

1920 COUNCIL MEETING NOTES

List of Church Officers for 1920 (Elders, Council Members, Trustees), including addresses (p. 40)

28 January (pp. 41–42) - Meeting of the CHURCH COUNCIL at which the treasurer presented his annual report for 1919. On January 1, 1919 the account held \$76.26. The income for 1919 was \$27,187.78, totaling \$27,264.04. The disbursements for 1919 were \$25,721.72, leaving a balance of \$1,542.32 on January 1, 1920. The chair then declared the business of 1919 closed and the council organized itself for 1920. F.W. Maute was elected chair *pro-tem* for the elections. J. Louis Schaefer was elected permanent chair. F.W. Maute and J.H. Cordes were appointed auditors for the account ledger. Pr. Koepchen greeted the newly elected officers. The council agreed to hold a special collection for the Bethlehem Orphanage on February 15. They also decided to seek an envelope system for the upcoming year and appointed a committee to rent pew seats.

9 February (pp. 42–49) - Quarterly CONGREGATIONAL MEETING at which 20 members attended. The treasurer read his report [see Jan. 28 meeting above]. F.W. Maute and J.H. Cordes reported that, after examination, the 1919 accounts were in order. Karl Koepchen was welcomed into membership.

Pr. Koepchen then presented his annual report (pp. 43–48, written in contemporary, Latin, German script).

The report began with a homiletical section, noting that St. Luke's would celebrate its 70th anniversary in September and praising its ministry in New York. Pr. Koepchen compared the church to a 70-year-old person who begins to contemplate the end of life. In contrast, the church, through all its wanderings, always becomes invigorated. It can look forward to many years of faithful service. Especially in the city, churches become lighthouses, pointing the way to heaven. In fact, during the last tumultuous years, the hand of God preserved the church through fire, water, storms, and other misfortunes. This is especially true for the English and German worship services and the Sunday School, which even with fewer students, continued without disruption. The Sunday Bible Class, held from 9 to 10am in English, gained interest from the morning English services. There was also faithful work in the Saturday School, in which children learned German, studied the words of Jesus, and sang German chorales. Koepchen praised those who kept the church in good order, especially the Ladies Aid Society, which raised \$1,000 to reduce the church debt. The finances of the church were improved by replacing interest-bearing bonds with interest-free bonds. Moreover, through the envelope system, the church encouraged regular contributions from the members. He hoped that this system would bring members closer to the goal of weekly giving (see 1 Corinthians 16:2).

Pr. Koepchen also reported that the president of the congregation had entrusted the following documents to his care. Among these were:

- \$500 Bond Agricola Carabaglio
- \$1,000 New York Central Railroad
- \$1,000 Seaboard Air Line Railway
- \$100 Liberty Loan Bond
- \$100 War Savings Bond
- \$500 Bond Agricola Carabaglio (in trust for the Ladies Aid Society)
- \$50 Liberty Loan Bond (in trust for the Young People's Group)

Statistics for 1919:

- Baptized: 57
- Confirmed: 16
- Married: 39 couples

- Buried: 41
- Communed: 1,003

Pr. Koepchen closed with wishes for divine guidance and protection in the new year.

The report from the Sunday School superintendent, F.W. Maute, followed:

- Children: 139 (mornings in German), averaging 105 per Sunday; 29 (afternoons in English)
- The Sunday School account held \$96.70 on January 1, 1919.
- The income for the year was \$649.56 and the disbursements were \$604.71.
- On January 1, 1920, the account held \$139.55.

The Support Committee reported \$1,097.72 on January 1, 1919. The income for the year was \$300.54 and the disbursements were \$248.00. In January 1, 1920, the account held \$1,150.56. Also, the congregation paid its \$1,000 debt to the committee through a donation from the president.

There followed the appointment of delegates to various organizations.

The congregation decided to purchase 500 German hymnals to replace those no longer useful. They also approved the request to hold the Sunday School's Easter festival on Easter Monday.

3 March (p. 50) - Meeting of the CHURCH COUNCIL at which the chair reported that the collection for Bethlehem Orphanage yielded \$1,250 to date. The council approved a request from the *Altenheim* in East New York to hold a special collection on the following Sunday to help cover expenses, which exceeded expectations. They then agreed to hold the Reunion Service in the morning of the Sunday after Easter and approved having the evening worship service begin at 8pm, instead of 7:45, to encourage more members to attend. They also voted to renew publication of *Altes und Neues*. Pr. Koepchen reported that 26 children (12 boys and 14 girls) would be confirmed on Palm Sunday.

7 April (pp. 51–52) - Meeting of the CHURCH COUNCIL at which the treasurer presented his quarterly report. On January 1, 1920, the account held \$1,542.32. The income since then was \$3,660.71 and the disbursements were \$3,931.62. On April 1, 1920 the account held \$1,271.41. Pr. Koepchen reported that Johann D. Scheffer had donated an interest-bearing bond worth \$100. The secretary was tasked with writing him a thank-you letter. The council then approved a request from Herr Maute to hold a June Walk in Central Park for the Sunday School children. The council also decided to form a committee from the congregation to join the Lutheran Layman's League. They then began planning the 70th anniversary celebration to be held on the last Sunday in September, followed by a social evening later in the week.

