

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH  
Historical Notes  
Pastor 24, 1946-1954

24. ALFRED H. STONE (1946-1954)

Pastor Stone came from being an army captain stationed at Camp Grant to Mt. Morris at the age of 30. He was born on 7 December 1915 at Woodstock, IL. He graduated with a BA degree from Carthage College in 1937 and from the University of Illinois with an MA degree in 1938 and from the Chicago Lutheran Seminary, Maywood, in 1941. He was ordained by the Illinois Synod on 13 May 1941.

Pastor Neumann left Mt. Morris on 28 November 1945, and Pastor Stone was called by the congregation (by a vote of 130 to 4) four days later, on December 2, following the service of worship. His service began on 4 January 1946. He was installed by Illinois Synod President Dr. Armin G. Weng on 10 February 1946. He was to receive a salary of \$3,120 (paid weekly), free parsonage, moving expenses, telephone, four weeks of vacation, and 4¢ per mile (in May 1947 it was raised to 6¢, in January 1954 to 8¢). (In January 1954 there is a note about what may be the first continuing education expense covered by the congregation, a trip to Chicago for a 2-day lecture series \[Miller-Knubel\].)

The Stone years were years of growth and building for Trinity. From 1946 to July 1954 the church grew by 18.3% baptized members (786 to 930), 9.7% confirmed members (620 to 680), 37% communing members (400 to 532), and 27% average church attendance (247 to 319). The per capita giving doubled from 1945 to 1953 from \$17.92 to \$36.77. In his last annual report to the congregation (for the year 1953) he wrote:

After slightly more than eight years of living and laboring among you and with you, it is my pleasure again to salute you through the pages of this ninth Annual Report. A study of the statistics following will readily indicate that we have been blessed and that we have made progress. I know something of our weaknesses; but I am most grateful for our strength. I prize highly the faithfulness of our members; I depend greatly, and without disappointment, upon our volunteer workers in our Sunday School, our choirs, and our Auxiliaries; I have drawn heavily from the ability and consecrated leadership of the Church Council; I have received immeasurable help from our staff, help without which the great number of stimulating and spiritual responsibilities both in Trinity Church, the Illinois Synod, and the United Lutheran Church of America I could not have assumed. And especially has the Lord God been strength and joy and refuge for me. In this Annual Report I find myself echoing the words of St. Paul to the Church at Philippi: "I thank my God in all my remembrance of you... thankful for your partnership in the Gospel from the first day until now. And I am sure that He Who began a good work in us will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ."

This I can say because Trinity Church is more than a building. It is a holy community bound together through faith in Jesus Christ for the purposes of worship, learning, fellowship and service. If we are strong in Trinity Church, it is because of the steadily increasing attendance at worship. And we shall become stronger as

more and more of our members realize the genuine value and joy of worship of the living God.

Pastor Stone was leader of the congregation that built Trinity's third church (at a third site) in Mt. Morris. This occupied most of his 8½ years here and much of his energy. He was a good leader, full of encouragement and confidence. He frequently noted the fine spirit of the congregation and told them: we can do it, and we must do it in faithfulness to God! He was strong with expectations, accountability, and responsibility, willing to specify amounts due from members. In 1948 he asked members to increase their pledges by 25%. "Trinity's stewardship loyalty," he said in 1948, "is an unfailing joy." He kept elaborate statistics and frequently used comparisons both to encourage and to call to account. There are detailed statistics on attendance and giving patterns and percentages, numbers of communions (per member), and lists of inactives. His language was often elaborate, florid, calling the congregation both to celebrate what is and to greater effort. In his 1953 report, he said: "Trinity Church is growing...but is not yet realizing its full potential. The church that may be is within our grasp, if we reach for it." In 1948 he noted two points of anxious concern: we must take more seriously our personal responsibility to the Sunday School (parents must accept their bounden duty), and concern to disseminate the Gospel throughout the world must become more dominant. In that same report he spoke of "the high privilege of being your Pastor" and said, "I pray God will permit me to serve for many, many years." In 1951, with the stress of the ongoing building project evident, he talked of seeking to "awaken the giant of spiritual power resident within and among us," noting that 30% of the children and 68% of the adults were not involved in Christian education and that 19% of the confirmed members were giving over 50% of the budget. "Trinity Church is as a sleeping giant. Let's wake him up! Let's get out of low gear! Let's realize our potential!" That same year (1951) the EMV (Every-Member Visit) booklet asked, What's wrong with the stewardship of Trinity Church? The answer: 70% of the members are absent on any given Sunday, 25% don't commune once, 40% of our parents aren't interested in Sunday School, 80% don't participate in auxiliaries or other functions; 81% of givers subscribe 48% of budget, 5% subscribe 25%, 19% subscribe 52%, 25% pledge nothing. It spoke of "the shame of a 'the-same-as-last-year' approach to stewardship" and said pledges need to be 13.7% higher than last year.

His fine spirit led to a fine effort which led to fine growth, and with that the cycle of spirit/effort/growth began all over again. Culminating from the years of Kabele, Hightower, and Neumann, the Stone Age is a distinct part of the Golden Age of Trinity. Leaders trained by him are still around and serving today. He was well regarded by the congregation for his devoted leadership. Before his decision to leave Mt. Morris, the following resolution was passed by the congregation (January 1954):

Whereas, the report of Church Membership and Church accomplishments during the Pastorate of Alfred H. Stone shows a substantial increase in both confirmed and communing membership and other real progress in our church life,

Whereas, the spiritual growth of the congregation, as well as the more obvious increase in membership may be traced to the dedication of our Pastor to his calling in the work of the Lord,  
Now Therefore, Be It Resolved, that the Church Council and the members of Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church of Mount Morris, Illinois, by this means, express to our Pastor our deep appreciation

for his outstanding Christian leadership and devotion to his work in this church, and pray that the dedication to his work for his God shall continue to inspire and cause each member of this congregation to a better understanding of Christian living and devotion to the teachings of Jesus Christ.

On 27 May 1954, Pastor Stone read the following letter of resignation to the Council:

Dear Fellow Members and Friends in Christ Jesus:

In the providence of God I was called to Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church as Pastor on 2 December 1945. During the time that has since then elapsed, I have found repeated evidences of the validity of that call in your personal esteem for, and perennial encouragement of, me; but especially in the marks of progress and achievement prompted by Christ's living presence among us and through the activity and gifts of the Holy Spirit. During that time, too, in addition to the pressures of the on-going work of the congregation, the construction of the new Church, and the expanding program of a growing Church, there have been the added pressures of calls to other fields of work. These calls and inquiries, eleven in number, which began to come to me almost from the beginning of my incumbency here, have originated from fields of service as widespread geographically as Detroit, Michigan to Berkeley, California; and for work ranging from parish pastor, and College Chaplain, to an inquiry concerning my willingness to offer myself for consideration as a synodical president. All such calls and inquiries, after prayerful consideration, were refused in Christian love because of what I was persuaded was the validity of your continuing call to me, and the strength of my commitments in Christ to you as individuals and as a congregation.

Now, again in the providence of God, has come a series of direct, continuing inquiries of compelling spiritual force, and finally the call to become Pastor of First Evangelical Lutheran Church in Decatur, Illinois. In spite of all human considerations to the contrary, I am persuaded that the hand of the Lord has been placed on my shoulder; and that for me to refuse this call would be a denial of my basic call to the Gospel Ministry of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Therefore, but nonetheless with deepest affection, love, and respect for each of you whom in Christ Jesus it has been my high privilege to serve, I tender to you my resignation as Pastor of Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church so that, under God's Will, I may become Pastor of First Evangelical Lutheran Church in Decatur, Illinois. This resignation, pending the favorable action of the Congregation, is to be effective 25 July 1954.

The Congregation responded on June 6 to the resignation with a recommendation:

We humbly thank God for the leadership which Pastor Alfred H. Stone has given to the congregation of Trinity Lutheran Church during the past eight and one-half years.

We thank God for the evidences of the fruits of this leadership which are manifest in all aspects of the life of the congregation, most notable of which are the following:

- 1) The deepened spiritual life of the congregation which is evidenced by the marked increases in attendance at worship services and at the services of Holy Communion.
- 2) The numerical growth of the church and its auxiliaries through its Evangelism program.

- 3) The expanded stewardship life of the church.
- 4) The objective of the new church, the attainment of which will stand as a tribute to the personal leadership and labors of Pastor Stone.

In view of the foregoing achievements, and with the call of Christ for still greater achievements for Pastor Stone in God's work, the Church Council, with deepest regret, recommends that the resignation of Pastor Alfred H. Stone be accepted. (/s/ Charles E. Diehl, William Hiteman, Sec.)

The Council appointed the following Pulpit Committee: Ralph Zickuhr (chairman), Phil Orr, Jerry Powers, Les Lundgren, Ruth Balluff, Charles Diehl, Robert Urish, Edna Neher, Harold Thomas, and Ted Swan - and O.A. Hanke was added later. The Councilmen and their wives hosted a tea for the Stones, and his pastorate ended on 25 July 1954. He had served between the ages of 30 and 38. His wife was Arletta, and a daughter was Judith.

Pastor's Stone's years and places of ministry:

May 1941-November 1943	Pastor, Amity, Lena, IL
November 1943-December 1945	Military Chaplain (Capt.), U.S. Army
January 1946-July 1954	Pastor, Trinity, Mt. Morris
August 1954-October 1959	Pastor, First, Decatur, IL
October 1959-August 1976	Pastor, University, Seattle, WA
August 1976-August 1980	Pastor, St. Matthew, Renton, WA
September 1980	Retired
1 November 1996	Death at Tukwila (Seattle), WA

From his retirement home in Washington Pastor Stone followed the events of the 150th anniversary celebration in 1996 with interest. He telephoned several times to request materials and express appreciation and encouragement. He was invited to return to join in the celebration but was unable to come since he was tied to a respirator (he had been a heavy smoker). On 2 November 1996 Pastor Schroeder telephoned just prior to the final quarterly celebration of the anniversary and learned from Arletta that her husband had died the previous day at the Northwest Regional Hospital in Tukwila. Subsequently Pastor Schroeder wrote the following letter to Arletta and the Friends of Alfred Stone at the memorial service:

"Pastor Stone was the 21st pastor of Trinity Church, Mt. Morris, from 1946 to 1954. The congregation was greatly saddened to learn last Sunday (November 3) of his death two days earlier. He officiated at the marriage of a number of our current members. He led the congregation through a grueling building program that resulted in the dedication of our present church building in 1952. He inspired people who remain leaders among us to this day.

"We are celebrating our 150th anniversary this year. Pastor Stone was unable to return to Illinois to join in the celebration, but he followed it with interest. I received personal notes from him, and we had several telephone conversations. He sent an anniversary letter to the congregation in which he quoted "the wise and perceptive, if somewhat ungrammatical, words of a retired parishoner who once said to me,

I ain't what I could be,  
and I ain't what I should be,  
and I ain't what I'm going to be,  
but I sure ain't what I used to be!"

And he ended by saying:

We will be with you in spirit...through the celebratory days and all

the days until that great day when God, through Christ, has done with us and with all things what He intends in His creating and redeeming.

"Pastor Stone is an important person in the history of Trinity Church, Mt. Morris, and we remember him with great love and respect. We extend our sympathy to Arletta, Judith, and Deborah, and we pray they may be comforted in their sorrow with the comfort that Pastor Stone brought to so many others, the consolation that we ourselves have received from God through our Lord Jesus Christ.

