

## 1918 COUNCIL MEETING NOTES

23 January (p.2) - Meeting of the CHURCH COUNCIL at which the treasurer presented his report for the last three months of 1917, noting a surplus of \$270.13. J. Louis Schaefer was thanked for donating the interest of \$108.25 to the church and \$100 to the Sunday School. The collection from the Reformation festival yielded \$1,500. Friedrich W. Maute and Heinrich Bruns were named as auditors for the account books. Herr Schaefer was elected chair, Anton Schmidt as treasurer, and Henry von Runnen as secretary. The council voted to continue the envelop system. They further agreed to have the usual collection for the Bethlehem Orphanage on February 17. Finally, they decided to distribute the congregational bulletin [*Altes und Neues*] and to hold worship services in the schoolroom because of the coal emergency.

4 February (pp. 3–10) - Quarterly CONGREGATIONAL MEETING at which 23 members were present. The treasurer presented his quarterly report. Income was \$2,282.49; expenses were \$1,992.30, leaving a balance of \$290.13.

Next came Pr. Koepchen's annual report:

The report began with a homily on the destructive nature of the extended war (WWI). He also seemed to be trying to ease the divisions in the congregation over the past year. He maintained that the church, founded on regular worship and preaching of the Word, had been fulfilling its duties. He used catechismal language to emphasize the gift of grace received through the sacraments to inspire the communicants in fulfilling the mission of the church. He consoled the congregation about those who had died during the previous year as having preceded those left behind to the Savior. In place of those lost to the congregation, God brings in new members and thus preserves the church, he maintained. He then commended the church council for their diligence and hard work and praised the superintendent and the teachers of the Sunday School. Nevertheless, he bemoaned the fact that the number of children attending was decreasing and he noted that there were a smaller number of school-age children in the congregation. The Sunday Bible Class was conducted in English. This class fostered friendship among the students, and turn, extended these friendships into the congregation. [He seemed to think that the children were losing the beauty and richness of German. He also recognized the need for instructing the children in their preferred language: English.] Pr. Koepchen also noted [p. 7] that as early as 1860 St. Luke's had conducted two classes for children in English. Through these classes the congregation had gained many members who later supported the church.

The confirmation students benefit from learning German as well as the Bible stories, Pr. Koepchen asserted. The class enrollment was 14 boys and 13 girls. This was the beginning of our holy harvest! The collection for the 400th Jubilee of the Reformation [1917] was smaller than expected: 725 members participated, yielding \$1,515 for the church. Yet, citing 1 Corinthians 9:2, he praised the congregation as an example of generosity. He then complimented the choir on its inspiring contributions to worship and praised the generous work of the various committees. Which proved a blessing for giver and receiver alike.

There were also blessings from the official duties of the pastor:

- Baptized: 73
- Confirmed: 27
- Funerals: 60
- Weddings: 53
- Communed: 1,020

Pr. Koepchen then reminded the congregation that the gains and losses of this life mean nothing before the Lord at the end. Only the faithful use of their gifts to do God's Will. This should be their guiding thought for the new year.

He noted that the congregational president, J. Louis Schaefer, had examined the congregational documents relating to the church property and found them to be in order.

Herr Maute, the superintendent of the Sunday School, then gave his report:

- Morning school: 166 children;
- Teachers: 70 male and 10 female
- Afternoon school: 12 children
- Bible Class: 70 children
- Confirmation class: 27 children
- Teachers: 3
- Books: 1,068
- Account (on January 1, 1917): \$648.46; Expenses: \$421.48; Account balance on January 1, 1918: \$226.98

The mission account for the congregation on January 1, 1917 was \$107.27; income of \$174.44 brought the account to \$281.44. After disbursements of \$37.40, the account balance on January 1918 was \$244.31.

The Support Committee had income of \$289.03 and disbursements of \$257.00, leaving \$23.03 in the account.

The report then listed the officers for 1918. The collection for Bethlehem orphanage would be on February 24. The Ladies Aid Society donated \$325.00 for chairs. The Pilgrim House [?] was sold for \$85,000: \$50,000 for the pharmacy and \$35,000 placed in the bank. [I think that this is a building at the old Orphanage at College Point. -CDvD] After agreeing to publish *Altes und Neues*, the congregation discussed whether it would be advisable to preach in English and German on alternate Sundays.

13 February (p. 10) - Meeting of the CHURCH COUNCIL at which they voted to have the usual collection for Bethlehem Orphanage on February 17 with the celebration of the Lord's Supper and the children's choir. The morning service would be in German, the evening in English. They next decided to raise the question of preaching in English and German on alternate Sundays at the next congregational meeting. The secretary reported that he, as delegate from St. Luke's to the hospital in East New York, protested against the ultimatum of its chief, Dr. John Kepke. [no further details available.]

6 March (p. 10) - Meeting of the CHURCH COUNCIL at which the treasurer reported that the collection for the orphanage had yielded \$1,009.23. The secretary reported that a committee had been appointed to examine the matter at the hospital [no further details]. The council decided to hold confession on the evening of March 24. On Palm Sunday, 14 young men and 13 young women would be confirmed; the children's choir would participate. The Lord's Supper would be celebrated on Holy Thursday—in the morning in German and in the evening in English. Similarly, on Good Friday the morning service would be in German and the evening in English. The Sunday School would hold its festival on Easter evening at 7PM. Finally they scheduled the next congregational meeting for April 15.

