's Catholic Church, Napoleon avenue and Camp street.

Nearly all of the above churches suffered the loss of their spires, which, as they fell, carried with them almost the entire front of the buildings. It was considered by many an act of Providence that the falling of the towers did so little damage to surrounding buildings and that the loss was seriously injured. In some cases, the membership of the churches have already decided to make complete repairs, or rebuild the

the St. Charles Avenue Branch of the First Presbyterian Church, the Jesuit Church in St. Charles street, Carrollton Avenue Baptist Church and Mater Dolores Church in Carrollton avenue, all suffered damaged roofs and in some instances the water had done considerable damage to the interiors.

## Y. M. H. A. BUILDING UNROOFED

The Young Men's Hebrew Association building suffered considerably, the copper roofing was almost completely torn off and in the interior considerably damaged by water. The Harmony Club, on Jackson and St. Charles avenues, suffered only a small loss. The Jackson Avenue Protestant Home was greatly damaged in the roof and nearly every outhouse was swept away. Along Jackson avenue, near the river there was not a single house which was not damaged. In Clay Square many of the fine trees were prostrate and many of the swings and other pleasures for the children were down.

The Memorial Home for Women, on Washington and Annunciation streets, was badly damaged and it was thought that an entirely new roof would be necessary. Besides great damage to the campus, Sophie Newcomb College was practically unharmed.

In Lafayette Cemetery, No. 1, the sexton reported that all trees were damaged



## CHIEF CITY SUFFERS

At the corner of Dublin and Apricot streets, the handsome new residence of J. B. Bennett, still under construction, was entirely demolished. At Heinemann Park, the roof was almost completely torn away, and the rear fences were down. The following booths and buildings being erected for the Chief celebration were completely wrecked: Italian village, Irish village, German village and the fire drill tower. The fire drill tower was blown down and the dancing platform was completely torn down. The work at the park was at a standstill. The damage to the bank to the eye



**NOVEMBER, 1915**  
**THE SOUTHERN LUTHERAN**

Our readers, especially those outside of New Orleans, will be concerned to know how our local Lutheran churches and schools fared during the severe storm which visited our state and city on September 29, 1915. Property damage, particularly in New Orleans, was enormous, the loss of life, also, was quite severe. Since New Orleans was just in the direct path of the storm, every part of the city was equally affected. None of our churches and schools emerged unscathed.

St. Paul's church and school were badly damaged. The church has itemized its property damage as follows: Steeple blown down and damage to bells, \$1,000; school and adjoining building demolished by falling steeple, \$3,000; damage to roof and interior of church, \$1,500; damage to organ, \$600; damage to basement of church and parsonage, \$150.



St. Paul's steeple crashed into the third house from the church. It fell across the bed and the top landed in the fireplace. The school building & adjoining cottage were completely demolished.

"We might add to this report that the memorial windows were not broken, with the exception of slight damage to one. The damage to our church is felt all the more by us because it was only sixty days ago that we had celebrated our diamond jubilee and had completed the renovating prior to this celebration.

"Our parochial school after being closed for a few days, is again open, school being held in the basement of the church."





**R**ichard Waldemar Wismar was born in Chicago, Illinois on October 6, 1889. He earned his professional degree at Concordia Teachers' College at Addison, Illinois which is now River Forest. After one year's experience as a supply teacher, he was called to St. Paul in 1911. Thus began a journey that would touch the lives of thousands of people and be filled with accomplishments. He said, "Work is my hobby. I feel better when I have a lot to do."

On June 24, 1914, Mr. Wismar married Lillian Franke. They both worked tirelessly for St. Paul church and school. They inspired the members of St. Paul by organizing camps, frequent entertainments and music programs.

Mr. Wismar's talents and abilities were freely given to his church, as well as to the Southern District and Synod. At St. Paul he served as a teacher, principal, organist/choirmaster, youth director, Sunday School superintendent, editor of the "Visitor", and organizer of the men's club.

He was instrumental in leading the youth of St. Paul to forming one of the earliest Walther League chapters. Through his efforts, the Crescent Zone Walther League was organized.

RICHARD  
WALDEMAR  
WISMAR



Mr. Wismar made his greatest contribution to the members of St. Paul as a Christian teacher.

When he began his ministry here, there were two teachers, two classrooms, and eighty students. When he retired, there were twelve staff members, ten classrooms, and about three-

hundred students. The Kindergarten was added and a mothers' club started. It was through his encouragement that a new school building was constructed in 1924 and a Joint School Board was organized.

His imagination and creativity were evident when he attended the International Walther League Convention in 1940.

There he began a campaign to have the next convention in New Orleans. He made a speech on the attractiveness of New Orleans, then jumped down from the podium and played "Dixie" on the piano. At the same time, his helpers passed out pralines to the audience.

"The people were so busy eating pralines," he said, "that they didn't even hear the next two invitations and the convention came to New Orleans."

Throughout his life, "Professor" Wismar was a true inspiration to us all. He died on October 15, 1965.

*Richard W. Wismar*

**WEDIG**

*"No tribute would be complete without a tribute to his overflowing pen. Mr. Wismar originated and edited, with Walther League financing, a monthly paper, St. Paul VISITOR. Beginning in 1919, he edited it through forty years. The VISITOR has been the voice of St. Paul, and in its pages Mr. Wismar promoted everything that was worthwhile in the Church."*

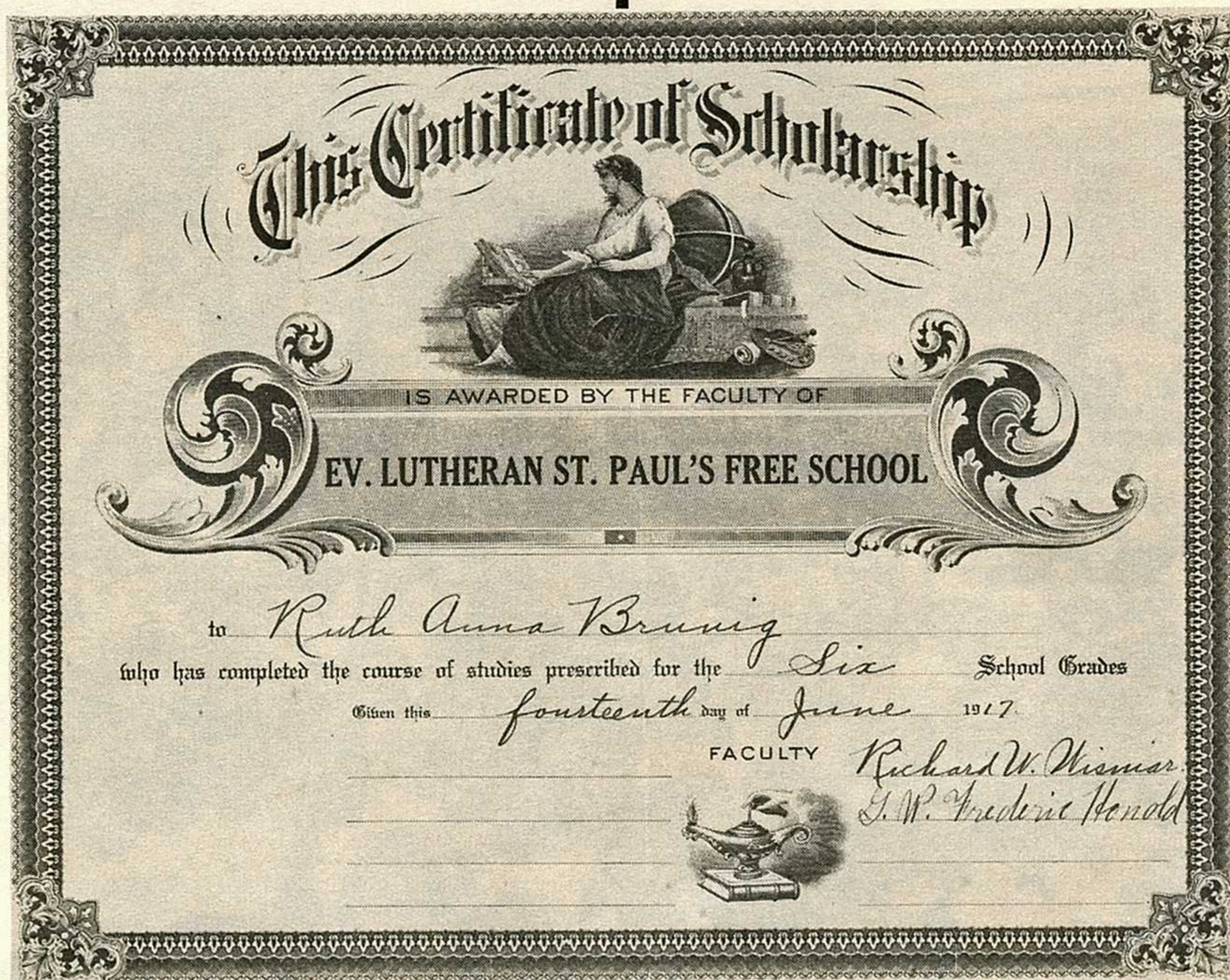


**WEDIG**

*"In every area mentioned let it be recorded that he was helped, backed, and encouraged by a loyal and able wife. Mrs. Wismar worked and taught at his side in the school, in music, in youth work, in camping, and in all areas of God's work. Her willingness, her understanding, her patience, were the support for his happy, wholly-blessed career."*



**SCHOOL PORTRAIT 1917**  
 Mrs. Emilie Schubert Edwards  
 Rev. G. J. Wegener  
 R. W. Wismar, Sr.



**JUNE 14, 1917**  
 Graduation Certificate  
 Ruth Anna Brunig  
 (Klotz)

Mrs. Klotz taught  
 Kindergarten  
 at our school  
 from 1951-1972

**APRIL 14, 1918**  
 Confirmation  
 Irma Schulingkamp  
 (Friess)





MAY 4, 1919  
Confirmation  
Amelia Julia Nehlig  
(Carbone)

**STATISTICS 1919**  
Baptized members: 1,050  
Communicant members: 1,222  
Voting members: 75  
Teachers: 2  
School Pupils: 75  
Baptisms: 49  
Conirmations: 44  
Marriages: 15  
Burials: 23  
S. S. Pupils: 250

**GRAND RALLY DAY EXERCISES  
OF  
St. Paul's Sunday School  
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 12, 1919  
AT 9 A. M.  
EVERYBODY WELCOME**



ST. PAUL SCHOOL

## List of Contributors to Current Expense Fund (1920)

Achec, Mrs. W.  
 Ackermann, Mrs. E.  
 Asquistapace, Mrs. M.  
 Adams, Mrs. F.  
 Ahlert,  
 Mr. and Mrs. H.  
 Ahrens, Mrs. M.  
 Ahrensberg, Mrs. J.

Biehler, Miss E.  
 Bierhorst, Miss O.  
 Boe, Mrs. C.  
 Boe, Mrs. L.  
 Bogel, Mrs. E.  
 Bohnet, Mrs. E.  
 Bommarius, F.  
 Bommarius, G.

Mrs. Siegr.  
 Christensen, Soph.  
 Conners, Mrs. A.  
 Cook, J.  
 Cooper, Mrs. J.  
 Cooper, A.  
 Cooper, J.  
 Cothaver, Mrs. C.

Feindel, Mrs. C.  
 Felkner, Mrs. F.  
 Felkner, O. K.  
 Ferrv, Mrs. W.  
 Fielding, Mrs. J.  
 Fielding, Miss A.  
 Fielding, Miss G.  
 Fischer, Mrs. J.  
 Fleischer, H.  
 Frahm, Mrs. C.  
 Mrs. W. Frank, Mrs. M.  
 I. Frank, J.  
 Frank F.  
 Mrs. O. Frantz, Mr. & Mrs. H. L.  
 Frantz, Mr. & Mrs. F.  
 Frantz, Miss H.  
 C. Frayle, Mr. & Mrs. M.  
 Freitag, Miss A.  
 M. Frink, Mr. & Mrs. J.  
 Mrs. C. Fos, Mrs. A.  
 Fos, Mrs. B.  
 L. Fusch, Miss M.



Barth, Miss Edwina  
 Barth, George  
 Barth, Miss M.  
 Bartell, F. J.  
 Barry, Mrs. C.  
 Barousse, Miss L.  
 Barousse, Miss F.  
 Barousse, Miss H.  
 Bateman, Mrs. E.  
 Baumlach, Mrs. L.  
 Bauer, Mrs. W.  
 Bauer, R.  
 Bauer, Mr. & Mrs. F.  
 Bauer, Miss H.  
 Bauer, J.  
 Bauer, H. A.  
 Bauer, M.  
 Bauer, Miss C.  
 Bauer, Mrs. H.  
 Bauer, M., Jr.  
 Bauer, J.  
 Bauer, Mrs. M.  
 Bauer, G.  
 Becker, Mrs. M.  
 Beckemeyer, Mrs. F.  
 Beckemeyer, H.  
 Beckemeyer, Mr. and  
 Mrs. O.  
 Beckmeyer, E.  
 Beckemeyer, Miss F.  
 Bentz, Mrs. G. J.  
 Bentz, L.  
 Bergeron, Mrs. C.  
 Berg, Miss A.  
 Bergmann, Mrs. W.  
 Bernard, Miss M.

Bracamontes, Mrs. L.  
 Broders, Mrs. F.  
 Broders, G.  
 Broders, Mr. & Mrs.  
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 Burger, J.  
 Burger, C. J.  
 Cambas, Mrs. H.  
 Cambre, Mrs. F.  
 Carstens, W.  
 Carstens, Miss M.  
 Capella, Mrs. D.  
 Clark, Mrs. E.  
 Clark, F.

Denny, G.  
 Dietrich, Mrs. C.  
 Dinkgreve, Mr. &  
 Mrs. H.

Gassner, Miss M.  
 Gause, Miss E.  
 Giovanni, Mrs. E.  
 Gerhold F



1920-21  
 SCHOOL PORTRAITS  
 Mr. R. W. Wismar  
 Rev. G. J. Wegener  
 and  
 Miss Gertrude Wegener  
 Teacher 1920-22

Goetz, Mrs. Ch.  
 Goetz, Miss Cath.  
 Graf, Mrs. J.  
 Grasshoff, Mrs. A.  
 Griffith, Mrs. S.  
 Griffith, P.  
 Gysin, Mr. and Mrs. F.  
 Guillot, Mrs. R.  
 Gruber, Mrs. W.



**SEPTEMBER 1921**  
Eighth Grade added to  
School curriculum

**SEPTEMBER 6, 1922**  
Student E. A. Groth  
placed in charge of  
second department

**APRIL 10, 1921**  
Confirmation Portrait of  
Dorothy Alma Kauffmann  
(Groth)  
and  
John Cyril Stumpf

Mrs. Groth taught in  
our Day School from  
1944-47; 1956-73

**SEPTEMBER 1, 1921**  
**WISMAR**

*"Up to this writing, 92 children  
are enrolled in our day school.  
A very gratifying record, com-  
pared with other years. From  
present indications, enrollment  
will reach close to 100 by the  
end of the month. We have  
added the eighth grade this  
year, the first time in the  
history of our school. Mrs. R.  
W. Wismar has been induced  
to teach part of the time."*

**APRIL 30, 1922**  
Confirmation Class  
Portrait



# Summer Festival

IN SCHOOL HALL and YARD  
ENTERTAINMENT-PICTURES-REFRESHMENTS

FRIDAY AND SATURDAY  
JUNE 29th AND 30th, 1923

ALL WELCOME DOORS OPEN 3 P. M.

## REPORT 1923

### I. STATISTICS.

Souls (children and adults).....	1650
Communicant members on list.....	1234
Voting members .....	85
Contributors .....	840
Baptized—Children 31, adult 1..	32
Confirmed .....	38
Other additions to membership..	20
Marriages .....	19
Burials .....	22
Church services: English.....	86
German .....	28— 114
Communion services: English 15	
German .....	6— 21
Persons communed .....	872
Persons not communed.....	362—1234
Communicants:	
15 English services.....	1537
6 German services.....	117
Private .....	31—1685
Parochial School, highest enroll- ment .....	104
Teachers: Principal .....	1
Lady Assistant .....	1
Student .....	1— 3
Sunday School: Pupils enrolled	220
Cradle Roll .....	171
Officers and Teachers.....	42

APRIL 15, 1923  
Confirmation Class  
Portrait

MARCH, 1923  
Snapshots of the  
"St. P. Seniors"



# ST. PAUL'S VISITOR

Published Monthly, Under Auspices of Ev. Luth. St. Paul's Church, by St. Paul's Walther League

REV. G. J. WEGENER  
824 Port Street, Hemlock 363

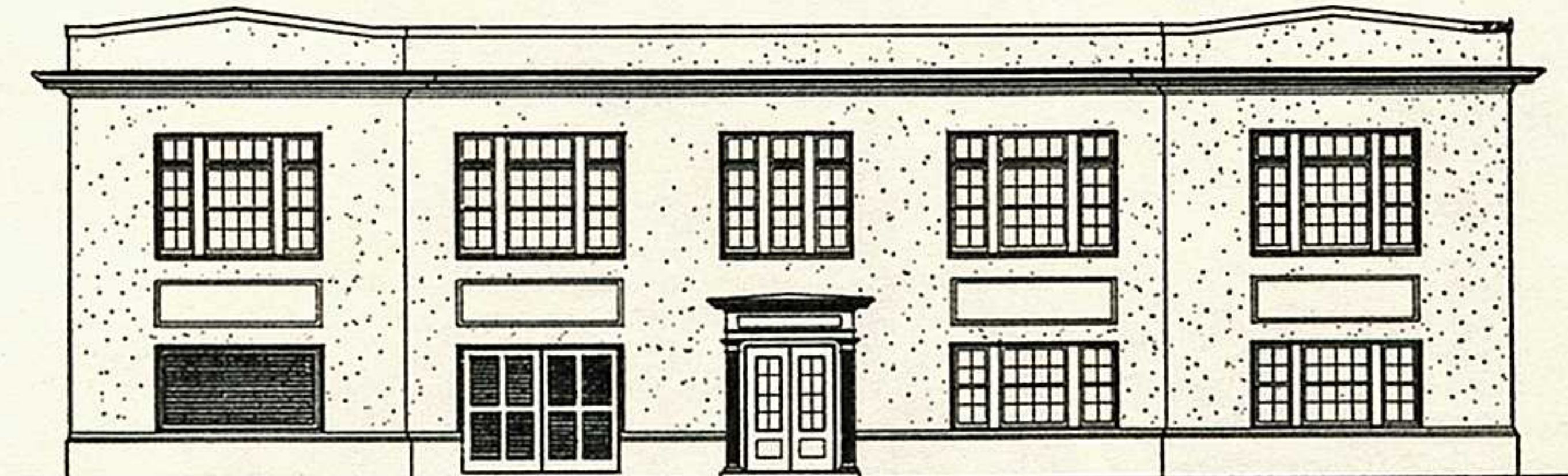
PROF. R. W. WISMAR  
3701 St. Claude Ave., Hemlock 3837-W

VOL. VI

New Orleans, La., June 1924.

No. 6

## School Dedication



FRONT-ELEVATION  
Scale 1/4" = 1'-0"

SCHOOL-BUILDING-TOP  
ST. PAUL-EVANGELICAL-LUTHERAN-  
CONGREGATION-NEW ORLEANS-LA.

ON SUNDAY, JUNE 29th, 1924

3:30 P. M.

OUR NEW PAROCHIAL SCHOOL

WILL BE DEDICATED TO THE LORD'S SERVICE

SERMON BY REV. M. W. H. HOLLS

SPECIAL MUSIC

You Are Most Cordially Invited

Bring Your Friends

O Come, and Let Us Rejoice!

### CORNERSTONE LAYING.

*Ev. Lutheran St. Paul's School  
Dedicated to the Welfare of  
Our Homes,  
Our Church,  
Our Country.*

This is the inscription on the cornerstone of our new building. This stone is the gift of Mr. Victor Huber of the Victor Huber Marble Works. We appreciate this generous gift very much and extend him a hearty vote of thanks. The ceremony took place after the morning service, Sunday, April 27. After singing a hymn our pastor introduced Dr. Nau, chairman of Southern District school committee. He based his speech on the inscription. We are sorry space won't permit us to print it. It deserves wide publicity.

The cornerstone for the new school building was laid on April 27, 1924.

The building was dedicated on Sunday, June 29th. Total cost of the new building was \$15,238.86.

An additional \$700 was donated by individuals for desks.

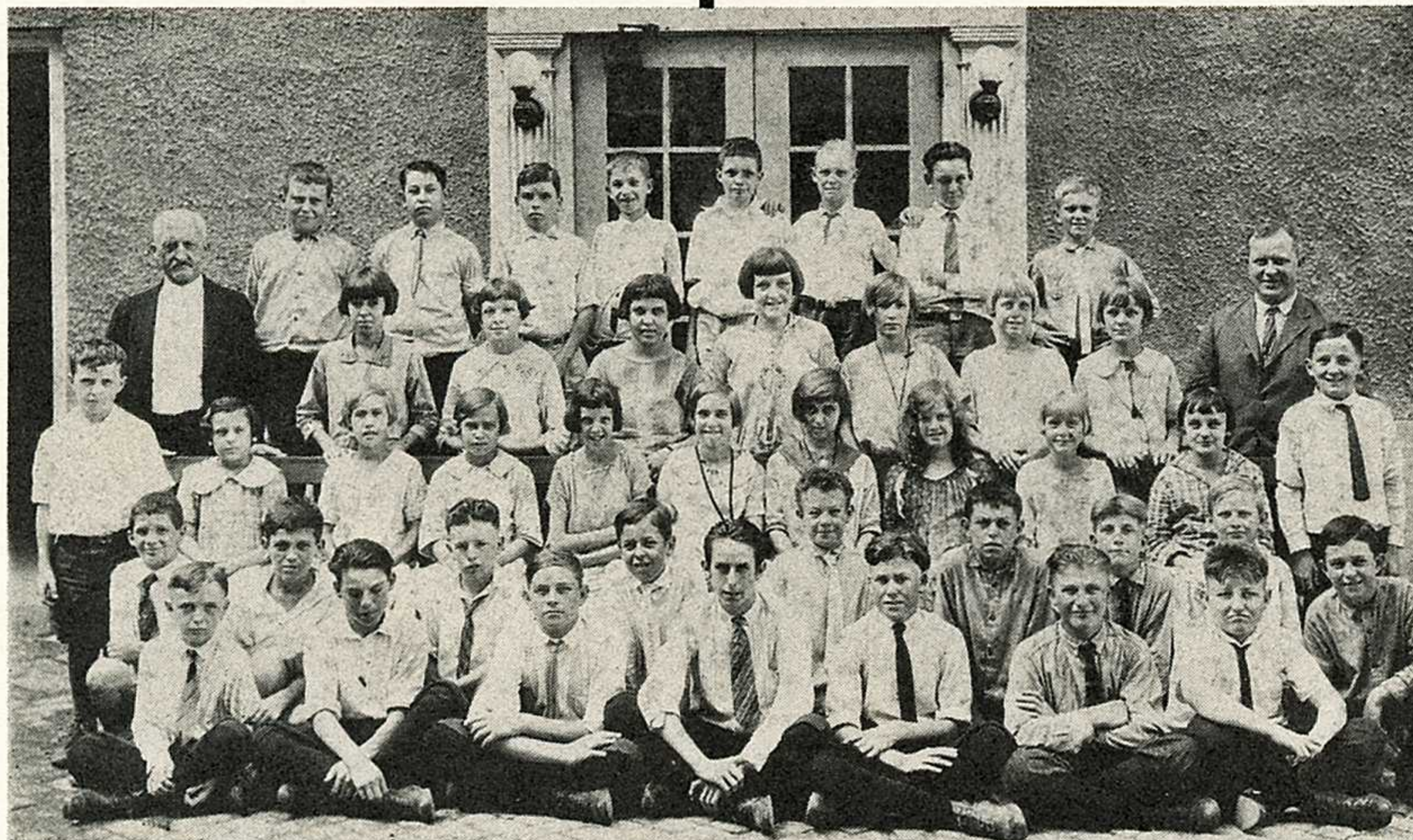
Mr. Henry Schaefer, a seminary student, was placed in charge of the second department.





**1924-25**  
Graduation Class Portrait

**1925-26**  
School Portraits



**OUR NEW WORKER**



**Prof. E. A. Groth.**

We make this announcement with joy in our hearts and thanksgiving to God. That St. Paul's has found it necessary to call another teacher, certainly is a good sign. It means we're going forward.

Prof. Groth is a graduate of our Concordia Teachers' College at River Forest, Ill. He is not an entire stranger to us, for he was with us two years as supply teacher. He has proven himself so successful that we sent in a request for him.

**Thursday, August 27, 1925**  
Mr. Elmer A. Groth  
Installed

Professor Groth taught in our school from 1922-24, 1925-47, and 1956-64





**1926**  
Church interior  
during the Renovation

In 1926, a general renovation of the church and parsonage was undertaken.

A service of Rededication was held on Thursday, October 7, 1926 at 8:00 p.m.

The renovations cost \$10,478.

**1926**  
Church interior  
after the Renovation



### WHAT WAS DONE.

Come with us on a trip of inspection and take a look at the various improvements completed. Approaching the church we see at once it has been painted. Coming nearer we notice the fine new concrete steps and stuccoed banisters, also the stucco put over the brick part of the lower structure. This work alone has changed the entire appearance of our church. The unsightly fence has given way to a neat iron design. The new bulletin board placed between the church and school by the Senior Walther League leaves no one in doubt as to which church he is passing or entering.

Entering the church proper we are at once struck by its cheerful and inviting appearance. Looking up we see the new metal ceiling, the new electrical fixtures, which really light our church, and the solid color scheme of the painted ceiling and walls. This all contributes to the feeling of rest and peace which comes over us as we enter. In keeping with the times, the candles on the altar have been electrified; control of the lights is in front of the church, instead of in back of the altar—a distinct improvement!

Before leaving we note the bookracks, which will add many months of wear to our hymnbooks, and the fine new carpets which the Ladies' Aid Society has placed.

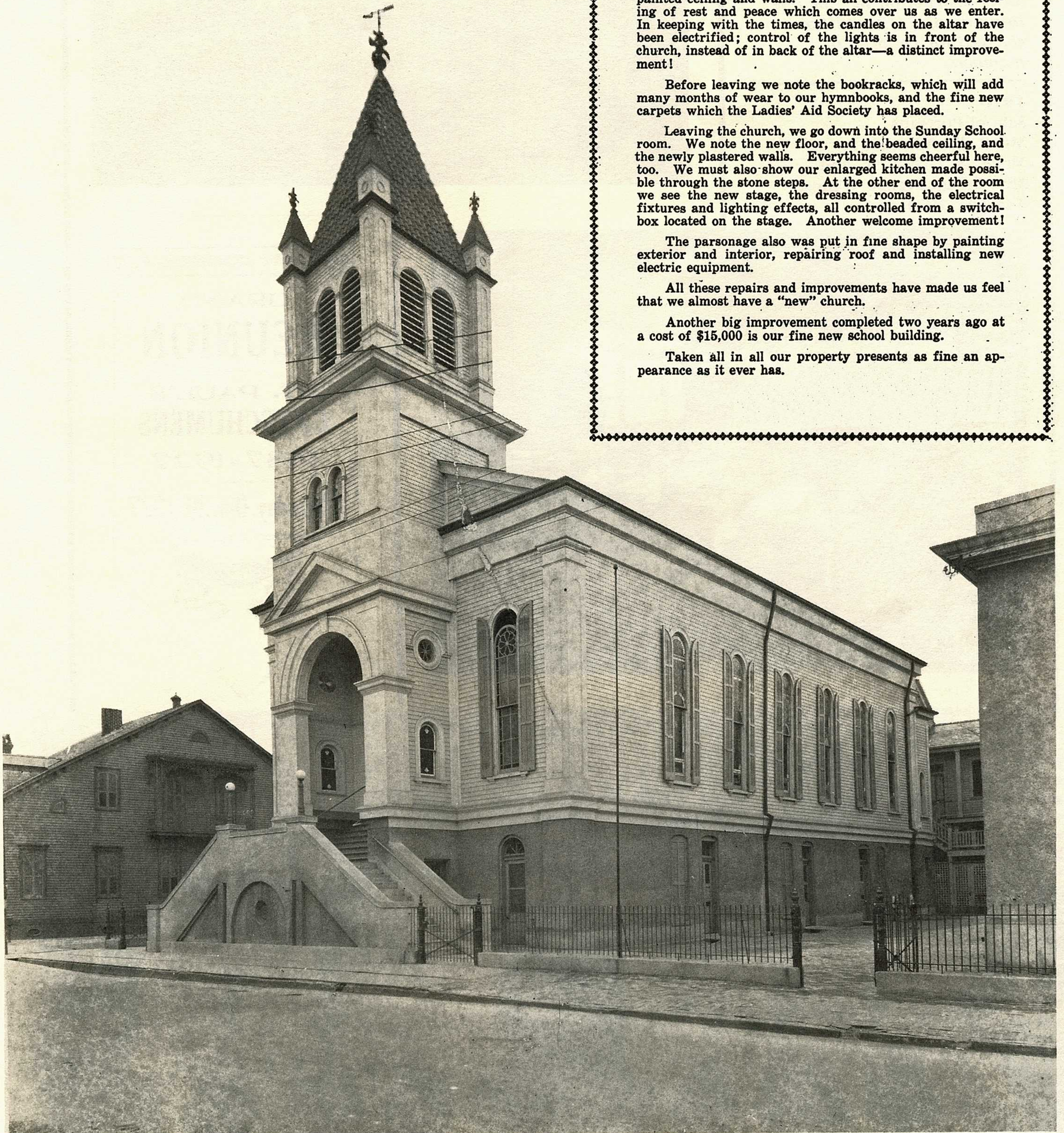
Leaving the church, we go down into the Sunday School room. We note the new floor, and the beaded ceiling, and the newly plastered walls. Everything seems cheerful here, too. We must also show our enlarged kitchen made possible through the stone steps. At the other end of the room we see the new stage, the dressing rooms, the electrical fixtures and lighting effects, all controlled from a switch-box located on the stage. Another welcome improvement!

The parsonage also was put in fine shape by painting exterior and interior, repairing roof and installing new electric equipment.

All these repairs and improvements have made us feel that we almost have a "new" church.

Another big improvement completed two years ago at a cost of \$15,000 is our fine new school building.

Taken all in all our property presents as fine an appearance as it ever has.



**WEGENER**

*"Our school, founded in 1840, began its 87th term on September 8th, 1926. This shows that St. Paul has always maintained a Christian Day School. That it is thankful and appreciative of this institution is shown by the fine new school building erected just two years ago. It is an eight grade school, giving adequate instruction in all secular branches, besides daily instruction in 'the one thing needful.' No tuition charged for children of members."*

**1926**

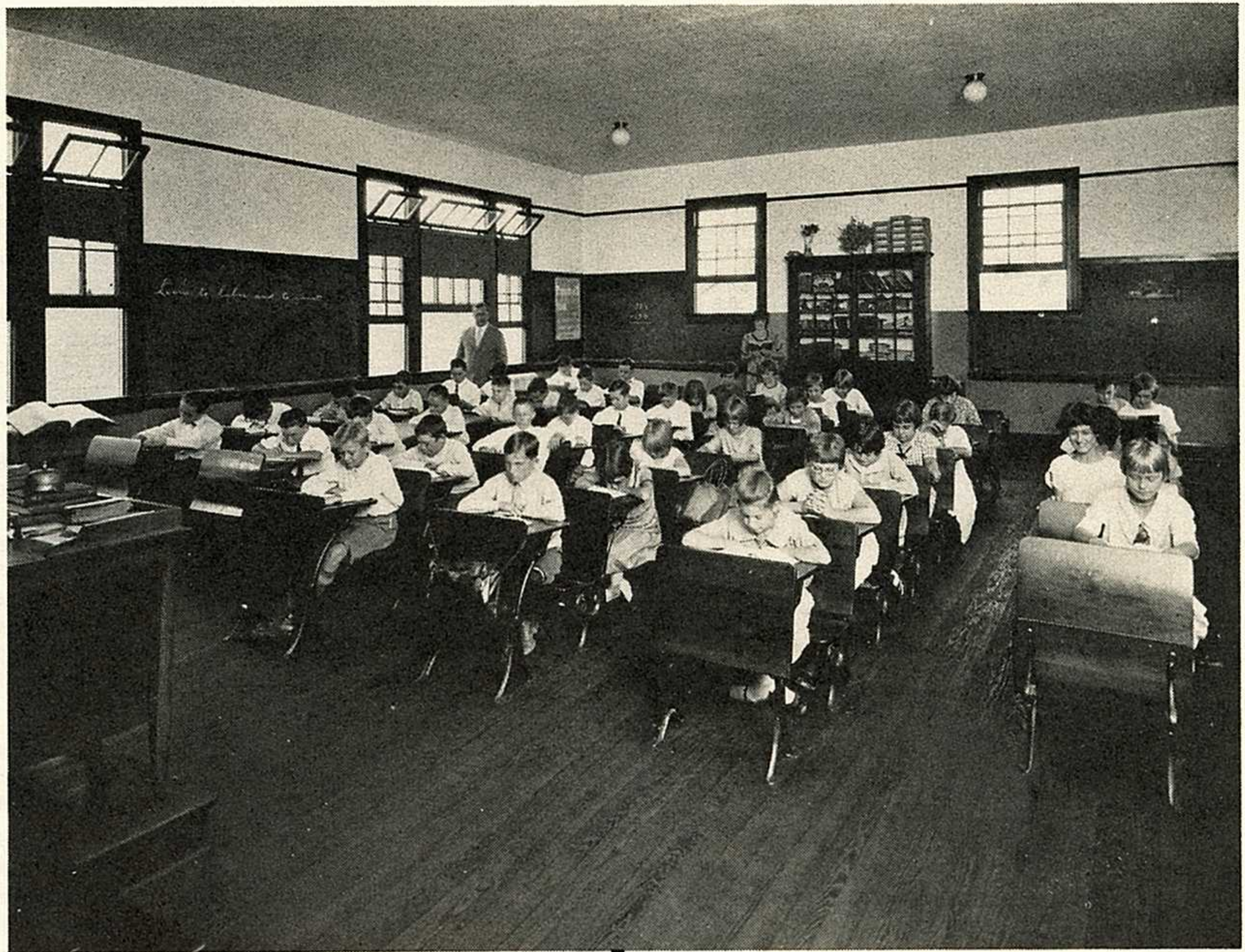
School Portraits

Mr. R. W. Wismar, Sr.

Mr. E. A. Groth, Sr. and

Mrs. Lillian Franke Wismar

Teacher, 1921-44



GRAND  
**REUNION**  
ST. PAUL'S  
CATECHUMENS  
1887-1927  
Thursday, Oct. 20, 1927



# SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

## THE GRAND REUNION SERVICE

-OF-

### FORTY CLASSES OF CATECHUMENS

CONFIRMED BY THE  
**REV. G. J. WEGENER**  
 WILL BE HELD ON  
**THURSDAY, OCTOBER 20th, 1927, at 8 P. M.**

SERMON BY THE REV. M. W. H. HOLLS

SOCIAL GATHERING AFTER THE SERVICE

**October 20th, 1927**

A Grand Reunion of Pastor Wegener's 40 Catechism classes was held at St. Paul

*"The church was for once filled, literally packed to its utmost capacity, and many tried in vain to enter. About 200 people were unable to get in."*

**April 22, 1928**

Confirmation Class Portrait

Pastor Wegener was overcome by a weak spell during the blessing of the Catechumens.

The congregation granted him several months of rest and engaged the services of Rev. E. H. Wildgrube.

Catechumens		Month	Day of Week	Year	Scripture Verse
<i>(Boys 18)</i>					
1.	McGregor, John Edward	April	4	1914	Titus 2, 11, 2.
2.	Lause, Frank Raymond	Nov.	8	1914	
3.	Schneider, Frederick Gottlieb	Jan.	1	1915	Ps. 37, 5
4.	Brooks, Eric Emil	Jan.	20	1915	John 15, 5
5.	Haab, Kenneth August	Jan.	20	1915	Heb. 10, 23
6.	Arvey, John James	March	6	1915	Rom. 1, 16
7.	Grayle, Marcelino John	March	29	1915	Acts 4, 12
8.	Urubdenstock, Jacob August	May	20	1915	John 10, 11
9.	Dorries, Ernest Henry August	June	24	1915	Mat. 10, 32, 33
10.	Jimmer, George Clarence	July	10	1915	John 15, 5
11.	Dusang, John Charles David	July	12	1915	1 Tim. 4, 8.
12.	Bertucci, Peter	July	10	1915	Ps. 111, 10
13.	Langhoff, John Ernest	Sept	15	1915	2 Cor. 5, 15
14.	Albi, Ferdinand Bernhard	Oct	20	1915	John 3, 16
15.	Stiles, Philip Hamilton David	Oct	26	1915	Mat. 6, 33
16.	Veges, Leon Walter	Oct	27	1915	1 Cor. 6, 20
17.	Huestel, Gottlieb August	Dec	3	1915	2 Tim. 3, 15
18.	Viata, Paul Edward Theodore	Dec	4	1915	John 14, 6.
1.	Wyzner, Meta Johane Clara	Dec	23	1914	Ps. 13, 5, 6.
2.	Schlichsamm, Emma Frederike	Jan	28	1915	John 10, 27, 28
3.	Vickers, Naomi Edith	Jan	30	do	2 Pet. 3, 18
4.	Winters, Albertina Elizabeth	Feb	6	do	
5.	Schmidt, Leile Emma	Feb	28	do	Heb. 13, 5
6.	Owens, Louise Magdalena	March	5	do	Ps. 37, 4
7.	Stumpff, Annie Marie	April	20	do	Ps. 27, 4
8.	Bordinger, Myrtle Johanna	June	5	do	Rom. 8: 32
9.	Miller, Dorothy Amelia	July	12	do	John 6: 68
10.	Siben, Beulah Lily	Aug	5	do	1 Cor. 7: 31, 27
11.	Strucke, Hilda Anna	Aug	17	do	Leviticus 54, 10
12.	Sigrist, Althea Elberda	Aug	22	do	Coloss. 145, 14, 17.
13.	Schastenborg, Anna Helen	Nov	1	do	Gen. 15: 1
14.	Hackett, Virginia Irene	Dec	12	do	Col. 3: 17
15.	Muedemann, Eugenie Wilhelmina	Dec	13	do	Luke. 10: 42
16.	Trosclair, Gladys Anna (Cole)	Dec	24	do	Rev. 2: 10

*Note: During blessing of the Catechumens Pastor Wegener was overcome by a weak spell. He was taken to the hospital and remained there several days. He returned to his duties several days later.*

Examined: Don Quasimod., April 15 - Confirmed: Miss Don. April 22.  
 First Communion: Jubilate, April 29.  
 Entered by P. H. B. Roope Feb 24, 1920. *G. J. Wegener*

**APRIL 22, 1928**

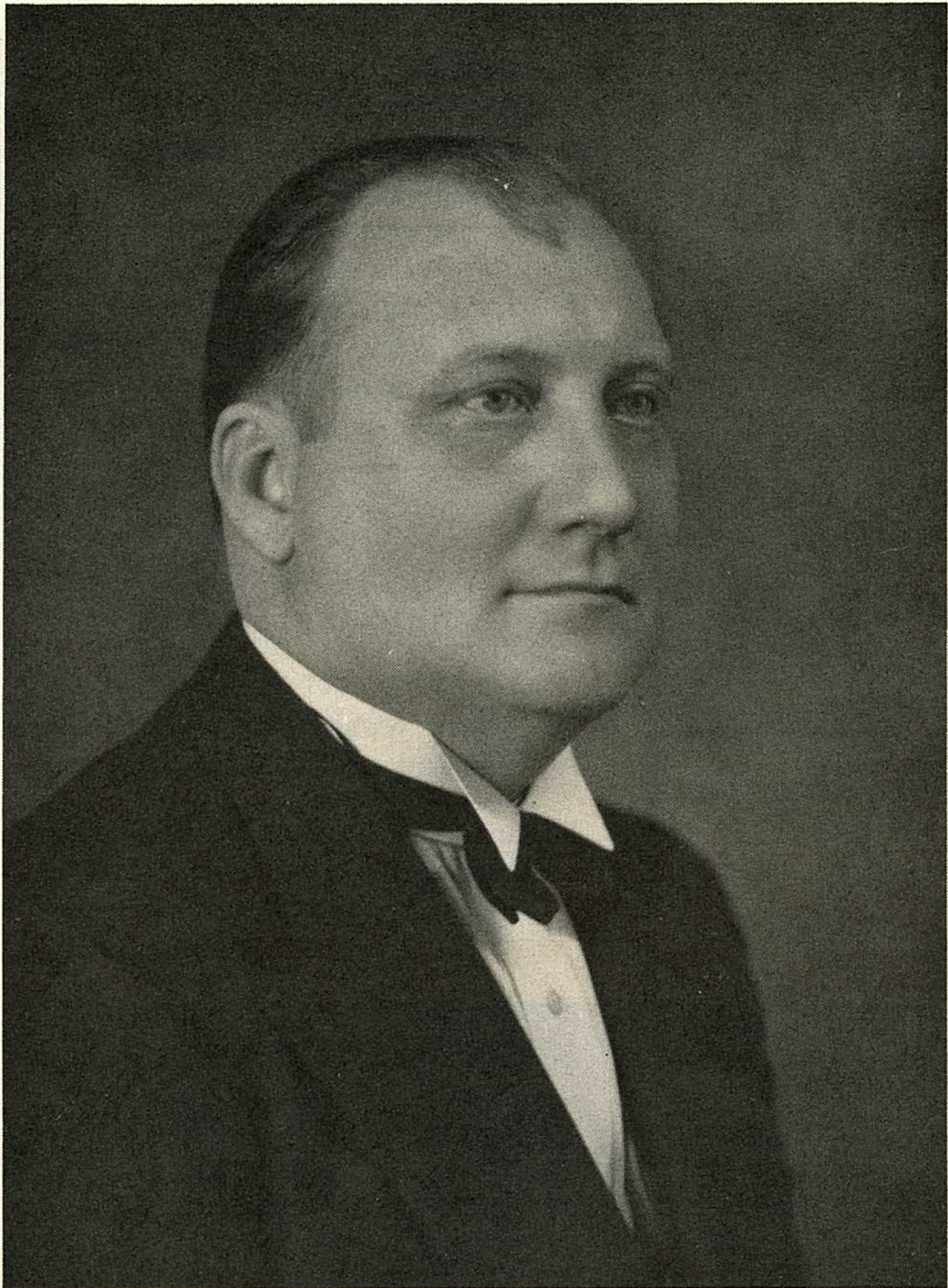
**Opposite**  
**May 1, 1927**  
 Rev. Wegener's 40th  
 Confirmation Class



**April 24, 1929**  
 Confirmation Class Portrait



CONFIRMATION CLASS



# HERBERT BURNS ROEPE

Herbert Burns Roepe was born February 21, 1900 in Concordia, Missouri. He attended St. Paul's College and received his theological training at Concordia Seminary in St. Louis, graduating in 1923. He served a two-year vicarage in New Orleans, teaching at Luther Institute.

On June 20, 1923, he married a New Orleans girl, Miss Lydia Doescher. They were blessed with two children, Julie Rose and Herbert, Jr.

Pastor Roepe was installed as Assistant Pastor on February 16, 1930 and succeeded Wegener as Pastor Primarius on April 1, 1933. He was the first pastor of St. Paul born in the United States and the first to be born in the 20th Century. He was a large man with a booming voice whose greatest theological interest was preaching. He had an engaging personality and sparkling wit and a repertoire of stories for all occasions. He introduced many noteworthy changes at St. Paul during his twenty years here, including the style of the pastor's gown, individual communion cups, men and women receiving communion together, the pastor driving a car, and the radio broadcasts of the Sunday morning worship services. During his pastorate, the attendance at St. Paul doubled.

After the fourth fire at St. Paul's on May 19, 1950, the possibility of relocating the church was being considered by Pastor Roepe. He was in favor of moving the church closer to Lake Pontchartrain where more members were living. The congregation, however, decided to remain on Port and Burgundy, where the church had been established a century before. Pastor Roepe left shortly thereafter when he accepted a Call to First Trinity Lutheran Church in Washington, D.C. in August, 1950.

On January 4, 1966, after a New Years visit to New Orleans, both Pastor and Mrs. Roepe were killed in a tragic automobile accident near Greenville, Alabama, on their way back to Washington.

## STATISTICS OF 1929

### Membership

Souls (estimated) .....	1,675
Communicant members .....	1,291
Voting members on list .....	75

### Church Schools

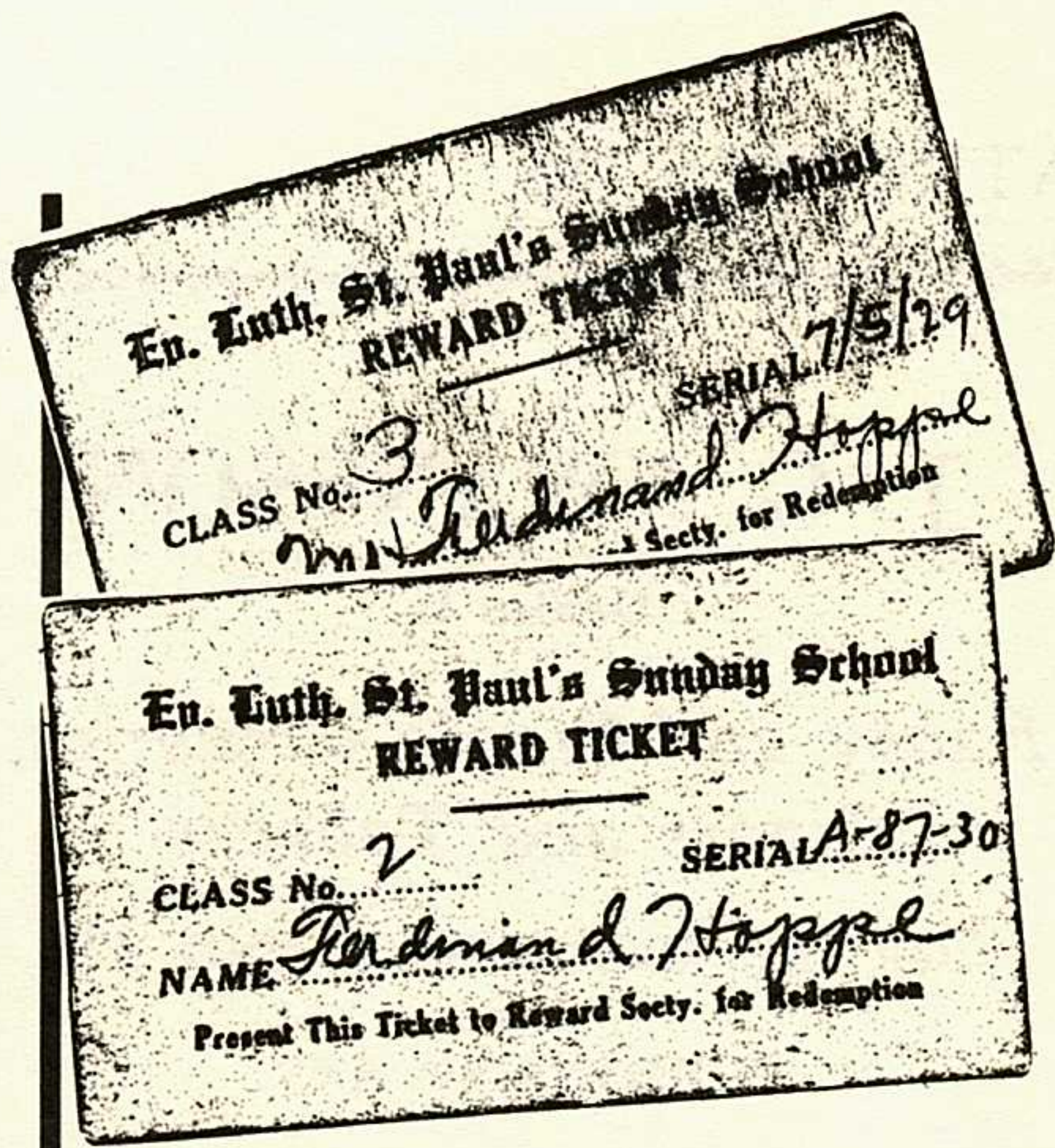
Christian Day School enrollment .....	100
Christian Day School teachers.....	2 male, 1 lady assistant
Sunday School enrollment .....	242
Cradle Roll .....	200
Officers and teachers of Sunday School.....	42

### Church Societies

Ladies' Aid .....	52
Ladies' Mission .....	205
Senior Walther League .....	50
Junior Walther League .....	48
Men's Club .....	25
Choir .....	25
Sunday School Teachers Association .....	40
Adult Bible Class .....	45

MAY 4, 1930  
Confirmation Portrait





Published Monthly, Under Auspices of Ev. Luth. St. Paul's Church, by St. Paul's Walther League  
 REV. G. J. WEGENER, Pastor 824 Port Street, FR. 3741  
 REV. H. B. ROEPE, Ass't Pastor 806 Louisa Street, CR. 2831  
 PROF. R. W. WISMAR 3011 St. Claude Ave., CR. 1325

VOL. XII New Orleans, La., July 1930. No. 7

- FEBRUARY 16, 1930**  
Pastor Roepe Called to assist
  - AUGUST 3 & 4, 1930**  
St. Paul's 90th Anniversary
  - DECEMBER, 1931**  
Repairs made to the stucco on the new school building
  - JUNE, 1932**  
Pastor Roepe becomes first pastor at St. Paul to use a car in his ministry
  - JULY 10, 1932**  
The last German service held at St. Paul with 6 or 7 attending
  - SEPTEMBER, 1932**  
Kindergarten started
  - APRIL 1, 1933**  
Pastor Roepe called as the Pastor of St. Paul
  - AUGUST, 1934**  
10th Anniversary of school building
- 1930**  
The Men's Club  
Organized 1929

**90TH ANNIVERSARY**

Daniel Webster said that the recurrence of anniversaries naturally freshens the recollection and deepens the impression of events with which they are historically connected. Undoubtedly this will also be the effect of the 90th Anniversary celebration of St. Paul's Church and School, which will take place during the week from July 27 to August 4. Detailed information concerning services and social gatherings will be in your hands within a few days after you read this.

We, of the present generation, looking over the 90 years of history of St. Paul's Church and School, cannot help exclaiming with the Psalmist: "The Lord hath done great things for us." Even a cursory perusal of that painstaking history, prepared by Pastor Wegener for the anniversary booklet, will show how God's directing hand so shaped events that St. Paul's Church and School are a reality instead of a memory today.

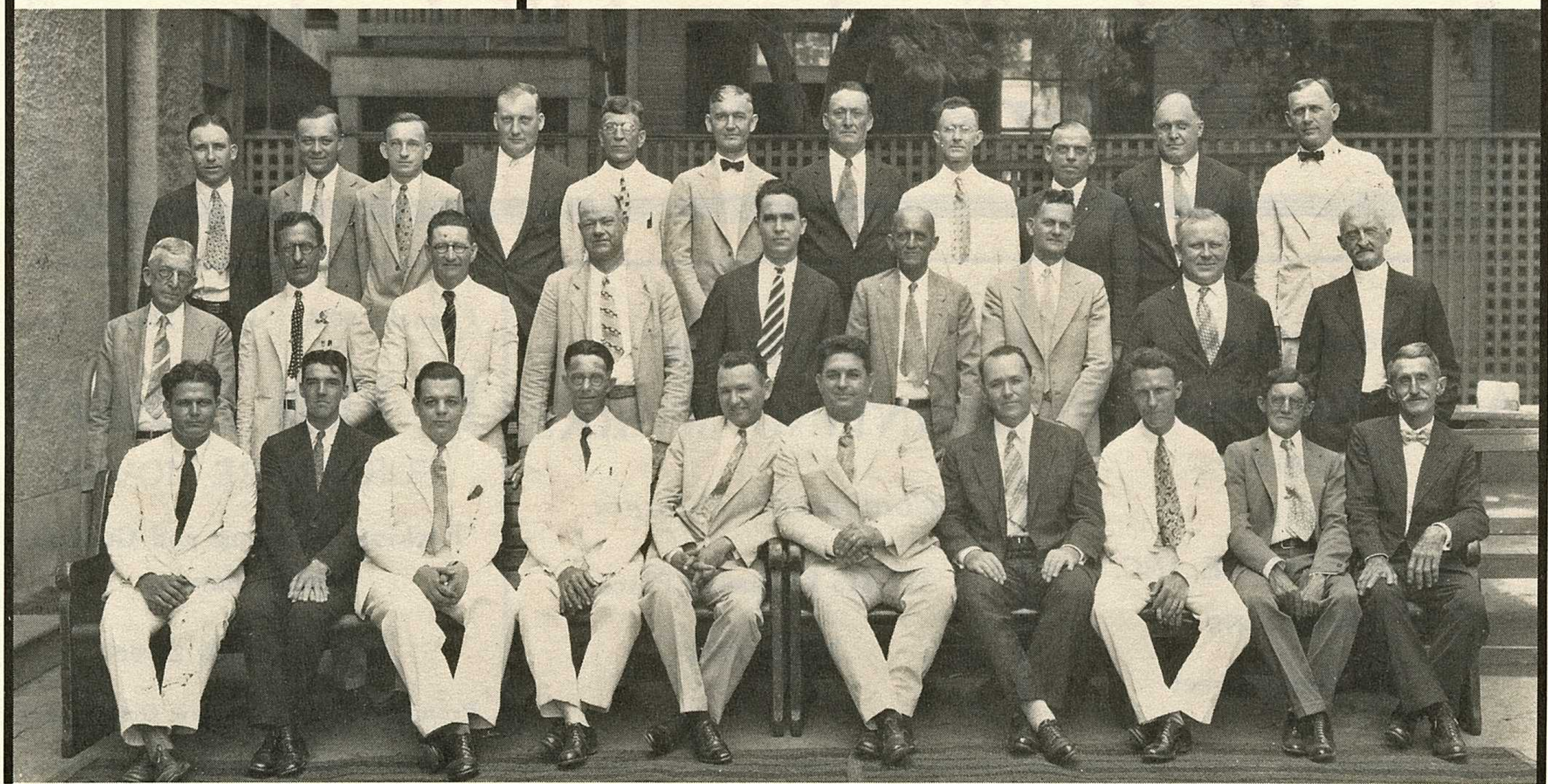
The early years of St. Paul's existence were frequently troublesome. Broken asunder by inner dissensions, then reunited as one congregation; doctrinally not quite firm in those very early years, then taking a four-square stand upon God's Word and Luther's doctrine pure; standing first independently, then joining our dear Lutheran Church; repeatedly having its house of worship damaged and even demolished, yet always building anew; all these things show more clearly than words can depict how at every turn the guiding and preserving hand of God was at work.

