

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH  
Historical Notes  
Pastor 23, 1942-1945

23. ARTHUR M. NEUMANN (1942-1945)

Pastor Hightower's resignation took effect on 30 June 1942, but before that (on May 8) Illinois Synod President Armin Weng met with the Council to advise regarding eligible candidates. He recommended Arthur Neumann, and that same night the Council nominated him and recommended him to the congregation. Neumann was called at a special congregational meeting on May 31, Dr. H. Grady Davis presiding as acting pastor. Neumann was called from Lake Geneva at the congregation's current salary of \$2,600 (\$50/week). On June 16 he accepted the call by letter in which he said: "As pastor and people our aim must ever be to develop a truly scriptural religious and social life among the members. The life and work of the congregation must ever bear the marks of the Lord Jesus Christ for 'Except the Lord build the house, they labor in vain that build it.' We must ever recognize that the church is above all else a specialist in religion - a religion that regenerates and feeds the soul, that directs and builds the life, and in so doing proves that 'Godliness is profitable unto all things, having the promise of the life that now is, and of that which is to come.'"

Pastor Neumann came to Mt. Morris from a ten-year pastorate at Immanuel Lutheran Church, Lake Geneva, Wisconsin. He began his pastorate here on 29 July 1942. He left 3 1/3 years later (11-28/45/ to conclude his ministry with a ten-year pastorate at Faith Lutheran Church, St. Louis, Missouri, where he died at the age of 54 on 27 May 1955. The short time he was in Mt. Morris was a time of prosperity for Trinity.

When Pastor Neumann died, a \$250 memorial was sent from the congregation to his wife, who wrote by hand on 29 June 1955:

"I am truly overcome by the degree of your generosity and thoughtfulness towards me in these most difficult days. Arthur always told me that there are those who would not turn from us or fail us in our time of sorrow and need - and he was right. The expressions of love and sympathy have been overwhelming.

"My loss is Heaven's gain and very quickly I have learned that we must take one day at a time. To look beyond is torturing and bewildering.

"No one knows how happy I am in the thought that we spent our last week together in Dixon. It was there at the Rock River Assembly of the Illinois Synod that we met 29 years ago.

"I cherish the friendship of Trinity Church and know that I shall be stronger because of them.

"Gratefully yours, Katharine J. Neumann"

Several Trinity members had had a pleasant visit with Pastor Neumann at the Synod Convention (Dixon?) just before his death.

Statistically, the membership growth of these years looks like this:

end of 1942	=	706/8	/	517	/	357	(baptized/confirmed/communing)
end of 1943	=	760	/	551	/	385	
end of 1944	=	796	/	572	/	410	
end of 1945	=	793	/	620	/	425	

The average Sunday attendance, however, remained fairly steady: 221 in 1942, 218 in 1944, 217/218 in 1945. Average special service attendance was 142 in 1944 and 121 in 1945. Other official acts for these years

(1942/1944/1945 - no annual report is found for 1943) were: baptisms = 31/18/28, confirmations = 9/11/2, new members = 15/30/27, marriages = 5/6/8, and funerals = 8/3/4.

The growth is evident also financially: (receipts/expenditures)

	1942	1944	1945
General	\$7153/7191	8455/8133	8850/9039
Benevolent	3796/3730	4834/4654	3798/3854
Syn. Apportionment	1810	1785	1925

Other benevolences paid in 1942 were \$1,361 to Maywood Seminary (still collecting the \$2,764 pledged), \$286 to Lutheran World Action, \$157 to Nachusa, \$70.35 to the Synod's Property & Lot Fund, and \$35 to the Father Heyer Mission Centennial. The first Gideon contribution (\$5) was made in 1942, while Hightower was yet pastor, but it was specified that there be no speaker.

In 1944, other benevolences included \$1,659 to Carthage College, \$310 to Lutheran World Action, \$116 to the Property & Lot Fund, \$409 to Nachusa, \$50 to Weekday Christian Education (!), \$5 to the Gideons, and \$32.50 to the Hightower Memorial (what is it?).

