

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.

J.M. NEFF, Vice Pres.

Ad. WALTZ, Rec. Secty.

E.G. BRÜNIG, Fin. Secty.

H.L. FRANTZ, Pres.

GEO. D. FUST

Jos. H. STUMPF, Tres.

Jas. UMBDENSTOCK

The VESTRY OR BOARD OF TRUSTEES

1915

Program of Jubilee Services

Sunday, August 1, 1915

The Pastor Officiating

English Services, 7:30 A. M.

1. Processional, by Sunday School Children.
2. Hymn: "Praise to the Lord, the Almighty."
3. Liturgy, Prayer and Scripture Lesson.
4. Song by S. S. Children.
5. Hymn: "My Soul, Repeat His praise."
6. Anniversary Sermon and Prayer.
7. Selection by St. Paul's Choir.
8. Hymn: "Now Thank we all Our God."
9. Closing Liturgy and Benediction.
10. Doxology.

German Services, 10:00 A. M.

1. Opening Hymn: "Nun Jauchzt dem Herren, alle Welt."
2. Liturgy and Prayer.
3. Hymn: "Sei Lob und Ehr dem höchsten Gut."
4. Scripture Lesson.
5. Hymn: "Wir glauben all an einen Gott."
6. Anniversary Sermon and Prayer.
7. Selection by St. Paul's Male Quartet.
8. Hymn: "Nun Danket alle Gott."
9. Liturgy, Prayer and Benediction.
10. Doxology: "Ehr sei dem Vater und dem Sohn."

Program—Continued.

Program of Jubilee Services

Sunday, August 1, 1915

Special English Services 7:00 P. M.

1. Processional, "All Glory be to God,"—The Congregation
and S. S. Children
2. Organ Prelude.....The Organist
3. Hymn: "Give to our God immortal praise" The Congregation
4. Liturgical Service, Prayer and Scripture Lesson—
The Rev. G. C. Franke
5. Violin Trio.....Rev. A. Wismar and Messrs. V. Huber
and F. Gensler
6. Hymn: "A Mighty Fortress is our God".....The Congregation
7. THE JUBILEE SERMON.....The Rev. Prof. O. Boecler
Of Concordia Seminary, Springfield, Ill.
8. Anthem: "Hosanna".....The A. Capella Choir
9. Announcements and Lord's Prayer.....The Pastor
10. Selection: "Praise Ye the Lord".....The Concordia Male Chorus
11. THE JUBILEE OFFERING—For General Synodical
Treasury
12. Hymn: "Lord Jesus Christ, with us Abide".....The Congregation
13. Liturgical Service and Benediction.....The Rev. Theo. Wegener
14. Doxology—"Praise God".....The Congregation
15. Organ Postlude.....The Organist

Program—Monday

Program of Jubilee Social

Monday, August 2, 1915, 7:30 P. M.

Part One

1. Praise the Lord St. Paul's Choir
2. Address of Welcome Mr. H. L. Frantz
3. Happy Greeting School Chorus
4. Address—Our Fathers' Faith, Our Children's Language
The Pastor
5. Vocal Solo Rev. O. Wismar
6. Address—Our Parochial and S. S. School Mr. R. W. Wismar
7. Zither Solo Mr. V. Huber
8. Song School Chorus

Intermission and Refreshments

Part Two

9. Piano Duet Mr. and Mrs. R. W. Wismar
10. Jubilee Rose Drill 16 Little School Girls
Mr. Max Berndt, Director.
11. Violin Duet Rev. A. Wismar and Mr. F. Gensler
12. "Auf die Berge" School Chorus
13. Impromptu Speeches Officers and Members
14. Sketch—Seven Days of Week School Girls
15. Piano Solo Master Clarence Reuther
16. Patriotic Medley School Chorus
17. Impromptu Speeches Members and Guests
18. Doxology All Present

Evangelical Lutheran St. Paul's Congregation

New Orleans, La.



A Brief Historical Sketch of Its
Organization and Development

1840 - 1915

1. Sometime during the summer of 1840 REV. C. SANS announced through the local press that German Protestant services would be held on Sunday, August 2d, in an engine house on Moreau (now Chartres), between Clouet and Louisa streets. Those present decided to continue these services, and the 2d of August, 1840, has ever since been regarded as the founding day of the present Evangelical Lutheran St. Paul's Congregation of New Orleans, La. A PAROCHIAL SCHOOL was opened in the same year, under the direction of the brothers JACOB and JOHN UEBER.

2. At that time, and for many years afterwards, the congregation had no distinctive doctrinal confession and was known merely as the "GERMAN EVANGELICAL," or "GERMAN PROTESTANT," or "GERMAN ORTHODOX EVANGELICAL CONGREGATION OF NEW ORLEANS AND LAFAYETTE*." under which last name it was legally incorporated on March 23, 1842.

*LAFAYETTE was the name of what is now a part of the uptown section of New Orleans.

3. Services were continued in the engine house already mentioned, and later, when this had burnt down, in a private dwelling on Chartres, between Port and St. Ferdinand streets. In 1843 the congregation erected a church building at the corner of Port and Craps (now Burgundy) streets. This was a modest frame structure, about 65x27 feet, with a steeple about 75 feet high. The parochial school was also held in this building.

4. P. Sans having followed a call to other fields, a division arose in the congregation. Some of the members engaged the services of P. R. KORNDORFER, while others, not satisfied with his election, called P. J. E. SCHNEIDER. Both parties claimed possession of the church building. At a general meeting the Korndoerfer party proved to be in the majority, and on December 2, 1843, the members adhering to P. Schneider separated and organized a new congregation under the name of "THE GERMAN EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CONGREGATION OF NEW ORLEANS, LA., THIRD MUNICIPALITY."

5. A few months later P. Schneider left his new congregation, and P. CHRISTIAN SCHRENCK became his successor. P. Korndoerfer also soon leaving his charge, the two parties were reunited under P. Schrenck and were now known as "THE GERMAN EVANGELICAL ORTHODOX CHURCH OF NEW ORLEANS, LA. P. Schrenck remained with the congregation somewhat over three years, from 1844 to 1848, during which time many new members were added.

6. Early in 1848 P. JACOB BUEHLER became P. Schrenck's successor, and was, for some time assisted by P. E. Schoene. During his 8 years' ministry, from February, 1848, to May, 1856, the congregation constantly grew in numbers. While there are no records of communicants and active church members in those days the otherwise carefully kept books show that P. Buehler already in 1849 baptized 185 children, confirmed 39, and solemnized 97 marriages, and these numbers continued to increase from year to year. This rapid numerical growth is explained by the large German immigration in those years, and by the fact that, at that time and for many years later, P. Buehler's was the only German Protestant church in this section of the city. During P. Buehler's ministry the congregation retained its name and confessional standing which it had assumed under P. Schrenck, viz: "THE GERMAN EVANGELICAL ORTHODOX CHURCH OF NEW ORLEANS, LA."

