

**Church/Organization:** Immanuel Lutheran Church  
131 West Main Street  
Webster, NY 14580

**Years of Operation** 1868 – present

**Volume Title:** Anniversary 50th

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131 West Main Street  
Webster, NY 14580

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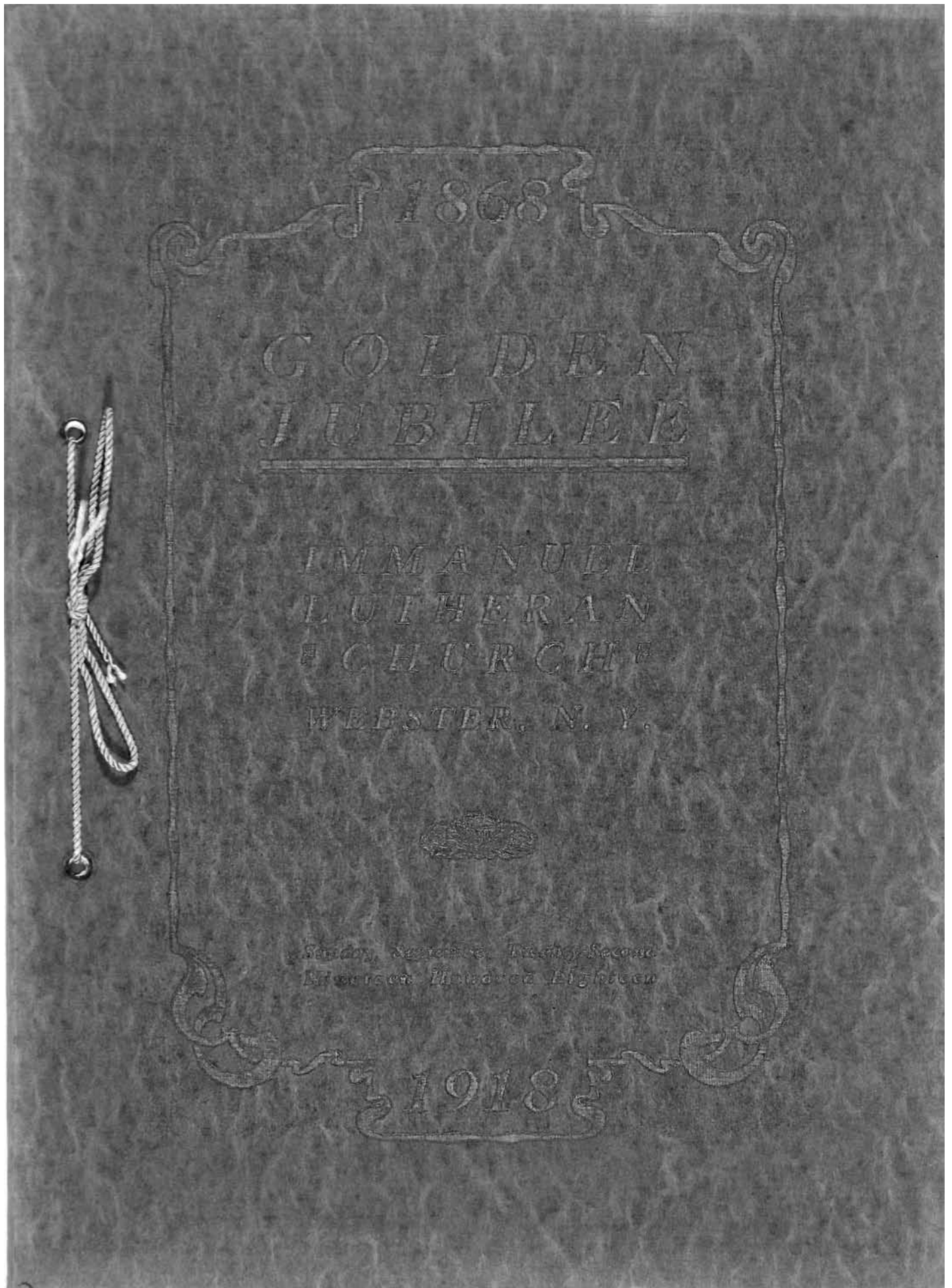
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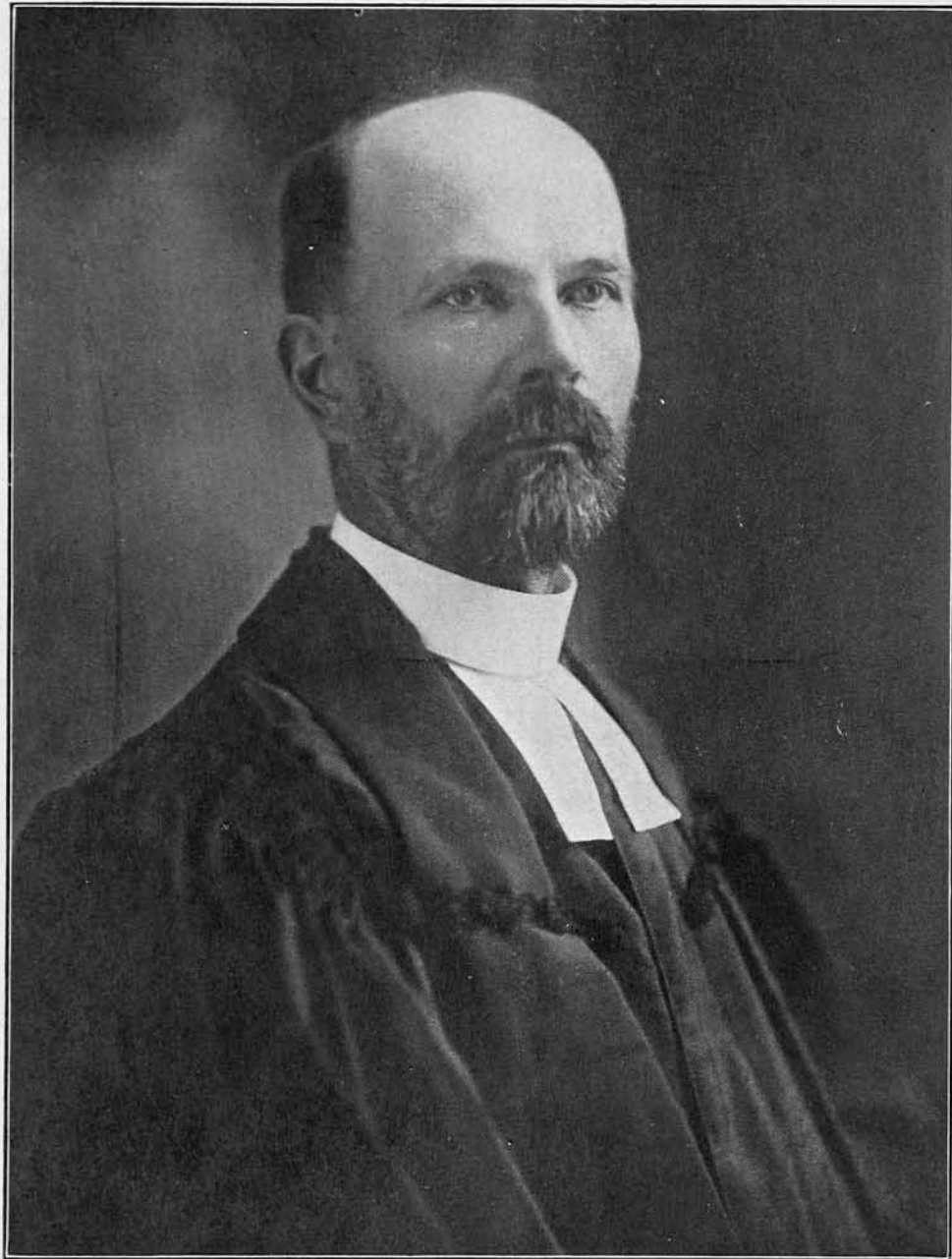
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REV. W. ARNDT, PASTOR

