

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH
Historical Notes
Pastor 25, 1955-1962

25. LUTHER HAROLD COOPERRIDER (1955-1962)

Pastor Luther Cooperrider succeeded Pastor Stone as pastor following a vacancy of eight months. Stone left on 25 July 1954, and Cooperrider started on 24 March 1955. The vacancy was handled by a well-organized and -functioning Council. Pastor Bollman, of Oregon, ministered to the sick and needy and officiated at a baptismal service or two. Pastor Heckathorn, of Forreston, taught Catechism Classes on Saturday mornings @ \$10/class...through the winter of 1955. Guest preachers were paid \$25/service (\$35 on communion Sundays) and included Dr. A.M. Knudsen, Charles Hoemig, H. Grady Davis, Frank Moyer, and Richard Otten.

On the afternoon of 7 February 1955, a special Council meeting met the Cooperriders and invited him to conduct a Vesper Service on February 20 (Sun.) at 8 PM. Following the Vesper Service, a Special Congregational Meeting called him at \$90/week (\$4,680/year) and 8¢ per mile, a family protection plan, a term life policy, pension, and parsonage. (In November 1955 hospital insurance premiums were added to the package.) The salary rose in succeeding years to \$5,200 (1956), \$5,460 (1957), \$5,720 (1958), and \$5,980 or \$115/week (1959-1962). Mileage allowance rose to 10¢ in 1962 if not earlier. He began his service the last week of March (24 March 1955) and was installed by Dr. McGuire on March 27.

Pastor Cooperrider was exceedingly (excessively?) ambitious. He led the congregation from the retirement of its debt into a large commitment to benevolences, including a home mission revolving loan fund, in addition to amounts exceeding suggested apportionment goals. There seems to have been no recognition of the debt liquidation, and it is not easy to read from the financial reports. In January 1956 unpaid notes of \$31,938 remained, in 1957 of \$11,231, in 1958 and 1959 of \$2,000. But already in 1957 \$4,009 had gone into the revolving loan fund for missions, and this amount was added to in the succeeding years. He instilled the vision of a 50-50 budget, half for Christian work outside the congregation. It was achieved in 1960 with thanks to God but also with this comment: "But our joy must be tempered with repentance for the fact that so many of our people give meagerly and grudgingly, and only half of our people have enough faith in God to pledge to the church." In fact, the 1960 budget year ended \$10,123 (17%) short of budget and 1961 \$8,355 (14%) short. When he left in 1962, the congregation adjusted its budget to the reality of being nearly 20% behind (\$9,000+) and reduced its projected benevolences for the year. The admirable goal seems to have been achieved at the cost of an increasing deficit that masked the generosity and stewardship that were taking place.

The continued growth of the congregation (though a downturn begins after 1957) is reflected in the following membership statistics (for unexplained reasons the 1954 statistics were revised downward from the previous annual report):

	end of 1954	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959	1960	1961	1962
baptized	900	922	964	999	980	959	945	973/945/898	972
confirmed	653	656	676	699	674	667	662	707/681/634	706

communing	543	513	609	619	621	605	607	633/634/613	630
avg. att.	313	317	349	351	341	321	317	306	320
avg SS att.	204	220	233	230	234	210	209	202	196
new membs.	34	97	95	98	70	55	59	66	

(The varying sets of figures for 1961 are Ryberg's reported figures in 1962 annual report, penned-in figures in 1961 annual report, and printed figures in 1961 annual report.)

Like Pastor Stone, Cooperrider continued to wrestle with the problem of inactives. In 1955 the first list of members by classification appeared: child, communing, confirmed (contributed but did not commune), temporary inactive, and permanent inactive. Of the temporary inactive it was said, "Persons may be reinstated from this to the Communing Roll by reception of the Sacrament and financial support of the church." Of the permanent inactive it was said, "Persons may be reinstated from this to the Communing Roll by formal restoration at a public service of worship." These statements were removed by the Council in January 1957. But the lists were part of the annual report each year. At the 1960 annual meeting of the congregation it was resolved (112-16) that non-resident members who had not communed or contributed for three years may be withdrawn from membership if they do not respond to a pastoral letter. In addition, in 1958 an elaborate chart showed the giving of members not by name but by envelope number for years 1949, 1954, and 1959 (pledge). The Pastor revealed his own number and told where his salary could be found - revealing that with a salary of \$5,720 he was giving \$14/week or 12.7%. In June 1955 the Council approved the printing of report cards for the confirmation classes.

The Pastor's report for 1956 (6½ pages long) began with the reference to the Laodicean church in Revelation 2:15-22 ("you are lukewarm") and said, "The Promise is for us. So is the Reproof. In 1956 there has been evidence of our receiving the promise and of our need for the reproof." The evidence of the promise included average Sunday attendance increasing to 349, average Sunday School attendance of 233, 61 enrolled in the Pastor's Class (36 non-members), 64 lay visitation calls made in 1956, 91% of confirmed members communing, slow but genuine growth in stewardship of money (\$81 per confirmed member), and evident if slow progress in work with youth. The evidence of the need for reproof included only 53% of confirmed membership worshipping on an average Sunday, the need for better singing, an almost total absence of adult education, 1/25th as much time spent in Sunday School as in day school, an inadequate program of leadership education, inadequate space for effective teaching, membership growth that had little more than kept pace with population growth (1940-50 = 2,304-2,709), only 22 tithers, not so much as a Christian Service committee at Trinity (in a highly organized community), and demise of the monthly Family Fellowships. The Pastor even graded his own performance in various areas of work - from very poor to reasonably good.

That same year (1956) the Pastor asked, "If Trinity's pastorate was a full-time job in 1946, what does our ten-year growth make it today?" He saw a lack of adequate time and personnel preventing Trinity from achieving its potential. The following year (1957) the Council considered more than once the possibility of a pastoral assistant and ended up tabling the matter. In 1959 they considered hiring a retired pastor as an assistant (in 1960 the neighboring Brethren Church did that, and the Pastor didn't fail to note it). The closest the congregation came to it during Cooperrider's pastorate was the summer intern, Louis

(Louie) Shim, a seminary student from Korea, who assisted the pastor in a variety of ways (see Council agenda of July, August, and September 1961 for lists) in June through August 1961. (On September 1, Shim married Deana Choi, from Seoul, Korea, at Trinity.)

In 1958 Cooperrider declined an invitation to do full-time student work. In 1959 he declined two invitations to leave Mt. Morris. But in 1962 he accepted the call to be pastor of St. John's Lutheran Church, Sterling. His resignation was effective 18 June 1962. His letter of resignation was dated 30 April 1962 and read in part:

"This action is taken reluctantly, for my service here has been a source of deep satisfaction and joy to me. In addition we have sunk roots here which are inextricable. We can never forget that three precious members of our family were added during our stay here. And the congregation, by its many kindnesses, patience, and especially discipleship to Christ, has given us so much reason to be thankful to God. Here we have been privileged to learn to know and love many more of God's people - people from all over the world as well as from Mt. Morris.

"I want to assure the entire congregation that this action is not taken with any thought to "bettering" ourselves. Personal and family considerations would best be served, so far as we can see, by our staying. That which seems to dictate the move is concern for the advance of the Kingdom of God. For Christians this must always come first. I believe that this, our last action at Trinity, is consistent with the Gospel we have attempted to preach and live here.

"It would be less than frank to say that I consider my work here finished. But when the Master calls, as I believe He is now, who are we to refuse His way? God has richly blessed Trinity through many years, especially by making her an unusually bright witness to the Gospel light. It is my conviction and prayer that He will continue to use her well."

Pastor Cooperrider's assessment of his ministry is indicated in the following report released by him to the newspaper(s) for 11 June 1962:

"Next Sunday marks the last day of the pastorate of the Rev. Luther H. Cooperrider at Trinity Lutheran Church, Mt. Morris. On June 18 Mr. Cooperrider will assume the pastorate of St. John's Lutheran Church, Sterling, fourth largest congregation in the Illinois Synod, United Lutheran Church in America.

"Cooperrider came to the local pulpit in March, 1955, following pastorates at Nachusa-Dixon and Pearl City-Kent, Illinois. During his pastorate here the local congregation experienced a membership growth of 23 percent. It became the fifth congregation in the Illinois Synod to adopt a '50-50' budget which provides for equal division of all offerings between local use and outreach. The congregation's social action program made it the subject of study by the Social Missions Board of the national church. Also during this time there was established a program of visitation evangelism by laymen, a plan for employing, during the summer, exchange ministerial students through the auspices of the Lutheran World Federation, more intensive programs of pre-membership training, and a junior choir. The church was unlocked and lighted to encourage its round-the-clock use for individual meditation and prayer. Material improvements during this time included repair of the church's acoustics, installation of stained glass windows, and installation of fold doors in the fellowship hall. Cooperrider is serving the larger church as a member of the Joint Commission on Lutheran Unity for the State of Illinois and a member of the Lutheran Student Foundation for Northern Illinois University, DeKalb.

