

1907 COUNCIL MEETING NOTES

10 January [pp. 155–156] - Meeting of the CHURCH COUNCIL at which church officers were elected. The treasurer reported a \$500 surplus for 1906, the largest in years. The council decided to hold the next congregational meeting on January 21. Council members were reminded to attend the funerals of former council members and to remember the collection for Bethlehem Orphanage in College Point, Queens, on February 21. Pr. Koepchen thanked everyone for hosting the inauguration of a professor of the Progymnasium [precursor of Concordia, Bronxville] at St. Luke's; the collection from that event totaled \$205.

[List of Church Officers for 1907 (Elders, Council Members, Trustees), including addresses (p. 1570)].

21 January [pp. 158–159] - Quarterly CONGREGATIONAL MEETING at which the officers and the pastor presented their annual reports. The Sunday School had a deficit of \$161 offset by \$150 from congregational funds. The congregation contributed \$317.87 to offset the deficit of the Lutheran Hospital in East New York. The congregation commended Bethlehem Orphanage for its perseverance and decided to dedicate the February 17 offering to it. The election of delegates to various institutions followed. The meeting also discussed the possibility of a Sunday School boat trip.

[Pr. Koepchen's annual report is transcribed on pp. 164–169. Much of it is sermonical in tone.]

Some important statistics:

- Sunday School: German: 19 teachers, 372 students; English: 26 teachers; 288 children
- Baptized: 139
- Confirmed: 77
- Married: 117 couples
- Buried: 60
- Communed: 1,107

There was a growing desire to have Bible Study classes in English and to have a brief English worship service from 9:00 to 9:40 on Sunday mornings.

3 February [p. 160] - Special meeting of the CHURCH COUNCIL at which they made plans for the funeral of Hermann Landwehr, a long-time trustee and council secretary.

13 February [pp. 160–161] - Meeting of the CHURCH COUNCIL at which Pr. Koepchen reported that the Ladies Aid Society would help as much as possible with the Sunday School's boat trip. Permission was granted to reserve an appropriate boat.

6 March [pp. 161–162] - Meeting of the CHURCH COUNCIL at which Pr. Koepchen reported that because no available steamship could accommodate the church, other plans would be made for the Sunday School excursion. The treasurer reported that the [unclear]

collection to date was \$817.52. Pr. Koepchen announced that the examination of confirmands would take place on March 17 and that Confirmation would be on March 27. The council decided to cancel the evening service on Palm Sunday and hold the reunion of former confirmands on the Saturday after Easter. The evening service on March 10 would be canceled to attend the 300th anniversary celebration of Reformation theologian and hymnist Paul Gerhardt.

13 March [p. 162] - Special meeting of the CHURCH COUNCIL to plan the funeral of Elder Maute's wife.

3 April [pp. 163–164] - Meeting of the CHURCH COUNCIL at which the treasurer presented his quarterly report. The chair announced that the next congregational meeting would be on April 15, the date to be announced from the chancel. The council was reminded that the reunion of the former confirmands would take place on the following Sunday evening and that the church would celebrate the Lord's Supper on the second Sunday of the month. The chair recommended that the Sunday School rooms be painted in August. The council also decided to cancel church services during that month and to grant the pastor vacation during that time. The members of the council contributed money to purchase Easter eggs for Bethlehem Orphanage. The delegate to the Lutheran Hospital was asked to poll the next congregational meeting about whether the hospital should stay in Brooklyn or move to Manhattan. The council would recommend that it stay in Brooklyn.

15 April [pp. 169–170] - Quarterly CONGREGATIONAL MEETING at which the delegate to the Lutheran Hospital gave a report and polled the meeting. The congregation voted that the hospital should not be sold and should remain in Brooklyn. Pr. Koepchen announced that there would be no boat excursion because no available boat could accommodate the congregation; other plans would be made for the Sunday School children. The chair reported that the church would be painted in August and that the Sunday School and worship services would be suspended for several weeks. The pastor would have those weeks for vacation. Pr. Koepchen suggested that the festival for the Progymnasium occur on June 23, with Prof. Piper preaching. The congregation approved the pastor's request to go to Chicago to participate in the selection of a new professor for the school. It was reported that the congregation had collected \$847.22 for Bethlehem Orphanage and that they were invited to join a special boat trip to the festival there on Decoration Day [May 30\.

