1833-1933
One Century for Christ

THE HISTORY
OF THE
Evangelical Lutheran St. John’s Church
BUFFALO, NEW YORK

BY
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1933
OUR FIRST SEAL
Introduction

This HISTORY of the Evangelical Lutheran St. John’s Church, Buffalo, New York, “The Mother Church of Buffalo Lutheranism,” is presented to our readers in grateful recognition of a Heavenly Father’s loving blessings and of the untiring efforts and remarkable faith of the men and women who founded our church.

For one hundred years, St. John’s has been privileged to serve Jesus Christ in a Christian community. It has stood out as a congregation which has always been willing and satisfied to make sacrifices and which has always had, as its only Head, Jesus Christ, the Saviour of the World.

During this span of one entire century, St. John’s has been served by only eight Pastors. These men, filled with the Holy Spirit and with a love for all whom they were called upon to serve, have led the congregation steadfastly and with real consecration. We are anxious to memorialize our Sainted Pastors and also to say to our living former Pastors, “Well Done.”

Our Historian is the son of our beloved former Pastor Krauch. He is not only our Historian, but the Secretary of the Church Council and of the Congregation, and also the loyal teacher of our growing Women’s Bible Class. This History is the result of months of diligent study on his part. He has carefully perused the records and the minutes of the congregation, has interviewed many former members and has known of the life and work of St. John’s from intimate contact. We thank him for this splendid History and are absolutely certain that his work has not been in vain.

As we therefore publish this History, we do so, knowing that our Future without God’s help will be of little value. But we trust in God and we pray for His continued mercies.

[Signature]
Pastor
OUR PRESENT CHURCH AND PARISH HOUSE
100 Years for Christ in Buffalo

Foreword

What a picture this title conjures in the minds of young and old, who have been instrumental even to the smallest degree in helping to build Buffalo. Anyone, from the least intelligent to the highest intellectual may read this history with interest, because therein lies Christian faith and trust, philosophy, psychology, biography, romance and adventure. Modern fiction cannot surpass the tales that will be told in these pages, altho the reader may rest assured that much has been deleted, which could have been written. Every item and every incident and date has been carefully excerpted from the old records still in possession of the church, records mostly written in German script and translated. Appreciation is given at this time to the Buffalo Historical Society for its permission to peruse certain volumes, which made reference to St. John's early history.
REV. MARTIN J. HOEPPNER
Our Present Pastor
The History

In turning the pages of each year from 1832, when Buffalo was first incorporated as a village, we need only turn one until we reach St. John’s incorporation, although this historic old church already had its inception four years before the city, which it has striven to hold for Christ and God’s Kingdom. For in 1828 our German forefathers felt the necessity of gathering together in worship, sensing future growth of the frontier, while wilderness still encompassed them, and blanketed Indians roamed the streets, unpaved as yet; wild beasts, virgin forests, desperate men, war drums, disease, remote neighbors, no transportation facilities—all lent disturbance to what might have been a peaceful, tranquil life of these brave men and women, who have labored that we might enjoy the fruits of their labors. These first meetings were held without a pastor in a storeroom over Koons and Handel’s Grocery, located on the east side of Main Street about fifty feet south of Genesee Street. It was here, September 20th, 1828, that the first baptism on record took place.

The first people mentioned as instrumental in this organization were men, although we can safely say that their wives must surely have taken as much interest in this project as their home-tailored clothed husbands. Their names are immortal: Johann Heinrich Koch, Peter Schmidt, Jacob and Johann Nicholas Miller, Peter Reinhard, Georg Stoll, Christian Knoll, Christian Loewengut, Christian Schappert. For four years, under what discouragements we can only imagine, striving to praise God without leadership, without hymn books, without any churchly environment, they struggled together, united in a common thought: to build a church and call a pastor. Their efforts were finally rewarded when a congregation was organized. Their Pastor, Francis H. Guenther, who had previously served congregations at Erntstown and Frederickstown, Canada, and Rush, N. Y., near Rochester, was called from the last named place February 10, 1833. Pastor Guenther must have been in close touch with the congregation at this time, because the same date is given for the drafting of a constitution for the “German Protestant Congregation of Buffalo.” It read as follows:

A true member must be—1. Baptized and confirmed; 2. Attend services regularly and partake of the Lord’s Supper; 3. To assist in the upkeep of the church and assist the Pastor at all times; 4. Lead a blameless life; 5. Follow the rules of the congregation, let truth prevail, and write his name in the church register. These rules could still be in force today, and if religiously kept would knit us closely together.

The Pastors’ salary was to be paid in quarterly installments, the amount not being stated.
Church Council met four times a year: January, April, July and October. The following officers were elected: Ludwig Bronner, Sr., Georg Schneider and Philip Beyer, Sr., Elders; Samuel Kriegelstein, Michael Ruch and Michael Goetz, the latter being named chairman.

At this stage of the church’s history it will be interesting to note that the first city directory was published in 1832, and consisted of sixty pages, only thirty of which were filled with names. It mentioned forty shops and stores and sixteen public and private schools, more than half being private. 1833 saw the first horse-car conveyance and regular trips negotiated between Black Rock and Buffalo. Only one street was paved and that with wooden planks, the pavement extending just one fifth of a mile, the rest of the lanes and streets being muddy, filled with ruts and rarely travelled. The only street lamps belonged to the oyster and fish sellers, who peddled their wares from stands on the street corners. Water was obtained, not from a modern system of plumbing, but from public and a few private wells and pumps and had to be carried to great distances by the poorer folk. The population was estimated to be nearly 10,000 souls, but a dreadful cholera plague visited the city at this time and caused a decrease of that number. Sanitation was little known or understood and physicians were powerless to cope with the disease. The plague had devastated the towns along the Atlantic seaboard and was carried westward over the Erie Canal, which was the principal route of travel for about 10,000 boats arrived yearly at this time. Passenger traffic was large and irresistibly attractive, for while the fare on turnpike roads was one and a half cents a mile, and there was great rivalry between the old stage coaches and the packet boats, nevertheless canal travel was less dusty and cost only one half cent a mile.

November 12th, 1833, a meeting was called to change the name of the Congregation to the Evangelical Lutheran Congregation of Buffalo. At the same time it was decided to have election of officers each year the first of February and the new offices taken over March first. December 14th of the same year the trustees of the church had the church incorporated in their name according to the laws of the state of New York and called it “The Corporation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in the City of Buffalo.” The number of trustees could not exceed nine nor be less than three. Georg Schneider and Philip Beyer were chosen with Pastor Guenther to make out and file incorporation papers. The incorporation act was legalized by County Judge James Stryker and entered in the county records by County Clerk, Noah P. Sprague, at a cost of seventy-five cents.

The men of that day thought nothing of tramping for miles through wilderness, nor did the sounds of the woods intimidate them, therefore when a piece of ground consisting of a half acre, located on Hickory Street (which was then close to the outskirts) was offered to them along with five hundred dollars in cash, they did not hesitate long. A public meeting was held and this gracious offer of George E. Hayes, George W. Jonson and P. A. Barker, given on condition that a church be erected, was accepted December 7th, 1834.

December 25th, Christmas Day, the first full complement of trustees was elected and consisted of the following: Trustees, E. J. Gray, Christian Bronner, Christian
REV. F. H. GUENTHER
Our First Pastor
Lapp, Friedrich Dellenbach Rudolph Baer and George Gass; Deacons and Elders, George Schneider, Philip Beyer, Sr., Lavis Bronner, Friedrich Bauer, Sr., William Rink and Jacob Schweitzer. These and a few others immediately ordered a standing building committee to be formed and the church erection was under way. The first meeting of this building committee was held at the Pastor’s home February 11th, 1835, and these officers elected: George Schneider, Chairman; E. J. Gray, Treasurer; Nicholas Berdel, Secretary. Plans were talked over and a final solution of their problem was reached when someone suggested that the church be built like the Baptist Church, eighty feet long, fifty feet wide, twenty-five feet high and walls of brick sixteen inches thick. There were other details which are interesting only to a stone mason.