"With love and on behalf of the congregation,  
/s/ Phil Schroeder, Pastor, Trinity Church"

The membership statistics of these years look like this:

	`46	`47	`48	`49	`50	`51	`52	`53	7/54	`54
baptized	786	799	842	892	826	855	876	947	930	928
confirmed	620	624	653	681	620	635	660	710	680	681
communing	400	417	449	463	465	478	492	549	532	543
avg. attend.	247	225	226	240	243	256	310	319		323

In these 8½ years Pastor Stone records 277 baptisms, 183 confirmations, 99 weddings, and 122 funerals. Holy communion was celebrated 6 times in 1946, 8 times in 1947, 9 times in 1948 and 1949, 11 times in 1950, 9 times in 1951, 10 times in 1952, 11 times in 1953, and 6 times through May of 1954. Grape juice, provided by families, was used.

The Treasurer's financial reports of these years show the following:

		<u>_receipts_</u>	<u>_expenditures_</u>	<u>_apport._</u>	<u>_LWA_</u>
1945:	general	8,850	9,039		
	benevolent	3,798	3,854	29.9%	1,925 585
	\$400 in back apportionment was also paid, giving cong. a 100% record on benevolence				
	Centennial	21,556	1,606		
1946:	general	9,820	10,190		
	benevolence	5,841	6,120	37.5%	2,281 2,760
	building fund	75,420	(bal.)		
1947:	general	12,378	12,507		
	benevolence	5,796	5,796	31.7%	2,239 1,839
	building	20,600	30,544		
1948:	general	12,736	13,095		
	benevolence	6,437	6,437	33.%	3,548 1,152
	building	22,325	5,968		
1949:	general	14,118	13,764		
	benevolence	8,418	8,418	38.%	3,648 1,655
	building	42,549	33,661		
1950:	general	15,866	15,203		
	benevolence	10,121	9,312	38.%	3,637 1,088
	building	160,688	149,788		
1951:	general	17,191	15,903		
	benevolence	9,163	9,126	36.5%	4,251 1,100
	building	44,958	79,136		

1952:	general	20,787	20,530			
	benevolence	10,143	10,686	34.2%	5,263	1,023
	building	351,750	350,383	(1943-1952)		
1953:	general	24,915	24,753			
	benevolence	10,379	10,236	29.3%	5,125	761
	building	22,358	18,769			
1954:	general	22,284	20,353			
	benevolence	10,863	10,859	34.8%	5,953	680
	building	33,048	38,000			

Notes on the above:

1. Additional benevolences included Nachusa Home (\$86, 297, 639, 651, 1000, 800, 900, 1000, 750, 550), Carthage College (\$333, 200, 200, 200, 200, 100, 200, 900, 750, 505), Chicago Theological Seminary (\$75, 100, 400, 200, 100, 200, 550, 850, 805), Property & Lot Fund (\$125, 126, 135, 180, 250, 300, 300, 350, 250, 155), Mt. Morris Religious Education (\$150 in 1945), Council of Churches' Food Relief (\$282), Council of Churches (\$100 in 1950), Gideon Society (\$25 in 1947, 1949, 1951, 1954), Edith Eykamp (\$135), Norma Bloomquist (\$83), Board of Foreign Missions (\$200, 100), CHEYA/Church Higher Education Year (\$1,000, 2,827, 1,250), Coordinated Appeal (\$500, 500, 492), D. Dohlen salary (\$700, 450, 1350), Illinois Synod Camp Site (\$150).

2. Money was regularly transferred from general to building fund - so that contributions are indicated at both places.

3. A Memorial Fund was started in 1951 with receipts of \$213 and no disbursements. No report is shown for 1952. For 1953 there were receipts/expenditures of \$251/\$531 and a balance of \$328. Special or memorial gifts are listed on the last page of the 1951 annual report.

The Budgets for these years show the following:

	Budgets	Current	Cent./Bldg.	Pstr.	Org.	CD1	CD2	Janit.	Secy
1946	\$ 10,875	5,843/2632	2,400	3120	320			360	100
1947	12,070	6,960/2710	2,400	3640	320			360	150
1948	15,997	7,919/5678	2,400	4004	320			360	175
1949	19,556	9,356/6600	3,600	4160	380		175	540	175
1950	21,919	EMV book=wrong bdgt.		4160	380		156	540	175
1951	25,161	13,311/8100	3,750	4680	400	380		750	300
1952	27,664	15,264/8650	3,750	4940	490	404		750	500
1953	45,065	21,190/8875	15,000	5300	460	400		2100	2100=pw
1954	47,891	21736/11155	15,000	5300	460	400		1200	2600
1955	48,439	21721/11718	15,000?	5200	460	400		750	2600

a. In 1947 it was said there were 300 wage earners at Trinity.

b. In 1948 the stewardship slogan was "give once for all and enough for all."

c. The "daily religious education program" was budgeted for \$100 in 1947, \$150 in 1948 & 1949.

d. In October 1953 an Injury-Sickness Major Expense Insurance Policy was purchased for the Pastor and his family.

e. In December 1953 a Retirement Plan was adopted (it began in November 1953): 8% or more of salary to be contributed to a plan with Lutheran

Brotherhood; to be completely portable if he leaves.

f. In March 1954, Pastor Stone was allowed to quote a salary of \$2,300/year in correspondence with Parish Secretary applicants.

g. Beginning 5/11/53, Wolken's salary (full-time parish worker and secretary) was increased to \$45/week. (pw = parish worker)

h. In May 1946, Mrs. Wagner's salary (choir director) increased from \$2.50 to \$3.00. In February 1947 she was to get \$2/week for directing the Junior Choir.

i. The sexton's salary was raised to \$40/month in February 1948.

In September 1954 it was raised from \$1.35 to \$1.50/hour.

The Every-Member Visit reports for these years show the following:

E M V	Pledges	curnt/bene/bldg	Budget	Teams
for `46	10,713		10,875	33
for `47	14,553/355	11048/3505	12,070	33
for `48	18,130/363	12337/5793	15,997	31
for `49	21,469/393	14086/7383	19,556	37
for `50	22,170/322	14013/8107	21,919	43
for `51	24,252	15834/8418	25,161	
for `52	25,478	17329/8149	27,664	
for `53	40,851	19451/8644/12756	45,065	
for `54	44,228	20519/9189	47,891	
for `55	N/A			

a. For 1947, 380 supporters are indicated, 355 pledged.

b. A group plan of EMV was to be initiated in 1950, but it actually started in 1951, when they asked families to come to the visitors at five 6:30 PM meetings at the church with pot-luck supper (2 Sundays, 3 weekdays). The congregation was divided into four groups; the fifth meeting was for any who didn't make the first four.

The hopefulness of Pastor and Congregation in these years is reflected in recommendations made to the congregation (and adopted) each year at its annual meeting:

1947: strive to increase worship by 20% ("Thanks to the management of Kable Brothers Company there will be no Sunday work to deter attendance.")

increase communing membership to at least 85% of confirmed membership

remove many of the inactive members from the membership roll

assist returning servicemen to actively participate

maintain high level of giving to the Building Fund

1948: all strive for more regular attendance at worship services

every confirmed resident member to commune

1952: every family to establish a Family Altar

every family bring at least one new member into membership

1953: make every possible effort to reclaim 168 lapsed members

100 new members in 1953

increase attendance from 35.4% to 50% of total membership

1954: make every possible effort to reclaim the 161 lapsed members

every family prayerfully to consider the tithe

minimum goal of 100 new members in 1954

The Chief Service was held at 10 AM Sunday morning, and Sunday School began at 11:15 AM.

## Centennial Year

The Congregation observed the Centennial Year in May 1946 and noted a peak average Sunday attendance of 328 for the month. Noting that the Congregation had been setting aside funds since 1943 for the occasion, Pastor Neuman reported in January 1945: "As yet we do not have any definite recommendations. The prolonging of the war means that nothing extensive can be done at this time. A special committee of the Centennial Committee has been considering this matter for some time and will have a recommendation to make in the near future." In January 1946 Pastor Stone reported: "There is the challenge of an as yet unfulfilled Centennial Program whose income objective is still \$22,000.00 undersubscribed, (and) there is the challenge of the Centennial Program's Evangelism goal - 100 new members by May 1946 - which is 76% incomplete and that in a community which is 35% non-church-going." At the annual meeting of 20 January 1946, Mr. Harry Kable gave the Centennial Committee report and offered a resolution, which was carried, to remove the present parsonage to make room for the new church inasmuch as sufficient funds had been subscribed to assure the Centennial Objective in 1947.

The 140th Anniversary History says "the Centennial Jubilee was celebrated on four successive Sundays, May 5, May 12, May 19, May 26. In addition, a congregational dinner was served at the community gymnasium on Thursday, May 16." The Centennial Jubilee folder shows the following schedule of services:

- May 5 - 10 AM The Rev. Dr. Armin G. Weng, Illinois Synod pres., speaker  
7:30 PM The Rev. H.E. Zimmerman, Kansas City, Mo., speaker
- May 12 - 10 AM The Rev. Fred W. Ihlenfeldt, Fargo, ND, speaker  
7:30 PM Choral Devotions (Trinity Choir, directed by Mr. Milo Zimmerman)
- May 19 - 10 AM The Rev. Harry R. Allen, Chicago, speaker  
(included service of confirmation)  
7:30 PM The Rev. Martin Kabele, Polo, speaker
- May 26 - 9:45 AM The Rev. Alfred H. Stone, speaker  
(with holy communion)

Pictures of these speakers, who were to be paid \$15 plus travel expenses, are included in the program.

The booklet shows the "architect's drawing of the new church to be built in 1947" on its cover. It lists the twenty previous pastors of the congregation and the 1946 Church Council members. A Centennial Prayer is included. Trinity's leadership is identified: Pastor Alfred H. Stone, Organist Mrs. Worthington Thomas, Director of Music Mr. Milo Zimmerman, Junior Choir Director Mrs. Ray Wagner, and Financial Secretary Gerald S. Powers; the officers of the Church School, the Luther League, the Brotherhood, the Women's Missionary Society, the Mission Circle, the Ladies Aid Society, the Chancel and Altar Society, the Glad Hand Club; and the members of the Centennial Committee, Pastor Stone (chairman), Earl Diehl (vice chairman), H.G. Kable, Dallas Baker, O.A. Hanke, Milo Zimmerman, Gerald Powers, Mrs. Fred Colvin, Mrs. Chas. Edson, Mrs. George Neher, Mrs. Chas. Stengel, and Mrs. Ben Royer. Seventy-four (74) names are listed on Trinity's Honor Roll, members with service in the Army, Navy, Marines, and Red Cross.

A tribute to Trinity's son in the ministry, the Rev. Harry R. Allen, says:

The son of Edwin and Louise Allen, he was confirmed in 1915  
in Trinity Church, was graduated in 1923 from Carthage College,



and from the Chicago Lutheran Theological Seminary in 1926. Ordained to the Gospel Ministry in 1926, he has served with distinction as Pastor of Churches in Juneau, Alaska; Seattle, Washington; Phoenix, Arizona; and is currently the Associate Pastor of North Austin Lutheran Church, Chicago, the largest church in the U.L.C.A. May it please Almighty God to bless Trinity Church with others like him who will serve to the Glory of His Name!

