

## 1908 COUNCIL MEETING NOTES

[List of Church Officers for 1908 (Elders, Council Members, Trustees), including addresses (p. 184)]

8 January [pp. 185–186] – Meeting of the CHURCH COUNCIL at which the treasurer presented his quarterly report. The chair announced that the business for 1907 was now completed and that the council should organize itself for 1908. The election for officers followed. The Board of Trustees also reported the officers for the year. The Children’s Concert on December 5, 1907 had a profit of \$51.30, to be split between the church and the Sunday School. The next congregational meeting was scheduled for January 20; the chair encouraged the council members to attend to set a good example. The council also thanked Emielie Nabe for rehearsing the children for the concert. Pr. Koepchen announced that there would be a meeting at St. Matthew’s to discuss moving the Progymnasium at Hawthorne, NY [precursor of Concordia, Bronxville]; he hoped that many from the congregation would attend.

20 January [pp. 187–188] – Quarterly CONGREGATIONAL MEETING at which a new member was accepted. The council secretary and the Sunday School superintendent gave their annual reports. [No details given.] Pr. Koepchen gave a detailed annual report [recorded in *Altes und Neues* pp. 195–196; pp. 2–7 of 1908 issue]. Reports from the Missions Society, the Support Committee, the Bethlehem Orphanage in College Point, Queens, and the Lutheran Hospital in East New York followed. The council decided that Pr. Koepchen should send out a notice of a special collection for the orphanage on February 19. Sunday School Superintendent F.W. Maute requested \$200 to cover a deficit for 1907. The council did not approve this, instead, referring the matter to the Support Committee. Herr Maute asked to be released from his duties for health reasons. The pastor and the chair persuaded him to remain.

Relevant statistics for 1907:

- Baptized: 140
- Confirmed: 53
- Married: 107 couples
- Buried: 72
- Communed: 1,134
- Sunday School statistics for 1907 [p. 189]:
  - German: children 352; teachers 18 male and 21 female; German books 800; books in the library 250–1.050
  - English: children 244; teachers 12 male and 13 female; English books: 545; books in the library: 114–659

5 February [pp. 190-191] – Meeting of the CHURCH COUNCIL at which Pr. Koepchen stated that the Children’s Choir would hold a concert on February 13. He announced that he would hold several slide presentations about the work of the synod’s educational program. Both pastors and parishioners from neighboring churches were invited. He further announced

a pulpit exchange with Pr. Rentz for the English evening service on the following Sunday. Since many hymnals were no longer serviceable, the council voted to buy 100 new ones in time for the Easter holidays.

4 March [pp. 191–192] – Meeting of the CHURCH COUNCIL at which it was reported that the Children’s Concert was well attended and had a profit of \$75. The council formally offered its thanks to the conductor. Confirmation was scheduled for Palm Sunday and the examination the week before. The Palm Sunday evening service was cancelled. The confirmation reunion would be on the Sunday after Easter. It was reported that the fire insurance company required that the furnace be elevated off of the floor by 6-inch bricks. The Progymnasium had decided to relocate, and the Atlantic District Lutheran Education Society asked congregations to hold a special meeting on March 18 to inform members of this decision.

18 March [p. 193] -Special CONGREGATIONAL MEETING to inform the congregation that the Progymnasium had decided to relocate. The Atlantic District Lutheran Education Society appealed to the congregation for a donation to finance a new location [Bronxville]. The motion from the church council to approve this request passed unanimously. Pr. Koepchen encouraged the congregation to contribute and to make written pledges, with the money contributed by the end of May.

1 April [p. 194] – Meeting of the CHURCH COUNCIL at which the treasurer presented his quarterly report. The chair invited all to attend the confirmation service on Palm Sunday. The council decided to invite women to the next congregational meeting at which the list of supporters for the new college would be presented. Pr. Koepchen reported that the Ladies Aid Society gave \$40 for new hymnals.

20 April [pp. 195] – Quarterly CONGREGATIONAL MEETING at which a new member was welcomed. The chair noted that the book for making pledges for the college was still open. (Pr. Koepchen pledged \$250.) Pr. Koepchen reported that the college had closed because some students had contracted a contagious disease. The congregation approved a two-week leave for the pastor to attend the May synod meeting in Fort Wayne, IN, as the college representative. The Sunday School informed the meeting that the children’s festival would be in Central Park this summer. The chair announced that because the September congregational meeting was usually poorly attended the council had decided to cancel it this year. The chair also told the meeting that the annual festival for Bethlehem Orphanage would be on Decoration Day and that he had tickets for purchase. The pastor notified the meeting that the festival at the Progymnasium would be on June 28 and that the council had decided to cancel worship services that day.