TO THE READER:—

The brief historical sketch on the following pages shows, in broad outlines, the organization and development of St. Paul's congregation. While the official records, particularly during the period from 1840 to 1856, are not always complete, the writer can vouch for the correctness of every statement in this sketch. Part two, covering the period from 1856 to 1887, is largely, and part three, (1887-1915) almost exclusively a condensation of the congregation's official minutes. The statistics, also, are taken from official records. In this brief sketch there was no room for any comments on the conditions prevailing in the various stages of the congregation's development, and the causes which led up to them; every thoughtful reader will, however, readily understand that the congregation has much cause for joyful praise and thanksgiving unto the Lord on this her Diamond Jubilee. To Him alone be all honor and glory!

G. J. WEGENER, PASTOR.

NEW ORLEANS, LA., Aug. 1, 1915.

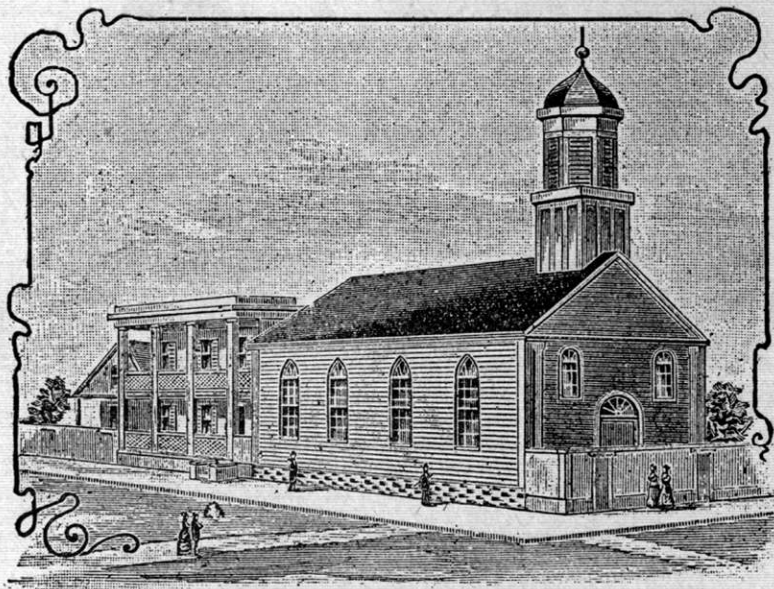
1. Late in the fall of 1855 *P. CHRISTIAN GOTTLIEB MOEDINGER*, a graduate of the Mission Institute of St. Chrischona, came to New Orleans and accepted the position as *P. Buehler's* assistant. He delivered his first sermon on Christmas day 1855. In May, 1856, *P. Buehler* followed another call and *P. Moedinger* became his successor, entering upon his ministry June 28, 1856.

2. Being a LUTHERAN at heart, but finding a congregation which had been reared in a unionistic spirit, *P. Moedinger* began, at once, to instruct his people in regard to Lutheran doctrine and practice, and in the same year, 1856, joined the EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN SYNOD OF TEXAS. After lengthy and serious controversies, especially on account of the introduction of a new (Lutheran) hymn book and of distinctive Lutheran practices, such as the use of WAFERS at holy communion and the personal announcement of the communicants, the congregation, in 1858, adopted a new constitution under the name of "THE FIRST GERMAN EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CONGREGATION OF NEW ORLEANS, LA." In this constitution the congregation accepts "ALL THE SYMBOLICAL BOOKS OF THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH" as her own confession, declares that only such ministers shall ever preach in her pulpit who fully agree with this confession, and that none but Lutherans may be admitted to her membership and to holy communion. Although at that time many non-Lutherans left to join other churches, the congregation continued to grow as before. Thus, for example, in 1860, *P. Moedinger* baptized 286 children, confirmed 53, solemnized 108 marriages, and buried 46 persons.

3. In April, 1860, several squares of houses, and with them the congregation's church, school and parsonage were totally destroyed by fire. Though this was a serious loss, steps were taken at once towards the erection of a new and larger church edifice. A two story building (80x44), with a steeple 125 feet high, was erected, the lower floor of which was arranged for school rooms. The dedication of the new church took place in December, 1860. During the same year the front portion of the present two story parsonage was also erected. In this year (1860) the congregation which had, for twenty years, remained without any synodical connection, joined the Evangelical Lutheran Synod of Texas.

4. During the years of the civil war (1861-1865) the congregation, though sharing the afflictions of many others, continued to grow and prosper. It is reported that the new church, on many occasions, could not accommodate the large number of worshipers. In 1866 the congregation, under *P. Moedinger*, organized a society for the support of needy orphans, which was incorporated as "ORPHAN ASYLUM ASSOCIATION OF THE FIRST GERMAN EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CONGREGATION OF THE THIRD DISTRICT, NEW ORLEANS, LA." The year 1867 marks the beginning of the SUNDAY SCHOOL. In 1868 the congregation purchased the lot and building adjoining the church on Burgundy street, which for some years served as a teachers' residence and was later converted into an additional school room. In 1869 *P. Moedinger* was given an assistant in the person of *P. O. Koelle* who, however, after about six months, left the Lutheran church and became the pastor of a German Presbyterian church in the near vicinity. In 1870 *P. Moedinger* and the congregation severed their connection with the Synod of Texas.

5. Ever since 1850, when the brothers Jacob and John Ueber withdrew from the congregation, it had always been difficult to secure efficient and reliable Christian teachers for the Parochial School. Among those who served from 1850 to 1870 were, Teachers MEYER, G. F. SCHROEDER HERMANN WILKEN and JACOB BRODERS, the last named since 1868. In 1870 the congregation applied to the "TEACHERS' SEMINARY OF THE GERMAN EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN SYNOD OF MISSOURI, OHIO AND OTHER STATES," located in Addison, Ill., for a teacher, and MR.



FIRST CHURCH, ERECTED 1843.

H. L. HUETTMANN, now Superintendent of the Bethlehem Orphan Asylum in this city, received the appointment, and entered upon his duties in July, 1870. When Mr. Huettmann, in the following year, accepted a call to Zion Congregation of this city, two other teachers were called from the same Seminary, viz: Mr. C. F. K. ZEIGE (1871-1879) and Mr. H. D. SCHROEDER (1871-1875), Mr. Broders remaining in charge of the lower department.