"Cooperrider served as chairman of the 1958 Ogle County religious

census and was first president of the Ogle County Ministerial Association. He was one of three incorporators of the Ogle County Mental Health Association and its first treasurer. He is currently a member of the Ogle County Welfare Services Committee.

"Cooperrider has also been active in the Mt. Morris Council of Churches. He was instrumental in the establishment of the Mt. Morris program of released time religious education, of the Mt. Morris Friendship (Golden Age) Club, of the Mt. Morris Friendship Center for senior citizens, of the program of worship through special music and drama productions, of the leadership school for adults, and of cooperative endeavor in evangelism. He has been especially active in the social action parts of the Council's program. Currently he is president of the Mt. Morris ministerium.

"Cooperrider is married to the former Lois Rosbrook of Dixon. Five children are also part of the parsonage family - Joel, Neil, Ruth, Paul, and Ellen. Ruth and Paul are being adopted by the Cooperriders. They arrived as refugee children from Hong Kong on September 1, 1960. Seventeen days later Ellen arrived, the first live and normal baby to be born following an abdominal pregnancy in the history of Freeport Memorial Hospital. The Cooperriders' address in Sterling will be 708 Second Avenue."

Apparently some question arose about the cause of Pastor Cooperrider's resignation, and there were rumors. Mrs. Harry C. Newcomer addressed a letter (not found) to the Church Council dated June 18 that was read to the Council on July 9. On July 11, Secretary Mark Crawford addressed a letter to Mrs. Newcomer which said:

"Your letter to the Church Council dated June 18 was read at the regular monthly meeting on Monday, July 9, 1962.

"We thank you for expressing your views and also realize there must be others who feel as you do.

"The Church Council in conducting the business affairs of the Congregation is not only morally bound to do its best but also must of necessity follow certain rules and regulations handed down from Synod as well as the local Church By-Laws.

"So far as procedure in securing our new minister is concerned the Council and the Call Committee has been guided by the President of Synod and has acted accordingly.

"As to Pastor Cooperrider's resignation there have been some rumors come to individual members of the Council recently which do not represent the complete story.

"Our local By-Laws state that neither the Council nor the Congregation can exercise its right to terminate the contractual relationship between it and the pastor without a two-thirds majority vote of a duly called Congregational meeting at which the President of Synod must preside.

"At no time in regular meetings of the Council was there discussed any dissatisfaction from the Pastor nor from any individual member of the Council. The Council wants to be sure you understand that neither it nor a few members of the Congregation can terminate the services of a Pastor.

"On the other hand the Council also wants to be sure you understand that it realizes at no time will every member of the Congregation agree on every action of a Pastor in conducting the affairs of the Church.

"It is our understanding that Pastor Cooperrider accepted a greater challenge as does Pastor Ryberg accept a greater challenge in coming to Mount Morris. He stated that he would not consider any call if he thought there were no problems to be faced.

"The Council is desirous of having a Pastor who will continue to lead

the Congregation to better Christian living in harmonious relationship and to this end we pledge our efforts."

Pastor Cooperrider was in Mt. Morris between the ages of 33 and 40. After only a two-month vacancy (in the summer), he was succeeded by Pastor Ralph Ryberg, who began his ministry here on 19 August 1962.

LUTHER H. COOPERRIDER was born on 10 October 1921 in Chicago. His father was Luther Odell Cooperrider, pastor of Atonement, Chicago, and then of St. John's, Maywood (1941 and following). His mother was Elsie Arkema Cooperrider, who died on 28 May 1959, while Luther was in Mt. Morris. He had four siblings: Edward A. Cooperrider (asst. book editor, ULCA Publishing House, Philadelphia), John E. Cooperrider (pastor of the Church of the Good Shepherd, Prospect Heights, Ill.), Loy W. Cooperrider (pastor of Christ the King, Florissant, Mo.), and Marilyn C. Hill (Broadview, Ill.).

In 1939, Luther graduated from Lindblom High School, Chicago. In 1943, he graduated from the University of Chicago (BA). In 1948, he graduated from Chicago Lutheran Theological Seminary (BD). From 1944-46 he served as a Supply Officer in the U.S. Naval Reserve.

On 12 June 1948, he married Lois Frances Rosbrook in Dixon. They had five children, two of them adopted refugee children from Hong Kong:

3/31/49 Joel Evan (attended Catholic Univ. Law School, Wash., D.C.)
4/14/51 Neil Edward (attended Augustana College, Rock Island, Ill.)
3/10/52 Ruth Hung, adopted 9/1/60 (Northwestern University)
6/29/55 Paul Hung, adopted 9/1/60 (Northwestern University)
9/17/60 Ellen Jean

His pastorates were:

1948-51 St. Paul, Nachusa, & Assistant at St. Paul's, Dixon
1951-55 St. John's, Pearl City, and St. Paul's, Kent
1955-62 Trinity, Mt. Morris
1962-73 St. John's, Sterling

He was ordained on 9 July 1948 at Maywood, IL, by the Illinois Synod.

He died on Sunday, 22 July 1973. A memorial service was held at St. John's, Sterling, on 29 July 1973.

His various services included: Dean, Freeport-Sterling District; Illinois Council of Churches; Board of Directors, Augustana College, Rock Island; Board, Lutheran Student Foundation, NIU; Co-Chairman, Sterling Citizens for Equal Opportunity; Housing Chairman, Sterling NAACP; Illinois CROP Commission; Little League Manager; Illinois JCLU; Board of Home Missions, Illinois Synod; First President, Ogle County Ministerial Association; Chairman, Parish Education Committee, Illinois Synod; Chairman, Rural Work Committee, Illinois Synod; first treasurer and one of three incorporators, Ogle County Mental Health Association.

LOUIS SHIM, or Sang Eun Shim, was a summer intern at Trinity in 1961. On 25 August 1963 he was ordained into the holy ministry at Mayville Lutheran Church (ALC), Mayville, ND, following a year of internship there and having accepted the call to St. Peter's Lutheran Church, Logan, KS. He intended to serve in Logan until there was an opening for him to return to his native land, Korea, as a missionary. He was born near Seoul on 14 October 1934, the son of Mr. and Mrs. S.W. Shim. During the

Korean War he met the Rev. Eric Feitz, U.S. Army Chaplain in Korea and his eventual ordinator. He attended high school in Seoul and completed two years of study at the Seoul National University. Then, under the sponsorship of Chaplain and Mrs. Feitz, he came to the United States and in the Fall of 1956 enrolled at Concordia College, Moorhead, MN. He was baptized and confirmed by the Rev. Samuel Wegenast on Palm Sunday 1958 at the American Lutheran Church in Fargo, ND. Upon graduation from Concordia, Moorhead, on 1 June 1959, he entered Wartburg Theological Seminary, Dubuque, IA, and graduated from there in the summer of 1962 with a bachelor of divinity degree. By August 1963, he and Deana had two daughters, Edna Christine (14 months) and Elizabeth May (3 months).

Financial Reports

The treasurer's financial reports for these years show the following:

		Received	Expended	Appr.	LWA	D.D.	Nac	CTS	Car
1955:	general	23,430	22,270	6,643	851	1320	267/650/350		
	benevolent	11,460	11,494						
	building	31,667*	30,063						
	* includes 12,000 borrowed								
	Coord. Appeal = \$549 Synod Camp Site = \$252 Prop.&Lot F = \$150								
1956:	general	26,650	26,740	7,825	969	1800	500/900/500		
	benevolent	14,316	14,292						
	building	18,156	20,956						
	memorial	1,123	77						
	Coord. Appeal = \$679 Camp Alpine = \$544 Gideons = \$25								
	Property & Lot Fund = \$300								
1957:	general	27,594	25,959	7,931	804	1800	552/900/600		
	benevolent	15,062	15,062						
	bld.f./c.e.	12,027	15,061						
	memorial	2,614	738						
	trust fund	2,339							
	(\$250 gift for Chapel mem. window, 2089 Zeb V. Wyatt legacy)								
	Home Mission Loan Fund = \$4,009 (from Bldg. & Church Extn. Fund)								
	Home for Aged and Infirm = \$1,256 Coord. Appeal = \$644								
	Property & Lot Fund = \$300 Gideons = \$25								
1958:	general	24,149	27,428						
	benevolent	22,543	23,532	13,092	944	1800	225/900/550		
	building	10,392	10,392	= meaningless					
	memorial	2,091	--	bal. = 5,872					
	trust	50		bal. = 2,389					
	\$6,711 short on budget (\$49,804 of \$56,515)								
	Coord. Appeal = \$762								
	Home for Aged = \$1,000 Gideons = \$20 Prop. & Lot = \$225								
	Revolving Loan Fund for Faith, Rkfrd = \$3,731 (from Bldg. Fund to assist new missions)								
1959:	general	26,529	25,728						
	benevolent	19,366	19,908	11,732	991	1850	150/450/300		
	bldg.& depr.	6,009	6,350						
	memorial	1,249	2,096	bal. = \$5,025					
	new missions revolving loan fund = \$3,166								
	ministerial student loan aid = \$600								

home for aged = 473 Gideons = \$20 Prop. & Lot = \$150

1960: general 26,037 24,185
 benevolent 25,325* 25,325 14,529 1056 2100 358/726/1660
 bldg. & dep. 1,326
 memorial 496 4,519
 trust fund balance = \$1,714
 acoustics fund balance = \$228
 * with transfers
 St. Matthew Home for Aged = \$727 Prop. & Lot F. = \$249
 New Missions Rev. Loan = \$3,212 Minist. Stdnt Loan Aid = \$600
 Gideons = \$25