When in our times of modernism and unbelief, of materialism, and the love of worldliness we still see old St. Paul's proudly rearing its spire heavenward, as a symbol of that heaven-pointing Word of God which is preached in all its purity from St. Paul's pulpit and taught in all its truth in St. Paul's School, then again we must echo: "The Lord hath done great things for us!"

Our Anniversary meditations would be wholly incomplete if we did not also cast a look to the future. The same Lord who has blessed in the past, must continue blessing in the future if St. Paul's Church and School are to continue to grow in numbers, in love, and in service to Him. How secure those blessings? "Ask and it shall be given unto you." Ask for your congregation—for St. Paul's. Ask for your School—for St. Paul's.

The Lord has promised to hear our prayers and has told us how he will answer them. "Through us!" is the answer. Read it again, dear member. God's Blessings for our church can only be bestowed THROUGH US! If St. Paul's Church and School are to continue to be a blessing unto salvation to many, we as God's servants must labor to that end. Only through our labors, our efforts, our prayers, our gifts, our contributions of love, time, labor and money can those blessings of God manifest themselves. Coming generations will have an opportunity to celebrate Anniversaries at St. Paul's only if we are willing to praise our God for the blessings he has bestowed during the past 90 years with heart, voice, AND HAND!

H. B. R.



PATRONIZE OUR ADVERTISERS — THEY PATRONIZE US

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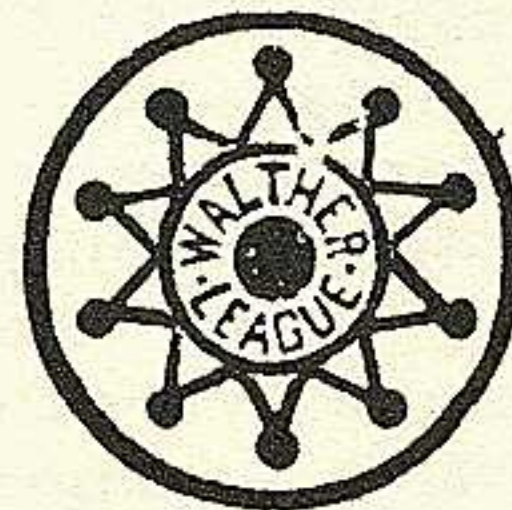
## PROGRAM

# ANNUAL FALL FESTIVAL

AUSPICES

## SENIOR WALTHER LEAGUE

EV. LUTHERAN ST. PAUL'S CHURCH



SCHOOL HALL, Port and Burgundy Streets

Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday

October 20th, 21st, 22nd, 1930

COMPLIMENTS

**A. H. Amerland, Jr.**

*Optometrist*

WITH

**N. BELLAMORE, INC.**

OPTICIANS

601 Canal Street

**STOLL'S  
PRINTING WORKS**

*Commercial Printers*

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FRanklin 0824 Large Moving Vans

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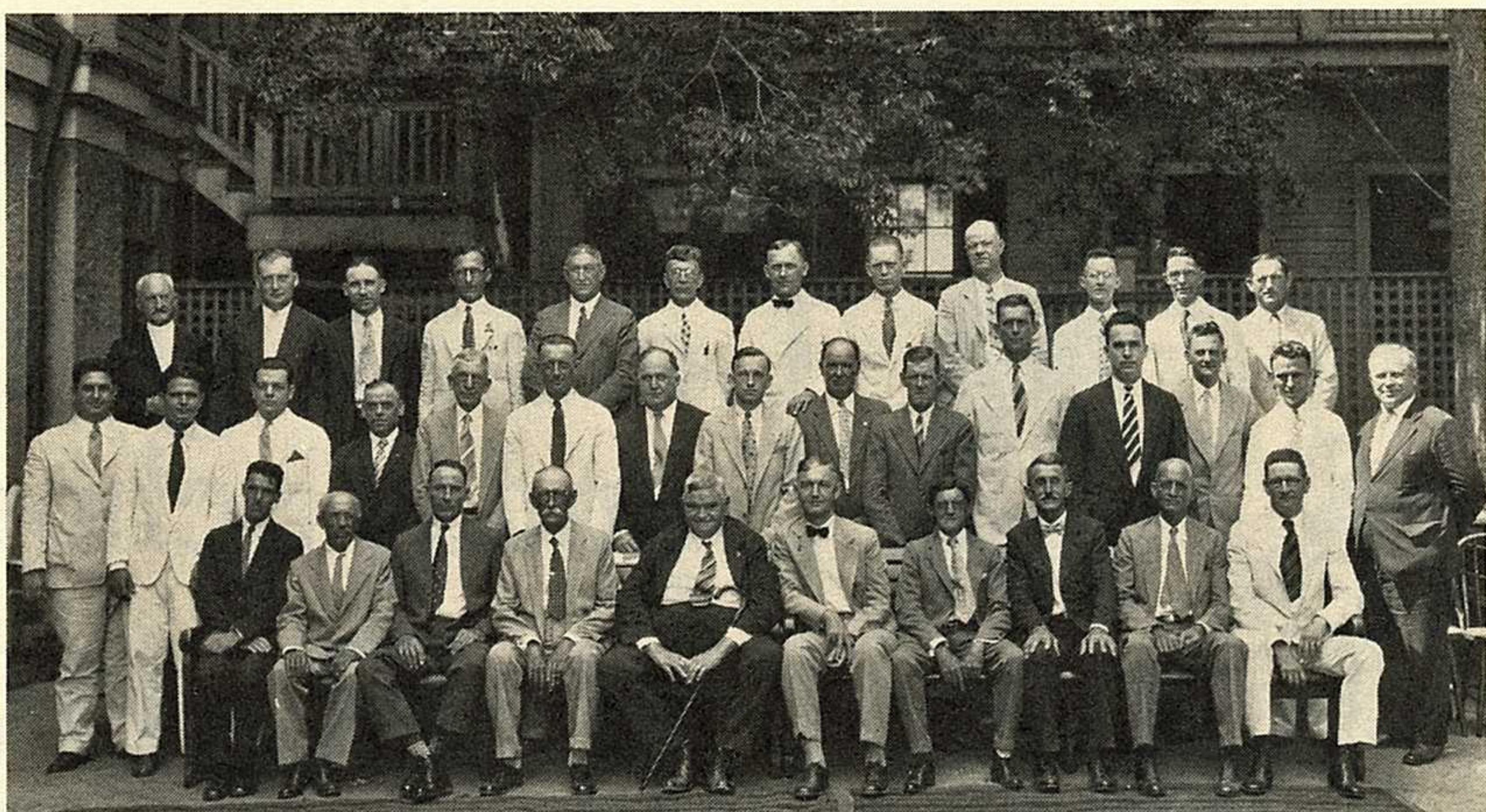
Prompt Attention New Orleans, La.

**PROGRAM—MONDAY NIGHT**

**SECOND FIDDLE**  
*A Comedy in 3 Acts*

**CAST**

Leila Grove, belle of the town.....  
 -----Miss Lydia Meyn  
 Becky Grove, her younger sister.....  
 -----Miss Elfrieda Huettmann  
 Jimmy Grove, her brother, aged  
 twelve -----Leonard Helmers  
 Mrs. James Valentine Grove, her  
 mother -----Miss Edith Honold  
 Mr. James Valentine Grove, her  
 father -----Walther Wegener  
 Robert Penfield, her ardent ad-  
 mirer -----Dan Moran  
 Carter Vernon, an eligible young  
 man -----G. H. Heintzen  
 Mr. Elbert Moss, a widower past  
 the mourning stage. Warren Leicher  
 Henrietta Harper, a friend of  
 Jimmy's, aged eleven and a half  
 -----Lillian Wismar  
 Timothy Oaks, the sheriff's as-  
 sistant -----Emile Umbdenstock  
 Rachel, the cook.....Miss Hazel Meyers



**Supreme  
Radio Technicians**

*Complete Radio Repair Service*

Louis Wilken, Jr.      Carl Wegener

**FRanklin 3572      FRanklin 3741**

**1930**  
Portraits of  
The Voters and  
The Ladies' Aid

**PROGRAM—TUESDAY NIGHT**

**Part I**

1. "Johnny's Pa" and "Oh How I Love My Baby"—Recitation and Song-----Cath. Walsh
2. Piano Selections---June Rose Roepe
3. Silly Silas -----  
-----C. J. Padron and L. Wilken
4. Song, "In the Little Old Church of the Valley"—Valse, Violin and Piano, by Two Little Maids ---Amalia and Marguerite Melcher
5. Drawing Room Artists in a Pot Pouri of Melody and Chalk Talk--  
David Miller, Walther Wegener,  
Emile Umbdenstock

**INTERMISSION**

**Part II**

**FATHER'S DAY ON, OR  
MOTHER'S DAY OFF**

*A Play in One Act*

By Members of Junior Walther League

Father, an ordinary man who thinks rearing a family is an easy job -----Richard Wismar

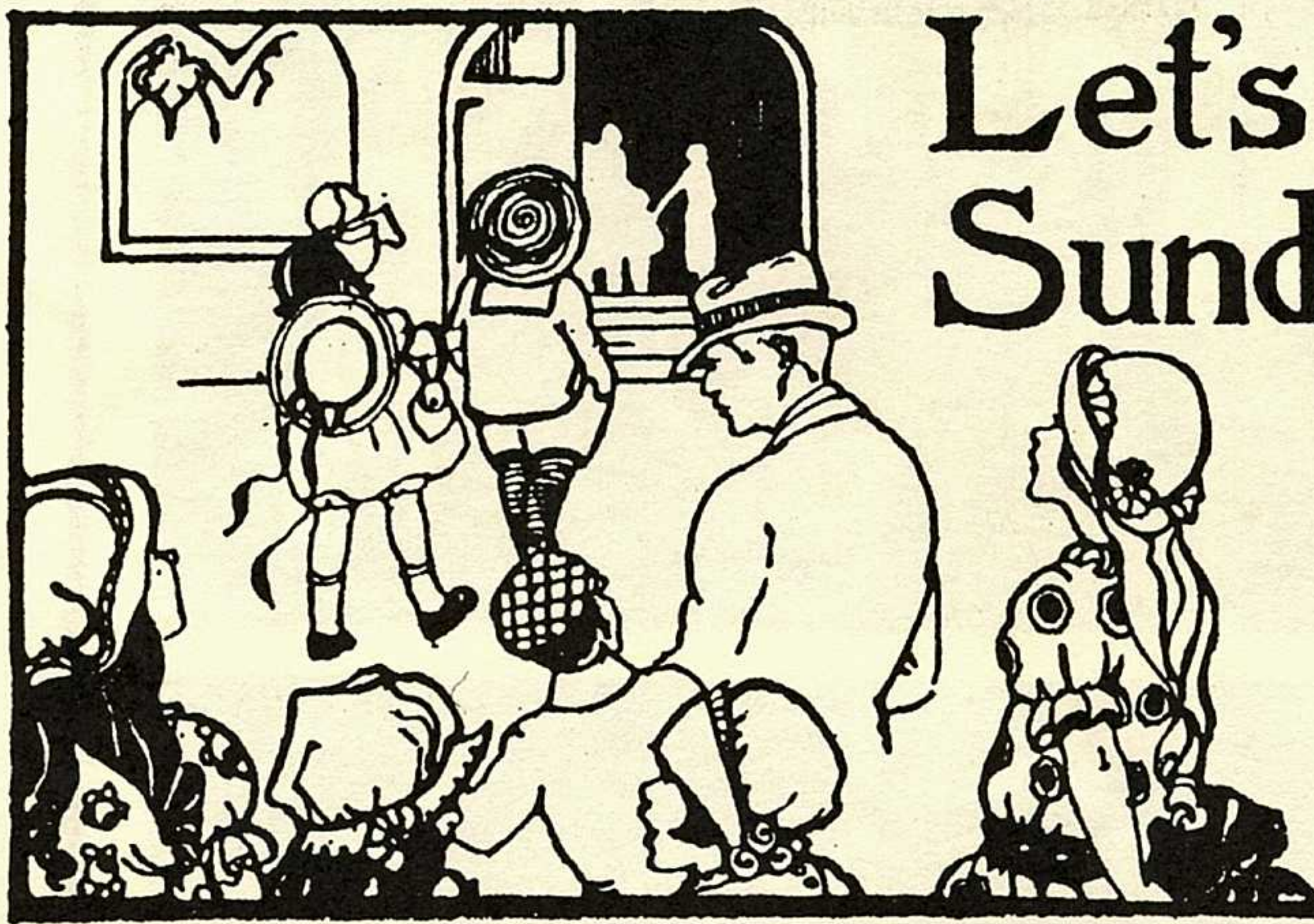
Mother, who wants a vacation.....  
 -----Meta Wegener



**1930**  
Choir Portrait

**R. W. Wismar**  
Choirmaster.





Let's all go to  
Sunday school  
**Rally  
Day**

Sunday, Oct. 5, 1930

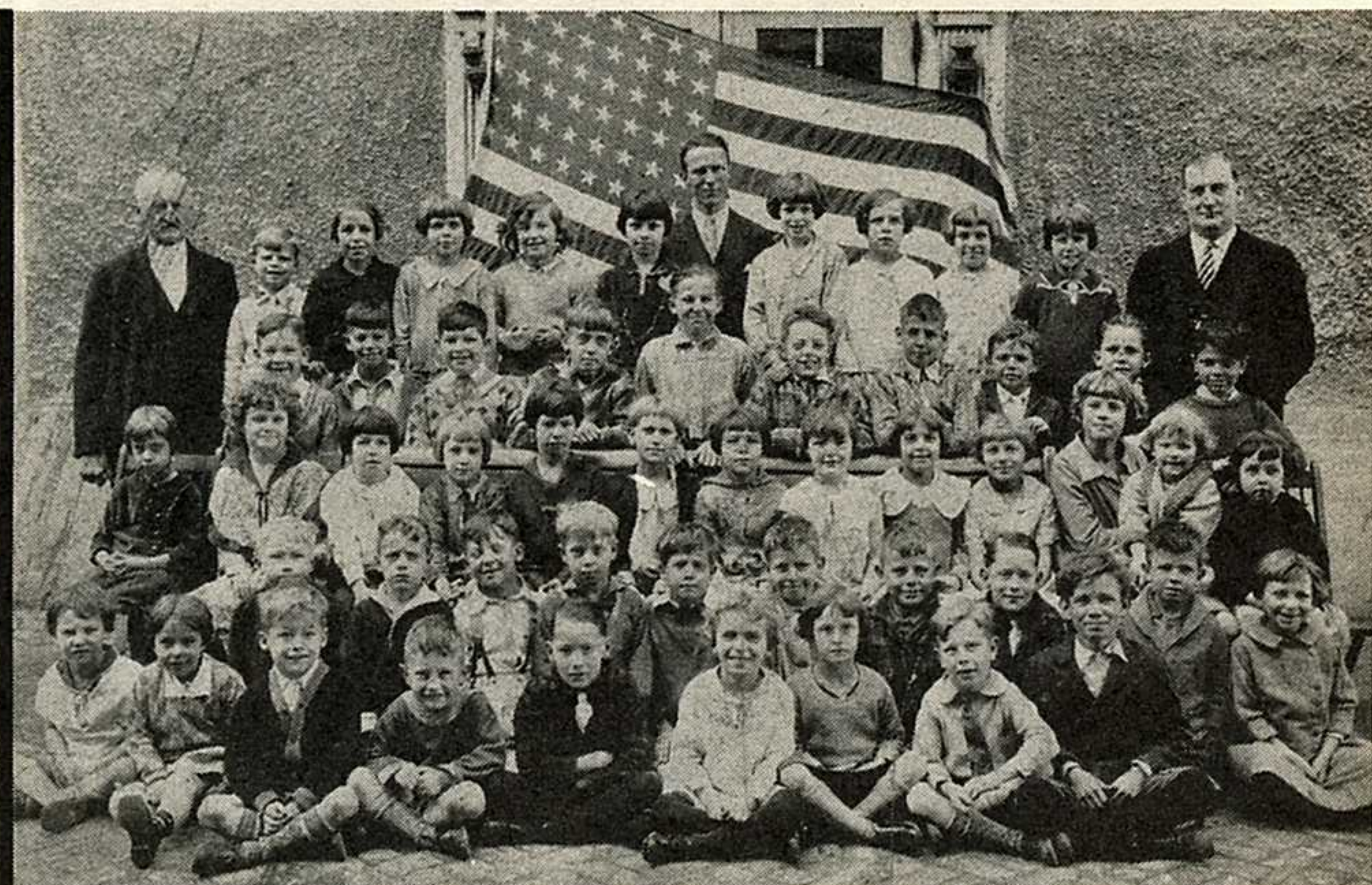
9:00 A. M.

Ev. Lutheran St. Paul's  
Sunday School

Port and Burgundy

NEW ORLEANS, LA.





**1931**  
School Portrait  
Grades 1-3



**1931**  
School Portrait  
Grades 4-7

**1930**  
Sunday School Portrait  
taken for the 90th Anniversary  
of St. Paul



**WEGENER**

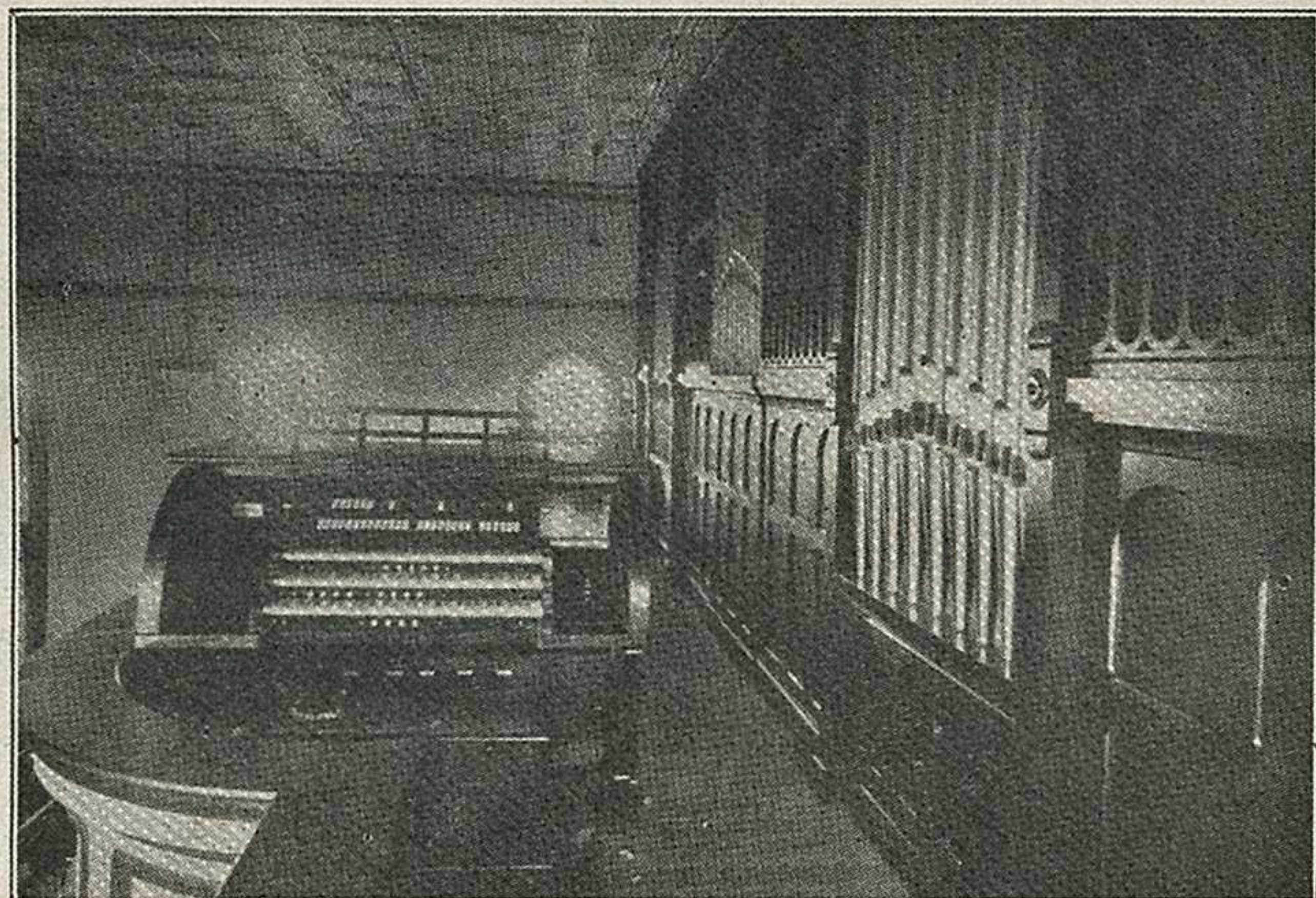
"On Sunday, October 11, 1931, over 750 people gathered to participate in the dedication of the new Hinners organ. During the service, Mr. Wismar rendered a number of organ selections fitting of the occasion and admirably showing the fine tonal qualities of the new instrument.

"A beautiful bouquet of roses was presented to Miss Louise Bernigrodt. Miss Bernigrodt presented the \$10,000 gift to St. Paul in memory of her mother and brother."

# DEDICATION

- of -

# NEW ORGAN



A Gift of Love to Her Congregation

from

MISS LOUISE BERNIGRODT

Evangelical Lutheran St. Paul's Church

Corner Port and Burgundy Streets

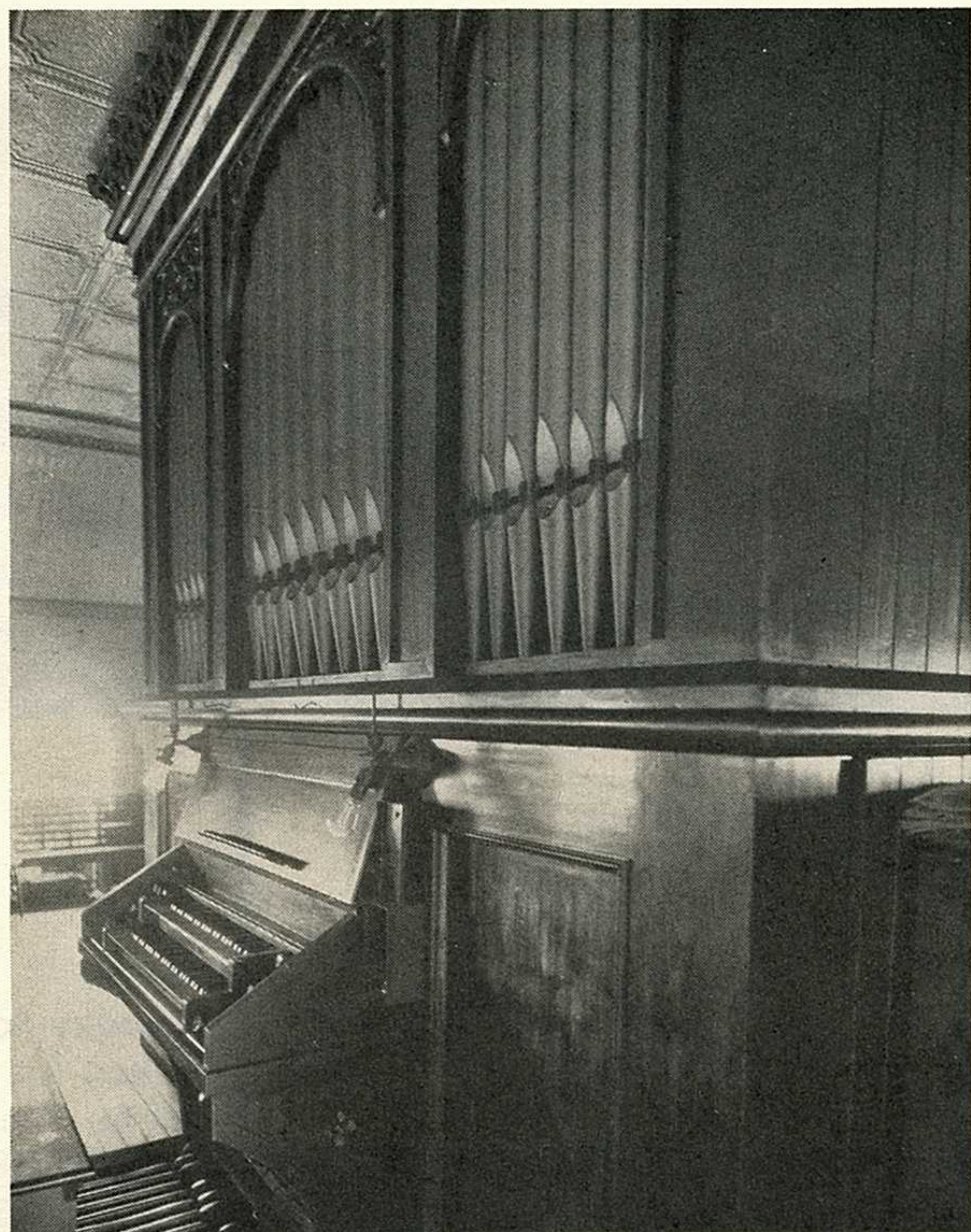
New Orleans, La.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 11, 1931

AT 7:30 P. M.

STOLL'S PRINTING WORKS 313 315 EXCHANGE PLACE

The organ was built by the Hinners Organ Company, the president, Mr. A. W. Hinners, giving the construction his personal attention.



The "Old Organ" photographed in 1931 just prior to its removal from the balcony. It was built around 1889 and placed in the new church which had been completed in September of that year. It was sold in 1931 for \$400.

### SPECIFICATIONS

Built By

Hinners Organ Co., Pekin, Illinois

Compass of Manuals, CC to C-4, 61 notes.  
 Compass of Pedals, CCC to G, 32 notes.  
 Stop Control by Modern Stop Keys.  
 Pedal Keyboard Concave Radiating A. G. O.  
 Detached Console.  
 Action: Electro Pneumatic.

#### GREAT ORGAN

16 ft. Double Open Diapason  
 (12 fr. Ped.).....61 pipes  
 8 ft. Open Diapason.....73 pipes  
 8 ft. Doppel Floete.....73 pipes  
 8 ft. Viola d' Gamba.....73 pipes  
 4 ft. Flute Harmonique.....73 pipes  
 8 ft. Tuba.....73 pipes  
 Cathedral Chimes.....25 bells

Great to Great 4 ft. Coupler  
 Great to Great 16 ft. Coupler  
 Great Unison Separation  
 Swell to Great 4 ft. Coupler  
 Swell to Great 8 ft. Coupler  
 Swell to Great 16 ft. Coupler  
 Tremolo

#### CHOIR ORGAN

8 ft. Violin Diapason.....73 pipes  
 8 ft. Melodia.....73 pipes  
 8 ft. Dulciana.....73 pipes  
 4 ft. Wald Floete.....73 pipes  
 8 ft. Clarinet.....73 pipes  
 Tremolo

Choir to Choir 4 ft. Coupler  
 Choir to Choir 16 ft. Coupler  
 Choir Unison Separation  
 Swell to Choir 4 ft. Coupler  
 Swell to Choir, 8 ft. Coupler  
 Swell to Choir, 16 ft. Coupler  
 Choir to Great 4 ft. Coupler  
 Choir to Great 8 ft. Coupler  
 Choir to Great 16 ft. Coupler

#### SWELL ORGAN

8 ft. Open Diapason.....73 pipes  
 16 ft. Bourdon.....97 pipes  
 8 ft. Gedeckt Flute.....73 notes  
 8 ft. Salicional.....73 pipes  
 8 ft. Aeoline.....61 pipes  
 8 ft. Voix Celeste.....61 pipes  
 4 ft. Flute d'Amour.....73 notes  
 2 2/3 ft. Quintette.....61 notes  
 2 ft. Fautino.....61 notes  
 8 ft. Cornopean.....73 pipes  
 8 ft. Vox Humana (In separate Swell Comp.).....73 pipes  
 8 ft. Oboe.....73 pipes

Swell to Swell 4 ft. Coupler  
 Swell to Swell 16 ft. Coupler  
 Swell Unison Separation  
 Tremolo

#### PEDAL ORGAN

16 ft. Subbass.....44 pipes  
 16 ft. Bourdon.....32 pipes  
 16 ft. Lieblich Gedeckt.....32 notes  
 8 ft. Violoncello.....32 notes  
 8 ft. Bass Flute.....32 notes

Great to Pedal  
 Swell to Pedal  
 Choir to Pedal

#### COMBINATIONS

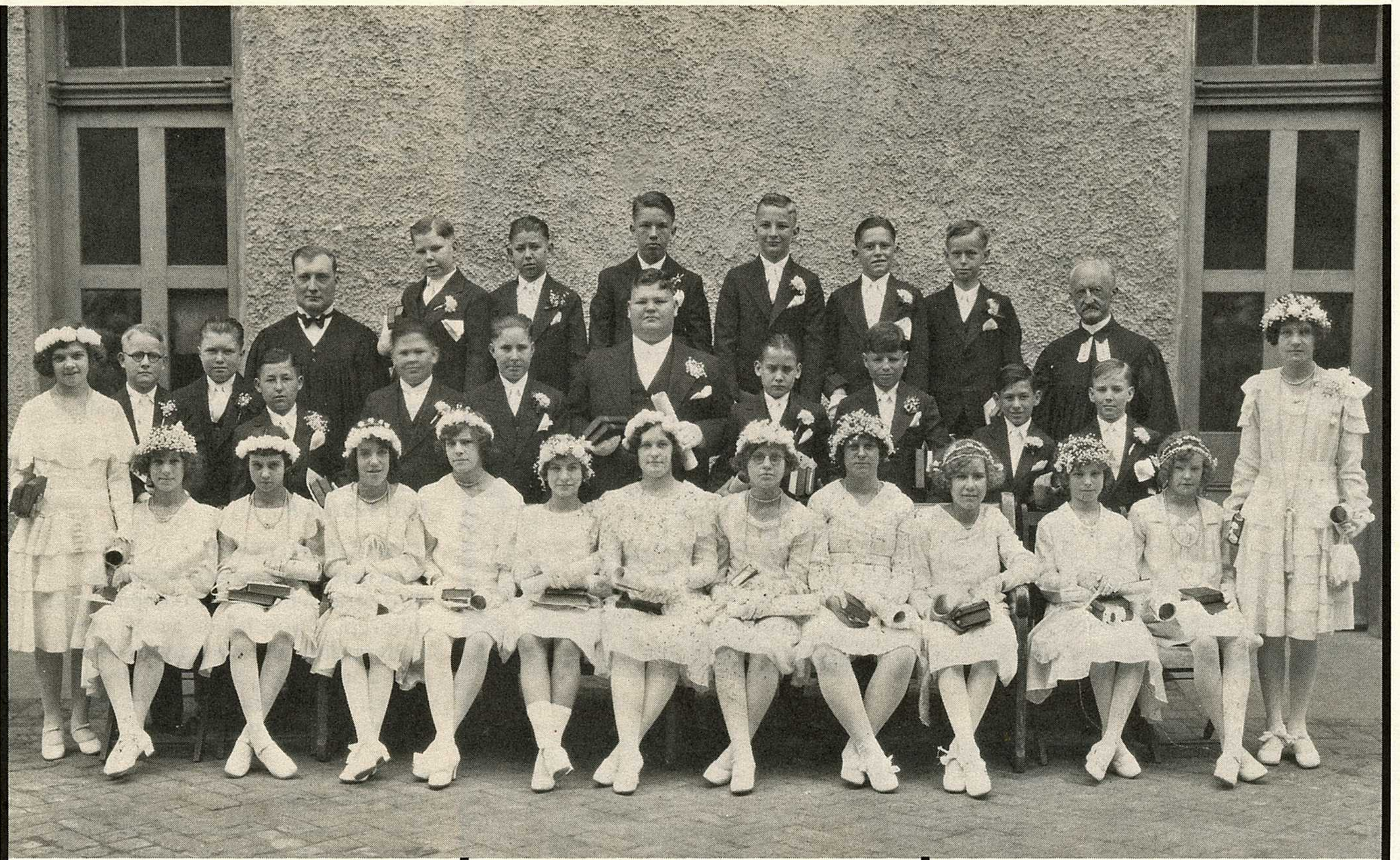
4 Pistons affecting Great Stops, Couplers and Pedals  
 5 Pistons affecting Swell Stops, Couplers and Pedals  
 4 Pistons affecting Choir Stops, Couplers and Pedals  
 4 General Pistons affecting entire Organ

#### PEDAL MOVEMENTS

Great to Great Reversible  
 Balanced Great and Choir Pedal  
 Balanced Swell Pedal  
 Balanced Crescendo Pedal  
 Sforzando Pedal

#### ACCESSORIES

Generator Indicator Light  
 Crescendo Indicator Light  
 Sforzando Indicator Light  
 Organ Bench with Music Compartment  
 Key Action Generator



**CONFIRMATION PORTRAITS**

**APRIL 19, 1931**

**APRIL 10, 1932**

**APRIL 30, 1933**



**APRIL 15, 1934**



**MAY 5, 1935**



1934  
School Portraits



Grades 1-3



Grades 4-5



Grades 6-7

SEPTEMBER, 1931  
*THE VISITOR*

**THE ACOUSTICON**  
"The acousticon, made possible by the Adult Bible Class, was installed in our church. This little instrument makes hearing possible for those hard of hearing. How the faces beamed when they could hear every word of the sermon. There are six ear phones connected with the microphone. This means that six people will be able to "tune in" on the sermon, when otherwise they merely sat there and couldn't hear."

SEPTEMBER, 1932  
*THE VISITOR*

**ITEMS OF INTEREST**  
"Our parochial school began its 93rd term with an enrollment of 91 children. If you haven't seen our kindergarten and first grade room, take a look next time you are in church. You'll find it where the German chapel used to be."

APRIL, 1933  
*THE VISITOR*

"Due to our depleted finances, the kindergarten and first grade teacher had to be discontinued. Mr. Groth now has grades 1-3, and Mr. Wismar grades 4-7, Mrs. Wismar is teaching reading in grades 4-7, but she is doing this without remuneration, simply to maintain the high standard of our school."

---

**STATISTICS FOR 1934**

Baptized Members: 1,600  
Communicant Members: 1,169  
Voting Members: 85  
Teachers: 3  
Pupils: 105  
Baptisms: 13  
Confirmations: 24  
Marriages: 7  
Burials: 24  
Sunday School: 290

---

APRIL, 1936  
Stucco removed from school and replaced with shingles

JUNE, 1936  
Mother's Club formed to help with the Day School.

SEPTEMBER 3, 1936  
Professor Wismar's 25th Anniversary at St. Paul

OCTOBER 24, 1937  
Pastor Wegener's 50th Anniversary at St. Paul

APRIL, 1935  
THE VISITOR

THANKS, KIND FRIENDS!

Everyone is joyous upon receipt of a beautiful gift. Our congregation is happy in receiving quite a number of fine gifts from individual members and friends during the past month. We take this opportunity of expressing our gratitude for the gifts themselves and our joy over the fine spirit shown.

The beautiful new set of green altar and pulpit hanging is the gift of Mrs. J. D. Nix, Mrs. Walter Duffourc, Mrs. Naomi Roy and Verner Nix. Mrs. Lillian Fox donated the lace and labor for the new set of Fair Linens, the linen being the gift of an anonymous donor. Mrs. John Huhner donated a set of new book-marks for the Altar Bible. Mr. Gus Neff built and installed a new robe-cabinet in the vestry. Mr. David Miller restored the crucifix,

1934-35  
School Portrait

candelabra and light fixtures on the altar. Mr. Elmer Doerries repaired and relettered the "numbers" for the hymn-boards. Mr. John Lau placed all the electric fans in readiness for the hot weather. Mr. L. Fritcher dry-cleaned the red and violet altar hangings for us free of charge. And lest we forget—the Ladies' Aid had the altar repainted and redecorated. While doing this work Mr. Ed. Marcotte also redecorated the vestry gratis. The Men's Club fell in line with a cash donation of \$115 for the Debt Retirement Fund. Mr. Gerard Landry donated a large steam heater for the basement of the church. Certainly a long list of beautiful and useful gifts for the congregation. And all in one month! Other gifts for the congregation are in preparation and will be acknowledged when completed. In the name of St. Paul's . . . Thanks, kind friends!

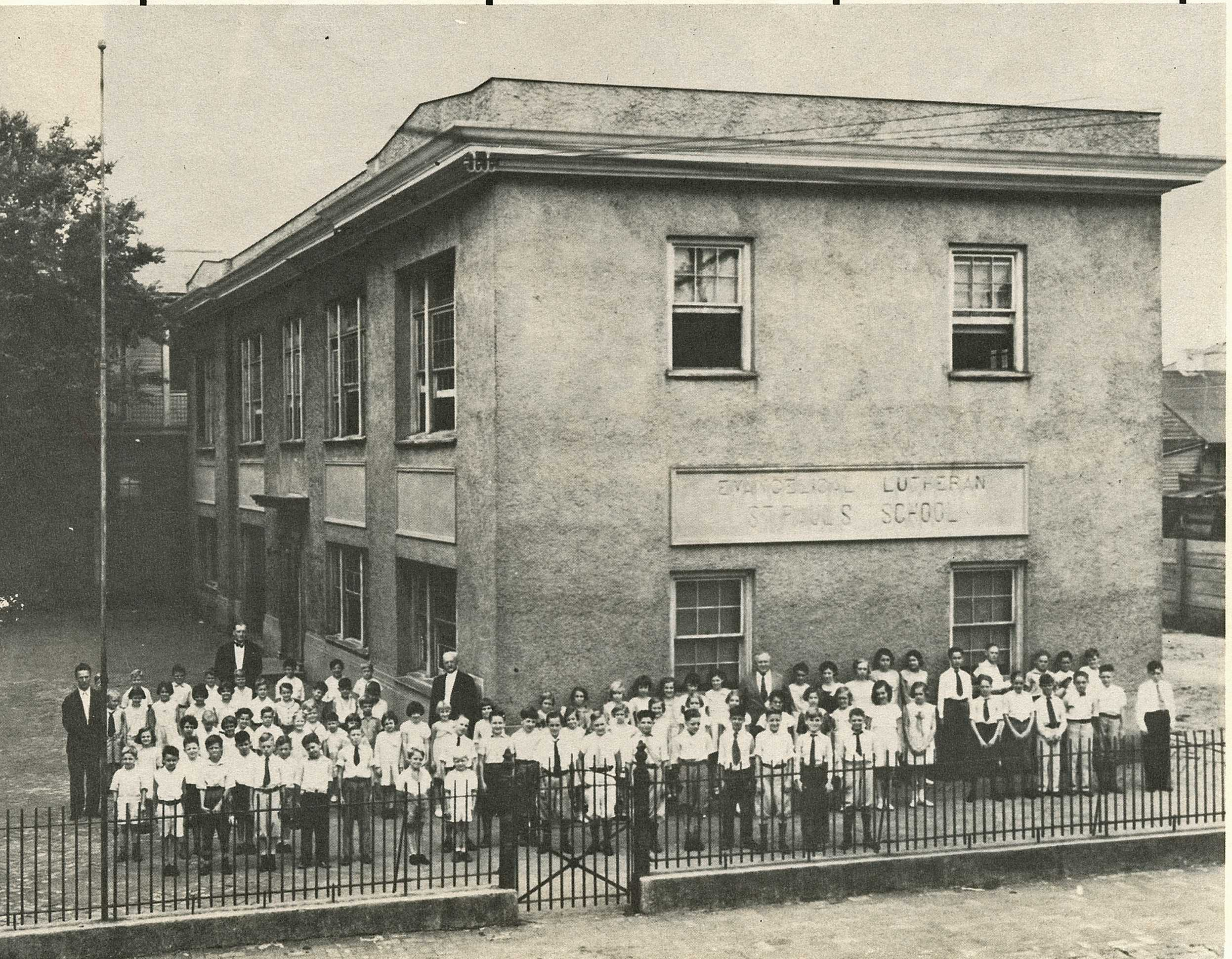
H. B. R.

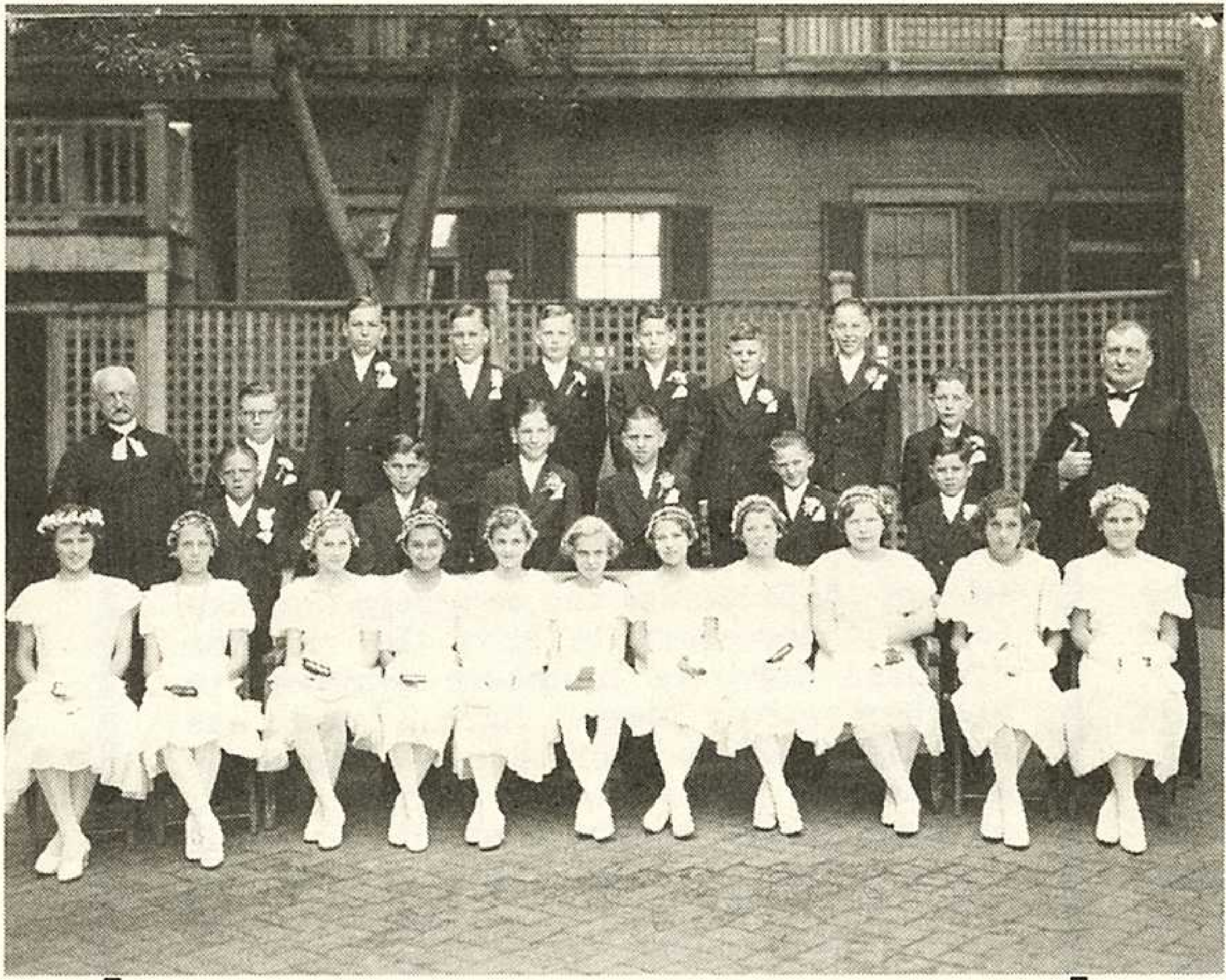
OCTOBER, 1935  
THE VISITOR

NOTICE!

During the past sixty years a number of St. Paul's members have been buried in one of the twelve vaults owned by the congregation in St. Vincent de Paul's Cemetery. Due to the dilapidated condition of these vaults the congregation has found it necessary to have the remains of these departed members removed to another resting place. Such a place has now been secured for them in the same old burying ground where many hundreds of their fellow-members await the great resurrection morning. The removal will take place, with an appropriate memorial service on Tuesday, November 19, at 10 o'clock in the morning. All who have loved ones buried in these vaults and their friends are cordially invited to be present.

J. H. STUMPF,  
L. SCHULINGKAMP,  
Committee.





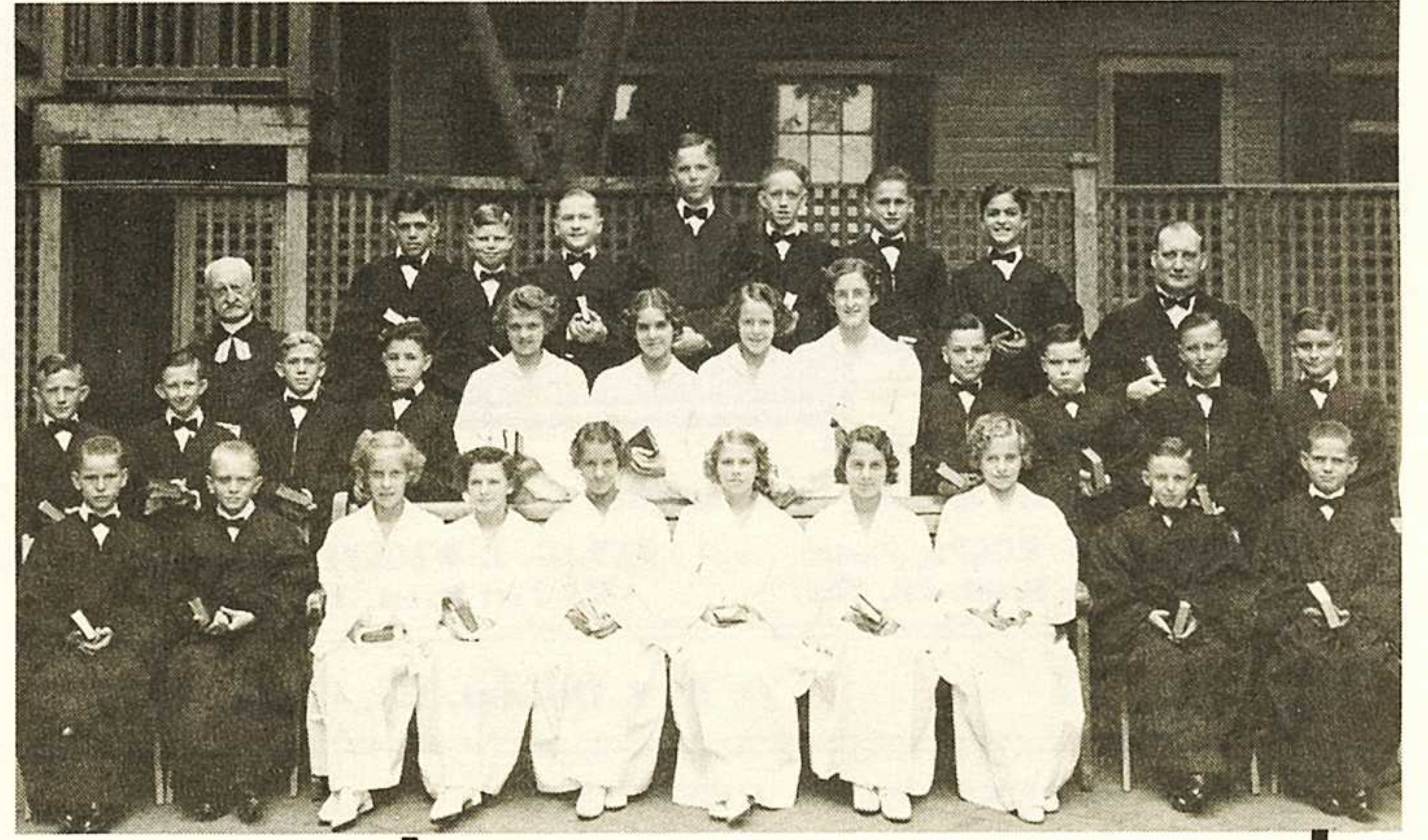
**APRIL 26, 1936**  
Confirmation Portrait

**APRIL 26, 1936**  
Christian Nehlig, Sr.  
The oldest confirmed  
member present at the  
Reunion Service  
Born September 1, 1858  
Confirmed in a class of 117  
April 23, 1871  
Died January 19, 1944





**APRIL 11, 1937**  
Confirmation



**MAY 1, 1938**  
Confirmation



**WISMAR**

**1938**  
School Portraits  
Mr. Groth - Grades 1-4  
Mr. Wismar - Grades 5-7

*Opposite*  
**1936**  
Choir Portrait

**APRIL, 1936**  
**THE VISITOR**

"The choir's rendition of the sacred cantata, 'Calvary', on Tuesday, April 7th, made a deep impression on the 200 listeners. The choir has never done better work. The solo parts were taken by Mrs. R. W. Wismar, soprano; Miss Edith Honold, alto; Walther Wegener, tenor; and G. H. Heintzen, bass. The choir repeated this cantata at St. John's church on Wednesday, April 15th.

Much favorable comment on radio performances of the choir has also been heard. The full choir sang at two of a series of broadcasts sponsored by the Lutheran Publicity Organization."







Published Monthly, Under Auspices of Ev. Luth. St. Paul's Church, by St. Paul's Walker League

REV. H. B. ROEPE, Pastor  
2031 Desire Street, CR. 2831

REV. G. J. WEGENER, Pastor  
824 Port Street, FR. 3741

PROF. R. W. WISMAR, Editor  
3011 St. Claude Ave.

VOL. XX

New Orleans, La., June, 1938.

No. 6

JUNE 8, 1938  
School Graduation

COMMENCEMENT EXERCISES

Commencement exercises held on June 8th in our school hall brought the 98th session of our Christian day school to a close. Twenty-two graduates received their certificates from Mr. Ernest Doerries, chairman of the School Board.

Pastor Roepe gave a very encouraging address basing his remarks on the class motto, "Savior, I Follow On." Pastor Wegener opened and closed the exercises with prayer. Eldon Broders had the honor of finishing with the best scholastic record, and was, therefore, the valedictorian. Calvin Bauer was second. Many in the class were in our school from the first grade. Such a large class puts a big dent in our enrolment. And we appeal to you now already, dear parents, to send your child to your Christian Day School. Our children can do the work in high school and do it even better than those attending public school. One of our former pupils, Otto Wagenpfel, for instance, was valedictorian and honor graduate, at S. J. Peters High School this year.

We want to take this opportunity of thanking the Mothers' Club for its interest and assistance for dear old St. Paul's School.

The following were awarded certificates:

Calvin R. Bauer, Eldon E. Broders, George A. Miller, Jr., Edwin J. Broadbridge, Joseph W. Mansuy, Nicholas S. Jovanovich, Leroy D. Moore, Frederick C. Herrmann, Jr., Waldemar H. Mott, Gerard Landry, Jr., Alvin J. Simpson, Charles W. Hasenkampf, Alvin H. Fenner, Louis Koche, Jr., Edward H. Drews, Evelyn M. Broders, Evelyn M. Amerland, Emily M. Faurie, Naomi M. Broadbridge, Irma M. Schaefer, Marion G. Keim, Doris E. Williams.



APRIL 23, 1939  
Confirmation Portrait



DECEMBER 25, 1939  
Children's Christmas  
Service

JANUARY, 1940  
*THE VISITOR*

**CHRISTMAS REFLECTIONS**

Attendance at our Christian services showed some improvement over last year, the only service showing less than last year was the New Year's Eve service. But we are still far from what our membership would warrant.

The beautiful decorations in church gave a fitting background for all our Christmas services.

The Candle-Lighting service attracted 400 people. The choir really sang their selections with fine feeling and understanding, an artistic achievement which shows the progress the choir has again made.

The beautiful picture of the Nativity was a gift of the General Outdoor Advertising Company, presented by the New Orleans Branch thru Mr. Elmer C. Doerries. The picture gave our decorations a distinctive appearance. Our sincere thanks to the General Outdoor Advertising Co.