1868

1918

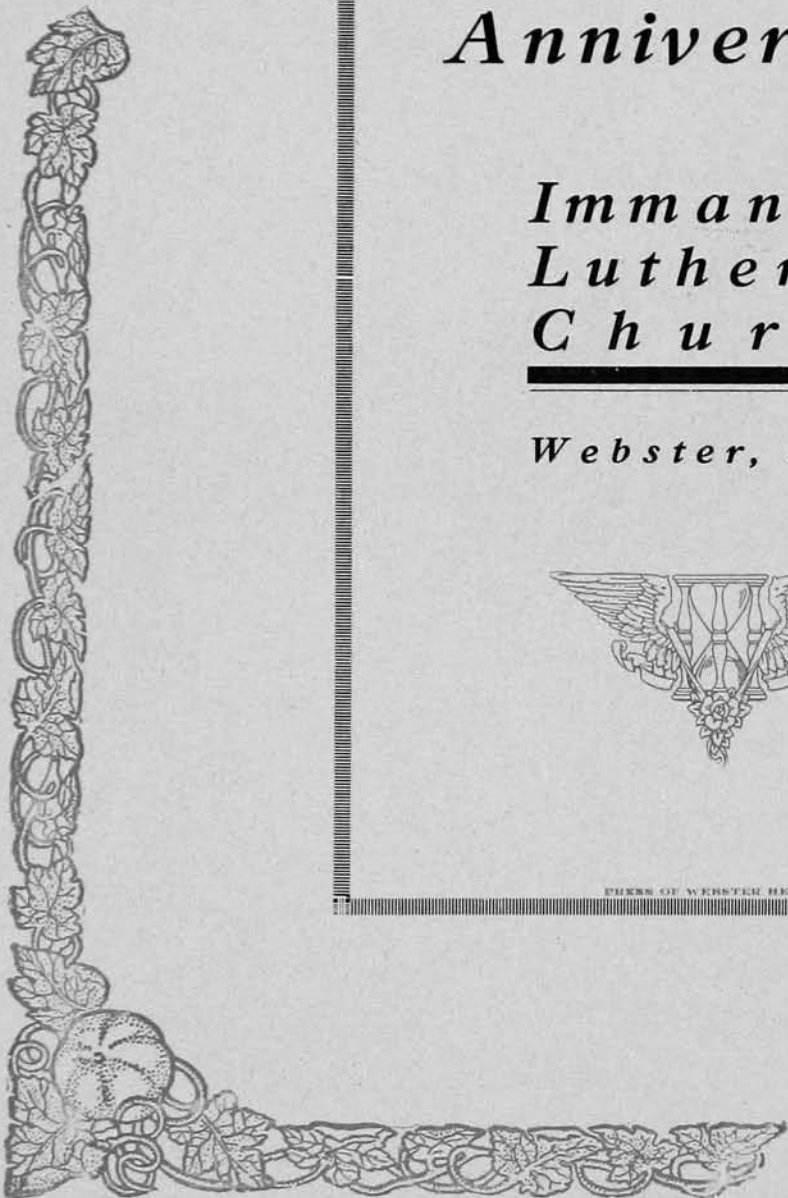
*Fiftieth  
Anniversary*

*Immanuel  
Lutheran  
Church*

*Webster, N. Y.*



DESIGNED BY WEBSTER HERALD



## A Brief History of Immanuel Lutheran Church of Webster, N. Y.

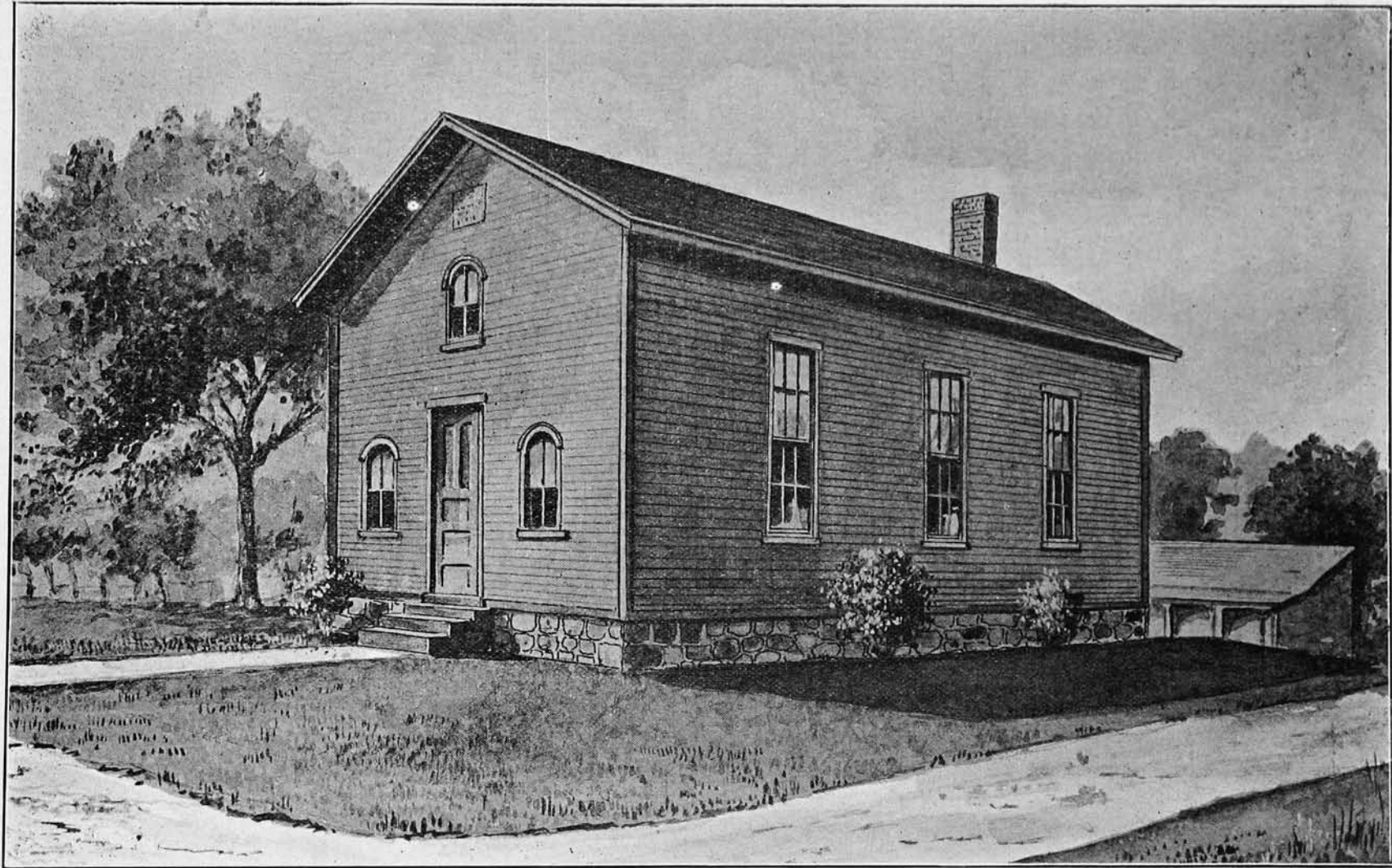


IN OBSERVING the Golden Jubilee of Immanuel Lutheran Church of Webster, N. Y., we take it for granted that the congregation was founded fifty years ago. The records of the congregation show clearly that the

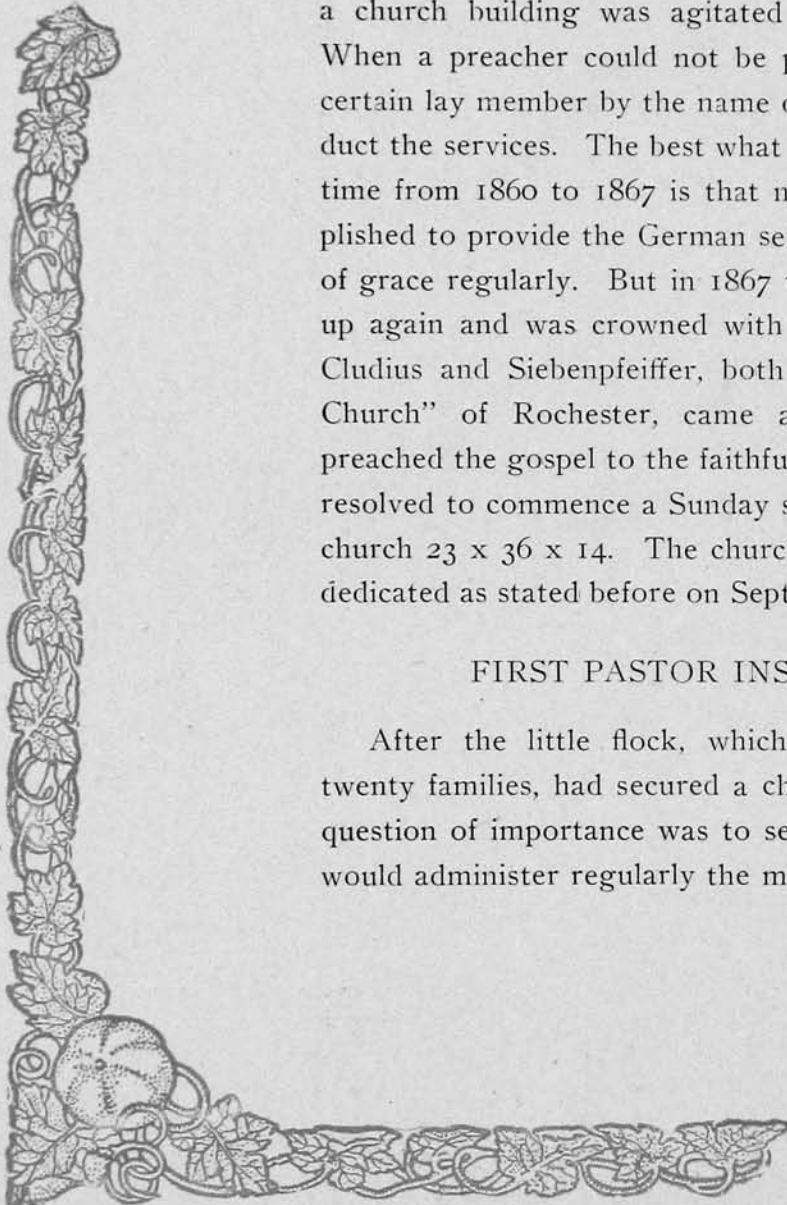
year 1868 witnessed the erection of the first church building, which was situated on the corner of Five Mile Line and Ridge road, and which at present is used as an evaporator by Henry Herman. This building was dedicated for divine worship on the 13th of September of that year by Revs. Valentin Mueller of Pittsford; A. Uebelacker, J. U. Hoffman and C. F. Welden of Rochester. The cost of the church was \$1350.00. The following month, October 5th, a new constitution was adopted, by virtue of which the congregation declared itself in favor of the Lutheran confession. And this is the reason which justifies our present celebration of the Golden Jubilee.

Whatever preceded this last date were efforts to gather the German people living in the township of