1961: general 26,096 26,125
 benevolent 26,097* 26,097 16,534 1134 2220 345/1008/1008
 bldg. & dep. 5,617 pd. to Lindquist Construction Co.
 memorial 979 243 (Nachusa \$10, Bibles \$233)
 trust balance = \$714
 acoustics 311 549
 (Howard Hardy \$266, Lindquist Cons. 273)
 special fund 12,503 9,000 (MM Home Bldg. Fund)
 Merritt Middlekauff Estate
 New Missions Rev. Loan = \$2,629 Min. Stu. Loan Aid = \$720
 Gideons = \$22
 * with transfers

1962: general 28,569 26,831
 benevolence 36,026 36,026 19,000 1090 2340 289/675/675
 UFCT - \$9,282 Ill Syn Rev. Loan F = 1,275
 Sherwood Nelson Sem. Schol. Aid - \$446 Gideons = \$25
 Cooperrider farewell = \$308 Dowry Gift \$245

	Budgets	Current/Benev	Bldg.CE	Pstr.	Org. CD	Sext	P.W./Secy_
1956	\$50,753	22,933/12,820	15,000	5,200	666	400	800
1957	52,598	24,775/12,823	15,000	5,460	550	360	1000
1958	56,515	25,772/18,743	12,000	5,720	500	400	1600
1959	56,573	27,825/17,748	11,000				
	60,566	27,825/17,741	15,000	5,980	600	400	1800
1960	59,400	29,700/29,700		5,980	600	600	1600
1961	59,120						
1962	61,690	30,845/30,845		5,980	550	600	1800
1963	54,870	27,435/23,425	4,010	5,980	1130	2000	4,000

E.M.V.	Pledges	current/benev./bldg.	budget	shortage
for 1956	\$46,839	22,395/10,678/13,766	\$50,753	(-\$3,914)
for 1957	45,317	21,475/11,964/11,879	52,598	(-\$7,281)
for 1958	46,154		56,515	(-\$10,361)
for 1959	47,704		56,573	(-\$8,869)
for 1960	46,206		59,400	(-\$13,194)
for 1961	46,384/316		59,120	(-\$12,736)
for 1962	45,501/414		61,690	(-\$16,189)
for 1963	48,666/302		54,870	(-\$6,204)

Council

The Council met monthly usually on the second Monday at 7:30 PM at the

church. The reports are characterized by long and confusing agendas and brief and general minutes. In 1955, Pastor Cooperrider started a 30-minute study period at the start of the meetings. The meetings continued to conclude, as they had previously, with all saying the Lord's Prayer together. In 1957, a Constitutional Amendment (VII, 2 & 3) provided 12 (rather than 9) members for the Council, who could not succeed themselves for three years. Council members still needed to be 21 and to have been members 2+ years. In March 1962 the Duty Month Shut-In Visitation was started: two councilmen accepted the duty of visiting shut-ins for two consecutive months.

Annual Meetings of the Congregation were held on a January Sunday (1/22/56, 1/13/57, 1/26/58, 1/25/59, 1/31/60, 1/29/61, 1/28/62) following the chief service. In 1961 and 1962 there were 163 and 151 ballots respectively. The Council met following the annual meeting to elect its officers and, sometimes at least, to receive their committee appointments (by the Pastor).

End-of-term dinners were given by retiring members at their homes (at one home, hosted by all retiring) - e.g. Ben Rowe (1955), Zickuhr (1956). In 1958 these dinners were moved to the Kable Inn (Glass Room) and in 1961 and 1962 the Corner Cupboard.

Synod Delegates for some of these years were:

1955 Ralph Zickuhr & Phil Orr 1956 Geo. Finch 1957 Geo. Neher

The Council members were:

1955 - Floyd Holland	Wm. Hiteman	Everett Kested
Harold Thomas	Charles Diehl	Walter Schelling
Phil Orr	Ralph Zickuhr	Ben Rowe
1956 - Calvin Balluff	Floyd Holland*	Wm. Hiteman (Secy)
T. Castle	Harold Thomas	Charles Diehl
Les Lundgren (treas.)	Phil Orr (VP)	Ralph Zickuhr
* Holland resigned 6/30/56 due to working hours, was replaced by Walt LeFevre)		
\e		
1957 - Ted Swan	Robert Urish (new)	Jerry Powers (new)
Charles Edson	Calvin Balluff (scy)	Walt LeFevre
George Neher	T. Castle	Harold Thomas
Wm. Unger	Les Lundgren (tr.)	Phil Orr (VP)
1958 - Robert Hollinger	Ted Swan (1)	Robert Urish (VP)
Floyd Markham (11)	Charles Edson (5)	Calvin Balluff (secy)
Richard Park	Geo. Neher	T. Castle
Delbert Schell	Wm. Unger	Les Lundgren (tr.)
1959 - Wm. Doerrfeld (5)	Robt. Hollinger (10)	Ted Swan (1)
Walter Schelling (tr/6)	F. Markham (secy,11)	Charles Edson (VP, 7)*
Don Saxby (3)	Richard Park (12)*	Geo. Neher (9)
John Sundvall (8)	Delbert Schell (4)	Wm. Unger (2)
* Edson resigned in June, was replaced by Mel Kitzmiller, and replaced in July as VP by Park		
1960 - Charles Diehl (1)	Wm. Doerrfeld (5)	Everett Kested (9)*
Wm. Hiteman (2)	W. Schelling (Tr,6)	Robt. Hollinger (10)
Donald Horst (3)	Don Saxby (7)	Floyd Markham (Secy,11)
David Rahn (4)	John Sundvall (8)	Richard Park (VP,12)
* Kested served a one-year term replacing Delbert Schell		
1961 - Mark Crawford (Secy,9)	Charles Diehl (1)	Wm. Doerrfeld (5)

Ern. Hachmeister (10)	Wm. Hiteman (2)	Walter Schelling (Tr,6)
Phil Orr (VP,12)	Donald Horst (3)	Don Saxby (7)
Irvin Zumdahl (11)	David Rahn (4)	John Sundvall (8)

1962 - Warren Burstrom (8) M. Crawford (Secy,9) Charles Diehl (1)
 Les Lundgren (Tr.,6) E. Hachmeister (10) Wm. Hiteman (2)
 Charles Wean (4) Phil Orr (VP,5) Donald Horst (3)
 Marvin Moring (7) Irvin Zumdahl (11) David Rahn (12)

Committee Assignments

- | | |
|------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. Membership & Evangelism | 7. Community Relations |
| 2. Church Property | 8. Education & Literature |
| 3. Worship & Music | 9. Memorial Fund |
| 4. Service to Servicemen | 10. Youth |
| 5. Stewardship & Benevolence | 11. Christian Service |
| 6. Finance | 12. Ushering |

Staff

The Financial Secretary throughout these years was Ann (Mrs. Gerald) Powers. Helen Borneman resigned after 1954. In 1955 the Financial Secretary was paid \$1.50/hour, beginning September 1958 \$50/month.

The Organist through 1956 was Mrs. W. Thomas, who celebrated her 25th anniversary in 1955. Her assistant was Phyllis Horst, and Carolyn Blobaum was an extra organist. In 1957, Phyllis Horst (@ \$40/mo.) succeeded Mrs. Thomas, with Mrs. Ray Wagner as assistant at first, then (1959-1962) Mrs. Norman (Arlene) Dohlen. Carol Reckmeyer also assisted some in 1962.

In 1955 Mrs. Delbert Schell asked to be relieved of directing the Senior Choir. From 1956-59, Carol Reckmeyer directed (\$44/mo. in 1958). From 1959-62 it seems to have been mostly Warren Reckmeyer, who resigned at the end of December 1962, and who was succeeded by Carol Reckmeyer, who seems however to have begun in June 1962. (See organization and auxiliary report of Worship & Music Committee, below, for better detail on choir directors.)

