

1905 COUNCIL MEETING NOTES

[List of Church Officers for 1905 (Elders, Council Members, Trustees), including addresses [p. 110]]

11 January [p. 111] - Meeting of the CHURCH COUNCIL at which they closed the work of 1904 and elected council officers for 1905.

16 January [p. 112–113] - Quarterly CONGREGATIONAL MEETING at which Sunday School Superintendent F. W. Maute gave his annual report, as did the Missions Committee. The congregation welcomed new members. Pr. Koepchen read his annual report [see *Altes und Neues*] and also announced that the pastoral conference of the New York and New England Synod would take place at St. Luke's in February.

1 February [p. 114] - Meeting of the CHURCH COUNCIL at which they selected new members for the Day School Committee. The council recommended that the asking price for the church be set at \$350,000 and that the church not be sold before a suitable place for a new church building was found. Pr. Koepchen reported further plans for the pastoral conference and recommended holding a reunion event on Palm Sunday for confirmands from the last five years. The council also extended the church's fire insurance for the next three years.

1 March [p. 115] - Meeting of the CHURCH COUNCIL at which Pr. Koepchen reported on February's pastoral conference. The participants were well fed at a cost to St. Luke's of \$209. There were further discussions about the Sunday School and future plans [no details].

5 April [p. 116] - Meeting of the CHURCH COUNCIL at which the treasurer gave his quarterly report. The chair announced that there were no new developments regarding the sale of the church. The council discussed Sunday School finances and set a date for the examination of the confirmands [no date given]. They scheduled the next congregational meeting for April 17 and the children's festival at the Schutzen Park in NJ for June 29.

17 April [p. 117] - Quarterly CONGREGATIONAL MEETING at which the members decided to send a gift to Bethlehem Orphanage [no amount given] and \$175 to the sanatorium in Denver, CO. The meeting also discussed plans for the children's festival on June 29.

3 May [p. 118] - Meeting of the CHURCH COUNCIL at which they read a letter from Pr. Koepchen, who was attending the synodical meeting in Pittsburgh. He reported that the synod was in deep debt and asked the congregation to make a special contribution. The council set the annual salaries for the Day School teacher and organist at \$600.

7 June [p. 119] - Meeting of the CHURCH COUNCIL at which the council, in conjunction with Pr. Koepchen, decided to terminate the Day School teacher, Paul Lübckert [no reason given]. They also discussed financial matters [no specifics given].

5 July [p. 120] - Meeting of the CHURCH COUNCIL at which Pr. Koepchen and Secretary John Jaegeler reported that they had spoken with Teacher Lübker. The council also discussed the Sunday School's deficit.

30 July [p. 121] - Special meeting of the CHURCH COUNCIL at which Pr. Koepchen requested that the council authorize him to offer M. E. Dressler of New Haven, CT, the position of teacher at an annual salary of \$900.

[No Church Council meeting in August.]

6 September [pp. 121–122] - Meeting of the CHURCH COUNCIL at which Pr. Koepchen reported that Mr. Dressler had rejected the church's offer. Koepchen asked [unclear] to take over the organ and choir until a new organist could be found. The meeting continued with preparations for the next congregational meeting.

18 September [p. 122] – Quarterly CONGREGATIONAL MEETING at which the chair announced that Mr. Dressler had rejected the congregation's offer to be the new teacher. The pastor was requested to find a new catechism for the Sunday School. The board of trustees was asked to look into the problem of poor ventilation in the church. The meeting voted to hold the Missions Festival on the third Sunday of October—in German in the morning and in English in the evening. Pr. Koepchen announced that the confirmation class had begun with 96 students.

5 October [p. 123] - Meeting of the CHURCH COUNCIL at which the treasurer presented his quarterly report and noted that the church was having financial difficulties. Suggestions on how to resolve this included: having a special offering at the Reformation Festival; reducing the pastor's salary; and promoting the sale of pew seats. The council received an estimate of \$1,870 for installing electric lights in the school [unclear whether this proposal was postponed for financial reasons]. Pr. Koepchen also reported on the teachers for the Missions Festival and requested \$50 for hymnals for the choir. He noted that the Youth Group would celebrate its fifth anniversary. There were 104 children in the confirmation class and 135 in the Sunday School. The Council also discussed plans for worship during Advent and Christmas.

10 November [p. 124] - Meeting of the CHURCH COUNCIL at which they decided to send out flyers advertising the Reformation Festival. They also accepted Herr Abrams resignation as delegate to the Lutheran Hospital. Pr. Koepchen reported that the Ladies Aid Society had donated the \$50 needed for the choir hymnals.

6 December [p. 125] - Meeting of the CHURCH COUNCIL at which the chair reported that the congregation had donated \$643.49 for the special Reformation collection, which would continue until February 1906. The council scheduled the next congregational meeting for December 26 and selected candidates for election to church offices.

26 December [p. 126] - Quarterly CONGREGATIONAL MEETING at which they received new members of the congregation and chose officers. They also voted to make a contribution to the Bethlehem Orphanage [there is some distorted text here].