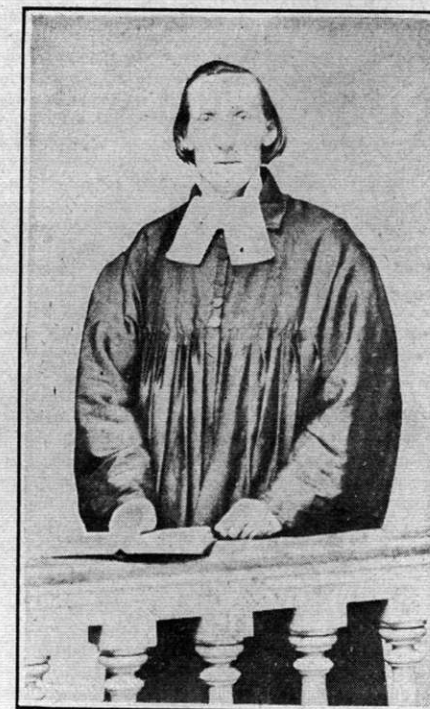
6. The old charter expiring at this time, the congregation adopted a new constitution and charter, and on February 20, 1872, was legally incorporated as "THE GERMAN EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN ST. PAUL'S CONGREGATION, U. A. C., OF NEW ORLEANS, LA." In March, 1872, the congregation, by a majority vote, decided to join the "MISSOURI SYNOD," but this resolution was reconsidered at a later meeting, and not made unanimous until December, 1873. At the meeting of the Western District of Synod, held in St. Louis, Mo., June, 1874, P. Moedinger and the congregation were finally received into membership.

7. Many members, in those days, took an active part in the "EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN MISSION SOCIETY OF NEW ORLEANS, LA., by whose financial aid a mission was established in SHREVEPORT, LA., (1873), and which was also instrumental in organizing TRINITY CONGREGATION in ALGIERS, LA., whose members had formerly been connected with St. Paul's. In 1873 TEACHER L. WISBECK was called as the fourth teacher of the Parochial School, who, however, remained only one year, following a call to Milwaukee, Wis., in 1874. In 1875 P. Moedinger confirmed 119 children, the largest confirmation class in the history of the congregation. In the fall of 1875 Teacher H. D. Schroeder also accepted another call, leaving the school, for the next three years (until 1878) with only two teachers, Mr. Zeige in the first, and Mr. Broders in the second department.

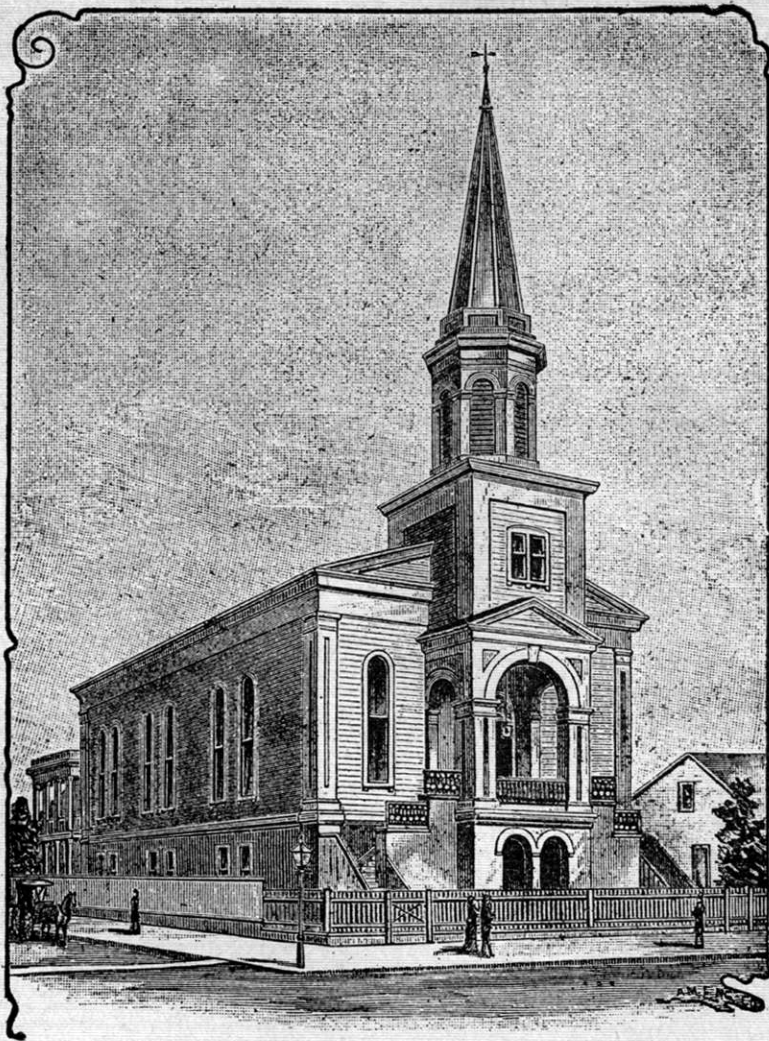
8. The year 1878 is noted for one of the most fearful epidemics of yellow fever in the history of New Orleans. During the summer and fall of that year, when two of our pastors, (P. G. Baumann and his wife, of St. John's, and P. A. Eirich of Trinity), had died of the prevailing fever, and P. M. Tirmenstein, of Zion was absent on a vacation, P. Moedinger was kept busy almost day and night attending to the sick and dying in his own and three sister congregations in the city. In this connection it should be mentioned that an appeal for help in the great distress of those days met with a hearty response among our brethren in the North, the relief committee receiving even more donations than they could dispose of for the poor and needy members of the congregations. In this year of distress the congregation again made a forward move for the advancement of the parochial school. TEACHER C. W. SAUER, (1878-1887) formerly with St. John's congregation of this city, was called as teacher of the second class. Mr. Zeige remaining in charge of the first, and Mr. Broders of the third department. When a year later (1879) Mr. Zeige accepted a call to St. Paul, Minn., Mr. Sauer was given charge of the first class and Mr. J. F. THOMSON (1879-1906) became his successor in the second class, Mr. Broders again continuing in his old position.

9. Since 1866 the congregation had continued to raise funds for the support of poor and needy orphans and was, therefore, able to take a leading part in the organization of the "EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN BETHLEHEM ORPHAN ASYLUM ASSOCIATION OF NEW ORLEANS, LA.," which was legally incorporated June 7, 1881. The first Board of Directors was composed exclusively of members of St. Paul's, and were the following: P. C. G. Moedinger, Jacob Harder, H. L. Frantz, Peter Thormaehlen, Chr. T. Schmalz, Louis Schulz, M. Pons, L. Hornung, R. Stahl, Jac Schneider, Jac. Thomas, C. W. Waldow. The funds which had been gathered, amounting to several thousand dollars, were turned over to the new association for the purchase of the present site of the Asylum.