The following first-person summary of Trinity's history, presumably written by Pastor Stone, titled "Trinity Speaks!", is included:

"I am Trinity Church... I want to talk with you who, under God, constitute me today, to you who stand in the fellowship and strength and maturity of my one hundred years of experience. For in one hundred years of life - through seasons of prosperity and want, of war and of peace, of growth and of fear for my very existence, of security and of testing - I have learned much.

"What I have learned I desire to share with you, not because I overevaluate my one hundred years or am overstatisfied with what I have accomplished...(although if you are honest you will agree that I do have some reason for being a little proud of what has been done). But I want to share what I have learned with you because I am interested in Today and Tomorrow, especially Tomorrow. For Tomorrow I must be strong, and I can be strong only if you who are are my constituency learn well what I have learned.

"Like all humans and institutions, I was born. My birthday was sometime early in 1846; the exact date I can't remember. The men who gave me birth left no records to help me. As with some infants, I began my life rather weakly even though I was born of strong parents - the Love of God and the desire of a soul-hungry leader, Pastor Stroh. If it hadn't been for the antecedents of my birth - the Love of God and the desire for souls - I might have lost hope in the first seven years of my life, in spite of the prayers and labors of my saints and my leaders, Pastors Burkett and Miller. And do you know, in all the rest of my life, it is just that knowledge which has been the bedrock of my hope and the anchor of my confidence; I knew that I couldn't go wrong with God as my Father and the desire in my heart to save souls. So I've tried never to lose sight of that, and it has been my strength.

"I really began to gain ground, you might say, beginning in 1853 during the pastorate of Rev. Trimmer, when I was organized by 28 of my members, and given form and purpose in a constitution. I needed that; not so much for myself, because being God's I can get along somehow without organization. But for the best efficiency of those who constitute me I need the conscious purpose, voluntary dedication, and unity of spirit which a constitution and organization represent.

"So I was gratified. But how much the more so when in 1854 the conscious purpose and unity of spirit of those who I am gave me my first home in Mount Morris. It wasn't finished until 1856, and then it wasn't pretentious but it was built well. I grew in it. Although I've outgrown it, you can still see my first physical monument of the power of God to save and the desire of my members to witness to that salvation on the corner of Center and Ogle Streets.

"With a locus for my activities, I began to fill out in the next two decades under the leadership of men like Pastors Bowers, Reimensnyder, Schindler, Miller, Smith, Whitehill, and Frick and the sainted labors of the men and women who give me hands and heart. I've never in my one hundred years had a quarrel with my members, those who give me life. They've been good, and willing, and cooperative - always willing to dare great things for their great God.

"Well, I grew so much that, in spite of an addition, I had to have a new home. And finally in 1878, during the pastorate of Rev. Lipe, it was built and dedicated. I'm still here today on the same property that was deeded to me by the Hon. Robert R. Hitt who was at that time Secretary of the American Legation in Paris.

"My spirit was tempered now; I had weathered a war, had made progress in spite of (or perhaps because of) difficulties, had met the challenges and questions and yearnings of my children's children, and had been given a future in a new building implemented by men of faith who apprised the present need in terms of future possibilities and growth.

"In the next 40 years I didn't change much externally. But in the mutual labors of my members and leaders, Pastors Henderson, Hoffman, Ford, Delo, and Zimmerman, I began to note a deepening interest in Lutheran Unity. It was a growing movement in American Lutheranism, gathering momentum as the years passed, and I reflected it.

"So in 1918 I was ready for two things: First, because I had grown again, extensive remodelling of my building was necessary. During the pastorate of Rev. Kabele it was accomplished, pretty much as I am today. And second, I was ready to go along in the program of Lutheran union. As a consequence, I have been a part of the United Lutheran Church in America since it was organized in 1919 and, since its organization in 1920 at Carthage, Illinois, a member of the Illinois Synod of the ULCA.

"In 1924 the longest pastorate, characterized by distinctive service and substantial growth, of my one hundred years was begun by Pastor C.H. Hightower. It was in this 17 year pastorate that my roots were driven in deeper understanding into the love of God. I began to see more clearly the implications of my faith and the responsibility I had toward the needs of all people, and the necessity of taking advantage of the spiritual kinship I have with all others of the Christian Faith.

"Pastor Neumann continued in that spirit, and therefore my benevolence record is signally excellent. I find myself more interested in the fundamental principles which unite Christians in a common and mutual labor than in those things which separate us as denominations.

"And, moreover, because in that spirit I cannot help but grow, I find deep joy in the knowledge that my members, dreaming dreams of great accomplishments for Tomorrow, are planning a great new building which shall be to them a House of Faith and a repository for the heritage which I gave them to perpetuate.

"So I, Trinity Church, am today one hundred years old. I have seen growth and the implementation of faith in two centuries through four wars. I have reflected the personalities of countless men and women, from the hardy pioneer to the skilled technician of this industrial age. I have known their heartaches and joys, their ambitions and their failures.

"So as I give to you who are mine today this heritage of my one hundred years, I give too this blessing, speaking what I do know and testifying what I have seen:

"I bless you with the love of God which has stayed me in every season and through every trial; I equip you with the power of the Holy Spirit as you face Today's needs and Tomorrow's problems; I give you God's forgiveness in Christ Jesus for your peace; I give you the demands of His purposes for your labor and His promise that your labor in the Lord shall not be in vain. So with the Wisdom of the ages and the Power of God upon you for whatever the future holds, I bid you: `Arise...and be doing; and the Lord be with Thee.'"

On Thursday, May 16, 1946, at 6:30 PM a Centennial Dinner was held at the Community Gymnasium. The Program indicates that the address was given by

the Rev. Dr. H. Grady Davis, professor of practical theology at the Chicago Lutheran Theological Seminary, in Maywood. The invocation was given by the Rev. Maurice E. Leshner. Dinner music was led by Betty and Doris Mae Vietmeier, and community singing was led by Clarence Tracey. There was a "recognition of our oldest members" (those "who have been members in two centuries" are listed, 11 of them: Mrs. Chas. Niman, Mrs. Ella Winders, Mr. Frederick Frederickson, Mr. Henry Bearman, Mr. Solomon E. Avey, Mr. Vernon Rees, Mrs. Frank Baker, Mr. Harry G. Kable, Mrs. Edgar Mumma, Mrs. David F. Stevens, and Mr. Fred Watts) and a presentation of two guests, Dr. Erland Nelson (president of Carthage College) and the Rev. LeRoy F. Wiehe (superintendent of the Nachusa Lutheran Home for Children). Toastmaster was Mr. David E. Thompson. The menu included chicken in casserole, scalloped potatoes, vegetables, cabbage salad, pickles, assorted relishes, sherbet and cookies, milk, and coffee.

A letter of 22 April 1946 was received from Franklin Clark Fry, president of the United Lutheran Church in America, which read:

May a double portion of blessing rest upon all of you, consecrated pastor and loyal people, during the thrilling days of your Centennial Celebration! It is inspiring to survey a task which is as distinguished and as clearly marked with God's favor as yours has been. A man or a congregation would be an ingrate if he did not look back with thankfulness of soul. The rock whence you were hewn is the Rock of Ages! Step by step you have been able to say with the faithful of old, Hitherto hath the Lord led us.

But best of all, your eyes as a congregation are clear and confident and lifted up toward the more golden years to come. The best history of Trinity Church is yet to be written. You will be its authors who are its man-power and woman-power today.

It is stirring to hear that, despite her one hundredth birthday, your noble old church is not showing any of the symptoms of age. Her arteries are not hardened for her liberal benevolences prove that she has an exceptionally healthy circulation. Her step is firm; there will be no haltering or wavering as she strides on. Her sight is keen, for she can still see the clear traces of God leading. Her heart is warm - and for that God bless her!

#### The Building Program

The idea of enlarging the old church or building a new church began with reference to the sighting of the congregation's centennial (1946) under Pastors Hightower and Neumann. The need for larger space was felt already under Pastor Hightower. Sunday School teachers were doubling up classes and working in cramped quarters. In 1945, the congregation unanimously voted to raise \$120,000 over five years to erect a new church building in 1947, pledging to have 60% on hand before starting. Already in August 1944 a Moline architect, William H. Schulzke, was asked to suggest alterations and enlargements for the building, and in March 1945 \$300 was appropriated for the architect to prepare "a preliminary sketch and floor plans for a new church and educational building with parish house," which the Centennial Committee had recommended in February.

Now with Pastor Stone as pastor, the Council and the Centennial Building Committee met in June 1946 at Kable Inn, with Mr. Schulzke and his associates, and approved the general layout in their preliminary sketches (see 3-page attachment) and suggested revisions.

First the Parsonage had to be moved in order to make two corner lots available for the new church. This was authorized by the Congregation in January 1946. Either it should be relocated or sold and a new parsonage built. In February a Parsonage Site Committee (Dohlen, Edson, Bock) decided to purchase a lot from Mrs. Ben Price for \$1,000 (\$500 was a personal contribution). It must have been 103 W. Center. Gerald Fearer was the lawyer who served in buying the site. The warranty deed, no. 261897, is dated 11 May 1946, signed by Alice Price, a widow, and describes the property as follows: Lot Two (2) in Block Two (2) of Botanical Garden Addition to the Village of Mount Morris, in Ogle County, Illinois. This move was accomplished in July through October 1947 (previous accounts have listed the moving of the parsonage in 1952, but it took place in 1947). D.C. Tracey was the general contractor to remove and alter the parsonage, Horning & Son (Morrison, IL) the house-moving contractor. Alterations to the parsonage included transferring the front porch to the rear of the house and building a vestibule and closets on the front and adding a powder room off the kitchen. Carr's Appliance & Equipment Company (310 E. Hitt) was given the contract for the heating system (\$1,461). Tracey was paid \$1,384 for parsonage removal, next month also \$1,355 for work. Pastor Stone was paid for his good services in remodeling work and as partial reimbursement of his added living expense during this period. He endorsed the \$300 check back to the Building Fund, but Council told him to give it further consideration. In the end the check was destroyed, and the next month (Dec. 29) Earl Diehl formally presented a deep-freeze appliance (\$350) to Pastor Stone, who accepted it. Total cost of parsonage removal as shown in 1947 financial report is \$10,507 (\$113 to move wires, \$1,724 to move building, \$3,464 for labor in remodeling etc., \$2,269 for materials, \$841 for plumbing, \$1,190 for heating, \$113 for sanding floors, \$634 for redecorating, \$139 for fill and grading, \$21 for gas/INU service). In the Building Program financial report of 12/31/52 the bill for moving and remodeling parsonage is shown at \$12,604.58.

At some point the congregation started thinking a new site for the new church might be preferable to the old site. An exchange of properties with the Christian Church was considered, but the Christians were not interested. Then the Brayton Property came into the picture. Mr. Ernest G. Brayton, in New York, owned property on the east side of town. His former wife, Edna, was a mental patient and ward of the court. The property was 241 feet along Brayton Road and 263 feet along Ogle Avenue, 1.48 acres, 6½ lots. On 21 July 1948 the Council decided to propose to the congregation locating on the Brayton property, and on September 12 the congregation authorized it by a vote of 127-26. On September 13 the Council agreed to purchase the property for \$12,000.

The Mt. Morris Index subsequently reported the move like this:

Lutherans Vote To Change Site of New Church  
Brayton Lots on South Ogle Get Apporoval of Membership  
at Special Session Sunday

"The congregation of Trinity Lutheran church approved by a decisive vote of 5½ to 1 the recommendation of the building committee to change the site of the new church from the present location at West Main and South Seminary to the Brayton property facing South Ogle avenue, at a special meeting following services Sunday morning.

