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St. John's  
Evangelical Lutheran Church

Waterloo, Ontario

Rev. C. S. Roberts, Pastor



Thanksgiving Services

Commemorating the Cancellation of the  
Parish Hall Indebtedness

Sunday, June 16th, 1935



## Historical Data

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The steady growth of our congregation gave birth to the idea, years ago, of the need of a modern Parish House for the better accommodation of the Sunday School and other organizations. The Ladies' Aid, the Martin Luther League, Mr. Chas. Froehlich and Mr. Julius Knauff were among the first to take up this matter and start accumulating funds. Finally, at the congregational meeting January 15, 1922, a motion was passed to devise ways and means of raising funds for the erection of a modern Parish House. That same afternoon \$5,000.00 were subscribed and a committee appointed to secure plans. This committee met for the first time January 23, 1922, and elected the following officers: Julius H. Roos, Chairman; Dezima Zimmerman, Secretary; Harry Germann, Treasurer. That same spring the property of Mrs. A. Bauman at the rear of the church was purchased at \$1,200.00 as a future site for the Parish House. After consulting various architects and securing sketches, Ritcher & Eiler, of Reading, Penn., were engaged as architects by the congregation.

Upon the death of Mr. Julius Roos, August 5, 1926, W. C. Toletzki was appointed chairman in his place and was assisted by the following sub-committee: Henry Jacobi, George Gross, Abel Schilbi and Graham Hamacher. This committee was given authority to make all necessary changes in the plans, to call for tenders and prepare all contracts. A financial committee with Harvey Ziegler, as chairman, was appointed to raise funds by canvassing all members.

In the spring of 1927 ground was broken and the work of erection begun. Sunday afternoon, June 26th of the same year the corner stone was laid when the members of the congregation and many friends assembled for a service of thanksgiving.

Due to unavoidable delays, the building was not completed until the spring of 1928. However, on Sunday, May 6th, the congregation, headed by the pastor, C. S. Roberts, the Church Board and the Senior Choir proceeded from the church proper to the Parish Hall, and dedicated it to the service of the Lord. It was a day of great rejoicing and thanksgiving for the members of our congregation that God had given them this beautiful building.

The Parish Hall is, indeed, one of the most beautiful church buildings in the Twin City, modelled after the Gothic style of church architecture, having a frontage of sixty-five feet, with double door entrances and containing twenty-three class rooms, a committee room, a modern kitchen, etc. Roller canvass curtains separate the class rooms during the period of instruction. The furnishings and fixtures are largely memorials or personal tributes of friends or members or organizations of the congregation.

The cost of the building was in excess of \$55,000.00. Twenty-eight thousand dollars were on hand when the corner-stone was laid. The balance was raised during the past eight years, years when a depression rested heavily upon our land, and many of our people suffered need and want and were unable to contribute anything. However, by the grace of God to whom we give all praise and honour, and due to the willingness of many of our people, the entire debt has been cancelled. Our hearts rejoice and overflow with praise and thanksgiving to God.

In the raising of funds we mention especially the tireless efforts of Mr. Harvey Ziegler, chairman of the finance committee, and the Ladies' Aid which contributed more than \$14,000.00 to the debt fund. Our congregation expresses its sincere thanks to them and all other contributors.

## Order of Service

### Sunday, June 16th, 1935

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9.30 a.m.

Sunday School and Bible Class

Address by Dr. C. H. Little.

Special Singing by Sunday School Choir.

10.45 a.m.

Deutscher Gottesdienst

Festprediger Pastor W. H. Knauff, Preston.

Verbrennung des Schuldscheins

Gesang vom Gemischten Chor

2.30 p.m.

Afternoon Service

On the Parish Hall Lawn, weather permitting.

Greetings from

His Worship Mayor H. E. Ratz, of Waterloo.

Rev. Geo. Orth, Bethany Lutheran Church, Woodstock.

Rev. J. Schmieder, St. Mathew's Lutheran Church, Kitchener.

Rev. A. G. Jacobi, First English Lutheran Church, Kitchener.

Dr. F. B. Clausen, Waterloo College and Seminary.

Choral Music by the St. John's Men's Choir.

7.00 p.m.

Evening Service

In the Parish Hall.

Sermon by Rev. William Schultz of Linwood.

Unveiling of Plaque in recognition of Services rendered.

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### NOTES.

Special musical numbers will be rendered at the morning and evening services by the organist, Carl Bofinger.

A special offering will be taken at all services to defray expenses.

Additional programs may be had to be sent to former members and friends of our congregation who are cordially invited to attend our Thanksgiving Services.



