

1916 COUNCIL MEETING NOTES

[List of Church Officers for 1916, including addresses (p. 442)]

5 January [pp. 441–443] – Meeting of the CHURCH COUNCIL at which F. W. Maute was named chair *pro tem*. The treasurer presented the final report for 1915, and the business for that year was completed. Herren Maute and Heinrich Bruns were name auditors for the accounts. The secretary announced that the board of trustees had elected officers for 1916. The next congregational meeting was set for January 31. The council decided to hold the collection for Bethlehem Orphanage on the third Sunday in February (20 February). J. Louis Schaefer was thanked for returning the interest on the loan to the congregation. Five hundred calendars were for sale. The council appointed a committee to visit Charles Krumweide and William Maute. The council received a letter from the Mission for the Deaf asking to hold worship at the church at 3PM on Sunday. [No decision recorded.]

31 January [pp. 443–453] – Quarterly CONGREGATIONAL MEETING (41 men and 4 women attended). The treasurer presented his report for 1915. Several new members were accepted into membership and signed the constitution. Pr. Koepchen then presented his annual report [pp. 443-453; included and written in Latin, not Süterlin, script.]

The report begins with a lamentation about the destruction caused by the World War I, especially the devilish action of Britain and its blockade of Germany. Then he bemoaned the besieged land of “our ancestors.” Nevertheless, he asserted, there were many hidden blessings in the war and several lessons we could learn from Germany:

1. Christians must prepare for war; the enemy seeks to make you prey. As Germany prepared for war, so too should Christians arm themselves against sin and the hostility of the world through the preaching of the Word.
2. Christians should remain true to the Lord and to their allies. [He mentions the “betrayal” of Germany by Japan, England, Russia, and Italy.] In contrast, Germany stood by its allies—Austria and Hungary, and also Bulgaria—against the world. Jesus is our only ally against the devil.
3. What a person sows, so shall that person reap [Galatians 6:7-8]. Since 1871, France had sown hatred against Germany, and now is its harvest! Russia had stomped on Germany and now its reward is social discord. England has filled its people with envy and greed, resulting in it beginning to lose its status as a world power. Italy has sowed betrayal and now is betrayed by its former allies. In contrast, Germany has increased mutual trust and solidarity among its people. In St. Luke’s we work in this German manner, where we are placed, as the Lord commanded. [pp. 448–449]
4. Suffer as one in spirit. Instead of splitting apart, the war brought the Germans together—a blessing for Germany. Germany fulfilled its duty to protect itself from its enemies. This duty can also bring the church together in the fight against the devil and the world, united by God’s means of grace. [pp. 449–450]
5. The image from the war for the congregation’s common work: the war in the trenches. As protection against the enemy, the trenches allow for enjoyment and

play. The congregation not only helps to see the enemy [the devil], but also to provide opportunities for happy things: laughing, singing, as well as groups within the congregation. [pp. 450–451]

Pr. Koepchen concluded with an attempt to characterize Germany's inevitable victory as one of righteousness over an unrighteous and weak Britain. Germany would be free and a God-fearing ruler of the world, a blessing for all. By its example, Germany would also give us weapons to protect us from the world. Through the works God commands of us we will be victorious.

Statistics for 1915:

- Baptized: 80
- Married: 53 couples
- Buried: 57
- Communed: 1002

Sunday School statistics:

- German: 187 children, 11 male and 11 female teachers
- English: 44 children, 3 male teachers
- Average attendance: Mornings (German) – 143; Afternoons (English) – 36
- Account on January 1, 1916: \$131.75
- Donations: Mission - \$127.05; Hospital - \$20
- Books: 1,095

The chair reported that 208 pew seats had been rented. The charity committees (Support, Bethlehem Orphanage, Lutheran Hospital, *Altenheim*, and Missions) then gave their reports. There followed elections to various institutions. The collection for the orphanage was scheduled for February 20. The Young People's Group (49 members) was granted permission to hold an evening's entertainment on March 3.

2 February [p. 453] – Meeting of the CHURCH COUNCIL at which Pr. Koepchen reported that 29 young people would be confirmed on Palm Sunday [16 April]. The council decided to cancel the evening service that day. They also voted to allow the Young People's Group to hold its evening entertainment in the schoolroom and rearrange the seating to accommodate them. The usual collection for the orphanage would take place on February 20. The Sunday School's Easter Festival was scheduled for Easter evening [April 23] at 7PM.

1 March [pp. 454] – Meeting of the CHURCH COUNCIL in the evening. Because there had been no quorum at the previous meeting, the council confirmed the decisions made at that meeting as recorded in the minutes. The Repair Committee reported that the ceiling in the vestibule needed work. The collection for the orphanage yielded \$808.34. Pr. Koepchen invited those present to join him at 3PM on March 5 to go to Staten Island for dedication of the land for the new orphanage. The Hospital Committee requested that the congregation make efforts this year to help the hospital become debt-free.

Confirmation would occur on Palm Sunday at 10AM, partly in German and partly in English. The even worship service and afternoon Sunday School were cancelled that day. The council decided to print 2,000 copies of *Altes und Neues*. The reunion worship service was scheduled for the evening of April 30.

5 April [pp. 454–455] – Meeting of the CHURCH COUNCIL at which the treasurer presented his quarterly report. The account balance was \$2,156.20. Frau Margaretha Hellenschmidt had bequeathed \$1,344.41 to the church. Since her funeral cost \$251.15, the account status was \$812.79. [*N.B.* These numbers do not add up.] The council decided to purchase a headstone and ensure the gravesite was in order. The deed for the grave was to be given to J. Louis Schaefer. The council also voted to establish an endowment fund of \$1,000, the interest of which would benefit the congregation. Ground breaking for the orphanage on Staten Island was scheduled for April 16. The College Festival in Bronxville would occur on May 21. The synod assembly would be held in Brooklyn from May 19 to May 23. The council cancelled evening services from May 21 to the second Sunday in September. They also voted to hold a jubilee celebration in 1917 for the 400th anniversary of the Reformation; Herr Schaefer would be responsible for developing the plans. The next congregational meeting was scheduled for April 17. [Unclear note in text – Dedication of the church (chapel?) in Dongen Hall on Staten Island. Cost is \$4,400].