8 May [pp. 171–172] - Meeting of the CHURCH COUNCIL at which it was reported that the Sunday School teachers had decided to replace the boat trip with a walk in Central Park, preferably on June 15. The teachers hoped that the Ladies Aid Society would help. Pr. Koepchen announced that he would be in Boston from June 5–9 for the synodical convention. The council decided to pay his expenses. The pastor then gave a report on the Progymnasium [no details]. The council decided to suspend the Sunday afternoon and evening services for the summer. The Support Committee proposed and the council approved giving a modest sum to Frau Finger, whose late husband had been the janitor.

12 June [pp. 172–174] - Meeting of the CHURCH COUNCIL at which Pr. Koepchen reported that the Sunday School outing would take place next Sunday at the ball field in Central Park. The Ladies Aid Society would help and had asked for assistance from some men. The pastor also announced that Missionary Poch from London would speak on June 16. The festival at the Progymnasium would take place on June 23; church services would be cancelled that morning so that members could take the 9:15 train. The council also decided to hold the installation of the newly elected Professor Heinrichsmeier at St. Luke's on September 3. Finally, Pr. Koepchen reported on the organization of the Atlantic District [Missouri Synod] and the election of Pr. Schultz as president.

2 July [pp. 174–175] - Meeting of the CHURCH COUNCIL at which the treasurer presented his quarterly report. The council decided to cancel the August meeting and to meet on the second Sunday in September at John Jaegeler's house in Nanuet, NY. They also decided to suspend services and the Sunday School on the last Sunday in July and the first two Sundays in August to paint the Sunday School area and to install a new stage for the Young People's Group. The Repair Committee would supervise the work. At that time the stove pipes and the chimney would be cleaned and the roof repaired. Pr. Koepchen reported that 1,100 people had attended the festival for the Progymnasium.

[No Church Council meeting in August 1907.]

12 September [pp. 175–176] - Meeting of the CHURCH COUNCIL at the home of John Jaegeler in Nanuet, NY. The Repair Committee reported that the work in the Sunday School was finished and the stage for the Young People's Group completed. Repairs to the gaslight at the altar were needed. The council set the next congregational meeting for September 16. The young people asked for electric light in the renovated classroom because there was no room for a gas chandelier. They also asked for two lights in the staircase.

16 September [pp. 176–177] - Quarterly CONGREGATIONAL MEETING at which it was decided to celebrate the Missions Festival on the second Sunday in October, with guest preachers at both services preaching in English. Pr. Koepchen conveyed a word of appreciation from the Progymnasium for the use of St. Luke's and provision of refreshments for Professor Heinrichsmeyer's inauguration. The Progymnasium opened with 97 students. The meeting sent good wishes to Sunday School Superintendent Maute, who was ill.

2 October [p. 178] - Meeting of the CHURCH COUNCIL at which Herr Schmidt announced that the gaslight at the altar was again working. Pr. Koepchen announced that both the afternoon Sunday School and the Saturday School had begun and that the confirmation class had 65–68 children. He also announced that the preachers for the Missions Festival would be Professor Stein from the Progymnasium in the morning and Pr. Steffens from Baltimore in the evening. Koepchen noted that many hymnals were worn and no longer useful. He informed the council that part of the rail between the church and the neighboring house on the west side was missing. He would speak to the homeowner to correct this matter.

13 November [pp. 179–180] - Meeting of the CHURCH COUNCIL at which it was announced that the railing had been repaired. The council formed a nominating committee to identify candidates for upcoming vacancies in church offices for 1908. They also released Henry Thoele from his position as council member because he had moved out of New York City; another nominee would be needed to complete the one year left in his term. The Missions Festival collected \$125. The council decided to hold the children's choir concert in the schoolroom at the beginning of December. Pr. Koepchen announced that he would preach in Stamford, CT, on November 17 and that Pr. Stein would preach at the evening service that day.

4 December [pp. 180–181] - Meeting of the CHURCH COUNCIL at which the nominating committee gave its report. The council decided to cancel the evening service on the Sunday before Christmas because the Christmas tree would be trimmed that afternoon. They selected nominees for the vacant offices and set the date for the election at the congregational meeting on December 26.

26 December [pp. 182–183] - Quarterly CONGREGATIONAL MEETING at which the congregation welcomed new members, elections of new officers, and collected the pew rents for 1908. The newly elected officers were to be installed at the morning service on January 5, 1908.