

1921 COUNCIL MEETING NOTES

List of Church Officers for 1921 (Elders, Council Members, Trustees), including addresses (p. 76)

5 January (pp. 77–79) - Meeting of the CHURCH COUNCIL at which the treasurer presented his quarterly report. On October 1, 1920, the account held \$625.60. The income since then was \$5,639.42 and the disbursements were \$5,791.73. On January 1, 1921 the account held \$293.29. The chair declared the business of 1920 concluded. The council then organized itself for 1921. Pr. Koepchen greeted the new council members. The council appointed F.W. Maute, Karl Dane, and J.H. Cordes as auditors for the 1920 accounts. They agreed to pay A.H.W. Kirchhoff for his labor and expenses in obtaining the weekly envelopes. The chair appointed Herr Freynich as chair of the vestibule service for 1921. The council supported Pr. Koepchen's suggestion that Lenten services begin at 8pm, as they had done in 1920. The chair then reported that the board of trustees had made plans for the [new] church, even though the land had not yet been purchased. Once the plans were finalized, they would be presented to the congregation.

31 January (pp. 79–89) - Quarterly CONGREGATIONAL MEETING at which 31 members attended (27 men and 4 women). The treasurer presented his annual report. On January 1, 1920, the account held \$1,542.32. The income for the year was \$16,225.59 and the disbursements were \$17,504.62. On January 1, 1921 the account held \$293.29. John Fredericks was then welcomed into the congregation. The chair announced that Joe Tilken, a long-standing member of the congregation, had died that day. The congregation then stood for a moment of silence.

Pr. Koepchen's annual report followed (pp. 80–87):

He began with a homiletical section giving God thanks for His continued support over 70 years as witnessed in the recent anniversary celebration. In 1920 the congregation had experienced God's on-going presence through Word and Sacrament. God protected us from harm and provided us with sufficient means to get through the year, he reported, even though our account had only a small positive balance. Pr. Koepchen also praised the congregation for its careful deliberation and unity in deciding that the best way for St. Luke's to move forward was to build a new church. He especially commended the work of the church council. He noted the hard work of F.W. Maute, along with his assistant, John Lengemann, in overseeing the Sunday School. The Saturday School and the Bible Class went well. The Confirmation class had 30 children, all of whom would be confirmed on Palm Sunday. Koepchen then thanked the various groups and choirs for their faithful service. He appreciated the continued use of the envelope system to promote regular offerings to cover extra expenses through the year.

Statistics for 1920:

- Baptized: 50
- Confirmed: 27
- Married: 32 couples
- Buried: 40
- Communed: 1,106.

Pr. Koepchen noted that the plans had begun to celebrate the 400th anniversary of Luther's stance at the Diet in Worms in April 1521. A series of slide presentations would be given in April and May.

At the request of the chair and the officers of the church, Pr. Koepchen reported that he had examined the church documents and acknowledged that the chair was in possession of the following:

1. Certificate of Incorporation
2. Deeds to 27 connecting plots in Newtown [Elmhurst], Queens
3. Deed for 60 frontage feet and lots on 43rd St. from Thomas and Anne Philippe to M. Halek and Christine Brand (April 8, 1863). A satisfied mortgage over those two lots from Thomas and Anne Philippe and Victoria Cooper
4. 1875 contract for the present church property on 42nd St.
5. Payment documents for the 42nd St. property
6. Releases required by the deed
7. Deed dated December 24, 1879
8. Abstract of the title of the church on 2nd St. and the mortgage to the Franklin Savings Bank for \$20,000
9. Bond on mortgage extension to John Wansig and receipt of payment to said mortgage
10. Receipt of \$1,429.26 from John Lowrie to cover a 1884 water assessment before the sale of the church
11. Synopsis of the Laws of the State of New York relative to Religious Societies
12. Fire insurance policies
13. A collection of receipts already paid

The President [chair] was also in possession of the following:

1. In trust for the Support Committee: \$1,000 Chesapeake and Ohio Bond at 4.5%, no. 1289; \$300 Liberty Bonds (2nd) at 4.5%
2. Hellenschmidt and Hochhalter Fund for the Support Committee: \$1,000 Chesapeake and Ohio Bond at 4.5 %, no. 1290; \$1,000 Seaboard Airline Bond at 4%, no. 12,669; \$1,000 New York Central Bond at 6%, no. 36,594; \$100 Liberty Bond (3rd); \$300 Liberty Bonds (2nd); \$100 War Savings Stamps
3. In trust for the Ladies Aid Society: \$500 Liberty Bonds (2nd); \$100 Liberty Bonds (2nd);
4. In trust for the Young People's Society: \$50 Liberty Bonds (2nd)

The pastor's report concluded with a brief homiletical section praying for God to protect and preserve the church for the new year so that it can continue God's work in faith.