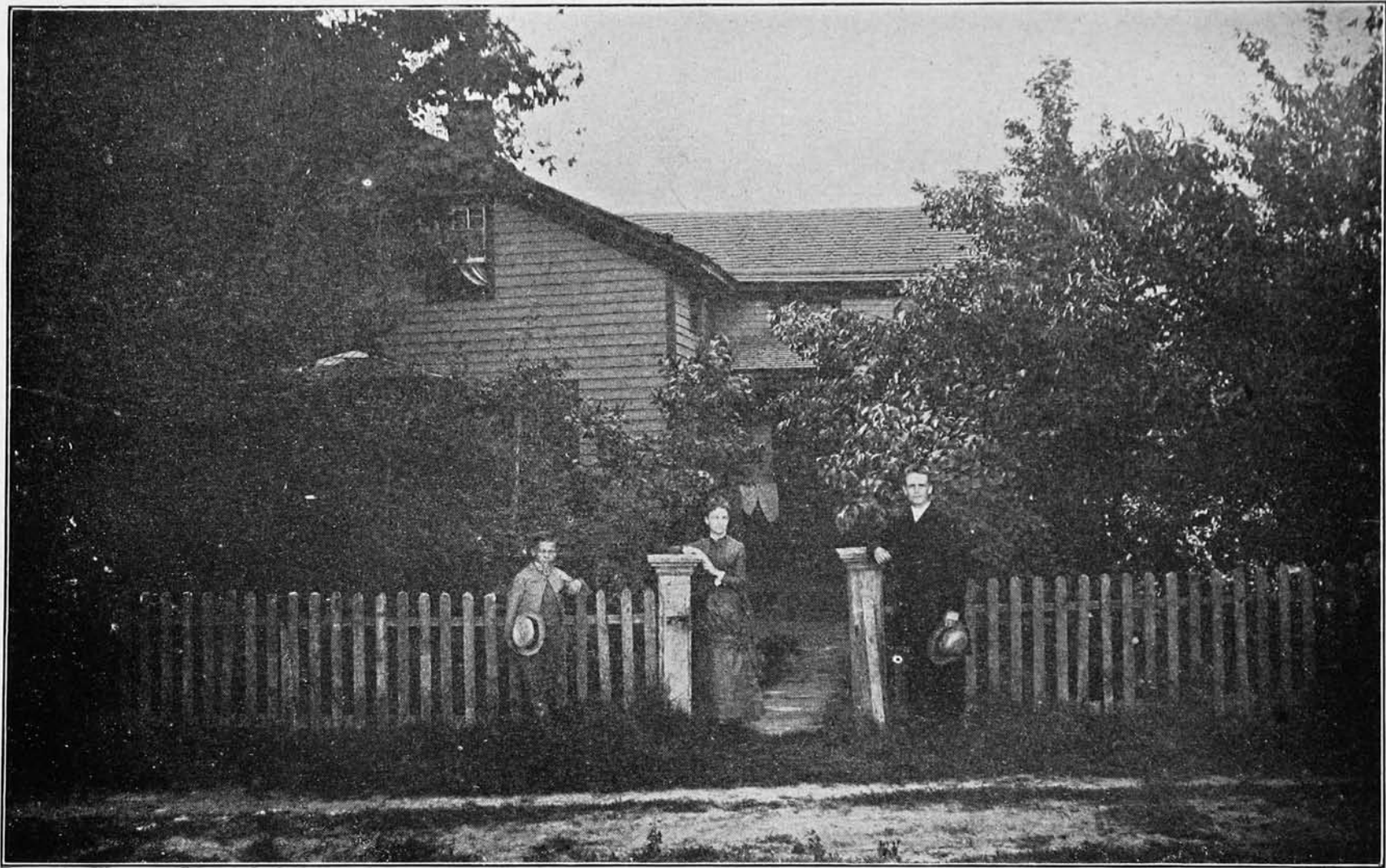
THE FIRST CHURCH



Webster into a congregation which professed principles of doctrine of the "United Church," or as it is frequently called, "The Evangelical Church". And these efforts date back to the year 1860. It was then when preaching services were commenced in the west part of the town and when a Rev. Clausen of Rochester was authorized to procure communion vessels for the use of the congregation. In the same year the erection of a church building was agitated but not attempted. When a preacher could not be present to officiate a certain lay member by the name of Kerner would conduct the services. The best what we can say about the time from 1860 to 1867 is that not much was accomplished to provide the German settlers with the means of grace regularly. But in 1867 the matter was taken up again and was crowned with success. The Revs. Cludius and Siebenpfeiffer, both of the "Evangelical Church" of Rochester, came at stated times and preached the gospel to the faithful. In this year it was resolved to commence a Sunday school, and to erect a church 23 x 36 x 14. The church was completed and dedicated as stated before on September 13, 1868.

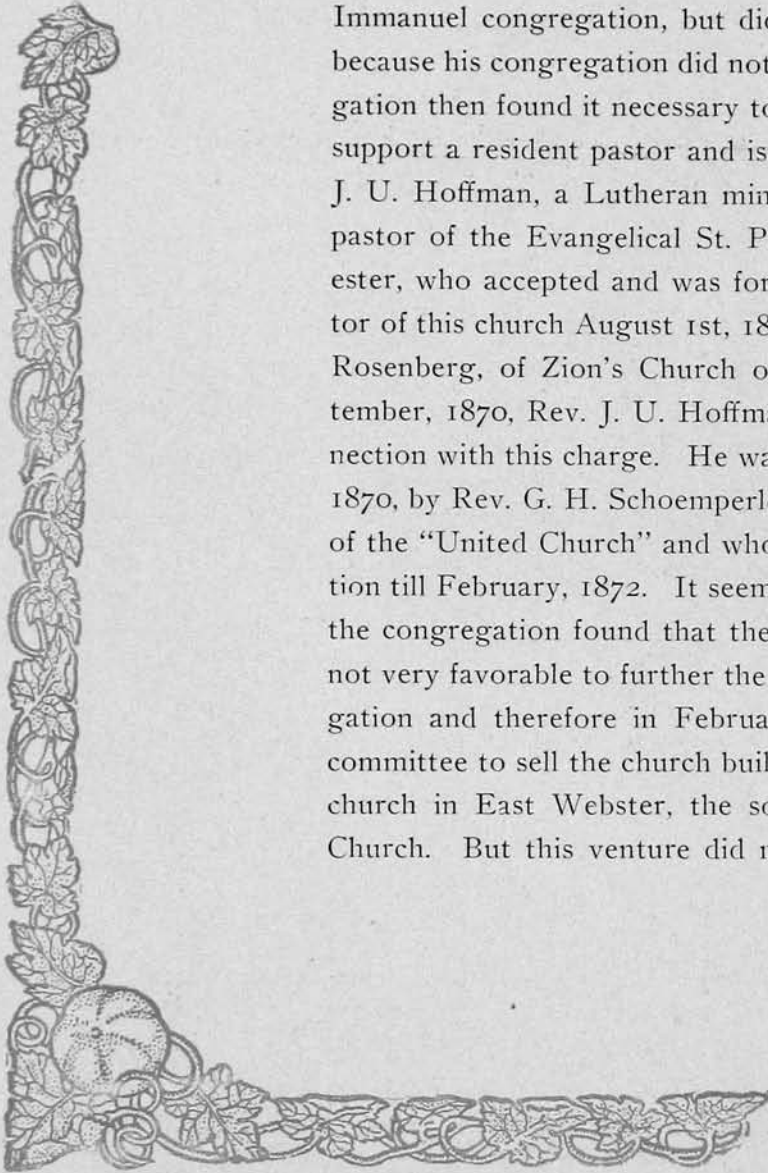
#### FIRST PASTOR INSTALLED

After the little flock, which consisted of about twenty families, had secured a church home, the next question of importance was to secure a preacher who would administer regularly the means of grace. Find-



THE FIRST PARSONAGE





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ing themselves unable to support a resident pastor, they issued a call to Rev. Valentin Mueller to supply this charge besides his own St. Paul's congregation of Pittsford, N. Y. This arrangement was terminated after about six months, for the minutes say that after February, 1869, the relations should be severed. In April of the same year Rev. G. H. Gomph of Pittsford successor to Rev. V. Mueller, was asked to take care of Immanuel congregation, but did not accept the offer, because his congregation did not favor it. The congregation then found it necessary to procure the means to support a resident pastor and issued a call to the Rev. J. U. Hoffman, a Lutheran minister, but at that time pastor of the Evangelical St. Paul's Church of Rochester, who accepted and was formally installed as pastor of this church August 1st, 1869, by the Rev. F. von Rosenberg, of Zion's Church of Rochester. In September, 1870, Rev. J. U. Hoffman terminated his connection with this charge. He was followed in October, 1870, by Rev. G. H. Schoemperlen, who was a member of the "United Church" and who served the congregation till February, 1872. It seems that as early as 1871 the congregation found that the place of worship was not very favorable to further the growth of the congregation and therefore in February, 1871, appointed a committee to sell the church building and buy a vacant church in East Webster, the so-called Center M. E. Church. But this venture did not mature.