The Junior Choir was directed in 1954-55 by Carolyn Blobaum @ \$4/week. When she left in December 1955, she was succeeded (1956-1959) by Mrs. Delbert Schell. In August 1959, Mrs. Nanfred Sand was paid \$22/month for nine months. Carol Reckmeyer directed a Youth Choir in 1959. Others who directed choirs were Maryalyce (Mrs. Donald T.) Dusing (1957, 1960, 1962), Mrs. Frank Anglebeck, Mrs. Ray Wagner (1959), Miss Venita Swanson (1961-62), and Mrs. Ruth Myers (1960-62). In 1961, monthly salaries for choir directors were set as follows: Senior, \$28; Youth, \$18; Junior, \$16. New robes were purchased for Senior and Junior Choirs in 1955 @ ca. \$700 (these were the first new robes since ca. 1938).

The Sexton in 1954-56 was John Lindvall. In November 1956 Conrad Nelson was hired; he was dismissed the following May or June. From December 1957 through 1958, Wm. Folgate was sexton. In 1959-62 the sexton was Ralph Schell, assisted in 1961 and 1962 by Carl Personette and other lesser-time helpers, especially for outside work. On 1 September 1954 the sexton's salary was raised from \$1.35 to \$1.50/hour, on 15 October 1957 from \$1.50 to \$1.60. On 9 February 1959 the salary was set back to \$1.50/hour for Ralph Schell, but on 13 March 1961 it was increased at his

request to \$150/month.

A typewritten letter dated May 15, 1957, to the Church Council from Sexton Conrad A. Nelson is a model of grace:

"I learned Tuesday afternoon, May 14th, that you voted unanimously to look for another sexton. With all of you voting in that manner, you leave me no alternative but to submit my resignation to be effective immediately.

"This letter of resignation is based on many hours of thought concerning both your side and my side of the situation. I say this with no malice in my heart, but rather with understanding and respect for those concerned.

"The foundation of my resignation is that I was judged and tried and found guilty without the right to be present or to have submitted my own side of the story. That I dared to do work at Church on Sunday or to work late hours at night, is the only visible reason I can truly see for your action. If there are others, I know not what they may be.

"On the other hand, I will admit with humility and humbleness that I was not too concerned with your feelings or the task ahead of me when I first started. This is horribly true. The cause was immature thinking and irresponsibility on my part, but, since then, I have made great strides in correcting that type of thinking. But, at all times, I remained honorable and trustworthy.

"No doubt you gentlemen were aware of the fact that the Sexton was allotted only sixteen (16) hours per week to tend 32 rooms, as well as the hallways which represent approximately one fourth of all the floor space. The Nave and the Fellowship room are used and serviced at an average of twice a week, leaving little time for the remaining 29 rooms and Chapel.

"I plan to continue as a member of the Church, and to conduct myself in the Christian way of Life to the best of my ability. Also, may I say, in closing, that if at any time I can be helpful in any form or way to you as a group or personally, my soul, my heart and arms will hasten to your aid.

Sincerely and respectfully submitted, I am
/s/ Conrad A.S. Nelson
Yours very truly"

The Parish Worker in 1954 was Carolyn Blobaum (her salary was increased on 10/13/54 to \$50/week, from \$2,300 to \$2,600/year). In late summer 1955 she requested a contract, a raise, and a phone allowance, but the Council tabled the matter. They did authorize 8¢/mile the following month. But on 12/25/55 Blobaum left. Mrs. Richard (Margaret) Ellingson did some temporary duty after that. From April to October 1956 Ruth Eyre was secretary. In October 1956 Mrs. Marjorie (Art) Ziegfeld began her service as secretary, and she continued through 1962, though in 1961 and 1962 Ruth Myers worked one day per week and Ziegfeld four days per week. Ziegfeld required summer helpers, and some of these were Pat Schnulle (1957, 1958), Ruth Park, D. Whitaker (1959), and Ruth Myers (1960, 1961). Ziegfeld was granted two weeks of vacation in 1956 @ \$50/week, in 1958 and 1959 three weeks @ \$60/week, in 1960 three weeks @ \$68/week.

Librarian (through the Sunday School) was Lucy Urish.

Youth advisors were Mrs. Anglebeck (6/61), the Gerry Wallaces (Senior High Luther League - paid after 5/60), and Wm. Unger (10/61).

In May 1955 it was determined that most employees did not desire to be

included in the Social Security plan, but on 9 July 1956 it was decided that lay employees be entered into the Social Security plan.

Services

In Summer 1955, an 8 AM service was added to the 10 o'clock service for June through the first Sunday of October, with Sunday School at 9. (Was there a Stone precedent for this?) But in 1956 this was changed to 8:30 & 10:30, with Sunday School at 9:30. Beginning 1956, a single service was held again during the summer months (June, July, August), at 9:30 AM, with Sunday School at 10:30, and this continued through 1962. On communion Sundays, however, two services were held as early as October 1955, at 8:30 & 10 (9:45 for a while) with Sunday School at 11. This was continued in 1956.

A Christmas Eve Candlelighting Service was begun in 1955 and continued, in spite of some trouble (wax on cushions?) in 1956...at 11 PM (sometimes called a midnight service). In 1958 a Christmas Eve Family Service was authorized if it didn't interfere with the 11 PM service, and it was held at 7 PM. (In 1960, Chris Polson was invited to speak for Christmas Eve and paid \$15.)

In October 1956, kneeling in the pews during communion services was abolished, and audible prayer at the close of the service was abolished in favor of silent prayer. The next month (November) the call to worship was eliminated from the chief service. In May 1961, the Pastor's recommendation that the congregation be invited to stand for singing the hymn just prior to the sermon was accepted.

On 19 May 1957, Church Music Sunday was held - with the sermon taking the form of music by the choir.

In July 1957, 339 copies of the new hymnal were ordered (@ \$1,257) and were to be introduced on 22 June 1958.

On October 1957 it was decided to cooperate in the Community Thanksgiving Service at the Brethren Church.

In December 1957 it was decided to continue to use grape juice instead of wine. Members were still providing the grape juice.

In February 1958, midweek Lenten services were held on Wednesdays at 8 PM. Before this they had normally been held on Sunday night.

In 1961, Easter services were held at 6 and 10 AM.

In 1961, Council began to discuss lay communion assistants. Previously, Sherwood Nelson was to assist when available.

Building Improvements

1955 Parsonage is redecorated before Cooperrider arrives, and in June it is to be repainted @ \$320
7/1955 four dehumidifiers are bought for basement @ \$468
9/1955 garbage disposal in basement kitchen
2/1956 window shades to be purchased for south side of nave;
Al Kalnins to build cabinet for memorial books and guest register
3/1956 3 doz. tablet arm chairs purchased for Sunday School @ \$272,
1 doz. more in 3/57
4/1956 IBM electric typewriter authorized, \$458
4/1956 \$100,000 boiler insurance policy for 3 years
6/1956 air conditioners to be purchased for church offices
1/1957 insurance carried:
\$240,000 church building 4,500 parsonage
15,000 contents 8,000 dwelling

5,500 art glass windows 100,000 boiler coverage
 10,000 treasurer's bond 50/100,000 liability insurance
 2,500 financial secretary's bond workmen's compensation
 2/1957 piano purchased for Chapel from memorial fund @ \$570
 2 or 3/1957 Rex Rotary duplicator purchased
 11/1957 cost of new Sunday School wing estimated at \$100,000, rejected
 due to remaining debt and heavy Synod needs; 12/57 congregation
 approves foldor partition of Fellowship Hall to meet needs -
 6 rooms @ \$5,927
 1959 parsonage converted from oil to gas by Cyril Avey
 3/1959 Michaudel Stained Glass Window Co. installs 8 nave, 5 chapel, and
 1 transom window @ \$4,750 (gift of Mrs. Leslie Watt, Mr. O.A.
 Hanke, and women's organizations); Council decided not to put
 protection glass on them, considered insurance protection enough
 7/12/59 Lester Mayes paints exterior trim
 11/1959 prayer desk purchased
 10/1960 parsonage insurance to be brought to \$12,000
 1962 new concrete slab (\$180) installed at Tower entrance to make it
 safer, also new hand railing and grate
 1962 new garage and new storm-screen windows for parsonage

Nave Acoustics

From 1957-59, the Pastor expressed concern for improving the acoustics
 in the nave because they provided a "deadening repression of our praise
 to God." In September 1960, an acoustics engineer was to be hired to
 study and advise. In December 1960 an acoustical consultant from Hardy
 Associates in Chicago was to be hired. In February 1961 Phyllis Horst
 offered to give the rest of her 1961 salary as organist to the acoustics
 fund, and the offer was accepted. In June 1961 a special Congregational
 Meeting approved dry board (wall) being applied to the ceiling of the
 nave as well as a redecoration of nave, chancel, and narthex at a cost of
 \$6,990.