10. When, in February, 1882, the SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF THE MISSOURI SYNOD was organized in Zion church, St. Paul's congregation was represented by P. Moedinger, Mr. P. Thormaehlen and the teachers,



THE LATE REV. CHRISTIAN GOTTLIEB MOEDINGER.



CHURCH AND PARSONAGE ERECTED 1860.

Jac. Broders, C. W. Sauer and J. F. Thomson. When on July 8, 1883, the Bethlehem Orphan Asylum was opened *P. J. M. MAISCH*, its first superintendent, was at the same time called as assistant pastor of St. Paul's. Under his direction the "LADIES SOCIETY" or "FRAUENVEREIN" of the congregation was organized in November, 1883. *P. Maisch* having accepted another call, St. Paul's oldest teacher and his wife, Mr. and Mrs. Jac. Broders, became the Superintendent and Matron of the Bethlehem Orphan Asylum in August, 1884.

11. To meet a long felt want, the congregation had already, during the year 1883, introduced regular ENGLISH SERVICES which were conducted by several pastors of local sister congregations. In the spring of 1884 *P. G. C. FRANKE*, formerly in charge of the congregations of Algiers and Gretna, was called as *P. Moedinger's* assistant, and was given special charge of the English work in the congregation. Already in the same year 16 children were confirmed by him in the English language, besides exactly 100 confirmed in German by *P. Moedinger*. Soon afterwards an ENGLISH CONGREGATION was organized within the German congregation. It is estimated (no records being to hand) that during the three years of *P. Franke's* stay with St. Paul's about 125 to 150 children were instructed and confirmed in the English language. But, when *P. Franke*, in the summer of 1887, followed a call to New Jersey, this first English Lutheran congregation of New Orleans "disbanded," and turned its affairs over to the German mother congregation. This meant that, for the time being, all English work was suspended in St. Paul's.

12. At this time *P. Moedinger* also, after having faithfully served the congregation for 31 years, and feeling that, on account of his feeble health, he could no longer do the work required in so large a field, proposed to the congregation that a successor be called for him, while he would still assist in preaching and otherwise as his strength might permit. He soon thereafter preached his last sermon in St. Paul's pulpit, which for the following five months was filled by other pastors of the city. In the early fall of the same year, 1887, Teacher C. W. Sauer followed a call to Schaumburg, Ill., Mr. J. F. Thomson succeeded him as teacher of the first class and MR. F. DOEPKE, formerly of Houston, Texas, took charge of the second department.



Part Three. 1887-1915.

1. On the 23rd Sunday after Trinity, Nov. 13, 1887, the present pastor, G. J. Wegener, formerly in Altamont, Ill., was installed as pastor of St. Paul's, P. Moedinger performing the act of installation. The new pastor delivered his introductory sermon on the following 24th Sunday after Trinity, on the Gospel lesson of the day.

2. Although the congregation, had at that time decided to remain strictly GERMAN, no less than 38 out of 79 catechumens had to be instructed in the ENGLISH language. After their confirmation, in April 1888, the pastor was permitted to hold regular ENGLISH Sunday evening SERVICES, with the understanding, however, that those members of the congregation who desired to be served in the English language organize as a separate body, and call their own pastor.

3. In the spring of the same year (1888) seven voting members of the former English congregation met with the pastor of St. Paul's and organized "THE FIRST ENGLISH EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CONGREGATION OF NEW ORLEANS, LA." In October, 1888, P. THEODORE J. A. HUEGLI was installed as the first pastor of the new congregation, the services being continued at St. Paul's until the dedication of the new English Church in January 1889. About 200 to 250 former communicant members of St. Paul's were at that time peacefully dismissed to the English congregation, and St. Paul's again continued to hold only German services.

4. Hardly had the members of St. Paul's returned from rejoicing with their young daughter congregation, when there came for themselves a time of great sorrow. On the evening of Feb. 5, 1889, fire was discovered in the basement of the church, which in a short time completely destroyed the entire building, the brick walls of the lower floor only remaining. The origin of the fire has remained a mystery to this day. The adjoining school house and the personage were only slightly damaged, and all the valuable old church records were saved.

5. Steps were taken at once for the erection of a new house of worship, the cornerstone of which was laid on Palm Sunday, April 14, 1889. The dedication followed five months later on the 13th Sunday after Trinity September 15. A Sunday later the catechumen class of 1888-1889, fifty in number, was confirmed in the new church. During the seven months when the congregation was homeless, services and Sunday School were held in what was then the German Methodist Church on Burgundy, near Music St., while the Parochial School was held partly in the adjoining school building and partly in a rented hall on Dauphine, near Elmira St. Already on Nov. 11, 1888 a "YOUNG MEN'S SOCIETY" had been organized, which was followed by the organization of a "YOUNG LADIES' SOCIETY" on Dec. 1, 1889. In 1888 the old time German "CHRISTENLEHRE" had been introduced which, after an unsuccessful trial of about one and a half year, had to be discontinued for lack of attendance.

6. The beginning of the year 1890 is marked by the death of P. Moedinger, who departed in Christ on January 25th, at the age of 58 years, 9 months and 14 days, and was buried two days later in his family tomb in St. Vincent de Paul's (Louisa Street) Cemetery, among many hundreds of his former parishioners. The funeral was the largest ever held in St. Paul's Church, the Rev. N. J. Bakke preaching in English, and P. Wegener in German. The text of one of the sermons may find a place here as a memorial to this faithful pastor who was with St. Paul's over 33 years: Hebr. 13, 7: "REMEMBER THEM WHO HAVE SPOKEN UNTO YOU THE WORD OF GOD, WHOSE FAITH FOLLOW, CONSIDERING THE END OF THEIR CONVERSATION." During his ministry at St. Paul's P. Moedinger baptized 7167 children, confirmed 1679, married 1959 couples, and buried 1685 persons.

7. Having been encumbered, for many years with a debt of between \$6,000 and \$7,000, and obliged to pay over \$300 in annual interest, the congregation, early in 1890, decided to relieve itself of this burden. A house to house canvass among the members resulted in the collection of \$1936 by the aid of which, before the middle of the year, \$2,000 of the old debt could be cancelled. (NOTE: These collections were continued until 1895, when for once, the church was without debt.)

8. While this collection was going on, preparations were already being made for the celebration of the congregations FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY or GOLDEN JUBILEE which took place on August 3, 1890. In the Sunday services P. F. Koesterling of St. Louis, Mo, preached German in the morning and P. Wm. Dau of Memphis, Tenn., English in the evening service. On Monday an open air celebration was held in Southern Park, where P. J. Friedrich of Chatanooga, Tenn., delivered a German, and P. N. J. Bakke, of this city, an English address.