REV. V. MUELLER

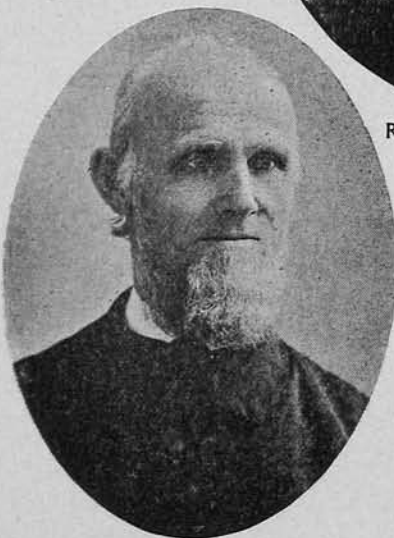
**FORMER  
PASTORS**



REV. G. H. SCHOEMPERLEN



REV. J. A. W. KIRSCH



REV. C. R. GERNDT

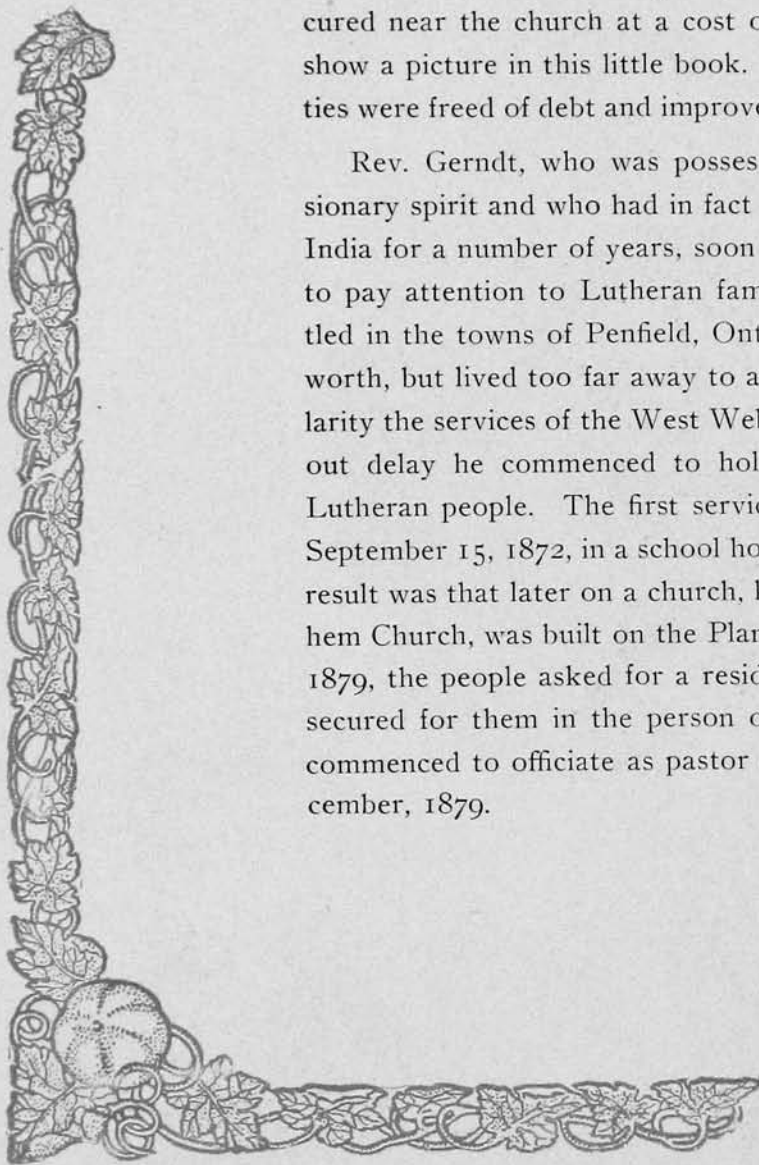


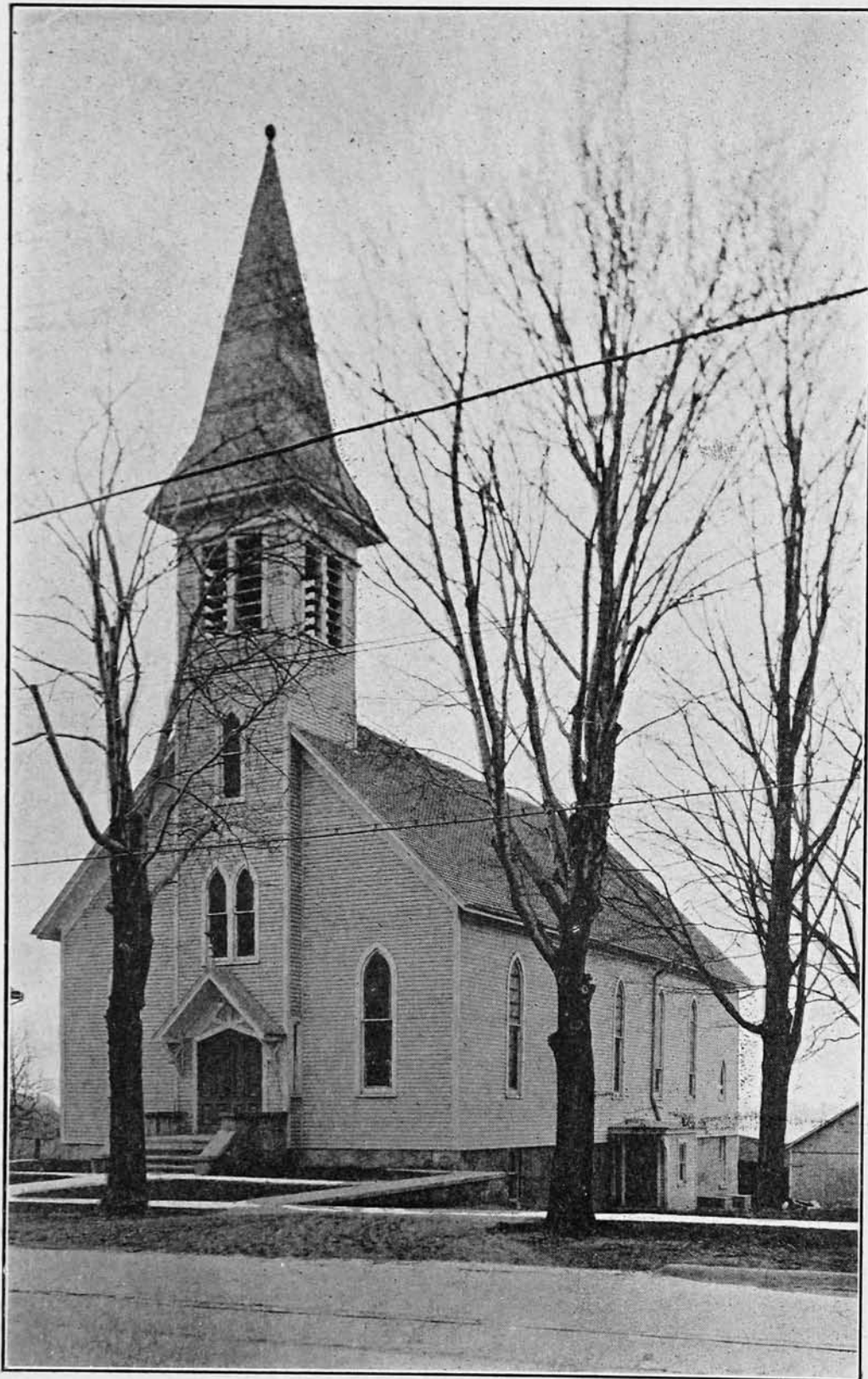
REV. H. WALBAUM

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In August, 1872, the congregation called the Rev. C. R. Gerndt, who was an ordained missionary but of late had served congregations in Canada for eleven years. He took charge of his new field of activity with ardor and perseverance. September 18, 1872, he was installed by the Revs. F. von Rosenberg, L. H. Gerndt and G. H. Gomph. Under his administration, which lasted for about fourteen years, a parsonage was procured near the church at a cost of \$620, of which we show a picture in this little book. The church properties were freed of debt and improved.

Rev. Gerndt, who was possessed of the true missionary spirit and who had in fact been a missionary in India for a number of years, soon found that he ought to pay attention to Lutheran families, which had settled in the towns of Penfield, Ontario and West Walworth, but lived too far away to attend with any regularity the services of the West Webster church. Without delay he commenced to hold services for these Lutheran people. The first service was conducted on September 15, 1872, in a school house in Penfield. The result was that later on a church, known as the Bethlehem Church, was built on the Plank road, and June 15, 1879, the people asked for a resident pastor, who was secured for them in the person of A. Vockrodt, who commenced to officiate as pastor of the church in December, 1879.





THE PRESENT CHURCH



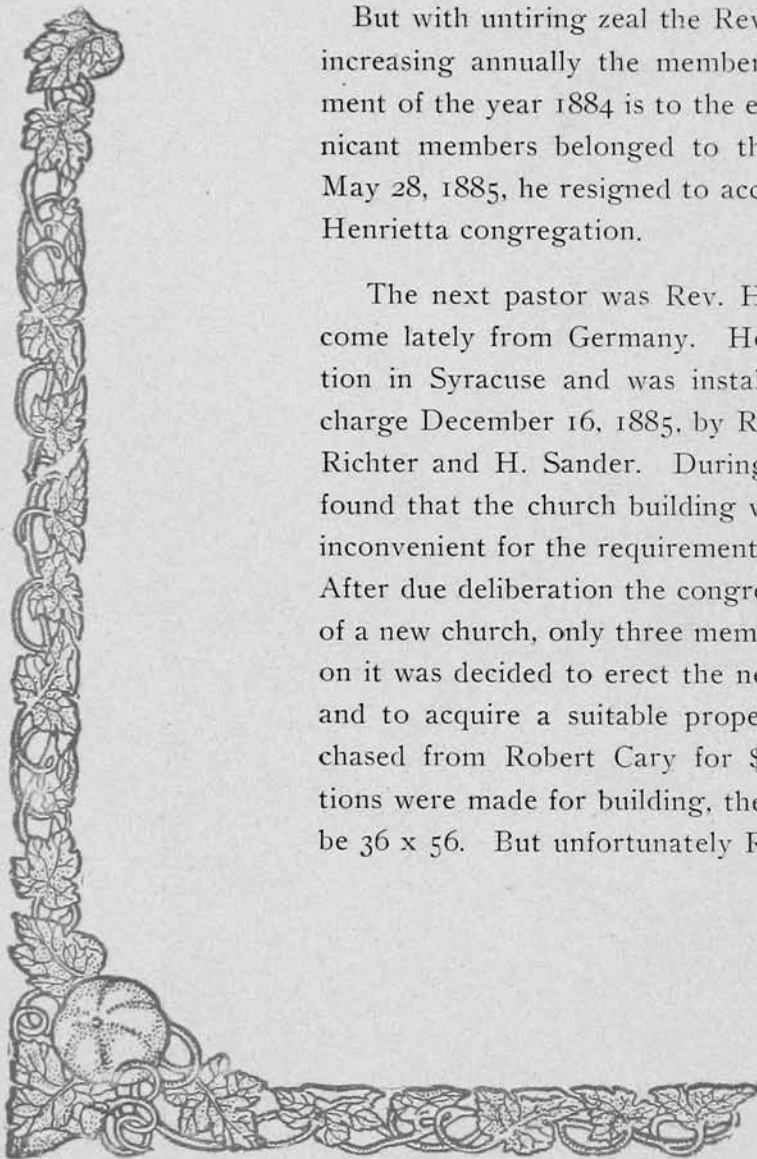
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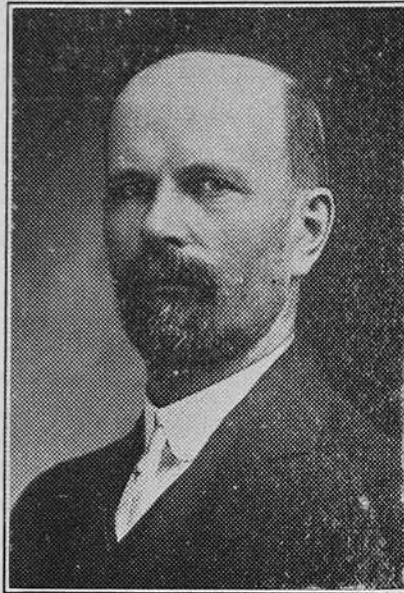
### OLD CONGREGATION WEAKENED

The founding of the new congregation naturally weakened the old congregation. Rev. Gerndl states that after the separation only twenty families entitled to full membership remained with the mother church and the Sunday school counted seventy-one members and seven teachers.

But with untiring zeal the Rev. Gerndt succeeded in increasing annually the membership. His last statement of the year 1884 is to the effect that 157 communicant members belonged to the congregation. On May 28, 1885, he resigned to accept a call to the West Henrietta congregation.

