

## 1912 COUNCIL MEETING NOTES

11 January [pp. 316–317] – Meeting of the CHURCH COUNCIL at which the treasurer presented his quarterly report. The chair declared the business of 1911 closed and began to organize the council for the upcoming year. The election of officers followed [see. P. 330]. The chair also reported that the board of trustees had elected its officers and that the board had requested the organist to collect the delinquent money for the pew rentals. Pr. Koepchen greeted the newly elected council members. The chair then noted that it was customary for the newly elected council members to serve as ushers in the gallery. Herr Bendix agreed to do this. The council approved the board of trustees' decision to increase Pr. Koepchen's salary by \$300. The chair then reported that the church had paid Fred Hoefner \$350 interest for six months on the renovation loan and repaid J. Louis Schaefer \$750 on the \$1,500 loan; he returned the interest to the church.

15 January [pp. pp. 318–329] – Quarterly CONGREGATIONAL MEETING at which Pr. Koepchen welcomed new members. The secretary and treasurer then presented their brief reports and the pastor gave his detailed annual report [pp. 318–326]. The report began with a sermonic section praising God for bringing the congregation through 1911, despite the disruptions of the renovations. Koepchen recognized that there was a need for education in English, fearing that children might go to other English-speaking congregations if St. Luke's did not act. [For the rest of this report he thanks various persons and groups who brought the church through the disruptions of the renovations and who contributed to their success.]

Statistics from the pastor's report [p. 326]:

- Baptized: 112
- Confirmed: 41
- Married: 70 couples
- Buried: 59
- Communed: 1,003

The annual report of the Sunday School superintendent followed, with the following statistics:

- Morning (German) Sunday School: Children: 240; Teachers: 19 male and 20 female
- Afternoon (English) Sunday School: Children: 115; Teachers: 10 male and 7 female
- Books used for children: 1,157; Books in the library: 364
- Account status as of Jan 1, 1912: \$127.46
- Collection for the Lutheran Hospital in East New York: \$20

Reports from other committees and elections for delegates to various institutions followed. The meeting decided to continue the envelope system for another year and to order 500 boxes. They also agreed to hold the next pastors conference at St. Luke's.

7 February [pp. 329–331] – Meeting of the CHURCH COUNCIL at which the chair announced that a special collection for Bethlehem Orphanage in College Point, Queens, would take place on the third Sunday in February and that the notice, with envelopes, would soon be sent out to the members of the congregation. The festival for the orphanage would be take place on Decoration Day, He also reminded the council that the Ladies Aid Society would hold a social evening the following night. Pr. Koepchen reported that he had ordered the 500 boxes of envelopes and expected to receive them soon. He also announced that the Lenten services would begin on February 21 and that 42 young people would be confirmed on Palm Sunday. *Altes und Neues* would be printed by Easter. He further reported that the pastors conference would be held a Pr. Peterson’s church in Canarsie, Brooklyn, instead of at St. Luke’s.

[List of Church Officers for 1912 (Elders, Council Members, Trustees), including addresses (p. 330)]

3 March [pp. 332–333] – Meeting of the CHURCH COUNCIL at which the chair thanked the council for the kind gift he received for the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his service as chair. The council then approved the organist’s request to hold a concert after Easter. The chair announced that the examination of the confirmands would take place on the evening of March 24. Confirmation would take place on Palm Sunday, as usual, with confession the night before. The reunion of the former confirmands would take place on the second Sunday after Easter. He further reported that the special collection for the orphanage had yielded \$740.40. He announced that 160 boxes of envelopes had been distributed and reminded council members that it was important to participate. He reported that Chairman Schulze of the Atlantic District asked the congregation to help Concordia, Bronxville, repay its \$12,000 debt, and the council agreed to hold a special collection on the second Sunday in March for this purpose. Pr. Koepchen then announced that Sunday School would be held in the evening on Easter Sunday.

3 April [pp. 333–334] – Meeting of the CHURCH COUNCIL at which the treasurer presented his quarterly report. The chair reported that the second year of the envelope system was in full swing and that 300 boxes already had been distributed. He also noted that the choir will hold its concert on April 25. Pr. Koepchen announced that all were invited to a meeting of the [Lutheran] Hospital Committee at St. Matthew’s on the following Tuesday to decide whether to build a new dispensary. The Sunday School superintendent invited the council to the Easter Festival on Easter evening. The council scheduled the next congregational meeting for April 15.

15 April [pp. 335–336] – Quarterly CONGREGATIONAL MEETING at which new members were accepted. The chair reported that the envelope system had yielded \$1,940 since last year and that this year 328 boxes had been distributed. This distribution was aided by visits from the organist. The chair also reminded the meeting that the reunion of the confirmands from the last ten years would take place on the following Sunday. A special collection to help Concordia College repay its \$12,000 debt would be held the same day

as well. He also announced that he had tickets for the festive at Bethlehem Orphanage on Decoration Day (May 30). The delegate to the Lutheran Hospital noted that there would be a meeting of the Hospital Committee at St. Matthew's to decide whether to build a fireproof dispensary. Pr. Koepchen stated that he would be away at a conference in May but would return to conduct worship. The organist would also be away at a conference. The meeting agreed to pay the expenses for both trips. It was then announced that the choir would hold its concert on April 25.