9. At this time, Teacher F. Doepke accepted a call to Houston, Texas. The vacancy caused by his removal was temporarily filled, first by student TOB. JOECKEL and later by Miss Anna Wurthmann, she being the first lady assistant ever employed in the Parochial School.

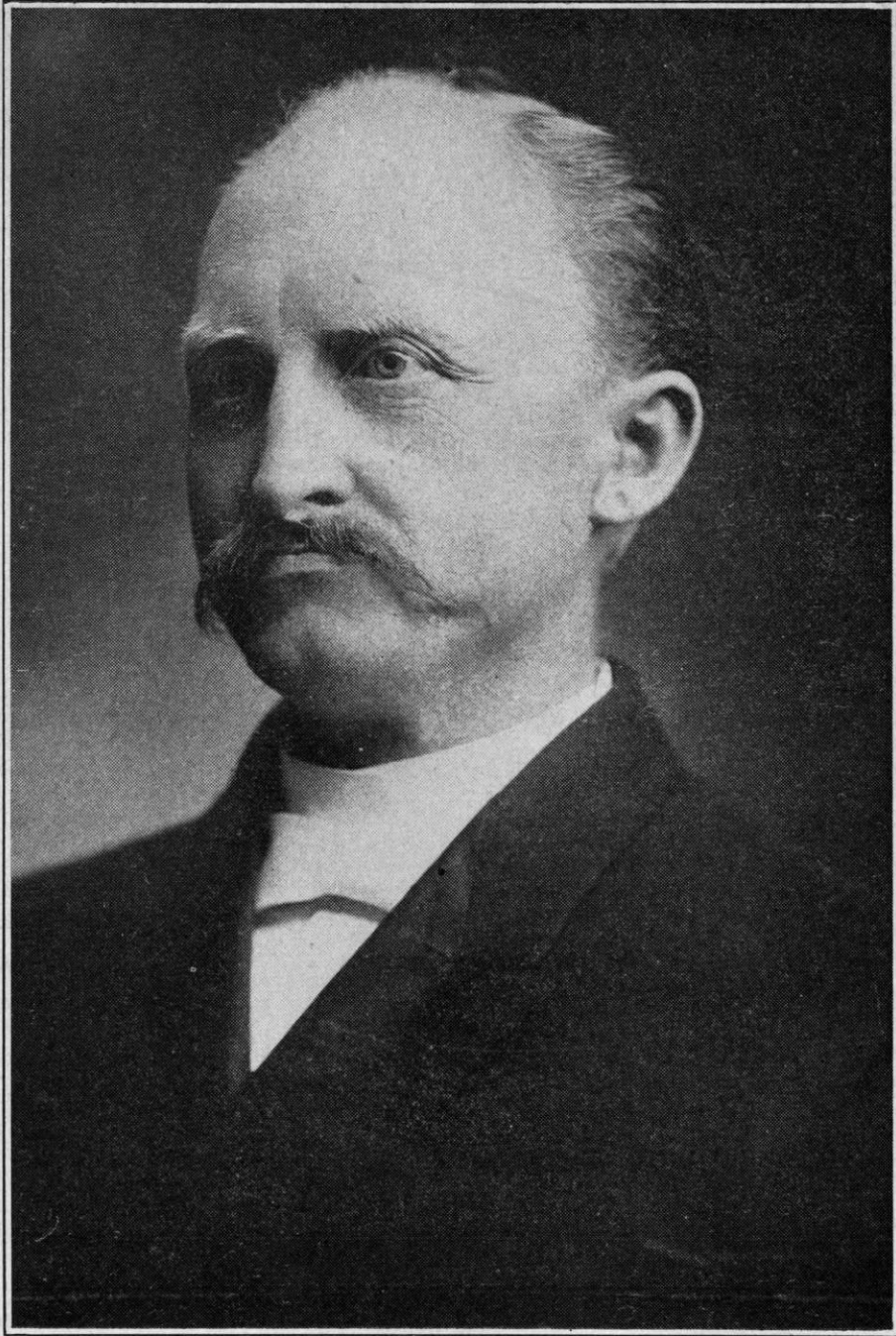
10. In the beginning of 1891 the congregation was again called upon to mourn the death of one of her faithful servants. Mr. Jacob Broders, teacher at St. Paul's from 1868 to 1884, and since then Superintendent of the Bethlehem Orphan Asylum, departed this life Jan. 14, 1891, at the age of 59 yrs. and 8 months, and was buried Jan. 16 in the Louisa St. Cemetery. The funeral was attended by hundreds of Mr. Broder's former pupils and many other members of St. Paul's and of the sister congregations.

11. After several unsuccessful calls to various teachers, MR. F. W. A. BEESKOW, of St. Paul, Minn., accepted the call as teacher of the second department and was installed about Jan. 15, 1891. During the summer of that year the congregation considered at length the establishment of a Branch School and Mission in the vicinity of the Bethlehem Orphan Asylum, but the plan was abandoned for the time being. MR. ANTON EHMANN having accepted the position of teacher and Superintendent of the Bethlehem Orphan Asylum, became a member of St. Paul's January 1892.