The next pastor was Rev. H. Walbaum, who had come lately from Germany. He received his ordination in Syracuse and was installed as pastor of this charge December 16, 1885, by Revs. G. H. Gomph, A. Richter and H. Sander. During his pastorate it was found that the church building was too small and too inconvenient for the requirements of the congregation. After due deliberation the congregation voted in favor of a new church, only three members opposing. Later on it was decided to erect the new church in Webster and to acquire a suitable property. A lot was purchased from Robert Cary for \$600 and all preparations were made for building, the size of the church to be 36 x 56. But unfortunately Rev. Walbaum did not





REV. W. ARNDT



INTERIOR VIEW OF CHURCH

Showing Chancel, New Organ and Decorations, as it was Remodeled in 1916

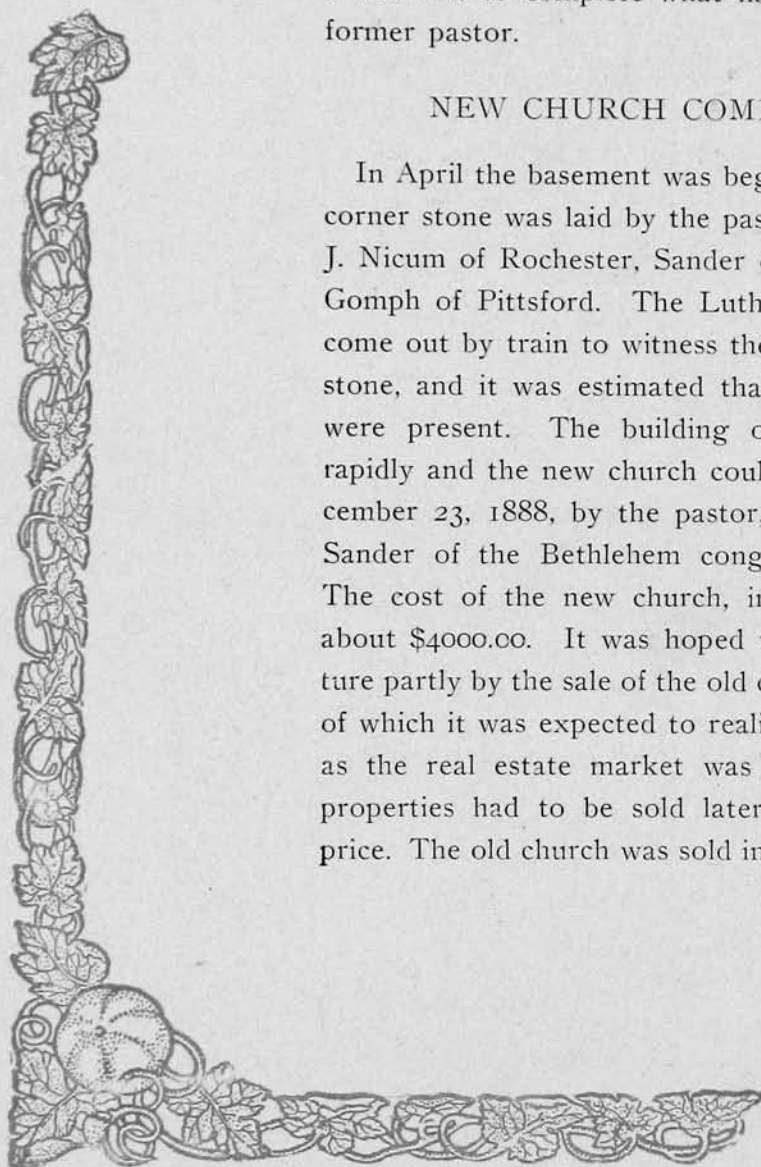
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reap the results of his labors. He resigned this charge January 18, 1888, to accept a call to Canada, where he is in the active ministry to this day.

Fortunately the congregation was able to secure immediately a successor in the person of Rev. J. A. W. Kirsch, who preached here for the first time February 5, 1888, and a few weeks later accepted a call. To him it was left to complete what had been begun by the former pastor.

#### NEW CHURCH COMPLETED

In April the basement was begun and May 13th the corner stone was laid by the pastor, assisted by Revs. J. Nicum of Rochester, Sander of Penfield and G. H. Gomph of Pittsford. The Lutherans of the city had come out by train to witness the laying of the corner stone, and it was estimated that about 1500 persons were present. The building operations progressed rapidly and the new church could be consecrated December 23, 1888, by the pastor, assisted by Rev. H. Sander of the Bethlehem congregation of Penfield. The cost of the new church, including the lot, was about \$4000.00. It was hoped to meet this expenditure partly by the sale of the old church and parsonage, of which it was expected to realize about \$1250. But as the real estate market was not very active, the properties had to be sold later below the expected price. The old church was sold in 1890 for \$310.00 and







THE PRESENT PARSONAGE



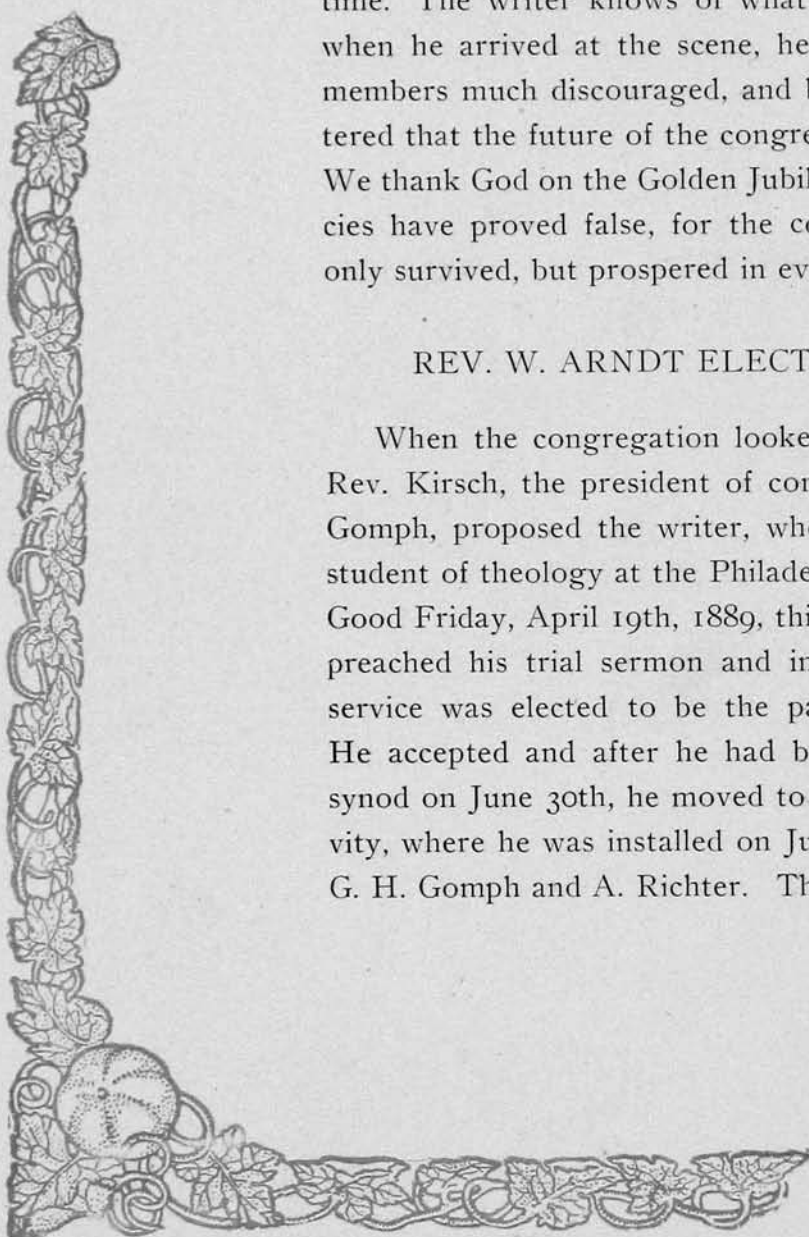
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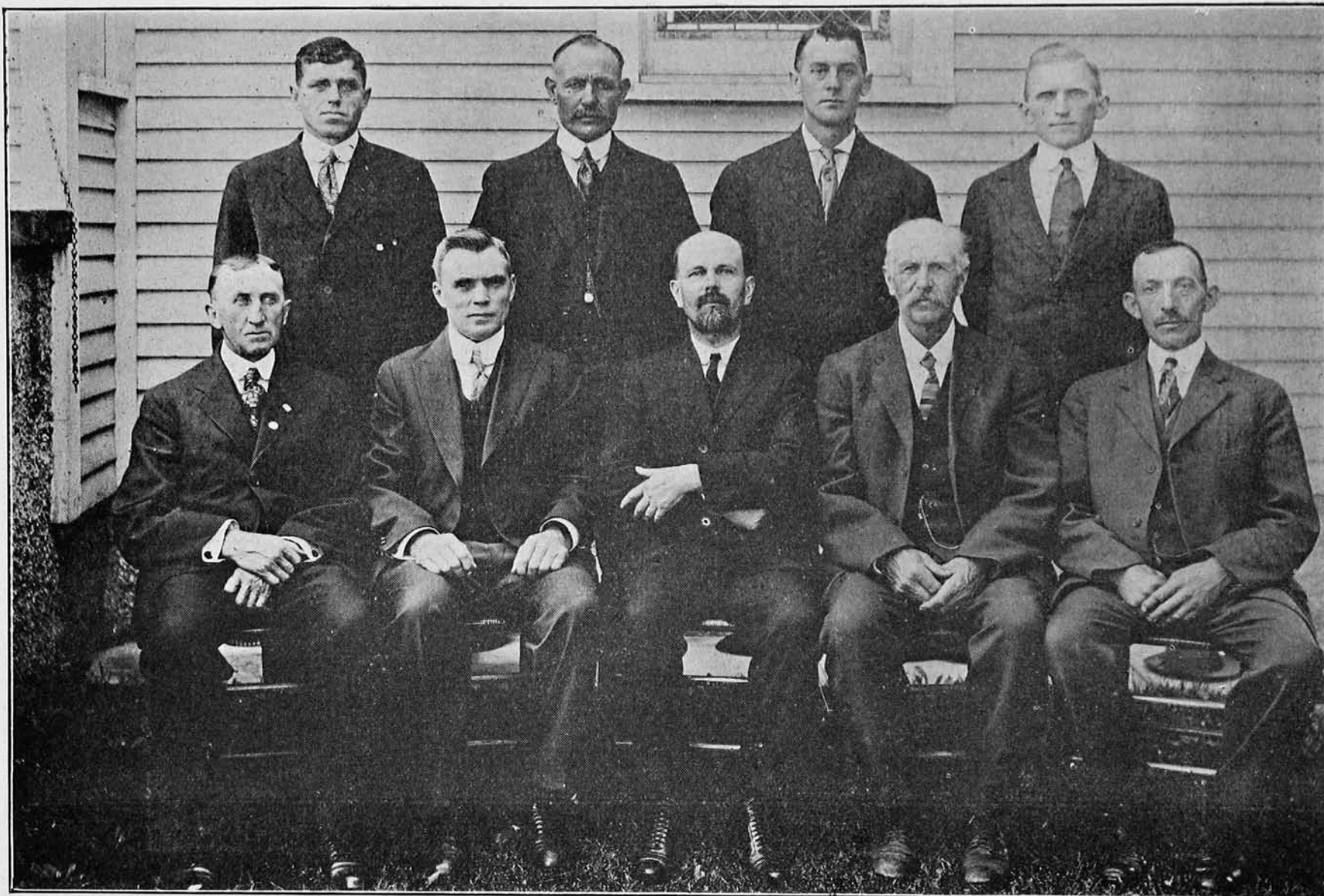
the parsonage in 1891 for \$650.00. The other moneys necessary to pay for the new church were brought up by subscription.

