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16 Helena Street
Rochester, NY 14605

Years of Operation 1877 - 1960

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1877

1952

Foreword

Saturday, September 20, 1952, was an auspicious date in the life of Lutheran Concordia Church, Rochester, New York. It marked the Seventy-fifth Anniversary of the congregation's founding. Having reached this venerable age, it was decided to mark the event not only with Services of Thanksgiving, but also by the issuance of an anniversary booklet. This booklet would continue to remind the parishioners of Concordia Church of this significant milestone long after the occasion had passed and would also bring to mind some of the things we did as a congregation during our Diamond Jubilee Year.

And so with these thoughts in mind, we present the life and work of our church and its members as they happened in the Year of Our Lord 1952.

The Anniversary Book Committee

Louis Kastner

Otto Scheik

Henry Unterborn

The Executive Committee



Sixty former members of St. John's Lutheran Church, Rochester, New York, gathered in the home of the Rev. Ernst Heydler, St. Joseph Street, on Thursday evening, September 20, 1877, for the purpose of organizing a new congregation. At this meeting the North German Evangelical Lutheran Concordia Church came into being. Soon thereafter, the new congregation met in Goer's Hall, Hudson Avenue, for weekly services, but the growth of the congregation together with the desire for a church home of their own led the members to purchase property at the corner of Helena and Putnam Streets for the sum of \$700. At the same time a parochial school was opened in a rented house in Concord Street. On October 6, 1878, a newly erected church was formally dedicated and one year later a school house was built adjacent to the church on Helena Street, several additional lots having been added to the original purchase. Pastor Heydler's untimely death after six years of labor led to the calling of Carl C. N. Conrad, a seminarian from Mt. Airy Seminary, Philadelphia, Pa., but a native Rochesterian. Upon accepting the call, July 24, 1882, Pastor Conrad began a ministry which, until the time of his death, was the longest pastorate in the city of Rochester. Under Dr. Conrad's direction the congregation grew rapidly. He was alert to the tremendous influx of immigrants coming to Rochester and was successful in gathering vast numbers of North Germans into the membership of Concordia Church. The church had to be enlarged several times, the old parish hall (formerly the school building) replaced with the present large brick structure (1924) so that the expanding congregation could be served. Aware of the home mission field, Dr. Conrad was instrumental in founding seven daughter congregations, most of which bear the name "Concordia".

In 1932 the entire congregation was prepared to celebrate the Golden Anniversary of Dr. Conrad's pastorate. But several weeks before these plans could be culminated, Pastor Conrad was called into the Church Triumphant, entering it on June 8, 1932.

A brief interim pastorate was filled by the Rev. Charles J. Reichardt until October 6, 1932, when he too passed into Eternal Life.



The Rev. Wilfried C. H. Tappert of Connecticut, succeeded as the third pastor of Concordia Church, taking charge November 6, 1932. The nine years of Pastor Tappert's ministry were marked with significant advances. English services were read every Sunday morning instead of only twice a month as previously. The interior of the church was completely remodeled into a beautiful, harmonious Tudor Gothic structure. It was also under Pastor Tappert's leadership that the congregation, after a period of almost forty years of independency, re-entered the fellowship of the United Lutheran Synod of New York.

Leaving a congregation much strengthened by his labors, Pastor Tappert accepted a call from St. Paul's Church, Mt. Vernon, New York. He was followed by the Rev. Thomas A. Berg of Lyons, New York, who began his ministry, October 19, 1941.



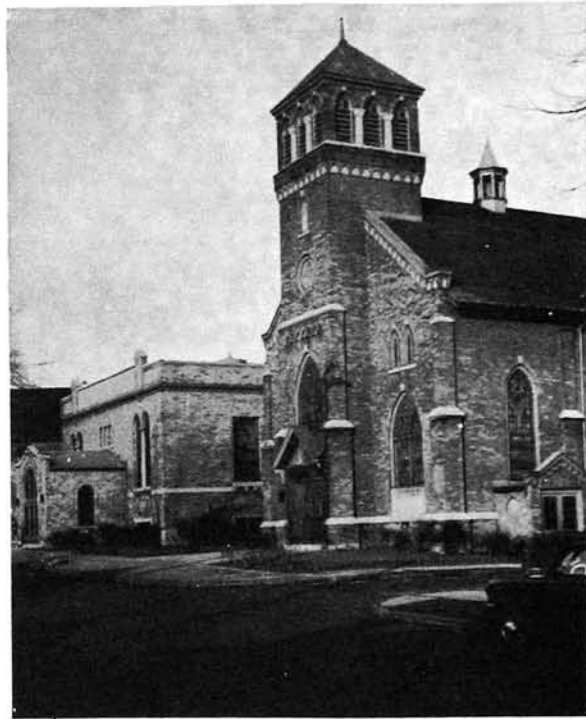
Rev. Thomas Berg, Rev. Louis G. Golder and Rev. Wilfried C. H. Tappert.

