



CHURCH DIRECTORY

Pastor REV. W. H. KNAUFF Parsonage: 139 Church Street — Phone 182

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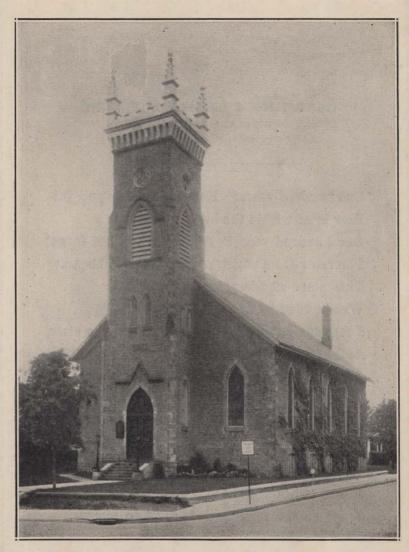
C. Maddock, A.T.C.M. 641 Queen St.

In presenting this Jubilee Booklet to the members and friends of St. Peter's Evangelical Lutheran Church, the Pastor and Church Council extend greetings and hope it will find a permanent place in every home to which it is admitted.

Sonnet for a Church Centennial BY CLARA BERNHARDT (Written especially for this occasion)

One hundred years! How long a time and yet How brief within the history of man; One hundred years! Ah, we would not forget The roots from which our present life began. This place of adoration and of prayer Was builded by our fathers in the past; Footsteps have come and gone upon the stair, And hearts found comfort in faith steadfast.

And now, with our brave heritage of years, We face a gallant future, veiled in night, Aware that He Who sends the joy and tears, Will also send the weapons for the fight. O God, without Whose Kingdom man is poor, Grant us the faith and courage to endure.



St. Peter's Evangelical Lutheran Church Preston, Ontario



J. Goos, Treasurer; J. Bartels, Rev. W. H. Knauff, Pastor; H. Brill, A. G. Alles. Secretary. CHURCH COUNCIL-J. Sohrt, Geo. Weiberg, W. C. Hagen, J. Livergood, A. Triller,



OUR PASTOR

Pastors who have served this Congregation

1.	Rev.	F. W. Bindemann	1834—1838
		J. Huettner	
3.	Rev.	F. Hildebrandt	1849-1850
4.	Rev.	J. Hoelsche	1850-1854
5.	Rev.	I. Wurster	1854—1881
6.	Rev.	C. Schroeder	1881—1886
7.	Rev.	F. Kern	1886-1887
8.	Rev.	T. Snyder	1887-1895
9.	Rev.	C. C. J. Maass	1895-1907
10.	Rev.	C. J. Lucas	1908-1914
11.	Rev.	Yost Brandt	1914-1915
12.	Rev.	M. Voelker	1915—1919
13.	Rev.	W. H. Knauff	1919—

The Congregation comprises 909 Baptized members and 677 Confirmed

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History of Our Congregation

One Hundred Years of Serving

Lutheranism in Preston is closely connected with the coming to Waterloo County of the early settlers-Pennsylvania Germans. While the first settlers were chiefly Mennonites, who, during the close of the Eighteenth Century likewise come from Pennsylvania. Lutherans followed soon, (about 1810) and settled along the Grand and Speed Rivers, where the Town of Preston is now situated. Whether these Lutheran people brought with them a pastor is not clear from the records. However we read of a Pastor F. W. Bindemann, the only Protestant minister within a radius of forty or fifty miles who seemed to be a travelling German preacher for this entire district. In the summer of 1835 when the Pennsylvania Synod sent Rev. John H. Bernheim into this district to make a survey of resident Lutherans, he reported that preaching stations had been established in various school houses in the Townships of Waterloo, Wilmot and Puslinch. Thus he writes of Waterloo Township having three preaching stations: Berlin (Kitchener), a village of about twenty-five houses: the second at a distance of six miles, and the third in Preston, eight miles from Berlin''.

These Lutherans, it would appear, were served by Pastor Bindemann, who travelled by foot and on horseback over roads lately opened through almost impenetrable forests. More about this man who was organizer of St. Peter's Church, Preston, we learn from the report of Pastor Bernheim to the synod which sent him. Thus we read (Aug., 1835): "Already these eight months a certain Bindemann sows the seed of Universalism and Rationalism in this place. On Aug. 5th I went to Preston to appoint a day on which I would preach, visited several families and found that little, very little true religion existed. Bindemann has many friends here." "On August 23rd I preached in Berlin to sixty or seventy hearers and in the afternoon, eight miles distant. Only eight persons assembled, Bindemann having preached in the morning and excited the people against me." "On the thirtieth I intended to preach in Preston in the morning, but through the instiga-



REV. F. W. BINDEMANN Organizer of St. Peter's Congregation, 1834 tion of Bindemann, I received the following lines, 'Mr. John H. Bernheim is desired not to trouble himself to preach next Sunday, the 30th, in Preston, because the congregation does not wish to hear him.

> The Vestry, Henry Allemang John Specht Jacob Roos

Preston, Aug. 24th, 1835' In conformity with this notice I did not go to Preston.

On September 3rd Rev. Mr. Beltrige, preacher of the Episcopal church arrived here sent by the Bishop, Lord Quebec, to investigate the matter between Bindemann and Meierhoeffer. He told the people that Bindemann had

not been sent by the Bishop, on the contrary, the Bishop had authorized Beltrige to make known that Bindemann was a Universalist. He lamented that the blinded people clung too much to Bindemann and were themselves wicked." (Minutes of Ev. Luth. Synod of Pennsylvania, 1836.)

From Lutheran Gleanings (June 1934, edited by Rev. C. R. Cronmiller) we quote: "Pastor Bernheim, having sown the true seed of the word, has departed, but Bindemann, the Universalist, remained. He had no Synodical connections and was a law unto himself. Until 1865 he ministered unto the Lutheran People of the district. His influence, however, began to wane long before his death. St. John's congregation, in Waterloo, which he established in 1837, refused his services as early as 1841. The Preston congregation, organized in 1834, turned from him in 1838. The majority of St. Paul's congregation in Berlin tolerated him until his death in 1865. They were successful, however, in gaining from him valuable and true Lutheran concessions".