The cornerstone laying of this first church took place September 7th, 1835, at four o’clock in the afternoon in the presence of an enormous crowd, whose numbers it was impossible to count. It was the sixtieth year of the Independence of the United States and but a few years after George Washington’s death. Andrew Jackson was President at the time and William T. Marcy, Governor of the State, Hiram Pratt, Mayor of Buffalo. The audience was inspired by band music and joined in the singing of English and German hymns. The usual custom of taking an offering then followed. The following articles were placed in a leaden container which was set in the cornerstone: a Bible bound with gold, translated by Martin Luther, the Common Song Book of the Lutheran and Reformed Churches of North America, the Augsburg Confession, Luther’s Catechism, a Directory of Buffalo, a copy of the Lutheran Observer of August 28, 1835, a copy of the American Temperance Intelligencer, a New Yorker Staatszeitung dated September 2nd, a register of names of the members of the church, and some American coins. The builders are worthy of notation: J. B. Townsend, mason contractor and Anton Otteni, carpenter.

Everything went along peacefully until November 1st, 1840, with no notations in the records except yearly election of officers. Then a cloud appeared in the blue sky. The purchase of an organ was considered. It was to be bought from an organ builder. The gallery of the church was to be remodeled to make room for the organ. Among other promises made to the church by the builder was that of free use of the organ for two years. Then if the congregation deemed it satisfactory a committee of unbiased people should estimate its value and the builder would donate half its worth to the church, the other half to be paid in eight years. March 28th, 1841, a meeting of the congregation had to be called because the organ builder had not kept his first promise to have the organ finished by Christmas, nor had he finished it yet at Easter time. He had not told that he intended to build the organ right there in the church, but that is what he started out to do, and he added expense after expense to the general cost of the organ and charged the labor and material against the church. The direct translation of the by this time incensed congregation’s lament is, “We have been pulled about by the nose in the most shameful manner.” But even after such treatment this Christian group allowed the builder another six months to complete his work. If however, he had not finished it in that length of time, his work would be put out of the church and the congregation could keep the small organ which he had brought, as he said, “to tune the big organ.” This man was a good promiser. He
OUR FIRST PARISH AND SCHOOL HOUSE
agreed to give them the large as well as the small organ, if he were only granted six months extension of time, and if at the end of that time his work would not be completed. If he finished his job, the church could have the right to play it for two years without paying a cent. More of this interesting tale comes later.

April 12th, 1841, a congregational meeting was held to decide if a religious school should be opened and taught in the church building, and inasmuch as the church was somewhat financially embarrassed, would the teacher be willing to work without salary. If he liked he could take free-will offerings from the children and thus exist. It was also his duty to play the organ on Sundays.

Now comes the completion of the organ tale. Before the time expired for its completion, the builder suddenly departed and left the church with a half finished organ. Thereupon it was decided to hold a public auction to dispose of the organ and all its parts. The highest bidder received it for eighty-six dollars but sold it immediately for $106.00. After some discussion the church received the extra twenty dollars. The six pipes sold for six dollars.

September 25th, 1842, the congregation allowed the trustees five hundred dollars to purchase church benches. Your historian has spoken to some people whose fathers and mothers were known to have brought chairs each Sunday, and return to their homes with the chairs after services had been concluded. This was a weekly occurrence. Part of the auditorium was furnished with planks and boxes as seats. Hardships like these meant nothing to these sturdy forefathers of ours. We find too, that the church was heated by a round iron stove, with stove pipes running through the church from front to rear to radiate more heat. The walls were painted light blue with no decorations. Shortly after the bench purchase an altar was provided at the enormous cost of twenty-eight dollars. At the same time the pastor’s salary was raised to $500.00 a year. Goodness knows how much or how little he had received previously. The teacher of the parochial school was finally recompensed with a salary of seventy-five dollars a year.

The church was now complete ten years after its organization and the dedication service took place Ascension Day, May 25th, 1843. The church building was eighty feet long and forty-eight feet wide and cost ten thousand dollars. The building was situated in the midst of woods and fields, which fact may be quite surprising to the present generation, which sees the church now in a thickly populated section. Then it was still on the outskirts of the city proper and in the spring the street and grounds around the church were a veritable swamp. It was necessary for those who came each Sunday to park their wagons on Broadway, or Batavia Street, as it was then called, and lay planks from there to the church, so the ladies could walk without sinking to the ankles in mire. The planks were picked up after service and returned, for sawed lumber was quite expensive.

In June of the year 1843, a portion of the congregation left St. John’s to organize another church called the German Evangelical United Congregation. But this did not seem to affect St. John’s financially for six months later, the school teacher, Mr. Haad, was granted a twenty-five dollar yearly increase because his salary wasn’t sufficient to keep him in firewood. Hymn boards were also purchased at this time. A church
seal was designed by Pastor Guenther and ordered made, using the name "St. John's" for the first time.

A new rule was put into effect in 1845, that any new member joining the church was obligated to pay a five dollar fee before he could be accepted. It is interesting to note that at the same time a fence was erected around the church property to keep the animals from wandering into the garden that the sexton had planted. Imagine a herd of cattle on Hickory Street today. There wouldn't be enough grass to keep one cow, to say nothing of the horses, sheep and goats that were raised in the vicinity.

The following are a few rules used in connection with the establishment of the day school. Children were requested to bring six cents a week to the school master, that being the source of his revenue, besides his one hundred dollars salary. Every three months a public examination should be held, to which the parents were invited. Vacations were not needed then and were therefore not mentioned. In December of the same year, the pastor's salary was raised another one hundred dollars. It was also planned to purchase more land and build a school-house thereon.

In 1847, the sexton received fifteen dollars per year, while the secretary's salary was raised from five to ten dollars. Trees were planted around the church. Children were not to be baptized during services anymore, because of disturbance to the routine. Later in the year the sexton's salary was raised to forty dollars yearly and was to be paid in quarterly installments. He had more duties to perform: to show strangers to seats, cut wood for the winter and keep it in a dry place, keep the fires burning, clean the church and benches, wash the floor, furnish his own cleaning materials, keep the walls clean, wash windows, lock and unlock the doors, clean the yard, trim the trees. After cutting the lawn, he could keep the grass to feed his cows.

In January, 1849, the trustees became very indignant, because the New York Synod had decided to adopt the English language in its meetings. St. John's therefore severed connections with that body and refused to send delegates or money. The New York Ministerium was founded shortly after, for other churches were of the same opinion on the language question.

Communion vessels costing $77.78 were purchased, and consisted of two cups and two platters. The old set was presented to the Clark Creek Church in Canada.

In February, 1849, a bell weighing 1800 pounds was ordered, providing it had the same tone as that owned by the First Presbyterian Church. After it was received and set up, it was found to be too heavy to be tolled by one man. At the same time the sexton's salary was raised to seventy-five dollars, as he had more duties: to ring the bell for fifteen minutes at nine and ten o'clock Sundays and holidays. His garden should also be carefully tended and the gate kept closed.

The first picnic or boat ride was mentioned June 18th, 1850, and took place on the "Stimboth" (N. B. spelling same as in records) Empire State. Refreshments were served and a total profit of sixty-four dollars was made. The same year an organ was ordered costing $1550.00, each of the 1000 members being taxed $1.50. The organ was to be a duplicate of the one in the Unitarian Church. After it was installed, the German Liedertafel was invited to give a benefit concert to help in defraying cost of installation.
The school teacher, organist and sexton (one man), was discharged for neglect of duty and other reasons, his place being given to John Laux, July 14, 1854. His name is still remembered by some of the present members, who still cherish his memory. He had the following duties to perform for $135.00 per year: Play the organ, lead the singing, teach school, do the sexton work, preach and pray if the pastor should be ill or absent. What a great deal could be done for little remuneration if the heart were with God and full of love for the work. Thank God that St. John's has never lacked such diligent helpers.