"Numerous advantages offered by the change were outlined by Chas. Edson, chairman of the building committee, and Pastor Alfred H. Stone in presenting the matter. Chief benefit would be the gain of more than four

lots which would provide extensive parking facilities and afford ample room for any future expansion and development which may be deemed advisable.

"It was brought out that the sale of the present structure as it stands would aid materially in the purchase of the Brayton property, since razing costs would be eliminated. Many members of the congregation have thought from the first that the building was too valuable to be torn down, especially in view of present construction costs. It also is admitted that it would be quite difficult and expensive to build the new church around the present structure.

"The fact that Mount Morris is looking forward to an expanding business district, with obvious disadvantages of noise, traffic, congestion, and inadequate parking facilities, to a church in a commercial zone are added reasons for the desirability of relocation.

"E.G. Brayton, owner of the proposed new site, added impetus to the movement when he offered the 6½ lots in the tract to the church at a reduction of \$2,000 from the \$14,000 figure previously asked.

"The architects retained by the building committee, Messrs. Bernbrock and Klise, strongly recommend the change, pointing out that the beauty of the church would be greatly enhanced in the more commodious setting.

"In view of the trend toward building new churches in non-commercial zones, coupled with the unusual opportunity to secure a location admirably suited in every respect and at a most reasonable figure, few objections can be raised to the change. In fact the proposal has met with such favor that numerous members of the congregation have promised to increase their contributions to the building program, it has been announced unofficially.

"After giving the matter close study, the building committee could find no substantial advantages for retaining the present site except that it is fairly centrally located and that sentiment, enforced by tradition and habit, enters the picture to a degree on the part of some members.

"The Brayton lots are bounded on the north by East Lincoln street, on the west by South Ogle avenue, on the South by East Brayton road and on the east by the O.E. Stouffer and O.F. Marsh properties. Many fine old trees are located on the grounds, adding greatly to the value of the site.

"The advantage of having the present edifice available for use during building operations is obvious, especially when it is considered that construction of the new church will cover a period of from 12 to 15 months.

"According to present plans, the present church will be sold, with the purchaser being required to state the purpose for which the building will be used."

Articles of Agreement between Ernest G. Brayton and Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church are dated 14 September 1948 and signed by Ernest and Marie Brayton and Pastor Stone, Secretary A. E. Hecker, and Treasurer L.C. Lundgren. The purchase was completed on 1 March 1949. Mr. Brayton expressed his satisfaction and happiness. Attorney Peterman handled the legal work without charge. The warranty deed, no. 275454, is dated 14 February 1949, is signed by Ernest G. and Marie Brayton, and describes the property as follows: Part of the South West 1/4 of Section 26 in Township 24 North, Range 9 East of the 4th P.M., described as follows, to wit: Beginning at a point on the East line of Ogle Street directly East of the North East corner of Block 23 in the Original Town of Mt. Morris, according to the recorded plat thereof, thence South on the East line of Ogle Street 268 feet to the North line of South Street (now called Brayton Road) in the Village of Mt. Morris, thence East on the North line

of South Street 241 feet, thence North 268 feet to a point directly East of the point of beginning, thence West 241 feet to the place of beginning, in the Village of Mt. Morris, in Ogle County, Illinois.

The architect revised his original plans to fit the Brayton site, and on 13 November 1948 the Council approved the new plans. The architect solicited bids in December, but because of unrest in the building trades only two of five contractors prepared bids. The bids were opened on 19 January 1949. Geo. Lindquist, Dixon, bid \$241,600. O. Jorgenson, Clinton, Iowa, bid \$276,988. The congregation had hoped to build for 80¢/cu.ft. or about \$200,000. The lower bid here was \$1.08/cu.ft. Figuring that these plans were beyond the reach of the congregation, all bids were rejected, and it was decided to wait for more favorable conditions.

The plans were revised to bring the costs down. In July 1949 a reduced plan estimated to cost \$191,000 was considered. In late summer the Brayton tenants were asked to move out. The congregation wanted to get construction started and the basement in before cold weather so that the church could be completed by fall or early winter of 1950. Negotiations with a Lutheran contractor from St. Louis (Richmond Heights), Wm. A. Reindl, resulted in an estimated cost of \$199,945 (27 alterations to original plan are listed - cf. 8/12/49) plus a \$12,000 architect's fee. The contractor was described to the congregation like this:

Mr. Reindl is an active Lutheran layman, member of St. Mark's Lutheran Church of St. Louis, a member of the Executive Committee of the Illinois Synod, is given a good rating by Dun & Bradstreet, has had considerable experience in general contracting and is especially interested in Church construction.

On 28 August 1949 a Special Congregational Meeting unanimously authorized the beginning of the construction. William A. Reindl, Inc., was to be general contractor for cost plus 5% (not to exceed \$164,858); Nelson Piping Co., Rockford, plumbing and heating for \$26,758; Avey's Electric Co., Mt. Morris, electrical work for cost plus 10% (not to exceed \$9,000). A loan of approximately \$75,000 was expected to be needed to complete the church. The architect was Wm. F. Bernbroch, Architect and Associates, Moline (Architect Schulzke died suddenly in late 1946, and Bernbroch succeeded him in the same office in Moline); his fee was 6%. The decision to begin construction was spurred by the estimate that building conditions were not likely to improve for the next 7-8 years. The many omitted items can be added later, it was said. The motion was passed unanimously in an oral vote. Not included in this proposal were: copper spire; kitchen equipment; folding chairs and tables; glazed tile in kitchen, toilets, or class rooms; terazzo floors, steps, or landings; masonry walls on ground floor except boiler room; Modernfold doors or curtains; acoustical tile in the office #140, parlor #139, or choir #137; false wood rafters in ceiling of nave or narthex; Flexwood wainscot; wood floors in attic of Sunday School portion; marked plaster or wood strips in chancel; wood carvings of any kind; decorating of any kind; painting of plastered walls or ceilings; choir or nave pews; pulpit or lectern; folding doors as partitions in Senior's Room; altar or any other church furniture or appointments.

Prior to the 28 August 1949 meeting members were sent the following background information, a summary of the history of the past four years:

"A Committee, appointed to study the most fitting way to celebrate the Centennial of Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church, presented to the

Council and Congregation the following motion after a series of meetings involving much thought and discussion:

It was regularly moved and seconded that the Centennial Committee recommend to the Church Council the adoption of the project of raising the sum of \$120,000 over a period of five years for the purpose of erecting a new church building as outlined by the architect; such project to be planned so that 60% of the total will be on hand for the erection of the building in 1947.

"This motion was considered and subsequently adopted without dissenting vote by the Church Council on 9 July 1945 and by the Congregation at a duly called Special Meeting on 30 July 1945.

"Post-war reconstruction, veterans housing, sky-rocketing costs intervened in the years following 1945 and the project planned for 1947 was reluctantly postponed. But, in view of the rising economy and standard of living, the total was subsequently increased by the mutual consent of the Congregation.

"In mid-summer of 1948, after observing a decline nationally in the cost and volume of construction, the Building Committee again set to work in dead earnest. With the cooperation of the Architect, following Congregational approval of the modified plans made necessary by the decision to build a new Church on the Brayton property, the working plans were completed and submitted to several contractors for bid. These bids were opened on January 19, 1949, disclosing that the lowest figure for the total project approached \$300,000. The project was, as a consequence, again postponed.

"Developments in the early spring of this year and contacts which had been made indicated that there was renewed value in reconsidering the whole program, accepting certain modifications in the design and decor and eliminating temporarily those refinements which could be added later. A series of meetings were held with the Architect and with certain General Contractors. The issue of these meetings have resulted in the proposal which is now being presented to you and the other members of Trinity Church for consideration and action.

"The following data is presented for your careful consideration, to assist you in the formulation of your own judgment as to the wisdom of launching the building program this fall. You are urged to study the facts carefully and prayerfully and to attend the Special Meeting of the Congregation next Sunday, August 28 at 11:15 A.M."

In October 1948 the Council approved the Building Committee recommendation to extend the new church pledges an additional five years. Now ten months later the congregation voted to issue 5-year negotiable promissory notes @ 5% interest per year not to exceed \$75,000 to complete the financing. In September 1949, \$10,000 was received from Kable Brothers. A list shows approximately 170 pledgers and 150 non-pledgers to the Building Fund in the congregation. In May 1950, an annuity plan not to exceed \$50,000 was offered to members 70 and over. In 1946 the Kable Brothers Plant pledged \$25,000, and an anonymous gift of \$5,000 was received during Centennial Month. In 1948, an additional pledge of \$10,000 was received from Kable Brothers Company, and an anonymous gift of \$4,100 for carillon bells was received. At the annual meeting of 1948, members were asked to repeat or increase their previous pledges over an additional five-year period.

The Brayton house was razed by the men of the church beginning on Labor Day 1949 after an auction of its contents (which realized \$1,484) and an open house for the community. The Razing Committee consisted of Joe Strite (chairman), Charles Edson, Ben Rowe, LeRoy Dohlen, and Harold

Thomas. The men had also removed the trees - 80 men cleared the site, dismantled the home, and excavated, saving an estimated \$6,600.

The foundation lines were staked out in September (1949). A foreman was on the job by October, and the steel was arriving. The foundation was in place by January 1950. In February the brick arrived, and 41 men saved the church an estimated \$270 by handling it (90,000 brick unloaded and stacked by 40 men). The brick is named Brazil Old Hickory. A 6,000-gal. oil storage tank was buried; it was decided not to put a concrete base under it because the water level in this soil is not high enough to affect tank installations.

In the blasting of the foundation of the old Brayton House, damage was done to the Ole Stouffer house nearby (current resident = Scott); in August 1950 the congregation settled with the insurance company by paying 75% of the insurance claim, \$145.35. (Stouffer and Marsh properties were located east of the church.)

In January 1950 the Freeport Organ Company was hired to rebuild, enlarge, remove, and install the Moeller Pipe Organ in the new church for not more than \$7,838. This would give the congregation an organ worth ca. \$16,000. In April the Moline Furniture Works was given the contract for nave and chancel furniture (listed 4/19/50) @ \$16,390. Pew cushions were ordered @ \$3,500 (cost = \$3,375 in July). A contract with the Conrad Schmitt Studios for the stained glass chancel window was made for \$3,000. The carpet purchased was American Beauty Red, Seamloc Araby Carpet.

At this point (April 1950) the congregation was hoping for cornerstone laying soon and dedication within the next twelve months. The cornerstone was laid on 28 May 1950 (afternoon), but it was to take 29 more months to get to the dedication. A fund-raising brochure, looking for pledges and memorial gifts, called for dedication around 12/1/50. When the old cornerstone was opened, contents were found to be in bad condition from moisture and rust.

It was decided that Memorial Gifts would be recorded but the names of donors would not be put on furniture or equipment. Commemorative plates (36 doz. at \$9/doz.) were ordered in April. These were to be retailed by the Luther League at a 15% commission; in December 1954 the remaining plates were turned over to Chancel & Altar Society for disposition. Joe Strite found donors for 50 pews (@ \$175 ea.) in the new church. Chancel & Altar agreed to pay for a refrigerator and a table-high refrigerator and also four sets of paraments. In October 1950 a 30" (or 36") altar cross was to be ordered (present altar cross to be used in chapel of new church), also \$600 worth of sound equipment. The reredos and communion railing (\$1,228) were given by Charles Edson as a memorial to his wife, Gladys (11/10/52).