In 1945, other benevolences included \$225 for ULC Special (ULCA), \$125 for Property & Lot Fund, \$86 for Nachusa, \$333 for Carthage, \$585 for Lutheran World Action, \$150 for the Mt. Morris Religious Education Program, and \$400 back apportionment giving the congregation a 100% record on Synod benevolences through the years.

In 1942, \$800 was borrowed from the bank to renovate the parsonage, but it was repaid by the end of the year. Cash on hand was \$112.51, but all bills were paid and there were no debts. It was noted that 5% of the members (14 families) provided 50% of the \$8,000 budget; the largest giver gave 5% or \$7.50/week. Finance Committee chairman Hanke said in his annual report: "One cannot help but feel the spirit of Christ in a significant way has inspired us to a greater appreciation of Him and His church - our church." He urged families to "adopt tithing as a principle of church support...it's a plan that's tested and perfect."

In 1943 a safety box was rented at the bank vault, and quarterly financial reports were to be sent to all members with the customary statement of that member's personal account.

In 1944, the \$8,133 receipts for the general fund included \$1,100 for the Centennial Fund and a \$1,000 investment. The balance at the end of 1944 was \$2,575. At the end of 1945, the balance was \$1,530.

The Every-Member Visit continued during these years. For 1943, \$8,342 was pledged toward a budget of \$7,939. For 1945, \$10,314 was pledged toward a budget of \$10,623. And for 1946, \$10,713 was pledged toward a budget of \$10,875. In 1942, 34 teams made 288 calls and got 218 pledges; they also collected information for the church records and useful to the new Pastor. The slogan was "Every wage-earner a contributor." Sets (325) of duplex envelopes were ordered. In 1945, since every member had recently been contacted for the Centennial Project, in place of the EMV a letter was sent to the members and pledge cards were passed out the following Sunday to be filled out and put into the collection plates. Those absent were contacted by phone. Receipt of a pledge was

acknowledged by mail.

Pastor Neumann's first salary was \$2,600/year, the same as Hightower's ending salary. In 1943, Gerald Powers came back from the Synod Convention and recommended a 15% adjustment on the Pastor's salary to keep it in line with cost-of-living increases; later this adjustment was made retroactive to January. The minutes say 15%, but the salary went up \$15 - from \$50 to \$65/week. In 1945, the Pastor's salary was \$3,220 (\$3,120?) or \$60/week.

The organist's salary rose from \$240 in 1942 to \$260 in 1943 to \$320 in 1945. The janitor's salary rose from \$300 to \$360 from 1943 to 1945. The financial secretary received \$60/year throughout. Soloists also continued to receive a salary (\$76/year is budgeted these years).

In 1942 the insurance appraisal was \$40,000 - \$32,000 for church, \$3,500 for contents, and \$4,500 for parsonage.

The organist during these years continued to be Mrs. W. (Worthington) H. Thomas, who in 1944 was given a one-month paid summer vacation. The soloist continued to be Mrs. Ruby (James) Smith; for the summer of 1944 Mrs. Ray Wagner (leading soprano singer) was soloist and continued after that (cf. 3/12/45), too. In July and August 1942, Maryalice Dusing served as soloist...with permission from the Methodist Church, where she was a member. The janitor was J.Q. Davis, until his resignation on 11 January 1943. Then Raymond Moore was hired @ \$25/month to tend the stoker, inspect the heating system, and provide proper temperatures for meetings (a lady was to be hired to clean and dust the building). Mrs. Ann (G.S.) Powers was financial secretary; in January 1944, Horace Hedgecock became financial secretary at the same compensation; in May 1945 Gerald Powers took the job and was permitted to choose assistants to count and certify the offerings. The hiring of a secretary ended with Pastor Hightower's leaving, until 7 August 1944 when the Council agreed to hire a part-time secretary for the Pastor (whether and whom is unknown); in October 1945 Katherine Tuttle was to be engaged for secretarial duties. The director of music, at least for 1944, was Milo Zimmerman. In May 1945, Mrs. Baldwin was appointed to replace Zimmerman, who resigned on 11 June 1945 as choir director and secretary. J. Leslie Pierce, former choir director, helped with the choir for the summer. In October 1945 Clarence Tracy was appointed to direct for the rest of 1945. The Junior Choir was directed in 1942 by Mrs. Ellingson, and she resigned in March 1945 for reasons of health. In October 1945, Mrs. Wagner was asked to take charge for the rest of the year. New robes for the junior choir were purchased in March 1943; the old ones were sold to the Eastern Star Lodge. (The postmaster these years was D.D. Sharer.)