12 April (pp. 52–54) - Quarterly CONGREGATIONAL MEETING at which a large number of members attended [no specific details]. The treasurer presented his quarterly report. [see April 7 meeting above.] The meeting voted to cancel worship services and Sunday School during August and the first Sunday in September. The evening worship services from June 1 until the second Sunday in September, including the afternoon Sunday School, were also cancelled. Pr. Koepchen reported that the council had begun planning the Jubilee Festival. The meeting then turned to the issue of whether to sell the church property. The chair reported that there had been good offers and asked the congregation to express its views on that question. After much discussion, the members decided to hold another meeting in the near future to explore the cost of a new building. The meeting agreed to hold a special collection for the Lutheran Layman's League to help infirmed and aged pastors and the widows and orphans of pastors, professors, and teachers. Paul Overhage volunteered to print circulars and envelopes for this purpose.

5 May (pp. 54–55) - Meeting of the CHURCH COUNCIL at which it was announced that the choir, Sunday School, and the Ladies Aid Society would participate in the 70th anniversary festivities and would help the anniversary committee prepare a program for the celebration. J.H. Cordes reported that Frau Neumann would like to have a single room at the *Altenheim* in East New York. The council decided that her circumstances probably could not be changed. F.W. Tietjen

reported that Pr. Busse's gravesite in the Lutheran Cemetery was in disarray. The council agreed to have a gardener care for it. After long debate, the council unanimously agreed to sell the 42nd St. property for \$450,000 if they could find a buyer at that price. They then scheduled a special congregational meeting on May 17 to have the congregation approve the decision.

17 May (pp. 55–57) - Special CONGREGATIONAL MEETING to decide whether to sell the church property for \$450,000, if possible. Bernard Karsch moved this proposal, seconded by John Rodenburg. This motion was unanimously approved. The vote was confirmed by having voting members rise (32 men). Next, the ladies and other members rose, resulting in unanimous approval to sell the property. Herr Karsch then moved that the board of trustees not sell the property for less than \$400,000. Paul Missal proposed not less than \$425,000. Herr Karsch then withdrew his proposal and Herr Missal's motion was approved unanimously. The 70th anniversary committee gave its report. The congregation decided to hold the celebration on October 3 with an English worship service and with a social gathering during the following week. On October 10 a major celebratory service would be held in German.

2 June (pp. 57–58) - Meeting of the CHURCH COUNCIL at which they voted to print some prayers to insert into the hymnals. They also decided to cancel the morning worship and Sunday School on June 27 to participate in the festival at Bethlehem Orphanage. The council agreed to let Pr. Koepchen attend a conference in Detroit and to pay his travel expenses. They then voted to cancel council meetings in July and August.

[No council meetings in July and August, 1920.]

15 September (pp. 58–60) - Meeting of the CHURCH COUNCIL at which they received a letter of resignation from the church sexton, John Streckwald, because of illness. The council accepted his resignation and appointed the Repair Committee to find a suitable replacement. They then heard a report from the 70th anniversary committee. The celebration would begin on the evening of October 5 with a slide presentation by Pr. Koepchen on the history of the church, using pictures accumulated by the church council and other church members. After the presentation, the congregation would move to the schoolroom for refreshments. On October 7, the choir and Sunday School children would give a special concert, followed by refreshments. On October 10, Dr. F. Pieper, president of Concordia Seminary in St. Louis, would preach the festival sermon in German. On October 11, the choir, Bible Class, and the Sunday School children would give a concert in the schoolroom to which all members and friends of the congregation were invited. Refreshments would follow. Finally, a special children's service would be held on the evening of October 17.

13 October (pp. 61–13) - Meeting of the CHURCH COUNCIL at which the treasurer presented his report for the last six months. The account, including income added since April 1, held a total of \$8,226.87. The disbursements over the period since April 1 were \$7,601.27. On October 1 the account held \$625.60. Pr. Koepchen reported that he had received several letters from Pr. Busse's widow in Germany asking for help. He reminded the meeting that Germany was in a sad state of affairs [after WWI] and informed the council that he had forwarded the letters to President Pfatenhauer of the Missouri Synod. Pr. Koepchen had also asked the president for travel support for Pr. Busse's son, who was working in the institute there [no further details included]. The request was referred to the Support Committee. The council then tasked the secretary with sending a letter of appreciation to Dr. Pieper for preaching at the 70th anniversary celebration on Oct. 10 and to Prof. G.A. Romoser of Concordia, Bronxville for preaching at the English festival service on October 3. The secretary was also to send letters of thanks to Herr Herman Eiffler [see below] and Frau J. Bullow [no details] for their contributions to the festival. Pr. Koepchen asked that council members participate as fully as possible in the anniversary celebration of St. Luke's Lutheran Church in Elizabeth, NJ on October 24. [Pr. Koepchen's son

was the pastor.] He also requested that council members attend the funeral service and burial of John Streckwald, who had served the church for 21 years.

