

## 1915 COUNCIL MEETING NOTES

[List of Church Officers for 1915 (Elders, Council Members, Trustees), including addresses (p. 417)]

6 January [pp. 418–419] – Meeting of the CHURCH COUNCIL at which the treasurer presented his final report for 1914. The chair then announced that the business for 1914 was complete. The chair reported that he had been elected president of the congregation and that A. B. Schmidt had been elected treasurer. Fred Hoefner and J. Louis Schaefer had each provided \$1,000 for the bond required of the treasurer. Heinrich von Runnen was elected secretary. The council then appointed members to the Repair Committee. Herr Hoefner was repaid \$1,500 of his loan to the church. The council decided to purchase 500 boxes of envelopes to be used in support of the church. Pr. Koepchen reported that Concordia, Bronxville was preparing a program for an installation later that year (see minutes of December 28) and that all organizations would have reserved seats. The offering would be for the benefit of the college. There would also be a special offering for the college on February 21.

18 January [pp. 419–433] – Quarterly CONGREGATIONAL MEETING at which John H. Barklage was welcomed into membership and Hermann von Hinken installed as a council member. The treasurer presented his final report for 1914; the report was certified by Herren F. Maute and H. Bruns. Pr. Koepchen then read his annual report. [The is a sermonic exposition of 2 Corinthians 3:2-3, encouraging Christians to attend Sunday Services.] The meeting accepted the report, and the secretary was instructed to include it in the minutes [pp. 419–425).

Statistics (culled from text on pp. 425–430,432):

- Sunday School:
  - German—246 children. 13 male teachers, 11 female teachers
  - English—67 children, 3 male teachers, 2 female teachers.
- Bible Class: 85 participants
- Confirmation Class: 33 confirmands

At the request of the chair, Pr. Koepchen retrieved the following documents from the firm of J. Louis Schaefer (mostly in English, pp. 428–429)

1. Certificate of Incorporation – April 23, 1863
2. Deed for 127 cemetery plots in Newtown (now Flushing) Queens belonging to St. Matthew Lutheran Church – November 10, 1868
3. A deed for property on 43<sup>rd</sup> St. – April 8, 1863
4. Contract for the church property on 42<sup>nd</sup> St. – May 19, 1875
5. Deed of property on 42<sup>nd</sup> St. – dated June 28, 1875, delivered August 9 1875
6. Releases needed to clear the title of the church on 42<sup>nd</sup> St. (See also no. 7)
7. Deed of Property named in contract by Amelia P. Lowtie dated Dec. 24, 1879
8. Abstract of title to church property on 42<sup>nd</sup> St. and mortgage paper to the Franklin Savings Bank for \$20,000 – January 2, 1879

9. Mortgage from John Wernsing for \$21,000, paid March 11 1891
10. An agreement with John Lowrie [see number 5] waiving rights to any of the \$1,429.46 Mr. Lowrie was seeking for payment of water taxes.
11. Synopsis of the Laws of New York State relative to religious societies
12. Fire Insurance Policies
13. A collection of expired receipts and loan notes (Pr. Koepchen recommended destroying these notes.)

Statistics for 1914:

- Baptized: 93
- Confirmed: 47
- Married: 63 couples
- Buried: 44
- Communed: 1009

The Sunday School Superintendent gave his annual report [see statistics above]. There followed reports of various committees. The chair suggested consulting the Ladies Aid Society for establishing a diakonate [unclear].

3 February [p. 433] – Meeting of the CHURCH COUNCIL at which they decided to distribute envelopes for the orphanage on Sunday, February 21. That day Pr. Koepchen would preach in German in the morning and Professor Romoser in English in the evening. Lenten services would begin on February 17 at 7:45 PM. The council also permitted the Sunday School to hold its Easter festival on Easter evening [4 April] at 7. They further agreed to allow the choir to hold an evening's entertainment on April 15 at 8. The Young People's Group would hold a similar event in May. Pr. Koepchen announced that confession would be on February 5 and that 33 children would be confirmed on Palm Sunday. He further reported that 500 boxes of envelopes had been distributed to the congregation. Herr Schaefer recommended choosing a location for a new church below 50<sup>th</sup> St. between 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> Avenues.

3 March [p. 434] – Meeting of the CHURCH COUNCIL at which they decided to cancel Sunday School and the evening service on Palm Sunday. They also decided to print *Altes und Neues* for distribution on Easter. The meeting was reminded that the choir would hold an evening of entertainment on April 15. The council also voted to allow Bethlehem Orphanage to hold a meeting of its membership at St. Luke's to consider paying \$19,000 for some 21 acres in Fort Wadsworth on Staten Island for a fireproof orphanage.

6 April [pp. 434–435] – Meeting of the CHURCH COUNCIL at which the treasurer presented his quarterly report, which showed a surplus of \$406. Pr. Koepchen announced that Miss H. Niemeyer would be confirmed on May 2 [sic] since she could not attend the confirmation ceremony because of illness. The Bethlehem Orphanage had purchased the land on Staten Island for \$18,500, and the council agreed that the congregation would make a concerted effort to collect funds for the new building. (The orphanage

had already accumulated \$14,000.) The meeting learned that Frau Frankenhausem had entered the *Altenheim*. The chair reported that the Mission Fund had been depleted. It was also reported that the Lutheran Hospital had installed a washing machine at a cost of \$2,000 [sic]. The council decided to make several repairs and to hold the next congregational meeting on April 19 at 8PM. Finally, invoices were to go out for the pews.