In March 1950 the congregation was hoping to receive \$25,000 or more from the sale of the old church and property. O.A. Hanke suggested its use as a recreation center for young people. In July 1950, a bid by Ben D. McHenry for \$12,000 was rejected; he raised it to \$15,000, it was to be accepted, but for some reason it wasn't. On 13 May 1951 a Special Congregation Meeting (93-5) approved the sale of the old church building and property (SW corner of Seminary Avenue and West Main St. - Lots 1 and 2 in Block 1 in Seminary Square Addition to the Town, now Village, of Mount Morris, in Ogle County, Illinois) to Watt Publishing Company for \$15,000. The offer of purchase is dated 18 April 1951. It was finally



delivered to Watt on 1 May 1952.

In August 1950 there was a notable lack of progress in the construction of the new church. In September the carpenters were on strike. In October the work was progressing well again. In November the roof was to be put on. Completion was expected in September 1951. But in November there are more delays. No performance bond was required and payment was made as the work was done, and so there was no particular incentive to finish the job. The heart of the problem was sub-contractor H.M. Jensen.

The trouble grew to involve the general contractor, whose inability to obtain performance by some sub-contractors caused one delay after another. On 17 October 1951 at a special meeting at the church at 9:30 PM, the Council authorized termination of the employment of the General Contractor, Wm. A. Reindl, Inc., St. Louis. In January 1952, Chairman Charles Edson reported: "Because of his lack of cooperation and his failure to comply with the terms of our contract, the General Contractor was dismissed. As a consequence your Committee has been trying to carry out the functions of the general contractor. This has imposed an unusually heavy burden upon Pastor Stone.... Our goal is now in sight. Completion and dedication of our new Church may be expected in 1952." (1951 Annual Report)

On 1 May 1952 the old church was turned over to Watt Publishing. The first service in the new church was held on 4 May 1952 (Easter 3), 452 attending and pleased, though the work was not completed. Insurance was taken on the church for \$240,000, plus \$15,000 on the contents.

Subsequent events included:

- 1/5/53 - 7 rolls of music ordered for tower chimes @ \$220
- 3/9/53 - letter sent to Wm. Reindl regarding default of contract in construction of church
- 5/11/53 - 7 trees donated by Les Lundgren planted on church grounds
- 7/13/53 - parking agreement made with Christian Church
  - they = Center from Ogle east and west,
  - Ogle from Lincoln north, Lincoln west from Ogle
  - we = East Brayton east and west from Ogle,
  - Ogle south from Lincoln, Lincoln east from Ogle
- 11/53 - Wm. Folgate offers to buy lamp for church yard (at belltower?)
- 2/8/54 - heating-cooling fan installed in console chamber by T. Castle
- 3/54 - screens for church windows installed by Ben Rowe and Elwin Zumdahl
- 6/54 - moth problem in church
- 7/54 - Chancel & Altar pays to install cabinets and shelves in church kitchen
- 8/54 - water leaks on church property
- 10/54 - congregation unable to pay \$58,500 in notes maturing Nov. 1, Council authorized to negotiate refinancing and borrowing up to \$20,000
- 11/9/54 - T. Castle to handle service of boiler in future

The Building Committee (in 1947 and later) consisted of Charles Edson (chairman), August Hanke (vice chairman), Philip Orr (secretary, 1950 on), Leslie Lundgren (treasurer), Dallas Baker, Reuben Bock, Mark Crawford, Earl Diehl, Henry Dohlen, LeRoy Dohlen, Adam Hecker, Harry G. Kable (died 2 July 1952), George Neher, Gerald Powers, Charles Stengel, Joseph Strite, Theodore Swan, Melvin Tuttle, and James Watt. In 1950 were added Faustina Curley, Charles Diehl, Harold Thomas, Robert Urish,

and Ralph Zickuhr. In 1952 were added Talmadge Castle, Benjamin Rowe, and Henry Schnulle.

The Building Finance Committee was James W. Watt (chairman), Leslie Lundgren, Harry Kable (died 2 July 1952), Gerald Powers, August Hanke, Earl Diehl, Charles Edson, and Pastor Stone.

On Sunday afternoon (15th Sunday after Trinity) at 2:30 PM, on 25 September 1949, "The Blessing of the Church Site and the Ground-Breaking Service" was held. The Scripture Lessons were Psalm 100, Exodus 3:1-6, and Luke 6:47-49. It was brief, without sermon or singing.

The setting of the cornerstone took place on 28 May 1950 (no order of service has been found). At this point the congregation fully expected to occupy the new church by Christmas. Chairman of the Building Committee, Charles Edson, gave the following address, summarizing much of the history (typed copy is included in Minutes):

"Speaking as a member of the Council of Trinity Lutheran Church I wish to express the appreciation of the Church to the members of the Congregation and of the Sunday School and to others sharing in this magnificent Anniversary Gift which is to be used in the purchasing of the Chancel Window. May this window be an inspiration to each of us as we contemplate its beauty and meaning every time we are in the church. May it bring all of us into closer communion with God and with Jesus Christ.

"Back in 1945 the Centennial Objective Committee was seeking an appropriate manner in which to celebrate our 100th Birthday in 1946. Realizing the inadequacy of our present facilities due to a continued healthy growth in membership and a rapidly aging structure, the committee unanimously recommended the adoption of the project to solicit a sum of \$120,000 over a period of five years for the purpose of erecting a new church, the building of which was planned for 1947. The resolution was adopted by the committee on July 6, 1945, by the Church Council on July 9th, 1945 and by the Congregation on July 30, 1945.

"Proper committees were formed and the solicitation was commenced.

"William H. Schulzke, Architect, of Moline, Illinois was employed to prepare preliminary drawings. Upon the death of Mr. Schulzke, his successors William F. Bernbrock, Architect, and Associates were assigned the task of completing the drawings of the new church.

"Shortages of materials and inflated prices caused us to abandon building in 1947.

"In 1948 the Congregation decided to buy the present site known as the Brayton Property and plans were revised to accommodate the church to the new site. The plans were completed late in 1948 and bids were called for.

"On January 19th, 1949 bids were received and opened. Prices received at that time made it appear that the complete church would cost well in excess of \$300,000. All bids were rejected.

"The building committee, however, continued to try to arrive at some solution. Finally after much investigation and consultation with other contractors, we were able to see our way clear to proceed with the building program.

"At a Congregational meeting held on August 28th, 1949 the Congregation authorized the beginning of the construction of the new church and the placing of the contracts with William A. Reindl of St. Louis, Missouri for the General Contract, with Nelson Piping Company of Rockford, Illinois for the Plumbing and Heating, and with Avey's Electric Company of Mt. Morris for the Electrical Work. Subsequently contracts were authorized and let to Moline Furniture Company, Moline, Illinois for

the Church furniture, Freeport Organ Company of Freeport, Illinois for the rebuilding and enlarging of the pipe organ, and to Conrad Schmitt Studios of Milwaukee, Wisconsin for the Chancel Window.

"On Labor Day 1949 the men of the church began the razing of the Brayton Homestead and the removing of necessary trees. Certain of the men became so enthused that they did the excavating, unloading of the brick, and other work.

"On September 25, 1949 the Blessing of the Church Site and the Ground Breaking Service was held. Building operations continued as late in the winter as possible and were resumed as early as weather permitted.

"Now we are arrived at another milestone in our progress toward the completion of our dreams, the laying of the Corner Stone.

"I am sure all of us approach this ceremony in a humble spirit and with a prayer of thanksgiving in our hearts. We are beginning to visualize the fulfillment of those dreams born back in 1945 with the Centennial Objective Committee.

"This new edifice, erected to the Glory of God, as an expression of our thanks for His great goodness to Mt. Morris and to Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church and its members, is taking shape. It means much to every one of us. May we all do everything within our power to carry this project through to a successful conclusion so that our Congregation and those that follow us can worship God and his Son Jesus Christ who is the Chief Corner Stone, in surroundings conducive to reverence, love, and gratitude.

"The following objects have been placed in the Corner Stone:

(Copper Box was made and donated by Bemis Sheet Metal Shop)

1. Holy Bible removed from corner stone of church laid in 1877
2. Book of Worship removed from corner stone of church laid in 1877
3. Small Catechism removed from corner stone of church laid in 1877
4. Lutheran Almanac removed from corner stone of church laid in 1877
5. Photostats:
  - A. Deed of Property upon which the parsonage was built
  - B. Transfer of Property on which church was built in 1877 from Robert R. Hitt & wife to Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church
  - C. Letter from Robert R. Hitt in reference to donating property for church building
  - D. Deed from Brayton for new church site
6. Booklets and Pamphlets:
  - A. Diamond Jubilee Booklet
  - B. Centennial Celebration Booklet
  - C. First Progress Report by Building Committee
  - D. Our Centennial Objective Booklet
  - E. Every Member Visitation Promotion Booklet for 1949 Visitation
  - F. Annual Report of Congregation for 1949
  - G. Bulletin of Services for May 21, 1950 and May 28, 1950
7. Common Service Book
8. Copy of "March of Faith" as a sample of material being used at present time in our Sunday School
9. Copy of "Mount Morris Past and Present"
10. Copy of Kable Brothers Company 50th Anniversary Booklet
11. Copy of "Mount Morris Index" announcing Corner Stone Setting
12. Copy of "The Gleaner" for May 1950
13. Copy of "The Lutheran" for May 24, 1950
14. List of Confirmed Members and Child Members of Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church of Mount Morris as of May 21, 1950
15. Copies of Resolutions
  - A. Authorizing raising of funds for new church
  - B. Authorizing beginning of construction and letting of contracts

16. 7 Kodachrome slides depicting activities in Sunday School
17. Chip of stone from Corner Stone of church laid in 1877
18. Photographs:
  - A. Nave and Chancel of old church
  - B. Ground Breaking Services
19. Copy of the United Lutheran Church Year Book for 1950
20. Copy of the Minutes of the Illinois Synod for 1949
21. Copy of the program and pre-print of the 31st Meeting of the Illinois Synod at St. Mark's Lutheran Church, Washington, Illinois from May 22-25, 1950

"At some time when future generations find it necessary to remove this edifice to build a more glorious one, it is our prayer that they may find the contents of this Corner Stone of great historic value and an inspiration for future generations."

The dedication of the new church began on Sunday, 7 September 1952. In the Dedication Booklet Pastor Stone wrote:

"Of all that bears witness to the Glory of God, rather than ministers to the comfort of man, it is a magnificent Church that perhaps speaks with the clearest voice. The lofty, vaulted nave; the sweeping strength of the arch; the delicacy of column and tracery; the splendor of color; the gleam of burnished Cross and other ancient symbols of historic faith; the polished sheen of reredos and altar, centrally symbolic of the stalwart presence of God - these speak, through the devotional hush of adoring souls, of the wideness of God's mercy and the kindness of His love. That this new Trinity Lutheran Church may so speak to men's hearts of God's unfailing love and redeeming mercy is ever our humble prayer.

"Of all that bears witness to the response of man to God's grace in Christ Jesus, it is perhaps the sacrificial devotion of a people, who through their gifts raise a 'new House of God, dedicated to the honor and glory of His Name and the service of His Kingdom,' that speaks with unmistakable conviction. That this new Trinity Lutheran Church may always bear voiceless testimony to this congregation's desire to glorify God and serve His Kingdom, is our purposeful hope.