Special Report on the 70th anniversary celebration (pp. 63–68) - In the spring of 1920, the church council named a special committee to organize the celebration. Over the summer, the committee worked with representatives of many committees to plan the event.

On September 12, in anticipation of the celebration, Pr. Koepchen preached in German on the verse that God will be present where His name is established and will bless you (Deuteronomy 16:11?). On September 19 he preached in English on Acts 28:15, “He thanked the Lord and took courage.” The congregation was reminded of its many gracious blessings. They were exhorted to give thanks and to continue the work God had called them to do in this church with their hearts, mouths, and hands.

On October 3, the festival proper began with a sermon in English by Prof. G.A. Romoser. He preached on Peter’s declaration on the Mount of Transfiguration, “Lord, it is good for us to be here” [Matthew 17:4]. The sermon, along with two anthems by the choir, created the same holy feeling the disciples felt on the mountain.

On October 5, Pr. Koepchen offered a special slide presentation on the history of the church and its present and former members. More than 300 pictures were collected from members. These pictures demonstrated how the congregation flourished under God’s hand and helped those in need. After the two-hour presentation, the members went to the schoolroom for refreshments prepared by the Ladies Aid Society.

On October 7, the congregation and guests returned to the schoolroom for a dinner prepared by the Ladies Aid. The Young People’s Group provided entertainment. Those present experienced many happy hours reminiscing about former days. There were many pictures and documents collected over the summer under the supervision of Herman Eiffler.

The main sermon was given by Dr. F. Pieper of the St. Louis Seminary, who preached on 2 Corinthians 6:1–2. He emphasized that the history of God’s work through the congregation had endured good and difficult times, and continues into the present. Pr. Koepchen then reminded the congregation of the blessed and happy times in which 21,202 people were baptized, 10,131 couples married, 6,366 children confirmed, and 5,960 buried.

On October 17, the festival concluded with a children’s service. Teacher A.H.W. Kirchof prepared a program that was performed by the Saturday School children. The children celebrated on October 18 with a special meal and games. At the end, they expressed appreciation to Pr. Koepchen for his excellent explanation of the slides. They also thanked Pr. Henry Koepchen of Elizabeth, NJ, and Prof. Heinrichsmeyer of Concordia, Bronxville for their contributions to the festival.

3 November (pp. 68–70) - Meeting of the CHURCH COUNCIL at which they decided to hold a service on Thanksgiving Day [November 25] at 10am. The council approved a request from Concordia College in St. Louis for Pr. Koepchen to present his slides. The pastor would find a suitable substitute preacher for any Sunday he was absent. The council also approved a request from Sunday School Superintendent Maute to hold the children’s Christmas Festival on the second day of Christmas [December 27], because Christmas fell on a Saturday. The council decided to hold the Missions Festival on November 28. They further agreed to send 5,000 DM [approx. \$71.00 in 1920] to Pr. Busse’s son at the institute in Saxony [no further details]. The Support Committee would provide \$50.00 and the rest would come from the collection at the Missions Festival. Pr. Koepchen would send the donation to the director of the institute. The council then named a nominating committee to secure candidates to fill vacancies for the upcoming year.

[p. 79] Resolution [written in English] to correct and clarify the identification of bank accounts. [A German version of the is resolution is on p. 71.]

1 December (pp. 72–73) - Meeting of the CHURCH COUNCIL at which they agreed to cancel the evening worship service on December 19 so that the Young People’s Group could decorate the Christmas

trees. The council also agreed to allow the deaf community to hold its Christmas festival in the church as they had done previously. Because Christmas fell on a Saturday, they scheduled the congregational meeting for December 27. The council then selected candidates for the upcoming congregational elections.

27 December (pp. 73–75) - Quarterly CONGREGATIONAL MEETING at which 24 members attended. Frank Burger and Peter Reisner were welcomed into membership. Herr Maute reported that Pr. Fahlau of the Polish congregation expressed appreciation for permitting them to use the church for worship. The congregation scheduled the Reunion Service for the morning of the Sunday after Easter. The congregation decided to continue to use the envelope system from March 1, so that in following years it could start on January 1 [sequence unclear]. The renting of pew seats and elections for 1921 followed. Pr. Koepchen then reminded the congregation that in April they would celebrate the 400th anniversary of Martin Luther's courageous confession of faith before the Holy Roman Emperor at Worms in 1521. The congregation agreed to celebrate this event on the last Sunday in April and on the first Sunday in May with a slide presentation on Luther's life. There would also be a children's service on Pentecost.