19 April [pp. 435–436] – Quarterly CONGREGATIONAL MEETING at which Pr. Koepchen announced the Bethlehem Orphanage land purchase (750 ft on Fingerboard Road and 1,400 ft deep). The purchase price had to be paid by April 30. Some 780 people had pledged \$20,000 toward this goal. The Orphanage festival was to take place on May 9 in College Point. On Decoration Day, May 31, Concordia would hold its festival in Bronxville. On June 20 the Lutheran Hospital would hold a Garden Festival. The council agreed to allow the students from Concordia College to hold a concert at St. Luke's on May 14 and to allow the Young People's Society to hold an evening's entertainment on June 21 in the schoolroom. They also decided to allow the Lutheran Society to hold a business meeting at the church on May 10.

5 May [p. 436] – Meeting of the CHURCH COUNCIL at which Pr. Koepchen reported that Frau Frankenhausem died at the *Altenheim* after two months residence and that Miss Niemeyer would be confirmed on the evening of Pentecost, May 23 [sic]. He reiterated that Concordia's festival would be held on May 31. A steamer had been chartered for the orphanage festival; the cost was \$3.50 per person. The Lutheran Hospital festival would take place on June 20 and by then the washing machine would have been installed. The Sunday School Festival would take place in Central Park on June 21. The council decided to cancel the evening services from Pentecost until September 12.

16 June (436-437) – Meeting of the CHURCH COUNCIL at which they read a letter from Pr. Koepchen and his wife thanking the congregation for its gift for their 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary. The council voted to cancel worship service and Sunday School in August and to purchase coal for the winter. They also agreed to pay the travel costs for the conference. [No earlier mention of a conference]

[No Church Council meetings in July and August 1915.]

8 September [p. 437] – Meeting of the CHURCH COUNCIL at which the treasurer presented the bills for coal and for painting the Sunday School, as well as one from John Streckwald (\$10) for cleaning. The council decided (1) to have a mission festival; (2) to hold a Reformation Festival on Sunday, October 31, and participate in the Reformation Festival at Carnegie Hall that afternoon; and (3) to schedule the regular congregational meeting for September 20. They gave permission for Pr. Koepchen to preach at Pr. Rackel's church on the third Sunday in September. The meeting learned that Frau Wm. Seebeck had given the church \$50, and the secretary was instructed to write a letter of thanks. The secretary announced that the Fall Festival for the Lutheran Hospital would take place on September 26.

20 September [p. 438] – Quarterly CONGREGATIONAL MEETING at which the treasurer reported that the bills for the interest, painting, coal, etc., were paid. The congregation would incur a deficit of \$400. The chair requested that this be passed to him. Paul Overhage was accepted into membership. The Repair Committee was authorized to purchase a fire extinguisher, hook and axe, and nine door checkers. The secretary announced that the Lutheran Hospital would hold its fall festival on September 26, and that the dispensary was complete. Bethlehem Orphanage announced that it was calling a general assembly. The meeting was informed of the plans for the Reformation Festival. They also decided to hold the Missions Festival on October 24 and to celebrate the 65<sup>th</sup> anniversary of St. Luke's on October 27. The Ladies Aid Society would organize the celebration.

6 October [pp. 438–439] – Meeting of the CHURCH COUNCIL at which the treasurer presented his quarterly report, with the remark that to date the church has borrowed \$1,950 from Herr Schaefer. The Repair Committee announced that the fire extinguisher, hook, axe and door checkers had been installed. The council discussed holding the October 24 Missions Festival in the church, with Pr. J. John preaching in the morning and Professor Romoser in the evening. The Ladies Aid Society would organize a 65<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration on October 27. The meeting was reminded of the plans for the Reformation Festival. The council decided to celebrate Christmas on December 25 and to hold the Sunday School Christmas Festival that evening. They gave permission for the Mission for the Deaf to hold its Christmas Festival at the church on December 26.

3 November [p. 439] – Meeting of the CHURCH COUNCIL at which the treasurer reported that the Ladies Aid Society had contributed \$491.72 to the church, the surplus from the 65<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration. The secretary was instructed to send them a thank you note (already done). The council received a letter from Herr L. Bendisse, who requested a transfer to St. John's Church in Bay Ridge, Brooklyn. The letter was accepted with regret. The chair named a committee to seek nominees for offices about to become vacant. Elections would take place at the December 27 congregational meeting.

8 December [p. 440] – Meeting of the CHURCH COUNCIL at which they learned that the Ladies Aid Society contribution to the church had increased to \$518.58. Pr. Koepchen reported that young boy Herthel had been accepted at the orphanage and that the contract for the new building at Fort Wadsworth (S.I.) had been awarded to Chris Schneider & Sons of Brooklyn. Building would begin on March 1, 1916. The Ladies Aid Society of the orphanage asked to hold their monthly meeting at St. Luke's. The secretary noted that the usual collection for the orphanage would take place on the last Sunday of the year. The council then chose candidates for the upcoming congregational election.

27 December [pp. 440–441] – Quarterly CONGREGATIONAL MEETING at which Georg Schroeder was accepted into membership. The meeting voted to order the Sunday envelopes immediately because the church would receive a 15% discount if they were ordered before January 15. Because the Mission for the Deaf had to vacate the Rome Street Chapel, the meeting agreed to allow them to worship at St. Luke's. Elections followed,

with those elected to be installed on January 2. The next congregational meeting was scheduled for January 17.