By this time the pastor was reaching the summit of his life, being sixty-two years of age and beginning to feel the strain of multitudinous duties, since the extraordinary growth of the congregation had begun to tax his physical strength. He therefore asked the congregation for an increase in salary so that he might be able to pay for an assistant pastor. His request was granted, but he was unable to find a suitable assistant after a search of over a year. The towns of Lancaster, New London, and Utica were mentioned as having been fields of his search. December 26th, 1856, he felt constrained to tender his resignation, as his ill health would not undergo a further strain. Whereupon Reverend Christian Volz was called from Lansing, Michigan and his transportation paid. Rev. Volz preached his first sermon April 12, 1857.

During the same summer when the new pastor came, he must have felt that the old style kerosene lamps were obsolete, for now that illuminating gas had been found and piped throughout the city, he succeeded in persuading the congregation to have gas installed in the church. A tower was built for the bell in the same year, which improved the looks of the old church considerably.

The following year is notable for we see the first signs of St. John's Cemetery. A committee was named to interest other Protestant congregations of Buffalo in the purchase of a burying ground. After much deliberation and search it was finally decided to purchase eleven acres at Pine Hill, costing eighteen hundred dollars. A public meeting was held and those who could contribute to the purchase price would be reimbursed to the full amount of their contribution when they purchased their individual plots. The property was bought from George Ferrand. At that time the lots were being sold at five cents per square foot. The first burial in this cemetery took place July 6th, 1859. Mr. Freund was the first caretaker.

The same year was the occasion for changing the seal of the church, the cross was removed, leaving the anchor and the Bible. The reason, as stated in the minutes, was that the cross was too catholic in character. We feel happy that the Lutheran Church has since changed its viewpoint concerning the cross, for after all, isn't it Christ's own symbol and Christ is the head of our church, as well as all Christian Churches.

A momentous decision was made December, 1859, to purchase a lot on which to build a school house. The dedication exercises took place August 19th, 1860, under the direction of Pastor Volz, Reverend C. L. Knapp of Lancaster, N. Y., and Reverend Professor E. Schmid of Columbus, Ohio. Four months later evening services were inaugurated. The attendances had become so great that it soon became necessary to build galleries on both sides of the church. The pews on the main floor were all rented, and people were begging to join the church.
The first mention of a Christmas tree was made December 26th, 1863. It was
elevated in the Sunday School room, and created such an impression, that from then
on it was made a yearly custom.

Two extremely important projects were begun in 1864, one being the formulation
of a Young Men's Society upon request of Daniel Lang, rules and regulations being
developed by Pastor Volz. The other project was the establishment of an Orphan's
Home. This home was bought April 14th, 1864, it being the old home of the ex-Pastor
Guenther, situated directly across from the church. It was dedicated May 9th, 1865.

Improvements were continually being made and a few will be mentioned, such
as the placing of twenty hitching posts in front of the church, a new church tower,
two aisle carpets, purchase of additional ground called Christian Spang's lot. The
Pastor must have felt as though all this work should not go unrewarded, for he
requested an increase in salary, particularly however so he could decently care for his
family. The increase was granted and he now received the munificent sum of one
thousand dollars.

The 350th Anniversary of the Reformation was fittingly celebrated in 1867, and
the following year an Orphan Home for boys was erected at Sulphur Springs and
dedicated October 11th, 1868. Owing to the loss of so many fathers and supporters of
families during the Civil War, it was considered necessary to erect a home for
destitute orphaned Lutheran children.

In 1873, the Young Men's Society loaned the money to erect a mission Sunday
School on Bork Street (now Detroit St.) After Reverend Theodore Becker was called
in 1885, only a year passed before the fast growing congregation had to seek larger
quarters. The site of the present Christ Church at Broadway and Fox Streets was
then bought.

Forty years of stupendous achievement had passed and the need for a larger
house of worship was felt. The staggering sum of $33,750 was needed. It must have
seemed like a million then and even now is a sizable amount. There was little hesitation
in reaching a decision. The building was necessary, the flock was large, the people
were consecrated, their hearts were full of love, God was with them so what could they
fear. Onward and upward were the watchwords. We know the result. Jacob
Reimann was given the contract to build a new church on the adjoining lot purchased
previously. On September 20th, 1874 the cornerstone was laid, the old cornerstone
of the first church was removed and the articles therein placed in the new one along
with some new coins of 1874. Changes made in the plans brought the final cost of the
new church to $42,000. It was one hundred and sixteen feet long and sixty-five feet
wide, thus giving five hundred and forty more square feet of floor space than the old
church. The completed building was dedicated October, 1875. There were now 1300
registered members.

The following spring disaster hit the boys' Orphanage, a sweeping fire burning
it to the ground but injuring no one. Nothing daunted, a new building was erected
immediately and dedicated in the Fall of the same year, August 18, 1876.

Minor events, such as the purchase of hymn books; the building of a house at the
cemetery; the use of lawn mowers instead of scythes; the celebration of Schoolmaster
REV. J. A. W. KIRSCH, D. D.
Laux's twenty-fifth anniversary at which he was presented with a Bible, chair and footstool; the blowing off of one of the small towers of the church during a severe windstorm; the raising of the Pastor's salary to fifteen hundred dollars; his twenty-fifth anniversary celebration and gift of $500.00; all tended to keep these folks from having dull moments until 1883. During Pastor Volz's twenty-five years of service he had baptized five thousand, nine hundred and forty-nine, confirmed two thousand, seven hundred and ninety-four, officiated at fourteen hundred and thirty-three weddings and twenty-five hundred funerals and administered the Lord's Supper to forty-four thousand, four hundred and seventy-eight.

The fiftieth anniversary was celebrated February 11th, 1883. The Church Council at this time consisted of Carl Sauer, Daniel Lang, Jacob Kleindinst, Friedrich Kandel, Peter Held, Jacob Haffa, Jacob Benzing, Ludwig Seligman, Wilhelm Henrich, Anton Degenfelder, Johann Machemer, Michael Ulrich. The Sunday School boasted of over six hundred members and the church of fifteen hundred. The celebration had hardly been dimmed in the memory of the congregation when all hearts were saddened by the sudden death of Pastor Volz, who passed away at the Orphan Board Meeting at 11:00 o'clock in the evening, November 14th, 1883. Pastor Richter of Rochester, N. Y., held the funeral service Sunday, November 18th, at 9:00 o'clock in the morning. Never in the history of the city of Buffalo had such a large funeral taken place according to the daily papers. The funeral cortège seemed endless, for nearly the whole population turned out to do him homage. A monument costing twenty-five hundred dollars was erected in his memory, the inscription thereon reading thus: "A forceful preacher, sincere and loving pastor, able orphan friend, his family's true father and ever in the memory of his acquaintances." His widow was voted a twenty-five dollar monthly pension. A beautiful letter of condolence was sent to the church by the New York Ministerium.

Reverend Lang, the director of the orphanage, took charge of the church until Reverend H. A. Kuever was called March 5th, 1884. Then a new caretaker of the cemetery was chosen, his name, Jacob Ziegler. Shortly after building plans for a new school house were under way, Rev. Kuever became ill and Rev. Bamman was called as assistant pastor. Pastor Kuever then at his own request was committted to the State Asylum, tendering his resignation at the same time. His illness was diagnosed as melancholia, from which he never recovered.

Pastor Brezing of Heidelberg, Ontario, Canada, accepted a call from St. John's August 15th, 1887. He had served Heidelberg fourteen years, and leaving a sorrowful congregation, he arrived in Buffalo in September. Rev. Volz's home was purchased by the congregation as a parsonage shortly after his arrival at a cost of sixty-five hundred dollars. Pastor Brezing quickly noticed that even though the church to which he had been called was named St. John's by its people it had never been made officially the name of the church. It became therefore his task, November 16th, 1888, to ask the County Court under Judge William W. Hammond to change the name from the "Corporation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in the City of Buffalo" to "The Evangelical Lutheran St. John's Church of Buffalo." St. John's is then law-
fully only forty-five years of age, even though the records show that she was called St. John's as far back as 1843.

Schoolmaster Laux now tendered his resignation as sexton and teacher, but wished to continue as organist and choir director. He had been teaching for thirty-seven years! No wonder so many Buffalonians still remember him, for he helped to mold the lives of hundreds, if not thousands of our respected citizens. That early Christian training was the foundation of some of Buffalo's largest and finest business establishments, for their leaders and organizers, used Christian principles in all their business dealings, establishing themselves with honesty, loyalty, fairness and friendliness. They had learned the Golden Rule well and not only learned it, but applied it.