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Congregation Organized

It was Rev. F. W. Bindemann who effected the organization of the German Lutherans in the district, on December 1st, 1834. From the first page of the first "Kirchenbuch" we translate thus: "This congregation was organized under the guidance of Almighty God, on December 1st, 1834, and may God give His heavenly blessings unto the end of time to the congregation's development and progress, for Jesus Christ's sake. Amen. Rev. F. W. Bindemann, Preacher."

The first Church Board elected were:

Jacob Roos
John SpechtEldersMichael Roos
H. Allemang
H. McNellyTrustees

McNelly)

The first entry is an infant Baptism on December 21st, 1834, Heinrich, child of Chas. and Anna Cossens. The first Confirmation was an adult, Catharine Roos Stuempfle, on November 15th, 1835. The first regular class was confirmed on March 24th, 1839, by Pastor Huettner, and consisted of Henry Thoman, Martin Schmidt, Nic. Knechtel, Carl Roos, Jacob Gluck, Ernest Hagedorn, Martin Thoman, Elizabeth Zink, Salome Schmidt, Wilhelmina Logus, Maria Durrbecker, Charlotte Dannmeyer and Maria Specht.

Building a Church

After the organization by Pastor Bindemann, the congregation worshipped in a school house and sometimes in private homes, until finally the Rudel brothers, who were Lutherans, built a stone structure intending that it should be used by the Lutherans as a place of worship. And so it happened that the Lutherans worshipped in the building, which still stands at the corner of Queen and Montrose Streets, and which received the name of Rudel's Church. However, dissensions arose, and the congregation did not long retain it and later it became a Methodist Church "Wesley Methodist" by name.

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in 1837 it was decided to build a church. A suitable site was selected in the "John Erb Survey" and a quarter acre of ground (the pre-



THE OLD FRAME CHURCH

sent property) was purchased for one pound lawful Canadian money. The unusual low price of this property was conditioned on the privilege being extended to other Christian congregations of the village to worship in the church building to be erected on this site; the Lutherans however, were to have first right thereto. The Deed and Title to the property, which was not executed until Sept. 2nd. 1842 contains this clause: "Intended for, and shall be kept for, the sole use

and purpose for a church to be called "Christ Church", and shall be free for all denominations of Christians at any time when not occupied by the Lutheran or German Presbyterian congregations of the village"

However, other denominations did not avail themselves of this extended privilege, for, besides a good portion of the Roman Catholic inkabitants, there were very few of other churches, but the Lutherans predominated. Only the Anglican rector of Galt, Rev. Boomer, made an attempt to organize an Anglican Church in Preston. Every second Sunday afternoon he conducted services here, but the attendance was so small, (the Lutheran people lending their aid by attending and assisting in the singing,) that the attempt to organize an Anglican Church was abandoned.

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Regarding the building itself, which is known as the "Old Frame Church", our records tell us that its dimensions were fifty feet by forty feet, with a tower of sixty feet. The writer of this History was informed by Mr. George Boos that the lumber for the Church was hewn by his father with the broad-axe. Jas. Cowan, the owner of the Bush east of the village, had offered to give all the timber and lumber needed for the erection of the church, if someone would cut and haul it. At a congregational meeting Jacob Boos volunteered to cut the timber and Geo. Mahler agreed to do the teaming. Thus work on the church began, but was delayed because of insufficient funds. Pastor Bindemann, who at this time organized St. John's congregation, in Waterloo (1837), was generally so busy that he could no longer, with any attempt at regularity, serve the church in Preston. The latter turned from him in 1838 and desired a local and resident Pastor. Rev. J. Huettner, who at that time was serving a Lutheran congregation in Vaughn Township, was called and began a fruitful ministry, September 30th, 1838, as the congregation's first regular Pastor. New life, renewed interest, and general activity at once gripped the members of the congregation. As the new church had not been completed, the congregation worshipped in an old building. A new bell for the proposed church was hauled from Buffalo by horse and wagon conveyance, in 1838, by Messrs. Roos and Volkmann. Early in 1839 building operations were again begun and pressed so that in the Fall of that year the new Church was dedicated, giving the members new inspiration and fresh hope.

Because of ill-health, Pastor Huettner was forced to resign from his faithful care of the congregation in 1849. He was serving also St. John's congregation at Waterloo, at the time. He died Dec. 12th, 1851, and was laid to rest in the Cemetery at the rear of the church. His successor was Rev. F. Hildebrandt (1849) who resigned the following year. Rev. Jacob Hœlsche thereupon became Pastor (1850). At this time a division occurred in the congregation, the larger portion remaining in the church and the lesser under Pastor Hœlsche sought other quarters where they might worship.

When Pastor Hœlsche resigned in 1854, the congregation was united again and extended a call to Rev. Immanuel Wurster (son-in-law of deceased Pastor Huettner) who, the day before Christmas, 1854, began a twenty-seven year term of blessed and faithful service, after he had previously ministered for three months to the needs of the loyal Lutheran party. Pastor Wurster was, at the time, pastor of St. John's



PASTOR IMMANUEL WURSTER 1854 — 1881

Waterloo, since June 1851, and apparently, because of a dearth of ministers, continued to serve and live there, having at the same time the care of the congregations at Preston, Petersburg and Mannheim. In 1855 Pastor Wurster resigned in Waterloo to serve Preston alone, moving here with his family on July 15th. Through his quiet, unassuming but faithful ministrations, his implicit trust in Divine Guidance, he was permitted to labor with crowning success in this vineyard of the Lord. New

courage and increasing zeal took

hold of the congregation which increased in membership, and outward activities centred around the reduction of the church debt.