"Now it is built. Now we share in the joyous thrill of its dedication. And all the labors expended and the devotion rendered; all the chafing frustrations and despairing complications that attended the via dolorosa of its building; all the gifts given and the sacrifices offered; all the dreams and ventures of faith which its realization represents are lifted, as with a common hand and with a single voice of praise, to the honor and glory of God and the service of His Kingdom!

"And now it is not ours; now it is God's. Freely, with gratitude and praise, have the people of Trinity Lutheran Church given it to Him with the prayer: May we who worship here ever be the living instruments of Thy Will, ever rendering unto Thy Holy Name that majestic praise and vital sacrifice which is our reasonable service."

The dedication was continued through five successive Sundays.

1. Sunday, September 7
  - 10 AM The Service of Dedication
    - Sermon by The Rev. Dr. Harmon J. McGuire (Pres., Ill. Syn.)
  - 2-5 PM Open House and Dedication Tea
  - 7:30 PM Dedication Day Vespers
    - Sermon by The Rev. Dr. Armin G. Weng (Pres., Chicago Lutheran Seminary, Maywood, Ill.)
  - 8:30 PM Fellowship Hour

2. Sunday, September 14

- 10 AM The Dedicatory Family Day Service  
Sermon by The Rev. Harry R. Allen (Pastor of St. Mark's  
Lutheran Church, Kansas City, Mo.)  
6:30 PM Congregational Dinner in honor of Trinity's Sons and  
Daughters in Christian Service  
Address by the Rev. Harry R. Allen

3. Sunday, September 21

- 10 AM The Dedicatory Confirmation Service  
Sermon by the Rev. Arthur M. Neumann (Pastor of Faith  
Lutheran Church, St. Louis, Mo.)  
7:30 PM The Dedicatory Organ Concert  
Organist: Mr. Robert D. Wolff (Prof. of Music,  
Carthage College, Carthage, Ill.)

4. Sunday, September 28

- 10 AM The Dedicatory Youth Service  
Sermon by the Rev. Dr. Harold H. Lentz (President of  
Carthage College, Carthage, Illinois)  
3 PM The Northern District Luther League Rally  
7 PM The Luther League Rally Vespers  
Address by The Rev. Dr. Harold H. Lentz

Tuesday, September 30

- 7:30 PM Community Service Celebrating the Completion of the R.S.V.  
Sermon by the Rev. Dr. C. Umhau Wolf (Professor of Old  
Testament, Chicago Lutheran Seminary, Maywood, Illinois)

5. Sunday, October 5

- 9:45 AM The Dedicatory Service of Holy Communion  
Sermon by The Rev. Dr. H. Grady Davis (Professor of  
Pastoral Theology, Chicago Lutheran Seminary, Maywood,  
Illinois)

The following architectural features are listed in the dedication  
booklet:

- + Modified English Gothic design, beautifully situated  
on almost an acre of ground
- + Exterior of Brazil Old Hickory buff brick  
trimmed with cut Bedford Limestone
- + Interior woodwork and trim of natural white oak
- + Dimensions: Overall - 126' x 122'  
Height of Tower - 44'  
Height of Vault in Nave - 36'  
Dimensions of Nave - 97' x 40'
- + Seating capacity - 526 in Nave, although using all areas a seating  
capacity in excess of 1250 is possible
- + Seating in dining room - 375-400, and using all areas available  
for dining approximately 500 could be seated
- + Sunday School facilities available for more than 400 scholars

A chronology of construction also is included:

February 1945 - appointment of Centennial Objective Committee  
July 1945 - unanimous adoption of resolution to construct  
a new Church Building in 1947

October-November 1945 - launching of building finance campaign

June 1946 - architect engaged to develop preliminary plans

January 1947 - authorization given to proceed with construction in 1948

if conditions warrant it. Adoption of lay-out and plans developed by architect

February 1947 - selection of materials used in construction

January 1948 - postponement of construction to 1949

September 1948 - unanimous decision to purchase Brayton property as site for the construction of new Church

January 1949 - bids for construction received. Rejected because of high costs

August 1949 - construction finally authorized. Contracts let

September 1949 - razing of old Brayton house, readying of property for construction by the men of the Church. Ground-breaking Services. Excavation for foundation by men of the Church

October 1949 - construction begins

May 28, 1950 - service for the setting of the cornerstone

May 1951 - sale of old church building to Watt Publishing Company

October 1951 - assumption of general contractor's responsibilities by the Church Council and Building Committee

May 4, 1952 - first worship service in the new Church

September 1952 - dedication of the new Church

The booklet contains pictures of Pastor Stone, Church Council, Building Committee, Cornerstone Laying, Altar and reredos, Nave and Chancel, church exterior, Trinity's first church (ded. 5/2/1886), Trinity's second church (dedicated 11/10/78, remodelled in 1921), last service in old church (4/27/52), Building Committee examining contents of old cornerstone, Harry Allen, Richard Horst, Dolores Dohlen, Senior Choir, Junior Choir, et al.

The following copy was put on the commemorative plates:

"In May 1846 pioneer Pastor N.J. Stroh began preaching in the Chapel of the old M. E. Seminary. The congregation thus formed was fully organized during the pastorate of A.A. Trimper with 28 Charter Members, The first church building, still used by the Christian congregation, was dedicated in 1856. The second church building, dedicated in 1878, was extensively remodelled and enlarged in 1899 and 1921. Construction of its new English Gothic Church was begun in the fall of 1949 and will be dedicated in the fall of 1950 by Trinity's 825 baptized members 'to the glory and honor of Almighty God and the service of His Kingdom'".

Note: the church was dedicated, after several delays, in the fall of 1952, and there is no known evidence that Stroh began his preaching here in the month of May (1846).

The financial report of the Building Program from February 1943 through December 1952 shows receipts (including borrowing) of \$351,750.08 and disbursements of \$350,382.56. The report continues into 1953 and 1954 and shows additional receipts/disbursements of \$22,358/\$18,769 for 1953 and \$33,048/\$38,000 for 1954. This puts the cost of the new church at \$407,151.56.

The congregation's indebtedness during these years was:

January 1950	\$55,000
January 1951	71,000
January 1952	86,500
January 1953	86,500
January 1954	75,000
January 1955	50,000

The indebtedness was scheduled to end in 1958.

# BUILDING FUND

\_1943-1952\_

## Receipts

\$ 351,750.08

General Fund	\$ 24,050.00
Pledges and Gifts	194,894.15
Special & Memorial Gifts	24,815.80
Sale of Materials and Equipment	2,819.35
Refunds	192.19
Commemorative Plate Sale	345.43
Notes Issued	85,500.00
Rentals	200.00
Series G Bond Interest	3,933.16
Sale of Old Church	15,000.00

## Disbursements

\$ 350,382.56

Survey and Excavation	338.50
Lumber	14,166.76
Carpentry Work	11,015.80
Koper & Lovstad	30,650.00
Insurance	630.00
Supervision	5,261.00
Overhead and Profit	6,560.00
Concrete Work	26,839.23
Millwork	18,219.42
Grading & Backfill	928.20
Carpeting	3,476.10
Roofing	1,968.82
Steel Sash	2,547.00
Structural Steel	22,415.58
Sheet Metal	2,841.03
Brickwork	23,174.37
Stone	8,487.00
Painting	4,974.00
Cleaning and Hauling	184.00
Insulation	590.15
Glazing	1,152.00
Plastering	23,444.67
Building Hardware	4,157.31
Asphalt Tile Work	4,043.55
Acoustical Tile Work	4,792.12
Miscellaneous	540.01

Plumbing Contract	23,787.90
Electrical Contract	5,951.01
Electrical Fixtures	2,621.45
Organ Work	7,896.59
Church Furniture	17,625.50
Pew Cushions	3,615.19
Sound Equipment	498.06
Art Glass Windows	4,000.00
Equipment	14,049.66
Architectural Fees	12,800.00
Church Site	12,000.00
Builder's Risk Insurance	1,397.25
Street Assessment	964.00
Perlite	486.90
Commemorative Plates	330.20
Parsonage, moving & remodeling	12,604.58

Electronic Bells	4,100.00	
Miscellaneous	2,257.65	
 _1953_		
Receipts		\$ 22,358.13
From 1953 Pledges and Gifts	18,663.78	
From 1954 Pledge payments	1,611.80	
Commemorative Plate Sales	12.35	
Money borrowed	1,000.00	
Payment of insurance claim	70.20	
Transfer from General Fund	1,000.00	
Disbursements		\$ 18,769.04
Avey's Electric Co. Contract	500.00	
Architect's Fees	2,400.00	
L.E. Redding, Flooring	243.44	
Dougherty & Shaw, Plumbing & Sinks	565.00	
Nelson Piping Co. Contract	3,560.60	
Notes Paid	11,500.00	
 _1954_		
Receipts		\$ 33,048.31
From 1954 Pledges and Gifts	18,306.68	
From 1955 Pledges Payments	821.80	
Commemorative Plate Sales	3.35	
Easter Offering	916.48	
Money borrowed	13,000.00	
Disbursements		\$ 38,000.00
Notes Paid	38,000.00	
	(end of Building Program notes)	

In April 1953 the first issue of Trinity Church Tidings, a monthly newsletter that continues today (Vol. XXXV = 1996), was published. It was eight pages and included a monthly calendar, reports, and announcements. The second issue listed the editorial staff - Charles Wean, Sr., Ruth Balluff, Edna Neher, Hazel Potter, and Pauline Koper, typist - and reporters for the various church organizations. The numbering of issues seems to have become confused in early 1955.

Vol. I, No. 1	-	April 1953
No. 2	-	May-June 1953
No. 3	-	September 1953
No. 4	-	October 1953
No. 5	-	November 1953
No. 6	-	December 1953
Vol. II, No. 1	-	January 1954
No. 2	-	February 1954
No. 3	-	March 1954
No. 4	-	April 1954
No. 5	-	May 1954
No. 6	-	June 1954
No. 7	-	September 1954
No. 8	-	October 1954
No. 9	-	November 1954
No. 10	-	December 1954
Vol. III, No. 11	-	February 1955
No. 12	-	April 1955

Council Members during these years were:



1945 - Charles Edson - Tr.	Adam Hecker	Richard Ellingson
Henry Dohlen	Geo. Neher - VP	Charles H. Stengel
Dallas Baker	Mark Crawford - secy	Milo Zimmerman
1946 - Ted Swan	Charles Edson - tr.	Adam Hecker
Earl Diehl	Henry Dohlen	Geo. Neher - VP
Reuben Bock	Dallas Baker	Mark Crawford - secy
1947 - Les Lundgren - secy	Ted Swan	Charles Edson - tr.
Melvin Tuttle	Earl Diehl - VP	Henry G. Dohlen
LeRoy Dohlen	Reuben Bock	Dallas Baker
1948 - Joe Strite	Les Lundgren - tr.	Earl Diehl - VP
Chas. H. Stengel	Melvin Tuttle	Ted Swan
Adam Hecker - secy	LeRoy Dohlen	Reuben Bock
1949 - Chas. Edson - VP	Joe Strite	Les Lundgren - tr.
Harold Thomas	Chas. H. Stengel	Melvin Tuttle
Geo. Neher	Adam Hecker - secy	LeRoy Dohlen
1950 - Robert Urish	Chas. Edson - VP	Joe Strite
Charles Diehl	Harold Thomas	Chas. H. Stengel
Ralph Zickuhr	Geo. Neher	Adam Hecker - secy
	(Les Lundgren - tr.)	
1951 - Les Lundgren - tr.	Robert Urish	Charles Edson - VP
Phil Orr - secy	Charles Diehl	Harold Thomas
Ted Swan	Ralph Zickuhr	Geo. Neher
1952 - Talmadge Castle	Les Lundgren - tr.	Robt. Urish
Henry Schnulle	Phil Orr - secy	Benj. Rowe (C. Diehl)
Melvin Tuttle	Ted Swan	Ralph Zickuhr - VP
1953 - Everett Kested	Talmadge Castle	Les Lundgren - VP
Walter Schelling-tr.	Henry Schnulle	Phil Orr - secy
Ben Rowe	Melvin Tuttle	Ted Swan
1954 - Wm. Hiteman - secy	Everett Kested	Talmadge Castle
Charles Diehl - VP	Walter Schelling - tr.	Henry Schnulle
Ralph Zickuhr	Ben Rowe	Melvin Tuttle

