

## 1914 COUNCIL MEETING NOTES

[List of Church Officers for 1914 (Elders, Council Members, Trustees), including addresses (p. 385)]

14 January [pp.386–388] – Meeting of the CHURCH COUNCIL at which the treasurer presented his quarterly report. The chair announced that the business of the previous year was complete. Election of officers for 1914 followed. The chair reported that he and the treasurer, Charles Krumweide, had been reelected by the board of trustees. He also announced that he and Fred Hoefner had provided the required \$2,000 bond for the treasurer. The board of trustees had decided to reduce the fire insurance from \$40,000 to \$25,000. The council scheduled the next congregational meeting for January 27. Pr. Koepchen was tasked with purchasing 500 boxes of envelopes to continue this program. The council then voted to allow the Sunday School to hold its Easter Festival on Easter Saturday. The delegates to Bethlehem Orphanage asked permission to endorse the new constitution, which was also translated into English. The council agreed to hold a special collection for the orphanage on the third Sunday in February. The orphanage also sent a letter of thanks to the church for allowing St. Luke's to hold their monthly meetings in the church's schoolroom [text of letter included on p. 388]. The council approved a request from the Young People's Society to hold its annual meeting and social evening at the church on February 23. The chair then named a committee of volunteers to help the pastor visit the infirmed.

27 January [pp. 389–401] – Quarterly CONGREGATIONAL MEETING at which the treasurer presented his annual report for 1913. The chair announced that Elders Friedrich Maute and Henry von Runnen had examined the financial records and found them in order. Pr. Koepchen then read his very detailed annual report. The report was accepted unanimously and included in the minutes [pp. 389–392 – very sermonical in tone.]

Statistics: from the report [pp. 392–398]:

- Sunday School:
  - German: 284 children; 15 male teachers, 11 female teachers
  - English – 71 children; 5 male teachers, 3 female teachers
- Bible class: (English from 9–10AM before the Sunday service) attracted 110 young members
- Pr. Koepchen noted that the evening worship services in English are just as poorly attended as those in German.
- Saturday School in German: no statistics
- Confirmation class; began with 51 students, of which 48 will be confirmed on Palm Sunday.
- Baptized: 88
- Confirmed: 38
- Married: 55 couples
- Buried: 42

- Communed: 1,063

The Sunday School report followed [p. 398]. In addition to the statistics reported by Pr. Koepchen, the report noted the following:

- The Sunday School lost 27 children from families moving away and gained 41 new children
- Books: 1,194
- Account balance as of January 1, 1914: \$176.48.
- Collections for Missions: \$158.35; for the Lutheran Hospital: \$20.

Reports of committees and elections of delegates to various organizations followed. The meeting decided to continue the envelop system and to hold a special collection for the orphanage on the third Sunday in February.

4 February [pp. 401–402] – Meeting of the CHURCH COUNCIL at which the chair announced that he would soon renew the fire insurance and instructed the janitor to remove an oven to reduce the rate. Pr. Koepchen reported that he had sent out the annual report of Bethlehem Orphanage in preparation for the special collect on February 15. He also announced that the Lenten services would begin on February 25 and that on Palm Sunday 48 young people would be confirmed. Koepchen noted that in the middle of February it would be 75 years since our Lutheran forefathers arrived in this country and that he would like to offer an illustrated lecture on the subject. The council agreed to hold this lecture in the church on February 12. The council then approved a request from Fred Tietjen to install, at his own cost, tables on both sides of the main entrance for hymnals.

4 March [pp. 402–403] – Meeting of the CHURCH COUNCIL at which the chair thanked Herr Tietjen for the two tables in the narthex. The chair also noted that he had purchased \$25,000 worth of fire insurance for \$255—\$5 cheaper than the previous year. Pr. Koepchen reported that the Mission for the Deaf had thanked the congregation for allowing them to use the church. The council scheduled the reunion [of the former confirmands] for the Sunday after Easter and decided to cancel evening worship on Palm Sunday. They also agreed to publish *Altes und Neues*. The Repair Committee was then instructed to repair the damage from the recent snowstorm [on March 1, 1914].

2 April [pp. 403–404] – Meeting of the CHURCH COUNCIL at which the treasurer presented his quarterly report. The Repair Committee reported that the repairs following the snow storm had been completed and that the cost was as expected. Pr. Koepchen was then asked to contact the agent for 241 W. 42 St, which had suffered damage from a fallen church gutter. The council agreed to let students from Concordia College to use the church for a concert on April 24. They also granted permission for Pr. Koepchen to travel to Chicago in five weeks to represent Concordia College at a synod meeting. Koepchen promised to find a substitute pastor for the Sunday he would be absent.

19 April [pp. 405–406] – Quarterly CONGREGATIONAL MEETING at which the Repair Committee reported that the repairs from the snowstorm had been completed at a cost of \$556.46. The meeting decided to cancel the evening services and the afternoon Sunday School from the first Sunday in June until the second Sunday in September. They also agreed to cancel worship services and Sunday School for the month of August and to close the church. The pastor would take vacation at that time. The Ladies Aid Society had donated \$100 to help cover the church's expenses and planned to hold a birthday party on May 19. They gave each member a silk bag to bring to the party with a contribution for the congregation. The chair also reported that the board of trustees had asked each church organization to make a contribution to offset expenses. They also instructed the secretary to burn the envelopes from the previous year as soon as the elders reviewed the account books. The meeting voted to allow the Sunday School to hold its June Walk in Central Park.