On February 10, 1889, Rev. Kirsch handed in his resignation and insisted that it be accepted. He preached his farewell sermon on April 30th, to accept a call to Brooklyn. It certainly was unfortunate that a change in the pastorate had to occur at this critical time. The writer knows of what he is speaking, for when he arrived at the scene, he found many of the members much discouraged, and by some it was muttered that the future of the congregation was doomed. We thank God on the Golden Jubilee that their prophecies have proved false, for the congregation has not only survived, but prospered in every direction.

#### REV. W. ARNDT ELECTED PASTOR

When the congregation looked for a successor of Rev. Kirsch, the president of conference, Rev. G. H. Gomph, proposed the writer, who at the time was a student of theology at the Philadelphia Seminary. On Good Friday, April 19th, 1889, this student, W. Arndt, preached his trial sermon and immediately after the service was elected to be the pastor of the church. He accepted and after he had been ordained by the synod on June 30th, he moved to his new field of activity, where he was installed on July 28th by the Revs. G. H. Gomph and A. Richter. The new pastor did not





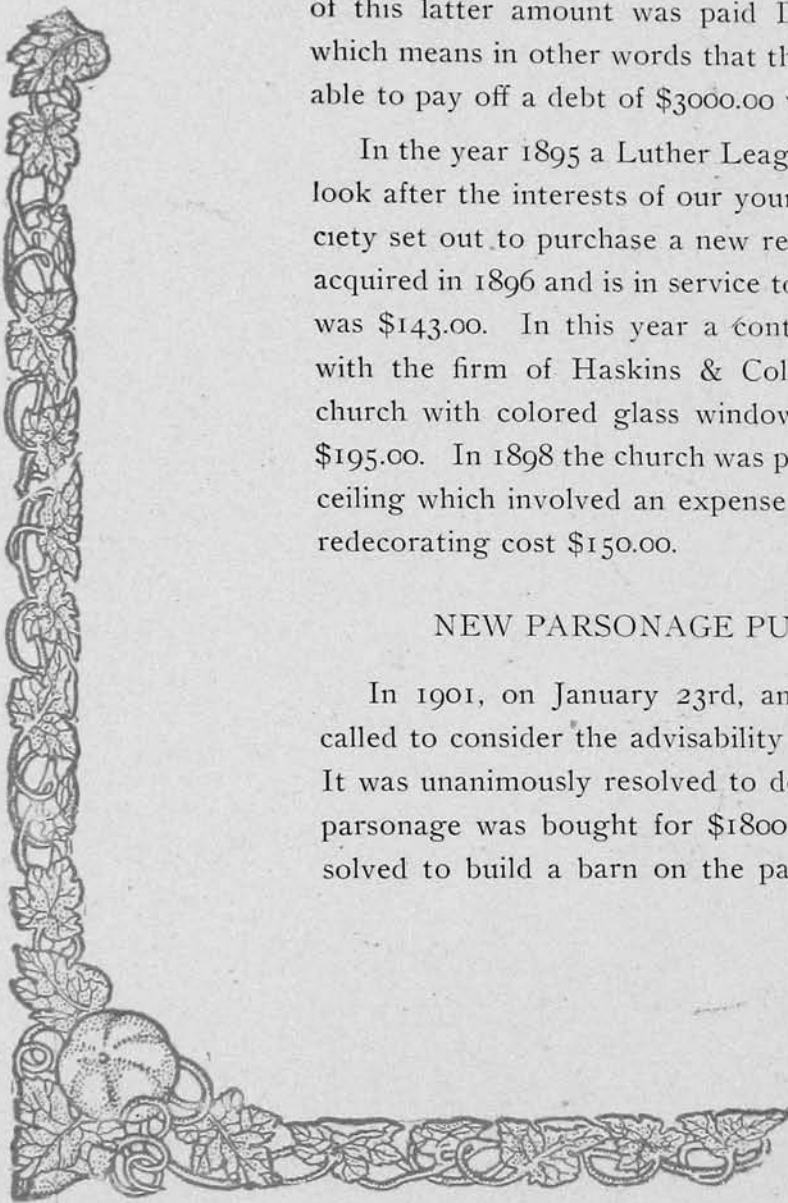
CHURCH COUNCIL—Standing, L. Kittelberger, E. Semmler, O. Busch, P. Schutt; Seated, F. Hecker, C. H. Studeman, Rev. W. Arndt, E. Wolf, G. Feucht

need to look for work, he found plenty of it, for the church debt had to be paid, and other matters straightened. We remember well what a troublesome affair it was to adopt a new constitution and by-laws and to re-incorporate the congregation. With the payment of the church debt we got along much better than expected. On March 1st, 1892, we were able to pay off \$1400.00, which left us in debt \$982.00. The balance of this latter amount was paid December 19, 1894, which means in other words that the congregation was able to pay off a debt of \$3000.00 within five years.

In the year 1895 a Luther League was organized to look after the interests of our young people. This society set out to purchase a new reed organ which was acquired in 1896 and is in service to this day. The cost was \$143.00. In this year a contract was also made with the firm of Haskins & Collyer to provide the church with colored glass windows at an expense of \$195.00. In 1898 the church was provided with a metal ceiling which involved an expense of \$150.00; and the redecorating cost \$150.00.

#### NEW PARSONAGE PURCHASED

In 1901, on January 23rd, an extra meeting was called to consider the advisability to buy a parsonage. It was unanimously resolved to do so and the present parsonage was bought for \$1800.00. It was also resolved to build a barn on the parsonage lot at once,







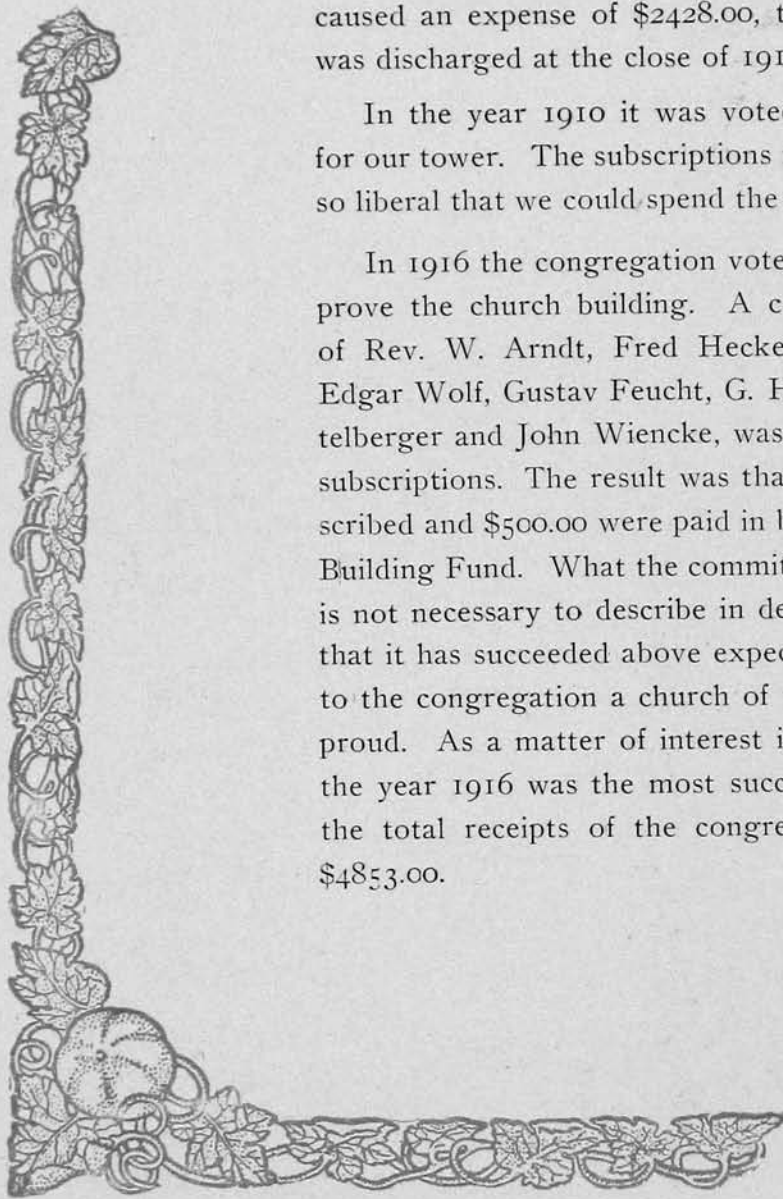
SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS



which caused an additional expense of \$250.00. During this year \$850 were paid toward this debt. January 2nd, 1907, the parsonage property was freed from all debt. By this time it was found that the parsonage ought to be improved and enlarged and it was resolved to do so under the supervision of a building committee consisting of the pastor, Fred Busch, C. H. Studeman, Fred Hecker and John Ebner. This undertaking caused an expense of \$2428.00, the balance of which was discharged at the close of 1912.

In the year 1910 it was voted to purchase a bell for our tower. The subscriptions for this purpose were so liberal that we could spend the sum of \$551.00.