During the seven years of this fourth pastorate, the congregation's life was expressed with interest in its own affairs and in the greater work of the entire Church. It was while Pastor Berg served Concordia that the trying days of World War II were experienced. The quiet spiritual guidance of the Pastor was deeply felt during these difficult times.

But once again a call came from another field and Pastor Berg accepted the summons from Trinity Church, Herkimer, New York, in May, 1948. In August of the same year, the Rev. Louis G. Golder, pastor of the Lutheran Service Center, Norfolk, Virginia, received the call as Concordia's fifth pastor and assumed his duties, November 1, 1948.

The four years since that time have seen an internal growth and strengthening of the congregation's life as expressed by its stewardship, its increasingly active role in Synod affairs and its advances in many local aspects. The recent acquisition of a large parking lot, the purchase of a sexton's house together with an adjoining property and the renovation of church and hall properties, were steps toward conserving our church and its present location. The many fine gifts for the church buildings, given in connection with the 75th Anniversary, have also led to a new appreciation for our House of Worship and its spiritual heritage.

This is our church and parish hall. Here our whole congregational life is centered. The original frame building and school house have given way to the fine brick structures seen today. Our property, no longer confined to Helena and Putnam Streets, now extends to Hudson Avenue where the dignified sign at our parking area entrance announces our presence to the entire community.



Every Sunday Morning (and on many other occasions too!) during the past year, the members of Concordia Church came to worship, as indeed they have done for three-quarters of a century. Worship is the most important function in which a congregation can engage; in fact, it is the reason for the existence of our church or any other church. As we sang at our anniversary Service;

"I love Thy Zion Lord,
The House of Thine abode,
The Church our blest Redeemer saved,
With His own precious Blood."

It is here, in this holy place, that God's Word is proclaimed, His Sacraments received and our faith renewed.

When we Lutherans think of worship we automatically think in terms of music. We not only sing hymns, but also the entire Service. Aiding us in our worship and contributing music of their own is the Senior choir. Several directors were in charge during 1952, but each added a unique contribution to our Service. (Picture on next page)



Turning aside from the purely spiritual aspects of our church life, attention is directed to the working phase of the congregation. On the first Monday of every month, the Church Council meets to deliberate on the happenings of the past month and to decide on policies for the months ahead. This business of operating a church is largely a "behind the scenes" operation, but it must be done. Here are the twelve councilmen who served during 1952.



Charles Strauss, Raymond Moldenhauer, Willis Seville, Arthur Sedler, Pastor Golder, Alvin Pembroke, Ellis Faro, Alvin Tinsmon, Edward Schlegel, Gregory Kraus, Arnold Schock, Arthur Schock. Absent, Edward Latal, Jr. Officers: President, Pastor; Secretary, Ellis Faro; Treasurer, Arthur Sedler.

Next to the worship of God, the most important function of the Church is the instruction of both children and adults in the truth of our Holy Faith.



We are reasonably proud of our Sunday Church School with its many classes, fine staff of teachers and varied activities. They had a group picture taken one evening as they assembled for their monthly Worker's Conference. You will, of course, notice the lovely Altar of the Primary-Junior Department beside which the teachers are standing.

1st. row-Mrs. John Mitchell, Miss Elsie Phillips, Mrs. George Baron, Mrs. Ray Moldenhauer, Mrs. Leonard Karweick, Mrs. Gregory Kraus, Mrs. Edward Schlegel. 2nd. row-Mr. Henry Unterborn, Mrs. Arthur Sedler, Mrs. Frank Bock, Mrs. Louis Golder, Mrs. Elsie Hayes, Mr. Otto Scheik, Mrs. Erney Hopkins, Mrs. Roy Fries. 3rd. row-Mr. Arthur Sedler, Pastor Louis Golder.



Our Junior Choir, here under the direction of Miss Joan Franks, is an activity of the school which reaches into the Services of the church. We enjoy the choir's singing and eagerly await the Sundays when the Junior's participate in The Service and also sing an anthem.

AUXILIARIES

Concordia Church, during its seventy-five years of history, has established auxiliaries and societies for all age groups. Generally speaking, the aims of these organizations are directed toward Christian fellowship and to provide a closer tie of the members to their church.

Of all such organizations in the congregation, the oldest in point of existence is the Young Men's Society, a beneficial group founded by Dr. Conrad in 1878. Numbering 202 members, the Society has had a record of continuous service to its membership.