Middlekauff Bequest

Merritt Middlekauff died on 18 November 1959. His wife, Elverna, had
 died on 25 April 1958. On 11 January 1960, the contents of his will were
 presented to the Council, which appointed Les Lundgren and Ted Swan to
 act as trustees on behalf of Trinity's interest. On 14 March 1960 the
 Council approved the sale price of \$12,500 for the Middlekauff house at
 213 W. Front (Main?) and received \$1,000 from a Middlekauff insurance
 policy. This enabled (3/19/61) a \$9,000 memorial gift to be given to the
 new Mt. Morris Home (Pinecrest), in addition to \$31,285 pledged by
 members (beginning May 1960). A special Congregational Meeting passed
 the following motion on 3/19/61: "\$9,000 of the funds accruing from the
 Merritt Middlekauff estate to be given to the new Mount Morris Home for
 the Aged, such funds to secure a room for two persons with the
 understanding that all future occupants may be designated by Trinity
 Lutheran Church of Mount Morris." The following year (1/62) \$3,592 from
 this bequest was given to Carthage College through the UFCT campaign
 (United For Christ's Tomorrow) - also \$1,714 from the Zeb Wyatt
 estate/bequest (1956) was given to Carthage at the same time.

For further information on the Middlekauff will, see Tidings,
 September 1995, p.5, and October 1995, p.9.

Sons and Daughters of Trinity

The following letter of 14 May 1962 from "Pastor Lu" to the members and friends of Trinity gives a useful summary of important developments:

"Our first one hundred years as a congregation netted one recruit for the gospel ministry - Harry Allen, now serving as pastor of St. Mark's Lutheran Church, Kansas City, Missouri. We began our second one hundred years in 1946. Our Richard E. Horst was ordained May 16, 1956, and is presently Pastor at First Lutheran Church, Chadwick. Dolores Dohlen, full-time missionary was our third to answer the call. She was commissioned in 1952 and is presently serving in Rajahmundry, India.

"We have continued to pray that the Lord of the harvest would send more laborers into his harvest from our fellowship. Now, for the fourth time, our prayers have been answered.

"Our Sherwood Nelson will be ordained May 22, 1962, and will begin to serve as Pastor of Advent Lutheran Church, Chicago, May 13.

"By way of expressing our esteem for Sherwood, our thanks to God for the special blessing of his call, and our hope that more young men and women will consider this vital calling, we will have an informal reception for Sherwood and 'Pat', Sunday, May 27, at the church, 3:00 to 5:00 pm.

"Here is an opportunity for members and friends of Trinity to greet Pat and Sherwood and family - especially those with youth in their own families. This may be just the thing to turn your child's thinking in the direction of full-time service in the church.

"We hope to see you Sunday, May 27, 3:00 to 5:00 pm.

Cordially yours, L.H. Cooperrider, /s/ Pastor Lu"

Richard Horst, the son of Walter and Mary Horst, was born in Mt. Morris and confirmed by Pastor Arthur Neumann on 18 April 1943. In 1952 he graduated from Carthage College (B.A., cum laude), having majored in religion and history and minored in psychology. He attended the Lutheran Theological Seminary, in Maywood, and graduated in 1956. He was ordained at St. Mark Lutheran Church, St. Louis, Missouri, on 16 May 1956. He served at Grace Church, Virginia, IL, First Church, Chadwick, Our Savior Church, Lansing, IL, Faith Church, Rockford, and All Saints Church, Byron. He also served as staff chaplain at Rockford Memorial Hospital and as chaplain and director of pastoral care at Oakwood Lutheran Homes and Oakwood Village Retirement Center, in Madison, WI. He returned to Trinity from retirement in Destin, FL, in February of the 150th anniversary year (1996). For further reports, see Tidings, February and March 1996.

Dolores Dohlen Stykel served as commissioned missionary in India from 1953 to 1966. She was born in Woosung Township, the daughter of John and Ethel Dohlen. She was confirmed by Pastor Arthur Neumann in 1942. She attended the University of Wisconsin, Northern Illinois University, and Carthage College (B.A.). She attended the Lutheran School of Theology in Maywood and Hartford Seminary and was commissioned in Philadelphia in 1952. She served as evangelistic missionary in Narasaravupet and Rajahmundry, Andhra Pradesh, India, from October 1953 to June 1965. She returned to Trinity in November 1996 for Women's Sunday in the 150th anniversary year. For further reports, see Tidings, November and December 1996.

Committee & Organization Reports

Church Property Committee -

- 1955 redecorated parsonage inside and out (new bathroom fixtures and gas water heater
tuckpointing around doors and windows
library shelves and tract racks
- 1956 air conditioner for secretary's office purchased
piano from memorial funds (\$554)
- 1957 permanent partition in long room of primary dept. constructed
recommended Hufcor folding doors for fellowship room
- 1958 folding doors in Fellowship Hall; refinishing entrance doors
- 1959 painted outside trim of church
- 1960 walls of church painted (except nave), also outside trim
leak around belltower fixed
- 1961 nave redecorated
acoustics improved by putting a hard surface board
over acoustical tile
doors refinished - front, bell tower, south
new cabinets in secretary's office
floors scrubbed and waxed
- 1962 removed old garage, built larger garage (\$1,080) at parsonage
repainted exterior of parsonage, installed new storms-screens
new step and handrails at bell tower entrance

Education & Literature -

- 1957 Program of Released Time board members = Mrs. Robt. Urish,
Mrs. David Stevens
- 1958 Same as above, plus Pastor and Mrs. Donald Saxby
- 1959 134 enrolled in Adult Leadership School (Jan-Feb) of Council of Chs.
- 1960 librarians = Mrs. Robt. Urish, Mrs. Earl Unger
- 1962 LCA introduced new education program

LOYAL (league of young adult Lutherans) -

- 1955 formed 9/25/55 - 24 members and their families
(Mrs. Chas. Diehl, Pres.)
met as SS class in balcony, taught by Bob Urish / young adult class
monthly or quarterly socials
aim: to encourage adults to attend SS
- 1956, 1957 regular reports
- 1958 coffee served this year to stimulate attendance
- 1959 met every Sunday, over a warm drink, in fellowship hall
- no further reports

\e

Sunday School -

	avg. att.	_offerings_	_goal_	_avg.off._	_enrollment_
1948	154	970.87			
1949	164	1091.54			
1950	171	1227.92			
1951	160	1273.67			
1952	170	1356.74			
1953	193	1623.06			
1954	204	1690.85			
1955	220	1953.85			
1956	233	1980	(of 2200)	35.15	345 enrolled
1957	230	2075	(of 2200)	35.08	361
1958	233	2078	(of 2200)	38.30	357 (51 adults)
1959	210	1996	(of 2200)		356
1960	210	1887			349

1961	199	349
1962	196	365

1955 R. Urish
 341 enrolled, avg.att. 220 (1954 = 204), incl. 34 adult, \$33.63
 \$1,954 (goal = \$1,880) goal for 1956 = 2200
 SS picnic in June with Nachusa
 Long Lake leadership camps
 Christmas program led by Chancel & Altar
 classroom space crowded
 officers & teachers listed - 7 depts. with supts.