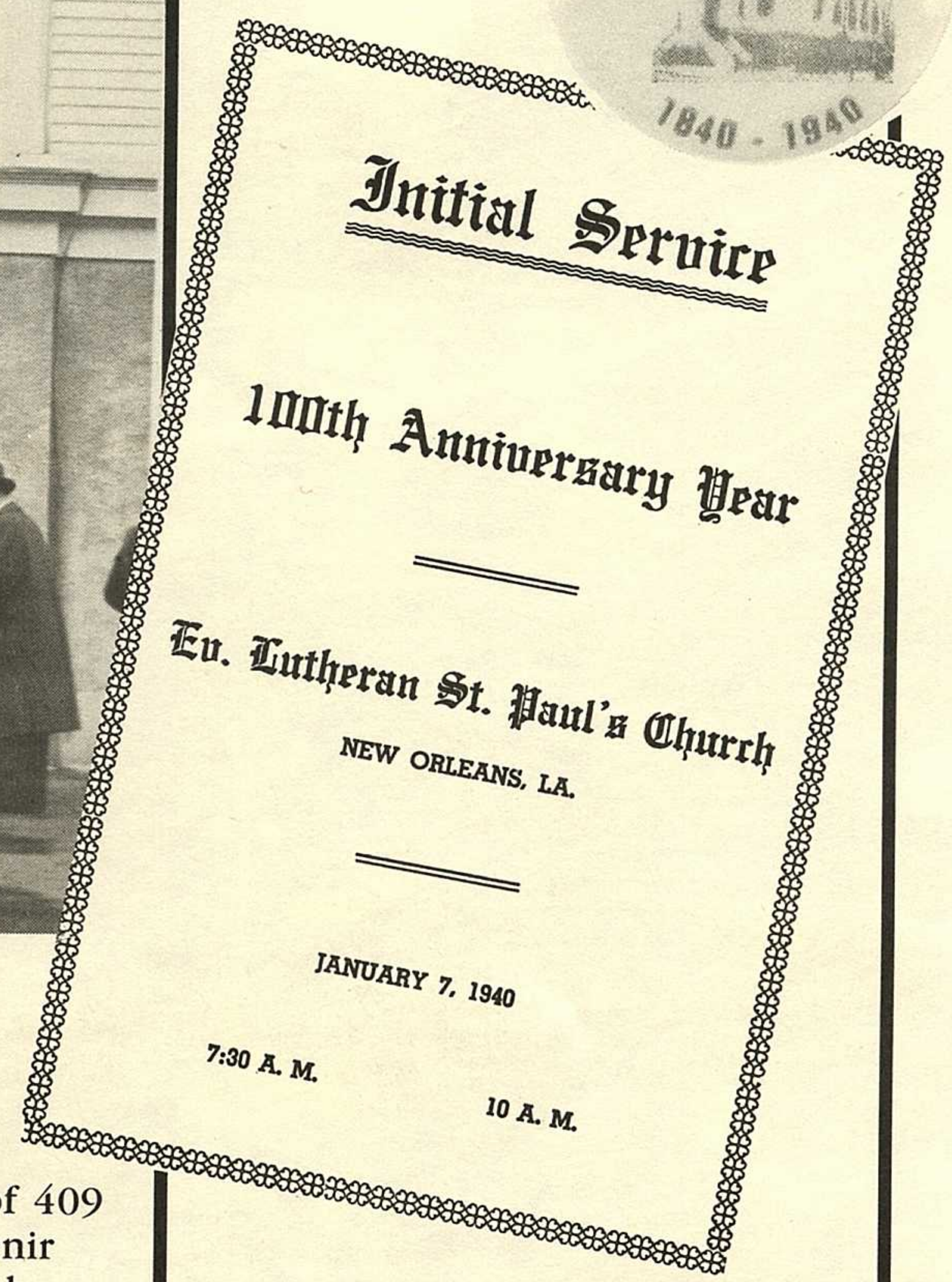
The choir was privileged to broadcast 15 minutes of Christmas music preceding Pastor Roepe's sermon over WSMB on Christmas Eve.

Mr. Walther Wegener and Mr. Clifford Hellmers were quite helpful in our Christmas decorations. Your work was highly appreciated.

100 YEARS  
WITH ST. PAUL'S  
1840 - 1940



EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN  
ST. PAUL'S CHURCH  
NEW ORLEANS, LA.



**JANUARY 7, 1940**



The initial service in a series of 100th Anniversary celebrations was held on January 7, 1940. Despite a torrential downpour

the night before, a crowd of 409 attended the service. Souvenir buttons were given to all who attended.

**JANUARY 7, 1940**





1940  
The Willing Workers



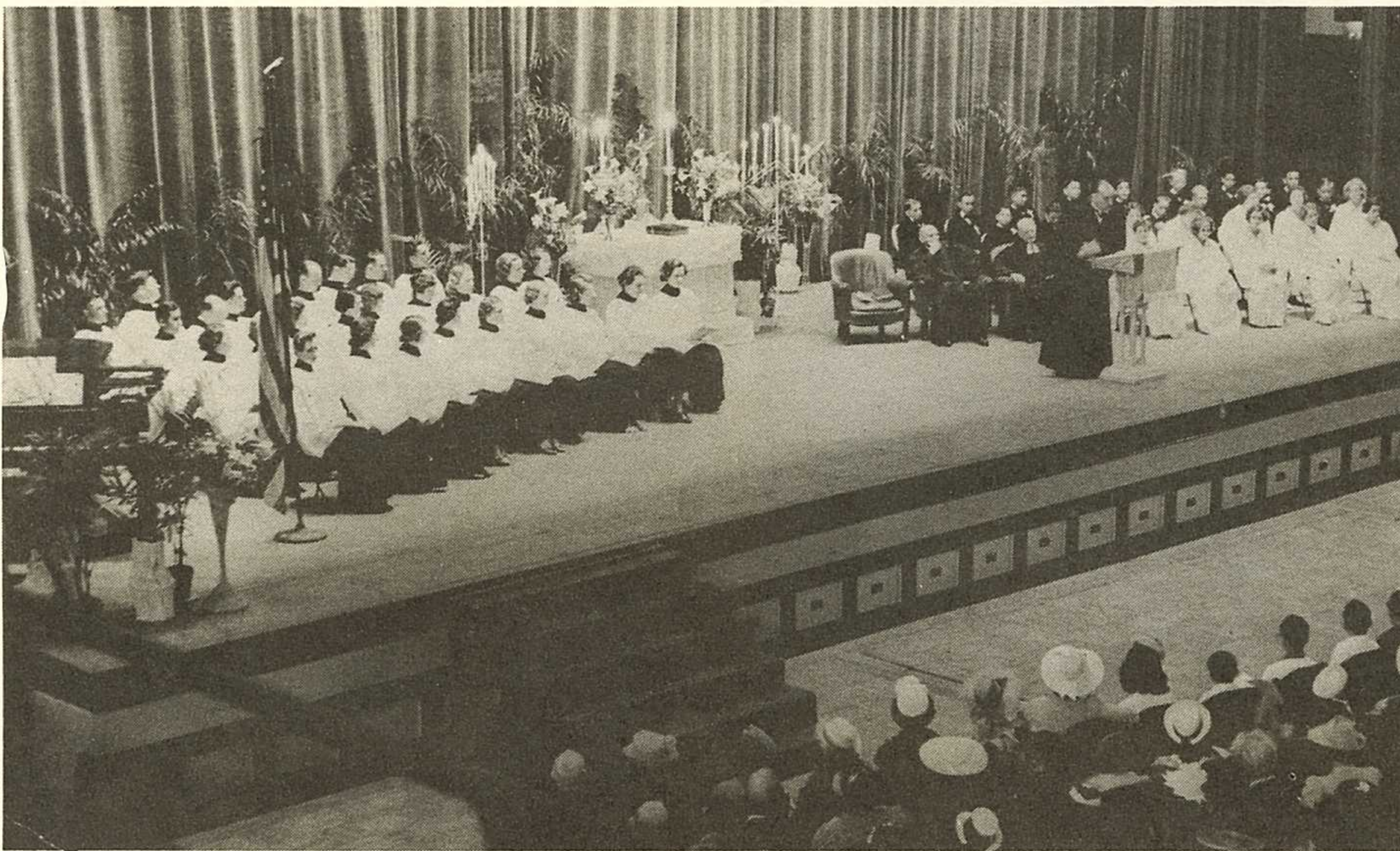
1940  
The Voters



The Willing Workers, also known as the Collectors, brought a copy of *The Visitor* to each family on their assigned routes. They also collected the weekly offerings which were not brought to the church and distributed other literature about the church and school.

Below:  
1940  
The Sunday School





100TH ANNIVERSARY  
REUNION SERVICE

- OF -

St. Paul's Lutheran Church

PASTORS: H. B. ROEPE and G. J. WEGENER



SUNDAY, APRIL 21, 1940

10 A. M.

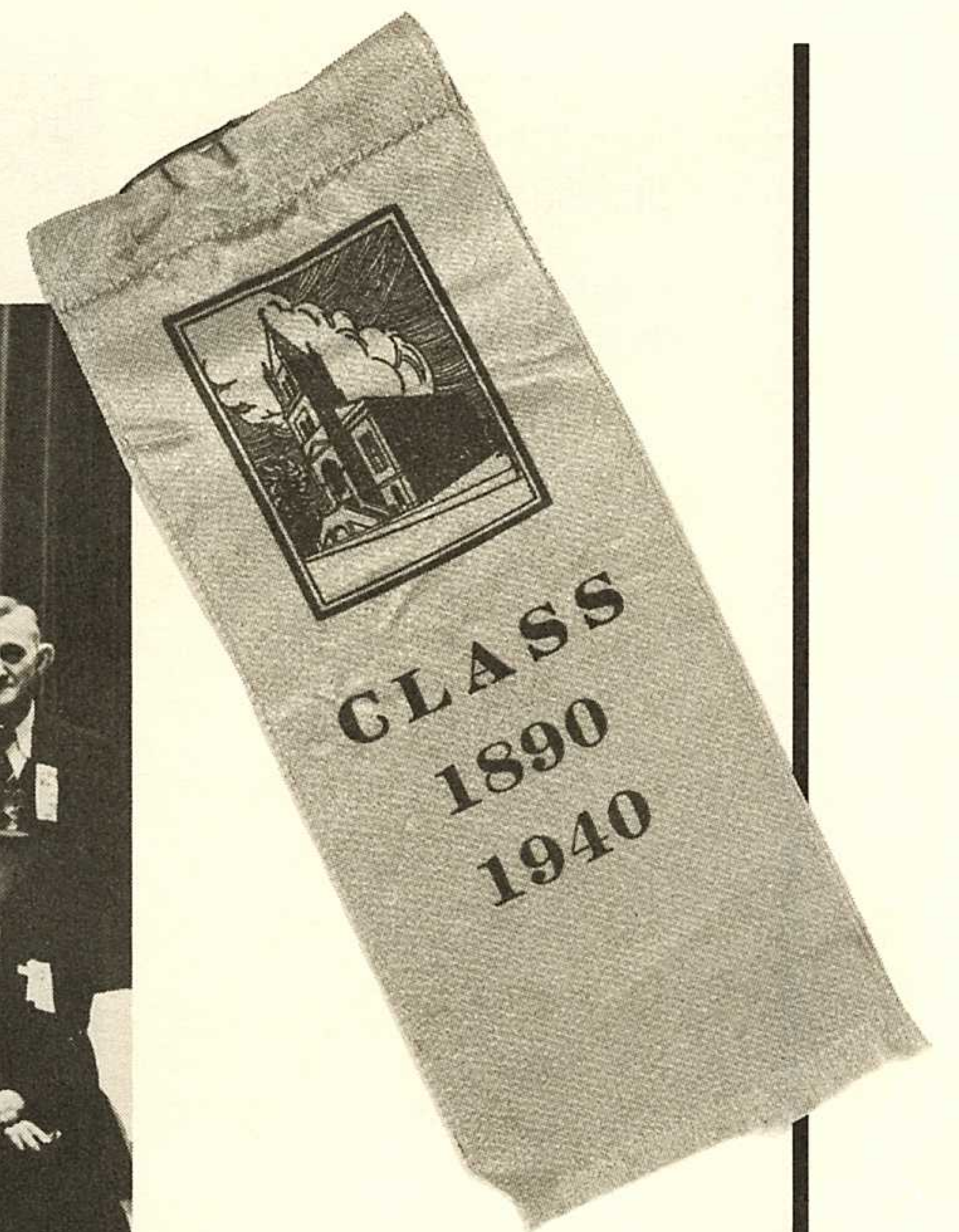
MUNICIPAL AUDITORIUM

The 100th Anniversary Reunion Service was held on April 21, 1940 at the Municipal Auditorium. This service was conducted by Pastors Roepe and Wegener and Pastor Theo. Wegener from Lake Charles. The service was attended by 1,505.

APRIL 21, 1940



APRIL 21, 1940  
The "50 Year Class"



## A Prayer For The Confirmed Of St. Paul's

By the Sainted Pastor Moedinger.

Translated from the original German Record by Pastor Wegener.

APRIL 7, 1940  
Confirmation Portrait

"MAY THE LORD PRESERVE THESE SOULS ON ALL THEIR WAYS AND BY-WAYS, GIVE THEM STRENGTH AND GRACE TO KEEP WHAT THEY HAVE PROMISED, AND PRESERVE THEM UNTO ETERNAL LIFE."



1940  
St. Paul Senior Choir  
Organized about 1890  
Membership 1940: 30



MAY 1, 1940  
The Ladies' Aid



**EVERY MEMBER**  
is most cordially invited to attend  
**FOUNDERS' DAY SERVICE**  
**AUGUST 4, 1940**

9:00 A. M.

Beautiful weather greeted the 710 worshipers who gathered to celebrate the 100th Anniversary of the founding of St. Paul Lutheran Church on August 4th. Pastors Roepe and Wegener participated along with Pastor Arthur Meyer of Texas. A 15 minute organ recital by Mr. R. W. Wismar preceded the service.





Present and Former Pupils  
of  
**ST. PAUL'S PAROCHIAL SCHOOL**  
as well as  
All Members and Friends  
of  
**ST. PAUL'S CHURCH**  
ARE VERY CORDIALLY INVITED TO ATTEND  
**HOMECOMING DAY SERVICE**

SEPTEMBER 8th, 1940 — 9:00 A. M.

Speaker: THE REV. PAUL KOENIG, St. Louis, Mo.

HOMECOMING DAY

The Homecoming Day for our school was held on Sunday, Sept. 8th. Pastor Paul Koenig, of St. Louis, Mo., preached a very inspiring sermon on "Our Prayer for the Christian Education of Our Children." Pastor Wildgrube conducted the altar service. The attendance was not better than we expected, but it was good. The loudspeaker again was necessary. Mr. L. Wilken, always ready and willing, again supplied it.

After the service, a social get-together was held in the basement of the church, Mr. Dan Moran, chairman of the Homecoming Committee, acting as master of ceremonies. And we are glad to add that he was a very good master of ceremonies. Mr. Jac. Hoffmann gave some of his school experiences fifty years ago. Pastors Roepe and Wewener, as well as Teachers Groth and Wismar, also made brief addresses.



1939-40  
School Portrait  
Mr. Groth  
Grades 1-4

The oldest former pupil present was Mrs. Bauer, mother of our treasurer, Jacob Bauer. Mr. Moran presented her with a beautiful plaque. Mrs. Barth, second oldest, received a bouquet of flowers. Pastor Koenig concluded the social with a few appropriate remarks. Community singing interspersed the short talks. All in all, we can record this Homecoming of our School another successful anniversary service.

1939-40  
School Portrait  
Mr. R. W. Wismar, Sr.  
Grades 5-7

SEPTEMBER, 1940  
*THE VISITOR*

OUR PAROCHIAL SCHOOL

Our parochial school began its 101st year on Thursday, Sept. 5, with an enrollment of 78 children. As has been customary, we began our school term with a divine service, Pastor Roepe preaching the sermon.

It seems the children appreciate the spic and span appearance of the school. Looking over the scholars, we feel we will have less headaches this year.

The Mothers' Club will hold its first meeting on Wednesday, Sept. 18th, at 3 P. M. We hope many new members will be present.

It is interesting to note that one of our new scholars is a great grandson of John Ueber, one of the first teachers of our school one hundred years ago.

Our flag pole was broken off several years ago. We have made several attempts to have it replaced. Maybe some patriotic member will help restore "Old Glory" to its accustomed place. We are hopeful.



JANUARY, 1940  
School Portraits for the  
100th Anniversary Book

DECEMBER, 1940  
*THE VISITOR*

Our 100th Anniversary movie, seen for the first time Dec. 1st, reflected the painstaking work of Mr. Louis Wilken. Considering the many obstacles he had to overcome, the final product may justly be called an achievement. Pastor Roepe supervised the making of the film. People stayed to see it again. It was really enjoyable. For the first time we got an idea how we look to others.

REMEMBER!

Final 100th Anniversary Service

of

Evangelical Lutheran St. Paul's Church

CORNER PORT AND BURGUNDY STS.

NEW ORLEANS, LA.

Thanksgiving Day, November 21, 1940

AT 7:30 P. M.

Speaker: REV. H. B. ROEPE

Holy Communion Will Be Celebrated At This Service

SPECIAL NOTE: Do Not Forget to Use Your Regular Thanksgiving Envelope



APRIL 27, 1941

**CONFIRMATION**

75th  
Anniversary

OCTOBER 11TH, 1942  
9:30 A. M.

Ev. Lutheran St. Paul's  
Sunday School

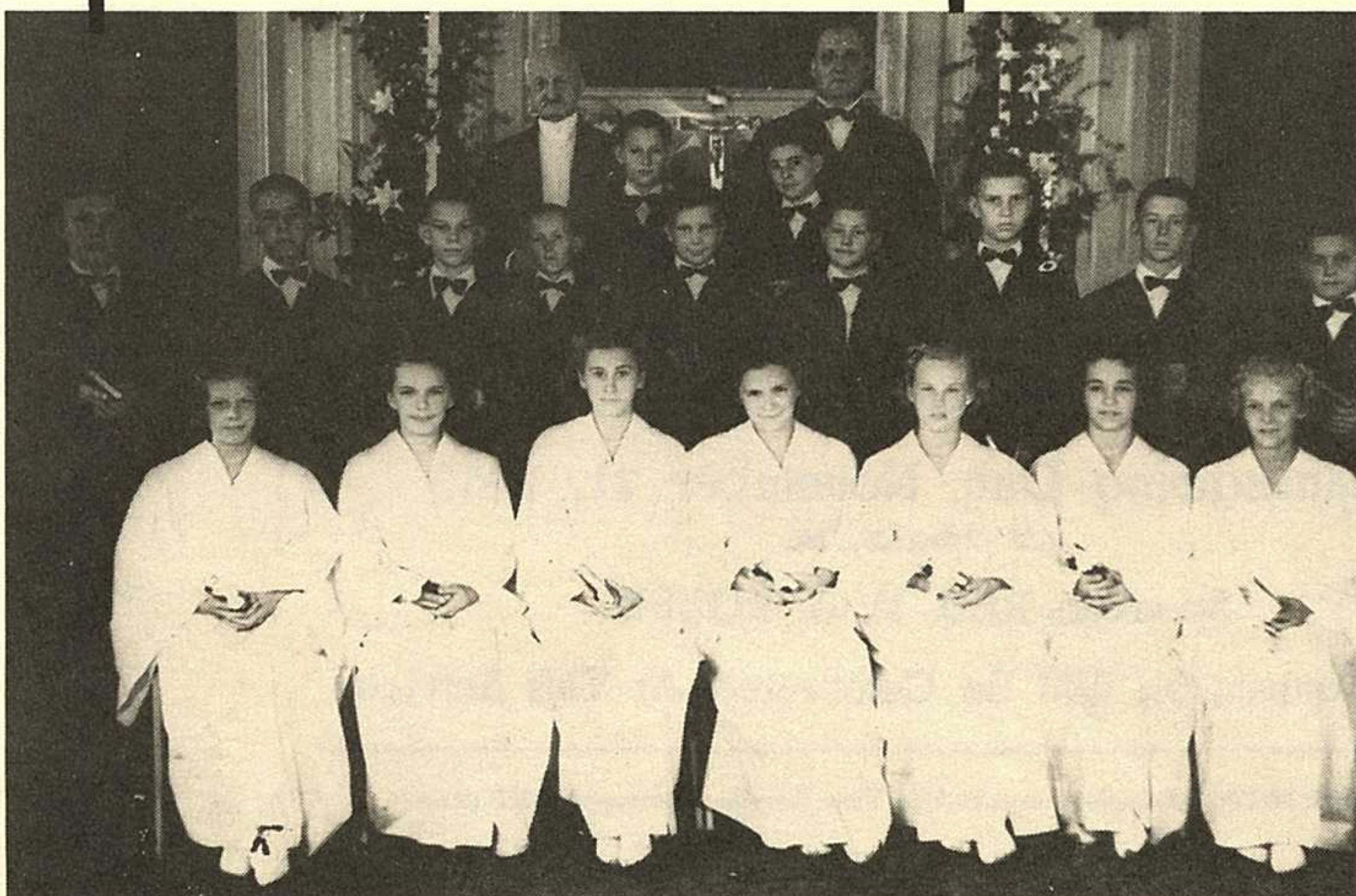
New Orleans, La.

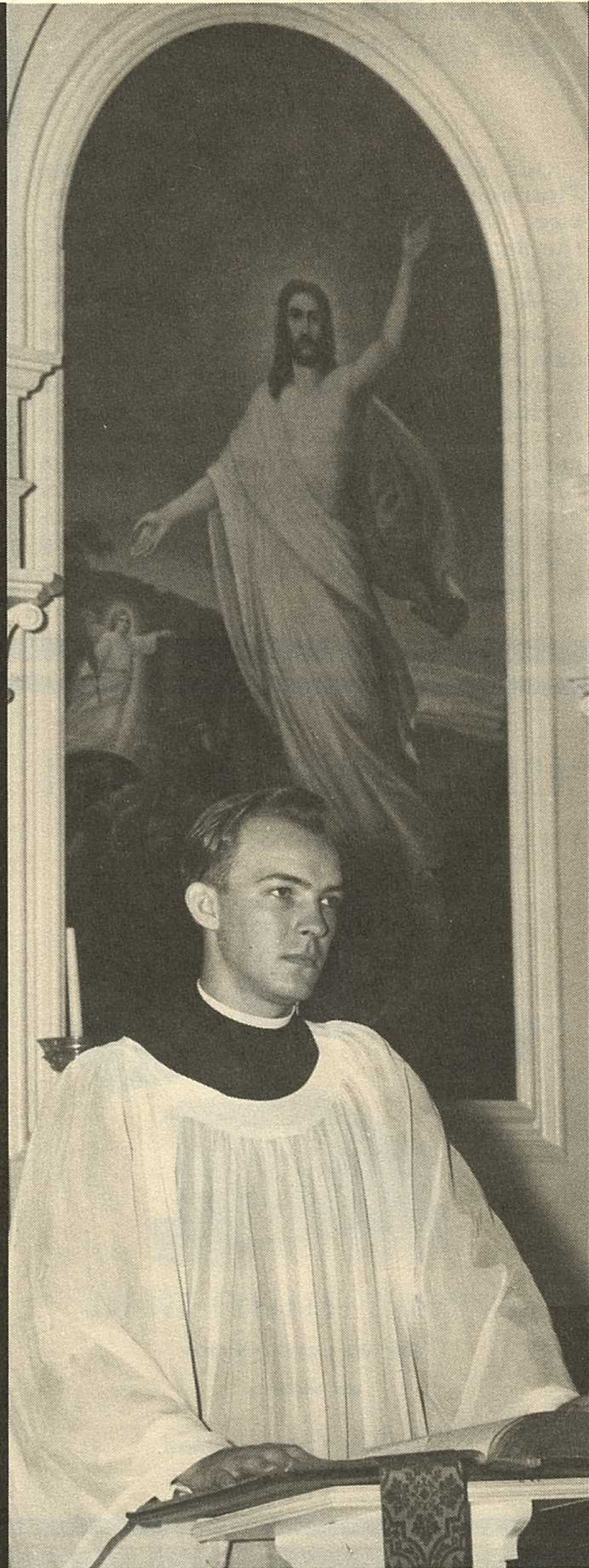


APRIL 19, 1942

MAY 9, 1943

APRIL 23, 1944





MR. NORMAN GARDELS  
Vicar, 1945-46

**JUNE 21, 1943**

First V.B.S. held at St. Paul

**DECEMBER, 1943**

Service Committee formed by the Walther League to keep our boys in the service informed

**MARCH 26, 1944**

Congregation celebrated the burning of old notes and mortgages as it became debt-free

**MAY 7, 1944**

Changes in Communion included men and women communing together and the introduction of individual cups

**DECEMBER 3, 1944**

All hymns in church are closed with a sung, "Amen"



APRIL 15, 1945

Confirmation



JULY 14, 1946

Confirmation

APRIL, 1945

The Service Committee



## ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN SCHOOL

*Announces the Opening of*  
**ITS ONE HUNDRED AND FIFTH SCHOOL YEAR**  
**THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 7th, 1944**

Complete courses are offered in all eight grades by competent instructors.

A divine service will be held in church at 10 o'clock with sermon by Pastor H. B. Roepe. All parents and friends are most cordially invited.

A partnership between St. Paul and First English became effective with the opening of the 1944 school term. At the same time, Richard Wismar, Sr.,

principal of St. Paul, assisted in the organization of a Joint School Board. Mrs. Groth became the first teacher employed by First English



**OCTOBER 10, 1944**  
 The Walther League in "Hot Water"

1946-47  
 School Portrait

**SEPTEMBER 5, 1946**  
 School pamphlet for the opening of the 1946 session

**SEPTEMBER, 1944**  
**THE VISITOR**

### OUR SCHOOL

Our school began its 105th term on Thursday, Sept. 7th, with a divine service. So far 94 children are enrolled, the highest for some time. The Mothers' Club presented the new teacher, Mrs. E. A. Groth, with a bouquet of flowers.

Our church has fostered a Christian day school for over 100 years. Interest in our school has had its ups and downs during the past century. We believe the present period is one of the "up" periods. As you have read previously in "The Visitor," First English will furnish a teacher for our school. The benefits of such cooperation are obvious, and will eventually lead to a bigger and better school.

### OUR CHRISTIAN DAY SCHOOL

*Conducted Jointly By*

ST. PAUL

FIRST ENGLISH



**ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN SCHOOL**

PORT AND BURGUNDY STREETS

NEW ORLEANS, LA.

*A Christ Centered School*





PUBLISHED MONTHLY

Under Auspices of Ev. Luth. St. Paul's Church, by St. Paul's Walther League  
 REV. H. B. ROEPE, Pastor 2031 Desire Street, CR. 2831  
 REV. G. J. WEGENER, Pastor 824 Port Street, FR. 3741  
 PROF. R. W. WISMAR, Editor 3011 St. Claude Ave., FR. 4841

Vol. XXVII New Orleans, La., August, 1945 No. 8

### St. Paul's Building Improvement Program

OUR GOD-GIVEN OPPORTUNITY  
 TO  
 EXPRESS OUR HUMBLE THANKS TO HIM  
 FOR



The many blessings that have been St. Paul's.  
 The blessings we have received as individuals.  
 The sparing of war's horrors and devastation to us.  
 The inspiration to improve and beautify His house of worship.

PLEDGE YOUR SHARE TO SHOW YOU CARE

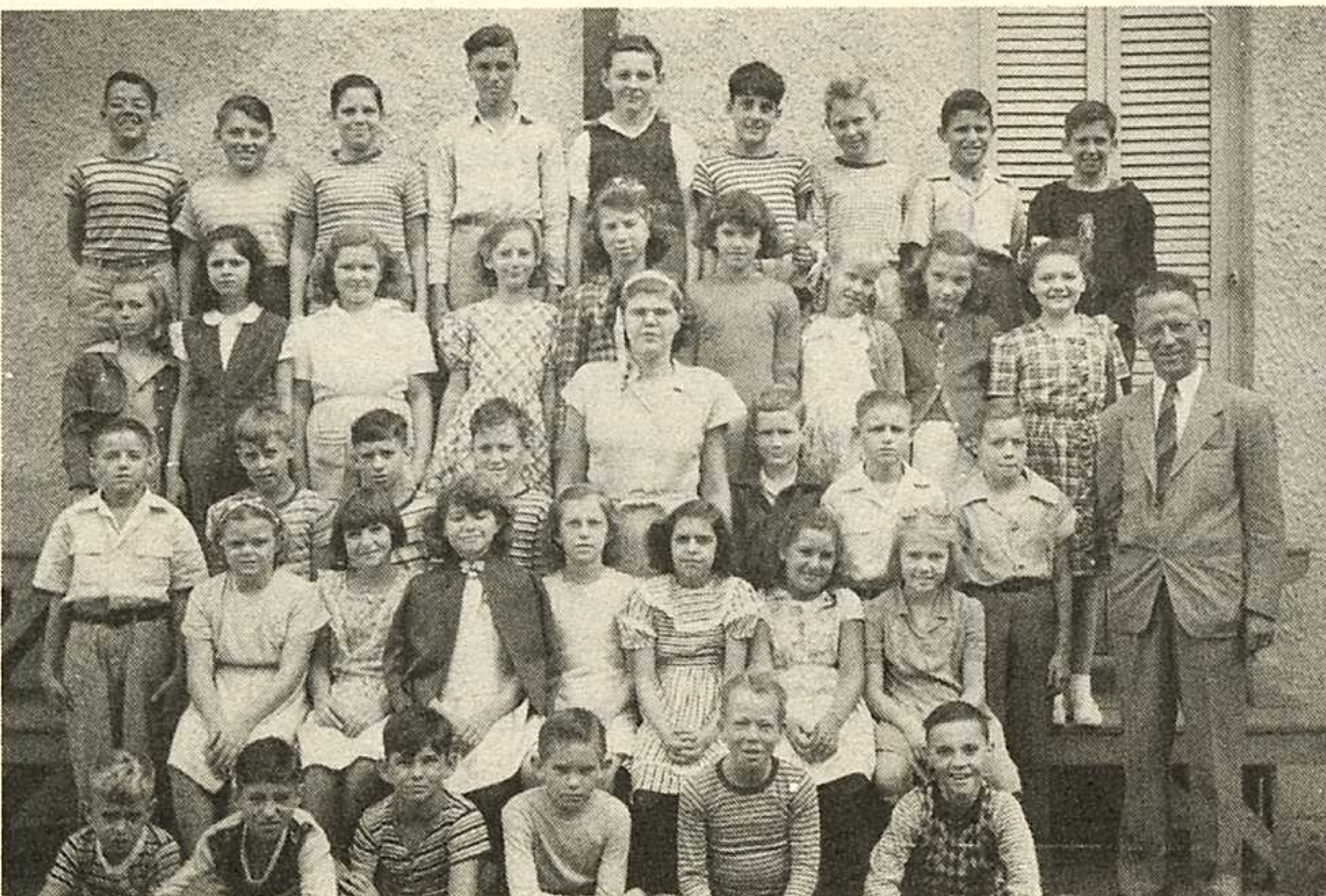
Pledge Week, Sunday, Aug. 26, Thru Sunday, Sept. 2

\$10,000.00 Is Needed to Complete Our Program

Decide Now What Your Share Will Be and Turn In Your Pledge During Pledge Week

The Building Improvement Fund was announced in August of 1945. Many improvements were made, including repairs to the memorial windows, the altar painting was restored, and the front of the church was renovated, enlarging the altar area. Services of rededication were held the following year on June 30, 1946.

SEPTEMBER, 1947  
 School Portraits



FEBRUARY 3, 1946  
 St. Paul's first studio broadcast from WJMR-AM Jung Hotel



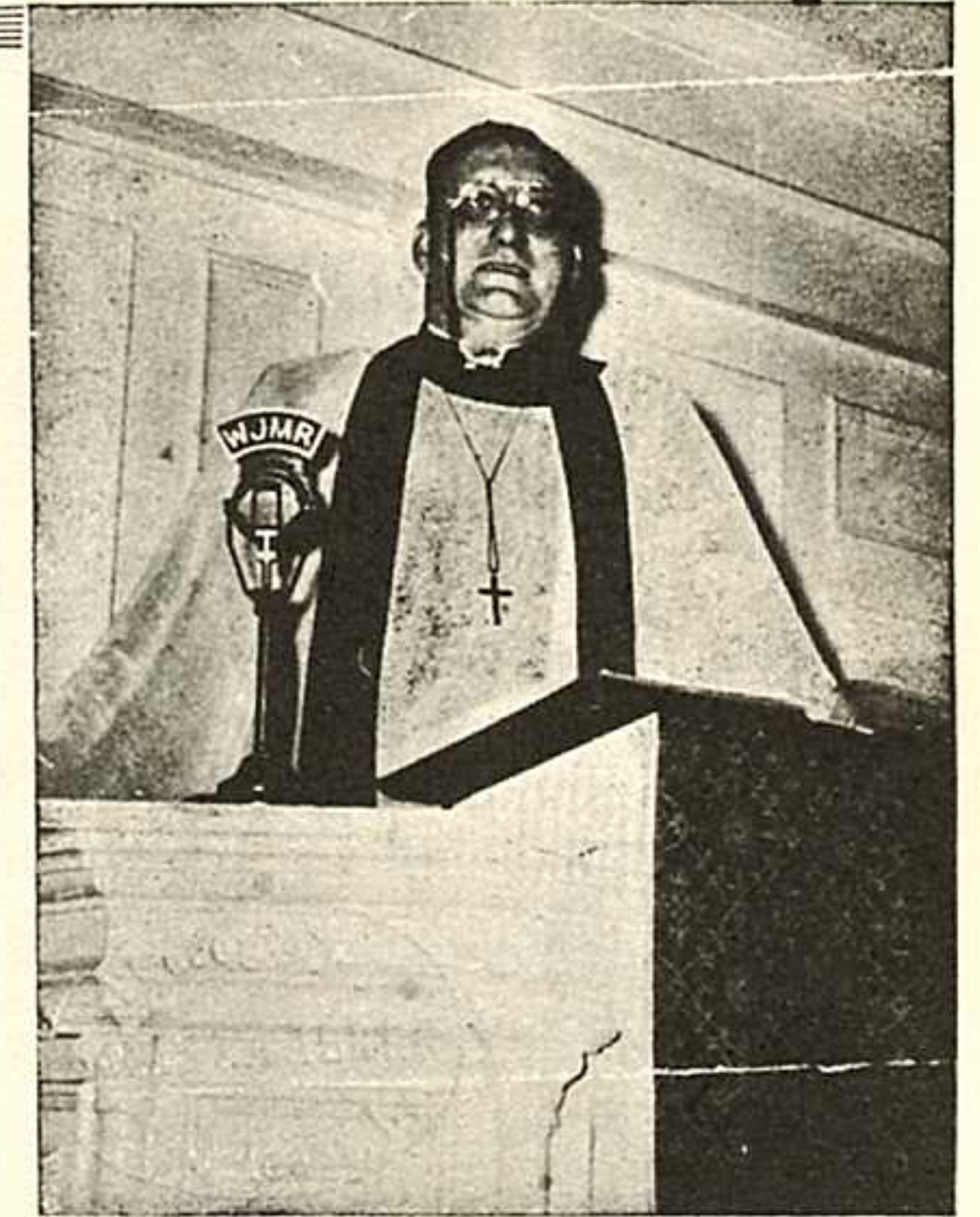
In February, 1947, the opportunity arose to have the sermon and part of the service broadcast every Sunday directly from St. Paul. The first such broadcast took place on February 2, 1947 at 10:15 a.m. Funds for these broadcasts were not taken out of the regular treasury, but from individual contributions. These broadcasts were continued, with a few station changes, until 1969.

ST. PAUL'S  
 LUTHERAN SERVICES  
*Now On The Air!*  
 Every Sunday

WJMR 10:15 A.M. 990 KC

THE REV. H. B. ROEPE, SPEAKER

Invite Your Friends To Listen



Our Pastor in the Pulpit

EACH SUNDAY BROADCAST COSTS \$27.00!

*Why Not Share a Part of the Cost of One of These Broadcasts?*

\$27.00 WILL PAY FOR A FULL BROADCAST!

\$13.50 WILL PAY FOR HALF A BROADCAST!

\$6.75 WILL PAY FOR A QUARTER OF A BROADCAST!

\$3.50 WILL PAY FOR AN EIGHTH OF A BROADCAST!

*Any Contribution, No Matter What Amount, Will Pay For Some Share In This Radio Mission For Christ!*



ST. PAUL'S EV. LUTHERAN CHURCH

PORT AND BURGUNDY STS.

NEW ORLEANS, LA.

A "Radio Broadcast Contributions" Box Has Been Placed in The Narthex of the Church

*G. Wegener  
Pastor*

**G**ottfried Johann Berend Wegener was born in Bremen, Germany on April 10, 1861. He attended the Lutheran Parish School of the old "Domkirche" in Bremen from 1867-1871. At the conclusion of the Franco-Prussian War in February, 1871, his father, a cigar-maker, emigrated to Brooklyn, N.Y. to establish a new home for his family. In September, 1871, Gottfried, his mother, and six brothers and sisters boarded a German steamship and sailed for America. One of the children did not survive the 17-day voyage.

In America, his father started a cigar-making business while young Gottfried worked in his Uncle Bursch's grocery store. The family attended the German Evangelical Lutheran St. John's Church in New York where he was Confirmed on Palm Sunday, 1875.

#### WEGENER

*"After Confirmation at a gathering of the boys in the pastor's house, Pastor Sommer asked each of us what occupation he intended to choose. I was one of those who said he did not know. Finally came the pastor's comment, 'I thought perhaps one of you boys would like to study for the ministry.' I said nothing, but whispered to the boy next to me, 'That is something I would like,' and he, not slow, jumps up and shouts, 'Pastor!, Pastor!, Wegener says he would like to do that!' And Pastor Sommer takes me by the hand, asks a few questions, adds words of encouragement. The next day he visits my parents, gets their consent, and makes all the arrangements for my entry into St. Matthew's Academy in New York City."*



He began his studies there in September, 1875 and finished a six-year course in just four. He then entered Concordia Seminary in St. Louis in 1879 where he studied for the ministry under Dr. C. F. W. Walther.

He graduated on May 23, 1882 and received his first Call to St. John's in Effington County, Illinois. Immediately following his installation on August 12, 1882, he returned home to New York to marry his childhood sweetheart, Juliane Caroline Augusta von Wittke. They were married on June 19, 1883 by their old Pastor Sommer and they left for Illinois together. His second Call was to Immanuel Lutheran in Altamont, Illinois in April of 1885.

With the retirement of Pastor Moedinger and the departure of Franke in 1887, St. Paul issued a Call to Pastor Wegener.

#### WEGENER

*"When I was installed at St. Paul on November 13, 1887, the congregation was statistically credited with 1,800 baptized and 1,312 communicant members. Membership was not only numerically large but also geographically widely scattered. They could be found in every section of the city, though chiefly centered in the Third District. And many things generally found in large cities were not there. In the large Third District there was not one paved street, only mule cars for transportation, gas lights in the streets and stores, oil lamps in homes, no public waterworks, and no sewerage and drainage. In the entire territory covered by St. Paul, Pastor Moedinger was the only Lutheran pastor, and in the entire city, not a single church in which an English Lutheran service could be attended or an English Lutheran sermon could be heard."*

# GOTTFRIED JOHANN BEREND WEGENER

The language problem persisted throughout the early years of Wegener's ministry here. In response to the congregation's strict "NO ENGLISH" policy, one of Wegener's first tasks was to help organize a separate English speaking congregation in 1888. It was a difficult process for both church and pastor, but a necessary one in light of the prevailing attitude at St. Paul.

Hardly had Wegener completed the establishment of First English when his own church burned to the ground in early 1889. He and the congregation quickly set about the business of rebuilding. To this day, our present building is still often referred to as "Wegener's Church."

His talents and abilities were recognized very early by those outside of St. Paul. In 1889 he was elected as President of the Bethlehem Orphan Asylum Association of N.O., a position he held for 45 years. In 1891 he was chosen as President of the Southern District, serving for 36 years.

St. Paul has always had a Christian Day School and Pastor Wegener's involvement therein was always warm and supportive. When he came to New Orleans, St. John was the only other Lutheran church in our Synod on this side of Canal Street. Since then, many other Lutheran churches have sprung up around the city, and Pastor Wegener in every instance, used his influence to help these churches grow, even when it meant a communicant loss to St. Paul.

After twenty years of marriage, Juliane passed away on October 14, 1903 of typhoid fever at the age of 40. Wegener was left alone with seven children ranging in age from 3 to 19.

On March, 2, 1905, he married Anna Elizabeth Klein, a life-long member of St. Paul. She had taught in the Christian Day School from 1895-99 and from 1902-04. She was very active in the Sunday School, choir, and participated in almost every auxiliary organization at St. Paul. They had nine children together.

On April 22, 1928, during Confirmation, Pastor Wegener was overcome by a spell of weakness and Pastor L. Helfrich was called in to complete the service. On November 6, the next year, he was again overcome by exhaustion and the congregation ordered him to take a complete rest. It was clear to him that he could no longer return to the strenuous full-time work and he insisted that the congregation call an assistant. Following interim assistance by Pastors E. H. Wildgrube and Sigm. Thies, a Call was issued to Pastor H. B. Roepe of Garrison, N.D. Roepe was installed in 1930 and became Pastor "Primarius" on April 1, 1933 with the consent of Pastor Wegener. At that time Wegener was relieved of all direct responsibilities, but remained as Roepe's co-worker.

Wegener continued to preach occasionally and have free use of the parsonage and a \$75 a month salary.

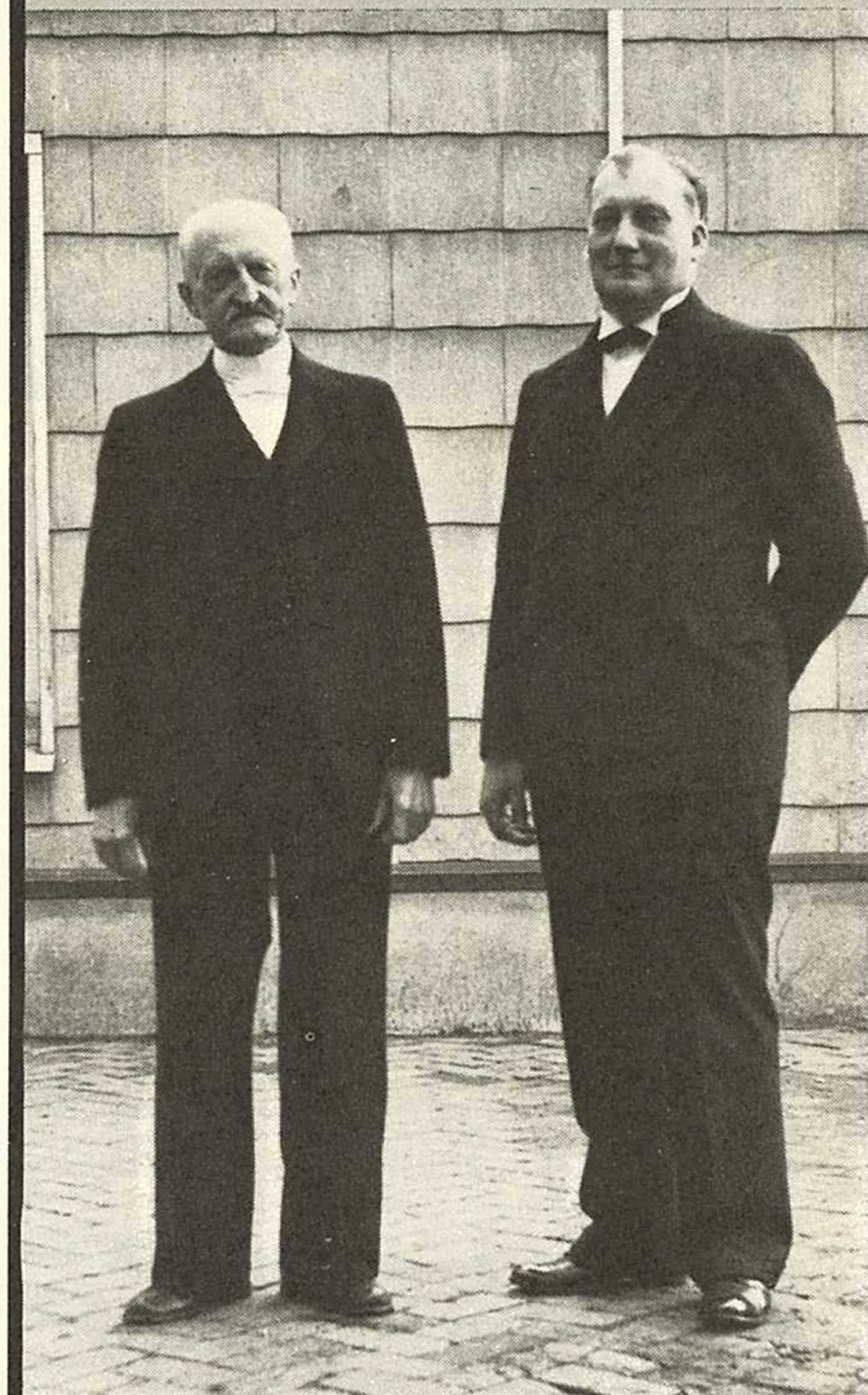
In 1937, he was treated to a grand celebration of his 50th year at St. Paul. His final baptism was that of this great-grandson, Richard Wismar III on September 8, 1940.

As his responsibilities to the congregation lessened, he took on more extra-congregational activities, in spite of his failing health. He compiled a condensed history of St. Paul from 1840-1930 for the congregation's 90th anniversary. He wrote a comprehensive history of the Bethlehem Orphan Asylum Association from 1881-1931. In 1932, he began a series of articles on the Missouri Synod in the South which ran in the District Bulletin until 1939. In 1938 he published a detailed history of The Southern District.

Even in his old age, Pastor Wegener continued to issue Baptismal Certificates, receive announcements for Holy Communion, keep records of church attendance and even fill communion vessels until his death on November 25, 1946 at age 85. He is buried at St. Vincent de Paul Cemetery in a tomb back-to-back with that of his predecessor, Pastor Moedinger.

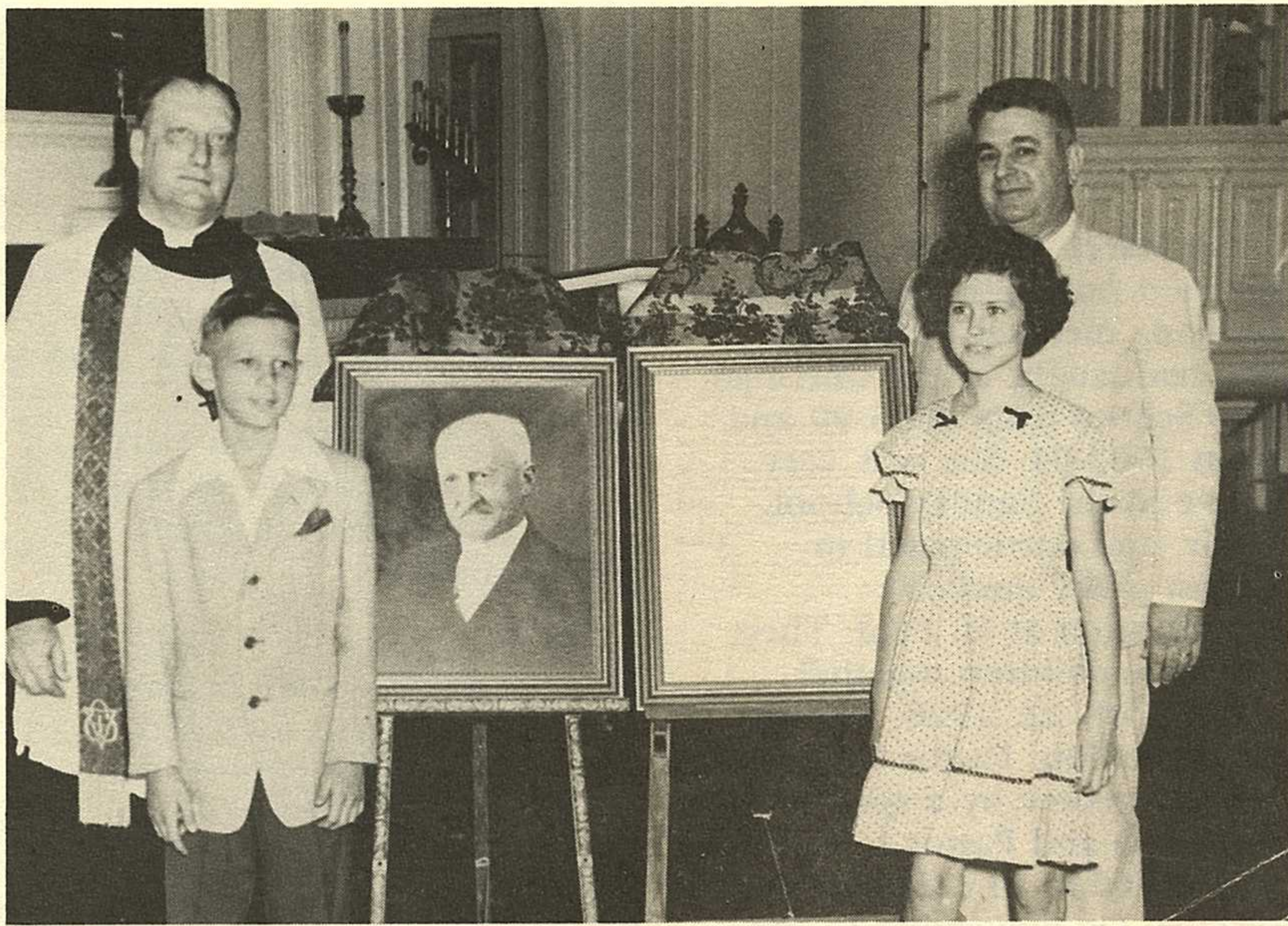
## ROEPE

*"It has been my privilege to be associated with Pastor Wegener for a number of years, in that intimate relationship which must exist where two men serve the same congregation as ministers. In that relationship I have learned to know Pastor Wegener as a true gentleman of the old school, gifted with a tenacious determination to achieve for the Lord, stern in outward demeanor, yet tender in heart, possessing a fine sense of humor, a man among men, yet always and always first — a pastor. That is Pastor Wegener as I know him and as thousands of others know him."*



1940  
Rev. G. J. B. Wegener  
Rev. Herbert B. Roepe





**JUNE, 1947**  
**THE VISITOR**

**A MEMORIAL**

After the 10 o'clock service on Sunday, May 25th, a short memorial service for the sainted Pastor G. J. Wegener was held.

Some time ago our Voter's Assembly decided to have a large picture of Pastor Wegener made and to have this placed in the meeting room of the Voters.

An enlarged framed picture and a framed copy of memorial resolutions adopted by the congregation were unveiled at the ceremony.

Mr. Philip H. Landwehr, president of the congregation, made the presentation. In his address, Mr. Landwehr pointed out that Pastor Wegener's influence will be felt for years to come, since he has served our congregation for nearly 60 years. Elmer A. Groth, Jr., and Janet Meyn representing the parochial and Sunday school respectively, unveiled the pictures.



**SEPTEMBER 4, 1947**  
The school becomes known as  
St. Paul-First English  
Lutheran School

**SEPTEMBER 24, 1947**  
Registration cards placed  
in the pews for Communion  
announcement

**APRIL 20, 1947**  
Confirmation Portrait  
Roepe with Vicar Elmer Sedory



**DECEMBER, 1947**  
**THE VISITOR**

**SUNDAY SCHOOL**

The happy Christmas days are fast approaching, and part of the Sunday School time will be devoted to rehearsing the songs for the children's Christmas Service on Wednesday, December 24th. Please note the change. The children's service will NOT be held on Christmas, but on Christmas Eve. The service will begin promptly at 7 p. m. Please don't forget, so you won't miss this service and spoil your Christmas.

**DECEMBER 24, 1947**  
Sunday School  
Christmas Service

**APRIL 11, 1948**  
Confirmation Portrait  
Vicar Victor Schulz



**MR. VICTOR SCHULZ**

**JUNE 4, 1948**  
Eighth Grade Graduation

**OUR SCHOOL**

On Friday, June 4th, 19 graduates, eleven boys and eight girls, received diplomas for completing eight years of elementary schooling. Nine of the graduates are members of St. Paul, seven from First English and three from St. Matthew. The Rev. John Nau delivered the principal address. The diplomas were awarded by R. W. Wismar, Jr., secretary of the Joint School Board.

**JANUARY, 1949**

Due to a teacher shortage, Vicar Paul Schmidt consented to teach in the Day School for the remainder of his Vicarage

**MAY, 1949**

Congregation decides to call an Assistant Pastor instead of another vicar

A Call is placed to former Vicar Victor Schulz

**JULY, 1949**

Resolved that a child must be 13 years old or in the eighth grade in the year he or she is confirmed

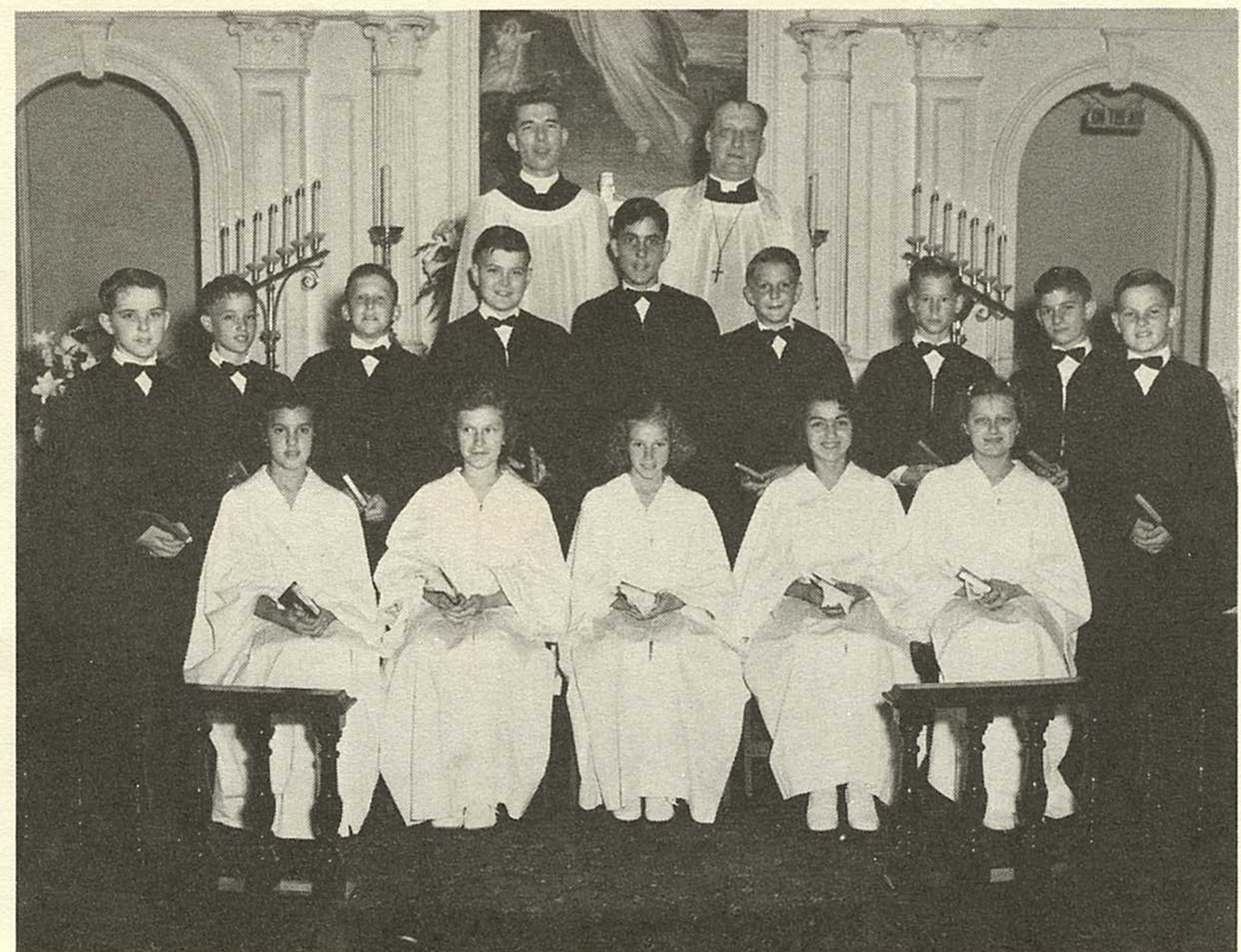
**AUGUST 14, 1949**

Victor Schulz is installed as Assistant Pastor of St. Paul

**OCTOBER, 1949**

Decision is made to demolish the old parsonage and replace it with educational and office space

**APRIL 24, 1949**  
Confirmation Portrait  
Vicar Paul Schmidt



**APRIL 16, 1950**  
Roepe's last  
Confirmation Class

Rev. Victor Schulz



A campaign was started in May of 1950 to raise funds for the razing of the old Parsonage and the construction of a youth and educational building. These plans were suddenly altered when on May 19, 1950, around 11:10 p.m., fire was discovered originating beneath the belfry. The magnificent Hinners organ was completely destroyed and the church suffered extensive damage.