A new sexton, Karl Lebahn, now took up the ever increasing duties of a growing church. It was required of him that he live near the church to keep a watchful eye on the property day and night, keep the schoolhouse and church clean, wash windows, sweep and shovel walks, light gas at proper times, keep correct temperature in the buildings, carry coal and wood in, and ashes out, ring the bell, wind clocks, pump organ bellows at funerals and furnish all cleaning materials.

The new school house, which had been built at a cost of $22,000 was opened and consecrated in 1888. Naturally all these innovations and increases in salaries meant a heavy outlay of money, but a remedy was soon found. Special offerings were taken the first Sunday of each month. In this manner all financial difficulties were met. As people were blessed with earthly goods, so they gave and sacrificed then as they do now.

After Mr. Laux gave up his work as teacher a quick succession of teachers followed, among them being Friedrich Rother of Brooklyn, N. Y., Frank Kowalski and then Mr. Burk. It will interest those who never attended a church school that certain rules were strictly adhered to: children paid ten cents each week, unless there were more than one of a family attending, the cost then being but five cents each per week. Poor children were paid for out of the Poor Fund. If necessary, children should be punished by being kept after school and in severe cases could be chastised by bodily punishment but should never be hit on the head. We wouldn't be surprised, if many seats of trousers had been dusted and many a tear shed by our fathers and grandfathers, for even we can remember the necessity for corporeal punishment upon ourselves. Let some of the old-timers just transport themselves back forty years or more. They could surprise us with detailed reminiscences.

Concordia Church was begun May 3rd, 1891, by a group of St. John's people, meeting first at Rochevot Hall, corner of Best and Jefferson. George Herner, a present member of St. John's, designed and built the church which was dedicated April 24th, 1892. The first building is still used as a Parish House in the rear of the new church building.

A present member, George Flierl, assisted greatly in the organization of the State Luther League, May, 1893, at Utica, N. Y.

Pastor Brezing served only eight years when he was called to his Heavenly Home after an operation at the General Hospital, November 28, 1895, at half past seven in the morning. His funeral services were held in the church December first by Pastors Bachman and Becker.
The Lutheran Church Home had its first meeting of organization at St. John’s, February 16th, 1896.

Pastor F. W. Oswald of Brooklyn, N. Y., was called but declined the call. Then J. Kirchgasser and Conrad Flierl were sent to Canajoharie, N. Y., to hear Pastor J. A. W. Kirsch and report back to the congregation. He was called, and after some deliberation, accepted the call. Shortly after his arrival a new three manual organ was purchased from the John Brown Organ Company of Wilmington, Delaware. It was dedicated March 28, 1897.

The cornerstone of the present main building of the Orphan Home was laid and the Home dedicated by Rev. J. A. W. Kirsch, August 1st, 1897.

After teaching for three years, Schoolmaster Burk resigned to accept the pastorate of St. Paul’s Church, Eggertsville, and Mr. Otto Ehlers was called to fill the vacancy April 22nd, 1897. Two years later Teacher G. T. Luebben was called and Mr. Ehlers took charge of the Orphanage. We have no idea what the connection is, but at this time mouse-traps were purchased, because the church was overrun with mice. This puts us in mind of the Pied Piper of Hamlin, but perhaps there was no connection. There is another saying about being as poor as a church mouse, which may have been the topic of the day then, although there seemed to be funds enough to have electric lights installed in the church in 1899, and a new parsonage was built in 1900. The Women’s Society was organized 1888 and the Ushers’ Society organized by a resolution of the Church Council, November 1900.

1900 was the occasion of the 25th Anniversary of the new church building, celebrated fittingly with redecoration of the church, stained glass windows and electric lights. A new lectern was bought and the old one donated to Blossom Lutheran Church.

After two years of persuasion by and petitions from a number of members, it was decided to hold English Services temporarily on Sunday evenings. The German element was still in the majority and felt, as one German did who said: “Since God spoke to Adam in the Garden of Eden, ‘Adam, wo bist du?’ we can only worship Him in His own tongue.” But it took a number of years before the tongue of the Fatherland was changed to the native tongue of the rising youthful generation which was taught in the public schools. Perhaps a deeper purpose of God was fulfilled, because of this adherence to the German language, for had it not been so, there would not now be the many thriving, prosperous English churches which serve our community. After all, God works in mysterious ways His wonders to perform.

The seventieth anniversary of the founding of St. John’s was begun July 7th, 1903, with a morning service for the congregation, an afternoon service for the Sunday School, evening service for the sister and daughter congregations, Monday for the societies, Tuesday for the Confirmation Classes and Luther League, and Wednesday a banquet for all the old members. In this year too Johanna Kirsch, the seventh child of Pastor and Mrs. J. A. W. Kirsch, was born. This was also the seventh year of his pastorate at St. John’s. The church was chosen as her Godmother in honor of these three sevens, a distinction which few churches possess.
Sons of St. John's in the Ministry

REV. THEODORE H. BECKER, D. D.

REV. F. P. WELKNER
J. Thonhauser became the sexton December first, 1903. The same month Teacher Luebben resigned and Pastor Kirsch began a three month's leave of absence the early part of 1904. Mrs. Justus Miller was called as organist, being the first lady organist in St. John's and staying two years, at the end of which time our faithful Mr. William E. Merker began his long period of service.

English Sunday School had it's birth in December, 1905, on the twenty-seventh, to be exact.

These many changes and upsets of routine led Pastor Kirsch to ask for a ten weeks' trip to Germany, which was granted, as no church could function properly with a leader who is worn out and tired.

The present superintendent of our cemetery, Mr. Carl Ellinger, was chosen October 1st, 1906, which fact allowed him to celebrate his twenty-fifth anniversary in 1931 as a faithful servant of a living as well as a departed host of Lutherans. The same year, J. Momberger was made sexton of the church, but resigned two years later, after which Julius Haase took his place, two years later being relieved by John Schmidhauser.

June seventh, 1908, was another great occasion when the seventy-fifth anniversary of the organization of St. John's was fittingly celebrated. Two thousand commemoration booklets were printed and distributed. There are still a great number of these booklets to be found in Buffalo homes, and should be kept as valuable souvenirs.

The most important change in the workings of the church, which took place during this anniversary year, was the inauguration of the envelope system, which has proved its great value in the last twenty-five years.

A young people's organization was begun August, 1909, being the forerunner of our present Luther League. It was a very flourishing and energetic body of young folks. Many of the best workers St. John's has today graduated (?) from this organization and it was the inspirational meetings held in the school-house which served as the impetus and driving power to keep things humming in the social and religious life of St. John's. There are many who, upon reading this, will recall memories of debates, readings, conventions, amateur theatricals and missionary activities. In those days the motor car and the movies had not superceded the pleasure derived from those meetings. Think of the number of happy marriages resulting from the close fellowship of boys and girls, when a walk from church to home was an event in the life of the first long-trousered boy and the girl who had persuaded mother to let her put her hair up.

The daily school was given up December, 1909, right after Christmas. The public school system and the English speaking peoples had finally reached a strength too great for individual churches. Besides free schools were easier on people's pocket books and school taxes had to be paid anyway, so why not send the children.

New electrical fixtures were installed July, 1910, making the forbidding gloominess of the flickering gas-lighted auditorium now a place of brightness and happiness. After all, does not God give us the sunlight by day and the moonlight by night to brighten our existence? Then shall His House also be a place of Light and Happiness, and may St. John's always be a bright and cheerful home for sad and disconsolate hearts.
Sons of St. John's in the Ministry

REV. L. F. DUERR

REV. WILMER M. ZUEHLKE, B.D.
Perhaps none of our present members remember the time when St. John's had an assistant pastor, but nevertheless, such was the case, for Pastor Paul Kirsch accepted that call December 24th, 1911, ending his pastorate a month later, January 21, 1912. The same year, June 25th, Pastor J. A. W. Kirsch celebrated the 25th Anniversary of his Ordination.