In 1942, the Council consisted of G.S. Powers (vice president), F. Curley (treasurer), J.G. Dohlen (secretary), Dallas Baker, Emil Thompson, Reuben Bock, S.E. Avey, O.A. Hanke, and Earl Diehl. In 1943, Powers continued as vice president and Curley as treasurer, but Milo Zimmerman became secretary, and Zimmerman and Richard Ellingson and C.H. Stengel replaced Dallas Baker and Emil Thompson and O.A. Hanke. In July 1943, Charles Edson replaced Curley as treasurer when Curley was called to military service. In 1944, Mark Crawford, Adam Hecker, and George Neher were elected, replacing Powers, Bock, and Dohlen. Diehl served as vice president, Edson as treasurer, and Zimmerman as secretary. In 1945, the Council consisted of George Neher (vice president), Milo Zimmerman (secretary, resigned in June), Charles Edson (treasurer), Richard

Ellingson, Dallas Baker, Henry Dohlen, Mark Crawford (secretary succeeding Zimmerman in June), Adam Hecker, and Charles Stengel. As of December 1942, Council continued to nominate six and the congregation three members. The new constitution (1944) called for Council to meet in the first week of each month, but in October 1944 Council decided to meet on the second Monday of each month.

Delegates to Synod were Gerald Powers (1943), S.E. Avey (1944), and August Hanke (1945). Committees continued to be appointed. In 1943 they were Finance, Reception and Usher, Music and Literature, Building, Membership, Auditing, and Parish Education. In 1944, when a new constitution was adopted, they were Church Property, Finance, Worship & Music, Education & Literature, Stewardship & Benevolence, Membership & Evangelism, and Auditing.

The following organizations filed annual reports for 1942: Trinity Lutheran Brotherhood, Luther League, Church School, Ladies' Aid Society, Chancel & Altar Society (new constitution in December 1943), the Mission Circle (or Young Women's Missionary Society), the Women's Missionary Society, the Glad Hand Society, and the Willing Workers' Class (which continued to work plenty after 1942 but held no more meetings during the week and filed no further annual reports). Beginning in 1944, the officers of these organizations are listed with their reports.

Inventory blanks in January 1945 led to nine suggestions regarding present and future needs, including more room, a cradle roll, a great revival, Bible study, greater leadership, more personal evangelism, a larger church building, and redecoration of sanctuary.

In 1944 the Church School reported an average attendance of 160, total enrollment of 256, and average offering of \$15.06. In 1945 average attendance was 144 due to a polio epidemic in the early fall, and the average collection was \$14.28. In October 1943 Gerald Powers was appointed superintendent, Pastor assistant, Adam Hecker treasurer, Horace Hedgecock financial secretary, and Harold Rodeffer and Charles Diehl secretaries for one-year terms. In September 1945, Martin DeKoning was appointed superintendent. In November 1942 the Pastor said Sunday School teachers should at least be members of the church.

Quarterly meetings of the organizations and Council were approved in 1945, but no record of these is found. In 1945 there was a search for ways to make more effective use of the auxiliaries.

Annual meetings of the congregation were held in January (1/11/43, 1/28/45, 1/20/46 - no annual report was found for 1943). These included printed annual reports (Pastor's report, finance committee or treasurer's report, and reports of organizations). In 1943 there were 51 voters, in 1945 61 voters and 9 children. In 1943 the meeting was predated by a scramble supper, in 1944 there was no preceding supper, in 1945 there was a supper with each family providing its own food and service. The budget these years included bulletin covers, Ecclesia Plantanda, The Gleaner, Devotional Booklets, and monthly bulletins.