Securing Title

Efforts to raise sufficient funds for this purpose by free will offerings were without any appreciable result. The patience of those men who carried the burden and financial responsibilities was exhausted, and they felt themselves constrained to bring legal action against the Trustees of Christ's Church and naturally received judgment. Thus we glean from the old documents, the plaintiffs and the amounts of redress asked were: John Zingg for \$94.16, Jacob Hespeler for \$107.75 and John Roos for \$106.90, a total of \$308.81. The defendants, John Roos, Daniel Halberstadt, Henry Schnoeringer, Peter Davit and Karl Israel, were Trustees of Christ's On December 21st, 1853, the sheriff, John Geo. Church. Grange, of Guelph, having at an earlier date, caused seizure to be made, held a sale of the property and tenements of Christ's Church and sold to the highest bidder at the Court House in Guelph for the sum of one hundred pounds. John Roos, Geo. Roos, John Kohles and Peter Vollmar obtained the property for \$460.00 in behalf of the Lutheran element only. A Deed to that effect, cancelling those specifications Page Ten

and restrictions of 1842, was executed on February 10th, 1854.

A few years later the Lutherans of Preston, who, since their incorporation in 1850 adopted the name "Die Deutch Evang. Lutherishe St. Peter's Gemeinde Zu Preston and Umgegend", were able to raise enough money to re-imburse the buyers and thus secured the present property for the Trustees and their successors of St. Peter's congregation. The new Deed called "Indenture of February 4th, 1859". mentions the following as Trustees appointed by the "German Evangelical Lutheran Religious Society of St. Peter's Church in Preston": John Hoffman (mason); Dr. Ernst Andrew Koetsch. (Surgeon) and John Roos, (Merchant); and specifies here that the Annual Meeting of the congregation shall be held "at the hour of ten o'clock in the forenoon of the twenty-sixth day of December in each year". Thus through timely actions and heroic sacrifices the Lutherans secured sole and full title to the parcel of ground which originally was common church property.

Sowing and Watering

Pastor Wurster had such a blessed and fruitful pastorate in Preston, that his faithful labors have not been in vain up to the present day. Many of the present members were baptized, confirmed and married by him and he is held in grateful and sacred memory by scores of people who came under his pastoral care. He founded, also, the congregations in Schantz, Breslau and Hespeler. He was one of the organizers of the Canada Synod in 1861. St. Peter's Church became a member of Synod but in 1881 disassociated itself with it again.

After twenty-seven years of faithful and fruitful labors,



REV. C. SCHROEDER 1881 to 1886

because of ill-health, Rev. Wurster resigned as pastor of St. Peter's Church (1881) continuing to reside in Preston until he entered into triumph in 1893 on the 24th of April, his sixty-eighth birthday. He was succeeded by Rev. C. Schroeder, on October 1st, 1881, under whose ministry the old parsonage on King Street was built (1882) at a cost of \$1,280.00. Mr. Carl Weseman kindly loaned the money for the balance owing—\$407.50. The Ladies' Aid Society, organized during Pastor Wurster's ministry (1870), displayed considerable interest in this project, decorated the interior, paid \$100.00 on the mort-



REV. F. KERN 1886 to 1887 gage and expended a total of \$700.00 in this cause alone.

In 1886 Pastor Schroeder resigned, having accepted a call to Pembroke, Ontario. In the same year the congregation extended a call to Rev. Frederick Kern of Newark, N. J. Accepting the call on November 28th, 1886, he stayed only one year. Yet to his credit, let it be said, that he laid plans for, and actually began the erection of a new church—the present one.

"Old things pass away, giving way to new"

For years expenditures on church property were confined only to the most urgent repairs and necessary improvements. The steeple of the old frame church was blown down to the roof by a violent storm. This necessitated its rebuilding. The old records tell of shortage of funds in the church coffers, the members apparently having never made adequate and liberal sacrifices. The work of the Ladies' Aid Society in making improvements and especially in its care of the parsonage is particularly lauded.

A condition now arose which should lead to greater things. The church interior and exterior needed attention badly. It had bleak, bare walls; uninviting windows; straight, hard pews; in short the whole structure needed to be changed and improved. Much seemed to be missing, and no one seemed to be doing anything about it. Then too, the church became much too small for the growing congregation. It was during the Pastorate of Rev. Kern, in November, 1886, that the congregation decided to build a stone church, at an approximate cost of \$10,000.00 The Ladies' Aid Society (always the helping hand of the congregation) immediately offered \$1,000.00. Members of the congregation made pledges, though there was no unusual and startling individual subscription, with the result that the amount in prospect was not sufficient to cover the entire cost. Architect Chas. Moogk drew up approved plans for a building 75 ft. by 50 ft. by 331/2 ft. to the roof,

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an 11 ft, basement (5 ft, above ground) a tower 77 ft of which 7 ft. to be underground: a steeple of 70 ft. with slate shingles was planned, but because money was lacking, this was left for some future time. We still do not have our steeple and the beautiful town of Preston should have at least one spire among the town's churches, pointing aloft. Materials to be used were specified: grev stone from the quarry in Preston, white ornamental stone from Guelph. For this work the Trustees borrowed \$3,000.00 at seven per cent, interest from the Canada Permanent and Western Canada Mortgage Corporation Co., principal payable in ten yearly payments of \$300.00. The old church was rolled away to a lot purchased on the Corner of Queen and Church Streets, where services were held until the new church would be ready for dedication. The corner-stone was laid August 21st, 1887. It was a rainy Sunday. The ceremony was delayed; the congregation tarried in the old church until the weather cleared. Mr. Otto Klotz. who was chairman of the Building Committee, acted in the capacity of master of ceremonies. Rev. F. Kern declared the stone duly and truly laid. Not long after this event the pastor resigned (1887), leaving behind him a disheartened and discouraged people, who lacked energy and ambition to continue to complete the building of the new church. Now



REV. T. SNYDER 1887 to 1895

for the right leader! The congregation looked to Rev. T. Snyder, M.D., to come and to complete what had been started. In July 1888 he began his work by organizing for the task, and the following year (1889) he and his congregation were permitted to consecrate the new church to the services of the Triune God. The pastor himself preached the dedicatory sermons, in the German language in the forenoon and in English in the evening. Because of the internal discord which existed in the congrega-

tion even before his arrival, Rev. Dr. Snyder was compelled to have the congregation assume a debt of \$12,000 by having church and parsonage mortgaged. During his pastorate this was reduced to \$6,500.00. Regular English services, to be held in the evening, were introduced at this time.