The Council met monthly, usually at 7:30 PM on the second Monday. The Pastor presided, and the meeting usually closed with all praying the Lord's Prayer. By November 1946 the Pastor's monthly reports were written, and they grew. In December 1946 a Council agenda appeared, and it grew. The loose-leaf system of official minutes began on 12 May 1947. Budgets were proposed by the Council in the fall and adopted (Oct.-Dec.) by the Congregation. The Council nominated three and the Congregation three Council members. Newly-elected Councilmen were installed the Sunday following the election. Year-end meetings came to be held for the purpose of allocating balances, especially benevolence funds, and paying year-end bills, and eventually the Congregation came to ratify these decisions. Dinner-meetings were sometimes held at the homes of outgoing members - e.g. 12/48, Swans, oyster stew; 12/49, Lundgrens, ham dinner; 1/52, Edsons, delightful dinner; 12/52, Zickuhrs, delightful dinner. The Treasurer and Financial Secretary may or may not be members of Council. In 1949, annual meetings were changed from Sunday evenings (7:30 PM), when there had been 47 and 64 voters in the past two years, to Sunday

mornings (11:15 AM or following the service), when there were 78 and 73 voters in 1950 and 1951. A film was shown to the Sunday School children so that the staff could attend. The lengthy reading of reports was omitted, and an attempt was made to end by noon. Christmas presents were given to the staff, usually \$5 or a gift worth that (\$7 beginning 1953). The Pastor was given something different - in 1950 a hind quarter of beef; in 1952 and 1953 a quarter of beef from the congregation and a succulent turkey from the Council. By 1954 it is mentioned that the Council met usually in the Chapel of the new church.

The Financial Secretary during these years:

1946-50 - Gerald S. Powers - surrendered office in 1950 due to night work at Plant

1950-52 - Catheryn Tuttle - had been assistant previously

1953 - Helen Baker (Mrs. Helen Borneman), assisted by Bertha Wolken succeeded by Bertha Wolken (?) - no one else is paid

The Organist during these years:

1946-54 - Mrs. W.H. (Lorraine) Thomas  
assistant = Miss Phyllis Horst

11/52-6/53 = leave of absence for Thomas, filled by Horst

\[Substitute organists included Rojean Hartje and Mrs. Harold Long.\]

The Choir Directors during these years:

1939 or 1940-1949 - Milo Zimmerman - Dir. of Music  
outstandingly capable, no thought of reward  
10/2/49 - resigned to move west (transfer = 4/50)

1947, 1949-1953 - Mrs. Ray Wagner

1953-54 - Mr. & Mrs. Delbert Schell

Junior Choir Directress:

1947-1953 - Mrs. Ray Wagner

directed both choirs in 1947, (not 1948), 1949-51

resigned on advice of doctor 6/53, succeeded by Mrs. Wolken

August 1954 - Miss Carolyn Blobaum

Occasional paid Vocalists: Mr. Jones (1946), Plummer Arjes (1949)

Sextons:

1945-1947 - Raymond Moore - resigned as of 1/48 (cf. 12/8/47)

1948-1950 - Clarence Thomas

1950-1952 (April) - Mr. & Mrs. Roberts Kaliksons

take Clarence Thomas' place while incapacitated

Thomas died early in 1951

at first \$35/mo.; beginning 11/50 \$60/mo.

July-Sept. 1952 - William Clark

October 1952-1954 - John Lindvall

Sunday School Superintendent:

1946 - F.B. Curley

1947-1954 - Robert A. Urish (new member on 3/11/46)

Secretary:

March 1946 - girls did clerical work for pastor @ 50¢/hour

1947-1952 - Mrs. Catheryn Tuttle

at first her pay came from building fund

8/2/48 - her pay was taken henceforth from General Fund

\[After Hightower's secretarial help, there was apparently no secretary

until the Building Program necessitated one. Then Catheryn Tuttle began to serve on a limited-time basis, and in August 1948 Council said her pay would come from the General Fund, not the Building Fund.\\]  
 4/11/49 - Mrs. June Colvin to do stenographic and clerical work in her home @ 75¢/hour  
 5/4/52 - a special congregation meeting authorized hiring a parish secretary  
 Sept.1952-Aug.1954 - Mrs. Bertha (G.J.) Wolken - full-time parish worker began 9/52, received by letter of transfer 12/52 also directed Junior Choir at \$4/week left in Aug. 1954 (\$100 farewell gift given)  
 Aug.1954- - Miss Carolyn Blobaum hired @ \$2300, raised to \$2600 after 10/13/54 plus \$4/week for directing Junior Choir  
 \\[8/48 - Council discussed possibility of hiring Rogene Hartje as parish assistant but made no decision - she was well qualified as organist, junior choir director, youth administrator, and general secretary\\]

#### Lay Delegates to Synod:

Adam Hecker (1946, 1947)  
 Les Lundgren (1948)  
 LeRoy Dohlen (1949) - Evanston  
 Robert Urish (1950)  
 G.S. Powers (1951) - St. Louis (Neumann's church)  
 L.C. Lundgren & Robert Urish (1952) - Joliet  
 Phil Orr (1953)

Assistants to the Pastor: Bob Baker, Tom Estes, Michael Balluff (?)

#### \_Auxiliary Reports\_ (from Annual Reports)

##### Church/Sunday School -

1945 - Martin DeKoning, gen. supt.; avg.att./avg.coll. = 144/14.28; polio epidemic in early fall  
 1946 - Faustina B. Curley, supt.; Chas. Diehl, gen. secy; 131/13.46; 260 enrolled, incl. 83 adults; 131 avg. att., including 29 adults; \$13.46 = avg. off., including \$3.53 adults; objectives for 1947 = 50% increase in attendance, greater parent participation and interest of all members; officers and teachers listed  
 1947 - Robert A. Urish, supt.; 132/13.72; avg. atten. includes 30 adults; desperately short of workers, strong plea and call to faithful service; very successful picnic at White Pines State Park (guests = children from Nachusa); 8 perfect attendance awards; beautiful, inspiring Christmas program under guidance of C & A Society; officers and teachers listed  
 1948 - R. Urish; 154/17.57; 247 enrolled; encouraging attendance but still more needed: "It might be well for every adult or communicant member not affiliated with a Sunday School class to justify that fact with God!"; successful picnic at WPSP with Nachusa children and staff; 14 perfect attendance awards, including two families (Mr. & Mrs. Adam Hecker, Mr. & Mrs. LeRoy Dohlen & Children); inspiring Christmas program directed by C&A Society; Cradle Roll added, led by Mrs. O.A. Hanke, with mailings to over 50; income objective for 1949 = \$1,000, including \$200 for building fund and \$400 for benevolences; officers and teachers listed  
 1949 - R. Urish; 164/20.70, 275 enrolled; enthusiastic but still a stern call to those not enrolled: "If you aren't in a class, is your

reason one which God would accept?"; income objective (\$1000) exceeded by almost 10%; objective for 1950 = \$1200; visual aids library being built; officers and staff listed = 34 people

1950 - R. Urish; 171/21.60, 281 enrolled; income objective exceeded by almost 5%; we anticipate completion of new church building, we'll need more teachers; officers & staff = 27 people

1951 - R. Urish; 160/23.70, 249 enrolled; avg. attend. decreased to 160; income objective achieved, objective for 1952 = \$1,330; staff and teachers = 28 names

1952 - R. Urish; much-needed SS room became available; 170/24.45, 279 enrolled; avg. attend. during last quarter = nearly 200; addition of Parish Worker was tremendous help to Sunday School; met income objective, objective for 1953 = \$1,530; 25 teachers and staff listed

1953 - no report

1954 - R. Urish; 204/30.51 or 32.52, 300 enrolled; offerings = 1,690 (objective = 1,680); objective for 1955 = \$1,800; 31 teachers and officers, including supts. of each dept.

#### Women's Missionary Society -

1945 - second Thursday (2:30 PM) in homes; missionary speakers at pot-luck dinners

1946 - 14 active & 4 associate members; avg. atten. = 10; supports Women's Missionary Society of ULCA; officers listed

1947 - 11 meetings; avg. att. = 11

1948 - avg. = 10

1949 - 16 active members, avg. att. = 12; all subscribe to "Lutheran Women's Work"

1950 - 14 active; avg. att. = 10; joint meeting with women of 4 churches

1951 - merger with Mission Circle as Mission Circle

#### Mission Circle Report -

1945 - officers listed

1946 - 12 meetings; fourth Monday (7:30 PM) in homes; 4 missionaries were presented (China, Arabia, Persia, India); officers listed (Ruth Balluff, tr.)

1947 - 12 meetings; 2 missionary guest speakers: Norma Bloomquist (Liberia), Edith Eykamp (India)

1948 - 12 meetings; Ora Lehmann, secretary

1949 - 25 active members, 11 meetings; joint meeting with ladies of four churches; Dr. Edith Eykamp spoke; aim to increase membership by 10%

1950 - 27 active members, 11 regular meetings

1951 - merger in 1951 of Women's Missionary Society and Mission Circle; 39 active members; fourth Tuesday (7:30 PM), 10 regular meetings; officers listed

1952 - 35 active members; 5 members attended Dolores Dohlen's commissioning as missionary to India in Philadelphia in September

1954 - 39 active members, including 5 new members

#### The Brotherhood/Men's Club -

1945 - not much activity, revitalization hoped for; past president = Charles Stengel

1946 - reorganized as Trinity Men's Club now; inactive as Brotherhood for several years; third Wednesday, 7:45 PM at church; no officers yet but far-reaching stewardship and service goals

1947 - called Men of the Church; met for 9 months (not summer), third Wednesday, 7:45 PM; ushering responsibilities distributed among men of church

1948 - called Men's Club; most successful; fourth Monday, 7:30 PM; constitution and by-laws, officers  
 1949 - much success but some meetings with no program (only Bible study) had only 6 or 7 attending; Mel Kitzmiller = retiring pres., Ted Swan = tr.  
 1950 - good year; Robt. Diehl and Geo. Neher = officers  
 1951 - regular fourth Monday meetings were discontinued after May due to Monday evening work nights at church  
 1954 - aggressive forward movement; good programs; officers