6 May [pp. 406–407] – Meeting of the CHURCH COUNCIL at which the chair announced that Wm. H. Schmidt, a long-serving elder, had passed away. The council stood for a moment of silence and then agreed to send a letter of condolence to his family. The Repair Committee reported that all repairs, including to the iron gate for the Sunday School, had been completed. The committee was then instructed to repair the electric light at the entrance to the Sunday School. Council members were given an opportunity to purchase tickets for the Orphanage festival. The Sunday School superintendent announced that the June Walk in Central Park would take place on June 13. Herr Schmidt's family sent a letter thanking the council for their participation in his funeral.

3 June [pp. 407–408] – Meeting of the CHURCH COUNCIL at which the chair reported that the Ladies Aid Society expected to contribute \$500 from its birthday party, and, together with the \$100 already donated, hoped to pay for the repairs needed from the snowstorm. The council instructed the secretary to express its appreciation to the Ladies Aid Society on behalf of the council and congregation. They then cancelled council meetings for July and August. The council agreed to repay the pastor for printing the English liturgy for the evening service. The council then approved Pr. Koepchen's to travel to Fort Wayne, IN, on June 21 to participate in the 75 Jubilee Festival. Koepchen would arrange for a substitute pastor. The pastor asked the council participate in the Concordia College festival on June 14. Herr Maute reported that Herr Schaefer had purchased decorative flowers for Pr. Busse's gravesite.

[No Church Council meetings in July and August 1914.]

9 September [pp. 409–410] – Meeting of the CHURCH COUNCIL at which the chair announced that Charles Krumweide just resigned for health reasons and that the board of trustees had elected A.B. Schmidt as his successor. Herr Schmidt would also continue as secretary until the New Year. The council agreed to send a letter of appreciation to Herr Krumweide for his 24 years of service as treasurer and to wish him good health. The treasurer was authorized to pay an outstanding invoice for \$6.59. The delegate for the

Lutheran Hospital reported that the Fall Festival would take place on the last Sunday in September. Pr. Koepchen announced that the confirmation class would begin a week from Saturday. He also reported that President Woodrow Wilson has declared October 4 a day of repentance and prayer [for the beginning of WWI] and that the church would honor that request. Further, the council agreed unanimously to include a petition in the weekly prayer for Germany, so besieged by its enemies.

7 October [pp. 410–411] – Meeting of the CHURCH COUNCIL at which the new treasurer gave a report of the accounts since September 1. Pr. Koepchen announced that the confirmation class had begun with 35 students. The Repair Committee reported that it had repaired the broken windows and the railing. The council then agreed to Herr Maute's request that the Sunday School hold its Reformation Festival on the first Sunday in November, and the Christmas Festival on Christmas evening, both in the church. The council decided to cancel the October congregational meeting. The Miller Brothers, across from the church, wondered if the council would object to its obtaining a liquor license. After some deliberation, the council decided not to object, but would not endorse the application to the city. The chair announced that the Ladies Aid Society would hold a holiday bazaar in November for the benefit of the church and was looking for businesses to make contributions.

4 November [pp.411–412] – Meeting of the CHURCH COUNCIL at which the Repair Committee reported that the leak in the gas pipe had been repaired. The council scheduled the next congregational meeting for December 28 and decided to allow the Mission for the Deaf to hold its Christmas festival at the church on December 26. The council then appointed a nominating committee to choose candidates for upcoming vacancies in the church offices.

2 December [pp. 412–413] – Meeting of the CHURCH COUNCIL at which the administration of Bethlehem Orphanage requested to use the church on December 14 for a special meeting to discuss how to satisfy New York State Health Commission regulations. The council then approved a request from the Lutheran Hospital to hold a special collection on the last Sunday of the month to help pay a \$3,000 assessment. They also voted to send St. Matthew's church a letter of congratulations on its 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary. The council then chose nominees for elections on December 28.

20 December [p. 414] – A Special meeting of the CHURCH COUNCIL to express condolences to the family of Heinrich Rippe on his recent death.

28 December [pp. 414–416] – Quarterly CONGREGATIONAL MEETING at which William Koepchen, the pastor's son, was welcomed into membership. The chair announced that the Ladies Aid Society had donated \$1,450, which they had earned at their bazaar, and that they had contributed over \$2,000 during the year. Next month, the board of trustees would repay Fred Hoefner \$1,500 of the \$14,000 loan. The representatives of the orphanage requested advise from the congregation on their decision to seek a larger place. After Pr. Koepchen explained the reason for this decision, the congregation endorsed it

unanimously. The congregation then agreed to hold the installation ceremony for Professor Romoser of Concordia College at St. Luke's on the second Sunday in January at 3:30PM, and to cancel services that evening. Pr. Koepchen was requested to order envelopes before January 15, 1915 in order to receive a 15% discount. The chair then announced the death of Herr Rippe and requested those present to raise for a moment of silence. Elections followed, with installation of the newly elected taking place the following Sunday.