

1909 COUNCIL MEETING NOTES

[List of Church Officers for 1909 (Elders, Council Members, Trustees), including addresses [p. 208]]

6 January [pp. 209–210] - Meeting of the CHURCH COUNCIL at which the treasurer presented his quarterly report and the chair declared the business of 1908 completed. Pr. Koepchen greeted the newly elected council members. Officers were elected (Christian Gennerich was elected both chair of the council and president of the board of trustees) and other committees organized. Pr. Koepchen, on behalf of the Concordia College officers, requested to hold a special meeting at St. Luke's to present their plan [for a new campus]. He also asked that extra copies of *Altes und Neues* be distributed. The council approved these requests.

18 January [pp. 211–221] - Quarterly CONGREGATIONAL MEETING at which the treasurer and secretary presented their quarterly reports [no details given]. The congregation welcomed new members. The pastor then read his extensive report [pp. 211–220]. Statistics from the pastor's report:

- Baptized: 108
- Confirmands: 62
- Confirmed: 56
- Married: 55 couples
- Buried: 56
- Lord's Supper: 16 occasions, 1,084 communed (including 18 privately)

From the Superintendent of the Sunday School

- Students: German 345; English 245
- Teachers: German 14 male and 21 female; English 10 male and 13 female
- Books: German 800 and English 545
- Library books: German 250 and English 114
- Sunday School finances
 - Bank account as of 1/1/1909: \$145.50
 - Mission contribution: \$275.63
 - Hospital collection: \$19.19

Reports from the Missions Society, the Support Committee, and the representative to the Lutheran Hospital in East New York followed. The congregation was informed that the college had purchased property in Bronxville, NY, and that they had contributed \$3,723 to the new college. Elections followed for representatives to various groups and committees. F. W. Maute asked to be relieved of his position as Sunday School superintendent for health reasons. The matter was postponed until the next congregational meeting.

10 February [p. 222] - Meeting of the CHURCH COUNCIL at which Pr. Koepchen reported that Lenten services would begin on February 24. The council decided that the pastor would supervise the publication of *Altes und Neues*.

3 March [p. 223] - Meeting of the CHURCH COUNCIL at which Pr. Koepchen reported that the confirmands would be examined on March 28 and confirmed on Palm Sunday [April 4]. The reunion of the previous confirmands would take place on April 18 at the evening service as well as during Sunday School. The council also decided to cancel the evening service and the morning and afternoon Sunday Schools on Palm Sunday. The chair reported that the special collection for the Bethlehem Orphanage in College Point, Queens, yielded \$658.81 and that the orphanage festival would not be held on Decoration Day because they could not secure a boat. Instead, the festival would take place on June 9.

7 April [pp. 224–225] - Meeting of the CHURCH COUNCIL at which the treasurer presented his quarterly report. He noted that the confirmation reunion would take place at the evening service on the Sunday after Easter. The council thanked the Ladies Aid Society for the fringe and lace for the two altar coverings. Pr. Koepchen announced that the cornerstone of the college building in Bronxville would be laid on May 9 and hoped that many parishioners would attend this ceremony. The next congregational meeting was scheduled for April 19. The chair also reported that John N. Gennerich's sons had taken over the collection of the pew seat rentals. Dietrich Tietjen then inquired whether the offering could be brought to the altar immediately after it was collected so that the pastor could express a word of thanks. He also asked whether, after the blessing, the congregation could sing "Ehr' sei Gott dem Vater" rather than a verse from the hymnal. This proposal was tabled for later discussion. W. H. Barklage reported that the Support Committee had lost the \$1,000 check it received from the congregation and the board of trustees would issue a duplicate.

19 April [pp. 226–227] - Quarterly CONGREGATIONAL MEETING at which Pr. Koepchen reported that the synod conference would be held at Pr. Schoenfeld's church. He also announced that an extra train would leave from Grand Central Station for the laying of the cornerstone at Concordia College on May 9. The council decided to cancel the evening service that day so that parishioners could attend the ceremony. The chair reported that the church had a debt to New York City of \$88.83 for a recently discovered water tax bill from the purchase of the church property in 1875. The council decided to pay the bill but also ask the city to forgive the interest. The pastor reported that the festival for Bethlehem Orphanage would not take place on Decoration Day as usual but would be on June 9. No boat could be secured for the earlier date; for June 9 they had booked the *Grand Republic* [the sister ship of the *General Slocum*], which had room for 3,700 passengers. The chair noted that two bequests—Frau Ulmer (\$1,000) and Herr Bertner (\$3,500)—had covered the financial deficit for 1908. Moreover, the Sunday School had repaid its \$200 debt to the Support Committee, of which \$100 had been given to poor students.

5 May [p. 228] - Meeting of the CHURCH COUNCIL at which Pr. Koepchen announced that Pr. Glaser would preach the following Sunday [May 9]. He notified the meeting that despite weather delays, Concordia's cornerstone would still be laid on May 9. Parishioners were invited to attend. Trains would leave Grand Central Station at 2:45 and 3:00 pm. Parishioners were also invited to attend the synod conference at Pr. Schoenfeld's church.