18 April [p. 455] – Quarterly CONGREGATIONAL MEETING at which only 15 members were present. The treasurer presented the report for the last three months; there was a surplus of \$812.79. Julius Freynick was accepted into membership. The Bethlehem Orphanage reported good collections for the year so far. Its annual festival would be held on June 8 in College Point; a steamer had been reserved for transportation. Herr John Jaegerler, who had moved to Orange County asked to be removed from the rolls. Pr. Koepchen took this responsibility. On May 21 the Concordia College in Bronxville would hold its festival. A church has been reserved and Pr. Wilhelm will preach. On May 14 a church (chapel?) in Dongen Hall, costing \$4,400, would be dedicated. The synod convention would take place at Pr. Riedel's church in Brooklyn from May 19 to 23. The Sunday School's June Walk in Central Park was scheduled for June 10.

3 May [pp. 455–456] – Meeting of the CHURCH COUNCIL at which J. Louis Schaefer was excused and Herr Maute was elected president *pro tem*. The council voted to purchase a headstone for Frau Margarethe Hellenschmidt and to hire gardener John Schmidt to ensure the gravesite was in order. Herr A B. Schmidt reported that the collection for the orphanage yielded \$923 and that a steamer had been reserved for the day of the orphanage festival (8 June). Frau Julian Ballon was accepted as a member of the Support Committee. A garden festival was scheduled for the Lutheran Hospital on May 30 at 3PM. The Sunday School's June Walk was scheduled for June 10.

7 June [p. 456] – Meeting of the CHURCH COUNCIL at which F. W. Maute was elected president *pro tem*. The council decided to cancel its meetings for July and August and to close the church for August. They also decided to store coal and to paint the entrance doors to

the church. On Pentecost, 11 June, the confirmation of deaf children would be held in the church. The cornerstone for the orphanage on Staten Island would be laid on the on July 16th at 3:30PM. Ice cream and milk were to be served.

[No Church Council meetings in July and August, 1916.]

13 September [pp. 456–457] – Meeting of the CHURCH COUNCIL at which Pr. Koepchen reported that the collection from the laying of the cornerstone on Staten Island had yielded \$1,007. He announced that Pr. F. P. Wilhelm would be installed as the campus pastor at Concordia, Bronxville on October 8 and that the Lutheran Hospital would hold a Fall Festival on September 24 at 2:30PM. The *Altenheim* would also hold a Fall Festival, on October 8 at 2:30PM. The church would hold a Reformation Festival on October 29 and a Missions Festival on November 12, for which envelopes would be distributed. The council decided to paint the trim on the church. Pr. Koepchen would like to give \$10 to Frau Dietz from the Support Account when necessary. The council closed the Sunday School until September 24 because of the polio epidemic.

4 October [p. 457] – Meeting of the CHURCH COUNCIL at which the treasurer presented his quarterly report. Pr. Koepchen announced that Pr. Restin would preach on October 8 in the evening. Pr. Satelmeyer (the Polish preacher) would preach in the morning of November 12 and Pr. Arthur Boll in the evening. Confirmation instruction had begun, but, unfortunately, was poorly attended. The council permitted the Sunday School to hold its Reformation Festival in the church on November 5 at 7:30PM.

1 November [p. 458] – Meeting of the CHURCH COUNCIL at which the council confirmed allowing Frau Caroline Dietz to enter the *Altenheim* and to pay \$100 for one year. The council decided to decorate the Christmas trees on December 21. The church was to be closed on December 24 and the Christmas celebration to be held on December 25. The Sunday School Christmas Festival was scheduled to be held that evening. Since Pr. Sattelmeier would celebrate the 25th anniversary of his ordination on November 12, the council decided to give him a gift of \$25. The second Reformation lecture with slides was scheduled for December 11. The council appointed a nominating committee to identify candidates for the upcoming vacancies. The Ladies Aid Society would hold a handicrafts sale in the church on November 8. The roof of the church has been repaired.

6 December [pp. 458–459] – Meeting of the at CHURCH COUNCIL which the treasurer reported that the church had received a gift from the Young People's Group of \$43 and a gift from the Ladies Aid Society of \$388.24 from their handcraft sale. The council instructed the secretary to thank both groups in the name of the congregation. Subsequently, the Ladies Aid Society donated \$11, which brought the total from the bazaar to some \$400. J. Louis Schaefer donated \$25 for the support of Frau Caroline Dietz in the Lutheran Hospital. Pr. Koepchen reported the Atlantic District was offering 20,000 coin boxes (?) to congregations to support the district building fund in honor of the 400 anniversary of the Reformation. Nominating elections followed. The secretary was tasked with informing the nominees. The elections would be held on December 26.

26 December [pp. 459–460] – Quarterly CONGREGATIONAL MEETING at which Harry P. Otten was received into membership. Parishioners were offered the opportunity to lease pew seats for the coming year. Herr Schaefer requested that congregation rise to honor Frau Anna Hochalter, who had been called by God and left \$500 to the church. With respect to the Margaretha Hellenschmidt Endowment Fund [see minutes of April 5], the council had decided to remember her suffering in the prayers of the church one Sunday. There followed election of officers for 1917. The installation of the newly elected was scheduled for Sunday, January 7, at the morning worship service.