Officers of the Young Men's Society

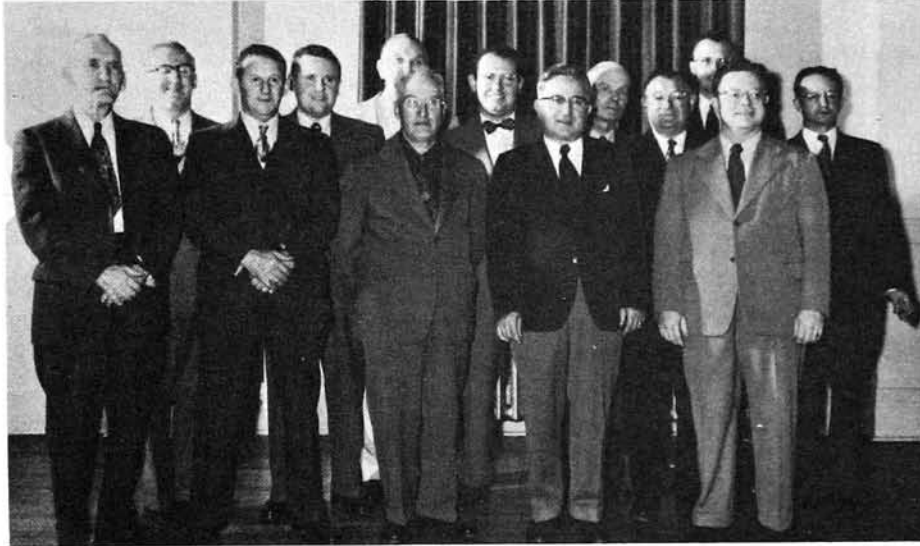
President, Frank Manske; Vice-President, William Wisotzke; Recording Secretary, William Griep; Financial Secretary, Ernst Unterborn; Treasurer, William Schroeder; Librarian, Edward Muisus; Finance Committee: Louis Weber, Charles Patzer, Perry Sheehan.

The Dorcas Society, founded in 1917 in place of the former Frauenverein is in its thirty-fifth year of activity. A service organization of ladies, it has served in many capacities. It presently has 84 members.



Officers: President, Mrs. Charles Putzig; Vice-President, Mrs. Earl Newman; Secretary, Mrs. Frank Manske; Treasurer, Mrs. August Bunde.

The monthly supper meetings of the Brotherhood provide a time of fellowship, relaxation and entertainment for the members. An informal group, the Brotherhood seeks only to develop the spirit of comradeship and service within the men of the congregation.



Officers: President, Alvin Pembroke; Secretary-Treasurer, Arnold Schock.

The Women's Missionary Society of Concordia, is a study and project group which interests itself in the work of the whole Church throughout the world. Its membership numbers forty-four ladies who meet for a business session, topic presentation and a social hour.



Officers: President, Mrs. Milton Sheehan; Vice-President, Miss Eleanor Schroeder; Secretary, Miss Ruth Twietmeyer; Statistical Secretary, Mrs. Harold Cooper; Treasurer, Miss Mildred Pioch.

Newest of the adult groups in our congregation, is the Young People's Club, which meets the first Wednesday of every month for supper, a program and a fellowship hour. Organized a year ago, the group is small, but has fine possibilities for growth.



Officers: President, Frank Bock; Vice-President, Mrs. Gregory Kraus; Secretary-Treasurer, Miss Carol Griegg.

Youngest in terms of years, is the Luther League, composed of young people between the ages of twelve and seventeen. Meeting every Sunday afternoon, their busy schedule includes a meeting, devotions, topic or program and supper. Often they are engaged in preparing for a play, a festival pageant or other activity. The league is divided into Intermediate and Senior groups, each with its own set of officers.



Intermediate
President, Lee Tinsmon; Vice-President, William Brueckner; Secretary, Elaine Evershed, Treasurer, Judy Miller.



Senior
President, Jerry Koeplin; Vice-President, Robert Painton; Secretary, Joyce Cooper.

INASMUCH AS 1952 was the Seventy-Fifth Anniversary Year, we celebrated the occasion in a manner which we thought befitting. In June, the United Lutheran Synod of New York and New England was our guest for its Twenty-fourth Annual convention. This marked the first time in Concordia's history that such an event took place within our church. Those days of June 9 to 12, were memorable ones for us and here are some of the highlights.



Tuesday Morning, June 10, Pastor Golder presents a gavel to Synod President Dr. F. R. Knubel on behalf of Concordia Church.



Dr. Franklin Clark Fry, President of the United Lutheran Church in America was the visitor from the Church to our synod.



On Wednesday evening, June 11, nine seminarians were Ordained to the Holy Office of the Ministry. They are pictured here together with the clergy who officiated during The Service.

September 21, 1952, was the Anniversary Sunday. The celebration of a Holy Communion of Thanksgiving took place with the sermon being preached by the Rev. Arthur W. Hergenhan, Concordia's only son in the ministry.



The second service, Sunday, September 27, brought Dr. Clarence C. Stoughton, president of Wittenberg College, Springfield, Ohio, to us as our guest speaker.