6 May [pp. 197] – Meeting of the CHURCH COUNCIL at which the pastor was absent while at the synod meeting. It was announced that many churches in New York City were now exempt from water tax and that the treasurer would inquire whether St. Luke’s also qualified for this exemption. To date \$2,885 had been collected for the new college. The Repair Committee reported that the repairs to the furnace had been completed.

3 June [p. 198] – Meeting of the CHURCH COUNCIL at which Pr. Koepchen reported that the synod meeting at Fort Wayne had approved the plans for relocating the Progymnasium. He noted that two people had contributed \$1,000 and \$300 respectively. Also, this year's festival for the Progymnasium was cancelled because the railroad had doubled its fare to Hawthorne, and many people might not attend. The Progymnasium graduation would be on June 26, and he hoped that many would be present. The collection on June 28 would be given to the synod for educating preachers. The council decided to suspend Sunday School from the second Sunday in June to the second Sunday in September. An offer of \$280,000 for the church property was rejected as insufficient.

8 July [pp. 199–200] – Meeting of the CHURCH COUNCIL at which the treasurer presented his quarterly report. The chair reported an offer for the church property for \$290,000. After much discussion, the Trustees made a counter offer of \$325,000. The council decided to cancel its August meeting and to give the pastor vacation during that time. Pr. Koepchen reported that the Progymnasium was sold for \$45,000 and that classes would be held at St. Matthew's Lutheran Church until a new facility could be developed. The chair reported that the congregation had contributed \$2,989 for the new college.

26 July [p. 200] – Special CONGREGATIONAL MEETING at which the chair reported that the schoolroom at St. Matthew's was not large enough for all the students at Concordia College (the new name for the school). The congregation approved a request to use the schoolroom at St. Luke's as well, with the additional costs to the congregation paid by the college. The council also decided to cancel the September congregational and council meetings, since there was nothing special to consider.

[No council or congregational meeting in August or September 1908.]

8 October [pp. 201–202] – Meeting of the CHURCH COUNCIL at which the chair noted that the church bank account was very low and that the board of trustees recommended a special collection. The council voted to hold this on Reformation Day. Frau Neumann had asked for support, and the council decided to give her \$5 a month. They approved a special collection for the Lutheran Hospital. Pr. Koepchen reported that the confirmation class had begun with 53 students and that the Saturday School had 93 students. The Sunday School superintendent requested more male teachers and hoped that some of the church council members could help.

4 November [pp. 202–203] – Meeting of the CHURCH COUNCIL at which the council accepted the resignation of Frank Fausner, who lived outside of the city and did not have time to attend. The chair then appointed a nominating committee to meet at the pastor's house to consider candidates for 1909 offices. The council also approved the pastor's request to hold the children's choir concert on November 24. A request to support the City Mission was postponed until the next congregational meeting. The special collection of Reformation Day yielded \$458, minus \$16.75 for expenses. The council thanked the pastor for his efforts.

2 December [pp. 204-205] – Meeting of the Church Council at which the chair reported that he had received a letter from John Jaegeler, whose term as elder was about to expire. He asked not to be nominated for another term for health reasons and because he lived too far from the city. He also noted that he had joined another congregation. The council accepted his request and thanked him for his 35 years of membership and service. The treasurer reported that the special collections for Reformation Day currently yielded \$517.61 and for the City Mission \$91.07. Nominating elections were held for candidates for 1909 offices. The council decided to hold the next congregational meeting on December 28.

28 December [pp. 206–207] – Quarterly CONGREGATIONAL MEETING at which Pr. Koepchen reported that the Progymnasium had been sold for \$45,000 and that land in Bronxville, NY, had been purchased for the new college. Current students were now attended classes at St. Matthew's and St. Luke's. The chair then stated the main purposes of the meeting: to elect officers for 1909 and to rent pew seats. He noted that many seats were available for family and friends of the members. The chair also informed the meeting of the death of Frau Magdalene Bach, who wished her name added to that of her husband on the window they had donated. He reported the city would be widening 42 St. between 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> avenues and that the church would have to remove its front steps—at great expense—for this renovation. The congregation welcomed a new member. The chair announced that the newly elected officers would be installed at the morning worship service on January 3, 1909.