Later Stewardships

Upon the resignation of Rev. Dr. T. Snyder, Rev. C. C.

J. Maass, of New Hamburg, began on September 15th, 1895, a very successful pastorate of twelve years. Under his able leadership the church became free of debt in 1906 and the encumbrance on the parsonage was reduced to \$900.00. Much to the regret of his congregation and a host of friends which he had made in the Town, Rev. Maass preached his farewell sermon on December 15th, 1907, having accepted a call to Zurich, Ont. Our congregation, recognizing his faith- REV. C. C. J. MAASS ful services, presented Pastor Maass with a substantial purse.



1895 to 1907

Rev. C. J. Lucas, of Ottawa, Ontario, was installed as pastor in January, 1908. In June of the same year the congregation re-united with the Canada Synod. The Seventy-



1908 to 1914

fifth Anniversary of the congregation was auspiciously observed while the congregation was entertaining the meeting of Synod. June 6th, 1909. Through the untiring efforts of Pastor Lucas, the last mortgage, (that on the old parsonage), was solemnly burned before the assembled congregation by Pastor Lucas and the President of the Ladies' Aid Society, on January 18th, 1911. Because of encroaching and encircling business blocks REV. C. J. LUCAS the parsonage on King Street was sold for

\$6,000.00, in September, 1912. Plans were laid for a new parsonage to be erected at the rear of the church where the burial ground had been situated but which was transferred years ago to Preston's new cemetery. Ground was broken May 1st, 1913 and by October 13th, Pastor Lucas began occupancy, though in God's wise Providence his estimable help-meet died on August 21st of the same year. This was also the main factor in the early resignation of the Pastor, (February 22nd, 1914), preaching his farewell sermon on Easter Sunday, to accept a call to St. Mark's Church Brooklyn, N. Y.

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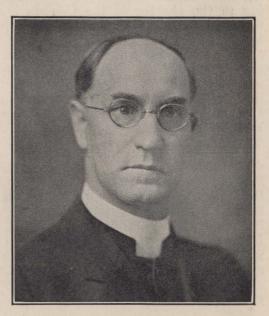
Rev. Yost Brandt, of Albany, N. Y., was then called as pastor, coming here May 7th, 1914, but terminated his brief ministry in April of the following year, (1915).

His labors were concentrated on the Sunday School and the Luther League both of which greatly increased their activities during his brief but active ministry.

> (below) REV. M. VOELKER 1915 to 1919

REV. YOST BRANDT 1914 to 1915

Another pastor from New Hamburg was secured, Rev. M. Voelker, July 1st, 1915. During his pastorate the congregation adopted for use at Holv Communion, the individual glasses (August 3rd, 1915) which, with the "common cup" are still in use to-day. The interior of the church was then renovated in oil colors, the work being done by Messrs.



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Schoenau and Braun, both members of the congregation. The Ladies' Aid Society paid \$512.00 for this work. Electric light fixtures (value \$350.00) were installed and a new cork matting laid in the aisles and choir-loft. The Quadri-Centennial of the Reformation was observed on Oct. 31st, 1917, for which occasion the "First Luther League" donated a white marble baptismal font valued at \$190.00. The confirmation class of that year (1917) made a gift of a bronze altar cross. Rev. Voelker resigned July 21st, 1919, to accept a call to Pembroke, Ontario.

The present pastor, Rev. W. H. Knauff, was called from Port Colborne, Ont., and was installed by Rev. J. Schmieder, of Kitchener, on November 2nd, 1919. The congregation had previously decided to have only two services in the German language, per month (in the morning). The question of retaining synodical affiliation was a very live issue. On January 15th, 1922 it was resolved to resign from the Canada Synod. When the merger of the Canada Synod and the Synod of Central Canada was about to be realized, the congregation at its annual meeting in January, 1925, decided to apply for membership in the new body. However, this decision was unanimously reversed when it was seen that, according to the charter of the Canada Synod, under which the merger was to be effected, the congregation's property would belong to the Synod, unless a vote of the congregation without one dissenting voice could be obtained to withdraw from the Synod, which stipulation the congregation considered unjust and unfair. The congregation, therefore, remained an independent congregation, however aiding the Synod and the U. L. C. A. in the educational and missionary program. An English constitution was adopted on August 6th, 1922.

Various improvements to the church property were made: The Sunday School, in March, 1922, redecorated the School-rooms at a cost of \$277.00. In June of the same year the Ladies' Aid recarpeted the church, costing \$233.00. The first of a series of artistic memorial windows was installed by the Ewald Family in July, 1922. The Schultz Family followed with a window for Christmas of the same year. Two more were placed in 1924, the one by the Yates Family in memory of Rose Volkmann, and the Ladies' Aid, commemorating the ninetieth anniversary of the founding of the congregation. This society had also installed one by which to

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THE INTERIOR OF THE CHURCH

remember the fiftieth anniversary of its organization. That those members, whose hearing is impaired, might hear the service, an acousticon was installed, made possible largely through private subscriptions. This has proved its worth as not a few faithful members, who have not heard God's Word preached for years, are now enabled to feed their souls on the heavenly food. The height of improvements and renovations was reached during the summer of 1928 when the whole interior was re-decorated. The walls and ceiling were adorned with beautiful decorative work of panels and emblems: a shaded ceiling and renewing of the woodwork completed the beautiful interior. This work of art was done by local decorators, members of the congregation, Messrs. Braun and Becker. These improvements were made possible through the graciousness and liberality of the Ladies' Aid. costing \$1,500.00. At the same time, a two-manuel pipe-organ with electro-pneumatic action, was installed. There are twenty-two speaking stops and eighteen couplers and mechanical accessories. A set of chimes is included in the organ, which was installed by the Franklin Legge Organ Co., of

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Toronto. Changes in the choir-loft had to be made to accommodate the organ with its large pipes, and the pulpit which had been in the centre was moved to the left. This work with the organ installed was made possible through an every-member subscription over a period of twelve months. The work cost approximately \$3,000.00. Dedication and reopening services were held on September 9th, 1928 with Revs. Schmieder and Roberts as the guest preachers.