In November 1942 Council decided to have a Thanksgiving service at 10 AM, and in 1943 this was repeated in preference to joining in a union service. In December 1942, a Christmas Program for Church School Children was held Wednesday evening (12/23), and 208 attended; a Christmas Eve service was held at 11 PM (303 attended, 303 also in 1944)

and a New Year's Day service at 10 AM. In 1943 special Lenten and Easter bulletins were ordered. On 5/23/43 Lutheran World Action Sunday was observed, seeking 50-cents per member or \$280. On 5/30/43, the service was held at 10:30 instead of 10 in deference to the American Legion's Memorial Day exercises. On 7/5/43 the Pastor recommended not closing the church for the customary two weeks in August but shortening summer services by 15 minutes, making use of several guest preachers, and employing musical talent inside and outside the congregation to lend variety. In January-February 1944 School of Mission services were held on five consecutive Sunday evenings; average attendance was 26. In 1944, no Lenten services were held except Holy Week, including a three-hour union service on Good Friday and a cantata in the evening; but in 1945 Lenten services were again held...on Sunday evening. On 4/3/44, \$30 was appropriated to buy Easter lilies. On 6 June 1944 a service was held in observance of D-Day. On 7/3/44 it was suggested that more familiar hymns be selected for morning services. On 9/11/44 forthcoming special events included: Rally Day on Sept. 24, Communion on Oct. 1, Harvest Home on Oct. 15, and Reformation Sunday on Oct. 29. The guest preacher for either Harvest Home or Reformation was to be the father of the pastor, the Rev. Robert Neumann, of Carthage College. He came again as preacher for the first Sunday of the Centennial Year, 6 May 1945. Holy communion was celebrated six times in 1942. In October 1943 communion was to begin at 9:45 AM (15 minutes earlier) and was to be preceded by visitation of non-communing members.

The Centennial Year was to be observed from 6 May 1945 to 5 May 1946. The prolonging of the war in 1944 prevented making extensive plans. There was an income objective, presumably \$120,000 (which was \$22,000 undersubscribed in January 1946). There was also an evangelism objective: 100 new members. Centennial Fund investments had begun already under Hightower; often these were put into Series G War Bonds. By January 1946, the Centennial Fund included \$21,556 received, \$1,606 distributed; and with previous savings there was now \$24,502 in the Centennial Fund. Beginning February 1943, the treasurer was told to set aside \$50-\$100/month from offerings for the Centennial Fund. On 2 August 1944, Council decided to ask Moline architect (Schuelzke) to recommend alterations and enlargements for the building. 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" as recommended by the Centennial Committee the previous month. On 30 July 1945, the Congregation unanimously voted, as recommended by the Centennial Committee, to raise \$120,000 over five years to erect a new church building; 60% of the total was to be on hand for the erection of the building in 1947. An anniversary booklet was to be printed and sold. The preacher for the first Sunday of the year (6 May 1945) was to be Prof. Robert Neumann, and for the last Sunday (5 May 1946) President Dr. Weng.

On 10 January 1944, the annual congregational meeting adopted and put into effect a new constitution and by-laws as recommended by the ULCA. This specified that the charter of incorporation be re-adopted. According to the new constitution and by-laws, members must commune at least once a year to be communing members. Members in good standing are communing members who regularly attend services and are not in arrears in their subscriptions (pledges). Voting members must be at least 18 years old and in good standing. Members of the Church Council must be at least 21 years old, voting members, and members for at least two years, and they may not succeed themselves for a period of one year. The Council is

to consist of nine members with three-year terms, meeting the first week of each month. The Council and the congregation are to nominate equally (a change from 6 by Council and 3 by congregation). Treasurer and financial secretary do not have to be Council members. A church seal is specified (with Latin cross). The annual congregation meeting is to be held in January (changed from May, but recent ones had been in January). Standing Committees are to be Church Property, Finance, Worship & Music, Education & Literature, Stewardship & Benevolence, Membership & Evangelism, and Auditing.