8 May [pp. 337–338] – Meeting of the CHURCH COUNCIL at which Pr. Koepchen reported on the synodical conference in Connecticut at which 50 missions were promoted in various countries. He also reported that Concordia College planned to build five houses for its professors. The college offered to borrow funds at 5% to build the houses, which cost \$6,000 each. The chair reminded the meeting that the festival for Bethlehem Orphanage would take place on Decoration Day. The orphanage also received \$1,000 from the estate of Herr Dick. The chair also reported that the special collection for the college had yielded \$530.41 so far. Herr Schaefer pledged to bring this sum to \$600. The council then decided to cancel the evening worship service and the Sunday School from the second Sunday in June to the second Sunday in September.

6 June [pp. 338–339] – Meeting of the CHURCH COUNCIL at which Pr. Koepchen reported that the college festival would take place on June 23. The council decided to cancel worship that day so members could attend. They also agreed to hold the Sunday School festival on June 15 in Central Park. The chair reported that the orphanage festival did not yield as much as expected (\$100–\$300 less than the previous year) because of inclement weather. He also announced that the Young Peoples Society would hold a concert on June 13. He further reported that a real estate agent had offered to purchase the church property for \$425,000. The agent proposed that the church accept \$51,000 in cash and the rest in mortgage. The chair had countered with an offer of \$200,000 in cash and the rest in mortgage. The agent would respond soon.

[P.339 – Minutes mistakenly [?] entered for a meeting on November 24. See p. 345.]

3 July [p. 340] – Meeting of the CHURCH COUNCIL at which the treasurer presented his quarterly report. The council decided to close the church in August and to give the pastor vacation during that time. The chair informed the group that the Young Peoples Society had donated \$28.23 to the orphanage from its recent concert and that Herr Schaefer had donated the interest on his loan (\$18.75) to the congregation. He also reported that the Concordia College festival had a smaller yield because of poorer attendance and that the total contribution to the orphanage was just over \$1,200.

[No Church Council meeting in August.]

4 September [pp. 341–342] – Meeting of the CHURCH COUNCIL at which they decided to permit the organist to teach at St. Matthew's church on W. 145<sup>th</sup> Street for 10 months and to receive a salary of \$50 per month. The council also agreed that the chair should use his

judgment on whether to give Herr Reuss of 252 W. 42 St. permission to obtain a liquor license. Pr. Koepchen reported that St. Luke's would host a mission festival for churches in Manhattan and the Bronx on September 18. Pr. Glaser of Meriden, CT, would preach that evening. He announced that confirmation classes would begin the following week and that the Sunday School would hold its Reformation Festival, with an illustrated lecture, on October 31.

9 October [pp. 342–345] – Meeting of the CHURCH COUNCIL at which the treasurer presented his quarterly report. The chair reported that the church had given permission for Herr Reuss to obtain a liquor license. Further, the trustees had decided to care for Pr. Busse's gravesite from the next spring onward. He also reported that the Reformation Festival would take place on Nov. 3 and that a general Reformation festival for churches in the New York area would be held at Carnegie Hall that afternoon. Chairman Kohm from Chicago would give the German lecture; Pr. Steffens from Baltimore would give the English lecture. The council voted to cancel the afternoon Sunday School and the evening worship service on that day. The chair also announced that Pr. Koepchen would give an illustrated lecture.

7 November [p. 344] – Meeting of the CHURCH COUNCIL at which the chair announced that the church would have an illustrated lecture—in English—on Monday, November 11. He further reported that the Ladies Aid Society will hold a social evening on November 13; tickets cost 25¢. He stated that the Reformation Festival on November 3 was well attended and had yielded \$614.90. The council appointed a nominating committee to propose candidates for upcoming vacancies. Pr. Koepchen reported that he would preach at Corona L.I. (Queens) on November 10 but would return for the evening service.

24 November [pp. 345–346] – Special meeting of the CHURCH COUNCIL to send condolences to the family of George L. Schroeder, a long-time council member who recently died. [Copy of the note included in the minutes.]

4 December [pp. 346–348] – Meeting of the CHURCH COUNCIL at which the members observed a standing moment to honor Herr Schroeder. The council also received a letter from Herr Schroeder's family [included in the minutes]. The meeting accepted the resignation of Deacon Johann Jaegeler, who now lived too far from the church. The chair announced that there would be an illustrated lecture on December 5. He also reported that the Baptist church on 54<sup>th</sup> Street was for sale for \$100,000 (6 lots). After some deliberation, the council decided that it was not adequate for St. Luke's. The next congregational meeting was scheduled for December 26. The council then heard the nominating committee's report and identified candidates for the elections at the congregational meeting.

26 December [pp. 349–351] – Quarterly CONGREGATIONAL MEETING at which the chair announced that the main purposes of the meeting were to elect officers and to rent pew seats for 1913. Herr Kirchhof was welcomed into membership. The chair reported that last

spring's collection to help reduce Concordia College's debt had yielded \$540 and that Herr Schaefer brought the sum up to \$600. He also announced that there will be one more English Communion. [There is nothing said about this in the previous council minutes.] The meeting voted to invite the Atlantic District to hold its spring synodical convention at St. Luke's, even though the congregation did not belong to the district. [Pr. Koepchen was a member of the district.] The chair reminded the meeting that Bethlehem Orphanage would hold its festival on December 29. He also noted that the church's financial account was not doing well because of the debt of \$14,750 and the annual interest of \$700. The Ladies Aid Society had donated \$100. Elections followed, with the installation of the newly elected officers scheduled for January 5.

29 December [pp. 351–352] – Special meeting of the CHURCH COUNCIL to respond to the sudden death of Christian F. Gennerich, chair of the Church Council for the past 25 years. F. W. Maute was elected temporary chair. The council voted to send its condolences to his family and to include a copy in the minutes [p. 352]. There followed a resolution (in English).