On May 21st, 1933, the pastor dedicated two outside electric light standards, placed by the Ladies' Aid Society to the memory of Mrs. Caroline Bernhardt, who in her last will had made a bequest to the Society. Mrs. Bernhardt was a faithful Ladies' Aid member for fifty-five years.

A memorial intended for our Centennial was auspiciously unveiled and solemnly dedicated in advance of the celebration at a special service on May 27th, 1934. We refer to the new altar dedicated to the memory of Mr. George Fink placed by Mrs. Fink and Family. The altar is said to be the only one of its kind in Canada, a photograph of which is herewith shown in this booklet. It is an exquisite piece of workmanship, designed in two-tone oak. The altar proper is done in a dark stain, while the reredos, in a contrasting lighter



THE FINK MEMORIAL ALTAR

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shade, is a beautiful hand-carved replica of the Lord's Supper, in bold relief, showing even remotest details. The choir rail is in natural oak while the rail surrounding the baptismal font is stained to match the altar. The sermon, "What the Altar Means to Religion", was preached by Rev. Dr. F. B. Clausen, President Waterloo College and Seminary.

And so, by the grace of God, we are permitted to observe One Hundred Years of Serving. Let us thank God for mercies received, let us in deepest humility confess to Him our shortcomings, and then "lift up our eyes unto the hills, from whence cometh our help". Ps. 121:1.

"The Lord preserve thy going out and thy coming in from this time forth and even for evermore". Amen.

W. H. Knauff.

There are five Registers in which the vital statistics are recorded. These are in a good state of preservation and are kept in the safe in the school-room.

The following are the contents.

		Confirma-			
		Baptisms	tions	Marriages	Deaths
Book No. I	1834 - 1855	564	192	311	135
Book No. II	1855 - 1881	1,250	579	1,139	432
Book No. III	1882 - 1908	502	307	95	222
Book No. IV	1909-1914	162	118	134	70
Book No. V	1914 - 1934	334	432	88	312
				i .	
	Totals	2,812	1,628	1,767	1,171

Lutheran Statistics

Early Beginnings in Total in the world: Canada: Membership - 82,186.000 Congregations 79.000 Hudson Bay 1619 Pastors 50,000 Nova Scotia - - -1749- 150 Ontario 1784 Languages used

Lutherans in Canada number 394,194 (1931 Census), the greatest percentage increase among Protestants.

Lutherans in Canada stand sixth among Christian denominations in point of numbers. In the United States they stand fourth with 3,966,003 members.



The Ladies' Aid Society

Among the congregation's auxiliary societies the venerable "Ladies' Aid" justly deserves honorable mention: Long before its actual birth, there had been a desire on the part of some loyal women in the congregation to organize themselves for general helpfulness and service in their beloved church. This desire became contagious, the idea was convincing. Acting on the impulse, eighty-five women met in the "old frame church" on the afternoon of January 30th. 1870. Their names were read by the organizers, Mrs. Charlotte Scharstein and Mrs. Maria Probst, and upon payment of the initiation fee of twenty-five cents became charter members. The meeting adopted a constitution and thus there came into being the "Frauen-und-Jungfrauen-Verein" (the Women's and Young Women's Society). The first enrollment book, with the members' names neatly entered, and the respective dues recorded, is among the congregation's recordbooks. Of these eighty-five ladies who became charter members sixty-four years ago, sixty-three maintained membership to the end of the year.

At that memorable meeting the following officers were elected: President, Mrs. Johanna Wahn; Secretary, Miss Augusta Klotz; Treasurer, Mrs. Friederike Nispel.

For many years this was the only Ladies' Aid Society in the Town, as an old report relates. Consequently, the various events sponsored by the society with the purpose of raising money for its treasury, were well patronized and proved profitable to the ladies. It is reported that New Hamburg was next in line among the Lutheran churches in the district to organize its women. The writer was told by an aged member of the Ladies' Aid, that Mrs. Beck, the mother of the late Sir Adam Beck, would frequently come to

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Preston from New Hamburg in order to scrutinize the society's books and learn of its methods of keeping the records.



MRS. DOROTHEA HEISE The oldest living charter member who is still a member of the Ladies' Aid.

It is also interesting to note that in the beginning the meetings were held in the afternoon of the last Sunday of the month in the school-house adjoining the church. As considerable talk arose in outside circles concerning the Lutheran ladies holding meetings on the Lord's Day for the transaction of business, the day of meeting was changed to the first Monday of each month.

On May 23rd, 1895, (Ascension Day) the society observed its Silver Jubilee at a church service. The pastor, Rev. Dr. Snyder

preached the sermon on "Women's Work in the Kingdom of God". The secretary, Miss Augusta Klotz, could report that not only had she been secretary since the organization, but has had regular attendance at the meetings unless away from home. In the first twenty-five years the Ladies' Aid raised over \$4,000.00, which was almost entirely spent on the church property.

The society has lived up to its aim and object to foster the spirit of charity and good-will in the congregation and to aid the congregation and those in need. Much has been contributed toward the church's indebtedness. The congregation is also indebted to the Ladies for many fine pieces of

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church furnishings, and many valuable alterations and improvements. One has only to read the history of our church to see how active our good women have been. As a scarlet thread the good and kindly deeds of the women are woven into the very existence of the congregation.