1956 Urish - serious illness, recovered
 Harold Eykamp, supt.

1957 Donald Horst, supt.
 Nachusa children entertained in members' homes
 instead of usual picnic
 annual Christmas program led by SS staff, not C&A

1958 Nachusa children entertained in homes
 annual SS Christmas Service = Sun. eve. before Christmas

1959 Ernest Hachmeister, supt.

1960 Ernest Hachmeister, supt.

1961 Mrs. Harry Conrad
 budget unified with church

1962 Mrs. Harry Conrad (Lester Mayes, asst.)
 Christmas Program (Nursery thru Junior Depts.) -
 on Advent 3 following church service

Finance Committee -

1957 note indebtedness paid except \$2,000
 gift of the late Mae Coffman to pay it; not paid one year later
 pledges considerably short

1958 need more tithers to meet budget

1959 first 50-50 budget (local-outside community)

1960 prepare budget, custody of monies and valuable papers
 loan aid to ministerial student, Sherwood Nelson
 Middlekauff estate noted

Membership & Evangelism -

1956 active only for mission
 Dec.2-7 = Evangelism Mission
 35 members made 64 calls on prospective members
 28 enrolled in Pastor's Class

1957 Dec.1956 Synod-wide Mission Program
 Jan.1957 Calling Group formed
 2nd Thurs., dinner meeting at 6:30, briefing, calls until 9 PM
 44 members made 115 calls (28 non-members attended Pastor's Class,
 20 transfers to Trinity)
 committee is in desperate need of faithful dedicated members

1958 very successful year
 2nd Thurs. - dinner, instructions, visitation
 53 members made 192 calls

1959 good year - 51 members made 158 calls

1960 127 visitors made 160 calls
 two family fellowships held

1961 115 visitors made 147 calls
 family fellowships

1962 organized a District Deacon Corps
 27 in-town, 11 outlying districts
 deacon for each (EMV, new families, shut-ins,

prolonged absence from worship)

Glad Hand Club -

1955 busy
1956 met on last Wed., 26 members
helped organize Friendship Club
sent weekly bulletin to non-attending members
1957 last Wed., 23 active members, avg. att. = 14 - lost 1, added 2
mailed bulletins to members not attending
1958 24 members
1959 regular report
1960 4th Wed., 16 members, 10 avg. att.
1961 15 members
1962 15 members
discontinued clothing and Nachusa child

Ladies Aid Society -

1955 1st Thurs., 47 members, avg. att. = 24, 9 new members, 460 calls
1956 43 members, avg. = 24, 50 calls a month
took tape recorder of sermons to shut-ins
1957 47 members, 27 avg., 457 calls
belonged to Nachusa Guild
1958 43 active members, 26 avg att, 504 calls
served 6 dinners, quilted
1959 39 active, 20 avg., 528 calls
addressed and mailed Tidings every Monday
purchased new projection screen, slide and filmstrip projector
1960 39 total, 21 avg att
1961 met in Fell. Hall, 37 active, 4 honorary, 21 avg att
1962 met in Fell. Hall, 35 active, 5 honorary, 22 avg att

Men's Club -

1955 growth
1956 met on 4th Monday, dinner meetings with speakers
1957 very good speakers, small attendance
1958 Pops and Pals Banquet - speaker = Harold Goodnought, Milw. Braves
1959 not well attended but excellent
1960 many outstanding programs, not well attended
1962 6 meetings, interesting programs and speakers

Memorial Fund -

1955 has not met
1956 met once; cong. brochure = "Abiding Memorials"
display case in narthex
financial secretary now keeps accounts - bal. = \$1,981
only purchase = piano for Chapel
1957 5 nave windows reserved, 3 still available
chapel windows all reserved
window themes to be planned
1958 working to purchase stained-glass windows for nave, chapel,
west entrance - close to a recommendation
Edna Neher brought displayed books up to date
1959 Michaudel Stained Glass Studio, Chicago
plans critiqued by ULCA Dept. of Church Architecture
expect installation Spring 1960
1960 stained glass windows installed
1962 belltower bulletin board, rack and offering table, stand, hymnals
(Mr. & Mrs. Sol Avey)

30 hymnals for DeKalb Student Center
(Kenneth Brooks, Cynthia Coffman, Nels Hanson)
UFCT Special Gift (Ellen Rosbrook, Cooperrider's mother)
books for church and SS (Wm. Hurd, Doris Miller, Martha Mongan,
Dorothy Tuttle, Cletus Walker, Arthur Neumann)
picture frames used in Chapel (Louis Sickinger)

Service to Servicemen -

1955, 1956 regular reports
1957 weekly mailing of Tidings
monthly "A Mighty Fortress"
1958 18 men and women in armed forces (15 US, 3 overseas)
weekly and other mailings
1959 15 men and women in armed forces (12 US, 3 overseas)
1960 18 men and women in armed forces
Tidings sent weekly
devotional booklet and monthly serviceman's bulletin
cards sent on special occasions
1961 13 men and women in armed forces
1962 9 men in armed forces

Stewardship & Benevolence -

1955 Loyalty Sunday, visitation, speakers to organizations
1956 laymen appeared at services before Loyalty Sunday
1957 execution of Sector Project for Stewardship adopted by cong.
at last annual meeting
\$4,009 sent to Synod for Loan Fund for Home Missions
1958 brochure for visitation directed by Wm. Doerrfeld
1959 revolving loan fund now totals \$10,906
1960 \$12,643 short on pledges
wills emphasis program beginning to catch on
cf. Ray Armstrong, Mr. & Mrs. Merritt Middlekauff
\$41,395 given and pledged to new Mt. Morris Home
\$14,118 invested so far in revolving loan fund for new congs.
1961 small satisfaction - fell \$6,940 short of \$59,120 budget (11.7%)
benevolences hurt
UFCT = \$10,075 short of goal
revolving loan fund = \$16,747 - bright
1962 stewardship theme = We Can All Do Better
\$48,775 pledged - short of goal

Ushering Committee -

1955 8 AM service added June thru Oct. (1st Sunday)
1958 larger number of young ushers than previously
1959 more emphasis on youth
reports thru 1962

Worship & Music (and Choirs) -

1955 Senior Choir = 40 anthems Junior Choir = 12 anthems Solos = 34
host of Community Thanksgiving Service for Council of Churches
Mrs. Delbert Schell directed massed choir of 40 voices of 4 chs.
May 15 - annual Sacred Concert by combined choirs = Music Sunday?
new choir vestments/black cassock and white surplice (begin 1/22/56)
new director of both choirs (Jan. 1956) - Mrs. Warren Reckmeyer
1956 Sr. Chr. = 47 anthems, Youth (former Jr.) = 18,
Jr. (new, for younger people, directed by Mrs. Delbert Schell) = 1
vocal solos = 25
host of Community Thanksgiving Service

Mrs. W. Reckmeyer directed mass choir of 30 from 4 chs./2 anthems
 Mrs. W.H. Thomas resigned after 26 years
 Miss Phyllis Horst = org. (asst = Mrs. Ray Wagner)
 Carol Reckmeyer directed Senior and Youth Choirs
 1957 retained use of grape juice for communion for another year
 purchased additional chime rolls
 1958 met twice
 vesting of Junior Choir completed, financed by auxiliaries
 C & A sewed the cassocks
 introduced new hymnals
 choir members listed
 Junior - 24 plus accomp., dir. by Mrs. Delbert Schell
 Youth - 27 plus accomp., dir. by Mrs. Warren Reckmeyer
 Senior - 29 members, dir. by Mrs. Warren Reckmeyer
 Phyllis Horst = org. (Mrs. Ray Wagner = asst.)
 1959 met twice
 Jr. Choir, 24, dir. by Mrs. Delbert Schell & Mrs. Nanfred Sand
 Youth Choir, 21, dir. by Mrs. W. Reckmeyer & Mrs. Donald T. Dusing
 Senior Choir, 33, dir. by Mr. & Mrs. Warren Reckmeyer
 1960 provided lay assistant for holy communion
 altar candles lighted and extinguished by boys of Youth Choir
 Junior Choir, dir. by Mrs. Sand & Mrs. Reckmeyer
 Youth Choir, dir. by Mrs. Donald T. Dusing
 Senior Choir, dir. by Mr. Warren Reckmeyer
 Youth & Junior Choirs in 1961 - to be directed by
 Mrs. Frank Anglebeck and Mrs. Wm. Myers
 1961 3 choirs
 1962 two choirs came: Culver-Stockton College, Carthage College
 paid from benevolent fund - \$125, \$151

 Youth Committee -
 1956 met once, filled vacancy of Ross Millers as adult adviser to CRU
 1957 five responsibilities listed:
 a) providing adult advisors to Luther League and Chi Rho Upsilon
 b) encouraging participation of youth in the program of the Church
 c) assisting in planning and executing youth programs
 d) discussing ways and means of providing necessary equipment
 for youth activities
 e) seeking and recruiting youth for full time church vocations
 4 meetings
 LL advisors: Mr. & Mrs. Harry Herrmann - retired after 2 years
 now = Mr. & Mrs. Chas. Wean, Mr. & Mrs. Robt. Hollinger
 CRU advisors: Mr. & Mrs. Yngve Nelson & Mrs. Ross Miller - retired
 early in year
 Mr. & Mrs. LeRoy Dohlen, assisted by
 Mr. & Mrs. Hubert Dailey (a while)
 Mr. & Mrs. Tommy (Donald T.) Dusing - now
 1958 Weans (Sr.) resigned after 2 years as advisors
 replaced by Robt. Hollingers & Harry Conrads, Jr.
 CRU advisors: LeRoy Dohlens & Tommy Dusings retired
 replaced by Frank Anglebecks & Kenneth Drumhellers
 1959 LL advisors: Mr. & Mrs. Harry Conrad, Mr. & Mrs. Robert Hollinger
 (retired in Sept. after 2 years of service)
 CRU advisors: Anglebecks & Drumhellers - retired
 no meeting since summer for lack of adult advisor
 1960 LL advisors: Mr. & Mrs. Harry Conrad, Warren Burstrom (past 4 mos.)
 CRU advisor: Charles Wean, Jr. (past 3 months)
 advisors need more cooperation, especially from parents