In 1945, the congregation adopted a centennial objective and published a 12-page booklet describing it. The resolution (and its disposition) reads like this:

It was regularly moved by Mr. H.G. Kable and seconded by Mrs. Charles Edson that the (centennial) committee recommend to the Church Council the adoption of the project to solicit 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 percent of the total amount will be on hand for the erection of the building in 1947. The motion was carried unanimously at the meeting of July 6, 1945. The recommendation was adopted by the Church Council at its regular meeting on July 9, 1945. A special meeting of the congregation was called for July 30, at which meeting the above resolution was carried unanimously. (p.3)

The members of the Centennial Committee were Pastor A.M. Neumann (chairman), Earl Diehl (vice chairman), H.G. Kable, Dallas Baker, O.A. Hanke, Milo Zimmerman, Gerald Powers, Mrs. Charles Edson, Mrs. George Neher, Mrs. Charles Stengel, Mrs. Ben Royer, and Mrs. Fred Park.

The Committee reported that the necessary repair and renovation of the present church building, 68 years old (erected in 1877/8, enlarged and remodeled in 1921)), would cost thousands of dollars and leave a building needing to be replaced within 20-25 years because of structural safety. The Sunday School superintendent (Martin DeKoning) observed that new and larger quarters would be a great asset in fulfilling the church's entire program. Blueprints and drawings show a church very much like our present church except that there the chancel is to the west of the nave rather than to the east as now. The architect was William H. Schulzke, from Moline.

Pastor Neumann tendered his resignation on 26 October 1945 to accept the pastorate of Faith Church, St. Louis, effective 28 November 1945. Dr. Weng met with the Council on November 4 to discuss the procedure for seeking a new pastor. He suggested two chaplains soon available: Pat Riley (Navy commander, ca. 45, formerly of Evansville, Ind.) and Al Stone (Army captain, ca. 30, decorated for bravery, formerly of Lena, Ill., stationed at Camp Grant). Weng was asked to contact Stone and see when he would be available.

Arthur M. Neumann was born on 25 October 1900 in Burlington, Iowa, the son of Robert and Emma (Geisendorfer) Neumann. His father was a clergyman with D.D. and L.L.D. degrees who died in the 1940's. He had one sister and three brothers (names are listed in the necrology). One brother, K. Bruno Neumann, was pastor of Lutheran Memorial Church, Chicago. In 1919, Arthur graduated from Burlington High School. In 1923, he graduated (with A.B.) from Carthage College, and in 1926 he graduated (with B.D.) from Chicago Lutheran Seminary, Maywood. He was

ordained by the Wartburg Synod at Burlington on 16 May 1926. On 1 October 1929, he married Katharine (often written Kathryn) E. Jensen. Arthur and Katharine had three children: Daniel Arthur (b. 8/3/29 - not likely), Mary-Louise E. (b. 8/21/33), and Phyllis E. (b. 11/9/35).

From 1925-28, he was pastor of the Church of the Good Shepherd, Chicago, from 1928-32 of Grace Church, Gary, IN, from 1932-42 of Immanuel Church, Lake Geneva, WI, from 1942-45 of Trinity Church, Mt. Morris, and from 1945-55 of Faith Church, St. Louis, MO. He served also as secretary of the Wartburg Synod (1937-42) and as president of the Southern Conference of the Illinois Synod (1947-55?), and he served on the Illinois Synod Executive Board, Board of Ministerial Education, and Board of Home Missions, and on the Nachusa Board of Directors.

Arthur Neumann was pastor of Faith, St. Louis, when he died at his home on 27 May 1955, the day after the closing of the Synod Meeting, at the age of 54. He was buried on May 31 at Memorial Park, St. Louis. His funeral was conducted at Faith Church by Illinois Synod President Dr. Harmon J. McGuire.

The newsletter of his St. Louis church, "Faith Messenger," ran the following article upon his death:

"In his fifty-fifth year, having completed twenty-nine years in the ministry of our Lord, Pastor Arthur M. Neumann was called from our midst on the evening of May 27, 1955.

Our dear pastor and friend had served us to the best of his abilities since December 9, 1945.