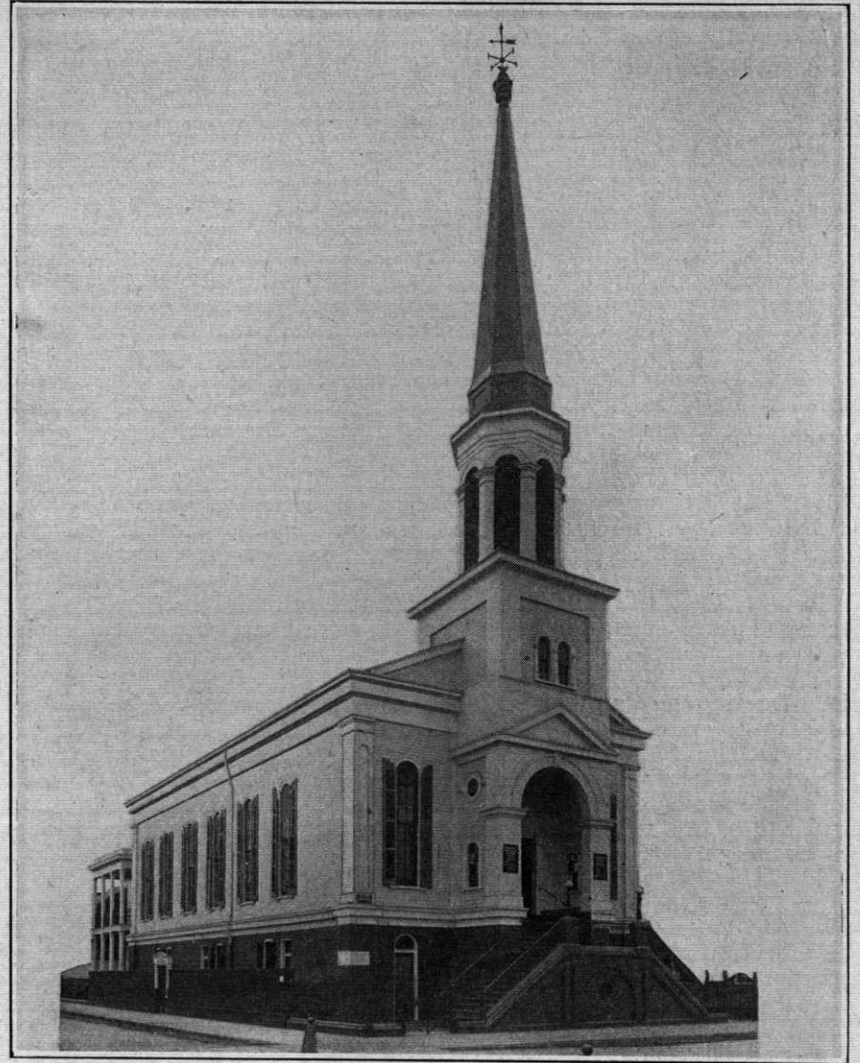
12. Realizing more and more that under prevailing conditions it would be impossible for the congregation to exist as a purely German body, the INTRODUCTION OF ENGLISH SERVICES was discussed during the summer of 1892, but final decision postponed until the following year. In April 1892 the "CONCORDIA YOUNG PEOPLE'S ASSOCIATION" was organized. A year later, upon the first anniversary of "Concordia" the pastor was allowed to preach an English sermon, and in June 1893, after long and thorough deliberations, it was finally decided that REGULAR ENGLISH SERVICES be held every Sunday evening, the German morning services only to be continued. The first regular English service was held Oct 1, 1893, and an ENGLISH CONFIRMATION CLASS of 16, besides the German class of 30, was also opened at that time. During the summer of this year the pastor was twice called as professor and president of St. John's Lutheran College in Winfield, Kansas, but upon the urgent request of the congregation decided to stay.

13. Teacher Beeskow, after serving in the second department since January 1891, followed a call to First English congregation, May 1, 1894, MR. LOUIS T. KNIEF, Graduate of Teachers' Seminary in Addison, Ill., was called to fill the vacancy, his installation taking place on Sunday, Sept. 2, 1894.

14. By resolution of Feb. 10, 1895, members of congregation, not able to make themselves clear in German, were allowed to use the ENGLISH LANGUAGE IN CONGREGATIONAL MEETINGS. In the fall of this year the school had grown to such proportions that it became necessary to call an ASSISTANT TEACHER for a third department, MISS ANNA KLEIN taking charge Nov. 1, 1895. In December of the same year the house and lot next to the old school building was purchased for \$1,400.



G. J. WEGENER, Pastor.



CHURCH ERECTED 1889 REMODELED & RENOVATED 1915.

15. In the spring of 1896, the exterior of the church, parsonage and adjoining buildings were newly painted, the cost for which was nearly covered by a special house collection. Owing to the new conditions brought about by the introduction of the English language, a translation of the charter and constitution was ordered, Dec. 13, 1896.

16. The 50th ANNIVERSARY OF THE MISSOURI SYNOD was celebrated by the Southern District in its meeting at St. Paul's, Feb. 17-23, 1897. On this occasion the Synod's German order of service was permanently introduced. MR. H. L. HUETTMANN, having become Superintendent of Bethlehem Orphan Asylum was received as member of the congregation, Aug. 8, 1897. In September of that year the Parochial School was temporarily ordered closed on account of prevailing Yellow Fever. In its December meeting 1897 the congregation went on record as opposing a division of the Southern District Synod.

17. On February 25, 1898, the "ST. PAUL'S LADIES' MISSION SOCIETY" was organized, its object being to raise funds for the Home Mission work of the Southern District. Upon the request of many members the hour for the English services was changed from 7:30 P. M. to 7:30 A. M., the first of these early morning services being held on the first Sunday in June, which was Trinity Sunday, 1898. German services were continued at 10:00 in the morning. During the summer of 1898 the interior of the church was repainted and frescoed, a house to house collection among the members covering more than the expenses. For comparison with later records it is stated here that during 1898 there were held 72 German and 52 English services, all week-day and holiday services still being in German only. During the same year holy communion was celebrated 13 times in German and 5 times in English.

18. In 1899 English services, with holy communion, were introduced on Good Friday night and English Christmas services for the children on Christmas day, besides German children's service on the previous evening. A motion for English services on New Year's Eve, instead of German, was lost. June 1, 1899, the third department of the school was closed on account of decreased attendance, and Miss Klein dismissed after four years service.

19. During the summer of 1900 the building next to the old school house was converted into a club room and gymnasium for the Young Men's Society. In the fall of 1900 German religious instruction in school was abolished after having had both German and English since 1893. In November of the same year it was resolved to have English Lenten services in future besides the German, the latter on Wednesday and the former on Friday evenings.