2 June [pp. 229–230] - Meeting of the CHURCH COUNCIL at which Pr. Koepchen reported that Concordia's cornerstone ceremony had enjoyed good weather and that the collection totaled \$726. The chair reported that after considerable effort, Trustee J. Louis Schaefer had persuaded New York City to forgive the interest on the 1875 water bill. The bill now amounted to the original \$20. The council thanked Herr Schaefer for his efforts. The council decided to cancel evening worship services from the second Sunday in June to the second Sunday in September and to cancel morning worship services and the Sunday School for the first two Sundays in August to allow the pastor vacation time. The Repair Committee reported that it needed to fix the furnace grate over the summer. The council approved the pastor's request for permission to travel to Buffalo, NY, at the end of June on a personal matter. A real estate agent offered \$320,000 for the church property and requested a response from the church council. The council decided to place this offer before the congregation.

7 July [p. 231] - Meeting of the CHURCH COUNCIL at which the treasurer presented his quarterly report. Pr. Koepchen reported that the children's festival on June 19 had beautiful weather and that the children had a good time. The chair reported that the festival for Bethlehem Orphanage was poorly attended because of bad weather; it made a profit of \$674. The council canceled its August meeting and decided to silverplate the offering plates and communion cup.

[There was no council meeting in August 1909.]

8 September [pp. 232–233] - Meeting of the Church Council at which the Repair Committee reported that all necessary repairs had been made and the plant was in good condition. Pr. Koepchen announced that Concordia College was seeking donations to furnish several student rooms and proposed donating \$150 to furnish two rooms in memory of Pr. Busse. The council unanimously approved this request. The pastor also reported that evening services would resume on September 19 and that the confirmation class would begin the following week. Finally, he announced that the Missions Festival would be held on September 19 at the Bethlehem Orphanage and requested help in serving refreshments. The council approved Pr. Koepchen's proposal to form a new group for older young men and women.

19 September [pp. 233–234] - Special meeting of the CHURCH COUNCIL at which the chair announced that the Hudson Faith Celebration had requested the use of the church as a rest station from noon to 11PM from September 25 to October 2. After some discussion, the council approved this request and committed themselves to have at least two

members present during these hours. Pr. Koepchen reported a proposal to hold a large Reformation Festival with two delegates from each church in New York and the Bronx.

5 October [pp. 234–235] - Meeting of the CHURCH COUNCIL at which the treasurer presented his quarterly report. The delegates to the Reformation Festival committee for New York and the Bronx agreed to hold the festival on the evening of October 31 at Cooper Union. The Sunday School would hold its annual Reformation Festival on November 1. The chair reported that Concordia College would be dedicated on November 21. The members of the church council would be honorary pallbearers for Anna Tietjen, widow of former trustee J. H. Tietjen.

3 November [pp. 235–237] - Meeting of the CHURCH COUNCIL at which Pr. Koepchen reminded the group that Concordia College would be dedicated on November 21. The council decided to cancel both worship services and the Sunday School on the day to attend the celebration. They also scheduled the annual Missions Festival for November 28. The chair announced that the Lutheran Education Society would hold its annual banquet at Arion Hall (in Brooklyn); tickets were \$1.50. It was further decided to include a letter of thanks from the Tietjen family in the minutes. The chair then appointed a committee to nominate 1910 officers; the committee was to meet in the pastor's house. Pr. Koepchen reported that the Ladies Aid Society had collected \$150 to furnish two rooms at Concordia in memory of Pr. Drees [pastor at St. Luke's from 1850 to 1871]. The Sunday School made a similar gift to the college in memory of its late superintendent, Andreas Busch. These funds had already been sent to the college.

1 December [pp. 238–239] - Meeting of the CHURCH COUNCIL at which the chair announced that he had further inquiries about the church property. He also reported that he had heard from the executor of Frau Magdalene Bach's the estate, informing the church that if Frau Bach's niece, Lenore Müller, died before the age of 30 years, the church would receive part of the estate. The collection from the Missions Festival on November 28 yielded \$76.32; the Sunday School also collected \$13.44 (morning) and \$3.29 (afternoon). The dedication of Concordia brought in \$782.50. The profits from the tickets and the food were \$150 and \$130 respectively. The council decided to cancel the Sunday evening service before Christmas in order to decorate the Christmas trees. The children's concert was to be held on December 15. Nominating elections followed. Final elections would be held at the next congregational meeting.

27 December [pp. 240–241] - Quarterly CONGREGATIONAL MEETING at which the chair announced that the main purposes of the meeting were to elect officers and lease pew seats for 1910. He encouraged members to rent seats to forestall a financial deficit. The delegate to Bethlehem Orphanage asked the meeting when they wanted the orphanage festival so a boat could be booked. The meeting left that decision to the orphanage administration. Elections followed; the newly elected officers were to be installed at the morning service on January 2, 1910. The next congregational meeting was scheduled for January 17, 1910.