A permanent cemetery fund was also begun, which fund has by now reached such proportions as to insure the future of the last resting place of our loved ones.

The first of a series of catastrophes now befell the serenity of the church, when lightning struck the church tower and caused a four thousand dollar expenditure for repairs. St. John's has been exceedingly unfortunate in this respect for lightning has struck her repeatedly in the past twenty years. The eightieth anniversary was celebrated too in 1913 but modestly with the exception of the redecoration of the church auditorium. It was also the occasion of the beginning of German and English morning services. The next summer Pastor Kirsch was called to the directorship of Wagner College and the church was left without a shepherd until Pastor Oscar Krauch was called December 7th, 1914, and installed April 11, 1915. The new pastor felt his inability to properly cover all the ground of a scattered parish, so the congregation purchased an auto for him July, 1915.

The Young People's organization now formed a Luther League, thus invigorating and increasing its fast depleting ranks. The Luther League organization date was November 9th, 1915.

There was no English Constitution for the congregation and as the lack of such an essential was sadly felt, and as there had been so many changes made in the order of government, it was decided to formulate a new constitution. This was printed December, 1915.

The first English Lenten service was held in 1916. Vacation Bible School was begun under Dr. Knell and taught by Edgar Krauch, student at Wagner.

Bowling Alleys were installed in the basement of the Parish House February, 1917.

The monthly church paper, the St. John's Messenger was first published October, 1916. This was a forward step that has since proved its great worth, for it has knit our church family so closely together in the bonds of fellowship that, if it's publication ceased tomorrow, all of us would feel as though one of our best friends had passed away.

The Lutheran Church Extension Society, organized to extend the work of the church in and around Buffalo systematically and most efficiently, began it's work January 22nd, 1917, being sponsored to a great extent by St. John's people.

How can we express the sorrow and grief that now entered the lives of our people, when the trumpets sounded and the call was issued for all the boys of draft age? For war had been declared against Germany. Brother against brother, nephew against uncle, and even son against father! What sadness filled the air and what hearts were torn asunder! No one can picture the agony of suspense nor the anguish of parting families, when those boys of ours left to undergo the tortures of hell. Your historian
Son of St. John’s in the Ministry
prefers not to dwell too long on this dark picture but would rather mention here
there were heroic men of St. John's, who nobly gave themselves to their country, and
that they shall never be forgotten, nor their sacrifices have been made in vain. Nor
do we wish to forget the names of those who returned, carrying the laurel crown of
victory—but with their scars; and memories seared by unforgettable scenes, which
changed them from happy boys to men who would give anything never to have lived
through the same experience again.

November, 1917, a Service Flag was presented to the church and dedicated.
Although St. John's was a German Church at the time, no one could ever say that
she was disloyal to her country. This was the year of the conversion of the German
Sunday School into an English School, December 12th, 1918, changing the time from
afternoon to morning, and also beginning use of the new English Common Service
Book in the church.

Nor was there any grumbling when the coal shortage came upon the nation and
we were asked to discontinue holding services in the church. The people were satisfied
to worship in the school building until the situation changed.

For twelve years Mr. Merker faithfully served the congregation as organist,
resigning May 16th, 1918. Mr. Emil Keuchen, a very accomplished musician, organizer
and director, succeeded Mr. Merker. During his administration of the musical depart-
ment of the church, a series of splendid recitals and cantatas were presented.

June, 1919, after considerable debate, pro and con, it was deemed advisable,
inasmuch as the question of sanitation was the topic of the day, to begin the use of the
individual cup at Holy Communion.

The first Every Member Canvass was begun in the Fall of the year 1919 and
showed its success by increased contributions and attendance.

Mr. Matot became sexton July 16th, 1920.

The year 1921 was important insofar as a new parsonage was purchased on Best
Street and the old one sold to the Baptists to be used as a Hebrew Christian Mission.
Easter sunrise services were also begun and have continued as part of the church
program since that time. Mr. Matot and Emil Keuchen both resigned and their places
taken by Earl Ross and Carl King respectively in July.

1922 was a banner year for old St. John's, because a signal honor was bestowed
upon her that Spring, when Pastor Krauch was chosen to become the President of the
New York Ministerium.

The next year a modern electric lighting system was installed and the interior of
the church auditorium redecorated in anticipation of the ninetyieth anniversary, which
was celebrated November 11, 12, 13 and 14th, 1923. A fitting climax was the pay-
ment of all outstanding debts, leaving no blot on the escutcheon of the grand old
Mother of Lutheranism in Buffalo. In connection with the redecoration, a beautiful
painting by Geza Kende of Christ's Ascension was presented to the church by Eleanor
Gunther and dedicated to the memory of her father, Rev. F. H. Guenther, the first
Pastor.
October 3rd, 1925, the Fiftieth Anniversary of the dedication of the church building was celebrated. The following year the whole city was saddened by the sudden death of Dr. Louis J. Knell, teacher of the Men’s Bible Class, organizer of Sunday Schools, Young People’s societies and mission classes, Principal of Public School 44. He was loved and admired by every one with whom he had contact, leaving his friends only pleasant memories of his personality and Christian influence that still linger and carry on. The foundation on which he built the Men’s Bible Class has never been shaken, nor will it be as long as his spirit and the Christ he loved remain the guiding factors of the class’ activities.

The church’s old altar painting was donated to the Union Road Community Church at Sloan, N. Y. in 1926. Two years later accousticons, for the hard of hearing, were installed in certain pews, making it possible for former stay-at-homes to enjoy the services.

Rev. Oscar Krauch felt constrained to tender his resignation April 22nd, 1928, after receiving a call through the Home Mission Board to St. Luke’s, San Antonio, Texas. Rev. Paul A. Kirsch was called May 14th, 1928, from Meriden, Conn., and was installed October 7th, 1928. The following spring a stage was built in the Sunday School room and the entire auditorium was redecorated. The Boy Scout Troop was organized and sponsored by the Men’s Bible Class May 15, 1929.

In June of the same year, Miss Ida Miller was installed as Parish Worker and resigned in 1931. Pastor Kirsch was elected full time secretary of the newly organized and merged United Synod of New York. Thus again was St. John’s honored by sacrifice to the Greater Church. It was impossible for the Pastor to serve two places at the same time and his resignation was tendered immediately.

Our present Pastor, Rev. Martin J. Hoeppner was called August 5th, 1929, from Lancaster, Pa., and was installed November 17th, 1929.

Organist Carl King resigned and Frederick C. Wunsch the present organist, began his work October, 1929. The same year chimes were installed in the organ as a gift from Charles Honecker in memory of his parents. A Sunday nursery for children, whose parents wished to attend services, was begun and during this year Mr. Ehlers resigned from the Orphan Home after 33 years of service in 1929.

Now comes one of the most important items in the whole history of the church, depending on the sex of the reader of this history, for until this time the men had no rivals in the business of the church, unless they were coached at home by their better halves, before going to a congregational meeting. At last the ladies could have the right to vote, for who could say them nay. October, 1930, is the date long to be remembered in the annals of history. For nearly a hundred years the ladies had to do the hardest work for their church without having a voice in it’s affairs. Equality in civic politics, why not in church politics? All striving for eternal life on the road to Heaven, why not a voice in choosing the direction? If mothers had not sent their children to Sunday School, and wives their husbands to church, most churches could close their doors. Let’s give credit, where credit is due.
MR. AND MRS. OTTO EHLERS
Superintendent 1902-1930

REV. CLARENCE L. BRAUN
Superintendent of Orphan Home
May 19th, 1930, was the birth of the Girl Scouts—Troop No. 77, sponsored by the Ladies' Bible Class.

The Sunday School celebrated its Twenty-fifth Anniversary February 1st, 1931, with Rev. F. H. Knubel of Rochester as speaker. This year too, the Sacristy was converted into a study for the Pastor, being enlarged and furnished with necessary furniture.

Pastor Clarence L. Braun of North Tonawanda was called March, 1931, to take charge of the Orphan Home.

Miss Anna Momerger began as Parish Clerk February 15th, 1932.