The last Anniversary service took place on Sunday morning, October 5. It was during this Service that the blessing of the many beautiful gifts and memorials took place, a list of which appears at the end of this book. Altogether, these three acts of worship were not only our response to the Goodness of God but became the channels of God's grace to us as well. This is as it should be.

We also had a wonderful time, socially speaking, at a Jubilee banquet which we held on the evening of October 1, in our beautifully redecorated parish hall. Over three hundred guests came to dine, to enjoy one another's company and to reminisce. The three people most responsible for the success of that evening are pictured below.



Mrs. Frank Manske, Dinner Chairman; Mr. Ray Moldenhauer, General Chairman; Mr. Charles Pioch, Toastmaster.



Here is a view of the banquet from the balcony of the Parish Hall. On the stage are our special guests: Pastor and Mrs. Yost Brandt, Pastor and Mrs. Berg, Pastor and Mrs. Tappert.



Toastmaster Pioch is keeping everyone happy as can be readily seen from this view of the speaker's table.



To all who were members of the church fifty or more years and were present at the banquet, gold crosses were given in recognition of their many years of faithfulness and service. The cameraman has caught a few of the seventy in his lens as the Pastor is about to distribute the crosses.



Pastor Tappert addresses the banquet.



Pastor Berg speaks to former parishioners.

GIFTS AND MEMORIALS
PRESENTED TO LUTHERAN CONCORDIA CHURCH
ON THE OCCASION OF
THE SEVENTY-FIFTH ANNIVERSARY

THE BOOK OF REMEMBRANCE—in memory of Mrs. Loretta Eisenberg
by her husband Carl P. Eisenberg
and her children
Dorothy and Willis Seville

THE MEMORIAL DESK—in memory of Mr. and Mrs. Edward Wetzel
Frieda McCaffery Caroline Wetzel Elizabeth Wetzel
Amelia Weber Charles Wetzel George Wetzel

MEMORIAL WINDOWS

The NATIVITY OF OUR LORD—in memory of Mr. and Mrs. Ludwig Mathiak
by Mrs. Ludwig Mathiak

THE RESURRECTION OF OUR LORD—in memory of Miss Bertha Czadsick
by her estate and her nieces and nephews

Edwin Czadsick	Bertha Groth	Herman Schadsick	Herman Senn
John Gartz	Frieda Morrison	William Schadsick	May Senn
Rosetta Gingras	Louise Mueller	Bertha Schroeder	Olga Wolf
Augusta Grienke	Edward Schadsick	Charles Senn	Margaret Young

THE ASCENSION OF OUR LORD—in memory of William and Emilie Frankenstein
by their daughter Anna Wegman

REPENTANCE—in memory of John and Ernestine Keehn
by their children
John C. Keehn Frieda Machen Loretta Merkel

PARAMENTS AND VESTMENTS

A White Altar Superfrontal—the gift of the Red Cross Unit in honor of
the Seventy-Fifth Anniversary of Concordia Church

A White Lectern Antependium—in memory of Mrs. Mary Siegel
by her daughter May Siegel

A White Pulpit Antependium—in memory of Mr. and Mrs. Konrad Schlicker
by their Children

A White Stole—Presented by Mr. and Mrs. Albert Geiger as a Thankoffering

Green Lectern and Pulpit Antependia—in memory of Mrs. Eleanor Nowack
by the Dorcas Society

Altar Fair Linens—in memory of Mrs. Anna Bock by her husband
Albert R. Bock

A Red Stole—in memory of Mr. Charles Neuwirth by Dr. and Mrs.
George W. Bair and Family

CHURCH FURNISHINGS

CHANCEL PRIE-DIEU—presented by Mr. and Mrs. Roy Phillippsen
in honor of their parents
Mr. and Mrs. Eugene Graham
and
Mr. and Mrs. Jacob R. Phillippsen

BAPTISTRY CREDENCE BRACKET—presented by Frieda Miller
in honor of her parents
Mr. and Mrs. John D. Miller

PARISH HALL FURNISHINGS

DRAPES FOR THE AUDITORIUM—The gift of the Women of the Church
and the Women's Missionary Society
in honor of
The Seventy-Fifth Anniversary of Concordia Church

FOLDING CHAIRS AND TABLES—presented by
Mrs. Rose Meyer and Frank Knop in memory of Cornelius Meyer
Miss Emma Scheik in memory of Departed members of the Scheik Family
Relatives and Friends in memory of Mrs. Elfreda Dittman
Miss Elsie Manzek in memory of her mother Mrs. Mathilda Manzek
Franklin and Lincoln Kalwas in memory of their father, Mr. John Kalwas
Miss Bertha Pegosh
The Mission Class
Red Cross Unit



Our Parking Lot, looking toward Hudson Avenue