During this time, the possibility of relocating the church was seriously being considered. The congregation, however, was determined to remain at Port and Burgundy Streets where the church had existed for over a century.

**MAY 20, 1950**



# Blaze Damages 110-Year-Old St. Paul's Church

The historic old St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran church at Port and Burgundy—twice destroyed by fire in its 110-year existence—almost suffered a similar fate last night.

Firemen fought for almost two hours to save the structure.

Thousands of downtown residents jam-packed the streets in the vicinity of the repeated general alarm fire, and police had to reinforce their ranks to keep back the crowd.

Origin of the fire was not known but is believed to have started at the entrance just beneath the belfry. Firemen kept the fire from spreading to the rear of the building.

A children's party in the basement ended about 10:30 p. m. The alarm was sounded at 11:10 p. m. **Fear Crashing Bells**

Twelve firemen handling hoses in the church were ordered out when it was feared two half-ton church bells might crash through from the steeple, fire chief Howard Dey said.

The fire was brought under control in about 40 minutes, according to Dey. Firemen, he added, had difficulty reaching the top of the steeple because of low water pressure brought about by the use of numerous lines in fighting the blaze.

The Rev. H. B. Roepe, pastor, told Lt. Louis Hill of the Fifth Precinct the church, valued at \$150,000, is insured.

Greatest damage, according to the pastor, was to a \$40,000 organ situated in what was the apparent center of the fire.

The church was first built on the same site in 1840, he said. It was last destroyed by fire in 1887. Four years ago, he pointed out, the church was completely renovated.

The fire, however, will not eliminate all church services.

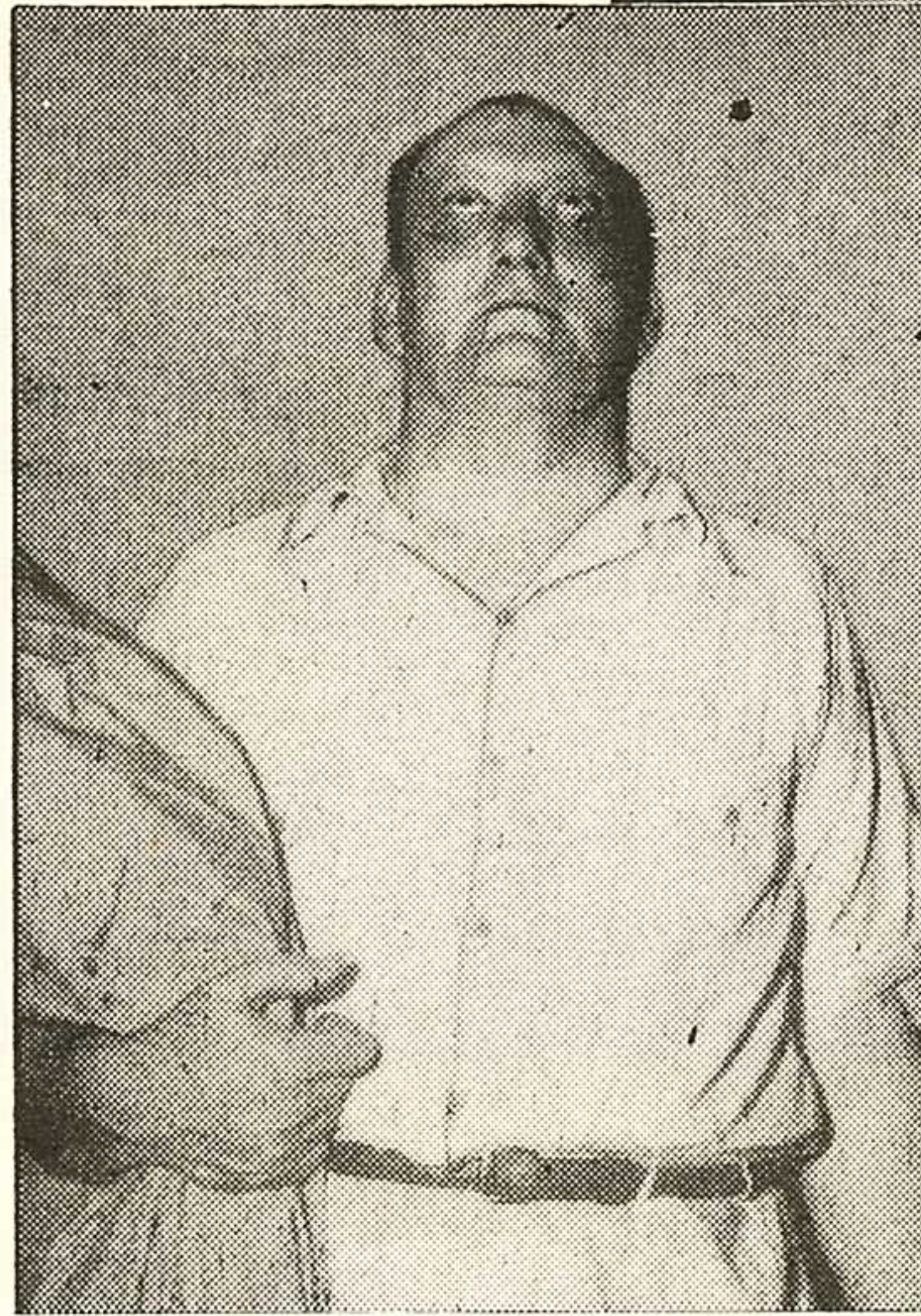
Lutheran services will be held at 10 a. m. tomorrow in the school yard adjacent to the fire-ravaged church, although the 7:30 a. m. service and Sunday school classes will be canceled.

Radio broadcasts of service, as usual, will be over WJMR at 10:15 a. m.

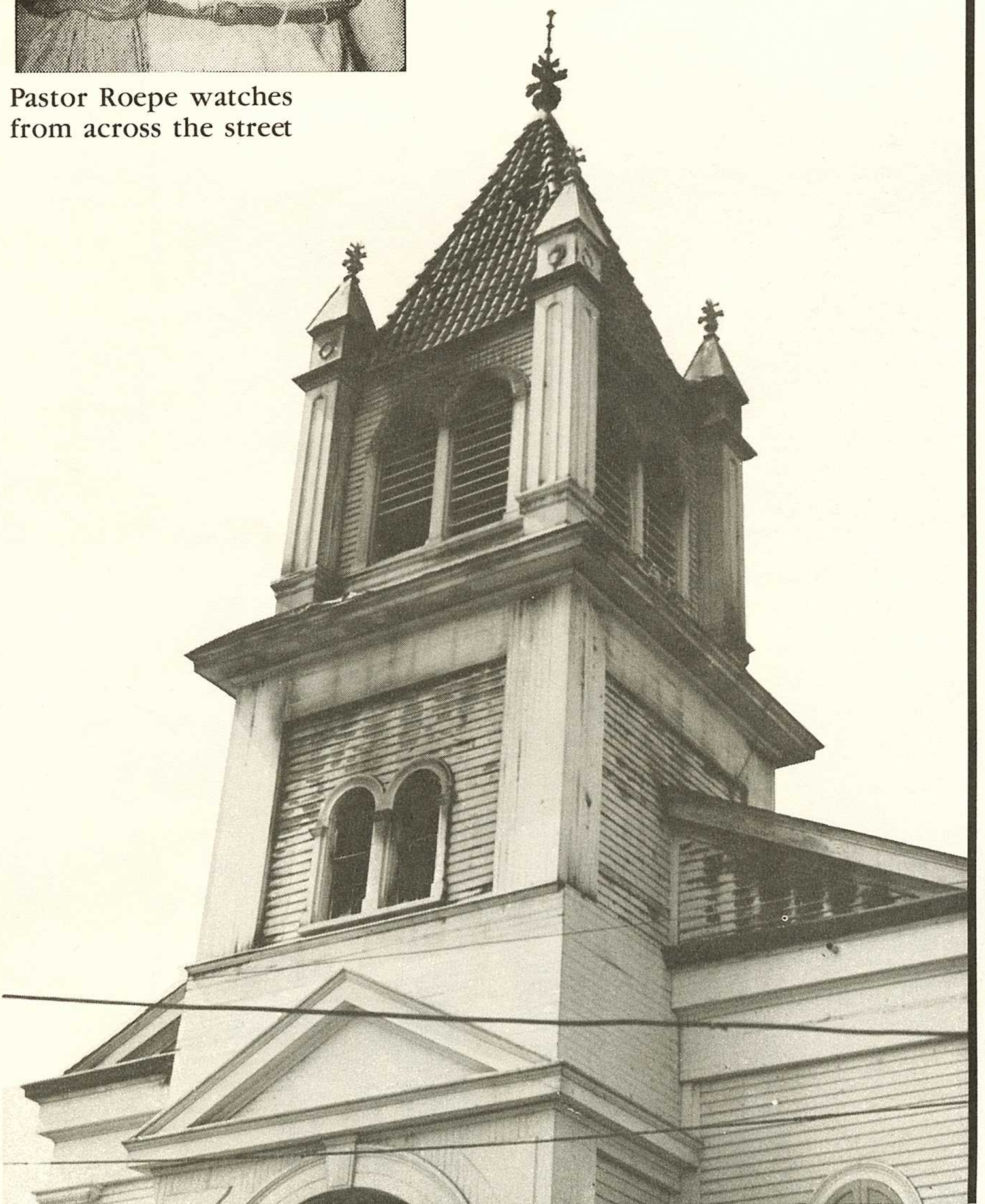
MAY 20, 1950  
States-Item



MAY 19, 1950  
11:10 p. m.



Pastor Roepe watches from across the street



# St. Paul's To Hold Services Despite Ravages Of \$15,000 Fire

MAY 21, 1950  
Reunion Sunday Sermon

## ROEPE

*"It is quite natural that my thoughts today are not the same as when I originally prepared for this sermon. Today we are near a smoke-stained, scarred edifice, before a temporary, hastily constructed altar.*

*"I want you to come with me, at 1:30 in the morning of the fire, into that room over there. In the gloom and darkness of that room, still filled with the acrid stench of the quenched fires, those voting members who could be notified that night, met and resolved: 'Let us go on right from here.' The firemen were still carrying out ladders. Smoke was still bellowing from the belfry. Then and there these men, in a show of courage which was to me one of the finest experiences of my ministry and one I will never forget, met beside flickering candles and said: 'We are going on right from here. We shall hold our Reunion Service Sunday morning. We shall hold the service right beside our own church building.'"*





**MAY 19, 1950**  
 Belfry fire destroys  
 Hinners Organ

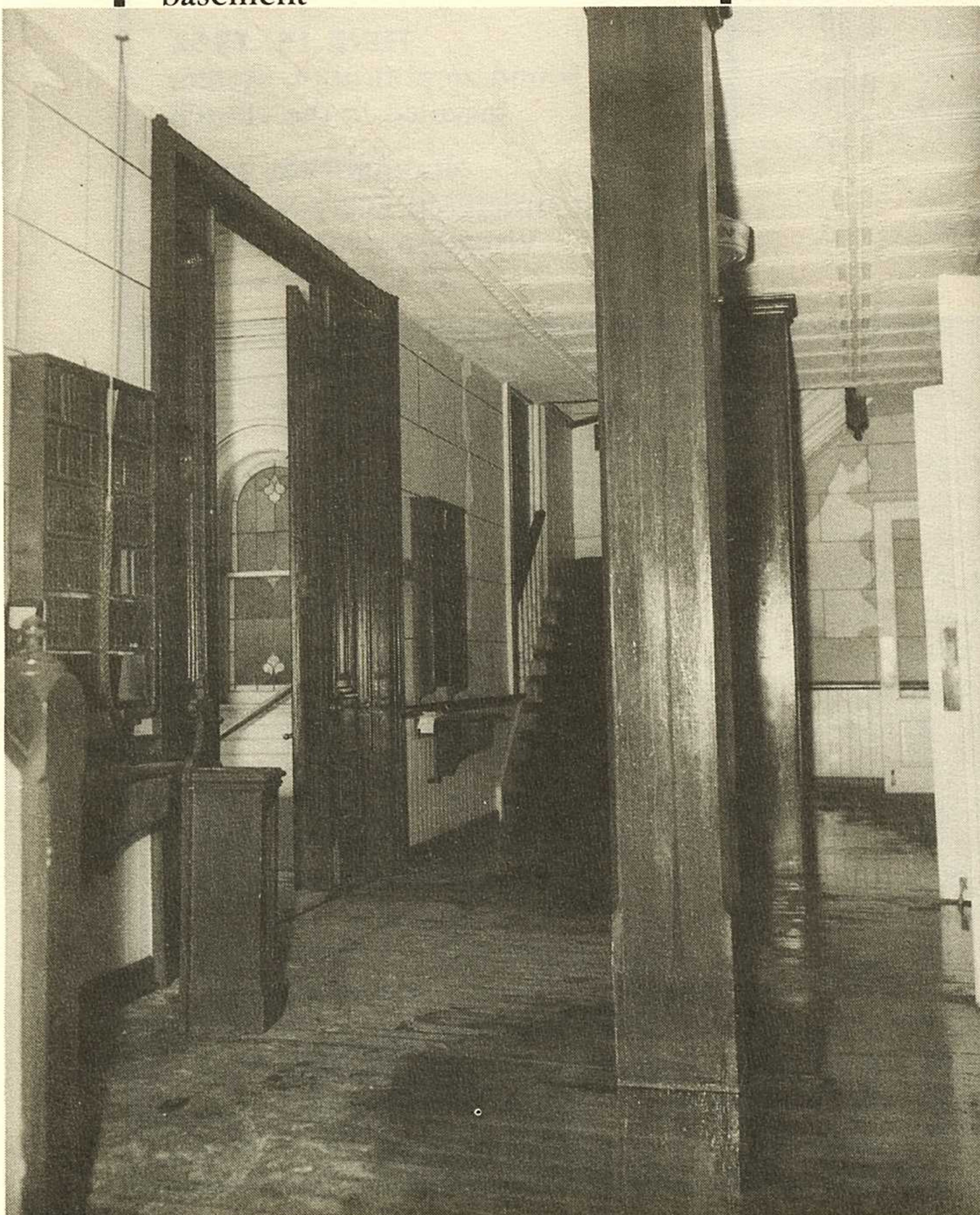
**JUNE 4, 1950**  
 Services temporarily held in  
 basement

**JUNE 28, 1950**  
 Minutes from Special Voters' Meeting

*"At this point in the meeting opinions and suggestions were expressed by individuals present. Which opinions and suggestions were narrowed down to the following five plans:*

1. To combine our church with First English.
2. Lower church.
3. Relocate church.
4. Build a new church on same site.
5. Restore church.

*The first four plans were rejected by unanimous motion."*



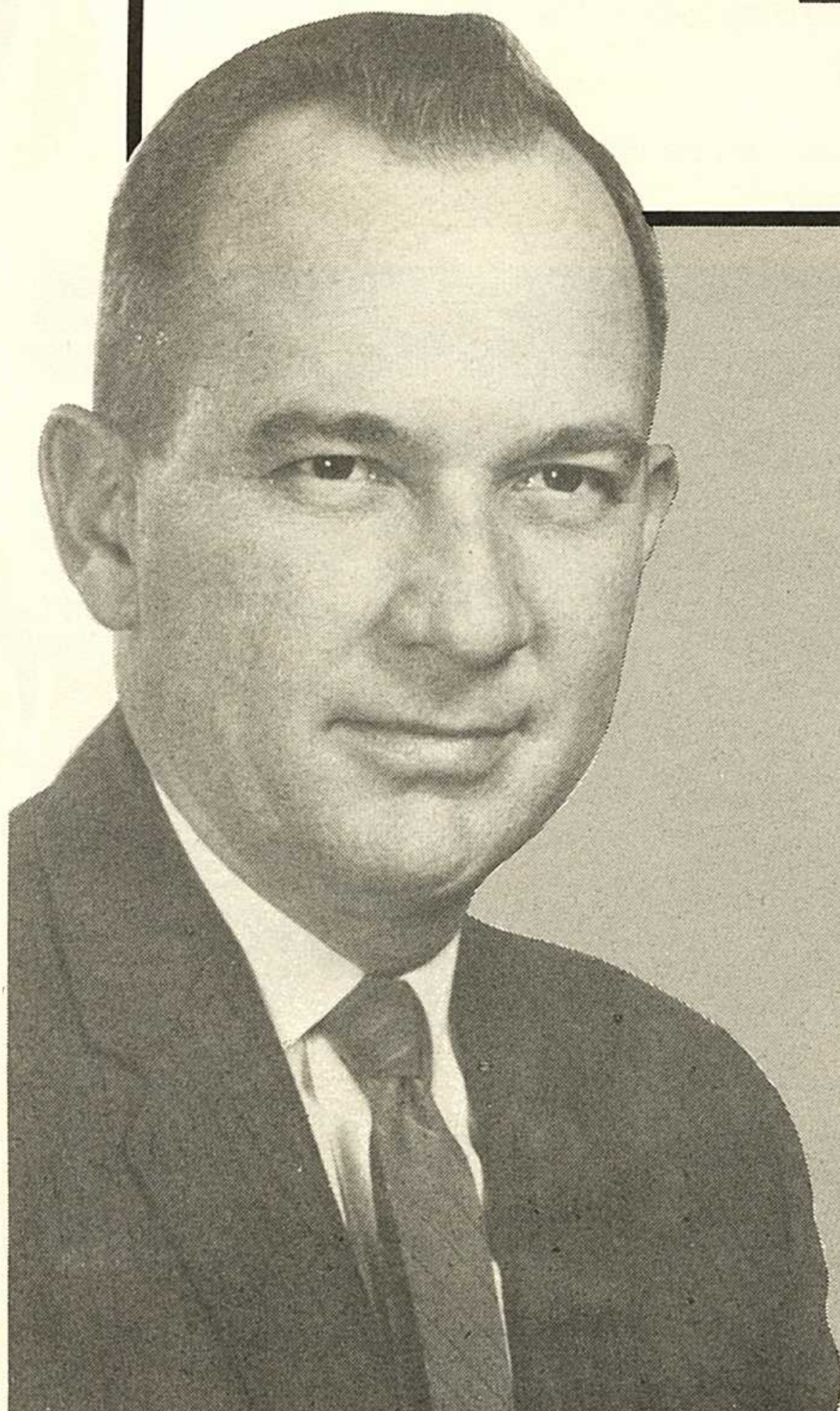


**MAY 20, 1950**  
The Hinners after the fire



**AUGUST 2, 1950**  
Ladies' Aid Farewell for  
Pastor and Mrs. Roepe

*Wm. F. Wedig*



## WILLIAM FREDERICK WEDIG

William Frederick Wedig was born in Pascagoula, Mississippi and received his pre-theological training in schools in Austin, Texas and Winfield, Kansas. He was a 1945 graduate of Concordia Seminary in St. Louis. Pastor Wedig was the first Lutheran theological graduate from the state of Mississippi. He was ordained in February, 1945 and installed by his Father at Our Redeemer Lutheran Church in Jackson, Mississippi. He met and married Nancy who was a member of Redeemer. They have five daughters.

On December 3, 1950, Pastor Wedig was installed at St. Paul at the age of 30. He was an extremely efficient organizer and administrator and

gifted in church finance — talents which were to be of tremendous importance during the building program of the next decade.

Many examples of Pastor Wedig's leadership and guidance are still evident today. In 1951, a Board of Elders was organized and a new Board of Christian Education was formed on July 24, 1954, and the Constitution and By-Laws were revised and adopted on September 21, 1960.

At a special Voter's meeting on the evening of January 3, 1962, Pastor Wedig announced that he had accepted a Call to serve Southern District as Executive Secretary.

**AUGUST 13, 1950**  
Pastor Roepe delivers  
farewell sermon

**SEPTEMBER 18, 1950**  
Voters create perpetual memorial  
for Pastor G. J. Wegener in that  
all hymnals will bear the imprint,  
"The Rev. G. J. Wegener,  
1861-1946"

**THANKSGIVING, 1950**  
Congregation re-enters church for  
the first time since the fire

**DECEMBER 3, 1950**  
William F. Wedig  
installed as Pastor

**JANUARY 28, 1951**  
Baldwin Model #10  
Electronic Organ dedicated  
Cost: \$7,000

**SEPTEMBER 4, 1951**  
Kindergarten started with  
Mrs. Ruth Brunig Klotz teacher

**SEPTEMBER 9, 1951**  
Mr. R. W. Wismar, Sr.  
celebrates his 40th  
anniversary at St. Paul

**OCTOBER, 1951**  
The Elders are organized

**PALM SUNDAY, 1952**  
Pastor Schulz preaches  
his farewell sermon

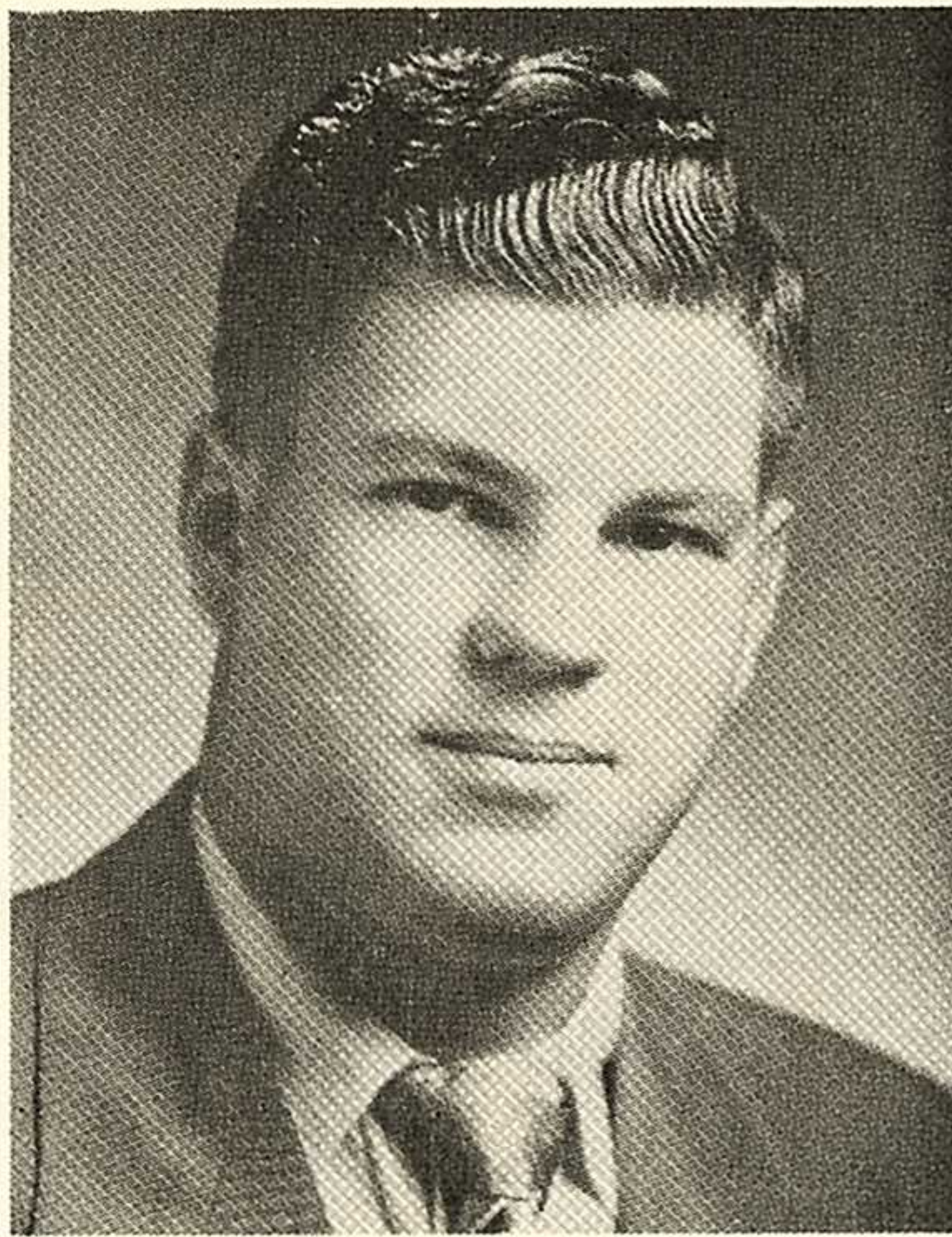
**JUNE 15, 1952**  
Sound amplification system  
installed in the church

**NOVEMBER, 1952**  
First structured Every-Member-  
Visitation undertaken by  
58 willing workers

**ORGANIZED FOR EFFECTIVE WORK**

In a congregation there must be organization for effective work. In our congregation we have such organization. The effectiveness of an organization depends upon the willing cooperation its leadership can inspire among its membership. Good leadership is essential. However, the complete success of an organization depends on you, the individual. You cannot spell success without U in it. For your information, we are listing the organizations within our church, giving names of president and secretary only. Surely you can fit into at least one of these organizations.

1. Voters Assembly: Louis F. Wilken, President, Elliott Clark, Secretary.
2. Board of Trustees: Same officers as above.
3. Sunday School Teachers Association: R. W. Wismar, President, Miss Lillian Wismar, Secretary.
4. St. Paul's-First English Mothers Club: Mrs. M. J. Hellmers, President; Mrs. R. W. Wismar, Jr. Secretary.
5. The Junior Walther League: Gerald Driggers President; Arlene Gabriel, Secretary.
6. The Senior Walther League: Leonard Keim, President; Lillian Wismar, Secretary.
7. The Ladies Aid: Mrs. Olga Bruno, President; Mrs. Magdalena Clark, Secretary.
  - a. Rip and Stitch Club.
  - b. Busy Bees.
8. The Ladies Mission Society: Mrs. M. Miller, President, Mrs. Lillian Stewart, Secretary.
9. The Lutheran Laymen's League: John M. Dannecker, President; Edgar Traugott, Secretary.
10. The Choir: R. W. Wismar, Director; Mrs. Grace Heintzen, accompanist.
11. The Lutheran Women's Missionary League: Mrs. Grace Heintzen, Representative.
12. The Joint Parochial School Board: G. H. Heintzen, President; John P. Clark, Secretary.



**MR. CLIFFORD DIETRICH**  
 Teacher, 1951-56

**DECEMBER 31, 1951**

Membership totals  
 Baptized Members: 1632  
 Communicant Members: 1294  
 Baptisms 28:  
 Confirmations: 25  
 Marriages: 12  
 Funerals: 17

**SEPTEMBER 4, 1951**

First day of the Kindergarten  
 Ruth Brunig Klotz  
 Teacher, 1951-72

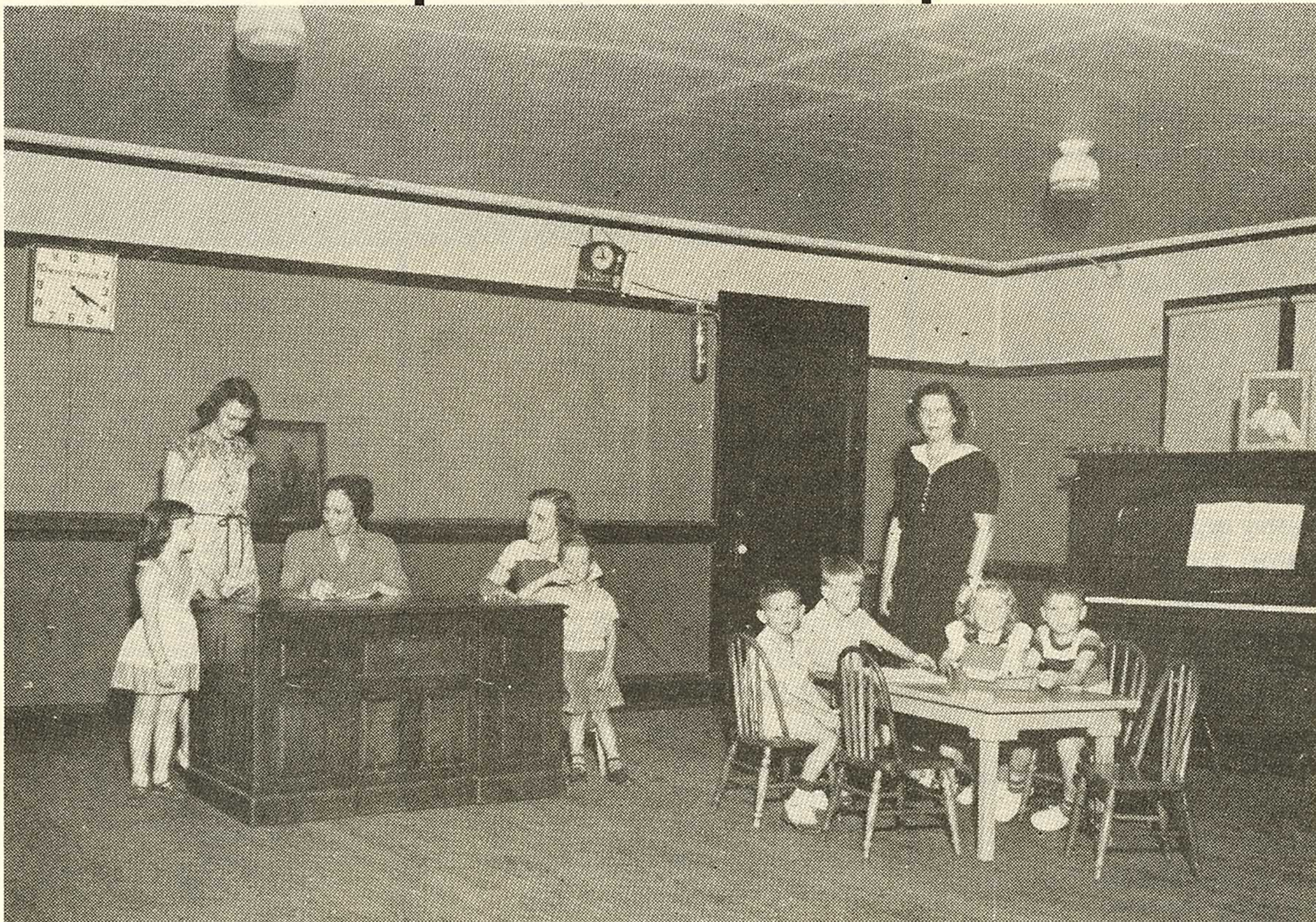
**OUR SCHOOL**

Our fervent prayers for a kindergarten have been answered. Few members, perhaps, will recall that we had a kindergarteen once, although it was only for one year. We are happy to report that both First English and St. Paul have given their approval for this most important venture. The last hurdle remains, that of securing a qualified teacher, and we are confident that God will provide us one. Twelve children have been gained already. With a little effort we can easily double this number! Kindergarten is an important feature in a child's education. Any first grade teacher can tell without asking which of the children have been conditioned for school through kindergarten.

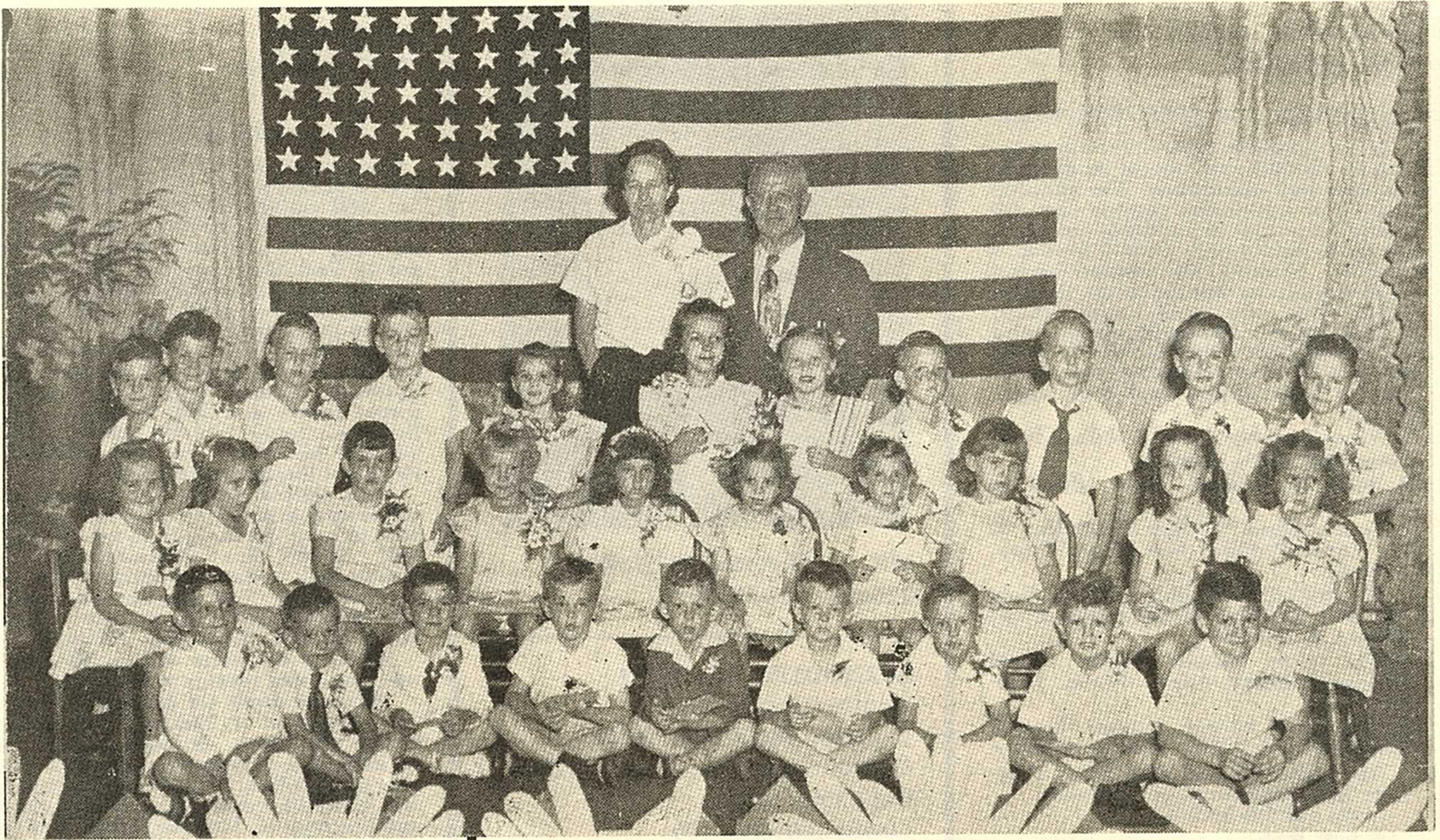
Since Clifford Dietrich has accepted our call to serve as teacher in our school, we may look to more permanency in our teaching staff. Teacher E. J. Robichaux hopes to qualify for a teacher's certificate before the next semester. First English has secured the services of Mrs. Elmore Orth, a Newcomb graduate, for 1st and 2nd grade.

Having a competent and qualified staff will give added prestige to our school.

Until now pupils not belonging to either First English or St. Paul paid three dollars tuition per month. It might interest you to know that Redeemer congregation paid this three dollars for each child attending our school from that church. We also have children from St. Matthew, Trinity and Mt. Calvary. Beginning September, however, this change will become effective. Each child from First English and St. Paul will be asked to pay 25c per week or one dollar per month tuition. All others will pay three dollars as usual. It is hard to conceive that any parents could not pay 5c a day for their child's education. Most children spend more than that each day for candy, squirt guns or other non-essential items. Would you believe that at our recent school picnic, the children spent \$70 for rides on the flying horses, trains, etc.!







**JUNE 6, 1952**  
The first Kindergarten  
graduating class

**1952 School Portrait**  
In 1952, 14 grandchildren  
of Pastor Wegener attended  
our parochial school

**JANUARY 28, 1953**  
Voters approve the construction  
of the Youth & Education  
Building

**OCTOBER, 1953**  
Congregation introduces the use  
of acolytes

**MAY 31, 1954**  
Design for Youth & Education  
Building approved

**JULY 11, 1954**  
Robert Wennerstrom Ordained  
and Installed as Assistant  
Pastor of St. Paul

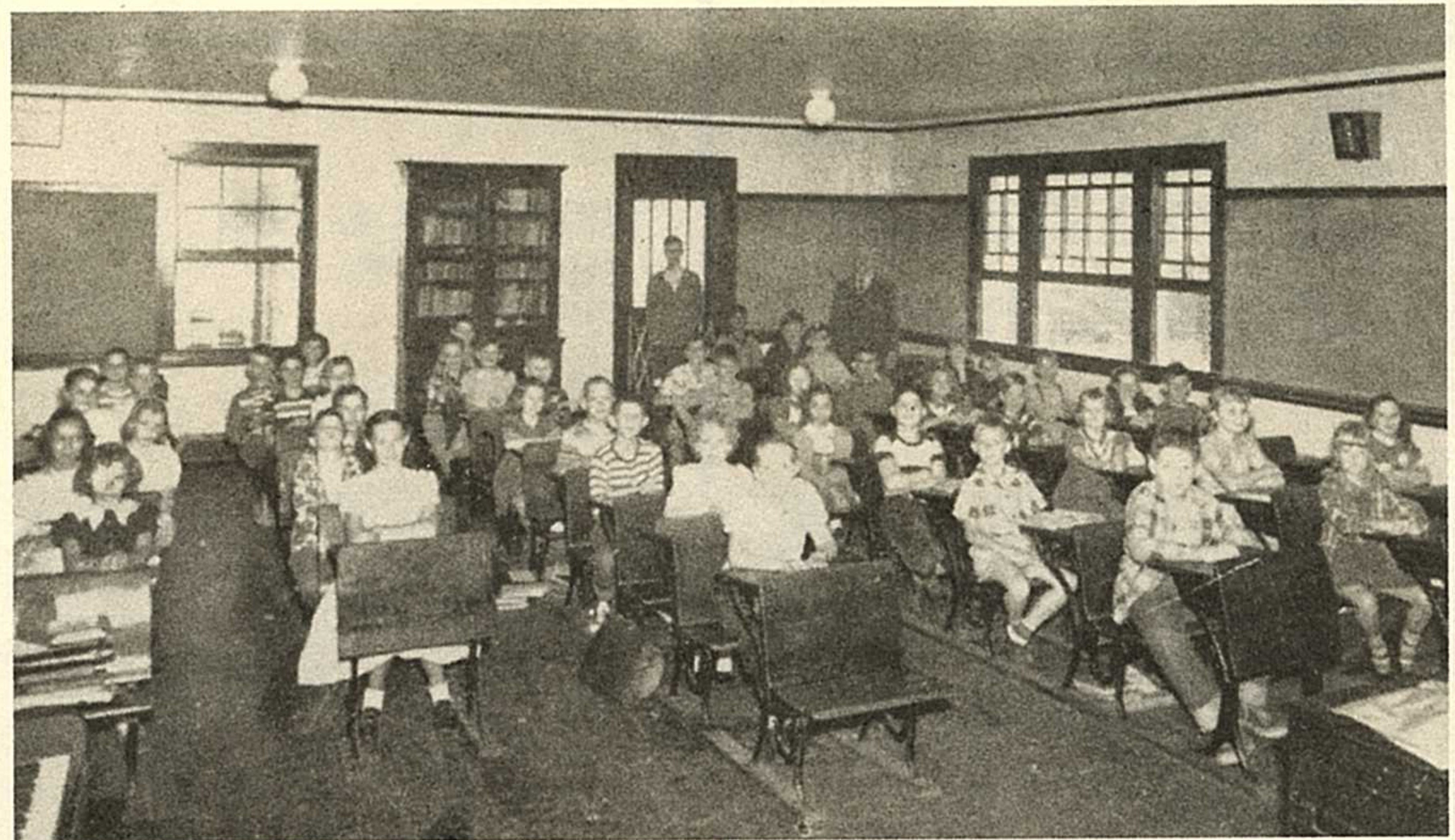
**JULY 23, 1954**  
Board of Christian  
Education organized

**SUMMER, 1954**  
Parsonage razed

**OCTOBER 3, 1954**  
Groundbreaking ceremony for  
the new building

**OCTOBER, 1954**  
New lights, floor tiles & ceiling  
tiles installed in basement

**JANUARY 30, 1955**  
Laying of cornerstone for Youth  
& Education Building



**MAY 15, 1955**  
Dedication of Youth &  
Education Building

**APRIL, 1957**  
Basement remodeled

**JANUARY 20, 1957**  
Renovation of school  
building undertaken

**MARCH 30, 1958**  
Worship service time changes  
from 10:00 to 10:15 a.m. to  
accommodate new radio station

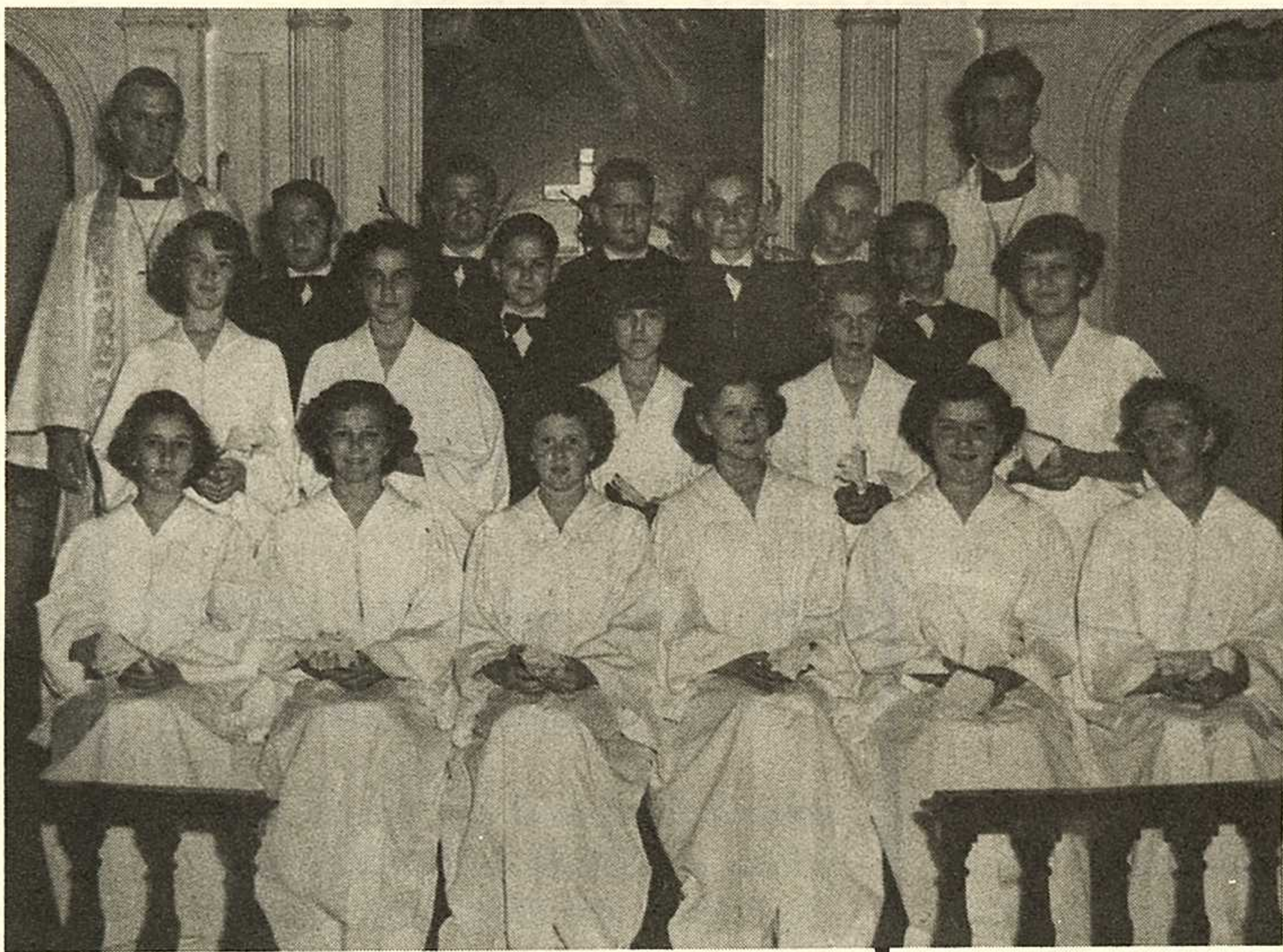
**APRIL 29, 1958**  
Voters approved air-  
conditioning of church and  
basement, Cost: \$24,000  
A new roof placed on school  
building

**OCTOBER, 1953**  
*THE VISITOR*

**OUR SCHOOL**

Attendance in our parochial school has reached an all-time high. This is a real cause for rejoicing and thanksgiving. A part of this increase is, no doubt, due to the inauguration of a kindergarten several years ago. Children that enroll in our kindergarten and stay with us through the eighth grades are going to be good scholars. Getting a good foundation in fundamentals is most important. And that is what our school will give the children. More important is the seed of faith planted in the hearts of the little ones. Webster once said, "What makes a man a good Christian makes him a good citizen." It is our aim to build for eternity. We list the number of children by grades:

Kindergarten .....	34
First Grade .....	42
Second Grade .....	41
Third Grade .....	14
Fourth Grade .....	26
Fifth Grade .....	25
Sixth Grade .....	23
Seventh Grade .....	22
Eighth Grade .....	13
Total .....	240

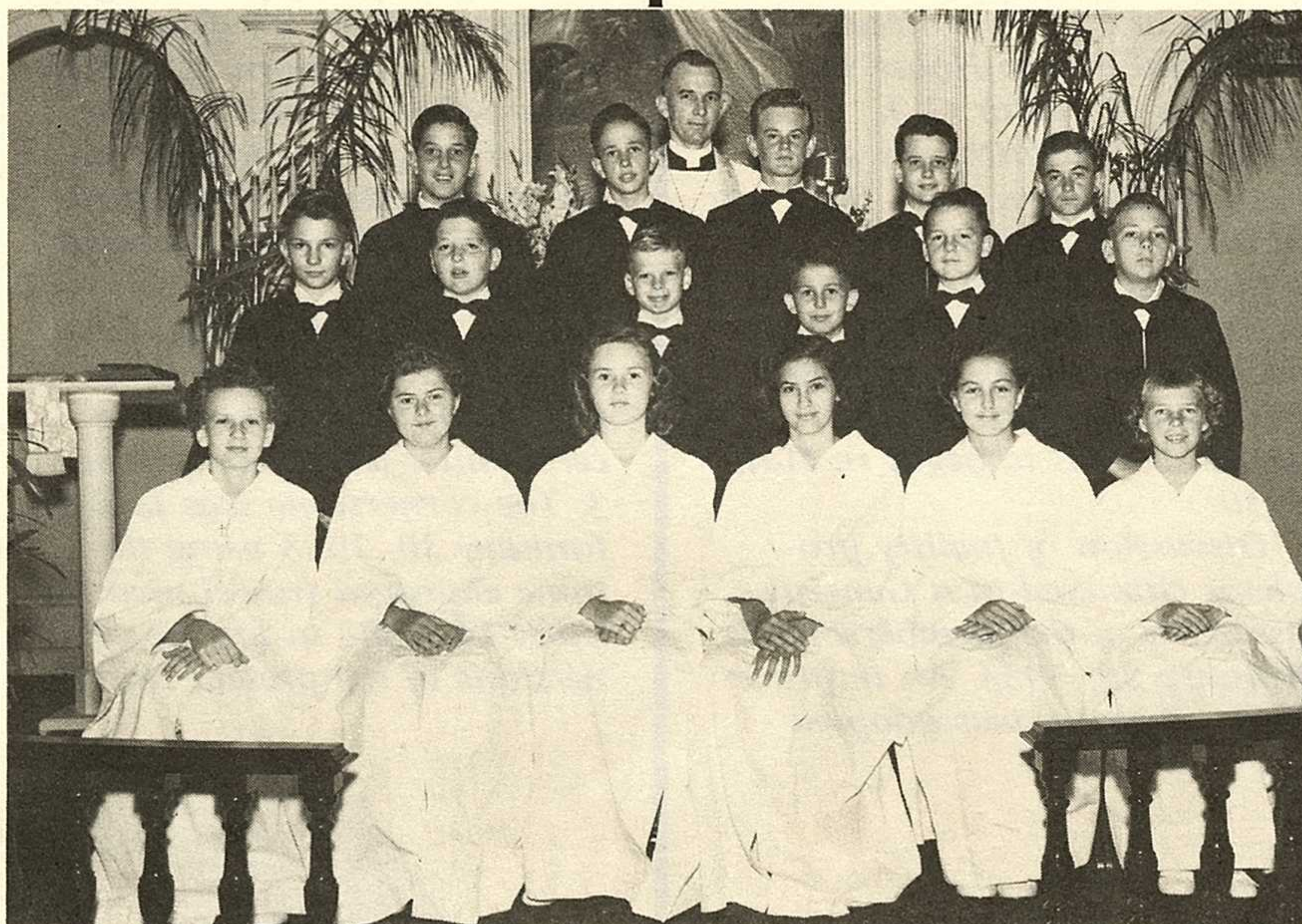


APRIL 29, 1951



APRIL 27, 1952

CONFIRMATION

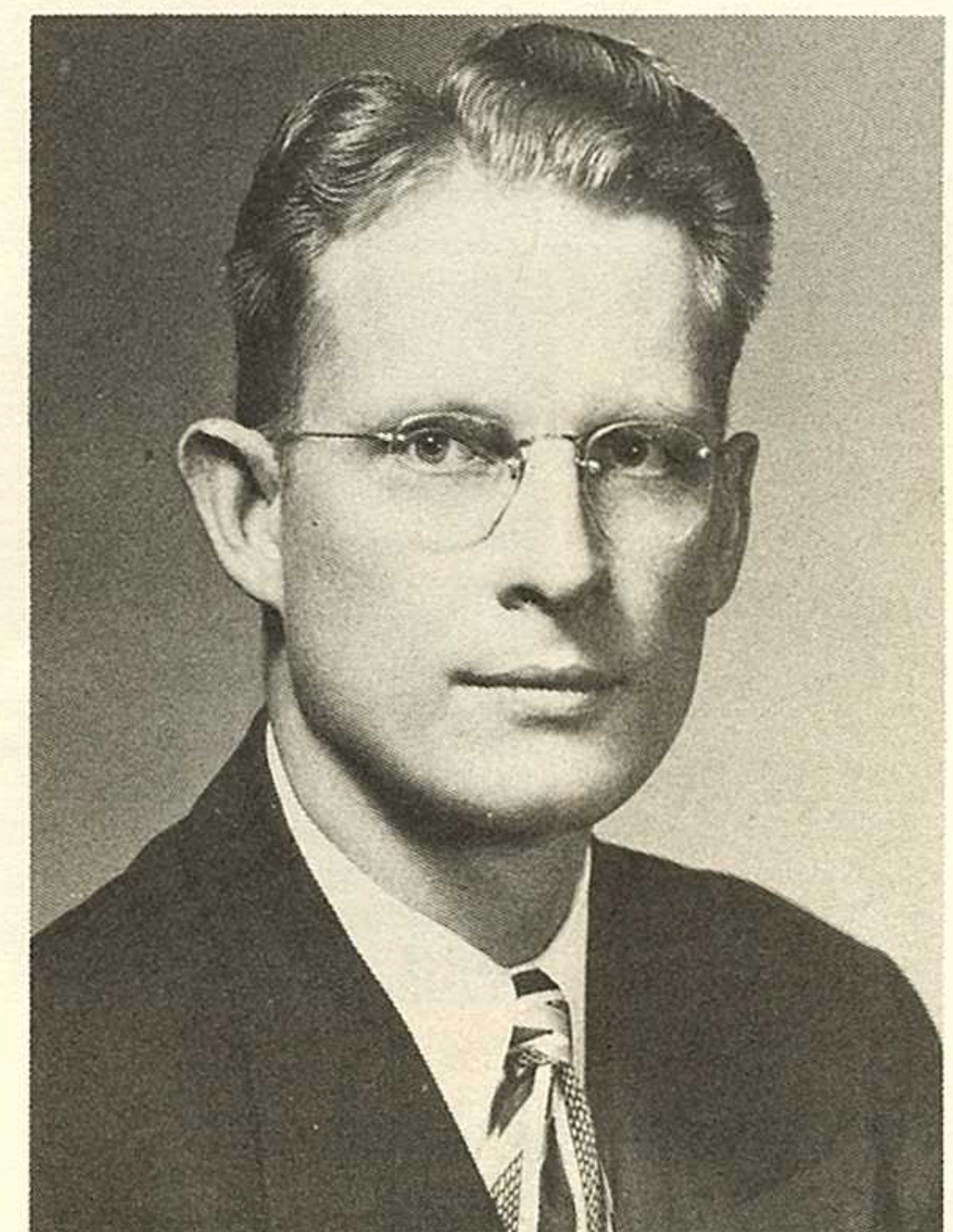


APRIL 19, 1953

APRIL 25, 1954



ROBERT WENNERSTROM



On Sunday, July 11th, 1954, Mr. Robert Wennerstrom was Ordained and Installed as Assistant Pastor of St. Paul's Church. Rev. William F. Wedig, assisted by the local clergy, conducted the Rite of Ordination and Installation.