A great movement was begun to improve and renovate the church property so that everything would be in readiness for the Centennial celebration. New sound-proof movable partitions were erected in the Auditorium of the Sunday School. A new ladies' rest room was installed and furnished, and a men's room was built in the basement. Then a Pastor's rest room was built off the Sacristy, fire doors installed between the church and schoolhouse, new staircase built to the basement of the school-house, Boy Scout room enlarged and newly decorated, bowling alley and recreation room refinished and redecorated and the office redecorated and refurnished. The Centennial Committee and church officers worked hand in hand to make their beloved spiritual mother a fitting Centennial gift by adorning her right hand: the Parish House. The people in St. John's can proudly point to their Sunday School, meeting and recreation rooms as among the finest in Buffalo. We wish that it were possible to inscribe the names of every member who has been instrumental in keeping St. John's alive and active during the past 100 years; but as that is impossible, and is also impossible even to mention the names of those who have rendered signal service by constant and faithful service as officers of organizations, nevertheless the hundred names of those who served on the Centennial Committee will be inscribed on these pages. Each member of this committee in some way has rendered a special service to his or her church and such service should be recognized. All others whose names are not listed shall be included on a record which shall be for all eternity. I mean the record which God keeps for all those who have been faithful and true to the trust which He has asked of them. Following is the record of congregational acts performed in these 100 years: 15,227 baptisms, 6949 confirmations, 118,488 communions, 5301 weddings, 7676 funerals. It is interesting to note that each of these figures is approximately three times the number performed by Reverend Volz during his 25 years.

Each one of those who has sacrificed time and money to make this Centennial a success, can feel that he or she has played no little part in the upbuilding and continuing of Christ's Kingdom on earth and his or her reward shall be the fulfillment of God's promise, that there shall be a place with Him in that glorious Home, the Church Triumphant. And may St. John's people ever assist in the support and growth of THEIR Church, that other centuries might be out lived and Christ's Kingdom perpetuated, as long as churches shall stand and kingdoms and nations shall govern the earth.
THE CHURCH COUNCIL OF 1933

HERMAN J. MERKLE

HENRY J. GOEHRIG

Honorary Members of the Church Council for the Centennial Year 1933
Biographical Sketches of Our Pastors

The first pastor of St. John’s, whose name is still often used by Buffalonians to designate the church as Guenther’s Church, Reverend Francis H. Guenther, born 1793, received his theological education at Hartwick Seminary. He was active several years in missionary work near Mohawk, then six years at Ernestown and Frederickstown, Canada. On account of ill health he resigned and lived in New York City for a year, then served at Rush, N. Y. He ably performed his duties at St. John’s for twenty-three years, passing to his reward June 2nd, 1863, at seventy years of age.

The successor to Reverend Guenther was Reverend Christian Volz, who was born September 29th, 1826, at Waldorf, Wuertemberg, of parents Friedrich and Anna Maria, nee Schmid. He attended the county school eight years, was confirmed and entered the Teachers’ Seminary at Esslingen; from there he went to the missionary school Chrischona near Basel Switzerland, then taught deaf mutes at Gmuend. At twenty-two years of age he came to America, finding his way to Ann Arbor, Michigan, where he studied theology for a year under Pastor F. Schmid, whose daughter he married. He then organized a congregation at Saginaw Valley, Michigan, then accepted calls to Bridgewater and later Lansing, Michigan. In 1836 he travelled east to visit Reverend Guenther, receiving his call from St. John’s a year later. He served this congregation twenty-six years, passing away suddenly November 14th, 1883.

The third Pastor to serve St. John’s was Reverend H. A. Kuever. He was called March 5th, 1884.

Succeeding him came Reverend Jacob Brezing, who was born August 10th, 1850, at Heiderbach, Nagold, Wuertemberg, Germany. He served the congregation at Heidelberg, Ontario, Canada, fourteen years, leaving that place after receiving a call to St. John’s, August 15th, 1887. He served eight years, when suddenly he was called home on November 28th, 1895.

Johannes Albert Wilhelm Kirsch was born on August 5, 1865 at Kappeln, Schleswig Holstein, Germany, a son of Andreas Kirsch and Charlotte nee Wittgrefe. He received his education in the schools of his native city and at the Evangelical Lutheran Theological Seminary at Kropp, Schleswig Holstein. He was ordained on June 18, 1887 at Zion’s Lutheran Church, Rochester, New York at the convention of the New York Ministerium, 15 days after his arrival in the United States of America where his life was to be dedicated to the service of the Lutheran Church.

During a period of 45 years, the following positions have been held: Supply Pastor at the Schermerhorn Street Church, in Brooklyn, N. Y. from July until October of 1887; Assistant Pastor of the Lutheran Church in Saugerties, N. Y. from October, 1887 until March, 1888; Pastor of Immanuel Luth. Church at Webster, N. Y. from March, 1888 until May, 1889; Pastor of Zion Luth. Church in Flatbush, Brooklyn
EDGAR W. KRAUCH
Historian
from May, 1889 until May, 1891; Pastor of St. John's Luth. Church in Canajoharie, N. Y. from May, 1891 until July, 1896; Pastor of St. John's Luth. Church in Buffalo, N. Y. from July, 1896 until September, 1914; President of Wagner Memorial Luth. College at Rochester, N. Y. from September, 1914 until September, 1918; Pastor of St. John's Luth. Church in Jersey City, N. J. since September, 1918.

In the year 1930 Wagner College honored Pastor Kirsch with the title of D.D. During his long pastorate, Rev. Kirsch has been honored by being elected or appointed to the following positions: Secretary of the Albany conference (Ministerium of New York); President of the Rochester conference (Ministerium of New York); President of the New Jersey conference (Ministerium of New York); President of the Board of Trustees of St. John's Evangelical Luth. Orphan Home, Buffalo, N. Y.; President and member of the Board of Trustees of the Lutheran Kinderfreund Orphan and Old Folks' Home, Jersey City, N. J.; Member of the Board of Trustees of the Lutheran Church Home, Buffalo, N. Y.; President of the Board of Trustees of Wagner College and member of the same Board; Member of the Board of Directors of Mount Airy Luth. Seminary; Delegate of the New York Ministerium for a number of years to the meetings of the Canada Synod; President and member of the Board of Trustees of the Seamen's Home in Hoboken, N. J.

Pastor and Mrs. Kirsch are blessed with a family of 5 sons, 5 daughters and 10 grandchildren. The sons are Rev. Paul A., Secretary of the United Lutheran Synod of N. Y.; Alvin J.; Frederick W.; Rev. J. A. W., Jr.; Gustav A. The daughters are: Charlotte W.; Julia L. Huf; Ruth C. Hoh; Johanna Kinney; Margaret A. Of these, seven can claim Buffalo as their native city.

The sixth Pastor writes his own biography and it will be given exactly as written. Oscar William Louis Krauch was born in Weileendorf, Wuertemberg, Germany, May 16th, 1871. Son of Friedrich Jonathan and Pauline Suesskind Krauch; Wagner College 1892; Philadelphia Seminary 1895; ordained New York Ministerium 1895; married Emilia Josephine Weitzel 1895; children, Oscar Max and Edgar William Luther; Pastor St. Peter's, Verona Mills, N. Y., 1895; Saugerties, N. Y., 1899-1901; St. John's, Albany, N. Y., 1901-1915; St. John's, Buffalo, N. Y., 1915-1928; St. Luke's, San Antonio, Texas, 1928; President New York Ministerium, 1920-22; member Executive Committee of Texas Synod and Board of Directors of the Hospital at Cuero, Texas. (Former President Board of Directors of St. John's Orphan Home, member Northwest Mission Board. Ed.)

OFFICERS OF THE YOUNG MEN'S ASSOCIATION

WOMEN'S MISSIONARY SOCIETY
1928; St. John's, Buffalo, N. Y., 1928-1929; Full time Secretary of the United Lutheran Synod of N. Y., 1929. Held the following offices: Secretary Connecticut Conference, N. Y. Ministerium; President Connecticut Conference, President Connecticut Inner Mission Society and Lutheran Home for the Aged, Southbury, Connecticut; English Secretary New York Ministerium, President Board of Trustees of St. John's Orphan Home, Buffalo, N. Y.; member Wagner College Board of Trustees.