Pastor Neumann came to us from Trinity Lutheran Church of Mount Morris, Illinois, where he had established a record of achievement having increased his congregation by 25 percent and raised a fund of over \$100,000 for the erection of a new church and parish building during the post-war period. He had been named Life Service Secretary of the Luther League of Illinois.

Graduated with a bachelor of arts degree in philosophy from the Carthage College, Carthage, Illinois, Pastor Neumann took his B.D. degree at the Chicago Lutheran Theological Seminary. He was ordained in Bethany Lutheran Church, Burlington, Iowa, in 1926 by his father, who until his retirement in 1945 was professor of Bible and Religion at Carthage College. A brother, the Rev. Bruno Neumann is Pastor of Luther Memorial Church in Chicago, Illinois.

Pastor Neumann served in parishes in Gary, Indiana, Lake Geneva, Wisconsin, Chicago, Illinois and Mount Morris, Illinois, before coming to Faith Church.

During his pastorate with us at Faith Church Pastor Neumann took a major part in the furtherance of God's Word not only in Faith Church but in Protestantism at large.

In 1946 Pastor Neumann was the speaker at an interfaith service of intercession for the general European Peace conference which was held in Paris, France in July. In November Pastor Neumann preached the homecoming sermon at Carthage College and participated in the dedication of the new men's memorial dormitory.

Early in 1947 Pastor Neumann was named chairman of the St. Louis Workers' Conference of the National Lutheran Council to aid in completing the organization's nationwide drive for \$10,000,000 for relief and rehabilitation in Europe and Asia.

On Easter Sunday 1949 Pastor Neumann delivered the sermon at the Metropolitan Church Federation's sunrise service in the Municipal Theater in Forest Park. In July the 54th annual convention of the Luther League

of Illinois was held in Faith Church with Pastor Neumann assisting in the meeting and preaching the sermon at the Sunday morning service. In October at the dinner of the Missouri Grand Chapter of the Eastern Star Pastor Neumann addressed a gathering of over 1000 persons in the Gold Room of the Jefferson Hotel.

At the fortieth annual meeting of the Metropolitan Church Federation on February 2, 1950, Pastor Neumann was elected President of the Federation. This was a double honor as he was the first Lutheran to serve the Federation as president. The Metropolitan Church Federation is the cooperative body here of 15 Protestant denominations. In March 1950 our Pastor participated in the ground breaking ceremony for the new Faith Hospital. In September he was on the committee of church members to the Crusade for Freedom.

Early in 1951 Pastor Neumann welcomed the Rev. Theodore Vedzele, a displaced Latvian pastor, and his family to America and St. Louis. They were sponsored in this country by the National Council (of) Churches of Greater St. Louis. On February 25, 1951, our congregation celebrated its 25th Anniversary of the first service. This celebration was spread over several weeks. On March 11th the service commemorated the 25th anniversary of the organization and the 20th anniversary of the dedication of the church buildings. In April an anniversary banquet was held and in May the 100th convention of the Illinois Synod of the United Lutheran Church in America. On June 3rd, 1951, the congregation held a public reception in the parish house honoring our Pastor on his 25th anniversary in the ministry. Likewise, in 1951, the Pastor and his family moved into the new parsonage at 6809 Murray Avenue.

Through the years Pastor Neumann was called upon to address radio and television audiences, he wrote "sermonettes" for the papers and participated in any way possible in spreading the Word of God and further(ing) His kingdom here on earth.

One of his testimonies was that in 29 years of ministry he had been away from his pulpit only once due to illness. An example of his perseverance is the Sunday in April 1953 when following a furnace explosion in our church building he received emergency first-aid treatment at DePaul Hospital and appeared before us in our regular service. Serious burns about the face and hand did not keep him from bringing us God's Word.

During Pastor Neumann's ministry at Faith Church the doors were always open to meetings and conventions of various church bodies. This always meant additional work for our Pastor as host and was always gladly given.

Among other honors Pastor had served on the Board of Home Missions of the Illinois Synod of the United Lutheran Church, was elected to the Executive Board of the Synod in 1947 and represented the Illinois Synod in 1949 at the U.L.C.A. convention in Philadelphia.