The Rev. Robert Wennerstrom was born in Los Angeles, California on July 14th, 1927.

Wennerstrom received his preparatory training at St. John's College, Winfield, Kansas. After graduation in June, 1948, he attended the Concordia Seminary in St. Louis.

His studies in St. Louis were interrupted by a vicarage in Japan and the Philippines.

# Lay Cornerstone Tomorrow for Youth Building

A blending of old and new will high light the laying of the cornerstone of the new St. Paul Lutheran youth and educational building tomorrow at Port and Burgundy.

The Rev. William F. Wedig, pastor, will seal the stone with a silver trowel that was used back in 1889 for the cornerstone laying of the present church structure.



THE REV. WILLIAM F. WEDIG, pastor of St. Paul Lutheran church, poses behind the cornerstone of the new youth and educational building that he will lay tomorrow with the antique silver trowel he holds.

Engraved on the trowel is a German verse reading:  
 "Our Love and Our Church!  
 "May they be found  
 "Like Mortar and Stone  
 "Here together bound.  
 "This trowel was dedicated  
 "For Corner laying  
 "To wait for my task  
 "I am assaying."

The cost of construction of the two-story youth and educational building is \$120,000 and just the furnishings will total \$15,000, price of the erection of the entire old school building in 1924, the Rev. Wedig pointed out.

The building will include a recreation room, additional school room, a suite of four offices, an elevator to the second floor of the church, and 14 Sunday school rooms to house one of the oldest Sunday schools in the city, dating back to 1867.

#### Participating in Rites

Participating in the ceremonies tomorrow at 9:35 a. m. will be the pastor, the assistant pastor, the Rev. Robert Wenerstrom, and George F. Meyn, building committee chairman.

Chiseled on the cornerstone are the words, "Remember Now Thy Creator in the Days of Our Youth."

"This is our answer to the youth problem," said the Rev. Wedig. "We feel that if young people are kept close to God, as we will try to accomplish through our church and new education building, then there will be no youth problem."

# ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

*dedicates its*

## YOUTH AND EDUCATIONAL BUILDING

SUNDAY, MAY 15, 1955

3 O'CLOCK, P.M.

BURGUNDY AT PORT STREET

New Orleans, Louisiana

#### WEDIG

*"The building dedicated today is the product of more than seven years of planning. The church in October, 1948 resolved to recondition the old Parsonage at 824 Port Street as a Memorial Parish House in memory of Pastor G. J. Wegener who faithfully served the congregation from 1887 until his death in 1946. In September of 1949 complete removal of the Parsonage was decided. Solicitation of funds to augment \$836 already gathered, was to begin in May, 1950.*

*Discussion of facility problems climaxed in a General Assembly of the membership on January 28, 1953. An improvement program was adopted*

*which included six needs in one plan: a Youth & Educational Building, an elevator, modern plumbing, additional adjacent property, a second parsonage, and retirement of parsonage mortgage. These needs were estimated to require \$150,000. Ninety-eight members of the church solicited pledges from the membership during April and May; 640 pledges totaled \$136,864.*

*Total cost of building, furnishings, and elevator is \$115,000. Ground-breaking ceremonies were held October 3. The cornerstone was laid on January 30, 1955 using the same engraved trowel used on April 14, 1889 to lay the cornerstone of the present church."*

### EDUCATIONAL AND YOUTH BUILDING

ERECTED 1955

"Remember Now Thy Creator In The Days Of Thy Youth."  
*Ecclesiastes 12,1.*



**STUDY THE BUILDING  
PLANS CAREFULLY**

We are happy to be able to include the drawings for our new building in this issue of the VISITOR. Special note should be taken of the many features included in the plans.

Thus far it has been called our new YOUTH AND EDUCATION BUILDING. We believe that is definitely that. Note on the first floor the recreation room. This large unit is a place where youth can meet together, pray and play together. Durable walls, floors, lights and ceiling make it ideal for active young people. It has 5 access doors, and 2 full walls of windows for light and ventilation.

In that same side is an additional new classroom, the present basement area in the school to be converted for this use. This room is needed now already, for the Fall '54 school year. Between these two rooms the new rest rooms will be placed, one of the 6 major goals of our building effort.

The other three first floor features are conveniently placed near the Port Street entrance to the building, the main entrance—a passenger elevator to the church sanctuary, large enough to accommodate a casket, a nursery room for Sunday School nursery classes and the 10 AM "baby-sitting", and a suite which will provide long-needed office facilities. The stairs to the 2nd floor is at the Port Street entrance. Noteworthy in the plan is the fact that one can go to any part of the 3 buildings without going out of doors.

The 2nd floor of the new unit is designed to provide ample and flexible rooms for all our teaching needs. The large rooms all have folding partitions, which when in use will still provide each half with separate doors, sufficient windows, and a clear wall for blackboards or worship center.

In this building the congregation will realize completion of 4 of the 6 goals grouped in our one big effort: more teaching space, additional property, an elevator, and new plumbing. The two remaining projects are an additional parsonage, and payment of the present parsonage mortgage. Our Lord certainly will be pleased with our work for it is part of His great assignment to us, to keep, to win, and to strengthen the souls of His Kingdom.

**JULY 13, 1958**

David Joeckel Ordained and Installed as Assistant Pastor

**SEPTEMBER 14, 1958**

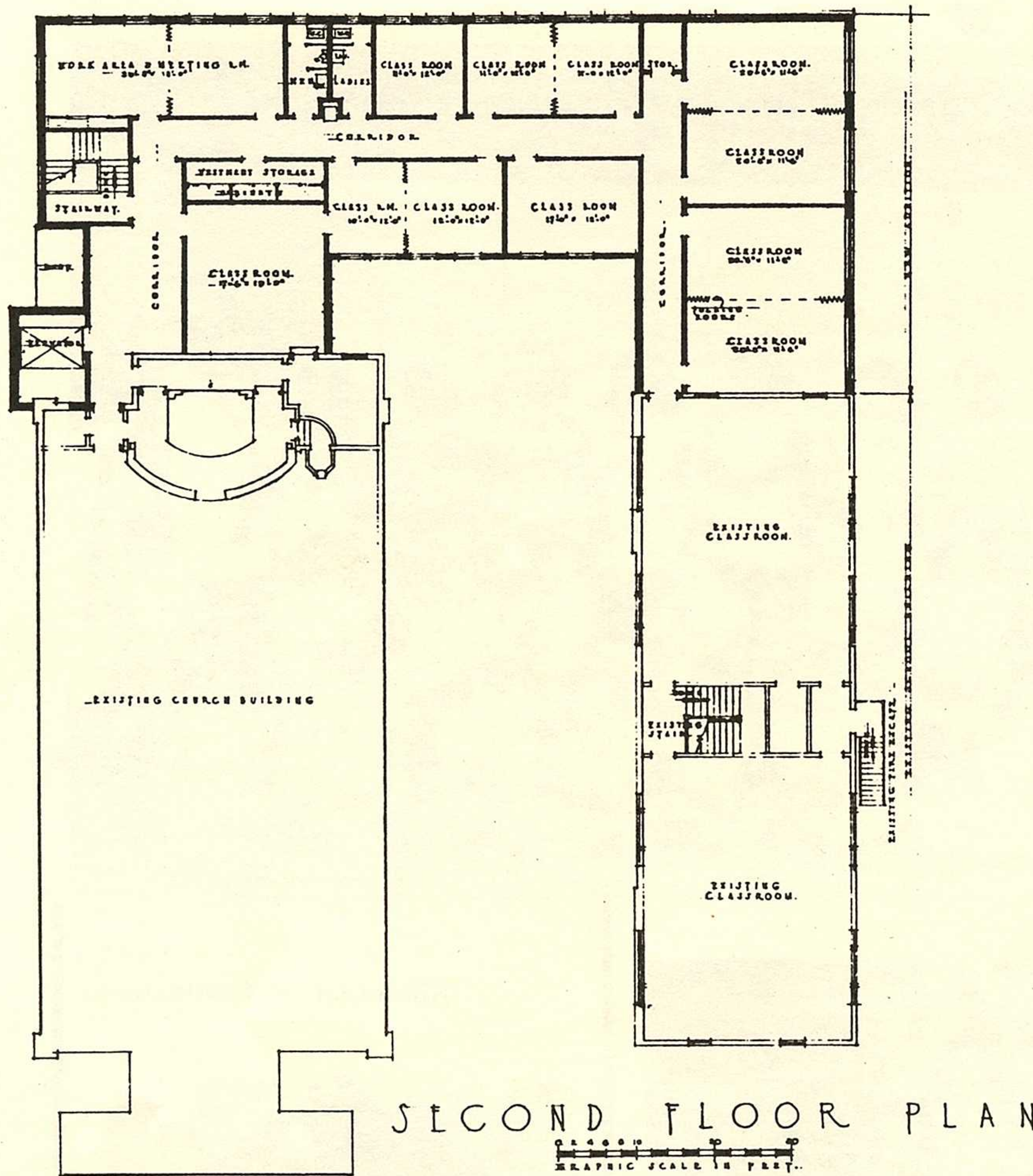
Melvin Zoch installed as teacher

**APRIL, 1959**

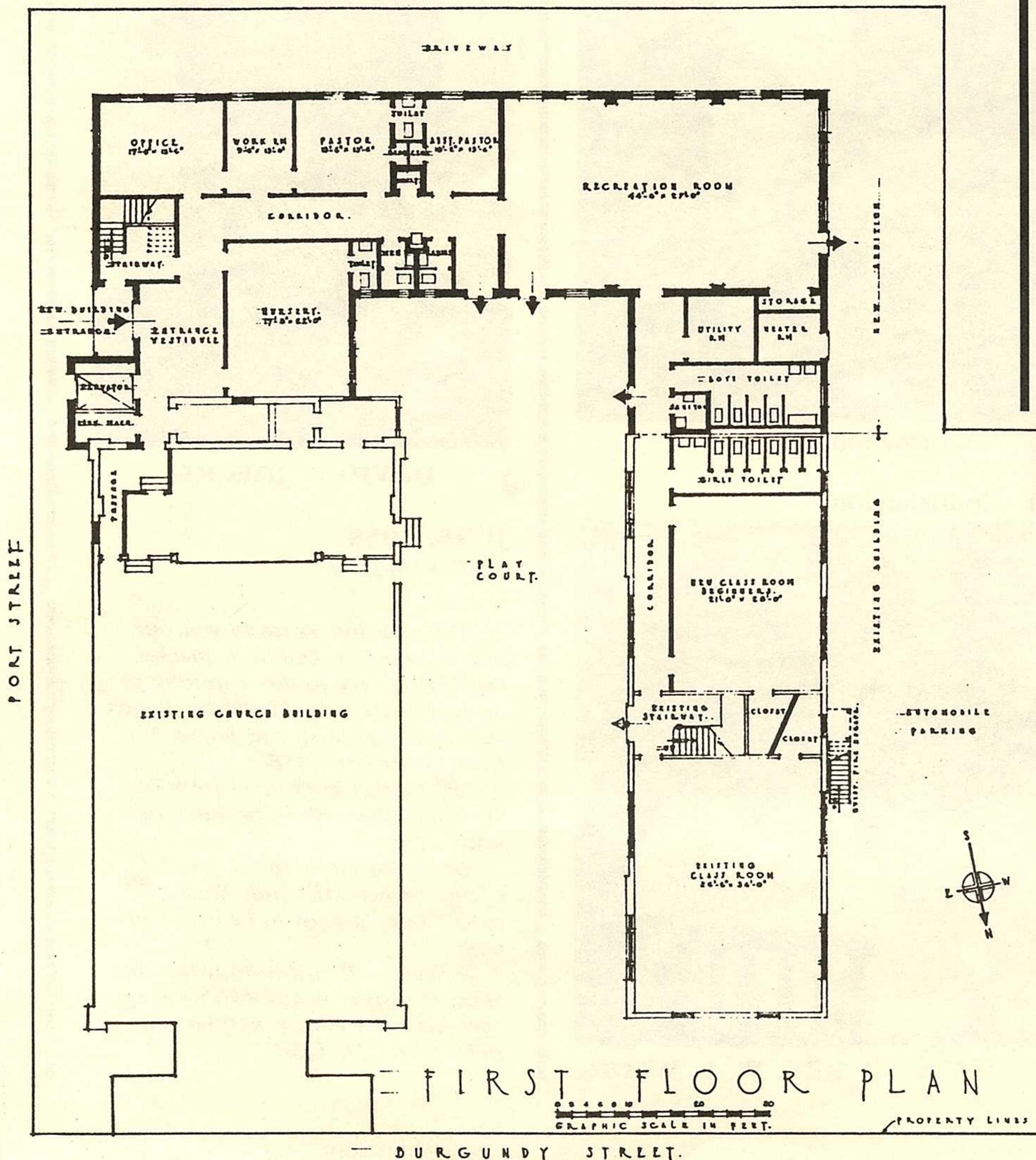
Committee formed to organize a church library

**MAY 20, 1959**

Evangelism Committee formed



SECOND FLOOR PLAN



FIRST FLOOR PLAN



1955  
Kindergarten Graduation

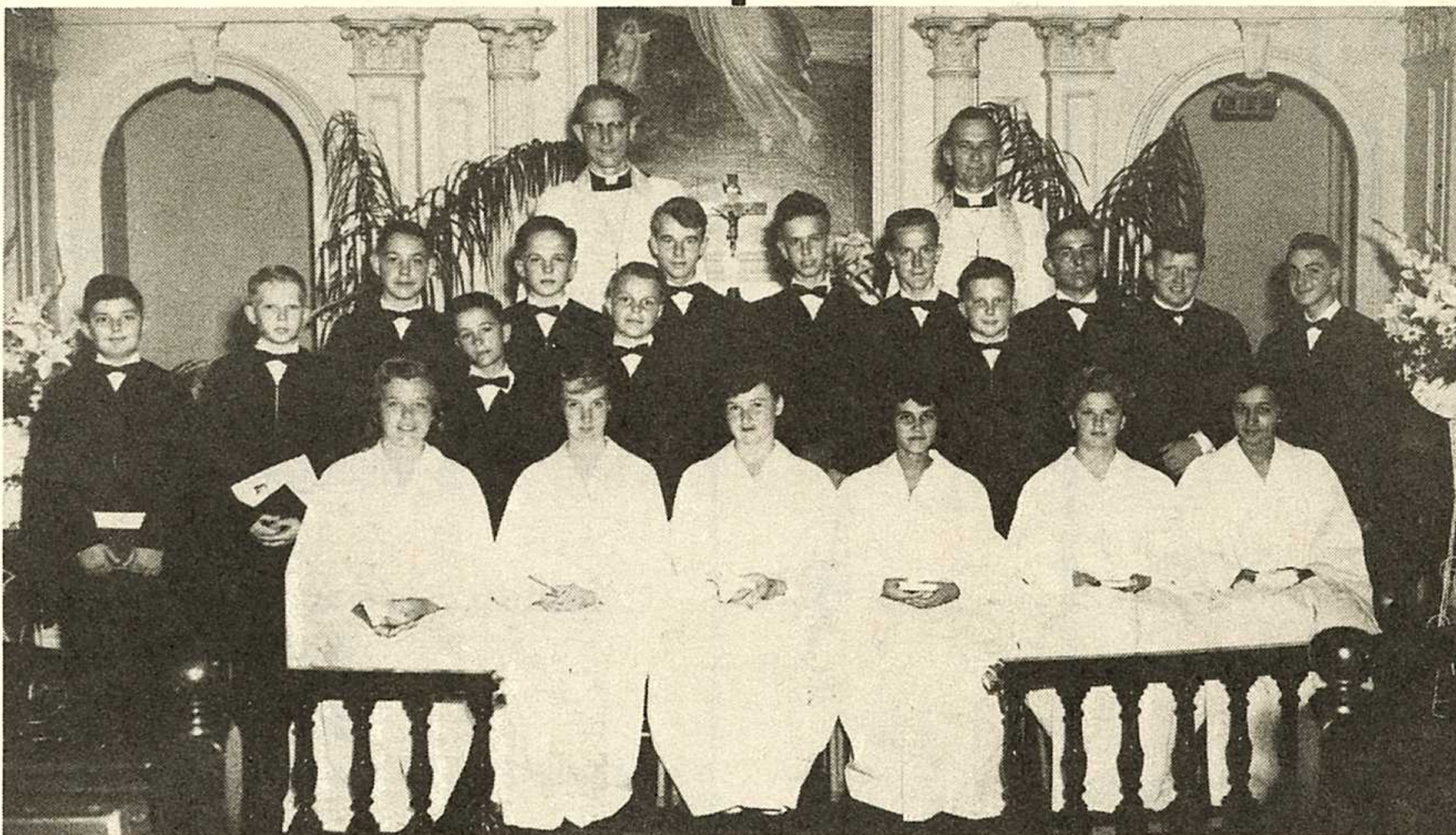


APRIL 24, 1955

Confirmation

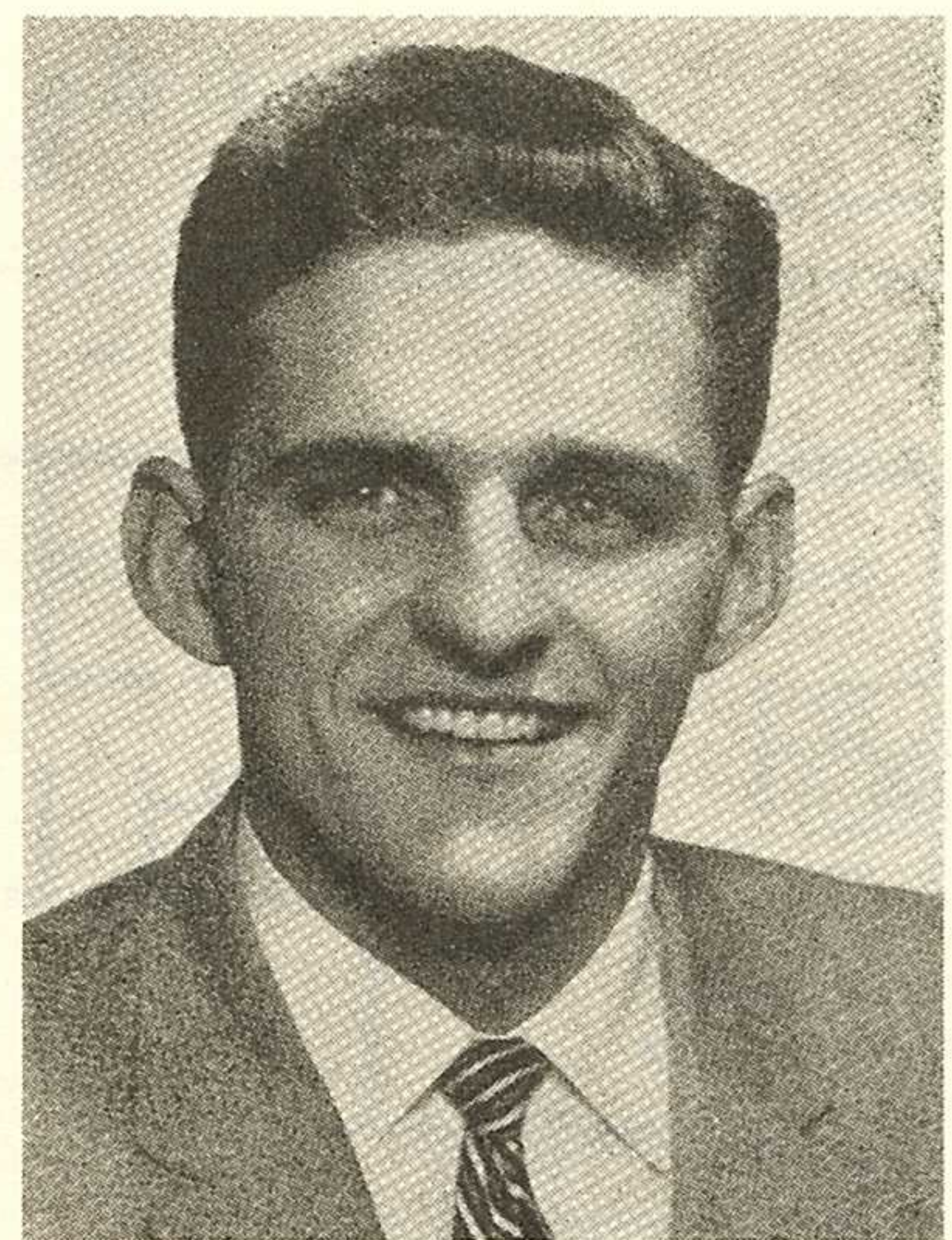
APRIL 29, 1956

Confirmation



REV. R. WENNERSTROM

REV. W. F. WEDIG



DAVID B. JOECKEL

JUNE, 1958  
*THE VISITOR*

*"This will introduce to you our new worker, Mr. David B. Joeckel, who will arrive to labor among us on July 1. He succeeds Pastor Robert Wennerstrom, pastor at Rome, N.Y., since December, 1958.*

*"Mr. Joeckel graduated from our St. Louis Concordia Seminary in June, 1958.*

*"Great joy came to Mr. Joeckel recently when Miss Judy Wasle, R.N., of St. Louis, agreed to be his future wife.*

*"A Service of Ordination into the Holy Ministry, and Installation as Our Assistant Pastor, will be conducted July 13, 1958."*

**Text of Scroll Presented to  
Mr. R. W. Wismar, Sr.**

In the Name of the Father, and of the Son,  
and of the Holy Ghost.

*Know All Men By These Presents:*  
St. Paul's Lutheran Church, New Orleans,  
Louisiana, recognizes with sincere gratitude  
to God the remarkable record of service  
rendered humbly, for God, to the Church  
and its people by Teacher

**RICHARD W. WISMAR, SR.**

Since 1911 this faithful servant of the Lord  
has labored tirelessly to promote Christ's King-  
dom among us, through countless agencies,  
efforts, and means. Worthy of particular  
mention are his work as Principal and Teach-  
er in our Christian School, and Organist and  
Choir Master, and among the Youth.

His services deserve our special gratitude in  
that he has invested in our Congregation  
his entire career of forty-seven years in the  
Teaching Ministry.

In recognition of this service, and to give  
voice to its gratitude, St. Paul's Lutheran  
Church, in lawful meeting assembled on De-  
cember 18, 1957, has unanimously adopted  
this resolution:

*THAT* when Teacher RICHARD W.  
WISMAR, SR., in order to retire, relin-  
quishes his Call, St. Paul's Congregation  
express to him its heartfelt gratitude for  
devoted service faithfully rendered  
through his entire career,

*THAT* it publicly express its thanks by  
an appropriate gift and scroll, and by  
proper recognition in the public worship  
on the last Sunday of the year,

*THAT* it pray upon him the Lord's  
choicest blessings for the evening of his  
days to be spent in the Lord's work  
among us, and finally

*THAT* the congregation confer upon  
him the permanent title

**HONORARY TEACHER**

Given under the seal of the Church, and the  
signature of its officers this 18th day of  
December, in the year of our Lord 1957.

(Signed by President, Secretary, Pastor.)  
*"Thou, Lord, has made me glad through  
Thy work; I will triumph in the work of  
Thy hands."*—Psalm 92, 4.

**DECEMBER 8, 1957**  
The Board of  
Trustees for  
1958



**APRIL 28, 1957**

**Confirmation**



**APRIL 13, 1958**

**Confirmation**

## St. Paul's - First English Schools Open 119th Term



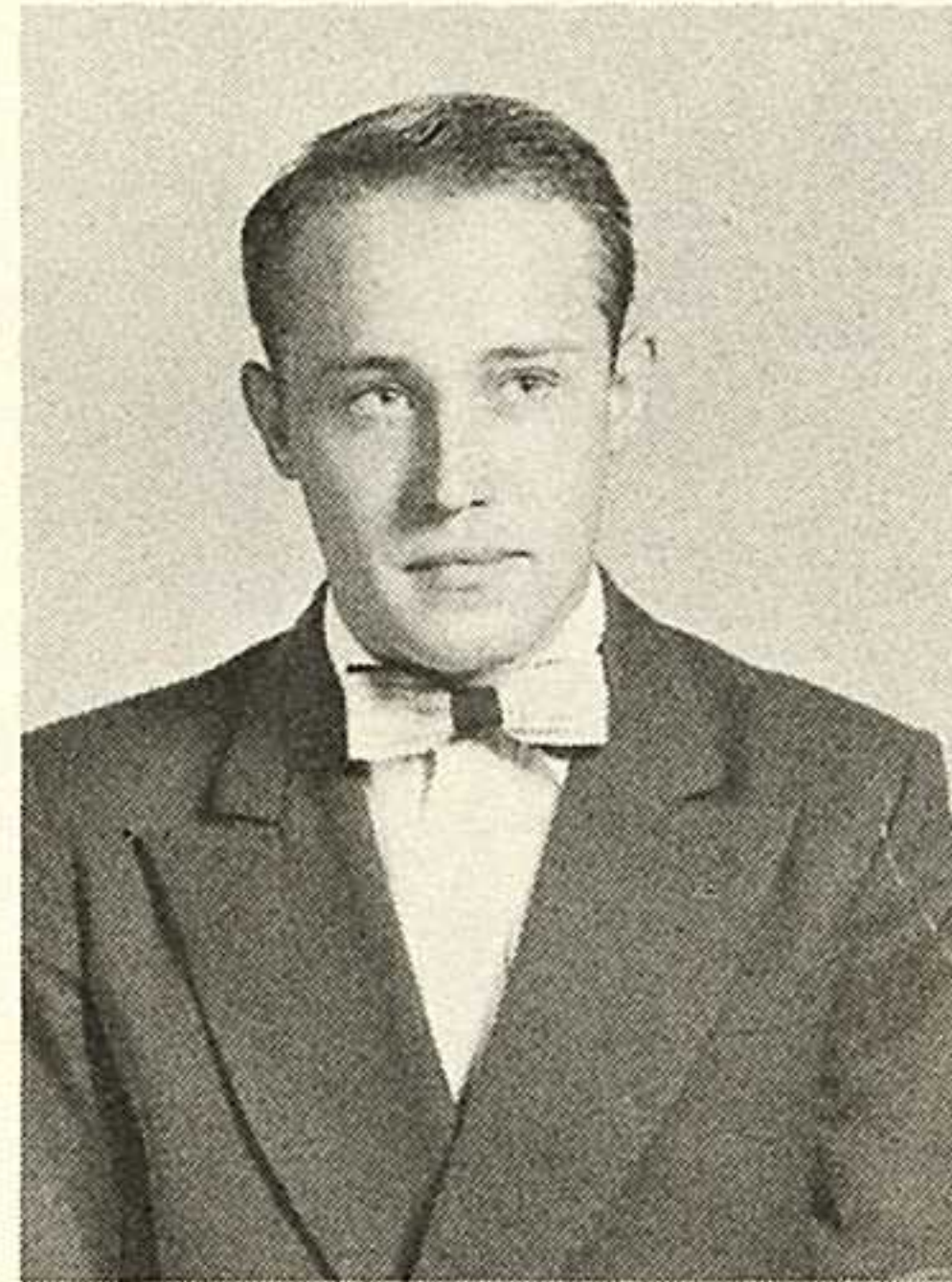
### Teacher Bode To Serve As Acting Principal

Mr. R. W. Wismar, Sr., advised the Joint School Board at its June meeting that he would not renew his contract as Principal of the school. At a later meeting it was decided to ask Mr. Edwin Bode to serve as Acting Principal for the 1958-1959 session, since it was too late to make a lengthy study of our needs before the opening of school.

Mr. Bode is a graduate of Concordia Teachers College. He previously taught at Mt. Calvary Lutheran School.

First English contracted with Mr. Bode to teach in 1954 and called him as one of their workers in 1956. During this time he has taught second grade.

We should all implore the Lord's blessings upon Mr. Bode as he begins this new task.



### Teacher Zoch To Begin Work In Our School

Mr. Melvin Zoch has been assigned as a teacher in our school. He is a recent graduate of our college at Seward, Nebraska. He completed the full four year degree program.

Teacher Zoch was born in Germantown, Texas, and attended Zion Lutheran school in Walburg, Texas. He studied at Concordia in Austin prior to going to Seward.

Mr. Zoch was on the staff of the school paper at Seward and a member of their mile relay team, which holds the school record in this event. Mr. Zoch's interests are hunting, all sports and science.

He will be installed on September 7, 1958, at 7:30 p.m., at our church. He is in need of all our prayers as he begins this phase of his life work.

### 1958 STATISTICS

Communicants: 1,124  
 Baptized Members: 1,460  
 School Enrollment: 251  
 Baptisms: 29  
 Confirmations: 29  
 Marriages: 5  
 Funerals: 19  
 Sunday School: 192

### OCTOBER 12, 1958

Six sets of twins at St. Paul pose for a group portrait at the baptism of the Beals twins

*(from left to right)*

David & Dorothea Randolph  
 Ruth & Bill Watson holding  
 Robert and Richard Watson  
 Marlene and Darlene Hellmers  
 Amelia Carbone and daughter,  
 Amelia Beals, holding  
 Michael & Mitchel Beals  
 Dorothy & Ferdinand Hoppe  
 holding Kimberly & Kerry  
 Alton & Alvin Simpson



## February 20, 1872

That's a lo-o-ong time agol! It was the day that the State of Louisiana granted a Charter of incorporation to a Christian group which was known as **The German Evangelical Lutheran St. Paul's Church Congregation of the Unaltered Augsburg Confession of the City of New Orleans, La.** Only twice in the intervening 87 years has the Charter and Constitution been amended, in 1901 and 1919. Among other changes the name was changed in 1901 to **The Evangelical Lutheran St. Paul's Congregation, Unaltered Augsburg Confession, of New Orleans, La.** Our fathers did their work well; few changes have been necessary.

More numerous during the years have been the changes made in the By-laws of the Church. For a number of years a Committee has been appointed to gather these, and incorporate them in an up-to-date document. This study also discloses that in many instances our procedures of operation, in actual practice, has not in all cases conformed to the Constitution, and in particular the By-laws. Hence it's time for a revision.

But how much shall be revised? Just the By-Laws, or also the Constitution—possibly even the Charter? The Charter, as noted, suggests problems; it's 99 years duration expires in 12 more years; it permits us to hold property of no more than \$300,000 in valuation. These questions are currently before the Voters Assembly.

Every member will be interested in one matter being discussed—the name of our Church. If other things are amended to conform to changed conditions, should our legal name at the same time perhaps become the name popularly in use among us, **St. Paul's Lutheran Church** or even **First Lutheran Church**? All of these are possibilities to consider. An apostrophe 's in our title, in English is indicative of the possessive case, and no doubt came by direct translation into English from the German original "St. Paulus." in the amendments of 1901. **First Lutheran Church** can logically be considered because of the Congregation's senior position in age, oldest of the 25 Lutheran church in this area, and one of the oldest in the entire South. When the Church first adopted its first truly Lutheran constitution under the pastorate of Pastor Moedinger, this was the name, **First German Evangelical Lutheran Congregation of New Orleans, Louisiana**; the name was used for 16 years, from 1858 to 1872.

Other questions must be resolved by the Voters Assembly. Shall we continue the use of the word Evangelical? It is now a Lutheran denomination's name; there is an **Evangelical Lutheran Church**, equivalent to our "Synod." We are not in fellowship with this group. It was long used by the Evangelical and Reformed Church, now passing out of existence. Shall we change the word **Congregation** in the name to **Church**, a usage more widely accepted today? Shall the words **Unaltered Augsburg Confession** remain in the name? Surely our confessional statement will indicate that we will doctrinally cling to this Confession, but it is desirable as part of a legal name.

So there are many questions. Discuss them among yourselves, and pray over them. Particularly are we ager to have good attendance at Voters Assembly meetings when these matters are being discussed—W. F. W.



FEBRUARY, 1959

Sharing Christ Plan Committee



APRIL 12, 1959  
Confirmation

AUGUST 9, 1959  
Library Committee  
Prepares for Opening Day





## Statistics Report—1960

### CHURCH ATTENDANCE

151 Services .....	( 145)
32,949 Attendance .....	(27,238)
30.5 Average per Communicant ..	( 23)
26,569 Sun. Morn. Attend. ....	(21,558)
23.9 Average per Communicant ..	( 18)
233 Average 7:30 a.m. ....	( 176)
278 Average 10:15 a.m. ....	( 239)
511 Sunday Average .....	( 415)

### SUNDAY SCHOOL

14,819 Attendance .....	(9809)
285 Average per Sunday .....	( 192)
50 Adult Bible Class .....	( 32)
42 Wed. Bible Class .....	( 44)

### CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

298 Enrollment .....	(269)
107 St. Paul's Pupils .....	( 96)

### MINISTERIAL ACTS

34 Baptisms .....	(31)
40 Confirmations .....	(20)
9 Marriages .....	( 5)
16 Funerals .....	(19)

### MEMBERSHIP COUNT, 1-1-61

1112 Communicants .....	(1188)
331 Baptized Souls .....	(329)
1443 Total .....	(1517)

APRIL 24, 1960  
Confirmation

SEPTEMBER 21, 1960  
Constitution and By-Laws  
revised and name changed to  
St. Paul Lutheran Church

JULY, 1961  
Young Couple's Club formed

SEPTEMBER 7, 1961  
Ninth grade added to school

JANUARY 3, 1962  
Pastor Wedig accepts Call to  
serve Southern District

JUNE 10, 1962  
Gordon Albers installed as  
Assistant Pastor

MARCH 17, 1963  
A. L. Grumm installed as  
Senior Pastor

Rev. Wm. F. Wedig  
Rev. David B. Joeckel

DECEMBER, 1960  
THE VISITOR



## Property Purchased

Another forward-looking step of progress has just been taken, the purchase of 3 houses and lots adjacent to our present holdings.

At year's end 837 Franklin Avenue, a single residence on a 22 foot lot, and 827-831 Franklin Avenue, a double house on a 50 foot lot, were bought through the agency of Mr. Stanley Matherne, realtor. By the time you receive this Visitor, an additional residence, 2612 Burgundy, with a 29 foot front, will have passed act of sale.

The three purchased will give St. Paul a 62 foot frontage of Franklin Avenue, and add a total of 9,112 square feet to our site. It is planned to immediately dispose of the houses, and to fence and adequately pave the ground for off-street parking and playground. A \$50,000.00 loan accomplished these acquisitions, to be retired by regular payments for our total offerings. Surely we will all be a mindful of this as we prepare our weekly gifts and tithes.



# Faculty



Chas. W. Laabs  
Principal



Elmer A.  
Groth HR 9



David J.  
Adam HR 8



Marilyn  
Orth HR 7



Merwyn L.  
Miessler 6



Melvin  
Zoch 5



Dorothy  
Groth 4



Carolon  
Koenig 3



Edwin R.  
Bode 2



Olga  
Seruntine 1



Ruth  
Klotz K



A. Hardesty  
Librarian



APRIL 23, 1961  
Confirmation Portrait

Rev. W. F. Wedig  
Rev. David Joeckel



APRIL 29, 1962  
Confirmation Portrait

Rev. Ed. Krause  
Mr. David Adam



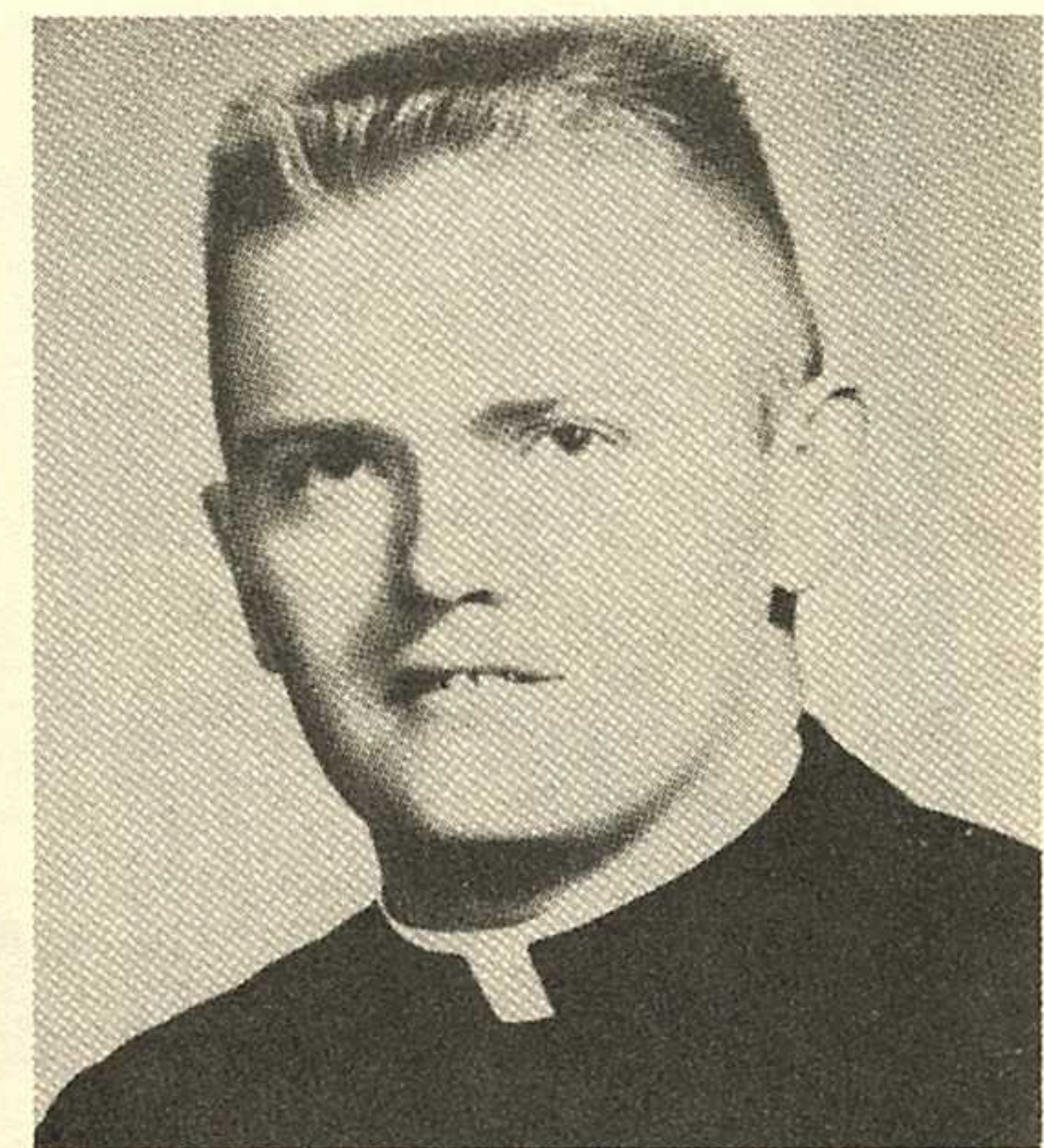
APRIL 21, 1963  
Confirmation Portrait

Rev. A. L. Grumm  
Rev. Gordon Albers



—States-Item photo.  
YOUNG AND OLD are represented in the ministerial branches of the Joeckel family. The REV. DAVID JOECKEL, right, assistant pastor, St. Paul's Lutheran church, greets his 92-year-old grandfather; the REV. TOBIAS JOECKEL, here on a visit to the city where he was born.

Tobias Joeckel taught in  
our school in 1890



**GORDON H. ALBERS**

Pastor Albers is originally from Cushing, Iowa and graduated from Concordia College, St. Paul, Minn. On May 30, 1962 he graduated from Concordia Theological Seminary, Springfield, Ill. He vicared at Calvary Lutheran in Lincoln Park, Ill. Pastor Albers was Ordained on June 3, 1962 in his home church in Battle Creek, Iowa, and was installed as Assistant Pastor at St. Paul on June 10, 1962.



A.  
**LORENZ  
GRUMM**

The Eighteenth Pastor to lead St. Paul was the Rev. A. Lorenz Grumm, born March 26, 1924 at Garrison, N.D. The year 1947 was an eventful one for a young man. In the Spring, he graduated from Concordia Seminary, he was Ordained on August 15th at Redeemer Lutheran, Lisbon, N.D., and on November 25th, the former Carol Ruth Berdan became Mrs. A. L. Grumm. They had four daughters and a son.

Pastor Grumm was installed at St. Paul on March 17, 1963, and became well-known for his interest in adult education. He began an annual lecture series in October, 1963 called the "Open Forum," and The Bethel Bible Series was taught to over 120 members during a two-year period.

During the turbulence and civil unrest of the 1960's, the church leadership took the position that the matter of intergration had already been settled by God's Word; that the church was open to people of all races.

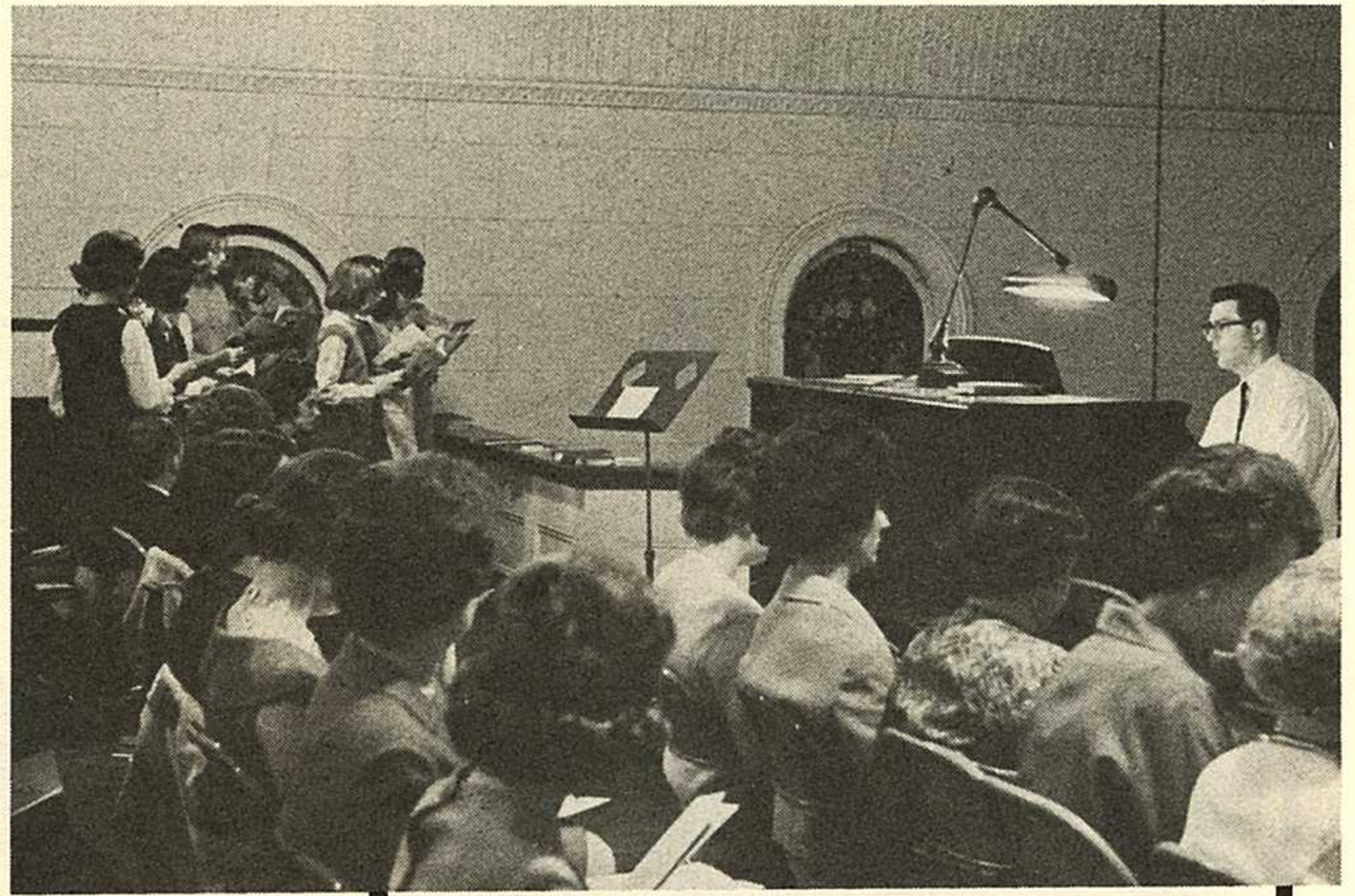
Pastor Grumm preached his farewell sermon on Sunday, October 27, 1968 and assumed his new office as Executive Secretary of Stewardship and Mission Education for the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod on the first of November.



**1963**  
The church library receives its 1000th book as author Dr. Paul Maier looks on

**1963**  
School Graduation





c. 1963  
Organist/Choirmaster  
Merwyn L. Miessler  
directing the Senior Choir

JANAURY 5, 1964

Installation of Board Members





**APRIL 26, 1964**

**Confirmation**

**APRIL 25, 1965**

**Confirmation**



**JOHN DAVID ADAM**



Mr. John David Adam was born in Nevada City, CA. He attended Concordia at River Forest and graduated in 1961 from So. Illinois University in Carbondale, Illinois.

He joined the school staff as 8th grade teacher in 1961 and served as Principal from 1966-75.

**JUNE, 1964**  
The kids "hit the books" during the Annual Summer Reading Program



**125 YEARS**  
of  
**SERVICE**



**ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
PORT AND BURGUNDY STREETS  
NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA

**1840-1965**



**MAY 2, 1965**

Reunion Service  
Municipal Auditorium

the **Lutheran Witness**



**SOUTHERN DISTRICT EDITION**

PUBLISHED IN TWO PARTS - PART 2

Vol. LXXXIV

ST. LOUIS, MO., FEBRUARY 2, 1965

No. 3

**ST. PAUL, NEW ORLEANS, OBSERVES 125TH**

The oldest Lutheran church in New Orleans, St. Paul Lutheran Church, Port and Burgundy, will observe the 125th year of its existence as a congregation and plans to conduct a number of special worship services during 1965. The first anniversary service was held on Sunday, Jan. 3d.

When a group of German-speaking people, summoned by the Rev. C. Sans, held evangelical services in an engine house on what is now Chartres Street on Aug. 2, 1840, this was the first step toward the formation of what is today known as St. Paul Lutheran Church. Continuation of services at this location, and later in a private dwelling on the same street near Port, resulted in the organization of this congregation. Three years later, at Port and Burgundy (at that time called Craps St.), acquisition of the property on which the present church now stands was negotiated. This first church building, erected in 1843, was destroyed by fire in 1860 and replaced by a larger building in December of that same year. This second church building, dedicated December 1860, was destroyed by fire Feb. 5, 1889.

The present house of worship, patterned after the church building destroyed Feb. 5, was dedicated Sept. 15, 1889. It was remodeled in 1915, renovated in 1926, and restored after a near disastrous fire in 1950.

According to Donald J. Hellmers, general chairman of the 125th-anniversary committee, a reunion service will be held at the Municipal Auditorium on Sunday, May 2, 1965. The speaker will be the Rev. H. B. Roepe, Trinity Lutheran Church, Washington, D. C., one of St. Paul's former pastors.

Two events worthy of note and planned for the anniversary year are the gathering of a \$50,000 thankoffering and a special evangelism effort.

On Sunday, Aug. 1, a Founders Day service will be celebrated. Dr. Oliver R. Harms, President of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, will be the speaker. This service of thanksgiving will commemorate the 125th anniversary

of the first service held on Aug. 2, 1840.

A 125th-anniversary Christian day school service will be conducted on Sept. 8 at First English Lutheran Church, 1228 Arts St. St. Paul and First English Lutheran congregations operate the school jointly. The speaker will be the Rev. A. Lorenz Grumm,

**CALLS AND APPLICATIONS**

All calls and applications for pastor, teacher, deaconess, vicar, and other church workers to be assigned by the Board of Assignments and the College of Presidents in the spring of 1965 must be in the office of the District President no later than March 1, 1965.  
(signed) Edgar Homrighausen, D. D.  
President, Southern District  
514 Fourth Avenue, East  
Cullman, Ala.

senior pastor at St. Paul's and First Vice-President of the Southern District.

A service of rededication will be held on Sunday, Nov. 21. The speaker will be the Rev. Wm. F. Wedig, District Executive Secretary of the Southern District and a former pastor of Saint Paul's.

St. Paul Lutheran Church is served by two pastors, the Rev. A. Lorenz Grumm and the Rev. Gordon H. Albers. Choirmaster and organist is M. L. Miessler.



Jacob Hofmann, 83 years old, and Hugo Brunig, 84 years old, two of the older members of St. Paul, (seated, l. to r.) look at anniversary plans with Pastor A. Lorenz Grumm (standing, l.) and Donald Hellmers, Sr. (r.), chairman of the 125th-anniversary committee.