3 April (p. 11) - Meeting of the CHURCH COUNCIL at which the chair read the financial report for the last three months: \$3,426.54 in income; \$2,374.89 in disbursements. The balance on April 1, 1918 was \$1,051.65. The chair reported that "our praiseworthy Ladies Aid Society" was now

incorporated. Pr. Koepchen announced that a postcard would soon be sent out to solicit members' opinions on whether the congregation should hold switch services, holding the morning service in English and evening service in German, and periodically produce a events calendar. The church would also need new English hymnals. The congregational meeting was scheduled for April 15.

15 April (pp. 11–12) - Quarterly CONGREGATIONAL MEETING at which 72 members were present. Eighty-nine men and 140 women had rejected exchanging the morning (German) and evening services (English). The meeting agreed to cancel the evening worship services from May until October. They also approved closing the church from August 4 until September 8 and periodically sending out a church newsletter. The meeting thanked the Ladies Aid Society for their care for the soldiers in the church. [St. Luke's opened its facilities to military personnel once the United States entered World War I.]

21 April (p. 12) - Special meeting of the CHURCH COUNCIL at which they decided that all members should come to church to purchase Liberty Loan certificates. The secretary was tasked with informing the congregation. A committee was named [to sell the bonds?].

1 May (p. 12) - Meeting of the CHURCH COUNCIL at which it was informed that \$368 of Liberty Loans were sold. The newsletter was ready for distribution and included a calendar. The Ladies Aid Society had arranged a visit to Bethlehem Orphanage. Also, the church had received an invitation to the hospital in East New York regarding Dr. Kepke's case [no further details]. Finally, the council agreed to hold the Sunday School outing to Central Park on June 15.

5 June (p. 13) - Meeting of the CHURCH COUNCIL at which Herr Maute was named chair *pro-tem*. The chair read a letter from Herr Lamprecht requesting \$200 to help repay the orphanage's debt. (Its previous site at College Point was leased for two years at \$1,500 and \$1,800 against a purchase price for the Staten Island property of \$27,000). The council gave the Atlantic District's Mission Commission permission to hold a collection in the church. Herr Schaefer was thanked for donating \$258.90 for the repair of the church roof. The council agreed to ask Ladies Aid Society to sell handwork for the benefit of the church in October. They then agreed to cancel council meetings July and August. The hospital festival would take place on June 23 and the orphanage festival on June 30.

[No Church Council meetings in July and August 1918.]

11 September (pp. 13–14) - Meeting of the CHURCH COUNCIL at which the treasurer presented his quarterly report. On April 1 the church account had \$1,051.65. Since then, the church had incurred \$660.30 in expenses. The remaining on July 1 was \$391.35. On October 16 and 17, the Ladies Aid Society would sell handwork. In the afternoons they would offer coffee and cake; in the evenings cold food and ice cream. The Reformation Festival was scheduled for October 27; the Sunday School's Reformation Festival would be on November 3. Finally, they voted to prepare a rest area for soldiers in the schoolroom under the supervision of Pr. Koepchen and several of the council members.

2 October (p. 14) - Meeting of the CHURCH COUNCIL at which the treasurer presented his quarterly report showing a surplus of \$148.03. The secretary was tasked with sending a letter of thanks to Herr Strüning for the gift of \$20 to use in the event of a funeral. The Ladies Aid Society bazaar would take place on November 20 and 21 from 3–10pm. The council decided to participate in the fourth Liberty Loan campaign. Pr. Koepchen announced that Frau Wm. Thiel from Islip had died and that they would meet at 11am at Pennsylvania Station to attend the funeral.

6 November (pp.14–15) - Meeting of the CHURCH COUNCIL at which the council members were encouraged to participate in the Ladies Aid Society bazaar. They were also urged to travel to

Bethlehem Orphanage on Maintenance Club Sunday. The council discussed designating a Sunday in 1919 for a collection for the hospital in East New York. The chair then named a nominating committee to find candidates to fill upcoming vacancies in church offices for the next election.

4 December (pp. 15–16) - Meeting of the CHURCH COUNCIL at which Herr Maute was named chair *pro-tem*. The treasurer reported that the Ladies Aid Society had contributed \$782 from the bazaar. The secretary would send them a letter of thanks. The council decided to continue the envelop system and ordered envelopes. They scheduled the next congregational meeting for December 26 at 8pm.

26 December (p. 16) - Quarterly CONGREGATIONAL MEETING at which 28 members were present. Herren Karl Redeker and Karl Kunz were welcomed into membership. The secretary was tasked with sending a letter of thanks to the Ladies Aid Society for the \$800 donated from the bazaar. It was decided to pay back \$500 to Fred Hoeffner. The rental of pew seats and elections followed. Herr A.H.W. Kirchhoff was named representatives of magazines [unclear meaning].