In 1916 the congregation voted to enlarge and improve the church building. A committee, consisting of Rev. W. Arndt, Fred Hecker, C. H. Studeman, Edgar Wolf, Gustav Feucht, G. H. Bertch, Lewis Kittelberger and John Wiencke, was authorized to solicit subscriptions. The result was that \$5900.00 were subscribed and \$500.00 were paid in by the Sunday School Building Fund. What the committee has accomplished is not necessary to describe in detail; suffice is to say that it has succeeded above expectations to hand over to the congregation a church of which it may well be proud. As a matter of interest it may be stated that the year 1916 was the most successful financially, for the total receipts of the congregation amounted to \$4853.00.





THE LADIES' AID SOCIETY

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The total expenses of the building operations amounted to \$8386.00, of which \$3500.00 remain unpaid at the present writing.

Summing up the result of a congregational life of fifty years, we find according to the church records:

Baptized, 591.

Confirmed, 529.

Married, 160 couples.

Buried, 241.

Families connected with the congregation, about 100.

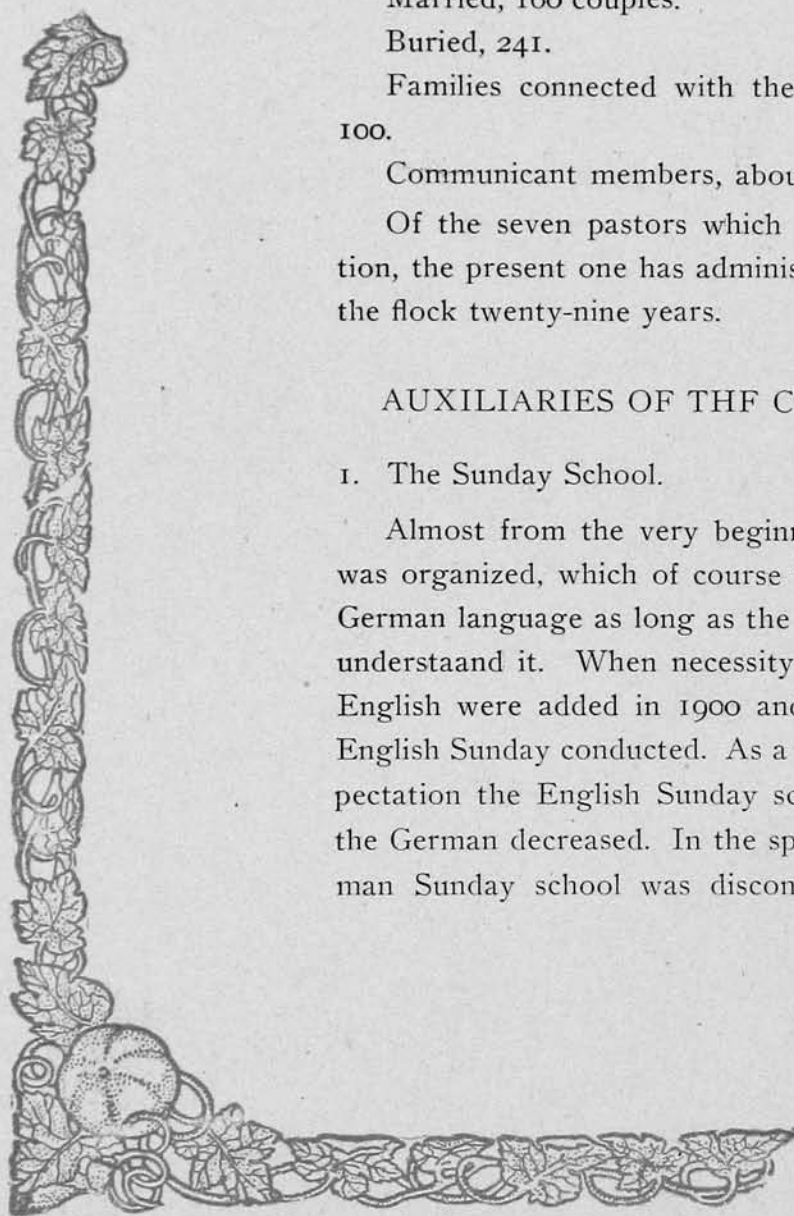
Communicant members, about 400.

Of the seven pastors which served the congregation, the present one has administered to the wants of the flock twenty-nine years.

#### AUXILIARIES OF THE CONGREGATION

##### 1. The Sunday School.

Almost from the very beginning a Sunday school was organized, which of course was conducted in the German language as long as the children were able to understand it. When necessity demanded, classes in English were added in 1900 and later on a separate English Sunday conducted. As a matter of fact and expectation the English Sunday school increased, while the German decreased. In the spring of 1915 the German Sunday school was discontinued. The English







MEMBERS OF THE CHOIR



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Sunday school at this writing numbers about one hundred and eighty members and is instructed by thirteen teachers.

2. The Ladies' Aid Society.

This society was organized by the Rev. J. A. W. Kirsch in 1888 and has been a great help to the congregation. Baptismal font, altar, lecturn, new church pews, steam plant in parsonage, electric light in parsonage, and other improvements too numerous to mention have been donated by this society. About fifty constitute the present membership.

3. Luther League.

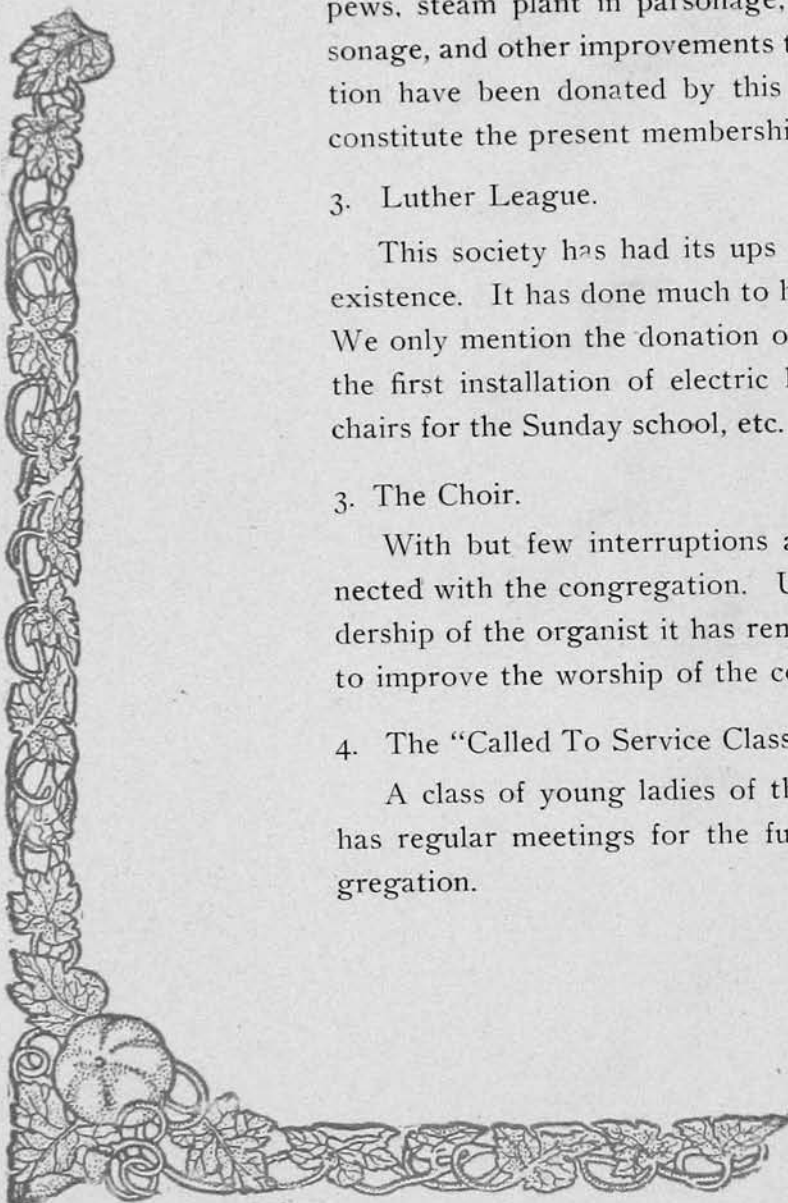
This society has had its ups and downs during its existence. It has done much to help the congregation. We only mention the donation of the new reed organ, the first installation of electric light, number boards, chairs for the Sunday school, etc.

3. The Choir.

With but few interruptions a choir has been connected with the congregation. Under the efficient leadership of the organist it has rendered valuable service to improve the worship of the congregation.

4. The "Called To Service Class."

A class of young ladies of the Sunday school that has regular meetings for the furtherance of the congregation.





SURVIVING CHARTER MEMBERS : Fred Shoemaker, Adam Ferge, Mrs. F. Shoemaker, Miss Louise Duerbaum, Mrs. F. Wagner, Mrs. B. Straub

5. The Hecker Bible Class.

An organization of young men instructed by Mr. Fred Hecker, which works in the same spirit as the C. T. S. Class.