1961 Junior High Luther League advisors: Mr. & Mrs. Wm. Unger
Senior High Luther League advisors: Mr. & Mrs. Gerry Wallace
1962 advisors = Mr. & Mrs. David Rahn (CRU)
Mr. & Mrs. Milton H. Brown (fresh. & soph.)
Mr. & Mrs. Wayne E. Bearman (junior & senior)

Community Relations Committee -

1957 chairman attended Community Chest Board meetings in pastor's absence
1958 erected cross in front of church for 1958 Easter season; one meeting
1959 aim = to interpret the church to the community
erects Lenten cross, changes outside bulletin board
1960
1961 bulletin board, Lenten cross, Comm. Chest Brd. Meetings
1962 Community Chest has become United Fund

Christian Service Committee -

1957 10 months financial assistance to Robt. Newcomer
after his serious accident
1958 not proud of accomplishments
1959
1960 prime function = visiting sick and distressed
shut-in board placed in narthex
Shut-In Christmas Service - brief but meaningful - began 1958
1961 annual Christmas carolling and brief Christmas Eve service
for shut-ins (two groups)
1962 visiting sick and shut-ins, transportation to church
annual carolling service to sick and shut-ins
on Sunday evening before Christmas

Dolores Dohlen Missionary Society -

1955 met on 3rd Tues., 8 PM, Chapel, 27 members,
avg. 18 (4 over last year)
study and help missionaries and their work
monthly letters to/for Dolores
pack boxes for LWA
1956 26 members, avg. 15, 3 new
1957 22 members, 14 avg. 3 new
securing nursery workers each Sunday
1958 22 active, 14 avg.
letter from D.D. = missionary to India (Andhra Church, in Guntur)
furlough back home in 1958, working on Master's Degree at Maywood
1960 21 active, 12 avg.
800 lbs. sent to LWR
sponsored the nursery each Sunday
will mail Tidings weekly
Note: The Dolores Dohlen Society is custodian of our congregation's
Parish Register Fund. This Fund is used to place a parish
register (for all congregational records) in each new congregation
organized in our Synod. Each Parish Register is inscribed, "A
Gift of Trinity Church, Mt. Morris," and costs about \$20. This
not only expresses our joy and welcome at the birth of a new
congregation, but also suggests to the new congregation, giving
in the same "second mile" way when it is well established.
1961 20 members
Guest Night (Sept.) - with Mission Circle and Ruth Circle
biggest project = mail Tidings each week
1962 21 members, best att. = 18
foreign and home themes

Mission Circle -

- 1955 met on 4th Tuesday, 7:30 PM, Chapel, 40 active members
one joint meeting with D.D.M.S.
participated in World Day of Prayer & World Community Day Service
joined the United Church Women
- 1956 38 active members
- 1957 31 members
- 1958 28 members
- 1959 26 members, avg. 19
- 1960 27 members, avg. 18
mailed Tidings each week
Life Membership presented to new member, Louisa Wilson
(Ellen Jean born to Cooperriders)
another LCW org. needed, esp. for young women
Trinity Women's Cabinet = chart of services by women's auxiliaries
- 1961 25 members, 17 avg.
cf. coming merger of 4 Lutheran bodies: ULCA, American Ev. L.C.,
Suomi Finnish Evang. L.C., Augustana Evangelical L.C.
- 1962 23 members, 17 avg. att.

Ruth Circle -

- 1961 began March 1961, met on 4th Thursday, 9 AM, avg att 10
- 1962 avg att 12

Trinity Women's Cabinet -

- 1961 organized 1/11/61, second meeting 1/29/62
each aux. has pres and first past-pres. on Cabinet,
plus Pastor, Church Secretary, and two women-at-large
purpose = coordinate work of women of Trinity Church
appointed two reps. to Board of Women's Auxiliary for the
Home for the Aged - Mrs. O.A. Hanke, Mrs. Harry Herrmann
- 1962 2 meetings (Jan., June)
composed of pres. and first past-pres. of auxs., pastor,
church secretary, representative of unaffiliated,
Christian Service chairman, Education chairman,
Membership chairman
spring housecleaning of church - areas assigned to auxs. and orgs.
Christian Service activities: services to 11 bereaved families
Dixon State School volunteer work

Chancel & Altar Society -

- 1955 92 members (7 new), met on 3rd Tuesday, 8 PM, Fellowship Room
Mrs. Wm. Unger, pres. for 1956
served 9 dinners, including for Brethren and Methodist churches
- 1956 90 members, lost 7, gained 5
set of black paraments made by 2 members
sponsored a Girl Scout troop
mothproofed all carpet
provided Children's Christmas Program
provided Choir Mother for Junior Choir - before & after services
- 1957 85 members
member of United Church Women of MM
- 1958 85 members, 11 meetings
choir mother, mail Tidings weekly
24 black cassocks made for Junior Choir
dinners and receptions
member of United Council of Church Women of MM

1959 80 members, many dinners, member of UCW of MM
1960 76 members, 27 avg att - 3rd Tuesday
1961 met on 3rd Tuesday, 7:30 PM (change), 76 members, 27 avg att
1962 74 members, 24 avg att

Luther League -

1955 2 meetings a month (study/devotion/business & social/pleasure)
annual Easter breakfast after sunrise service -
all youth of MM churches invited
Mike Balluff, pres.
1956 2 meetings, Easter breakfast
1957 Youth Council of Churches Caroling - since at least 1955
to Brethren Home, sick & shut-ins
return to a church for lunch or cocoa
decorated nave for Christmas - permanent project
1958 met on 2nd & 4th Sunday evenings
visited new mission, Faith, Rockford
representatives at State Convention and rallies
Youth Council of Churches Caroling again
1959 met on 2nd & 4th S., 6:30 PM
annual Easter breakfast for members of all churches of MM
1960 met on 1st & 3rd Sundays, 6:30 PM
Easter morning breakfast for all members of churches of MM
hosts for Spring Rally - presented "Space Isn't Far Enough"
1961 met on 1st & 3rd S., 6:30 PM, in school months,
15 active (out of 80)
remained active during summer
1962 formed two separate leagues (Fr. & Soph, Jr. & Sr.)
ca. 35 members in Jr. & Sr.
attendance 25-55 in Fresh. & Soph.
balance of recreation and business
advisers = The Milton Browns

Chi Rho Upsilon (Children of Christ) - 7th & 8th grades

= intermediate group of Luther League
1955 34 members, 20 avg att, met on 2nd & 4th Sundays, 5:30-6:30 PM
devotions and games in Fellowship Room
1956 33 members, met on 1st & 3rd Sundays, devotions & recreation
advisers: Mr. & Mrs. Yngve Eugene Nelson
we will take recordings to shut-ins
1957 36 members
Carol Crowell (Pres.), Skip Finch (treas.), Robbie Urish (secy)
1958 met on 1st & 3rd Sundays, 40 7th & 8th graders
LeRoy Dohlens & Tommy Dusings retired as advisers
current advisers = Mr. & Mrs. Frank Anglebeck,
Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth Drumheller
1959
1960 38 members (21 8th graders, 17 7th graders)
met on 1st & 3rd Sundays
1961 avg att 15
advisers: Chuck Wean, Jr. (to May), Louie Shim (summer),
Ungers (Sept.)
activities listed - Dick Ziegfeld, pres.
1962 met on 2nd Sunday, 24-25 avg att -
devotions, refreshments, recreation
advisers = Mr. & Mrs. David L. Rahn