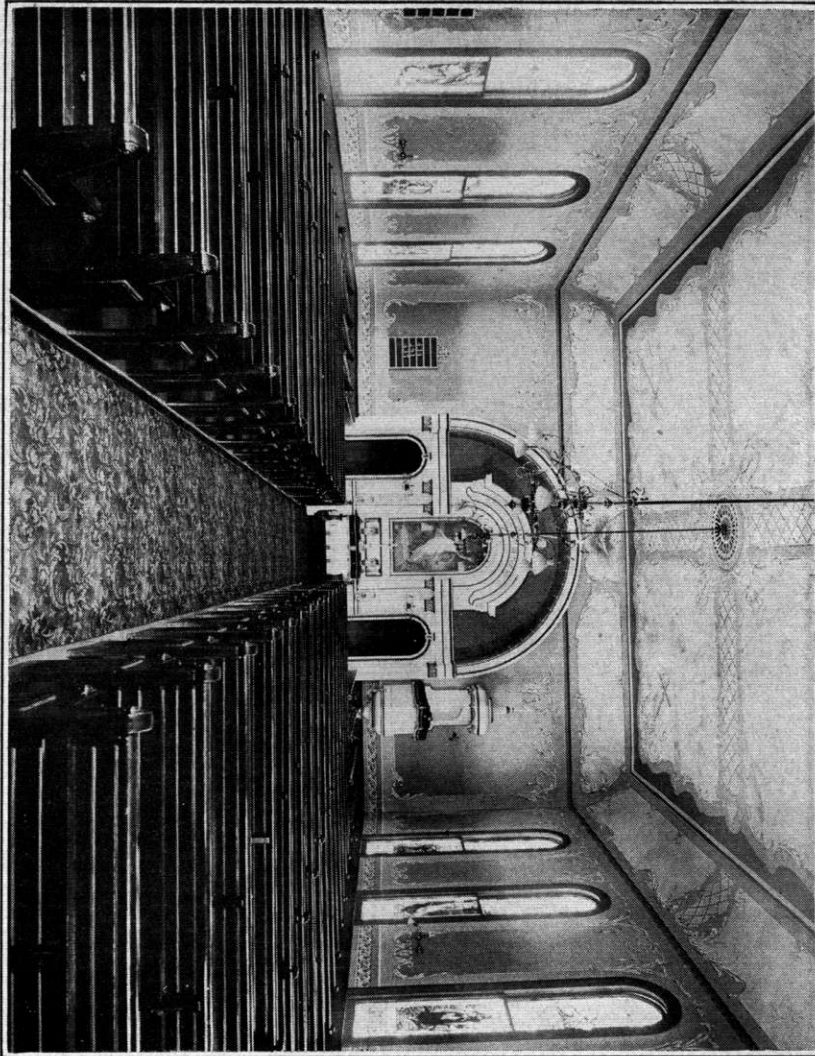
20. At the February meeting, 1901, several amendments of the charter and constitution were adopted, together with their English translation, the most important amendment being the elimination of the word "German" in the congregation's name and title. Since that date the congregation is known as "THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN ST. PAUL'S CONGREGATION, U. A. C., OF NEW ORLEANS, LA.," according to which name the German and English speaking members were now given equal rights and privileges, even under the laws of the State. In the same year English Advent services, besides the German, were introduced, and the children's Christmas services ordered to be held in English only.

21. The number of German catechumens having been only 12 in 1900 and 13 in 1901, and there being but one German applicant for the class of 1902, ENGLISH CONFIRMATION ONLY has been held since that year. ADDITIONAL ENGLISH SERVICES were introduced on Ascension, Thanksgiving and New Year's Eve, and regular week-day services between New Year and Lent. About Christmas, 1902, Teacher L. T. Knief followed a call to St. Louis, Mo., and MISS A. KLEIN was engaged to fill the vacancy in the second department of the school.



R. W. WISMAR, Teacher & Organist.

INTERIOR OF CHURCH. Built 1889. (After the renovation in 1915.)



22. The Southern District Synod met in St. Paul's in February, 1903. A second male teacher (Mr. K. F. Dube, of Fedor, Tex.) was called in July but declined, and the lady assistant was retained. On October 14th of this year the pastor's wife departed this life, and never will he forget the sympathy and kindness shown him by the congregation. In December, 1903, the congregation passed a resolution approving the organization of the present "CONCORDIA COLLEGE ASSOCIATION OF NEW ORLEANS," promising its moral and financial support. During 1903 the number of English services, for the first time, exceeded the German, there being 75 English and 69 German services.

23. In April 1904, the congregation took part in organizing THE UNITED LUTHERAN LEAGUE OF NEW ORLEANS AND VICINITY, the first meeting being held at St. Paul's. By resolution permission was given to all members living below Poland St. to join the NEW MISSION CONGREGATION (later Christ Church) in the vicinity of the Bethlehem Orphan Asylum, and for a house to house collection for the erection of a Church Building. During the summer of 1904 the rear of the "club house" was demolished and the school yard enlarged to its present dimensions. At the same time a new floor was laid in the basement of the church, all at a cost of \$900. On account of small attendance German Advent services were discontinued.

24. Miss A. Klein having resigned, on account of marriage, MISS THERESIA THOMSON succeeded her as teacher of the second department, Jan. 1, 1905, and, she also resigning, was in turn succeeded by MISS MAGDALENA BRUNIG, who took charge Oct. 1st, 1905. During the summer of 1905 the second story was added to the rear portion of the parsonage and the exterior of the church, parsonage and adjoining buildings was newly painted, all at a cost of nearly \$1600. In December the Sunday School donated a new altar, together with new altar and pulpit coverings, and by kindness of Mrs. L. Eicke a pair of candelabras were placed on the altar.

25. Beginning with January, 1906, the MINUTES of the congregation were recorded in both German and ENGLISH. All German evening services were abolished, German morning services to be held every Sunday and on all church holidays. In November, 1906, Mr. J. F. THOMSON, teacher at St. Paul's since 1879, RESIGNED; Mr. L. A. C. Huettmann was engaged to serve temporarily as teacher and organist, and MR. F. W. NIERMANN, of Washington, Mo., called to fill the vacancy.

26. Sunday, February 17, 1907, Mr. Niermann was installed, and Miss Brunig resigning, he remained in charge of both departments of the school until the close of the term. During the summer the congregation decided to again call a second male teacher. On August 4, 1907, the pastor's 25th anniversary of his ministry was celebrated, he being presented with a beautiful silver service. The new teacher for the second department, MR. O. H. BURGER, a graduate of the Addison, Ill., Seminary, was installed Sunday, Sept. 1. In the December meeting it was decided to introduce the present ORDER OF ENGLISH SERVICES and the custom of KNEELING at holy communion.

27. In January 1908, the SCHOOL was TEMPORARILY CLOSED by the Board of Health on account of prevailing small pox. During Mr. Niermann's illness, Mr. L. A. C. Huttman took his place. The present ENVELOPE SYSTEM for collecting monthly dues was inaugurated in March of this year. In the August meeting the RULE was established that catechumens must be at least 12 years of age on the 1st of January preceding their CONFIRMATION. The "LADIES' SOCIETY," or "Frauenverein" celebrated its 25TH ANNIVERSARY by a special German service on Sunday, Nov. 15.

28. Since January 1909, the ENGLISH MINUTES are THE OFFICIAL RECORDS of the congregation, German minutes, however, also being continued. In May, TEACHER NIERMANN received a call to Emma, Mo., and in July another to Prairie, Ill., but was in both cases prevailed upon to stay. In October TEACHER BURGER accepted a call to Racine, Wis., and the vacancy in the second department was filled by MISS ROSA NIERMANN. During this year pamphlets on the "LODGE QUESTION" were sent to all male communicant members over 16 years of age, accompanied by a circular urging, especially the young men, to keep away from or come out of the Lodge, the congregation having at all times taken the position that lodge members could not be received as members of the church.