The eighth and present Pastor, Reverend Martin Julius Hoeppner born in Norristown, Pa., November 11th, 1898, graduate of Grammar Schools and Norristown High School, Muhlenberg College, Mt. Airy Seminary 1922, Ordained at St. John's Church, Philadelphia, Pa., June 8th, 1922. Pastor St. John's Church, Shenandoah, Pa., 1922-1926, St. Mark's, Lancaster, Pa., 1926-1929, St. John's, Buffalo N. Y. 1929. Married Anna A. Wachhaus, April 14th, 1925. Children—Norma June and Ruth Lois. Member of Publicity Committee of N. Y. Synod and President of Board of Trustees of St. John's Orphan Home.
Sons of St. John's

The following names are those of sons of St. John's who gave themselves to the ministry: Reverend George J. Lang, born March 9th, 1845, ordained at Circleville, Ohio, April, 1867, was eight years housefather of the Orphan Home. Now deceased.


Reverend Theodore Becker: "The Becker family which landed in Buffalo in the year 1833, was from that time on connected with St. John's. (The father helped chop down trees on the present church site.—Ed.) The parents were married in St. John's on a Sunday morning before dismissal of the congregation by Reverend Guenther. He was baptized and confirmed, also married to Miss Sophia Goembel by the Rev. C. Volz. His first charge was at Cohocton, N. Y., serving Zion's Church five years. In 1885 he was called by the Young Men's Society of St. John's to develop the Mission Sunday School on Detroit Street. After one year the chapel was moved to the new site on Broadway, the present building being erected in 1892. During the first year the work was supported by the Young Men's Society of St. John's. In recognition of his work, Wagner College conferred the degree of Doctor of Divinity.

Reverend John J. Lehman was born in Buffalo, June 21st, 1871. At the age of two years he was placed in St. John's Lutheran Orphan Home. Remained in the Home until 1886 A graduate of Wagner Memorial College in 1897 and of the Philadelphia Seminary in June, 1900. Charges: First Lutheran Church, Dansville, N. Y., 1900-1902, St. John's, Gardenville, N. Y. since October 12th, 1902.

Reverend C. H. Herman Strassburger, born June 1st, 1875, at New Hamburg, Canada, ordained June 29th, 1900 at St. John's, Buffalo; now deceased.
Reverend Leo Duerr was born at Detroit, Michigan, July 17th, 1891. When eleven years of age, with two sisters received into St. John's Orphan Home. It was the Christian training received at the Home which influenced study for the Lutheran Ministry. An alumnus of Wagner College, Rochester, and the Theological Seminary at Philadelphia. Charges: the Freeburg Parish of the Danville Conference, St. Luke's Sunbury, Pa., for the past ten years. Two years were served as President of the Danville Conference of the Ministerium of Pennsylvania. Married Mary K. Henrich of Buffalo.

Reverend Frank P. Welkner entered St. John's Orphan Home May 1, 1907. Confirmed by Rev. J. A. W. Kirsch, April 4, 1909, Graduated from Wagner College 1915 and from Chicago Lutheran Theological Seminary 1918. Accepted call to Grace Church, Conneaut, Ohio 1918. Since June 16, 1926, has served St. Kreuz Lutheran Church at Farnham, N. Y.

Reverend Arthur Pfohl another graduate of St. John's Orphan Home and Wagner College, served as assisant at Parkside Lutheran Church, Buffalo, N. Y. and later accepted a call to Indiana, Pa., where he is now serving.


Parishes begun by or fostered by St. John's directly and indirectly United St. Paul's Evangelical, Ellicott Street; Holy Trinity Lutheran, Main Street; Christ Lutheran, Broadway; Concordia Lutheran, Northampton Street; Eagle Street Lutheran, now Atonement, Northland Avenue; First Redeemer, Doat Street.
Officers of the Organizations of
Evangelical Lutheran St. John's Church
1933

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<th>CHURCH COUNCIL</th>
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<td>Vice-President</td>
<td>Mrs. Elmer Buse</td>
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<td>Mrs. Norman Knab</td>
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<td>Treasurer</td>
<td>Miss Clara Gerlach</td>
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<td>Registrar</td>
<td>Miss Julia Fischer</td>
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<td>Teacher</td>
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### O. B. A. BIBLE CLASS

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### SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHER’S ASSOCIATION

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<td>Miss Elsie C. Zimpfer</td>
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<td>William Hess</td>
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### USHERS’ ASSOCIATION

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<td>William Hess</td>
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<td>Clarence Hauser</td>
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THE SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS AND OFFICERS

THE USHERS
WOMEN'S MISSIONARY SOCIETY

President
Vice-President
Rec. and Fin. Secretary
Treasurer
Mrs. George Mohr
Mrs. Eugene Seitz
Miss Dorothea Zimpfer
Miss Elsie C. Zimpfer

ST. JOHN'S CHOIR

President
Secretary
Treasurer
Librarian
Ernst A. Momberger
Miss Thelma E. Kells
Miss Julia Fischer
Gottlieb Sterr

LUTHER LEAGUE

President
Vice-President
Rec. and Corr. Secretary
Treasurer
Financial Secretary
Clifford E. Hughes
Lester A. Nabinger
Ellsworth Seitz
John A. Gantzer, Jr.
George Schau

INTERMEDIATE LUTHER LEAGUE

President
Vice-President
Secretary
Treasurer
Pianist
Librarians
Miss Ruth Hess
Miss Doris Thiele
Miss Josephine Bonnes
Miss Audrey Ebert
Miss Alice Gantzer
Joseph Pearson
Louis Truesdell

LIGHT BRIGADE

Superintendent
President
Vice-President
Secretary
Treasurer
Librarians
Mrs. John A. May
Ruth F. Krauss
Mary Jane Krueger
Clifford Klenk
Virginia B. Haller
Edward Persch
John Bunz
THE INTERMEDIATE LUTHER LEAGUE

THE LUTHER LEAGUE
JUNIOR CHOIR

Director  -  -  -  -  -  -  -  -  -  Mrs. Edgar Krauch
Assistants -  -  -  -  -  -  -  -  -  Mrs. Robert White
                          Mrs. Charles Sugnet

BOY SCOUT TROOP No. 152

Scoutmaster  -  -  -  -  -  -  -  -  -  Norman Mantell
Troop Committee  -  -  -  -  -  -  -  -  -  Frank Frueh
                             John M. Haller
                             Severin Nelson
                             Louis Ulrich, Jr.
                             George Raupp
                             Kenneth Schultz

GIRL SCOUT TROOP No. 77

Captain  -  -  -  -  -  -  -  -  -  Miss Pearl Merkling
Lieutenant -  -  -  -  -  -  -  -  -  Mrs. Henry J. Goehrig
Troop Committee  -  -  -  -  -  -  -  -  -  Chairman,
                              Mrs. Henry J. Goehrig
                             Miss Florence Dillemuth
                              Mrs. Frank Hines
Honorary Centennial Committee

Allinger, Mrs. Bertha
Bayer, Mrs. Wilhelmina
Boehme, Mrs. Augusta
Buse, John
†Camin, Mrs. Elizabeth
Deck, Charles
Dillemuth, Adam
Duerr, Mrs. Adam, Sr.
Duerr, Mrs. August F., Sr.
Ehlers, Otto
Ehms, Alvin
Feuerbach, Mrs. Barbara
Fischer, Mrs. Julia
Flierl, Christian
†Flierl, Conrad
Freund, Miss Maria
Fritz, Mrs. Maggie
Fuerst, John
Geisendorfer, Charles
Geisendorfer, George
George, Mrs. Mathilda
Gerber, William
Goehrig, Henry G.
†Graeber, Peter
Gruening, Miss Caroline