In those horrible years of the World War, in these latter years of suffering and need,—it was the Ladies Aid Society which provided help, comfort and cheer as the occasion demanded. Each year a treat of good things to eat is taken to the patients of the Freeport sanatorium. Every Christmas

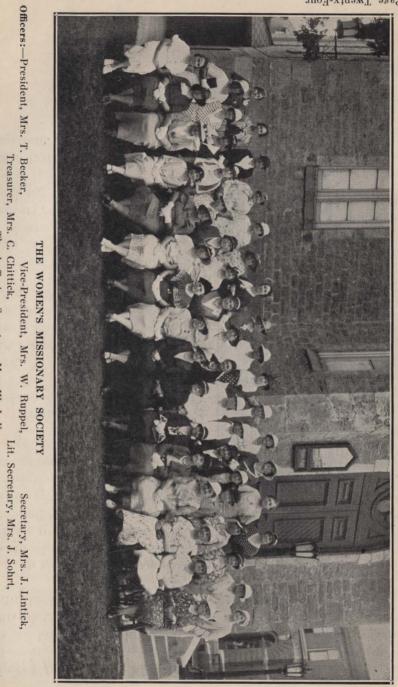
holiday cheer and necessities are taken into the homes of the congregation's needy ones.

To-day the Ladies' Aid society has a membership of 113. Its officers are: President, Mrs. W. Ruppel; Vice-Pres., Mrs. J. Livergood; Rec. Sec., Mrs. J. Stockfish; Financial Sec., Miss Katharine Weiberg; Treas., Mrs. G. H. Bernhardt.

The activity and helpfulness of the Society is in evidence again at our anniversary. The women enjoy working for their church and deem it a privilege to serve their Lord and Master in His kingdom.



MRS. MARGARET SEYFFERT The oldest member of our congregation. Age 103 years.



Thankoffering Secretary, Mrs. W. J. Krueger.

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The Women's Missionary Society

The purpose of this live organization is to develop among the members a deeper interest in the Missionary work of the church by studying and circulating Missionary intelligence and by giving financial assistance to the Mission Boards of the Church. The Society was organized on February 16th, 1912, in the home of Mrs. F. Stahlschmidt, who became the first President. Other officers elected at the organization meeting, were Vice-Pres. Mrs. J. Wirsching; Secretary, Miss L. Martin; Treasurer, Miss M. Ewald; Lit. Chairman, Mrs. J. There were thirty-seven members in 1912, nine hon-Sohrt. orary members, the latter were men whose membership consisted in financial assistance only. In 1913 the Society became a member of the W. M. S. of the Synod of Central Canada. About this time Rev. Kuder, missionary in India. was made a Life Member and the late Mrs. (Rev.) Lucas was memorialized. In 1915 a native teacher in India was supported by the payment of \$30.00. The W. M. S. in 1920 furnished a student's room in the Seminary costing \$75.00. The Society took part in a general drive, in 1921 among the Missionary Societies of the Synod, for an increase of members. The result of our women's effort was an increase of membership from 65 to 118. To-day we have an active membership of 94. Surgical supplies for the hospital in India were donated in 1923. Later a shower of small articles for use in the Mission in India was sent to our Canadian nurse.

These faithful women study the W. M. S. monthly topics at each meeting; each year, during the first week in Lent, the week of prayer is conducted by the women themselves. In the winter months of 1932 and 1933 very profitable mission study classes have been held at the homes of the members.

An invitation is extended to all women of the congregation to come and meet with their sisters in missionary interests on the fourth Wednesday of the month. It is only as a congregation aspires to send the Gospel beyond its borders, that its home base is strengthened. Christ saved us that we might "tell it out abroad" and thus bring light and life to some poor benighted soul.



The Young Women's Missionary Society

To interest the young ladies in the cause of Missions and to train them for future leadership in the W. M. S. a Missionary Society for them was organized in 1926 with sixteen charter members. The first officers elected were: President, Miss Irene Werlich; Vice-Pres., Miss Janet Stahlschmidt; Secretary, Mrs. G. Bullock; Treasurer, Miss Ruth Tilt.

The work of the Young Women is identical with that of the parent organization. They study the same topics, support the same causes and belong to the same Synodical body. The society has a personal interest in the following missionaries whom they have selected as Prayer Partners: Miss Christie Zimmerman, India; Miss Jessie Cronk, India; and Miss Faith Lippard, Japan. Letters from these Missionaries, who labor in the capacity of teachers in our mission schools, are always read with interest at the meetings. The present officers are: President, Miss Hilda Schneider; Vice-President, Miss Dorothy Triller; Secretary, Miss Lois Pelz; Treasurer, Miss Kathleen Snyder; Mag. Secretary, Miss Hazel Pelz. We can well advise our young ladies to interest themselves in this Society and thereby help to bring Christ to others who know Him not.

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The Light Brigade

In February, 1920, the boys and girls of the age of 9 to 14 were organized into a Junior Luther League. For want of better literature that used by Light Brigades was adopted. The organization felt isolated for the reason that there were no similar Junior Luther Leagues in other churches in this district with which to affiliate. A change was therfore made on Jan. 7th, 1925, when the Junior Luther League constitution was abolished and that of the Light Brigade adopted. There were then thirty-nine members. A sponsorship committee and the Pastor supervise and direct the meetings which are held twice a month on Friday evenings. Missionary stories are read, little things given to do for missionary purposes and interest aroused in the W.M.S. and table favors, souvenirs, etc., made for its conventions.

The Sponsorship Committee consists of Mrs. H. Ludwig and Mrs. W. C. Hagen. The officers are:—President, Mildred Homuth; Vice-President, Violet Bennett; Secretary, Norman Hagen; Treasurer, Margaret Watson.



THE ADULT CHOIR

Back Row—Left to Right—Mrs. A. Brusso, Mrs. S. Baumgartner, Mrs. I. Eaton, M. Schultz, Mrs. W. Hagen, Mrs. T. Becker, M. Schneider, D. Brill, A. Wehner, Third Row—H. Huff, A. Bernhardt, A. Julke, H. Pelz, Rev. W. H. Knauff, Pastor; L. Pelz, D. Triller, F. Pelz, M. Blum, Mrs. H. Dechert. Second Row—E. Schmied-endorf, D. Bowman, Treas.; C. Schoenau, Pres.; Mrs. H. Bernhardt, Vice-Pres.; C. Maddock, A.T.C.M., Organist and Director; D. Gellow, Sec.;Mrs, H. Braun, L. Bernhardt, A. Wehner. Front Row—E. Triller, W. Watson, I. Jones, W. Wright H. Buwyel A. Bowmen. Wright, H. Ruppel, A. Bowman.