29. In the January meeting of 1910, the congregation approved the FOUNDING OF A NEW CONGREGATION in the vicinity of the Fair Grounds, consenting to dismiss its members residing in that neighborhood, (Now Mt. Calvary Congregation.) In April 1910, the ADULT BIBLE CLASS was organized with 41 charter members, Teacher Niermann being chosen as its leader. During the summer of 1910, the first steps were taken towards the celebration of the congregation's 75th anniversary or DIAMOND JUBILEE. In the fall of the same year it was decided to observe the last Sunday of the church year as MEMORIAL SUNDAY, with special services commemorating the death of departed fellow Christians.

30. The DIAMOND JUBILEE FUND was started in January 1911, the congregation investing \$500 in a local Homestead Association, and ordering annual envelope collections on Easter and Thanksgiving. In February '11, Teacher Niermann, followed a call to Cape Girardeau, Mo., Miss Rosa Niermann resigning her position at the same time. To fill the double vacancy student BERNH-SEEFELDT, of Addison, Ill., was temporarily engaged for both departments of the school. Several calls having been sent out without result, MR. R. W. WISMAR, a graduate of Addison, Ill., was called for the first department and was installed on Sunday, Sept. 3. At the same time MR. RICH. WENZEL was temporarily engaged for the second department. During the summer of 1911, SEWERAGE AND WATER WORKS were installed at a cost of \$499.00. On Oct. 29, the joint celebration of the WALTHER CENTENNIAL was held in St. Paul's.

31. In February 1912, the congregation entertained the SOUTHERN DISTRICT SYNOD. Mr. Wenzel resigning at the close of the school term, Miss BERTHA JOHANSEN succeeded him in school. On Sunday, Nov. 17, the congregation celebrated the PASTOR'S 25TH ANNIVERSARY as minister of St. Paul's and presented him with a purse of \$100. English COMMUNION services on THANKSGIVING DAY were inaugurated in 1912.

32. The now customary ANNUAL REPORT of the congregation appeared in print for the first time in January 1913, and was mailed to all communicant members. In August '13, the LOUISIANA DISTRICT CONFERENCE met in St. Paul's. After lengthy and careful deliberations the congregation decided that the PAROCHIAL SCHOOL begin its new term in September as a FREE SCHOOL. By a special circular and house to house visits all members were urged to send their children and no longer neglect this opportunity to give them a thorough Christian training. Miss Johansen leaving the city, she was succeeded by Miss EMILIE SCHUBERT as assistant teacher.

33. In the January meeting of 1914, active steps began in making all necessary and desirable IMPROVEMENTS for the coming DIAMOND JUBILEE. Besides the reslating and guttering of the church building, all interior work was done during the spring and summer of that year. At the same time most of the present MEMORIAL WINDOWS were installed by individual members of the congregation.

On Sunday, Aug. 2, the congregation in a special English service, witnessed the ordination to the ministry of candidates M. R. Lecron and Th. Wegener.

During the summer of 1914, one of the rooms in the basement of the church was fitted up as CHAPEL, for those old German members who are not able to ascend the high church stairs, the first services in the Chapel being held on Sunday, Sept. 6. On Sunday, Sept. 13, the congregation celebrated the 25TH ANNIVERSARY of the dedication of the present church building.

34. The beginning of the year 1915, is marked by final preparations for the DIAMOND JUBILEE. All work on the exterior of the church, parsonage and adjoining buildings was carried out during March and April. The interior of the parsonage was also renovated and supplied with electric light. It was decided that the celebration of the Jubilee be held on Sunday and Monday, August 1 and 2, the second day's celebration to be in the form of a social gathering in the school rooms. A souvenir of the celebration was ordered printed, and is herewith presented to our members and friends.



OFFICIAL ACTS 1840 TO 1915

1840-1856—Low Estimate, Records incomplete before 1848.
 1856-1887—(P. Moedinger)
 1887-July 1, 1915—(P. Wegener)

	BAPTISMS	CONFIRMATIONS	MARRIAGES	BURIALS
	2,000	700	1,000	400
	7,167	1,679	1,959	1,685
	2,044	1,207	882	1,019
TOTAL	11,211	3,586	3,841	3,104

SOME COMPARATIVE STATISTICS

	BAPTISMS	CONFIRMATIONS	COMMUNICANTS	MARRIAGES	BURIALS
1840					
1845					
1850	212	46	No Record	114	No Record
1855	251	58	" "	112	37
1860	288	53	575	107	43
1865	236	76	995	86	54
1870	282	113	1289	78	56
1875	206	119	1683	43	46
1880	205	68	1409	47	55
1885	173	81	1687	31	66

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
Total Cost of Improvements	\$6,951.62

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, from 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.)

STATISTICS OF 1914 Members.

Souls (Children and Adults) estimated	1,600
Communicant Members on list	1,176
Communed during year	875
Voting Members on list	87
Voting Members, contributing	52
All other contributing members	419

SERVICES.

Regular Services, 58 German, 75 English	133
Communion Services, 7 " 12 "	19
Funeral Services..... — " 27 "	27

OFFICIAL ACTS.

Baptisms, 3 German, 50 English	53
Confirmations, " " 31 "	31
Marriages, " " 13 "	13
Burials " " 36 "	36
Communicants, 179 " 1322 "	1501
Private Communions 27 " 19 "	46

PAROCHIAL AND SUNDAY SCHOOL.

Parochial School, Enrolled	71
Sunday School (incl. Officers and Teachers)	245

CHURCH SOCIETIES.

St. Paul's Branch B. O. Asylum, members,	75
Ladies' Society or Frauenverein "	33
Ladies' Mission Society "	185
S. S. Teachers' Association "	28
Adult Bible Class "	60
St. Paul's Choir "	26

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

July 1, 1915.

Liabilities	\$2,559.51
Cash on hand	\$ 459.80
Total Debt, July 1, 1915,	\$2,099.71

SOLI DEO GLORIA.

SOME COMPARATIVE STATISTICS—Continued.

	BAPTISMS	CONFIRMATIONS	COMMUNICANTS	MARRIAGES	BURIALS
1890	117	45	1447	32	62
1895	87	38	1326	18	40
1900	52	28	1227	14	36
1905	48	55	1575	12	32
1910	57	43	1596	21	28
1914	53	31	1547	13	36

STATISTICS OF COMMUNICANT MEMBERS SINCE 1890.

	CARRIED ON LIST	COMMUNED	NOT COMMUNED	TOTAL OF COMMUNICANTS
1890	1275	926	347	1447
1895	1201	783	418	1326
1900	1087	725	362	1227
1905	1271	893	378	1575
1910	1304	882	422	1596
1914	1176	875	301	1547

NOTE.—The spiritual life and strength of a congregation should not be judged by the number of communicant members carried on the lists, but by the number of those who actually are "communicant members."