He will be missed by all who knew him and loved him. He was our Pastor, Sunday School teacher and friend. The words of the Scripture - Well done, thou good and faithful servant - could not more aptly apply to Arthur M. Neumann, our Pastor."

Other details from these years include:

1. Following the first printed/distributed annual report for 1941 under Hightower, annual reports not greatly different from today's format begin to appear for 1942 (though none is found for 1943). The report for 1944 mentions "the fine spirit manifested throughout the year on the part of the officers and members of Trinity."
2. The 1943 Council recommended the goal of 100 new members by May 1946 as part of the Centennial Program.



3. Parsonage repairs were made in 1942 at a cost of \$735 (cf. 7/6/42 for list). \$800 was borrowed and repaid.
4. In August 1942 Council approved duplex envelopes for the Sunday School for 1943.
5. The annual Parish School dinner continued (8/4/42), served in 1942 by the Ladies' Aid. Sometimes it's called the Annual Parish & Workers Dinner.
6. Beginning 1942, at Neumann's suggestion, the congregation and not just the Council adopted the budget for the coming year.
7. On 8/4/42, church stationery and an official church seal were authorized.
8. Pastor Neumann began (1942) a monthly bulletin to report meetings for the month - the forerunner of the current newsletter.
9. For a short time (9/8/42-7/5/43) communion offerings went into the benevolent fund.
10. On 9/8/42, the Council began adjourning by all praying the Lord's Prayer. This practice (with occasional exceptions) continues to this day.
11. On 10/5/42 plans were announced for an adult instruction class for church members (a first in the records); also the Pastor was to commune shut-ins, those really unable to attend and who ask for it.
12. On 10/5/42 Council discussed how to shorten the communion service.
13. In 11/42 the treasurer was bonded for \$2,000.
14. In 1942 an American and a Christian flag were donated by the Brotherhood and dedicated. Ladies' Aid wanted to help pay for them, and Mr. Avey wanted to donate a flag.
15. On 12/29/42 it was ordered that a list of inactive members be made.
16. When the congregation was informed of Dr. Hightower's death, a \$25 check instead of flowers was sent to Mrs. Hightower together with a letter of condolence, and there were special prayers on Sunday morning.
17. In February 1943, Raymond Moore (janitor) was asked to build a cabinet for the altar cloths.
18. In March 1943, a new furnace was put into the parsonage...with authorization to borrow up to \$500.
19. In 1943 Council approved Pastor's suggestion to order baptism certificates for future baptisms and for past baptisms of children still present.
20. In June 1943 the unused hearing aid device was given to the bandstand for Saturday night concerts and Sunday evening services.
21. In October 1943 religious tracts were to be mailed with the regular pastoral letter.
22. In October 1943 the organ was overhauled for \$242 by Mr. Dierkson of Freeport.
23. More Common Service Books were purchased in November 1943, two dozen more in February 1944, three dozen more in May 1945.
24. In September 1944 the Pastor reported driving 2,400 miles to hospitals in Dixon, Freeport, and Rockford. In the future he was asked to report monthly and ordered to receive 4-cents per mile reimbursement.
25. In November 1944 the downstairs church school rooms were being renovated (painting, washing woodwork).
26. On 1/8/45 the Pastor was mimeographing Tidings (Sunday bulletins).
27. On 1/28/45 there was a motion of appreciation for the Pastor: "A motion was made by August Hanke, seconded, and unanimously carried that the congregation express its appreciation to the Pastor, his wife, and family, for their great devotion to the work of the church, and that thanks and praise be given the Lord for the consecrated service of our Pastor, who has given Trinity Lutheran Church outstanding leadership during 1944."

28. The only native son so far was Harry Allen, who entered the ministry in 1926.
29. In March 1945 a monthly servicemen's letter was sent. Also the communion bulletin was mailed.
30. A congregational picnic was held on 26 August 1945.
31. The letterhead of 1945 lists the address of the church as 4 South Seminary Avenue, the pastor's telephone number as 212, and the church as a member of the ULCA, and it includes an architect's drawing of the new church to be built in 1947 (interesting to compare with present church).

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.