THE JUNIOR CHOIR Back Row—E. Schroeder, K. Bernhardt, H. Pelz, M. Pinke, R. Ziegler. Second Row—W. Schultz, L. Pelz, E. Snyder, I. Bernhardt, K. Snyder, L. Schroeder, H. Sohrt. Front Row—R. Ludwig, L. Miller, J. Braun, E. Bernhardt, Mr. C. Maddock, Organist and Director; M. Salyerds, V. Eagle, E. Bird, D. Bird.

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Gifts and Memorials to be Dedicated at the Anniversary Services

Eight Memorial Windows

"THE HOME IN BETHANY" Donated by Miss Minnie Schulz.

"COME UNTO ME" Donated by the Otto Homuth Family

"THE SERMON ON THE MOUNT" Donated by Immanuel and Christian Wurster

FRONT WINDOW WITH CROSS AND CROWN EMBLEM ALSO SIX WINDOWS IN THE TOWER Donated by the Ladies' Aid Society

> FRONT WINDOW WITH IHS EMBLEM From the Trust Fund of Mrs. Susan Stiner

Vestibule Windows "BEHOLD I STAND AT THE DOOR AND KNOCK" Donated by Mrs. John Werlich, Mrs. Nancy Werlich and Mrs. J. Livergood.

"I AM THE GOOD SHEPHERD" Donated by Miss Caroline Martin, Mrs. W. Hostrawser, Mrs. J. Peddar and Mrs. J. McClelland

SACRISTY WINDOW WITH CUP AND HOST EMBLEM Donated by Mrs. E. Holm

Carved Oak Cover for the Baptismal Font Donated by the Luther League

> **Outside Announcement Board** Donated by Mr. and Mrs. O. C. Schmidt

> > Two Flower Pedestals Donated by the W. M. S.

A Beautiful Memorial Altar Presented by Mrs. Geo. Fink and Family and Dedicated May 27th, 1934

The School Room was re-decorated in May as an Anniversary Gift by the Sunday School

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THE SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS

Back Row—A. Julke, R. Kistner, E. Schmiedendorf, M. Schneider, D. Schultz, M. Schultz, R. Ludwig, E. Salyerds, M. Pinke, F. Pelz, I. Bernhardt, K. Snyder, K. Knauff, N. Alles. Centre Row—J. Sohrt, L. Knack. Mrs. J. Wilson A. Homuth, Mrs. M. Pinke, Mrs. J. Lintick, Mrs. W. H. Knauff, Mrs. H. Ludwig, Mrs. H. G. Miller, Mrs. H. Stockfish, Mrs. A. Wehner, M. Schultz, H. Bernhardt, Front Row—M. Schlegel, A. Bennett, J. Heimbecker, C. Schoenau, H. Stockfish, Rev. W. H. Knauff, H. Sohrt, A. Pfeiffer, J. Hopf, L. Pelz,



OUR PRIMARY DEPARTMENT

Page Thirty

The Sunday School

The value of this department in the church's work cannot be over-estimated. "Train up a child in the way he should go and when he is old he will not depart from it". Prov. 22:6. This has become the rule in the Lutheran Church. The religious training of the child has its beginning in the home. The church through its Sunday School assists the home in this task and continues its blessed work.

The efficiency of the Sunday School was enhanced when, in 1917, Mrs. W. L. Driever organized a Primary Department. Her assistants were her class of young ladies whom Mrs. Driever was teaching at that time. This Department was established in the room off the main Sunday School which to-day is much too small for this growing division.

Our Sunday School has an enrollment of 342 scholars. There is an efficient staff of thirty-six teachers.

The Augsburg Uniform International Lesson Series is being used in the main school. The Primary Department uses the New Christian Life course.

Fifty-three pupils had perfect attendance of fifty-two Sundays last year. One teacher, Miss Gertrude Schultz, has a perfect attendance record for nine years; one pupil, Harvey Pfeiffer, has not been absent for eight years; while the seven year attendance record is held by Florence Schultz, Irene Bennett and Harold Bernhardt. Awards of a gold pin with attachable bar, indicating the year of attainment, is given as an inducement to attend Sunday School regularly.

The Superintendent is Mr. H. G. Stockfish; assistant Superintendent, Mr. C. F. Schoenau; Secretary, Mr. Herbert Sohrt; Assistant Secretary, Mr. Arthur Pfeiffer; Treasurer, Mr. J. Heimbecker.

The efficient Superintendent of the Primary Department is Miss Minnie Schulz; her assistant teachers are: Marie Schneider, Dorothea Schultz, Ruby Kistner, Mary Pinke, Floretta Pelz, Alberta Julke, Elizabeth Schmiedendorf, Mrs. Tompkins.

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The Senior Luther League

It is the nature of youth to want to express himself. That he may give expression in the right channels, properly guided and directed, is the purpose of the Luther League. Its aim is to furnish a training which should correspond in some degree to the industrial training of the day in secular pursuits, and fit our younger church members by work for work in the Master's vineyard. If we are to have active and efficient workers in the church in the future, it is necessary to give those who are just beginning the Christian life some definite christian work to perform. As a training school for young workers the Luther League is a most important factor to be considered in estimating the future forces of the Church.

The beginnings of our Young People's organization date back to Rev. Wurster's ministry. Then it was called "Young People's Society", later it was known as "Christian Endeavor". To-day we speak of the Senior Luther League. Like the W.M.S. and the Y.W.M.S., it is affiliated with other Leagues in a Synodical organization and through the Synodical organization with the Luther League of America, the official and recognized Society of Young People of the U. L. C. A. It was one of the first from the congregations of the

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Canada Synod to join the L. L. of Canada, shortly after organization in 1908. It is to-day the largest and most active Luther League in the Synod. It has a membership of ninetyfour and an average attendance of fifty at meetings held each Monday evening throughout the year.