Mt. Morris Council of Churches -

- 1956 third Monday, 20 representatives (5 from each of 4 churches)
 2 recent programs brought to MM: Charles Wells, Dr. Schindler
 Father-Son and Mother-Daughter Banquets
 sponsor Boy Scout Troop 66, Friendship Club, VBS, UNICEF Program,
 Annual Community Thanksgiving Service, Christmas Decoration
 in Band Shell
 2 functions: a) to promote better understanding among the
 Christian people of the community; b) to endeavor to unite
 the churches of the community in behalf of causes, which
 because of their nature cannot be promoted by the individual
 churches or which can be accomplished more efficiently by
 cooperative effort (example = VBS)
- 1957 met on 3rd Monday, except June, July, August
 recent outstanding program = Mrs. Rosa Page Welch
 same activities as last year, plus
 Released Time Religious Education (newly organized)
 95% of 4th-graders attending, at Church of Brethren
 teacher = Mrs. Evan Kinsley
- 1958 met on 3rd Monday, except J,J,A
 met in Lutheran Church parlor (next year = Christian Church)
 programs: Boy Scouts, Friendship Club, VBS, UNICEF,
 Thanksgiving, Reformation, Good Friday, Lenten services,
 Christmas decoration in band shell, Released Time
 Education (increased to include 5th grade), Handel's
 Messiah presented (90+ singers, 700+ enjoyed it)
 Leadership School to start in 1959
- 1959 Episcopal Church joins the other four on the Council
 meetings monthly (except summer) at Christian Church
 activities = the usual, plus Leadership Training School (Jan.-Feb.),
 erected Welcome to Churches of MM signs, released time education
 (grades 3-5), 4th of July Float, Council brochure, Messiah
 21 TLC members active on various committees (8) - listed
 WRE report: 4th gr. = 97%, 5th gr. = 92%, 3rd gr. = 93%
 teacher since start - Mrs. Evan Kinsley
 new this year = also Mrs. Earl Unger (TLC member)
- 1960 five churches, monthly meetings
 TLC councillors = Mrs. Ralph Koper, Walter LeFevre, Harold Ridenour,
 Pastor
 activities, committees, budget (\$2,806)
 including UNICEF (\$124)
 expenditures to ICC, NCC, UNICEF
 WRE report: 227 children from 3rd, 4th, & 5th grades
 budget = \$2,191
- 1961 5 churches, met on 3rd Monday, \$2,367 budget
 TLC councilors: same as above
 ICYE student = Uwe Brandes (Germany)
 Messiah
 5-church visitation to people of community
 WRE report: 221 students from grades 3-5
 board = 4 each from 5 churches
 salaried teachers = Mrs. Earl Unger (3rd gr.),
 Mrs. Evan Kinsley (4th & 5th grades)
- 1962 no report

Membership Lists - each year, names only, 5 categories:
 child, communing, confirmed, temporary inactive, permanent inactive

Stewardship Booklet

1956 50% income from 15% of families
85% give only 50% of budget

Proposed Constitution, approved by LCA - first reading 12/9/62
no communion or contribution for 3 years = not in good standing,
removed from roll of confirmed members, restored by resuming
activity
Councilmen = 3 years, no more than 2 consecutive terms
nominated by Council and Congregation
12 plus Pastor Secretary & Treasurer need not be Councilmen
Pastor = ex officio President
Standing Committees = Christian Education, Church Property, Evangelism,
Finance, Social Ministry, Stewardship, Worship & Music
annual congregational meeting = January
monthly Council meeting - no time specified

Notes:

1. In 1955 the weekly bulletin was mailed to all resident families not present at worship. This was a trial for Oct. and Nov., and then it was decided to continue it. In 1962, it was Ryberg's idea that a weekly parish paper be mailed to all members.
2. Starting (?) in 1955 the Lutheran is mailed to all families
3. The church library is begun in 1955.
4. Monthly Family Fellowship - began with Stone, continued in 1955, demise in 1956, 10/56 limited to 2 per yr. (sponsored by Chancel & Altar and Men's Club?) due to decreasing attendance
5. 1956 Friendship Club organized, first meeting = 2/8/56
= interdenominational service to older people, a Golden Age Club
6. Dick Horst - ordained in 1956; congregation bought vestments, gave a reception (6/10/56), Dick didn't attend due to illness, feared some feelings were hurt, wrote from Virginia, Ill. (first parish) on 6/30/56 saying, "No son of any congregation could ask for more support from his home congregation." \$900 in notes cancelled after 3 years in ministry
7. Dolores Dohlen support throughout; 1961 thanksgiving for complete recovery of Dolores Dohlen
8. In 1961 the Sunday School budget was integrated into the congregation's.
9. May 1962 letter from Pinecrest Manor Home provides for designation of occupants for room purchased by congregation; 2 occupants of room named = Miss Bessie Baker, Mrs. Alda Curley (Faustina's mother; Faustina now in Villa Park)
10. May 1955 Pastor Neumann died. A \$250 memorial was sent to his wife, who wrote by hand on 6/29/55: "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 members had had a pleasant visit with Pastor Neumann at the Synod Convention just before his death.
11. 7/11/55 Cooperrider was authorized to place newspaper ads at his

discretion.

12. 7/55 & 7/58 gift of \$500 from Citizen State Bank;
10/57 Kable News gives \$500
13. 10/10/55 Gideons permitted to give 5-minute message on Sunday morning
14. 1/56 43 pints of blood donated by community for the King family
15. 3/56 full participation in Lutheran Evangelism Mission authorized
16. 4/8/56 cautionary letter regarding Eastern Star (see minutes)
17. 5/12/56 letter of recognition of O.A. Hanke for 30th anniversary at
Watt Publishing Co.
18. 7/9/56 funeral recommendations adopted
19. unified budget adopted for 1958

	`58_	`59_	`60_
general	46%	49%	50%
benevolence	33%	32%	50%
building	21%	19%	
20. 12/2/56 Start of Mission Week (Geo. Whittecar, missionary)
21. 5/5/57 Brethren Church dedicated
22. 5/13/57 picture of former Pastor H.E. Zimmerman accepted;
3/12/62 request received to display it more conspicuously
23. 6/9/57 MM Council of Churches' Statement on Ministerial Cooperation
Objectives
 1. Recognition in action at the community level of the fact
of the ecumenical church.
 2. United witness to those outside of Christ.
 3. Cooperation in making disciples rather than injurious
competition in enlarging church rolls.
 4. Preservation and extension of such inter-church cooperation
as is currently practiced in such areas as community forums;
cooperative public relations; Halloween UNICEF program;
released time religious education; Scouting; services to older
people; special community worship services; united approach
to new residents; and Vacation Church School.
 5. Maintenance of strict and loving intra-church discipline and
the possibility of effective admonition to the erring and
impenitent.Practices
 1. Avoidance of each by anything that might be interpreted to be
a pastoral relationship with any - active or inactive, in good
standing or under discipline - of the flock of another pastor
in Mt. Morris.
 2. Gentle but firm insistence upon referral to the individual's
own pastor in Mt. Morris of all requests for pastoral services
such as weddings, funerals, baptisms, administration of the
Lord's Supper, calls, and counseling.
 3. In conversation with all laymen whomsoever placing nothing but
the most charitable construction on one another's actions and
utterances.
 4. Giving prompt and courteous attention to all requests for
transfer of membership within Mt. Morris.
 5. In all instances being guided by the high and established
concepts of pastoral ethics as set forth in such a standard
work as Nolan B. Harmon's Ministerial Ethics and Etiquette,
revised edition published by Abingdon-Cokesbury Press, 1950.
24. 11/57 The appreciation dinner is dispensed with.
25. 4/20/58 and 4/6/62 Carthage College Choir here
26. 4/14/58 Smoking authorized in Fellowship Hall and offices with
moderation and consideration for others.
27. 5/58 Released Time Education completed its first year (Trinity's

- share = \$358); 1960 assessment increased to 75-cents per member
28. 10/58 County-wide church census
 29. 1959 New Ministerial Pension and Death Benefit Plan for Merged Church (AELC, Augustana ELC, Finnish ELC of Am., ULCA)
 30. 6/8/59 Note in agenda: "What can pastor and congregation do to help in strike situation? (letter sent by ministers)"
 31. 11/59 40 pew Bibles
 32. 2/8/60 Congregation to purchase altar flowers last Sunday of May in memory of those who have remembered the church in their wills
 33. 5/9/60 Support and cooperation to fund campaign for Mt. Morris Home; 12/60 \$31,285 pledged
 34. 5/9/60 Council moves to recruit a part-time youth director @ \$25/mo. for each (Luther League and Chi Rho Upsilon)
 35. 9/24/60 Carthage groundbreaking in Kenosha
 36. 10/60 Council chooses to remain outside CROP Program for reasons of Christian stewardship; 10/61 Council decides not to participate as a congregation in United Fund, only as individuals
 37. For 1962, Sunday School budget was to be included in Congregational budget.
 38. 4/62 Council, after several months' deliberation, decides not to accept ever-burning lamp, prefers religious pictures.
 39. 5/22/62 Sherwood Nelson ordination
 40. 6/11/62 Our own two-week VCS
 41. A service folder for Trinity Sunday, June 12, 1960 (Volume VIII, Number 24) is called Trinity Tidings and is said to be "Published Weekly by Trinity Lutheran Church, Mt. Morris, Illinois, Illinois Synod, United Lutheran Church in America." It shows the service at 10 AM, Church School at 11 AM, Church Phone 480, and Dolores Dohlen as Trinity's Missionary in Rajahmundry, South India. A motto near the top says "Enter To Worship - Depart To Serve". The order of service is on the first inside page and "This Week At Trinity" and announcements on the second.
 42. Monthly Council agendas are helpful in listing new and departing members.

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.