**125th  
ANNIVERSARY YEAR  
SERVICES**



**Reunion Service**

**MAY 2**

**THE REV. HERBERT B. ROEPE**  
*First Trinity Lutheran Church  
Washington, D. C.*

**Founders Day Service**

**AUGUST 1**

**THE REV. OLIVER R. HARMS, D.D.**  
*President, Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod*

**Day School  
Anniversary Service**

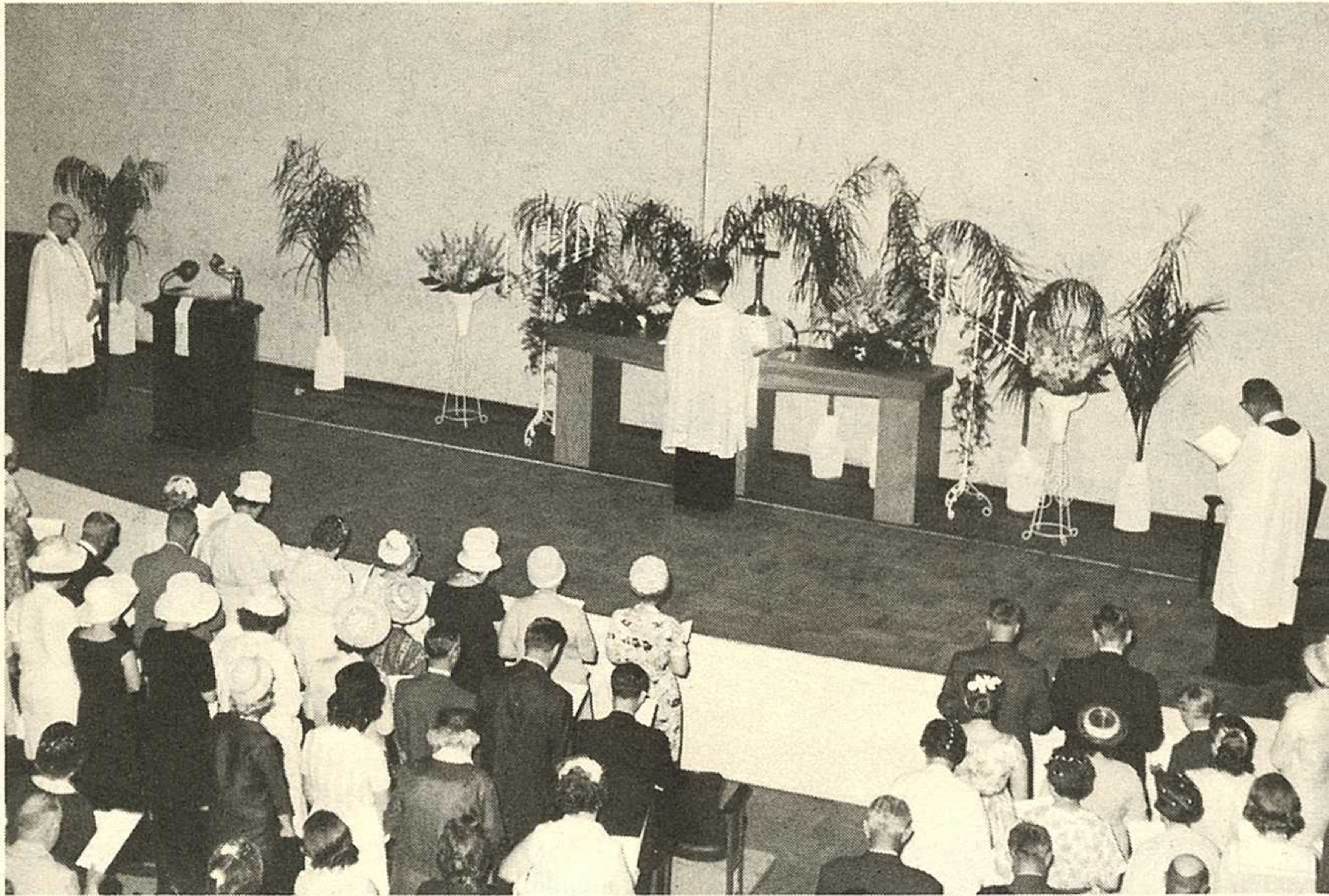
**SEPTEMBER 8**

**THE REV. A. LORENZ GRUMM**  
*St. Paul Lutheran Church*

**Service of Rededication**

**NOVEMBER 21**

**THE REV. WILLIAM F. WEDIG**  
*Executive Secretary of Missions and  
Church Extension  
Southern District Lutheran Church  
Missouri Synod*



**MAY 2, 1965**  
Reunion Service

**Rev. Herbert B. Roepe**  
**Rev. Gordon Albers**  
**Rev. A. Lorenz Grumm**

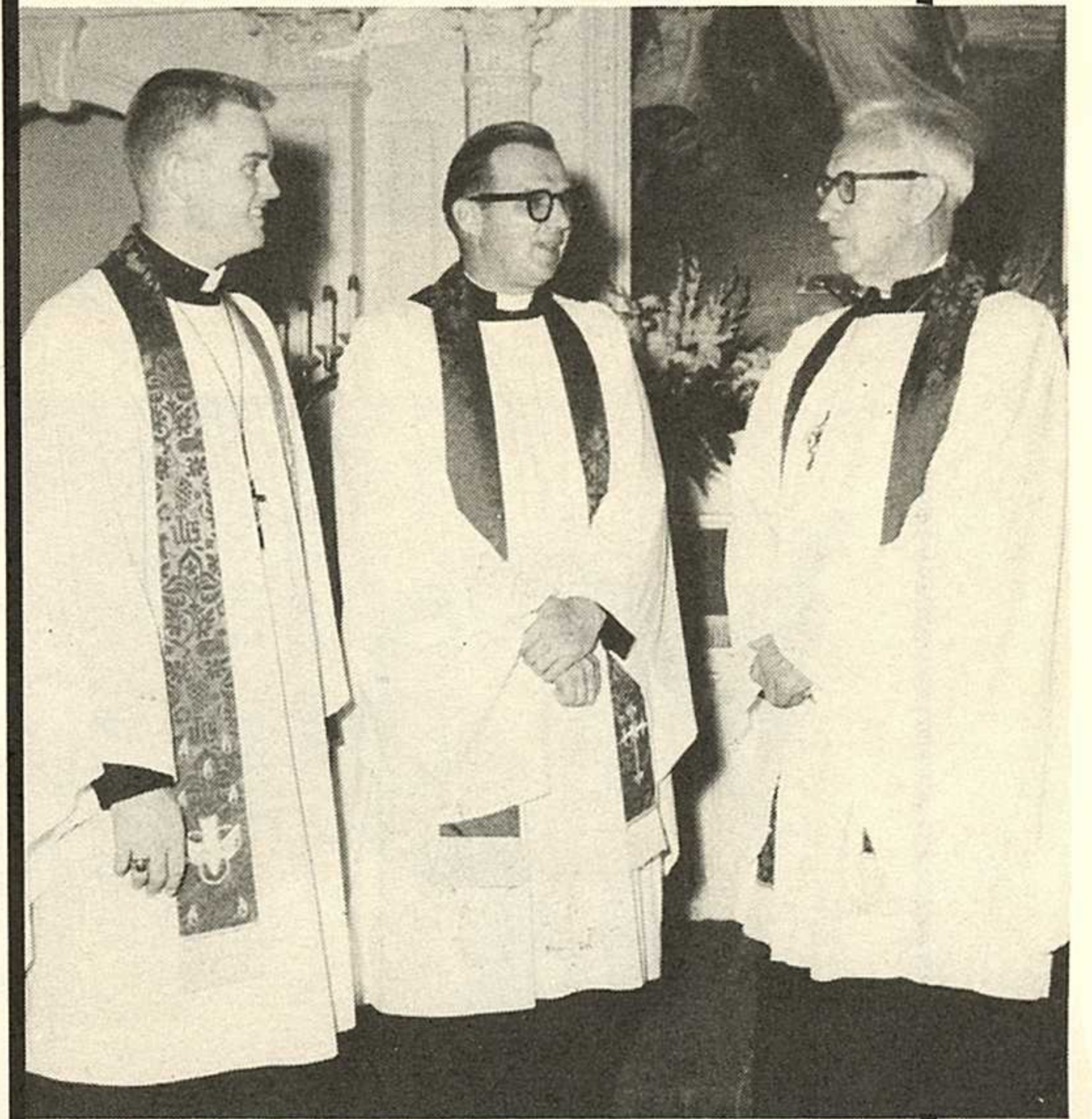
**AUGUST 1, 1965**  
Founders Day Service

**AUGUST 1, 1965**  
**Rev. G. Albers**  
**Rev. A. L. Grumm**  
**Rev. Dr. Oliver R. Harms**

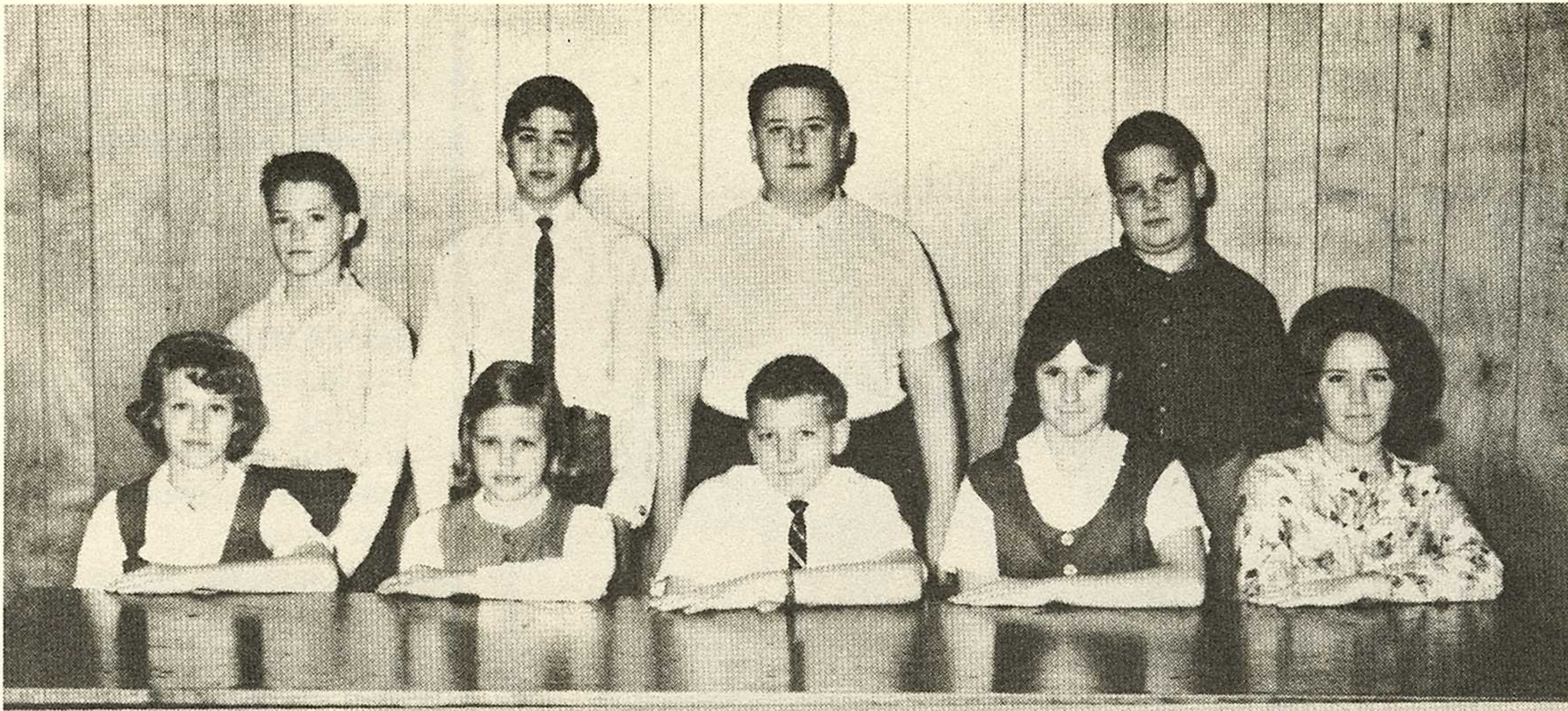
**MAY 2, 1965**  
125th Anniversary Reunion  
Service at Municipal Auditorium

**AUGUST 1, 1965**  
125th Anniversary  
Founders' Day Service

**SEPTEMBER, 1965**  
Hurricane Betsy hits N.O.  
causing much damage to  
St. Paul necessitating major  
renovations over the following  
two years







1964/65

Junior High  
Student Council

**OCTOBER 15, 1965**

Mr. R. W. Wismar, Sr.,  
passes away

**NOVEMBER 21, 1965**

125th Anniversary Rededication  
Service with Pastor Wedig

**FEBRUARY 5, 1967**

Service of Rededication for  
renovations and new stained-  
glass windows

**JULY 16, 1967**

Wayne Rutz Installed as  
Assistant Pastor

**JUNE 22, 1969**

Wayne Rutz Installed as  
Senior Pastor

**FALL, 1969**

School building exterior bricked



**APRIL 17, 1966**  
Confirmation

**APRIL 16, 1967**  
Confirmation



**SEAFOOD SUPPER**  
ST. PAUL'S MEN'S CLUB  
In Church Basement  
LUTHERAN LAYMAN LEAGUE  
Port and Burgundy Streets  
AUG. 20, 1965 - 5:30 TO 8:30 P.M.  
- Come and Bring A Friend -  
DONATION - - - - - Adults \$1.00



**SEAFOOD SUPPER**  
ST. PAUL'S MEN'S CLUB  
in Church Basement  
LUTHERAN LAYMAN LEAGUE  
Port and Burgundy Street  
FRIDAY, MAY 6, 1966 5 P. M. - 8:30 P. M.  
COME AND BRING A FRIEND  
DONATION . . . . . ADULTS \$1.00

**SEAFOOD SUPPER**  
ST. PAUL'S LLL MEN'S CLUB  
IN CHURCH BASEMENT  
PORT & BURGUNDY STREETS  
Friday, May 5, 1967  
5:30 P. M. to 8:30 P. M.  
DONATION - 12 Years or Under.....75¢



# Report on 125th. Anniversary Thank Offering and Church Renovations

St. Paul Lutheran Church  
New Orleans, Louisiana

**MAY 2, 1966**  
Stewardship Committee

"Last year on May 2, as part of the observance of St. Paul's 125 Anniversary, we commenced a 50-week period of bringing special Thankofferings to our Heavenly Father in gratitude for the many blessings we receive as members of a Christian congregation. This 50-week period ended on April 10, 1966. You will recall that this Thankoffering, dedicated to the glory of God, was to be used:

1. To beautify our own house of worship, and
2. To help further the work of God's Kingdom in our Southern District

The Voter's Assembly decided that it would be good stewardship to completely repair and renovate the church building at the same time that the "Hurricane Betsy" damages are

taken care of. Accordingly, on recommendation of the Church Renovations Committee, contracts to perform the following have been approved by the Voters' Assembly:

- Purchase and installation of new carpeting.
- Replacement and installation of new stained-glass windows.
- Installation of new entrance doors.
- Purchase and installation of new pews.
- New lighting fixtures and rewiring of church and stage.
- Painting of church interior and exterior, lowering of pew platform and installation of choir risers.
- Repair of "Betsy" Damage to steeple, roof, guttering, and blinds.

Total repairs and renovations:  
\$73,923.00.

## THE MESSAGE IN THE WINDOWS

The new stained-glass windows were designed by the Rev. A. R. Kretzmann, honorary member, Church Architectural Guild of America, and a consultant in Liturgical and Church Architectural Design. At the time, he was pastor of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Saint Luke, Chicago, Illinois.

The windows were manufactured by the firm of Giannini and Hilgart, Chicago. As you enter the narthex from Burgundy Street and face the altar, the window on your left represents the Law and Gospel, and on your right, the Word and Sacrament.

As you enter the nave, the windows on the Port Street side of the church depict the Old Testament characters who pointed to the Messiah. Beginning with the balcony window and moving towards the altar, we can see Adam/Abraham; Isaac/Jacob; Moses/Aaron; David/Solomon; Isaiah/Jeremiah; Daniel/John the Baptist. This brings us to the object of their witness and our faith, the suffering and resurrected Christ, symbolized by both the altar crucifix and the painting of the Resurrection.

On the Franklin Street side, we are reminded of the New Testament witnesses. Beginning with the window by the pulpit, we see the four Evangelists, Matthew/Mark; Luke/John, followed by the four Apostles, Peter/Andrew; James/John. They are followed in turn by four Missionaries and Reformers, Paul/Athanasius; and Luther/Walther.

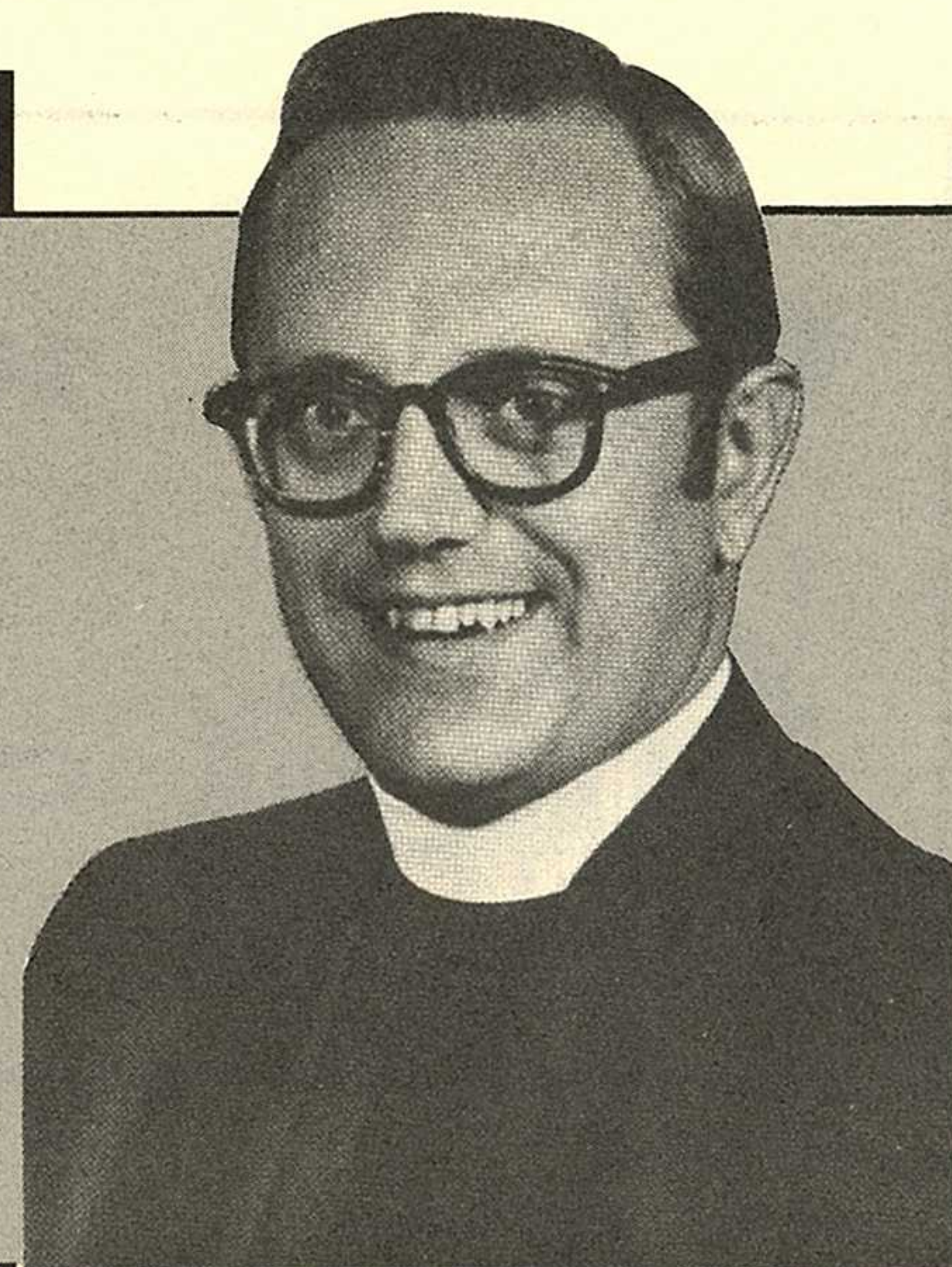


Called first to serve as an Assistant Pastor to Pastor Grumm on July 16, 1967, Wayne E. Rutz was extended the Call as Senior Pastor after Pastor Grumm left. Rutz was installed on June 22, 1969.

Pastor Rutz was exceptionally gifted in the area of worship. While he was at St. Paul, the early service was moved to 8:00, the Order of Matins was instituted when there was no Communion, and later he encouraged the practice of celebrating the Eucharist at both Sunday services and festivals.

## WAYNE E. RUTZ

The electronic Baldwin organ which had been in use since the 1950 fire, had become very unreliable. With Pastor Rutz's encouragement, a campaign was initiated to purchase a new Schlicker organ. Pastor Rutz, however, did not see the completion of the project as he and his wife, Evelyn, left St. Paul in November of 1970.



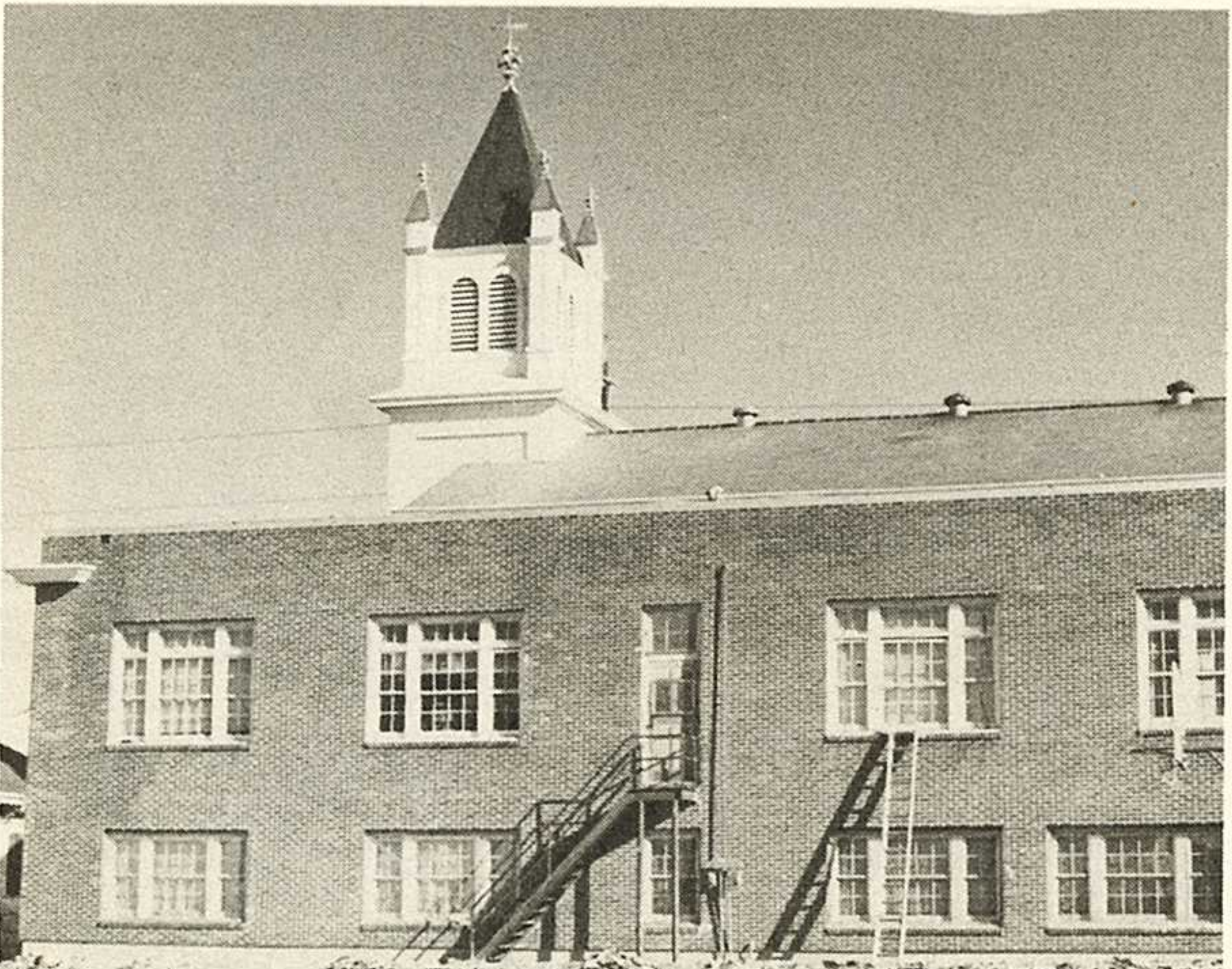
*Wayne E. Rutz*

1967-68  
Elementary School Choir  
under the direction of  
Mr. Ronald E. Wismar  
Teacher, 1967-68

APRIL 28, 1968  
Confirmation  
Rev. A. L. Grumm  
Rev. Wayne E. Rutz



**FALL, 1969**  
The school building is bricked



**APRIL 27, 1969**  
Confirmation



**Rev. Wayne E. Rutz**



**APRIL, 1969**  
Church library receives its  
2000th volume



**Rev. Erich Wildgrube**

**MAY, 1969**  
Rev. Erich Wildgrube  
joined the staff of  
St. Paul after retiring  
from St. Paul's on  
Annette Street.  
He assisted with  
pastoral ministry  
to our home-bound  
members as well as  
making hospital  
visits until 1977

## Number Two in a Series on Outstanding Parishes

# St. Paul's, New Orleans

TO MOST PEOPLE port and burgundy are varieties of grape wine.

But to some 1,200 members of St. Paul Lutheran Congregation at New Orleans, Port and Burgundy (pronounced bur-GUN'-dy) is the address of their church—at the edge of the Crescent City's colorful French Quarter.

Like the exteriors of many of the 200-year-old residences in the French Quarter, the facade of St. Paul's Church is deceptive. Inside the 80-year-old nondescript wooden structure, built on a 100-year-old burned-out foundation, is a warm and inviting sanctuary, painted white—and with cushions on the pews.

An estimated 35 percent of the members of the congregation live in the area. Some of them live in French Quarter apartments, which have been elegantly refurbished and rent for as much as several hundred dollars a month.

In contrast to the age of the congregation—130 years—the senior pastor is a young man—28 years old. Rev. Wayne Rutz, a 1967 graduate of the St. Louis seminary, admits that he may be the youngest pastor of so large a congregation in the Missouri Synod. He adds that he has gotten a lot "older" and a lot wiser since he came to St. Paul's in July of 1967.

"But it isn't the building, the location, the pastor, or the other members of the staff which make this congregation outstanding," Pastor Rutz told the REPORTER. After pondering the question for a few seconds he added: "It's the people."

**PEOPLE SUCH AS** Dr. Mary L. Good, professor of chemistry at Louisiana State University in New Orleans (LSUNO). Dr. Good and her husband both teach at the spanking-new \$25 million campus on the shores of Lake Pontchartrain. Established 10 years ago in a few surplus military barracks, the school has 10,358 students, and a spokesman for the institution predicted the enrollment would reach 30,000 in the next decade with an additional investment of \$130 million for campus development.

Dr. Good, who travels to scientific gatherings all over the world to lecture on her specialized field, is an articulate spokesman for the church and its future.

"I was brought up in another Protestant denomination, then became a member of a suburban Lutheran church," she told the REPORTER, "but I joined St. Paul's because of their open attitude (toward the racial question) and their willingness to work toward a solution in meeting the needs of people in their area. The congregation hasn't solved all the problems by any means, but it has instituted a number of programs which are a step in the right direction."

She cited the Wednesday night "Neighborhood Study Hall," a tutoring program for youngsters in the elementary grades. "I'm impressed by the number of adults and teenagers in our congregation who are working together in the project." About 15 teenagers and an equal number of adults, many of them professional teachers and counselors, are tutoring both black and white youngsters in subjects such as math and remedial reading.

"It seems to me," the chemistry professor said, "that the

location of our church is in itself a challenge to reach into the neighborhood."

The mother of a 16-year-old son, Dr. Good talked about the difficulty churches are having in communicating with teenagers. "I have come to the conclusion," she said, "that the best way to get through to teenagers is by example. Our son is impressed by what the adults are doing in the tutoring program. This has caused him to become interested in a course our church has for future Sunday school teachers. Many kids of this age are too sophisticated for much of the ordinary Sunday school materials."

Asked about the "conflict" between science and religion, the chemistry professor replied: "If the Christian church is to survive in this technological age, we must have committed people in high places, particularly in the educational field. The church must maintain contact with these people; the church must make itself felt."

"It was the humanists—not the scientists—who led the kids away from the church. When I teach chemistry, I don't teach theology."

"The church needs to stay on top of what is happening," she concluded. "I believe the church in general now maintains some programs which others, the government, for example, can do better. There are other fields in the areas of human contact where the church should be because it can do the best job."

**OR PEOPLE** such as Donald Hellmers, 41, manager of the Bolton Plumbing and Supply Co. He has held most of the major offices in the congregation, is currently its chairman.

"Our neighborhood is changing, and our congregation is experimenting with all kinds of programs to meet the needs of the community. Our members are still coming from all over the New Orleans area because they want to be a part of our ministry."

Hellmers, representative of many interrelated families who have a long history of service at St. Paul's, believes the membership is leveling off, "but we expect to increase our ministry."

"We need to involve more people in our programs. Church is 'a Sunday deal' with too many people."

In response to a question about the school which the con-

gregation operates jointly with nearby First English Lutheran Church, the plumbing executive piped: "If our members believe the parochial school is worthwhile, they're going to have to pay for it." He emphasized the continuing financial problems and the need to pay adequate salaries to the teachers.

**OR PEOPLE** such as Mrs. Edgar Traugott, secretary to the academic dean of LSUNO. An assistant organist at St. Paul's, she studied music at St. John's College, Winfield, Kans.

"I like St. Paul's because it's a churchy church. The pastors have been and are good. The music is good. There is good peppy singing. A person really feels as though he belongs to a church."

Mrs. Traugott expressed a keen interest in the variety of liturgical formats which are used in the services. "I think the changes in the liturgy and the use of Matins are great."

Enthusiastic about the tutoring program, the affable secretary said: "New ministries are essential for an older congregation. We need to show love and concern for the people in the neighborhood."

She complimented the "good attitude" of the congregation's leaders: "I marvel at the dedication of some of our men who work and never complain."

A member of the Fishermen's Club, Mrs. Traugott enjoys calling on newcomers to the city, backsliders, and others whose names are supplied by the pastor. "It's so rewarding to make calls and then see the people in church on Sunday."

The biggest problem in the congregation? "I'm not aware of any. Maybe I live in a little world of my own, but occasionally I do hear complaints about the lack of money. There really isn't very much grumbling. The pastor has everything so alive."

**PASTOR RUTZ**, the son of the chief engineer at the Wilson Meat Packing firm at Cedar Rapids, Iowa, credits his interest in the ministry to pastors of congregations in Chicago, Denver, and Cedar Rapids where he and his family were members, and to Rev. Alton Wedel, pastor of Mount Olive Lutheran Church, Minneapolis, where Pastor Rutz vicared.

"Our young pastor makes a mistake once in a while," a veteran member told the REPORTER, "but we are willing



**Tried by Fire** Four major fires in its 130-year history and Hurricane Betsy in 1965 have failed to daunt the spirit of St. Paul's Lutheran Church, New Orleans. Located at the corner of Port and Burgundy Streets, the present church building is 80 years old, the foundation 100 years old. The school building, next to the church, is being refaced with brick.

to overlook it and chalk it up to experience."

The membership of St. Paul's runs the whole gamut of human experience—from a polished multimillionaire to a rugged factory laborer, from college professors, high school teachers, and counselors to functional illiterates.

At the present time the congregation has no black members, but it does have some black youngsters in the school. "We had a few black people attending, but they were members of other congregations," Pastor Rutz explained. There are comparatively few black people living in the area of the congregation, the pastor said.

One of the recent innovations has been the formation of Kana Koinonia, a young married-couples club in which the pastor and his wife, the former Evelyn Schoessow of Freistadt, Wis., take an active part. Mrs. Rutz teaches music in a public school in the area. Following a light meal on a Sunday eve-

ning the couples gather to discuss topics of interest to them—family budgeting, family planning, and children.

**CHILDREN** rate high in the planning of St. Paul's programs. In addition to the tutoring project a "summer enrichment program" every evening during July from 6 to 9 p. m. staffed by 40 to 50 Walther Leaguers with four adult counselors attracted an average of 150 youngsters from the neighborhood for "fun and games."

The congregation also opens its facilities for a well-child clinic, where community youngsters are given shots. A good relationship with other neighborhood churches paves the way for cooperative community ventures, Pastor Rutz noted.

Some 250 youngsters are enrolled in the Sunday school. Three teen-age Bible classes, one of them a Sunday school teacher preparatory course, attracts a total of about 100.

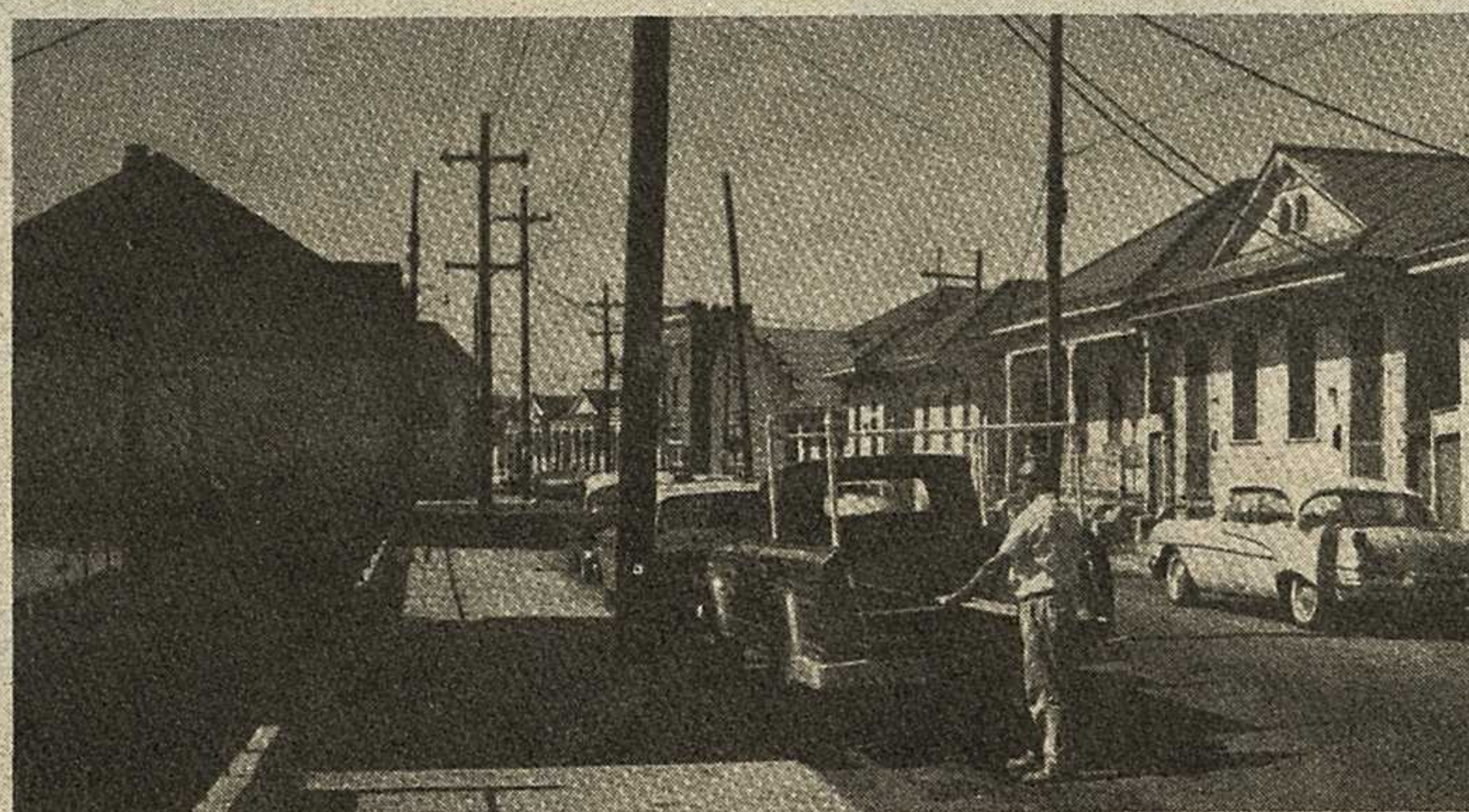
Heading the list of the congregation's educational agencies for children, however, is the parochial school. The kindergarten through ninth grade school has an enrollment of 275 and is conducted in two locations, St. Paul's and First English, two congregations with a communicant membership of more than 1,000 each, located two blocks apart.

Incidentally, First English, a daughter of St. Paul's, also has a young new pastor—29-year-old Rev. Walton Ehrhardt, who succeeded District President Edgar Homrighausen, now in Miami, Fla.

The interest of St. Paul's in children was emphasized by Principal David J. Adam, a 1961 graduate of Concordia Teachers College, River Forest, Ill.: "We are not teaching subjects as much as we are kids."

Accenting the need for continued congregational support, Principal Adam said: "If you have good congregational support, you have a good school. Costs are increasing, and there's

See ST. PAUL'S, Page 7



**On Edge of French Quarter** Burgundy Street looking toward the French Quarter. Robert Langhoff, full-time maintenance man for St. Paul's, unloads some plywood in front of the school, which is behind the fence at the left.



**Bright Interior** Pastor Wayne Rutz in the pulpit of St. Paul's speaks to a congregation seated on cushioned pews. The interior of the church is painted white. New art glass windows, designed by Dr. A. R. Kretzmann of Chicago, were installed after the 1965 hurricane demolished the old ones.



**Busy Men** Pastor Rutz visits with D. J. Hellmers, chairman of the congregation, in the latter's place of business, a plumbing-supply firm. The congregation has many business and professional men on its membership rolls.

## ST. PAUL'S, NEW ORLEANS

(Continued from Page 6)

always the problem of extending the school into the community. It's never too expensive if it gets the job done."

The principal paid tribute to his 11-member teaching staff, seven of whom are men. "The men add stability," he said. Six teachers are supplied by St. Paul's, five by First English. Tuition is \$11 per month for members, \$22 for nonmembers.

**BUT MONEY,** Pastor Rutz admits, is an on-going problem "although we usually make our budget."

For 1970 the budget is \$127,500, including \$46,000 for pastors' and teachers' salaries, \$17,600 for administration, \$39,500 for property equipment and care, and \$24,000 for the Synod and other agencies. In addition the congregation frequently receives generous gifts from selected individual members for special projects and programs.

The stewardship campaign is conducted by mail and supported by three events in Sunday services in November: a stewardship sermon on one Sunday; a visual presentation of needs on the next; and a gathering of pledge cards on stewardship Sunday, the last in the series.

The city is divided into 21 zones, each supervised by an elder, "but," says Pastor Rutz, "our stumbling block is our inability to contact all the members."

"**THE THEOLOGICAL** perception of this congregation never ceases to amaze me," Pastor Rutz observed. "Our people are well read; we have a blanket subscription to the REPORTER and the Witness; many of our members read other religious journals; and we have a 2,000-volume church library now marking its 10th anniversary."

"Despite its age, it's also one of the most theologically progressive congregations in the Synod," he added. "Some 75 persons are currently attending our adult Bible class in which we are discussing Genesis." He noted that 2 years ago about 150 were enrolled in the Bethel

Bible Series, and 85 completed the 2-year course which required attendance one night a week for three 8-week terms each year.

But "our church attendance in this congregation is extremely poor," Pastor Rutz wrote in the current issue of the *Visitor*, the congregation's quarterly parish paper. This in spite of the fact that the congregation's attendance is higher now than ever before in its history, Pastor Rutz admits. Communion attendance has tripled since the first of the year, and the number of worshippers has climbed a hundred in recent years to an average of about 550 a Sunday. Sunday services are at 7:30 a. m. and 10:15 a. m. The latter service has been broadcast every Sunday over radio for the past 40 years.

Pastor Rutz blames the attendance problem on an attitude held by many churchgoers in this predominantly Roman Catholic community: "Go to church on Good Friday,

pay another \$100, and you're good for another year."

"It's difficult to get people to see that we can't play major-league ball in a minor-league fashion. If we intend to be the church, we've got to work at it."

**HELPING** Pastor Rutz "work at it" is vicar Theodore Jannuska, who sees the role of St. Paul's as "a diversified ministry to a variety of people."

Married last summer to a River Forest graduate now teaching at Our Savior Lutheran School in New Orleans, Jannuska is active in programs that serve both age extremities — the tutoring program and the senior citizens organization with a membership of some 60 persons.

While distributing flyers in the neighborhood for the tutoring program, Vicar Jannuska observed that the neighbors became suspicious "because no one ever came to them before with such a program — and for free." He said calls were now



**MRS. FERN TRAUGOTT** is a member of the choir, assistant organist, and active in the congregation's Fishermen's Club. She is secretary to the academic dean of LSU-NO.



**DR. MARY GOOD**, a professor of chemistry at Louisiana State University in New Orleans, is representative of the many educators who are members of St. Paul's.

coming in from parents asking information about the project and enrolling their youngsters.

"To be good Christians," the vicar said "we have to be aware of people, aware of the needs of people around us. In this

way Jesus Christ can work through us."

Rev. Erich Wildgrube, who retired last summer after serving a black congregation in New Orleans for many years, is the third member of the pastoral staff. He calls on many of the congregation's 62 shut-ins and visits patients in some 12 hospitals, "an all-day job."

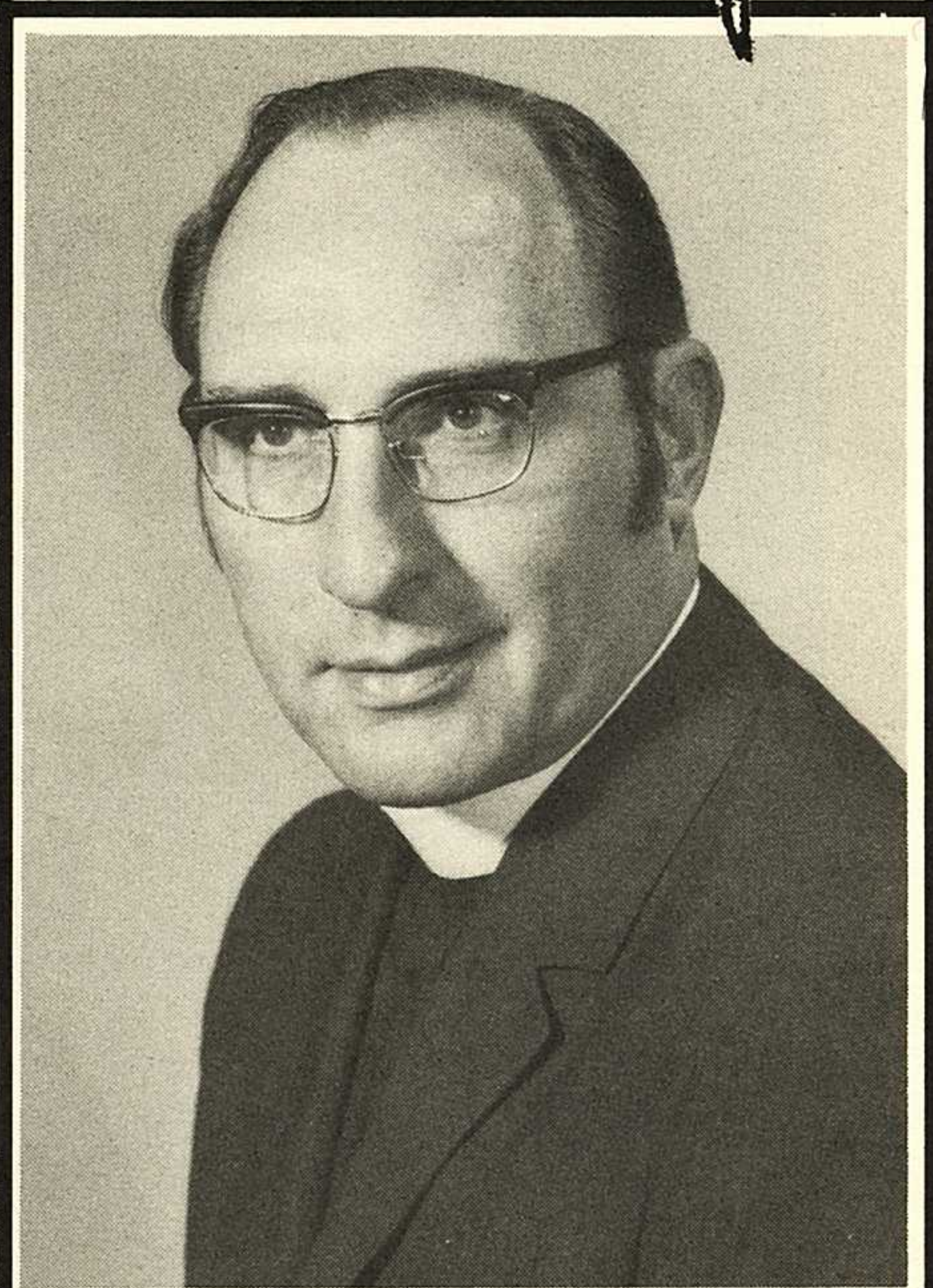
**ST. PAUL'S** might also point to its other church organizations, ladies aid, men's club, Walther League or to its full-time secretaries (one for the school), full-time maintenance man, or full-time librarian in the school, or to its cooperation with the some 20 other Lutheran churches in the New Orleans area, including the American Lutheran churches, or to its long list of talented members, or to its emphasis on good music, liturgy, banners, processions, or to its staff as reasons why people continue to attend even though they live miles away.

But Pastor Rutz summarizes it this way: "It's not important how far you drive to a church, but it's what happens when you get there that counts. People are members of St. Paul's because they want to be a part of the ministry which this church at Port and Burgundy Streets is trying to render to the community. We are a servant church." — E. K.



**Attentive Class** School Principal David J. Adam sets the stage for a discussion on "God's Action — Man's Need" in a junior high school religion class. The kindergarten through ninth grade school, operated in cooperation with nearby First English Lutheran Church, has an enrollment of 275.

*Richard Meyer*



Richard H. Meyer was born in Cullman, Alabama on November 22, 1922. He graduated from Concordia Seminary and earned a Master of Arts degree from Washington University in St. Louis.

He was Ordained and Commissioned as missionary to China in 1948. Soon, thereafter, he and his wife, Lois, were evacuated to Japan. The six Meyer children were born during the twenty-two years he and Lois were in Japan.

In 1969, Concordia Seminary in St. Louis, conferred upon him the Doctor of Divinity degree for his leadership in the development of the church in Japan.

He was Installed as Pastor of St. Paul on September 12, 1971. The direction of the church's ministry and mission was continued by him with the assistance of Pastor Wildgrube and a series of well-qualified Vicars.

Under Meyer's guidance, the program of neighborhood outreach continued to expand. During his pastorate, a new organ was dedicated in 1972.

"Project Compassion", which started as a program for the visitation of the sick and home-bound in 1972, was the catalyst for the formation of a committee for Christian Compassion.

During May and June, 1975, the congregation carried out "Operation Contact" in which 90% of the membership was contacted by a group of 82 volunteers.

Pastor Meyer served St. Paul until 1978, when he was elected as President of the Southern District.

**RICHARD  
H.  
MEYER**



**APRIL 26, 1970**  
Confirmation

**Rev. W. E. Rutz**  
**Vicar Ted Jannuska**



**APRIL 25, 1971**  
Confirmation

**Rev. Willard Rinnert**  
**Mr. David Adam**  
**Vicar Gerard F. LeFeber**

**APRIL 23, 1972**  
Confirmation

**Rev. Richard H. Meyer**  
**Vicar Donald Little**



SEPTEMBER, 17, 1972

THE ORGAN

The organ we are dedicating today was built by the Schlicker Organ Company of Buffalo, New York. It is a free-standing instrument with 16 stops, comprised of 19 ranks of pipes totalling 932 pipes. The 19 ranks are divided into three divisions: The Pedal Organ, the Great and Swell Organs. The Swell Organ is under expression. The Great and Pedal Organs are enclosed in reflective housings, which project the sound. We refer to the organ as a "straight" organ; that is, each stop is represented by its own set of pipes. Materials used in the construction of these pipes include brass, zinc, and various alloys of tin and lead. Wood pipes are of hardwood. The present chimes are connected to the new console. The wind chests (the devices which control the admission of wind to the pipes) are slider chests, a type of chest which has existed in its basic form for hundreds of years, now refined by modern technology. The most important virtue of the slider chest is its effect on the tone of the pipes with low wind pressure. Constructional woods for the chests are virgin growth yellow poplar. The console and all casework are made of red oak.



AUGUST 5, 1972

SEPTEMBER 17, 1972

In Memoriam

PROFESSOR RICHARD W. WISMAR, SR.

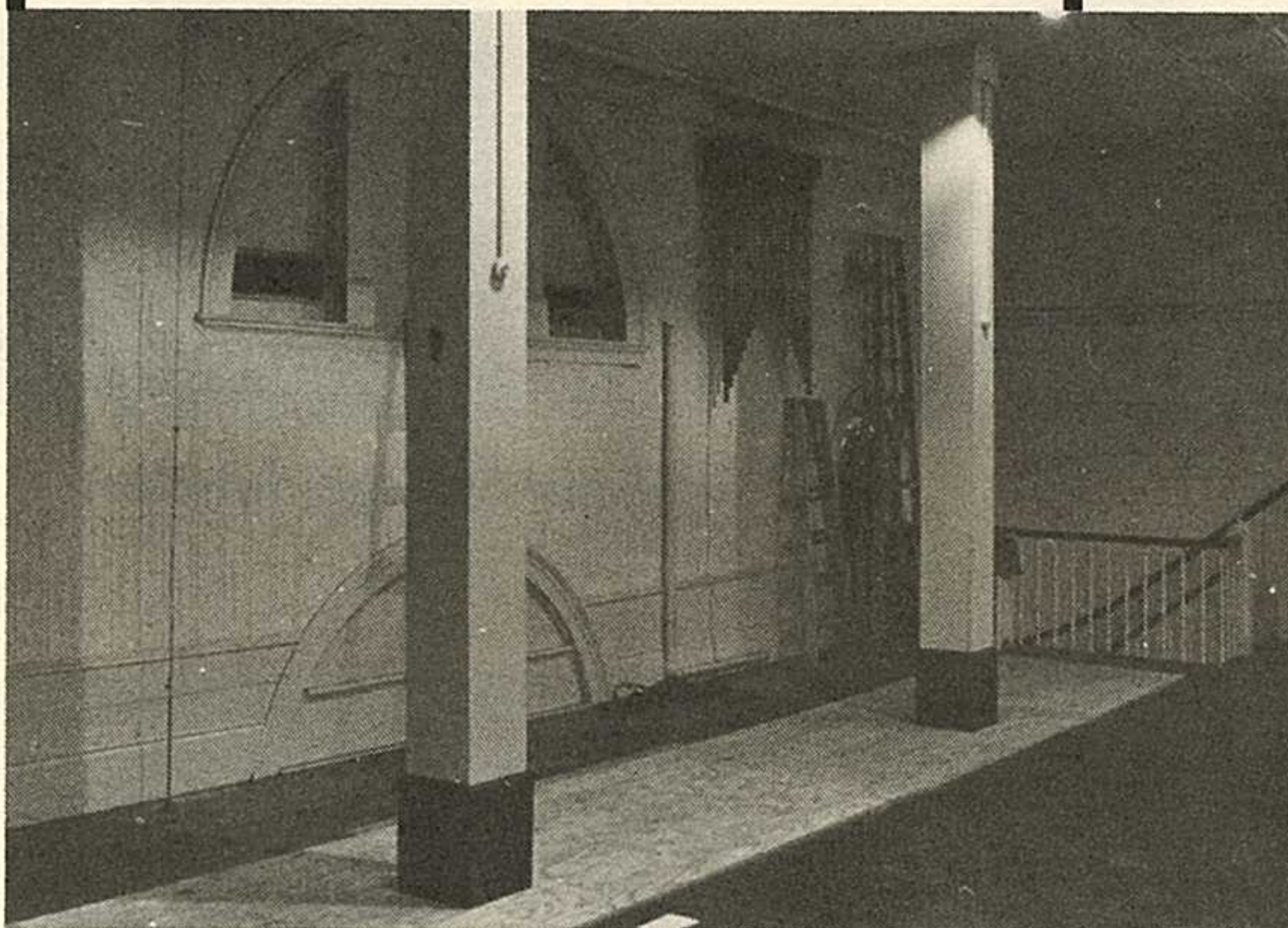
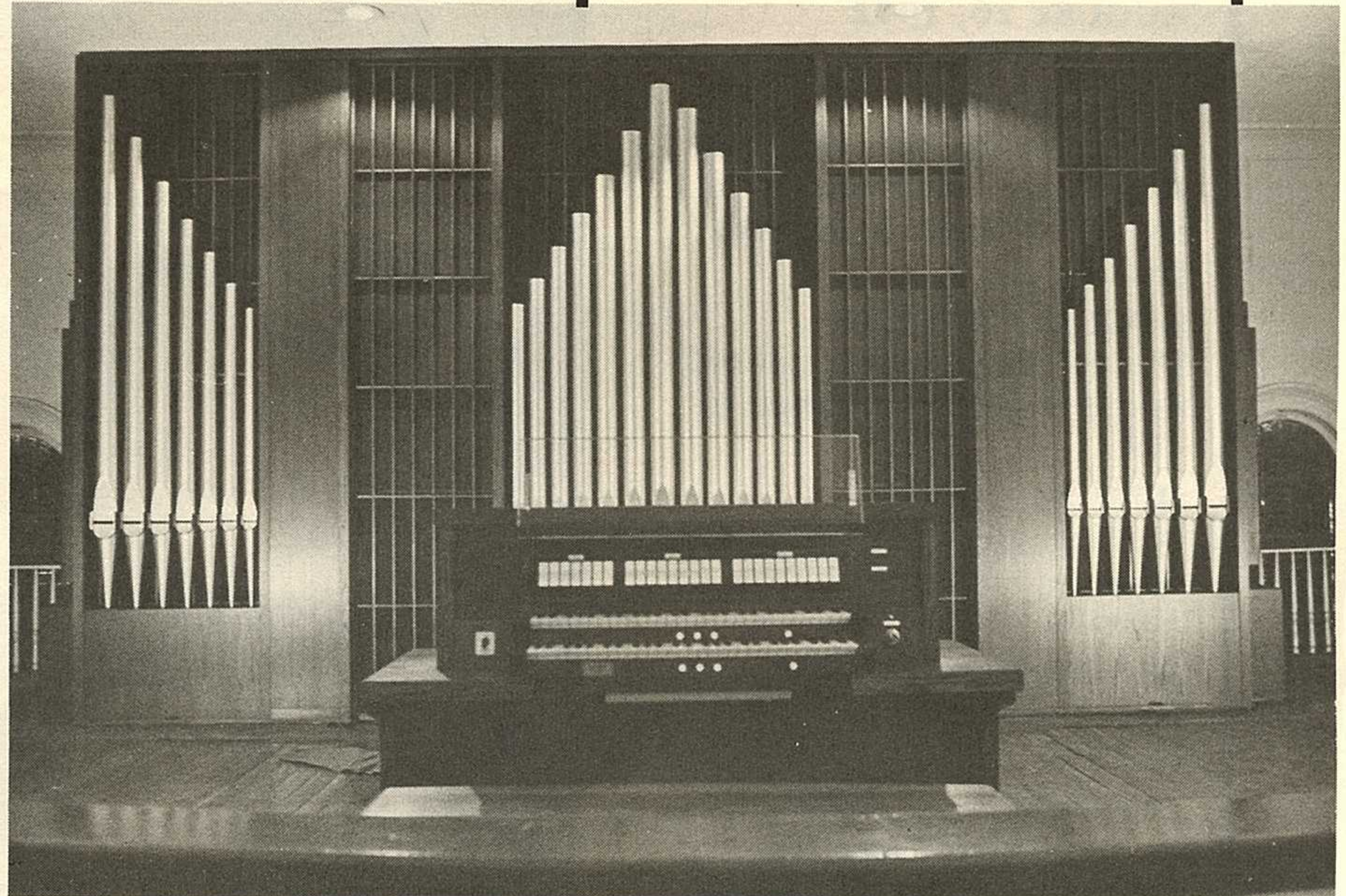
1889-1965

By congregational resolution, this new pipe organ is dedicated to the glory of God and in loving memory of the sainted Richard W. Wismar, Sr. As a loyal servant of the church, Mr. Wismar spent his entire professional career at St. Paul working tirelessly and diligently as a teacher, principal, organist, and choir director.

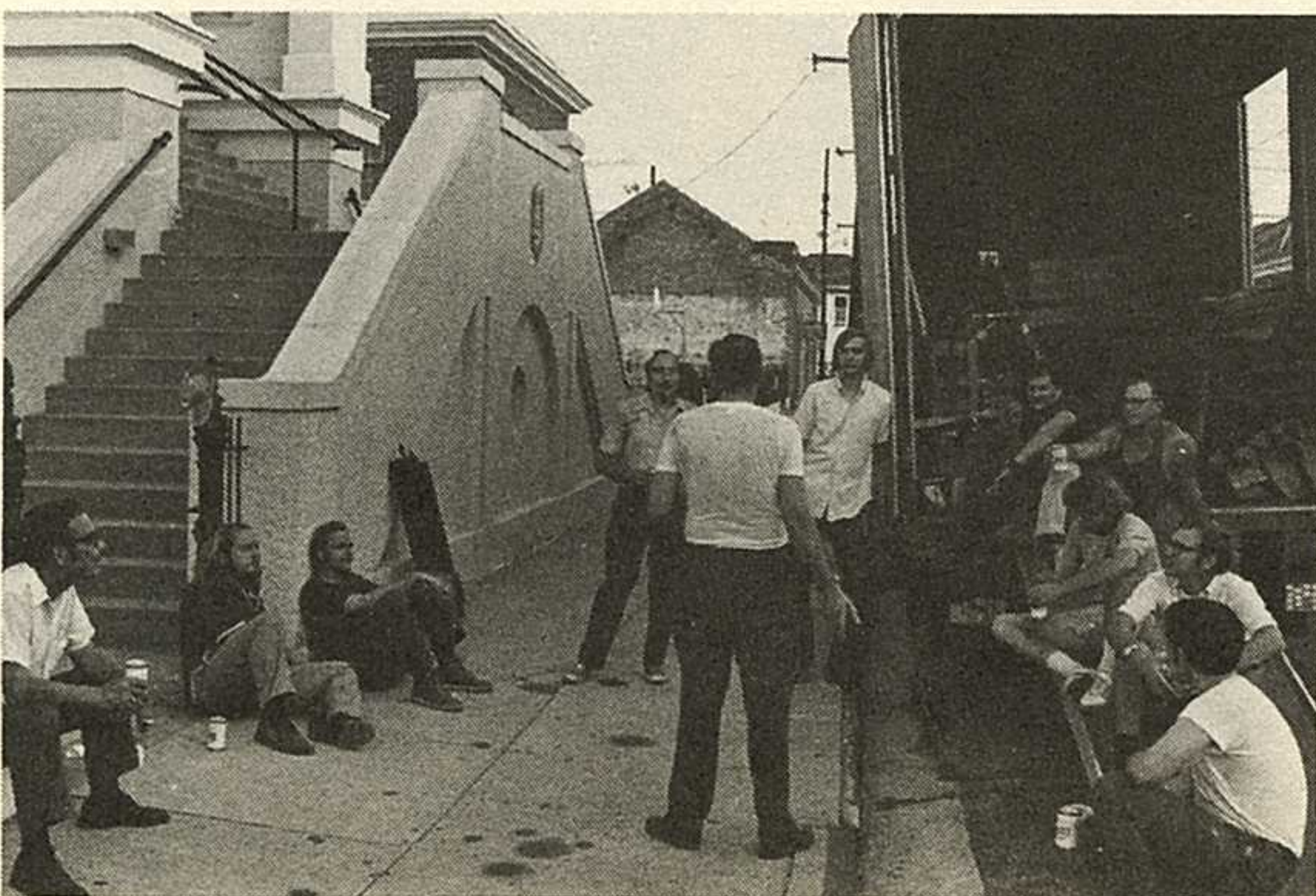
Because of his sincere commitment to quality music as an integral part of the worship service, he was recognized throughout the Lutheran church as a talented and distinguished musician.