#### Luther League -

1945 - not active except to host the largest Northern Conference LL Rally in years  
 1946 - reorganized; 25 potential participants; 9 = avg. attend.; sponsors = Mr. & Mrs. Delbert Schell  
 1947 - by Doris Leopold; much more active; 43 eligible young people, avg. att. = 19; devotional meetings as well as fun fests; Rich. Horst = pres. of No. Dist. LL (he was also assoc. SS supt.)  
 1948 - as successful as 1947; avg. att. = 10 but as high as 25; monthly activities listed; second & fourth Sundays, 6:30 PM, at church  
 1949 - prospered in 1949; 30 members, 12 very active; Youth Sunday again (youth led the complete service); 2 new ping pong tables from Men's Club; officers listed  
 1950 - very successful year; 40 members, ca. 20 = avg. atten.  
 1951 - same attendance, many activities; 6 PM at church every Sunday; wrote newsletter to all servicemen; officers listed  
 1952 - another successful year; wonderful advances and greatly increased attendance; new officers listed

#### Ladies Aid Society -

1945 - mite boxes, officers listed  
 1946 - 11 regular meetings, 2 special; avg. att. = 22; did mending for Nachusa children; Mite boxes; Mrs. S.E. Avey died (member of cong. and LA for over 55 years); officers listed  
 1947 - 11 reg. meetings; avg. att. = 25; 4 new members; 169 calls  
 1948 - 11 meetings; avg. att. = 25; 3 new members  
 1949 - 11 meetings; 21 = avg. att.; 40 members, including 1 new; mainly mending clothing for Nachusa children; officers  
 1950 - 11 meetings; avg. att. = 19; 36 members; officers listed  
 1951 - 11 meetings; 33 active and 3 honorary members; avg. att. = 18  
 1952 - 40 members, 6 new; avg. att. = 23; first Thursday, 2 PM  
 1954 - 11 meetings, avg. att. = 20; 34 members

#### Chancel & Altar Society -

1945 - officers listed  
 1946 - care of Chancel and Altar, meals for special occasions, Nachusa support; fund-raising: silent auction, silver tea, white elephant sale, serving wedding receptions; officers: Mrs. D.F. Stevens (pres), Mrs. O.A. Hanke (VP), Mrs. Robt. Urish (sec'y), Mrs. G.S. Powers (tr.); 50 members; meets third Tuesday, 8 PM, at church  
 1947 - 11 meetings; 58 active and associate members  
 1948 - 11 meetings; 62 active and assoc. members  
 1949 - 11 meetings; 66 active and assoc. members; special dinners served, fund-raising activities  
 1950 - 12 meetings; 78 active and assoc. members; projects, fund-raising  
 1951 - 67 active and assoc. members  
 1952 - 11 meetings, 70 members

1954 - 12 meetings; 90 members; stage curtain given to TLC by the Lamb Theater

Glad Hand Society -

1945 - chicken & biscuit dinner; officers listed  
1946 - meets last Wed. at 7:30 PM; cheer to sick and shut-ins, support Nachusa child  
1947 - avg. att. = 19; objectives = sociability, support for Nachusa boy and for Nachusa  
1948 - officers listed  
1949 - 27 members, 14 = avg. att.; prepare dressings for ACS  
1950 - 27 members, 15 = avg. att., 1 new member; cancer bandages  
1951 - 26 members, meet in homes of members  
1952 - 26 members, 15 = avg. att.;  
1954 - 26 members, 15 = avg. att.

Young Women's Congress Missionary Society/Group #97 Report -

1950 - third Wednesday, 8 PM, at church; 18 active; all subscribe to "Lutheran Women's Work"; organizational meeting and officers; Spring Northern Conference Congress officially received our group  
1951 - 19 active members; Jean Nicholson, Phyllis Horst  
1952 - changed name to The Dolores Dohlen Missionary Society; 20 members  
1954 - third Thursday, 8 PM, 26 members, including 7 new members; avg. att. = 14; officers listed

Chi Rho Upsilon (The Children of Christ) -

1952 - for 7th & 8th graders; first meeting = 11/9/52, 5 PM, in Fellowship Room of church; 27 present; second Sunday = devotional, fourth Sunday = social-fellowship; guest-film night in Nov. = 40 present; roller-skating party in Dec.; advisers = Miss Helen Baker, Mrs. Bertha Wolken; pres. = Richard Zickuhr (not 7th-8th grader)

Additional Notes:

1. 1/14/46 - money authorized for Council of Churches' advertisement in Index; 12/46 appointed = Miss Doris Leopold, Mrs. Dorothy Dohlen, Mr. Martin DeKoning, Mr. Robert Urish; 10/50 \$100 from benevolences to C of C; 12/54 appointed = Floyd Markham, Donald Dusing, Mrs. Les Lundgren, Mike Balluff
2. 3/11/46 Council decision: Persons who were members of a Protestant Church not Lutheran or Evangelical, with exceptions as given by the Pastor, shall receive instruction in the Lutheran Position and Doctrine before becoming members of Trinity Church
3. 4/8/46 Janitor to light candles on altar after ringing first bell
4. 4/8/46 Cut flowers to be used to supplement palms on Palm Sunday and lilies on Easter
5. 9/9/46 Committee appointed to plan recognition of our servicemen; but idea is tabled (4/47)
6. 11/13/46 Mr. Ewing is denied time to present cause of Anti-Saloon League because of full schedule
7. 1/13/47 Letter of sympathy to Pastor Neumann (Faith, St. Louis) at loss of mother and father
8. 2/10/47 "Those members not communing in 1946 shall be classified as inactive until such time as they commune again" - unanimously adopted by Council; little response to letters (4/14); 2/9/48 All who communed in 1947 to be classified as active members in good standing, rest as inactive members not in good standing; 3/13/50 3 classifications:

inactive, temporary inactive (have contributed or expressed interest), permanent inactive (no communion or contribution for 3 years or more)

9. 4/47 \$100 paid to WRE
10. 4/47 Remington Rand Adding Machine (8 cols.) purchased @ \$75
11. 5/12/47 Memorial Day Service to be held
12. Jan.-Easter 1948 Program of Lay Evangelism conducted
13. 2/9/48 Film Sound Equipment provided by a family
14. 2/48 Cradle Roll considered, not functioning since 1941 when Mrs. Alice Price gave it up; 3/48 work developing: 50 children ages 1-3 on roll
15. A Council of Churches apportionment in Feb. 1948 shows the following relative size: Lutheran 32.5%, Brethren 29.8%, Methodist 21.1%, Christian 16.6%
16. 3/8/48 new method of preparing vouchers for payment - pres. and sec'y sign, treas. pays
17. 3/8/48 Watt Publishing permitted to hold staff meetings in church basement
18. 4/12/48 Ash Wed. to Easter attendance figures for 1946-8 given
19. 9/19/48 Special Council meeting agrees to purchase (\$503) new mimeo machine (A.B. Dick 435) - delivery after 10/15/48
20. 10/11/48 Shulmeric Electronic Carillon Tower Bells - anonymous gift to be installed in tower of new church
21. 10/48 Council agrees to join in Council of Churches' Union meeting on Wed. evening before Thanksgiving and have its regular Thanksgiving Day meeting on Thursday morning as usual with other congregations invited to participate and Pastor Statler asked to preach
22. 12/48 Morocco-bound Common Service Books, engraved, given as Christmas gifts
23. 12/48 Mrs. Hightower moves to Fargo, ND, congregation gives gift of \$300
24. 2/6/49 Rich. Horst certified by Council and recommended as candidate for Gospel ministry; 3/13/50 financial aid loan of \$100/semester for remaining 5 semesters of his college course given; he serves as supply pastor in June and July 1953 @ \$25/Sunday while Pastor is on vacation; 3/17/54 senior year of seminary
25. Carthage College Choir invited for 4/5/49
26. Congregational Directory = names of organizations and officers - see 2/14/49 (p.145), 4/10/50 (p.241), 1/2/52, 1/5/53, 1/54
27. 3/14/49 Stone participates in National Lutheran Council's Evangelism Program
28. 5/1/49 District LL Rally at MM, using school gym
29. 5/9/49 Wire record of Easter service taken to 6 shut-ins - overwhelming gratitude
30. 6/13/49 denied request of Gideons for speaking time, sent \$25
31. 11/13/49 Evangelism Committee for 1950 NLC Evangelism Emphasis = L. Dohlen & F. Curley (co-chairs)
32. 12/29/49 Special Council discusses lending money to students preparing for Christian work (cf. p.203-4)
33. 4/10/50 Weekday School of Religious Education has been discontinued in the public schools, therefore the four churches in the Council of Churches will provide VBS
34. 5/8/50 8 AM Matins service from 6/11 to 8/27 approved
35. 6/50 camp scholarships authorized, annually beginning 1950
36. 12/11/50 SS Christmas program changed from 4:30 to 7:15 PM
37. 1/21/51 Amend By-Law Par. 4, Sect. II - Council to meet regularly each month, not necessarily the first week (Council had been meeting the second Monday)
38. 2/12/51 Letter of congratulation for Harry Allen's 25th anniversary

at North Austin English Evangelical Lutheran Church

39. 2/12/51 \$700 received from estate of O.S. Watts, credited to Building Fund
40. 3/12/51 Memorial Fund established (p. 422-4 = purpose, operation, administration)
41. 6/11/51 Monthly congregational fellowships described
42. 12/10/51 Council supports proposed religious census sponsored by Council of Churches
43. 12/8/52 assistance pledged to Dolores Dohlen preparing for mission work in India at Kennedy School of Missions; farewell gift of \$100; 2/54 salary support
44. 2/9/53 Council underwrites cost of publishing a parish paper (\$50-60 per year)
45. 3/9/53 Workman's Compensation is ordered for the church
46. 7/13/53 Perry Wilson hired to mow lawn @ \$10 in summer of 1953 and 1954
47. 8/53 Piano purchase plan by Schells: Sept.-Oct. - drive for 3-4 new pianos; Oct. - purchase of 4 Lester pianos and reconditioning of grand piano for \$2,380 (\$1,957 received in gifts and pledges, rest from Memorial Fund)
48. 8/53 Farewell gift of \$100 and memento for Waltraud Becker - student support??
49. 1/11/54 Preaching Mission Institute endorsed - Ash Wed. and 3 days preceding; 7-10 March 1954; preacher = K. Bruno Neumann, Luther Memorial Church, Chicago (brother of former Pastor Arthur Neumann), paid \$35 for 3 sermons; cf. 2-page description
50. first continuing education reference = 1/11/54: Pastor allowed reasonable expense to attend Knubel-Miller Lectures at Chicago Seminary, 28-29 January 1954
51. 3/17/54 Stone granted leave to teach at Illinois Synod Leadership Camp, Aug. 16-22
52. 5/10/54 Mr. Richard Meyers (returning schoolteacher, Brethren) denied permission to use organ
53. 7/54 50 reservations for bus to World Council of Churches' Evanston Assembly
54. 10/54 purchase of new typewriter authorized  
12/54 electric jogger (\$74), stapler (\$115)
55. 12/54 MM Boys' Choir appeared at Sunday service

NOTE: These historical notes, covering the first 150 years of Trinity's history, were made in 1995-1996 by Pastor Phil Schroeder from the church's records and minutes and earlier historical accounts. Other potential sources that have not been thoroughly studied are the monthly newsletters and the weekly service folders. These, of course, are not available for the early years, and for the latter years primarily the minutes and the annual reports were studied carefully. It is requested that no extensive printed use be made of these notes or their information without the courtesy of a review by their author.