SURVIVING CHARTER MEMBERS

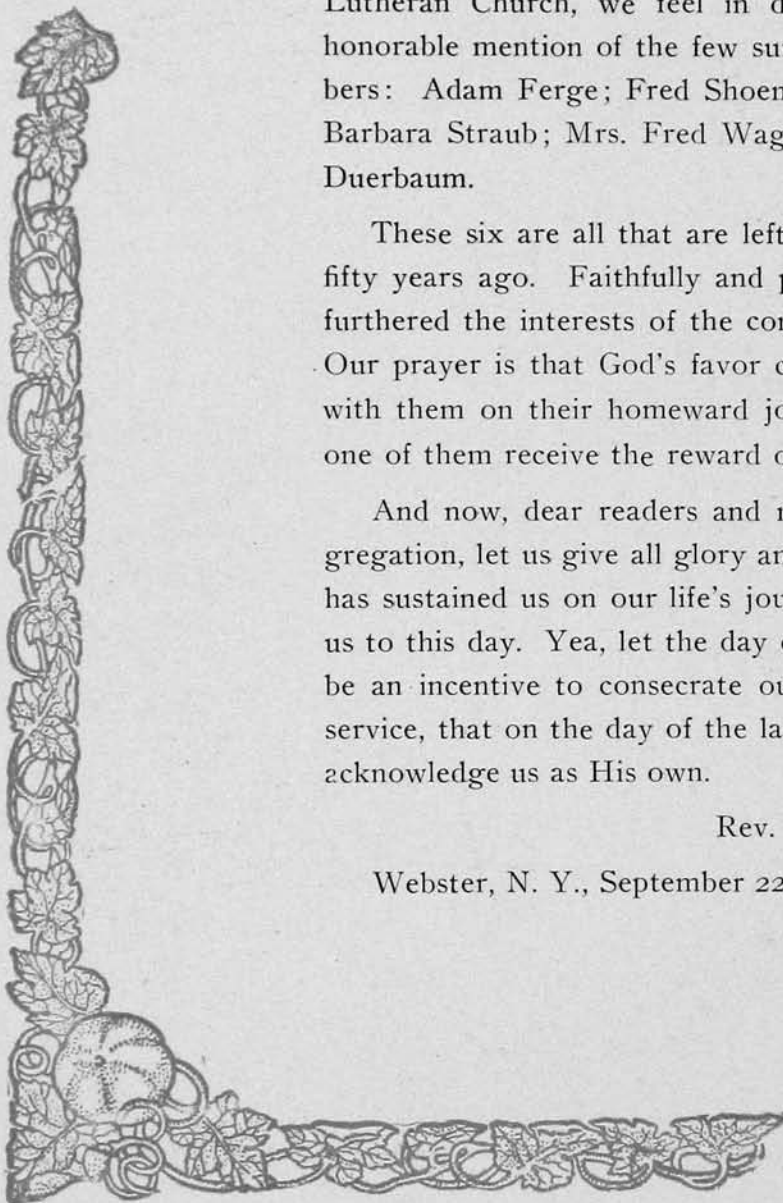
In concluding this brief history of the Immanuel Lutheran Church, we feel in duty bound to make honorable mention of the few surviving charter members: Adam Ferge; Fred Shoemaker and wife; Mrs. Barbara Straub; Mrs. Fred Wagner and Miss Louise Duerbaum.

These six are all that are left of the little flock of fifty years ago. Faithfully and prayerfully they have furthered the interests of the congregation they love. Our prayer is that God's favor cover them and abide with them on their homeward journey and that each one of them receive the reward of the faithful.

And now, dear readers and members of this congregation, let us give all glory and honor to Him who has sustained us on our life's journey and has blessed us to this day. Yea, let the day of the Golden Jubilee be an incentive to consecrate ourselves anew to His service, that on the day of the last reckoning He may acknowledge us as His own.

Rev. W. Arndt, Pastor.

Webster, N. Y., September 22, 1918.





# Golden Jubilee

OF

## IMMANUEL CHURCH

WEBSTER, N. Y.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 1918

WORSHIP AT 7:30 P. M.

### PSALM 100

Make a joyful noise unto the Lord, all ye lands.  
 Serve the Lord with gladness; come before His presence with singing.  
 Know ye that the Lord He is God.  
 It is He that hath made us, and not we ourselves; we are His people, and the sheep of His pasture.  
 Enter into His gates with Thanksgiving, and into His courts with praise:  
 Be thankful unto Him, and bless His name.  
 For the Lord is good; His mercy is everlasting;  
 And His truth endureth to all generations.

### 108

Lord, with glowing heart I'd praise Thee  
 For the bliss Thy love bestows,  
 For the pardoning grace that saves me,  
 And the peace that from it flows.  
 Help, O God, my weak endeavor;  
 This dull soul to rapture raise:  
 Thou must light the flame or never  
 Can my love be warmed to praise.

Praise, my soul, the God that sought thee,  
 Wretched wanderer, far astray;  
 Found thee lost and kindly brought thee  
 From the paths of death away.  
 Praise, with love's devourest feeling  
 Him who say thy guilt-bound fear,  
 And, the light of hope revealing,  
 Bade the blood-stained cross appear.

Lord, this bosom's ardent feeling  
 Vainly would my lips express:  
 Low before Thy footstool kneeling,  
 Deign Thy suppliant's prayer to bless.  
 Let Thy grace, my soul's chief treasure  
 Love's pure flame within me raise:  
 And, since words can never measure,  
 Let my life show forth Thy praise.

### 275

I love Thy Zion, Lord,  
 The house of Thine abode;  
 The Church our blessed Redeemer saved  
 With His own precious blood.

I love Thy Church, O God.  
 Her walls before Thee stand,  
 Dear as the apple of Thine eye,  
 And graven on Thy hand.

For her my tears shall fall;  
 For her my prayers ascend:  
 To her my cares and toils be given,  
 Till toils and cares shall end.

Beyond my highest joy  
 I prize her heavenly ways,  
 Her sweet communion, solemn vows,  
 Her hymns of love and praise.

Jesus, Thou Friend divine,  
 Our Saviour and our King,  
 Thy hand from every snare and foe  
 Shall great deliverance bring.

Sure as Thy truth shall last,  
 To Zion shall be given  
 The brightest glories earth can yield,  
 And brighter bliss of heaven.

### 628

The Church's one foundation  
 Is Jesus Christ her Lord;  
 She is His new creation  
 By water and the Word;  
 From heaven He came and sought her  
 To be His holy Bride,  
 With His own blood He bought her,  
 And for her life He died.

Elect from every nation,  
 Yet one o'er all the earth,  
 Her charter of salvation  
 One Lord, one Faith, one Birth;  
 One holy Name she blesses,  
 Partakes one holy Food,  
 And to one Hope she presses,  
 With every grace endued.

Though with a scornful wonder,  
 Men see her sore oppress,  
 By schisms rent asunder,  
 By heresies distrest;  
 Yet saints their watch are keeping,  
 Their cry goes up "how long?"  
 And soon the night of weeping  
 Shall be the morn of song.

Mid toil and tribulation  
 And tumult of her war  
 She waits the consummation  
 Of peace for evermore;  
 Till with the vision glorious  
 Her longing eyes are blest,  
 And the great Church victorious,  
 Shall be the Church at rest.

To God the ever-glorious,  
 The Father, and the Son,  
 And Spirit all victorious  
 Thrice Holy Three in One,  
 The God of our salvation,  
 Whom earth and heaven adore,  
 Praise, glory, adoration,  
 Be now and evermore.

# Immanuel's Gemeinde

WEBSTER, N. Y.

## Goldenes Jubiläum

SONNTAG, SEPTEMBER 22, 1918

11 UHR

6

Wie selig ist ein Ort zu nennen,  
Wo Gottes Wort im Schwange geht,  
Wo Licht und Recht ganz helle brennen,  
Und Zion niemals wüste steht:  
Da opfert man im heil'gen Schmuck  
Und findet Licht und Trost genug.

Wer wollte denn nun Zweifel tragen  
Ob waere hier nicht Gottes Haus?  
Wo wir nach Gottes Worte fragen,  
Macht er gar bald ein Kirchlein draus;  
Es sei dasselbe noch so klein,  
So muss es ihm doch heilig sein.

So treten wir im Geist zusammen,  
So singen wir des Herren Lied;  
So bringen wir die Opferflammen  
Auf welche Gott in Gnaden sieht.  
So lesen wir und hoeren an  
Was Gottes Wort uns lehren kann.

186

Ich lobe dich, mein Auge schauet  
Wie du auf diesem Erdenkreis  
Dir eine Kirche hast erbauet  
Zu deines Namens Lob und Preis:  
Dass alle sich zusammen finden  
In einem seligen Verein.  
Wo sie, erloest von ihren Suenden  
Sich Jesu deines Reiches freun.

Du rufest auch noch heutzutage,  
Dass jederman erscheinen soll;  
Doch hoert man stets auf deine Klage:  
Noch immer ist mein Haus nicht voll:  
Zwar viele sind von dir geladen,  
Doch wenige nur auserwaehlt;  
Sie wandeln auf des Weltsinns Pfaden  
Und mancher, den du rufest, fehlt.

Herr, unter Voelkern vieler Zungen  
Hast du dein Haus nun aufgefuehrt  
In dem dein Preis dir wird gesungen  
Das Glaube, Lieb und Hoffnung zielt;  
Wo alle unter Christo stehen,  
Als ihrem koeniglichen Haupt,  
Auf den sie alle freudig sehen,  
Sie, deren Herz an Christum glaubt.

So weih uns denn zum neuen Leben,  
Dass wir nur deine Wege gehn,  
Zuerst nach deinem Reiche streben  
Und niedern Luesten widerstehn.  
Gieb, dass wir als getreue Glieder  
Fest halten an dem Haupt und Herrn,  
Und dann auch allesamt als Brueder  
In Lieb und Treu ihm folgen gern.

462

Herr von unendlichem Erbarmen,  
Du unerguendlich Liebesmeer,  
Ich danke dir mit andern Armen,  
Mit einem ganzen Suendenheer,  
Fuer deine Huld in Jesu Christ,  
Die vor der Welt gewesen ist.

Fuer dein so allgemein Erloesen,  
Fuer die Bezahlung aller Schuld,  
Fuer den Beruf an allen Boesen,  
Und fuer das Wort von deiner Huld,  
Ja, fuer die Kraft in deinem Wort  
Dankt dir mein Herze hier und dort.

Fuer dein so troestliches Versprechen,  
Dass deine Gnade ewig sei;  
Wenn Berge bersten, Huegel brechen,  
So bleibt dein Bund und deine Treu;  
Wann Erd und Himmel weicht und faellt,  
So lebt doch Gott, der Glauben haelt.

Fuer deine teuren Sakramente,  
Als Sieger deiner warmen Schrift,  
Wo Gott, damit wir glauben koennten,  
Ein Denkmal seiner Wunder stift';  
Fuer diese Gnade in der Zeit  
Dankt dir mein Herz in Ewigkeit.

Ja, Mund und Herze soll dir danken;  
Doch bittet auch mein Herz und Mund:  
Lass weder Mund noch Herze wanken  
Und gruende mich auf diesen Grund;  
Erhalte nur durch deine Treu  
Mich bis ans Ende auch dabei.

Lass mich in Liebe heilig leben,  
Unstraeflich dir zum Lobe sein;  
Versichere mein Herz darneben,  
Es reisse keine Lust noch Pein  
Mich von der Liebe Gottes hin,  
Weil ich in Christo Jesu bin.

Tod, Leben, Truebsal, Angst und Leiden  
Was Welt und Hoelle in sich schliesst  
Nicht soll mich von der Liebe scheiden  
Die da in Christo Jesu ist.  
Ja, Amen! Vater aller Treu,  
Zaehl mich den Auserwaehlten bei.