His determination and abiding love for the church he served so faithfully, resulted in the installation and dedication of our previous pipe organ in 1931. A plaque honoring his memory will be placed on the new organ.

The sermon text for the special service observing the 50th anniversary of Mr. Wismar's Call to St. Paul can best describe the feelings of those who knew him: "A Man Greatly Beloved", Daniel 10, 11.



AUGUST 5, 1972



SPECIFICATIONS

Great Organ

8'	Principal	56 pipes
8'	Rohrgedeckt	56 pipes
4'	Octave	56 pipes
2'	Waldfloete	56 pipes
III-IV	Mixture	212 pipes
8'	Dulzian	56 pipes
	Chimes	

Swell Organ

8'	Holzgedeckt	56 pipes
8'	Salicional	44 pipes
4'	Rohrfloete	56 pipes
2'	Ital Principal	56 pipes
1-3/5'	Terz (T.C.)	44 pipes
1-1/3'	Klein-Nasat	56 pipes
	Tremolo	

Pedal Organ

16'	Subbass	32 pipes
8'	Flachfloete	32 pipes
4'	Choralbass	32 pipes
16'	Fagott	32 pipes

Couplers

Great to Pedal	8'	Swell to Great	8'
Swell to Pedal	8'	Swell to Swell	16'
Great to Pedal	4'	Swell to Swell	4'
Swell to Great	16'	Great to Great	4'

The Congregation is indebted to the Organ Committee, especially its chairman, Mr. Ed Traugott, under whose study and patience the organ has been successfully accomplished. Helpful appreciation is likewise expressed to the many donors of special gifts and memorials which have helped to make the organ a reality.





**NOVEMBER, 1970**

Pastor Rutz leaves St. Paul and Rev. Willard C. Rinnert serves as Interim Pastor

**SEPTEMBER 12, 1971**

Rev. Richard H. Meyer Installed as Pastor

The "Brinkmann house" on Port and Dauphine purchased for Parsonage

**SEPTEMBER, 1972**

Early Communion instruction instituted by the Elders

**SEPTEMBER 17, 1972**

Recital given by Dr. Richard J. Heschke to dedicate the new Schlicker Organ

**AUGUST 26, 1972**

First 50+ Camp

**MAY 18, 1973**

Service of Thanksgiving held for many years of service to the school by Elmer & Dorothy Groth

**AUGUST 15, 1973**

Due to inflation, price of soft drinks in basement raised to 15¢

**JUNE 23, 1974**

St. Paul celebrates 100 years with the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod

**SEPTEMBER 15, 1974**

50th Anniversary of School building

**DECEMBER 31, 1974**

St. Paul entered into the National Register of Historic Places

**AUGUST 10, 1975**

135th Anniversary of St. Paul

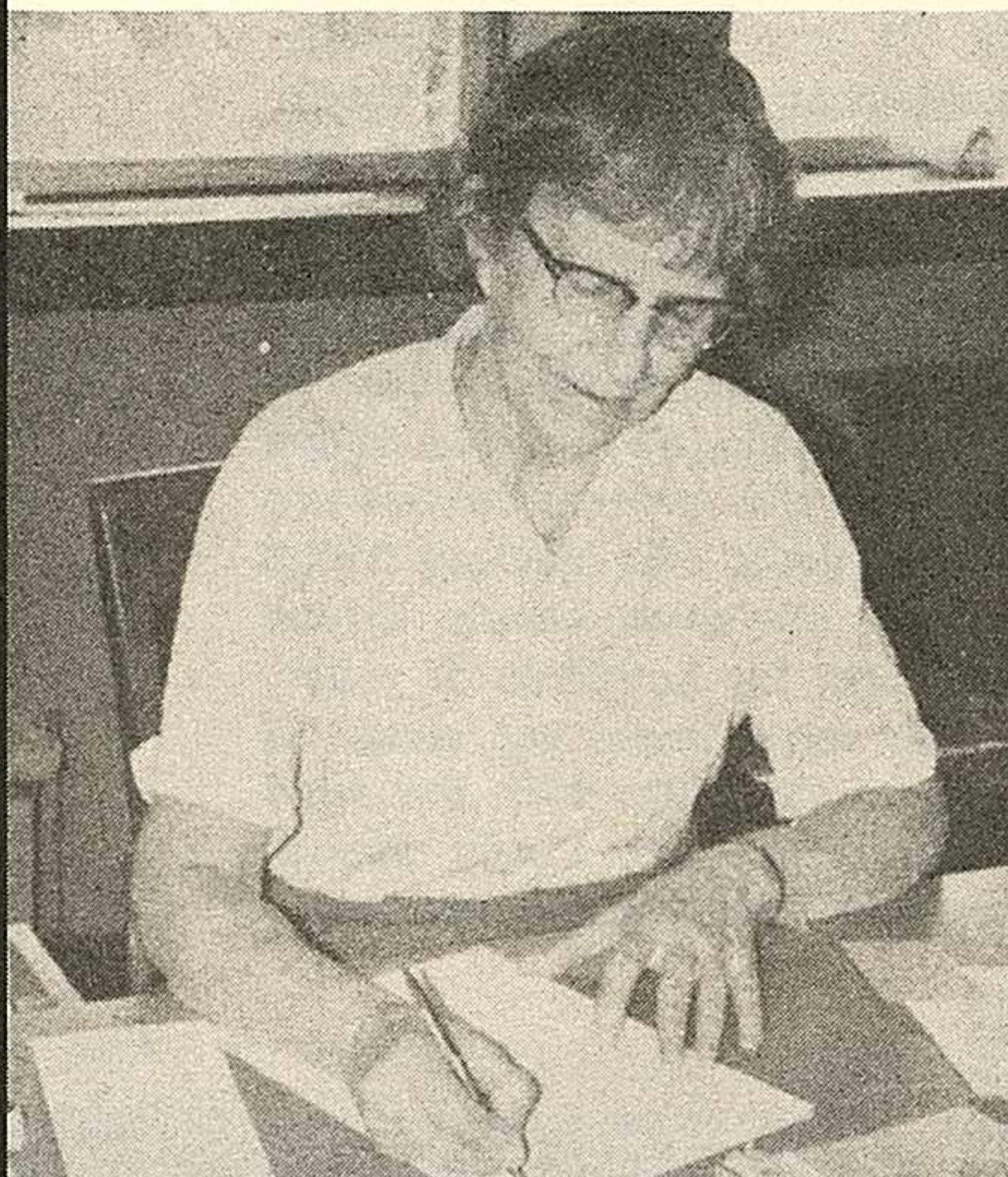
**AUGUST 25, 1975**

Early School program started

**WINTER 1973**

The school kids play in the... snow!

**APRIL 9, 1972**  
*THE LUTHERAN WITNESS*



**Retiring Teacher Honored**

A veteran kindergarten teacher at New Orleans' St. Paul — First English Lutheran School was recently feted by a surprise "This Is Your Life" program at the annual teachers appreciation dinner.

Mrs. Ruth Klotz is terminating a 21-year teaching association that began in August 1950.

In the years since, she has helped to mold the lives of more than 600 children who attended her classes.

Principal Dave Adam writes: "And with her humble Christian example she has truly lived Proverbs 22:6, 'Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it.'"

Mr. and Mrs. George Heintzen were coordinators of the program honoring Mrs. Klotz.

A scrapbook of mementos from her association with the school was presented. Included were letters from former students, teachers, and pastors.

Ten members of her first kindergarten class honored her with their presence.

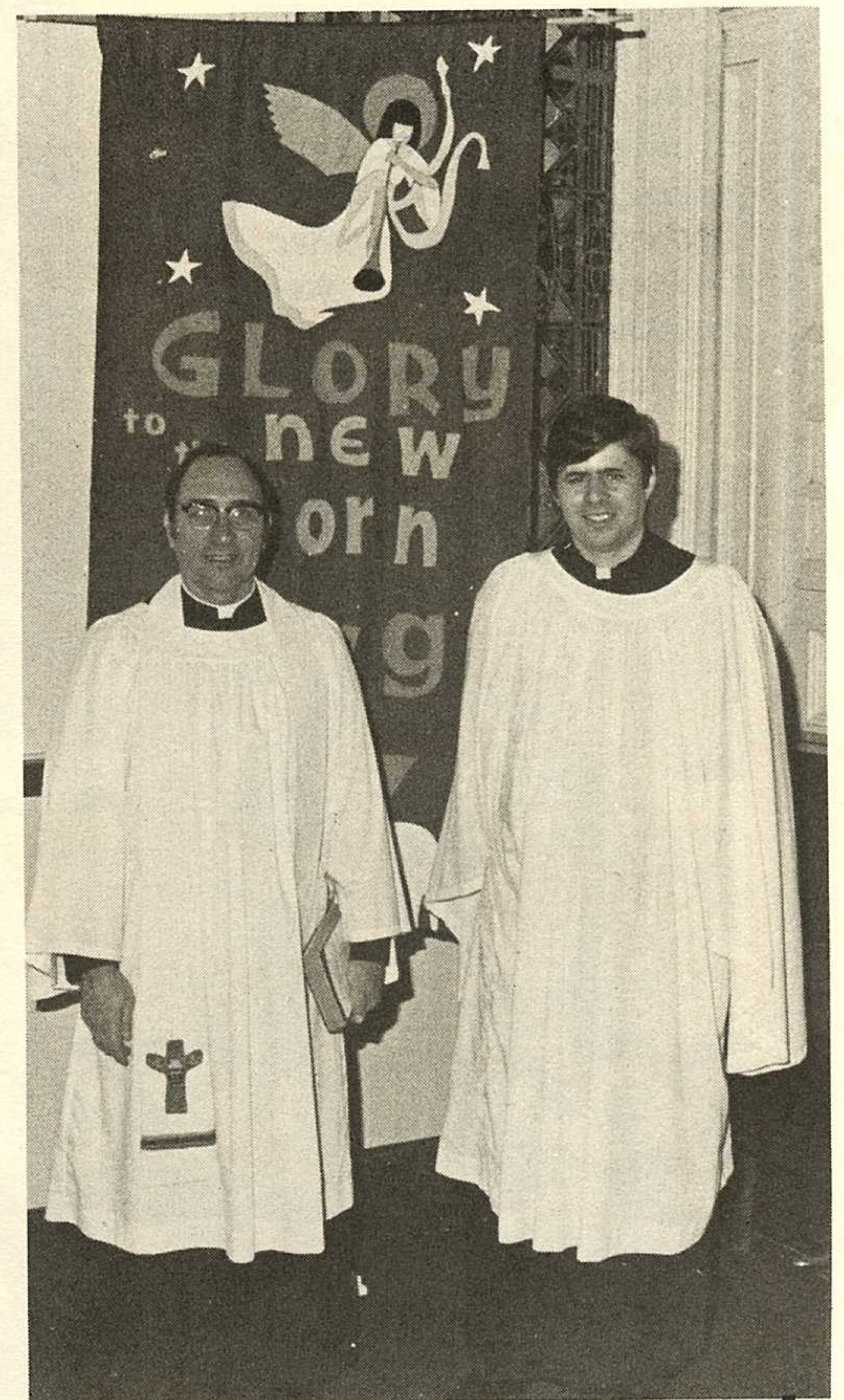


**MAY 6, 1973 Confirmation**  
Rev. R. H. Meyer

Vicar George Schelter



**JANUARY 13, 1974**  
**Installation of New Board**  
**Members**



**JANUARY 13, 1974**  
 Rev. Richard Meyer  
 Vicar Pat Carlson

*Above left*  
 Board of Elders

*Center*  
 Board of Christian Education

*Below*  
 Board of Trustees



**MEYER**

*"The people of St. Paul celebrated the first 135 years of its history in a service of praise, August 10, 1975, with Lutheran Hour preacher, Dr. Oswald Hoffman as guest speaker."*



**AUGUST 10, 1975**  
Dr. Oswald Hoffmann



**AUGUST 10, 1974**  
135th Anniversary Service

**1975 STATISTICS**

Baptized Members: 1,069  
Communicants: 933  
Confirmation: 17  
Burials: 21  
Marriages: 8  
Sunday School: 158  
Day School: 204

"There's a job to be done, so we have to do it," says Jack Stewart. The dedication and determination echoed in that statement have been a keystone of parish survival, says Dr. Richard Meyer, seen below. "People aren't afraid to start something new, even though the church is old," explain several members.

**WE'RE HERE TO STAY!**

by Mary Manz Simon

**P**ort and Burgundy streets sound typical of New Orleans. And they are. The street junction is just blocks from the Vieux Carre (French Quarter) among rows of shotgun houses (long narrow buildings built room to room without hallways) and homes with ornamental grillwork. But what's so special about the corner of Port and Burgundy?

Here Lutherans will find a place of historical interest and significance: St. Paul Lutheran Church, the oldest Lutheran church in New Orleans.

The congregation was founded in 1840. Members met in a firehouse until the building burned.

The current structure resembles an earlier building constructed from flatboards (unfinished lumber).



**JUNE 1, 1976**

Altar painting restored

**NOVEMBER 7, 1976**

Open Forum with Dr. Nau is the beginning of the Annual Oktoberfest

**SUMMER, 1977**

Church interior and exterior painted

**JANUARY 29, 1978**

Mr. Lloyd Dietz appointed Visitation Lay Minister following retirement of Rev. Wildgrube

**JULY 16, 1978**

Pastor Meyer preaches farewell sermon.

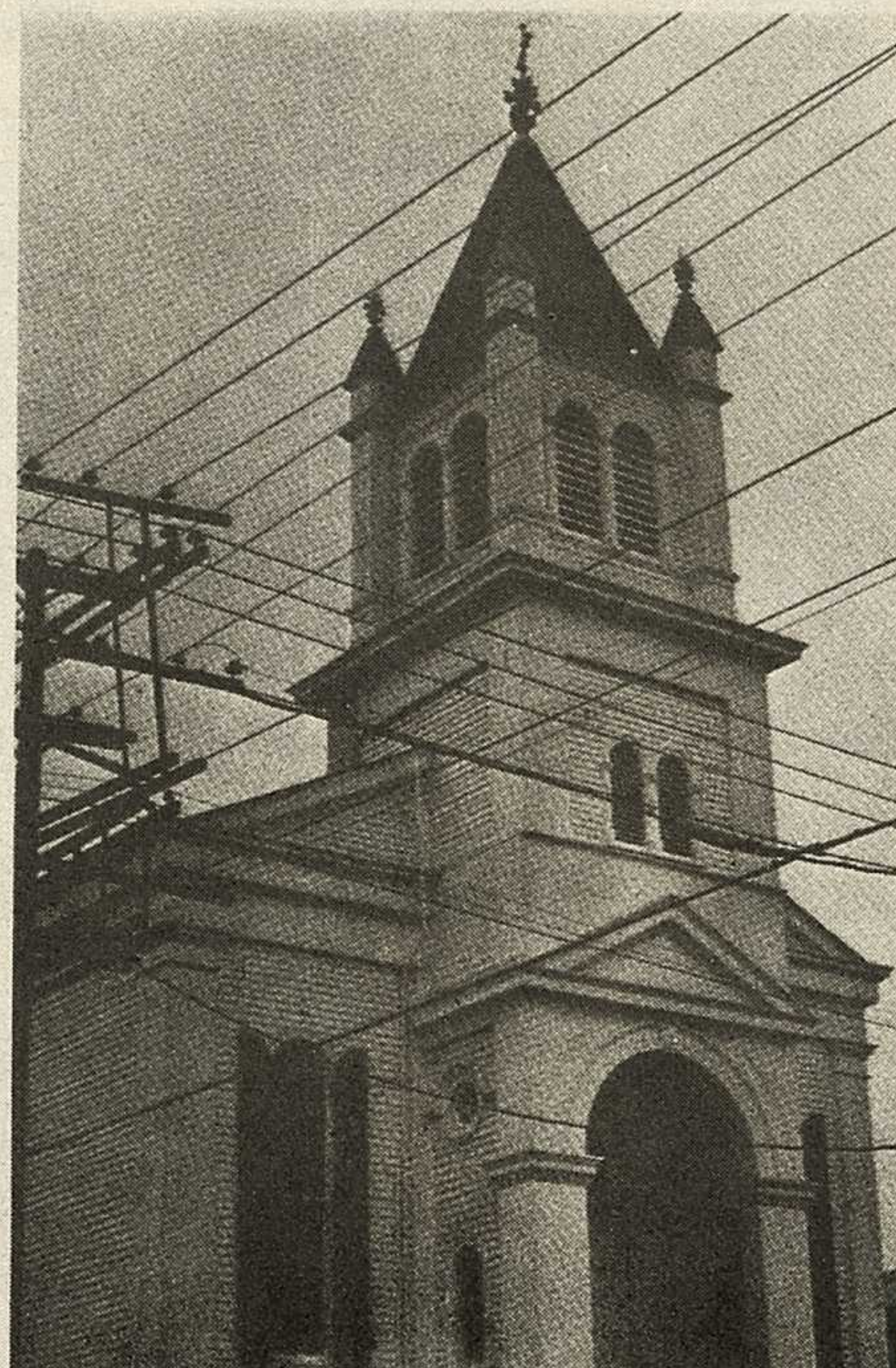
**SEPTEMBER, 1978-**

**APRIL, 1979**

Dr. John Nau serves as Interim Pastor

**APRIL 29, 1979**

Former vicar Gerard F. leFeber Installed as Pastor



The Early School, begun in 1975, is one example of how the congregation has changed to meet different needs.

Thirty young children, including those seen above, are enrolled in the multifaceted program. The school is licensed as a preschool and day-care center, so children can attend full or half days, for varying days each week.

"The congregation gave us wonderful backing," says director Joyce Courtney. "Women made bean bags; the youth group produced a play and gave us the money. Everyone worked together."



**APRIL 6, 1975**  
Confirmation

**Vicar Tim Hartner**

**OCTOBER 31, 1976**  
*THE LUTHERAN WITNESS*

**1976**

The altar painting  
after restoration



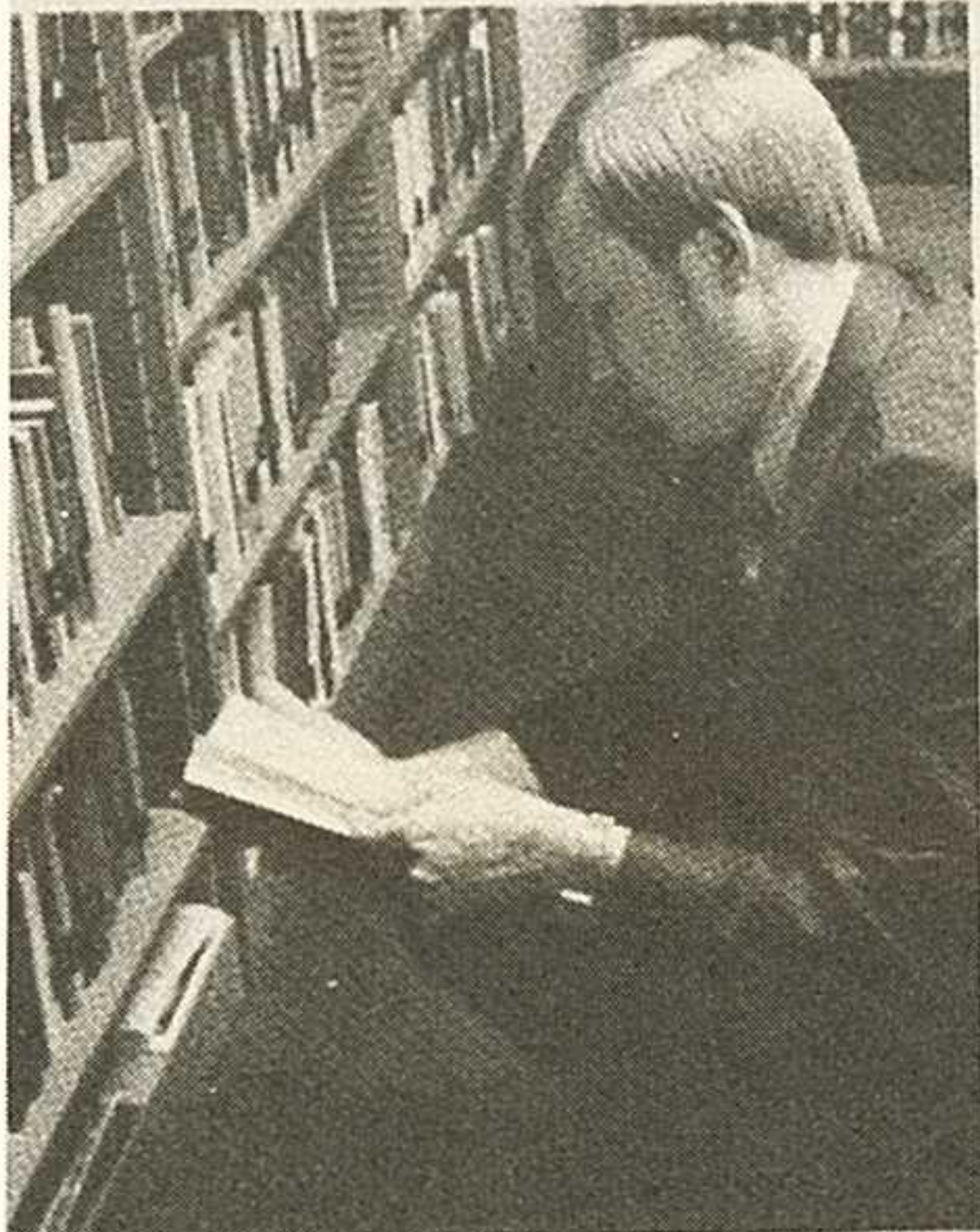
**"THE RESURRECTION"**  
August Klagstad

**JUNE 1, 1976**  
THE VISITOR

*"Our Altar painting is being treated by painting conservator, Phyllis W. Hudson, an expert in preservation and restoration of oil paintings. The painting will be returned to the altar by the end of June.*

*"Mrs. Hudson will remove the painting from its stretcher and lining. A new second layer canvass will be adhered to the painting. The varnish will be removed and the painting cleaned. Chips in the paint will be touched up. The painting will then be covered with a colorless, non-yellowing, protective coating. Every effort will be made to restore the painting to its original condition. The cost for the treatment will run between \$1,500 and \$1,700.*

*"When the painting was removed from the altar, a card was found that had been placed behind the painting when it was last treated in 1946 by R.B. Foster of New Orleans. The card reads: 'Painting attributed to August Klagstad, born Norway, 1866. Pupil of Art Institute, Chicago, Illinois. Address, 305 West Broadway, Minnesota.'"*  
*(Dictionary of American Painters.)"*



"Our library is just another way of saying 'the church is here for you,'" explains Meyer.

The 3,000 volume library is centrally located behind the church altar. Some members, like Ronald Cooper, seen on the left, stop in each Sunday.

"It's a natural place to come," says librarian Mrs. Erin Frink. "We try to serve the congregation, particularly with religious books."

"Whenever a certain subject is mentioned in Bible class, we know it," she says. "Then we wish for more books."

The library has an annual budget and receives funds through designated gifts and memorials.

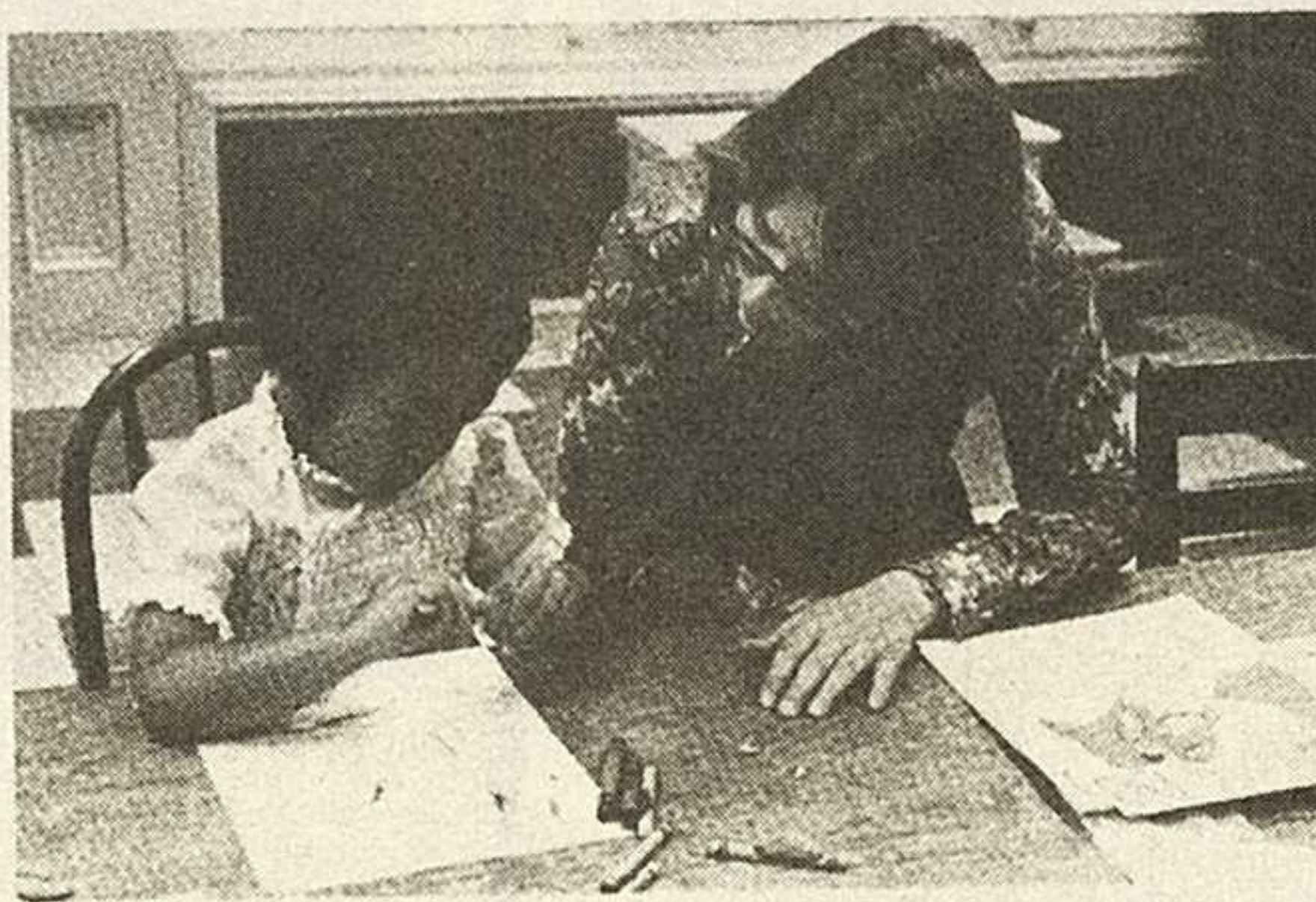
Serving people through educational programs is "a key to the parish's ability to stay alive," says Meyer.

A grade school is operated jointly with a nearby sister congregation, First English.

More than 100 children registered for the recent summer recreational program.

Twenty to thirty-five members tutor school-age neighborhood children one night each week.

"We know we're not going to accomplish miracles, but the congregation tries to be responsive to the neighborhood," says Gerald Cooper, chairperson of the board for Christian education.



"Membership has been declining here for almost 20 years," says the pastor.

"Churches have traditionally moved as people move," Meyer says. "But people are here, and St. Paul Congregation is here to stay, too."

He notes one great strength of the congregation: Members don't just come for Sunday worship. Instead, St. Paul's activities are built into their schedules.

"We need these people and others to continue witnessing in a changing community," Meyer says.





**MAY 2, 1976**  
 Confirmation  
 Rev. Richard H. Meyer  
 Vicar Bruce Modahl



**NOVEMBER 7, 1976**  
 Open Forum with  
 Dr. John Nau as guest speaker  
 is now regarded as the  
 First Annual  
 St. Paul Oktoberfest



**APRIL 24, 1977**  
 Confirmation



Vicar Tom Rogers  
 Rev. R. H. Meyer

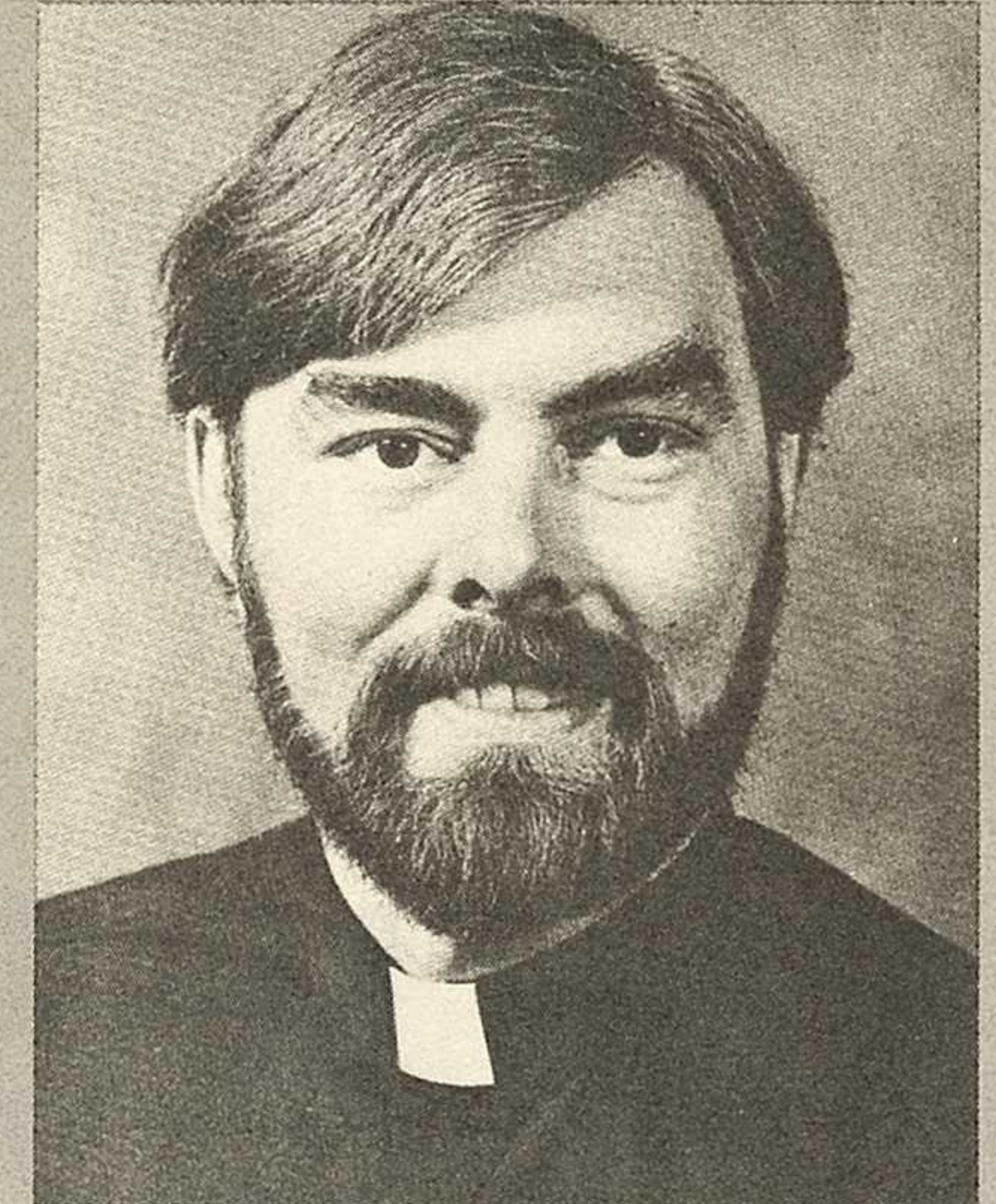




**AUGUST 28, 1977**



*Rev. Gerard leFeber*



Gerard F. leFeber is a native of Westbury, Long Island, N.Y. He attended California Concordia Lutheran College in Oakland, Concordia Senior College in Fort Wayne, and Concordia Theological Seminary in St. Louis. He also attended the Presbyterian School of Christian Education in Richmond.

Gerard F. leFeber's influence was felt at St. Paul long before he became Pastor. He served as Vicar here from 1970-71. Much of the responsibility for the congregation was delegated to him when Pastor Rutz left in November, just three months after leFeber's vicarage began.

Following his Vicarage, leFeber received a Master of Divinity degree.

leFeber accepted the Call to St. Paul in 1978, after Meyer was elected to the Presidency of the Southern District, Jerry, Jennifer, and the four children returned to New Orleans. leFeber was Installed on April 29th.

During leFeber's pastorate, the music program was revitalized. A new trumpet stop was added to the organ and a part-time Organist-Choirmaster was hired. At this same time, St. Paul sponsored a mission church in Moss Bluff, Louisiana, and raised a large "Thank-Offering" as part of the 140th Anniversary celebration.

In the Spring of 1978, Pastor leFeber accepted a Call to Fort Meyers, Florida. In order to properly thank Jerry for his years of service, as well as Jennifer for the many years she served as Sunday School Superintendent, a huge congregational crayfish boil was held in their honor.

**GERARD F.  
le FEBER**



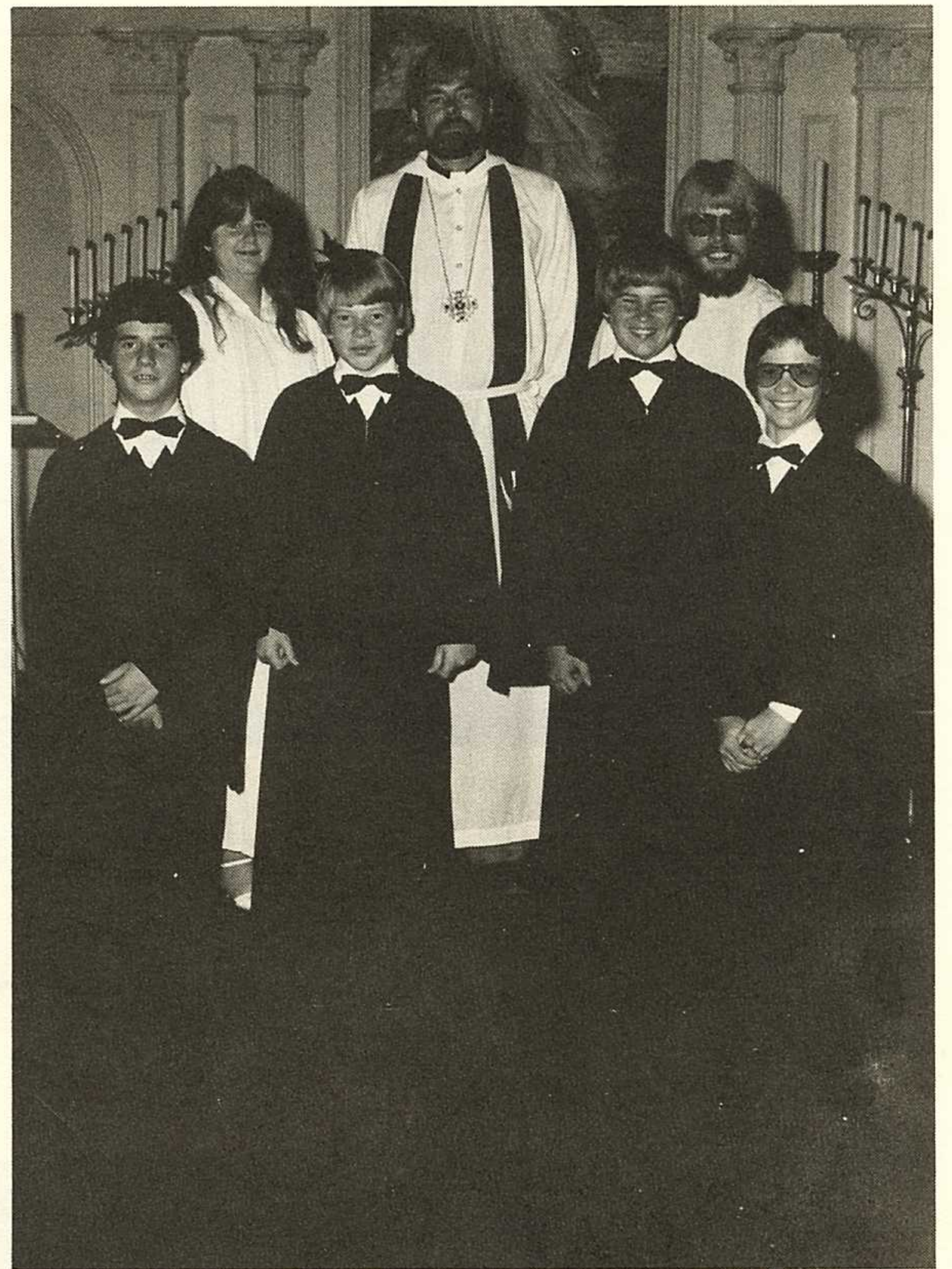
**APRIL 30, 1978 Confirmation**  
Rev. R. H. Meyer  
Vicar Tom Rogers

**APRIL 29, 1979**  
Vicar Mark Beebe  
Dr. John F. Nau

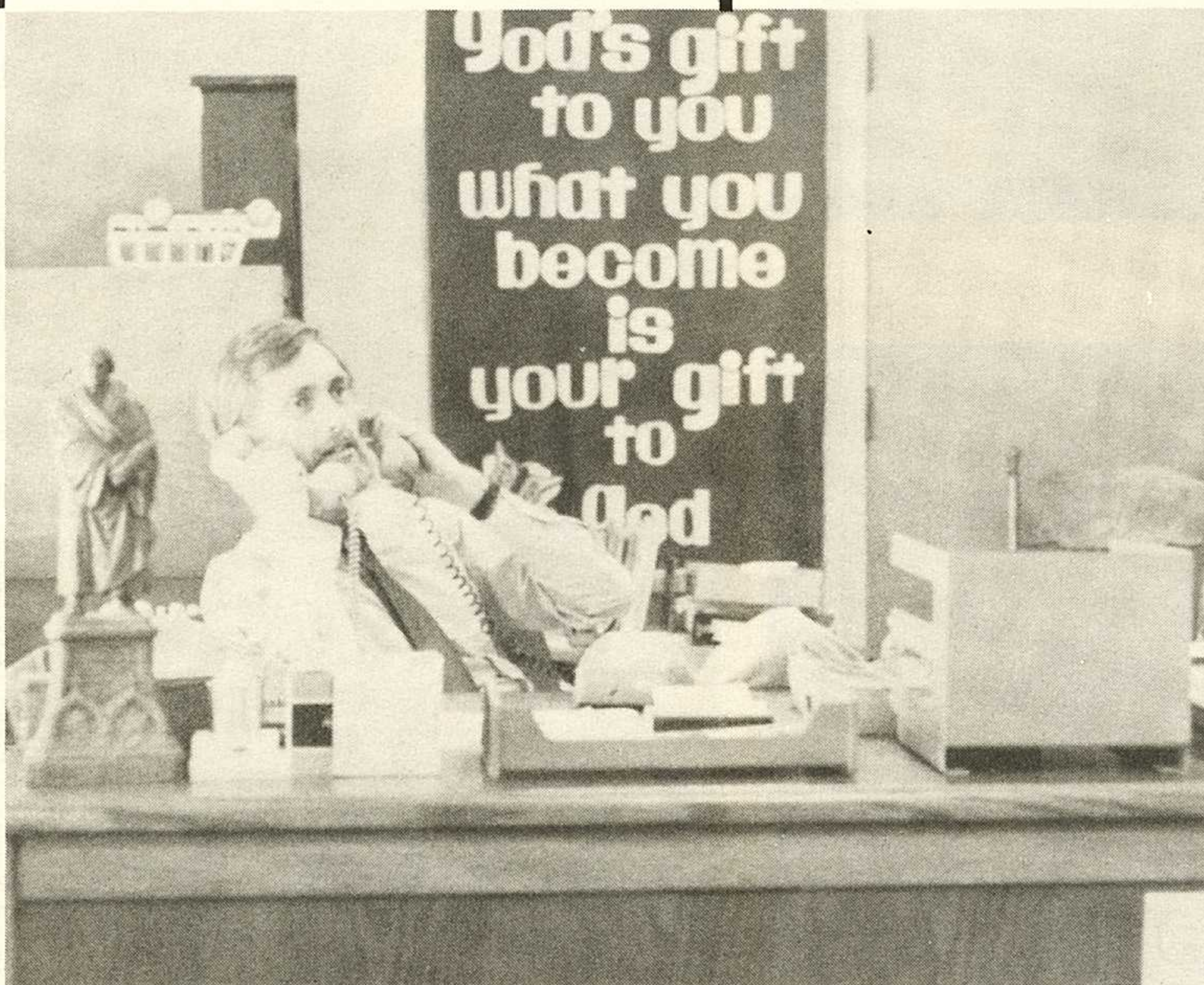




**MR. ROBERT ROGALSKI**  
Teacher 1967-70  
Principal 1977-81



**MAY 17, 1981**  
Confirmation  
Rev. Gerard F. leFeber  
Tim Kamprath, Vicar



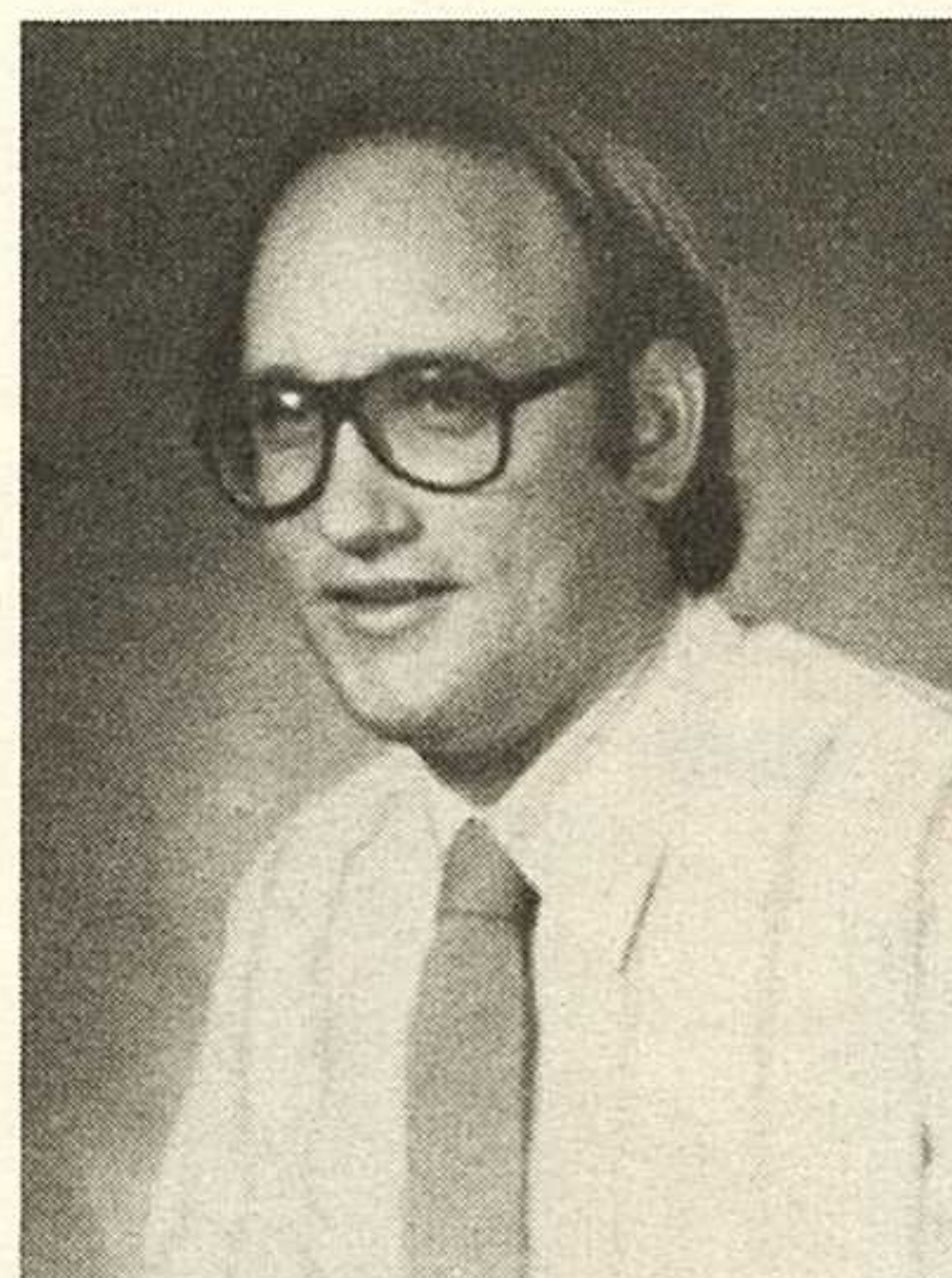
**Mr. Michael B. Riemer**  
Teacher 1977-1981  
Principal 1981-1987  
The first student of our school  
to become principal



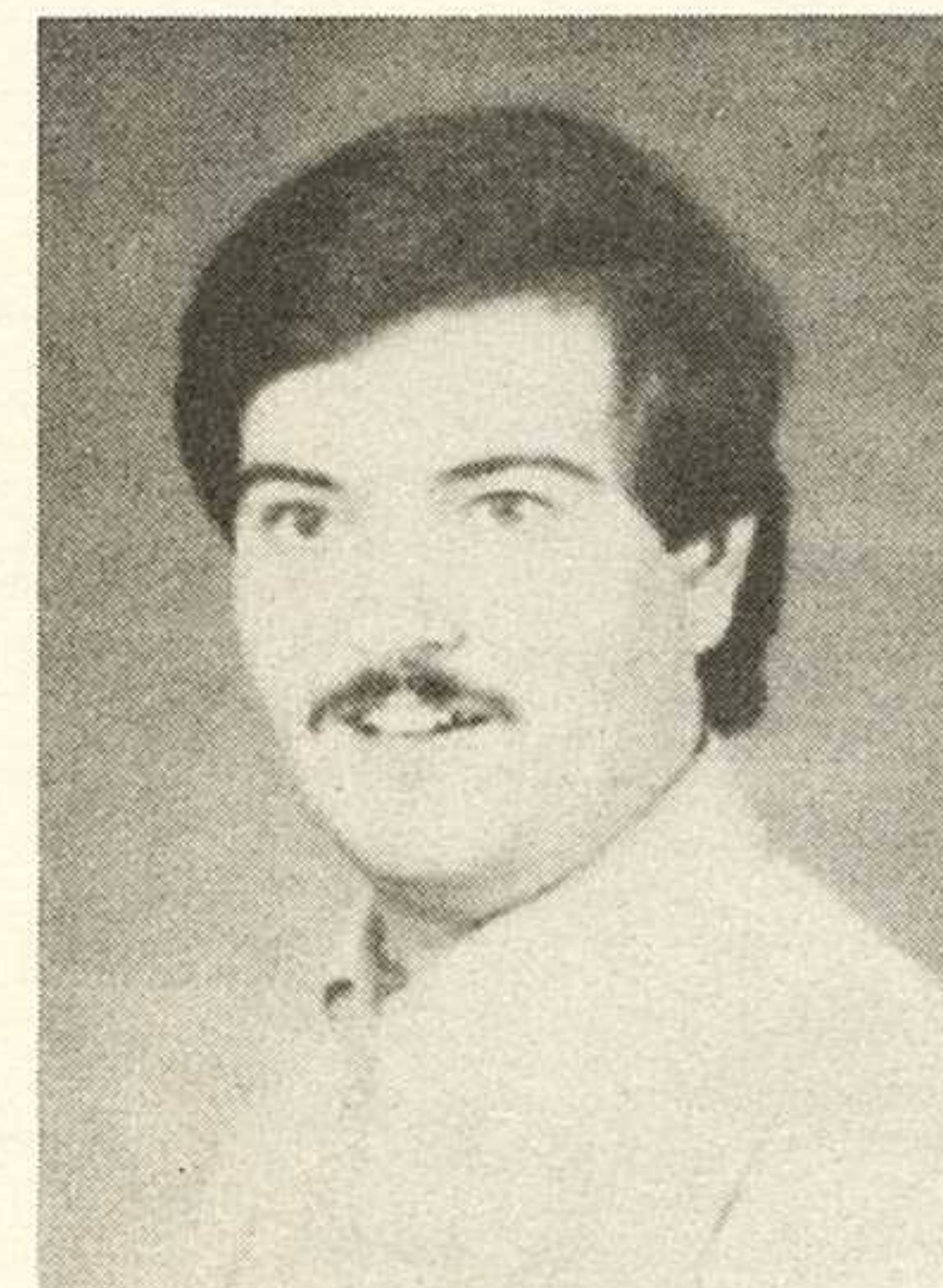
**MAY 2, 1982**  
Confirmation  
Walt McCrillis, Vicar  
Rev. G. F. leFeber



**MAY 1, 1983**  
Confirmation



**MARC SPAETH**  
Vicar 1982-83



**ANDREW C. LISSY**  
Vicar 1983-84



1982-83 School Staff



**MR. MELVIN C. ZOCH**  
 Teacher 1958-1985  
 Southern District  
 Teacher of the Year - 1982  
 Celebrated 25 years  
 teaching at St. Paul on  
 April 24, 1983



**MAY 24, 1983**  
 Ladies' Aid celebrates  
 100th Anniversary

**SEPTEMBER 11, 1983**  
 Rally Day



**SEPTEMBER 18, 1983**  
 Trumpet stop dedicated in  
 memory of Thomas Traugott  
 upgrading the organ to 17  
 stops, 20 ranks and 988 pipes

**NOVEMBER 5, 1983**  
 First St. Paul-First English  
 Lutheran School  
 "LUTHERUN" 5K Race

**SUMMER, 1984**  
 Exterior of the church painted  
 gray with white trim

**MAY 6, 1984**  
 Rev. Paul Schmidt Installed as  
 Hospital Chaplain and Assistant  
 Pastor of St. Paul

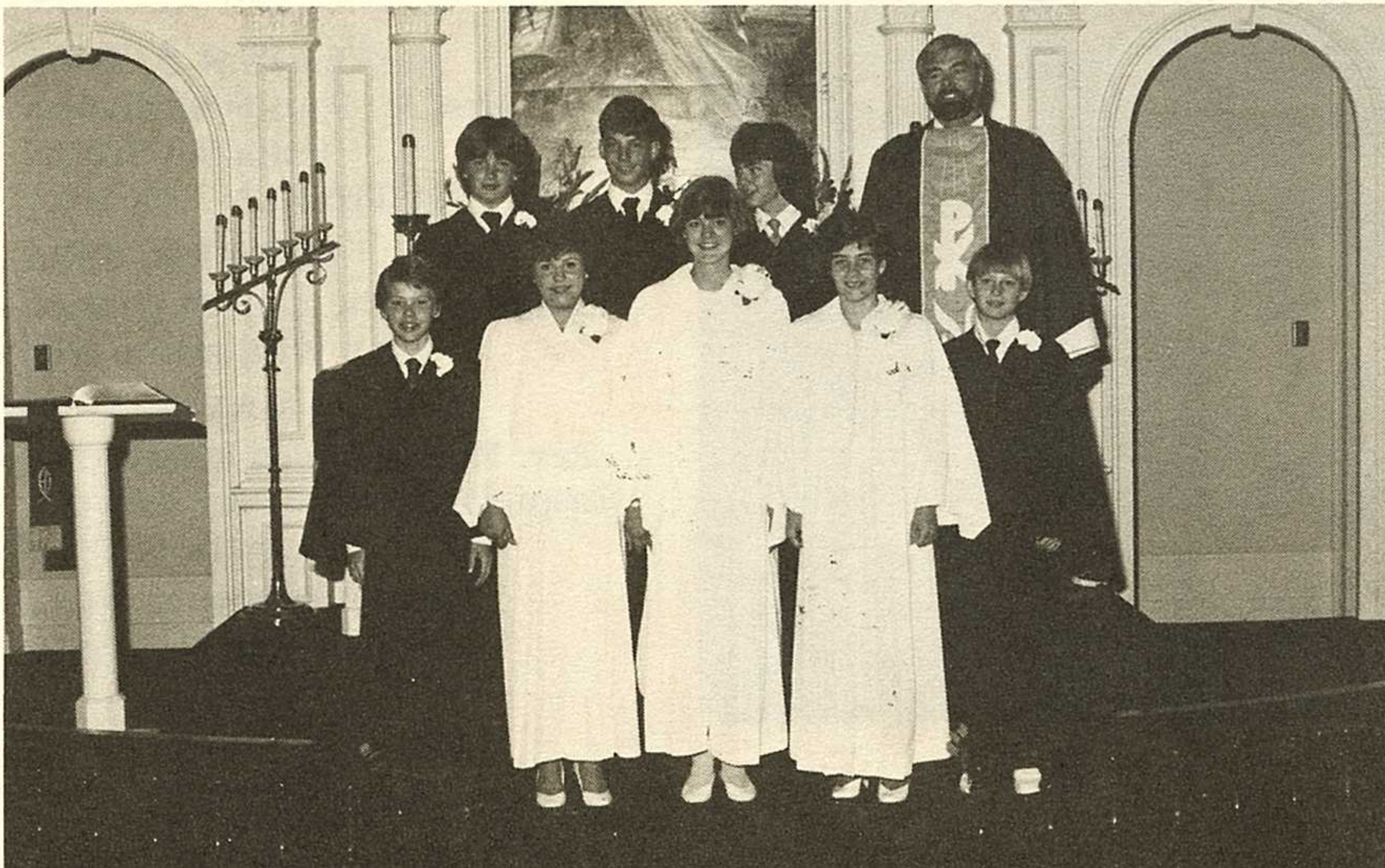
**SEPTEMBER 5, 1984**  
 Ladies' Aid disbanded  
 after 101 years





**MAY 5, 1985**  
Confirmation

**MAY 4, 1986**  
Confirmation



**SUMMER, 1984**

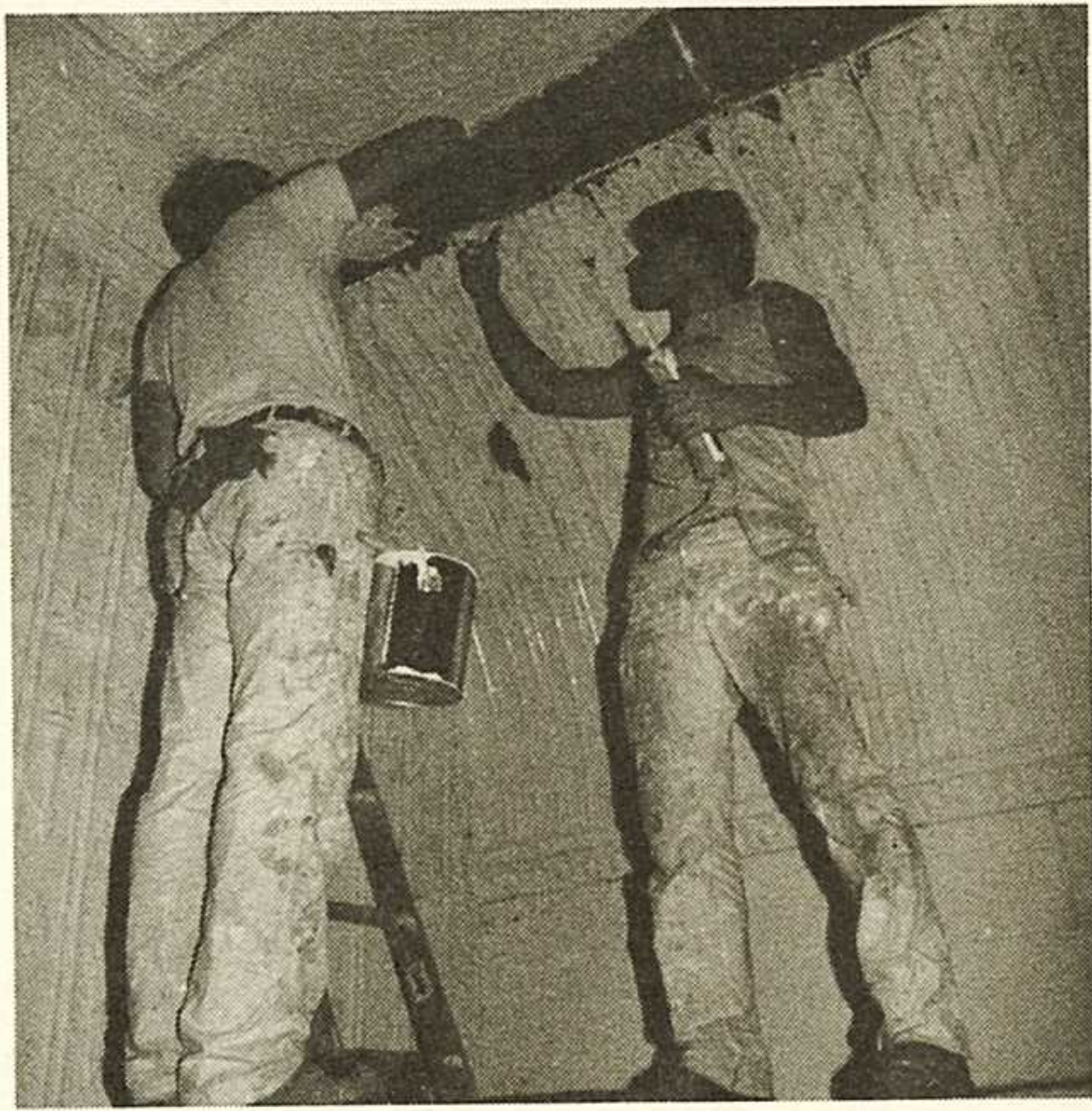
The church exterior was painted during the World's Fair in 1984



**REV. PAUL R. SCHMIDT**

Paul Schmidt was born on August 14, 1925 in Wichita, Kansas. He attended Concordia Seminary in Springfield, Illinois and served as vicar here at St. Paul from 1948-49. In 1973 he entered the Clinical Pastoral Education program at Bryan Hospital in Lincoln. Pastor Schmidt was Installed here at St. Paul on Sunday, May 6, 1984 to serve New Orleans as Hospital Chaplain. He also served St. Paul as Assistant Pastor from 1984-88.