The League social gatherings are very popular and are held in the school room in the winter months. Whether at work or at play, the Pastor is ever in their company and is one with them, to have them learn to play the game of life fairly.

The present officers are: Pres., Mr. F. Weiberg; Vice-Pres., Miss L. Pelz; Sec., Miss L. Miller; Treas., Mr. A. Knack.



The Intermediate Luther League

This is our most recently organized Society. It grew out of the 1934 confirmation class, every member joining. The purpose of this Society is to fill the gap between confirmation and active interest in the Luther League. These young people have, as their superintendents, Mr. and Mrs. John Wilson, who give liberally of their time and interest. Meetings are held every Tuesday evening. Luther League Topics are used.

Officers are: President, Alton Eby; Vice-Pres., Quentin Bowman; Secretary, Noreen Giles; Treasurer, Jean Bartels.

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Seminary Auxiliary

When it was agreed that local Chapters of the Seminary Auxiliary be organized in the various congregations, our Ladies acted upon the suggestion and at the close of the Ladies' Aid Society meeting in June, 1931. effected an organization with thirty-six charter members. The purpose is to assist in raising necessary funds for our educational institutions and thus to abolish the time-old custom of a Seminary Bazaar. The payment of \$1.00 annually constitutes membership in this Society. In June of each year the Annual meeting of all local chapters takes the form of a picnic in Waterloo.

The local officers are: President, Mrs. J. Sohrt, Secretary-Treasurer, Mrs. A. G. Alles.



THE TENNIS CLUB

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Roll of Members

Who contribute by the Use of the Envelopes.

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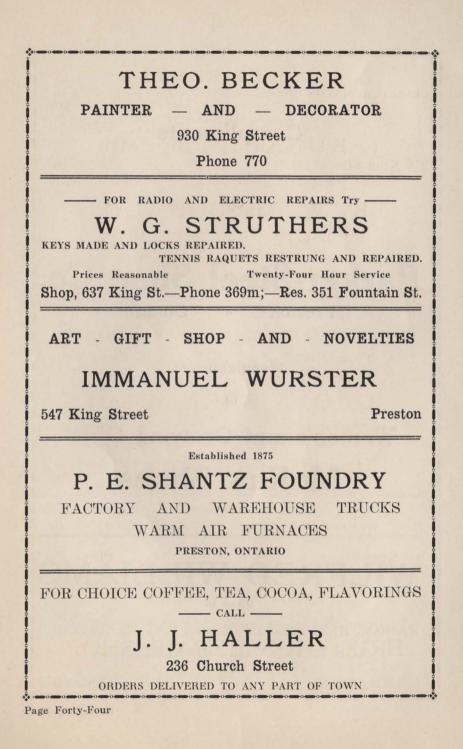
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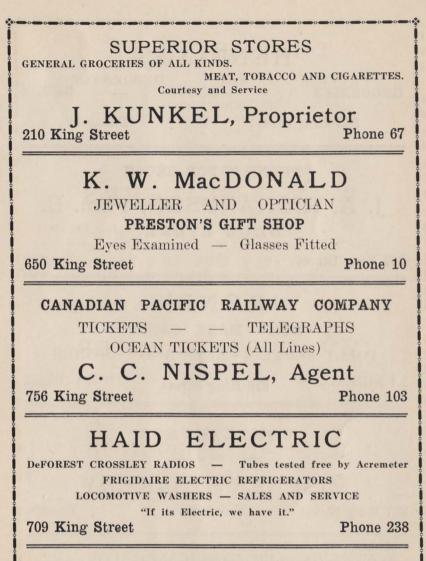
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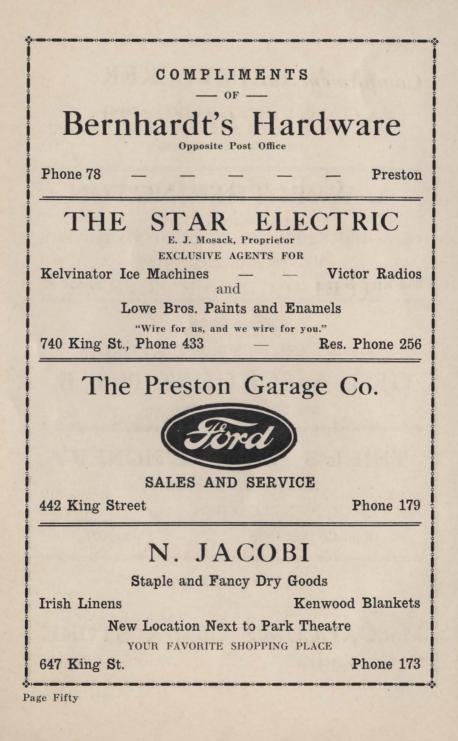
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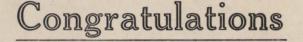
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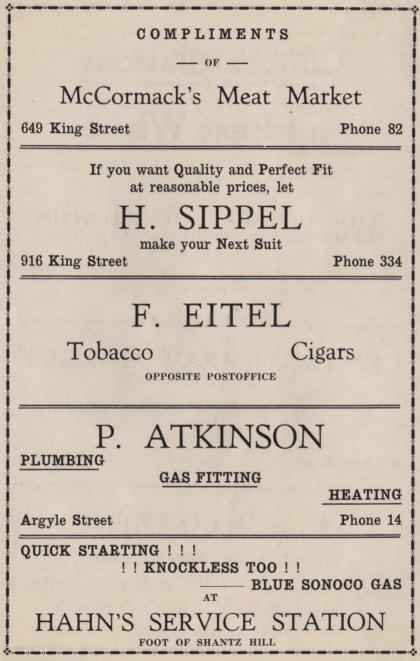
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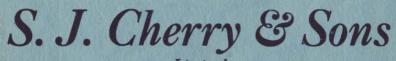
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