Guinther, William J.
Haack, Otto
Haase, Mrs. Augusta
†Hauk, Mrs. Wilhelmine
Hauser, Mrs. John J., Sr.
Heiser, Mrs. Margaret
Helfenstein, Mrs. Wilhelmina
Helms, Louis
Henrich, Mrs. John A.
Herner, George A.
†Hess, Mrs. George
Hirschmiller, Mrs. Jacob
Holl, Jacob J.
Jacobs, Mrs. Margaret
Kaupp, Mrs. S. Elizabeth
Kelschenbach, Mrs. Ida
Kirchgasser, Mathias
Knecht, Miss Mary
Klinck, Mrs. William H.
†Knobloch, Mrs. Elizabeth
Koch, Mrs. Louise
Krauss, Mrs. Elizabeth
Kuhrt, August C. F.
†Kurz, Charles
†Landgraff, August

† Deceased
Lang, William
Lieber, Albert E.
Lieber, Mrs. Elizabeth
Long, Miss Gertrude
Luippold, Mrs. Christian
Machemer, Mrs. Catherine
Malley, Mrs. Margaret
†Mathias, Miss Minnie
Meier, Henry
Millheiser, Mrs. Fredericka
Mollenberg, Mrs. Wilhelmine
Momberger, John
Mueller, Charles
†Nagel, Gottlieb
Nagel, Mrs. Mary
Oswald, Mrs. Sarah
Rabehorst, Mrs. Henrietta
Rau, Mrs. William
Reinhardt, Mrs. Jacob
†Repscher, Mrs. Adam
Riebel, Mrs. Katherine M.
†Riter, Mrs. Louise
†Sauer, Charles
Sauer, Mrs. Charles
†Sauer, Miss Mary
Schau, Edward
†Schell, Jacob
Schlenker, Christian
†Schmott, Mrs. Katherine
Schnizer, August
Schultz, Mrs. Julius
Schuster, Charles W., Sr.
†Schuster, Mrs. Louise
Seeger, Mrs. Gottlieb
†Seligman, Miss Mary
Speich, Mrs. Magdalene
Spiegel, Mrs. Caroline
Spring, George C.
Stahle, Mrs. Katherine
Stumm, Mrs. Daniel
Thiele, Mrs. Ferdinand W.
Thiele, Mrs. John
Ulrich, Mrs. Katherine
Viertel, Joseph
Vogelman, John
Weil, Anthony
Weil, Miss Christine
Weiland, Michael
Wolf, Henry J.
Zimpfer, Miss Caroline

† Deceased
Active Centennial Committee

Allen, Miss Anna
Altmann, Mrs. Henry C.
Bartman, Carl
Beisiegel, Anton
Berns, George W.
Bieber, Mrs. John E.
Brumm, Edward G.
Bunz, John G
Bunz, William C.
Buse, Elmer
Buse, Mrs. Elmer
Carl, Dr. Fred G.
Deusche, Alma
Dillemuth, Miss Ida
Ehrich, Mrs. Karl V.
Ellinger, Carl
Eppers, Ludolf H.
Fischer, Miss Julia
Fischer, William J.
Flierl, George
Forschler, Henry
Frueh, Frank
Gantzer, John, Sr.
Goehrig, Henry J.
Goehrig; Mrs. Henry J.
Haller, John M.

Hauser, Clarence E.
†Hauser, John, Sr.
Hellriegel, Edward W.
Herbst, Mrs. J. M.
Hermann, Carl J.
Hermann, Mrs. Charles
Hess, Louise
Hines, Frank E.
Hoeckh, George
Hoeppner, Mrs. Martin J.
Holl, Mrs. John
Honecker, Charles
Honecker, Mrs. Louise
Kirchberger, Mrs. Conrad
Kleeberg, Charles W.
Klenk, John C., Jr.
Klug, Anna
Klug, Arthur H.
Konrad, August
Krauch, Edgar
Krauch, Mrs. Edgar
Krauss, Albert E. J.
Krueger, August
Krueger, Pauline
Kuhn, Anna

† Deceased
Kumpf, Raymond
Lang, Wilhelmine
Lebahn, Fred
Lieber, Henry J.
Luense, August R.
Machemer, D. Albert J.
Manner, Louis J.
May, Mrs. John A.
Merkle, Herman J.
Merkling, Pearl
Millheiser, Edward
Mohr, Mrs. George
Momberger, Anna L.
Momberger, Ernst A.
Persch, Edward
Rau, Karl M.
Rodbarth, Anna
Ross, Earl A.
Sauer, Fred J.
Savage, Mrs. Louise
Schaefer, Anna E.
Schmid, Mrs. William
Schmidt, Alex H.
Schmidt, Leopold
Schmitt, Christian E.

Schneider, Sadie
Schreiber, William
Schuster, Doris
Schuster, Mrs. Louis
Schwab, Clara M.
Schwegler, Mrs. J. F.
Seeger, Hartmann
Seitz, Mrs. Eugene
Spiegel, Elmer
Steinhilber, Charles
Sterr, Gottlieb
Sugnet, Mrs. Charles
Thiele, Charles L.
Thomas, Edwin J.
Thomas, Frank
Ulrich, Jacob M.
Ulrich, Louise
Wein, George
Wesp, Edward W.
Wietaach, Rudolph
Witte, Oscar
Wolff, William
Wolfgruber, John F.
Zimpfer, Elsie C.
Zuehlke, Louis
OUR CENTENNIAL MEMORIAL ALTAR
EASTER 1933
Sub-Committees of the Centennial Committee

GENERAL CHAIRMAN
Pastor Martin J. Hoeppner

VICE-CHAIRMAN
Henry J. Goehrig

SECRETARY
Miss Pauline Krueger

FINANCE COMMITTEE
Albert E. J. Krauss, Chairman
Christian E. Schmitt
Karl M. Rau
John A. Gantzer, Sr.
Ludolf H. Eppers
Henry J. Lieber
Charles Thiele
Edward Wesp

MUSIC COMMITTEE
Jacob M. Ulrich, Chairman
Ernst A. Momberger
August Krueger
George M. Hoeckh
Mrs. Edgar Krauch
Julia Fischer
Frederick C. Wunsch
PUBLICITY COMMITTEE

Carl J. Hermann, Chairman

Herman J. Merkle
Mrs. Charles Hermann
Frank E. Hines
Ida Dillemuth
August R. Luense
Alex H. Schmidt

DECORATIONS COMMITTEE

John F. Wolfgruber, Chairman

Earl A. Ross
Carl Bartman
Anton Beisiegel
Edward Millheiser
Miss Wilhelmine Lang
Louise Ulrich
Elsie Zimpfer
Mrs. Henry J. Goehrig
Edward Brumm

PICTURES COMMITTEE

Charles F. Honecker, Chairman

SERVICES AND SPEAKERS COMMITTEE

Charles W. Kleeberg, Chairman

George W. Berns
William J. Fischer
Carl J. Hermann
Mrs. John Holl
Anna Kuhn
Mrs. Charles F. Sunnet
A SUNDAY MORNING IN 1933 ON HICKORY STREET
RENANATIONS AND
ALTERATIONS COMMITTEE

Henry J. Goehrig, Chairman

Edgar Krauch
Christian E. Schmitt
Karl M. Rau
Albert E. J. Krauss
Herman J. Merkle
Charles F. Honecker
Edward W. Hellriegel
Charles W. Kleeberg
William Wolff
John F. Wolfgruber
William C. Bunz
Hartmann Seeger
Edwin Thomas
Frank Thomas
Anton Beisiegel

HISTORIAN

Edgar Krauch

SYNODICAL ARRANGEMENT

John F. Wolfgruber, Chairman
Charles F. Honecker
Edgar W. Krauch

COMMITTEE ON RECEPTION

William Wolff, Chairman

William Bunz
Hartmann Seeger
Herman J. Merkle
Henry J. Goehrig
Sunday School Superintendents

HENRY J. LIEBER
Assistant Superintendent

JOHN F. WOLGEBURGER
Superintendent
One Century of Pastoral Acts

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Centennial Fund Memorials
IN MEMORY OF

Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Manner
Minnie Mathies
Mrs. M. Hellriegel
Katherine L. Hetzel
Ida Voight
Jacob Schell
Carrie M. Turk
Conrad Flierl
Mrs. August C. F. Kuhrt
Norman C. Schneller
John Holl
Mrs. Adam Repscher