Pastor Schmidt is married to Peggy Wulf of Eagle, Nebraska. They have two children.



Church interior is painted in time for Christmas, 1985



**MAY 26, 1985**

Teacher Mel Zoch leaves St. Paul after 27 years

**SUMMER, 1985**

Church interior painted

**JULY 12, 1985**

St. Paul receives Honor Award for preservation and maintenance from the New Orleans Historic Landmarks Commission

**DECEMBER, 1986**

St. Paul Senior Choir  
Dr. J. Thomas Mitts  
Organist-Choirmaster

**MAY 24, 1987**

Pastor leFeber preaches farewell sermon

**NOVEMBER 30, 1987**

Installation of  
Rev. Ronald B. Unger

**NOVEMBER 27, 1988**

St. Paul begins using  
The Lutheran Book of Worship



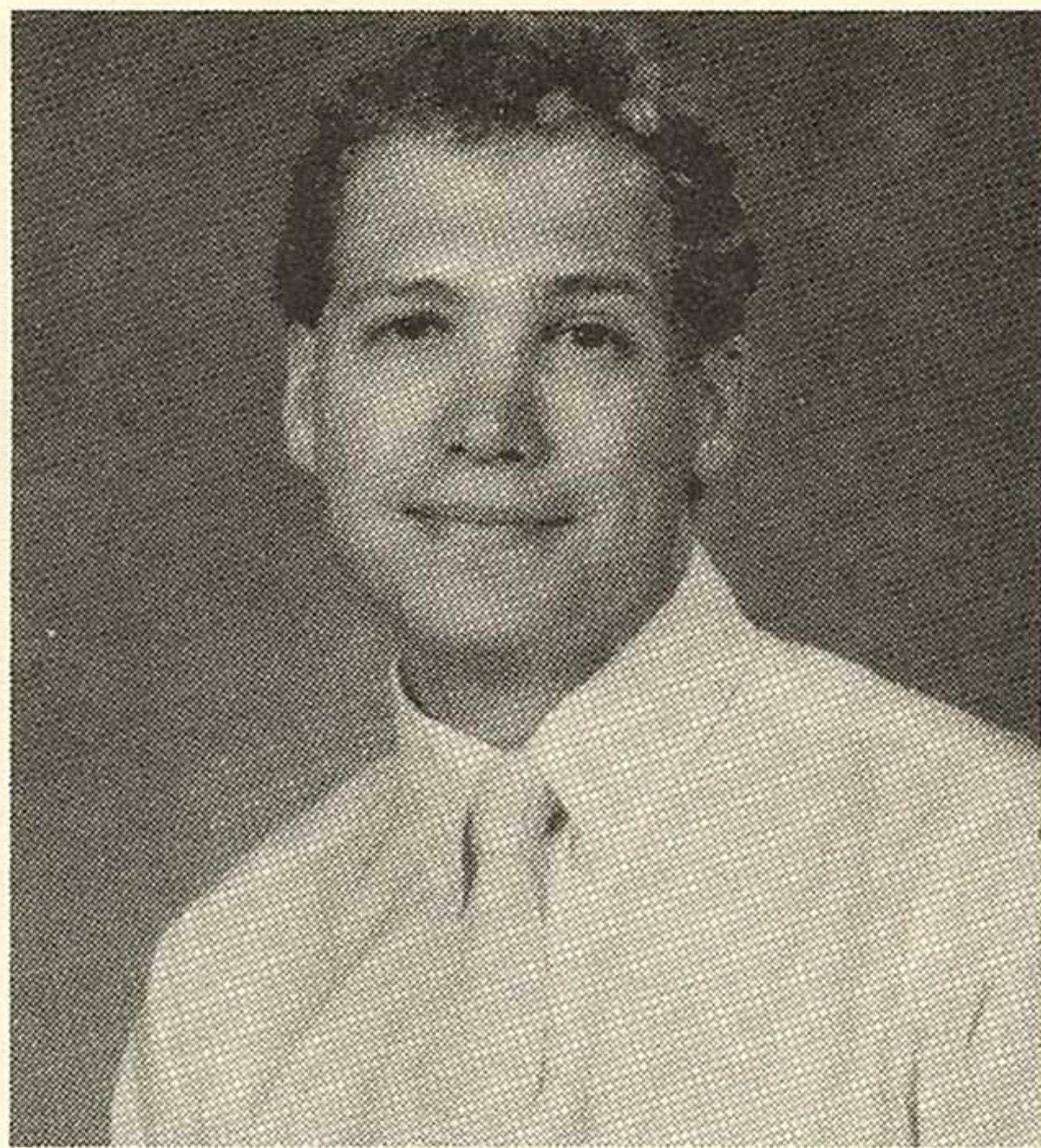
**DECEMBER 14, 1986**

"A Festival of Lessons and Carols"  
St. Paul Senior Choir with  
members of the N.O. Symphony  
Orchestra under the direction of  
Dr. J. Thomas Mitts



**JIM MEYER**  
Vicar 1984-86





**JOEL SARRAULT**  
Vicar 1986-87

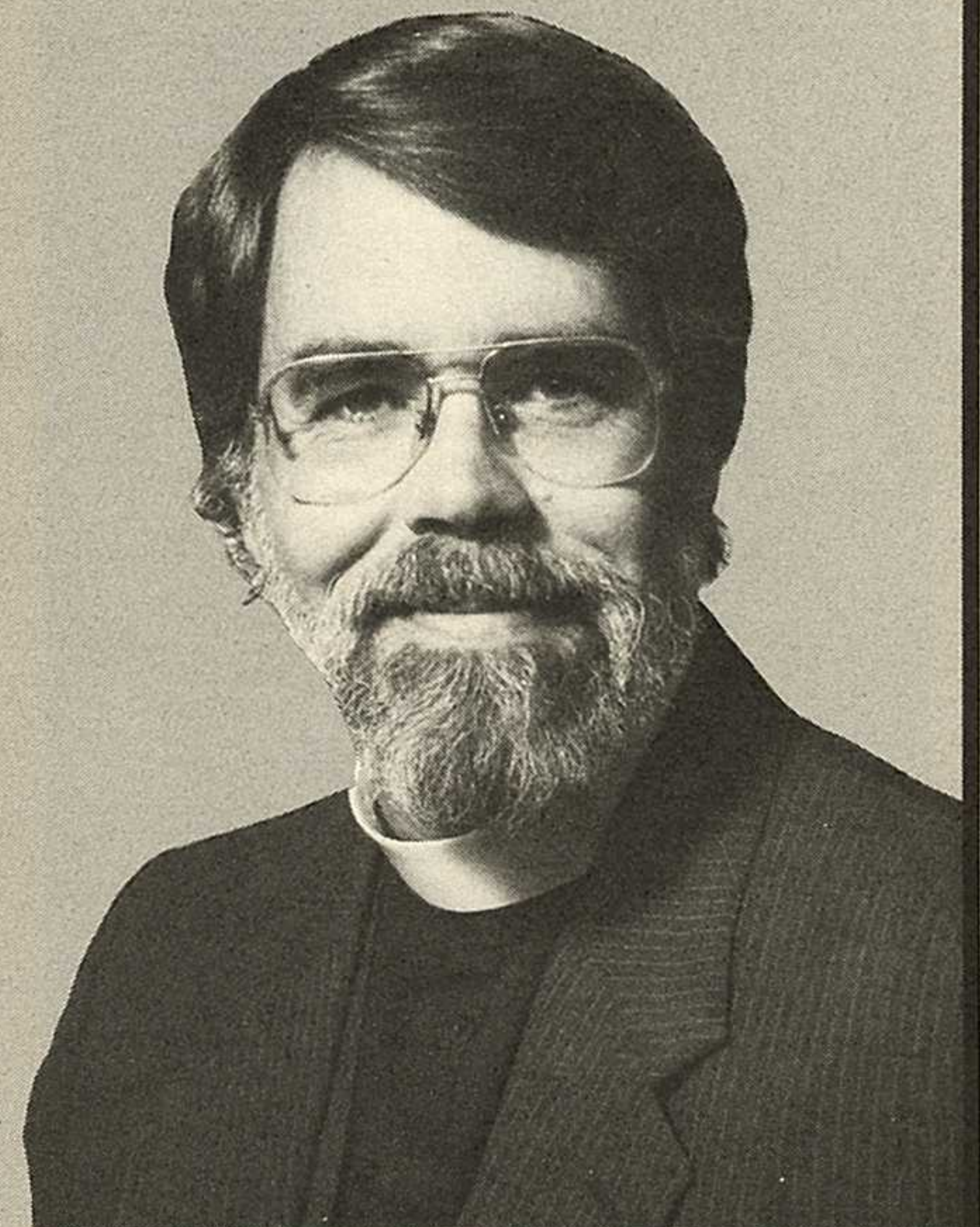
**MAY 3, 1987 Confirmation**  
Rev. Gerard F. leFeber

**RONALD  
BRIAN  
UNGER**

Ronald Unger was born in 1943 in Baltimore, but spent most of his youth in the North Shore suburbs of Chicago. He attended Concordia College in Milwaukee and graduated from Concordia Senior College in Fort Wayne, Indiana in 1965.

He met Martine Hemmelgarn while a student at Concordia Seminary in St. Louis. He followed her back to Germany where they were married by Martine's father, a pastor in the German Lutheran Church, in 1967.

Upon graduation from the Seminary in 1969, they moved to Greencastle, Indiana, where Pastor Unger served Peace Lutheran Church and Student Center on the campus of DePauw University.



*Pastor Unger*

He had been serving St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Providence, Rhode Island since 1983, when he received a Call from St. Paul in New Orleans.

He was Installed here on Sunday, November 30, 1987.

Within one year of his Installation he assisted the members of St. Paul with the transition to the Luthern Book of Worship.

With the formaton of a Community Concerns Committee, a heightened awareness and commitment was made to our many homebound members as well as the plight of the homeless and hungry in the neighborhood.

With a grant from the Robert Woods Johnson Foundation, the Regional AIDS Interfaith Network was formed covering five southern states. St. Paul was the first church to form a congregationally based care team to assist people with AIDS as part of this network. Twenty-three of our members volunteered to be on the team.



**1986-87**  
School Faculty

Mrs. Joyce Courtney, (standing, third from right) was instrumental in the formation of our Early School program in 1975

In 1990, she will be celebrating 15 years as Early School teacher

Mrs. Courtney has also been responsible for our Extended Day program



**MRS. LILLIAN FRANKE WISMAR**

Lillian Franke was born in New Orleans on October 24, 1892 and was baptized by her father, Rev. George C. Franke. Rev. Franke served St. Paul from 1884-1887 & First English from 1891-1920. Lillian married Mr. Richard W. Wismar on June 24, 1914. Mrs. Wismar served as teacher in our school and assisted the upper department from 1921-1944. After that time, she continued to be of tremendous help in the ministry of her church and school. Mrs. Wismar died on February 18, 1988 at the age of 95. Her entire life was richly lived as a member of First English and St. Paul Lutheran churches.



**MAY 22, 1988** Confirmation  
Vicar Carlo Sgambelluri  
Rev. Ronald B. Unger

**LILLIAN WISMAR MALLOY**

Lillian Wismar Malloy retired in 1989 from her position as school financial secretary after serving for nearly thirty years.

Lillian has an even longer association with the school, as she is the daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Richard W. Wismar, Sr., and is a former student.



**JUNE 4, 1989**, Confirmation, Vicar Paul Bernhagen, Rev. Ronald B. Unger





**1988-89**  
School Faculty

Susann Schiller, *(rear, fourth from left)* and her husband, Charles, *(third)*, began teaching here in the 1981-82 session

Mrs. Schiller served as principal during the 1988-89 session and was formally installed as Principal on August 20, 1989



**AUGUST 27, 1989**  
Nineteen new members received at St. Paul

**SEPTEMBER 10, 1989**  
Rally Day



# Church glimpses history through century-old box

By COLEMAN WARNER  
Staff writer

German parishioners walked to Sunday services a century ago from nearby homes in Faubourg Marigny, within view of river ships. Inside the ornate Lutheran church on Burgundy Street, English was seldom spoken.

Congregation members now drive to services across the city from Metairie and Lake Pontchartrain.

For most, German is a lost tongue. Only six people attended the last German-language service, back in 1932.

But contents of a small copper box gave a modern congregation a glimpse at the past as it gathered Sunday to celebrate St. Paul Lutheran Church's roots and its unchanging mission.

Inside the box, which was soldered shut 100 years ago and hidden in a cornerstone, church members found:

► A church history, handwritten in 1889 by the pastor, G.J. Wegener. The church's actual founding came nearly 50 years earlier, when German families began meeting at a fire station.

## Church leaders peeked at the box's contents a few days before Sunday.

► Business cards of leading congregation members, including two carpenters, a leather dealer and an undertaker, and calling cards of Wegener and another former pastor.

► A Lutheran hymnal, published in 1887.

► German coins from the 1840s and 1850s.

► An 1872 congregation charter.

► Several German and English newspapers, including a Feb. 6, 1889, issue of the Times-Democrat with a story about a fire that destroyed the church building that preceded the one now standing.

Church leaders, who peeked at the box's contents a few days before Sunday, have only begun to analyze some documents because most are written in German, congregation President Alan Heintzen said.

"There was a total of four

coins put in the box, and the businessmen put them with their business cards and wrapped their cards around them," Heintzen said. "Perhaps when we decipher the history of St. Paul's, there will be some explanation of that."

Sunday's service featured a choir accompanied by brass instruments, banners and a procession that spilled into the street.

The Rev. Ronald Unger, the pastor, said the church remains committed to the neighborhood where it grew up, even though most members live miles away.

The church runs a school next door and supports food bank and emergency shelter programs that serve Faubourg Marigny's poor, he said.

"While celebrating the 100 years of our building, and the 150 years of our congregation, there's a rededication to our ministry today," he said.

## HENRY ORTLAND, Carpenter & Builder,

REPAIRING NEATLY DONE

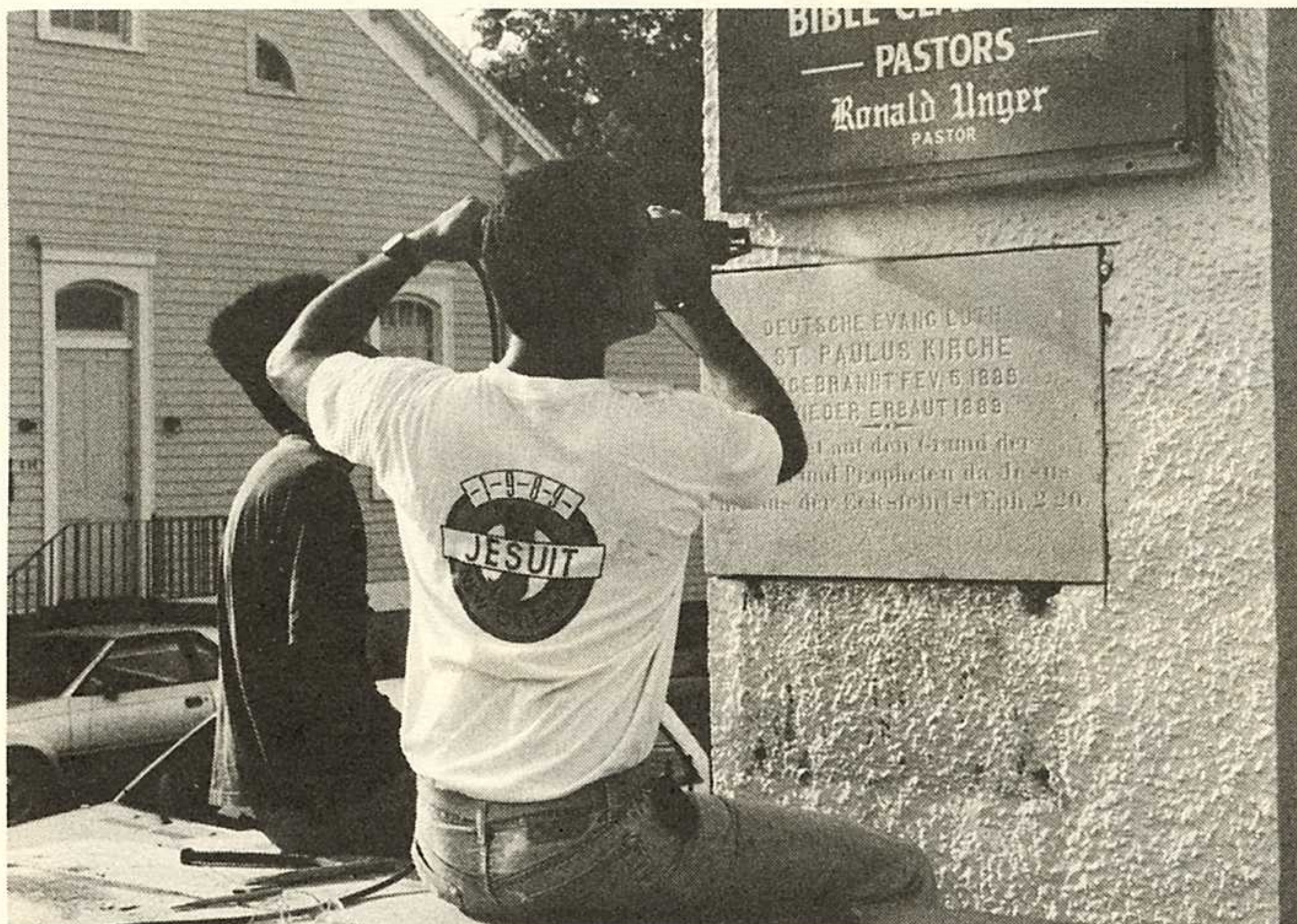
448 N. Claiborne St.

Near Annette,

NEW ORLEANS, LA.

All Orders promptly attended to.

10. One Luther's Small Catechism printed in German and published in 1888
11. One coin (12 grote, 1846) wrapped in Ortland's business card
12. Three coins (US 50¢ 1808 and two German coins dated 1841 and 1853) wrapped in H.L. Frantz/J. Schoen business card
13. The front pages of the following newspapers:  
Daily Picayune 4/14/89  
Times Democrat 2/6/89  
Die Rundschau 4/10/89  
Times Democrat 4/14/89  
N.O. Deutsche Zeitung 4/4/89  
Lutheran Pioneer 4/89  
Evan.-Lutherische Blatter 4/89  
Lutheran Witness 4/7/89  
Lutherisches Kinderblatt 4/89  
Die Missions-Taube 4/89  
Der Lutheraner 4/9/89

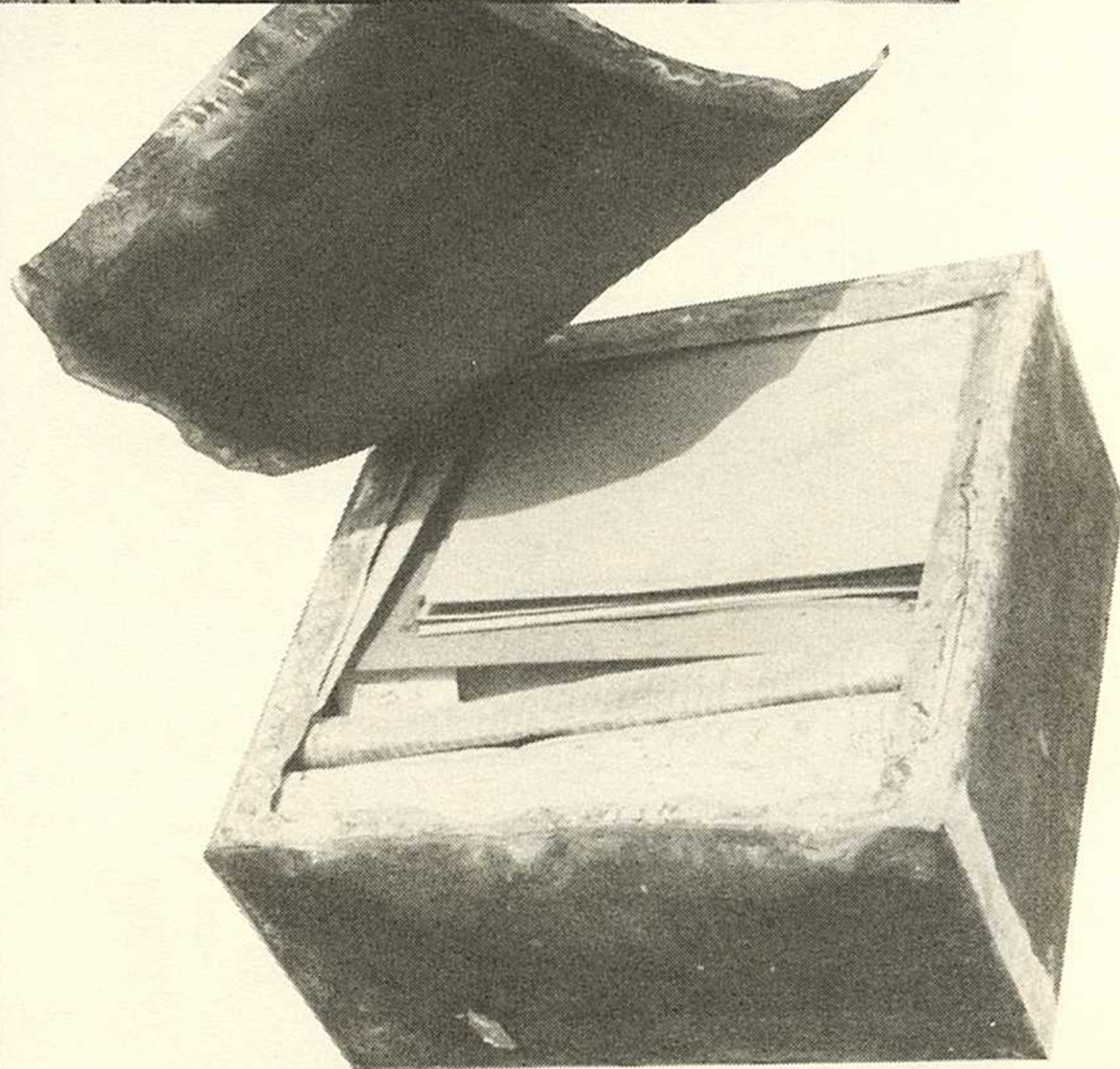


### CONTENTS OF THE CORNERSTONE

Opened on September 13, 1989 for display at the initial 150th ANNIVERSARY service on September 17, 1989 marking the 100th Anniversary of the present church building:

1. A short history of St. Paul handwritten in German by G. J. Wegener dated 1889

2. The 1872 Charter of the congregation printed in German with 1880 revisions; published in 1880
3. Constitution of the Ladies Aid, published in German in 1889.
4. Report on the Delegate Convention of Missouri Synod published in German in 1887
5. Report of the Southern District Convention for 1888
6. Constitution of the Missouri Synod published in 1867
7. Business cards from the following: H. Hoefeld, Henry Ortland, and two from Peter Thormaehlen
8. Calling cards from: Rev. G. J. Wegener & Rev. Theo Huegli
9. One German Lutheran Hymnal published in 1887



## H. HOEFELD, Carpenter and Builder,

Shop: 199 Carondelet Walk,

RESIDENCE: 352 ST. PETER ST.

Drawer No. 25 Mechanics' and Dealers' Exchange,

NO. 66 BARONNE STREET,

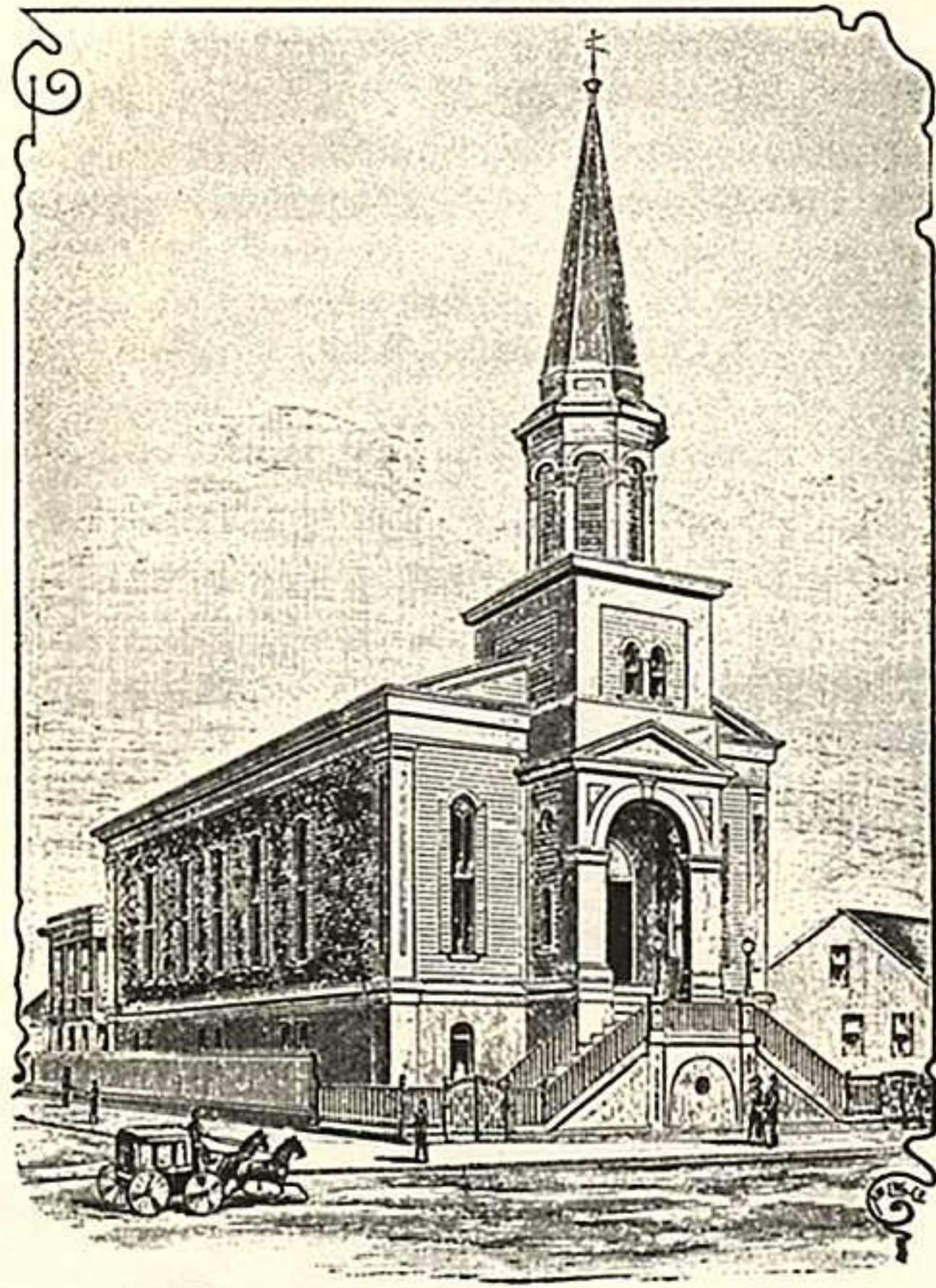
NEW ORLEANS.

# 150th ANNIVERSARY

INITIAL SERVICE

CELEBRATING THE CENTENNIAL OF OUR PRESENT CHURCH BUILDING  
AND  
THE REDEDICATION OF OUR PEOPLE

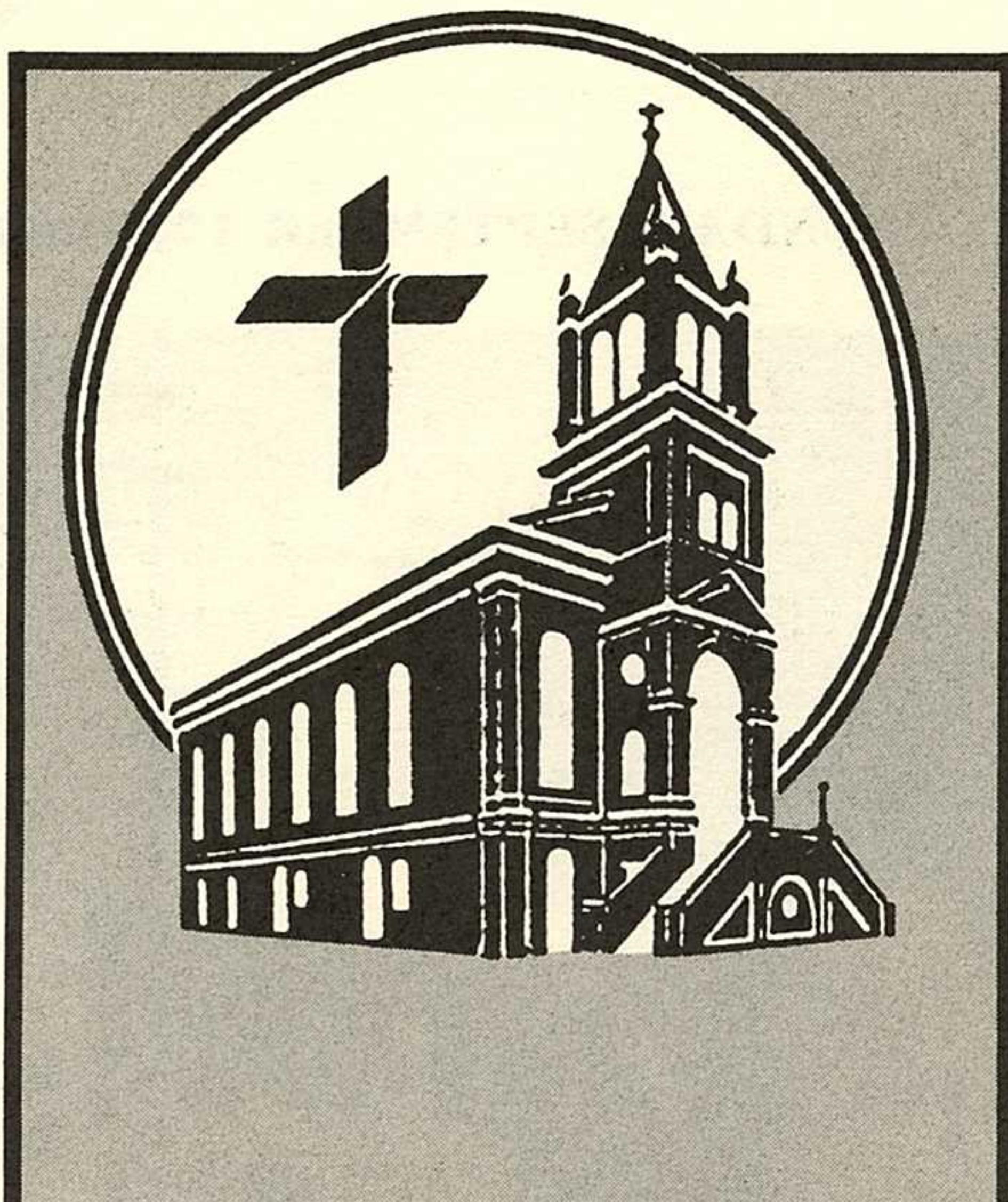
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 1989



The Eighteenth Sunday After Pentecost  
Sunday, September 17, 1989  
10:30 a.m.  
ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH  
New Orleans, Louisiana







A.

B.

C.



D.

E.

**NOVEMBER 5, 1989**  
 Anniversary Portraits  
 A. Board of Trustees  
 B. Anniversary Committee  
 C. Christian Education  
 D. The Men's Club  
 E. Eyes of St. Paul  
 F. Senior Choir,  
 Robert C. Perkins, Choirmaster  
 G. Ushers  
 H. Elders  
 I. Sunday School Staff  
 J. Junior Youth  
 K. Vicar Kirk McQuillan  
 Rev. Ronald B. Unger  
 L. Senior Bell Choir



F.

G.



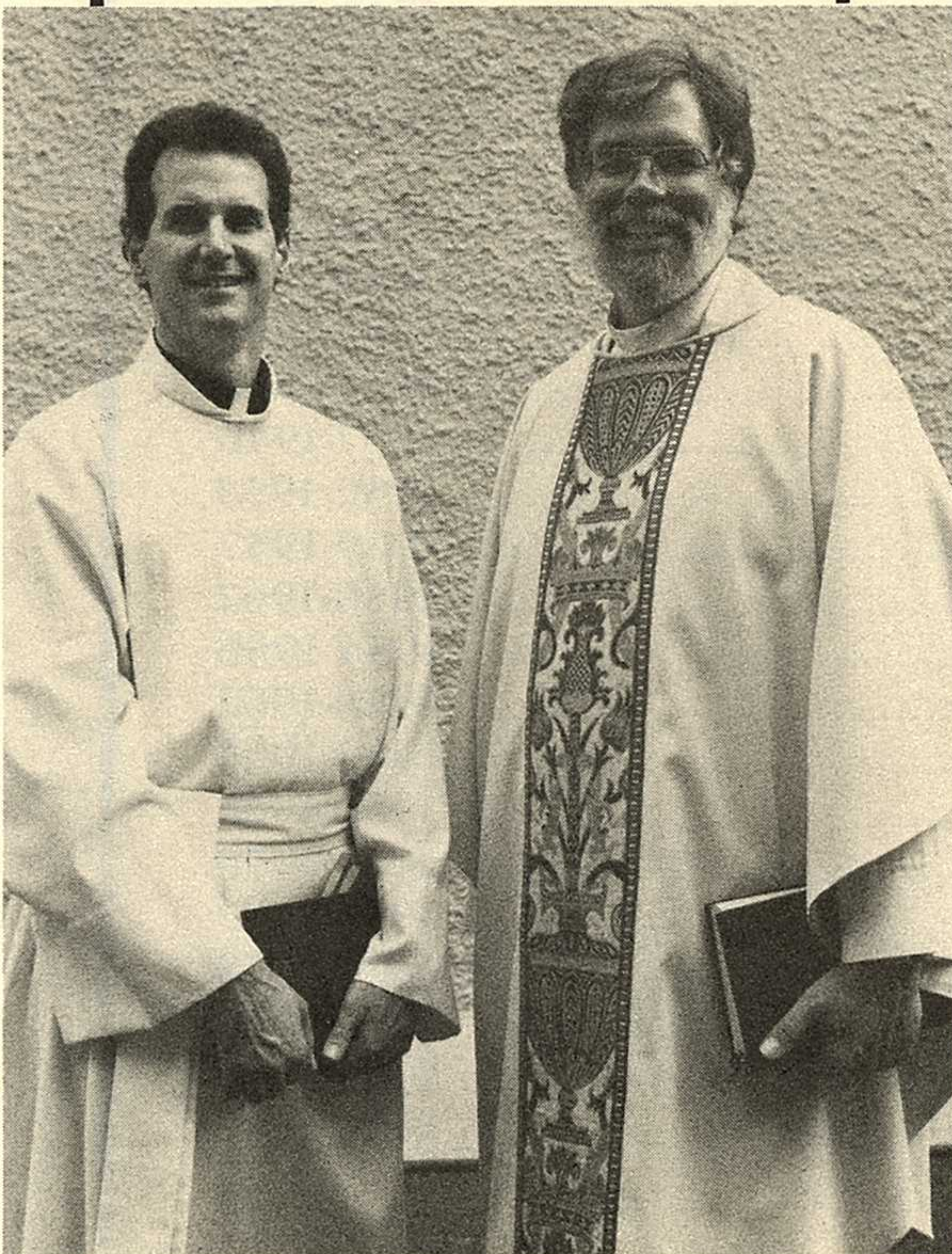
H.



I.



J.



K.



L.

*"Reflecting the  
Light of the Son"*  
1840 - 1990

# ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH

## 1840-1990

**MARCH 22, 1842**

“The German Orthodox Evangelical Congregation of New Orleans and Lafayette”

**DECEMBER 2, 1843**

“The German Evangelical Lutheran Congregation of New Orleans, Louisiana,  
Third Municipality” (The Moreau Street Lutheran Orthodox Congregation)

**MAY 11, 1845**

“The German Evangelical Orthodox Church in New Orleans”

**AUGUST 26, 1858**

“The First German Evangelical Lutheran Congregation of New Orleans”

**FEBRUARY 20, 1872**

“The German Evangelical Lutheran St. Paul’s Congregation,  
Unaltered Augsburg Confession, of New Orleans, Louisiana”

**JULY 13, 1885**

“The English Evangelical Lutheran St. Paul’s Congregation”  
(A Congregation formed within the existing Congregation)

**FEBRUARY, 1901**

“The Evangelical Lutheran St. Paul’s Congregation, U.A.C., of New Orleans, Louisiana”

**SEPTEMBER 21, 1960**

“St. Paul Lutheran Church”

## PASTORS OF ST. PAUL

### 1840-1990

Christian Sans.....	1840-1843
Christian Rudolph Korndörffer .....	1843-1844
J. E. Schneider .....	1843-1844
Christian Schrenk .....	1845-1848
Johann Jakob Bühler.....	1848-1856
E. Schone (assisted Bühler, died of yellow fever)	
Christian Gottlieb Mödinger .....	1855-1890
F. Otto Kölle .....	1869
J. M. Maisch .....	1883-1884
George Christian Franke .....	1884-1887
Gottfried Johann Berend Wegener .....	1887-1946
Herbert Burns Roepe .....	1930-1950
Victor Schulz .....	1949-1952
William Frederick Wedig .....	1950-1962
Robert Wennerstrom .....	1954-1956
David B. Joeckel .....	1958-1962
Gordon H. Albers .....	1962-1966
A. Lorenz Grumm .....	1963-1968
Wayne E. Rutz .....	1967-1970
Erich Herbert Wildgrube .....	1969-1977
Richard Henry Meyer .....	1971-1978
Gerard Frank leFeber .....	1979-1987
Paul R. Schmidt .....	1984-1988
Ronald Brian Unger .....	1987-

**MEMBERS OF THE TEACHING STAFF  
SERVING THE SCHOOL THROUGHOUT  
THE 150 YEARS OF EXISTENCE**

John & Jacob Ueber .....	1840-1850	Glenda Miessler (Borth) .....	1967
Teachers Meyer, C. F. Schroeder and Herman Wilken .....	1850-1870	Allen Schuldt .....	1965-1968
J. Jacob Broders .....	1868-1884	Joyce Helmkamp (Zickler) .....	1966-1968
H. L. Huettmann .....	1870-1871	Cynthia Chauhan (Levison) .....	1966-1967
H. D. Schroeder .....	1871-1875	Gay Osborn (Jungkuntz) .....	1967-1970
C. F. K. Zeige .....	1871-1879	Ronald Wismar .....	1967-1968
L. Wisbeck .....	1873-1874	Robert Rogalski, Teacher .....	1967-1970
C. W. Sauer .....	1878-1887	Principal .....	1977-1981
J. F. Thompson .....	1879-1906	Jaynell Linder (Bonham) .....	1968-1970
F. Doepke .....	1887-1890	Edward Heise .....	1968-1969
Tob. Joeckel & Anna Wurthmann .....	1890	Robert Freymark .....	1968-1975
F. W. A. Beeskow .....	1891-1894	Ray Borchelt .....	1968-1976
L. T. Knief .....	1894-1902	Thomas Wolfe .....	1969-1970
Anna Wegener (Klein) .....	1895-1899	Gary Tate .....	1970-1976
Theresia Thomson .....	1905	Merna Ahlemeyer (Beckmann) .....	1970-1973
Magdalena Kuppler (Brunig) .....	1905-1907	Ronald Ahlemeyer .....	1970-1973
O. H. Burger .....	1907-1909	Rhoda Grewe (Schmidt) .....	1970-1974
F. W. Nierman .....	1907-1911	Leta Sprecher (Vernon) .....	1972-1976
L. A. C. Huettmann .....	1908-1909	Janene Wolter Wogahn .....	1973-1974
Rosa Niermann .....	1909-1911	Elise Carlson (Gutzke) .....	1973-1974
R. W. Wismar, Sr., Principal .....	1911-1957	Edna Hayman (Fank) .....	1973-1974
Richard Wenzel .....	1911-1912	Janet Tedesco (Roux) .....	1973-1974
Bertha Johansen .....	1912-1913	Rebecca Schwartz .....	1974-1981
Millie Edwards (Schubert) .....	1913-1916	Carol Watson .....	1974
and 1917-1920		Susan Birch .....	1974-1977
Students Fred Honold and Emile Wenzel .....	1916-1917	Lois Riske .....	1974-1976
Gertrude Gabriel (Wegener) .....	1920-1922	Mrs. Brenda Reed .....	1975
Lillian Wismar (Franke) .....	1921-1944	Mrs. Kathy Borchelt .....	1975-1976
Student E. A. Groth, Sr. ....	1922-1924	Terry & Sandy Fark .....	1974-1977
Student Henry Schaefer .....	1924-1925	Doris Nation .....	1975-1976
Elmer A. Groth, Sr. ....	1925-1947	Richard Salecker .....	1976-1978
and 1956-1964		Chris Rogers .....	1976-1978
Dorothy Groth (Kauffmann) .....	1944-1947	Lois Sullivan .....	1976-1977
and 1957-1973		Joyce Courtney .....	and 1988- 1975-
Arthur Schaefer .....	1946	Wendy DeMers .....	1976-1982
Students Sedory & Fiege .....	1946	Kay Sturgis .....	1977-1978
Annetta Veau (Gross) .....	1946	Eileen Chitambar .....	1977-1981
Mrs. E. Cooney .....	1946	Agnes Belknap .....	1978-1986
Ted Meyer .....	1947-1949	Michael Riemer, Teacher .....	1977-1981
Marjorie Homrighausen (Lesh) .....	1948-1949	Principal .....	1981-1987
Paul Schmidt .....	1948-1949	Darlene Martin .....	1978-1979
Student E. Homrighausen .....	1949	Joe Asher .....	1978-1980
Mary Schleaf .....	1949-1951	Bob Klausmeier .....	1978-1979
Robert Hintz .....	1949-1950	Judy Olsen .....	1978-1979
Emile Robichaux .....	1949-1955	Lee Walter .....	1978-1979
Clyde Johnson .....	1950-1951	Marion Riemer .....	1978-1985
Ruth Klotz (Brunig) .....	1951-1972	Charmaine Costa .....	1978-1987
Rosemary Dietrich (Beck) .....	1951-1952	Fay Van Esselstyn .....	1979-1981
Clifford Dietrich .....	1951-1956	Susan Germann .....	1979-1980
Olga Seruntine (Gross) .....	1952-1966	Lisa Riemer .....	1979-1981
Mrs. Parun .....	1952	Frances Matthews .....	1979-1983
Judith Hagstette .....	1953-1954	Ken Wegener .....	1980-
Edwin Bode .....	1954-1973	Lois and Martin Zimmer .....	1981-1986
Robert House .....	1954-1958	Charles Schiller .....	1981-
Melba Keller (Artigue) .....	1955-1956	Susann Schiller, Teacher .....	1981-1988
Mrs. M. Kurth .....	1955	Principal .....	1988-
Lorraine Langhoff (Anderson) .....	1956	Dot Kennedy .....	1981
R. Steinbach .....	1956-1957	Sandra Koester .....	1981-
Miss Walker .....	1957	Erin Radle (Kennedy) .....	1982-1985
Marilyn Orth (DeWint) .....	1957-1968	Terry Meyer (Conaway) .....	1983-1984
and 1987-1989		Diane Heintzen (Bozant) .....	1985-1986
Ewald Kane .....	1957-1961	Sally Hoffmann (Dietz) .....	1986-
Melvin Zoch .....	1958-1985	Deborah Baudot (Schroeder) .....	1986
Ann Mead (Krause) .....	1959-1960	Tina Hellmers (Horenkamp) .....	1984-
Carolon Leonard (Koenig) .....	1960-1965	Sandra Leger (Hobratsch) .....	1986-
Charles Laabs, Principal .....	1961-1966	Susan Kies .....	1986-1988
M. L. Miessler .....	1961-1967	Buena Haecker .....	1986-1988
David Adam, Teacher .....	1961-1966	Norma Mukherjee .....	1986-1987
Principal .....	1966-1975	Karen Albert .....	1987-1988
Charlotte Albers (Weiss) .....	1964	Michael McKean, Principal .....	1987-1988
Bonnie Hartman .....	1965-1967	David & Linda Kleimola .....	1988-
		Debra Marquez (Schmidt) .....	1988-

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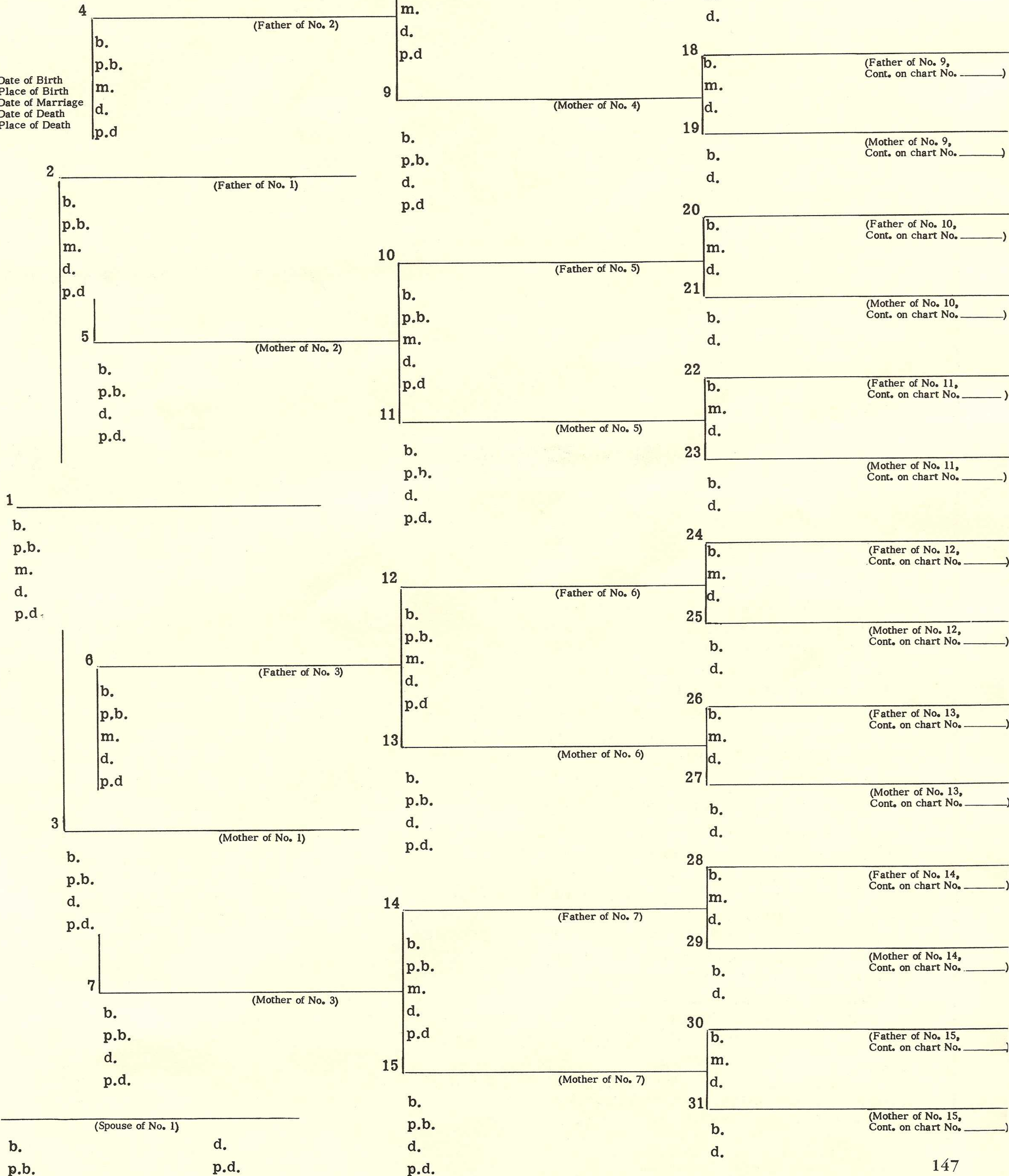
# Ancestor Chart

Name of Compiler \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 City, State \_\_\_\_\_  
 Date \_\_\_\_\_

Person No. 1 on this chart is the same person as No. \_\_\_\_\_ on chart No. \_\_\_\_\_.

Chart No. \_\_\_\_\_

b. Date of Birth  
 p.b. Place of Birth  
 m. Date of Marriage  
 d. Date of Death  
 p.d. Place of Death



## NOTES