The chair reported that the congregation had received a letter of thanks from Concordia in St. Louis for Pr. Koepchen's illustrated lecture.

Herren Maute and Cordes reported that the financial accounts for 1920 were in order.

Herr Maute then gave the Sunday School report. The largest number of students, 133, was in the German class. Twenty-eight students attended the afternoon English Sunday School. Fifteen students attended both. The account held \$139.85 on January 1, 1920. The income for the year was \$684.68 and the disbursements were \$753. On January 1, 1921 the account held \$71.53.

The Support Committee reported that its account held \$1,150.56 on January 1, 1920. The income for the year was \$457.86 and the disbursements were \$753.00. On January 1, 1921 the account held \$71.53.

After selecting delegates to various institutions, the chair read a letter from Germany thanking the congregation for the 5,000DM sent to the institute [name not given] for the support of Pr. Busse's son. It was with regret that the congregation accepted Herr

Maute's resignation as Sunday School superintendent for health reasons. The congregation voted to name him honorary Sunday School superintendent.

9 February (pp. 89–90) - Meeting of the CHURCH COUNCIL at which the council approved a request from the deaf congregation to use the church for a lecture on the Sunday after Easter. Pr. Koepchen reported that a group of ministers had agreed to hold the celebration of the 400th anniversary of Luther's appearance at Worms both at St. Luke's and Immanuel on Lexington Avenue. The event would occur on April 17 at St. Luke's with an afternoon service in German and an evening service in English. Immanuel would hold two services in reverse sequence on the same day. All churches in the New York region were invited to attend. The collections from these events would be donated to Concordia, Bronxville.

2 March (pp. 90–91) - Meeting of the CHURCH COUNCIL at which the chair reported that the collection for Bethlehem Orphanage to date was \$130. Pr. Koepchen announced that the examination of the current confirmands would take place on March 13 during the evening service, both in English and in German. The 27 confirmands (10 boys and 17 girls) would be confirmed on Palm Sunday, March 20. John Rodenburg noted that the current collection plates were not large enough for the envelopes. The council decided to again use baskets, and the chair offered to procure them.

6 April (pp. 91–94) - Meeting of the CHURCH COUNCIL at which Pr. Koepchen asked for four or five days to travel to Milwaukee. He also reported that Prof. Martin Sommer of Concordia Seminary in St. Louis would preach at the afternoon service for the 400th anniversary celebration of Luther's appearance at Worms. Pr. F.C. Schumm of Redeemer Lutheran Church [on 44th St.] would offer the prayers. Prof. Francis Pieper, also of Concordia Seminary in St. Louis, would preach at the evening service. [This reverses the schedule noted in the minutes of February 9.] At the suggestion of Herr Maute, the council formed a committee to seek a new Sunday School superintendent. The council also agreed to permit the Sunday School to hold its June Walk in Central Park [no date given]. Pr. Koepchen reported that all was going well at Bethlehem Orphanage and at the Hospital in East New York. The children at the orphanage would be confirmed on April 10. The chair announced that on January 4, the board of trustees had commissioned an architect, [Edward] Tilton, [of Tilton & Githens] to prepare plans for the new church and parish house. There would be a special meeting to evaluate these plans [no date given].

4 May (pp. 94–95) - Meeting of the CHURCH COUNCIL at which they agreed to reimburse Pr. Koepchen for the expenses incurred in preparing the illustrated lecture at the celebration of Luther's appearance at Worms. The council also approved holding a special worship service on June 19 to commemorate the 40th anniversary of the Hospital in East New York. They decided to cancel both the service and Sunday School on June 26 to allow the members to attend the festival at Bethlehem Orphanage, and they cancelled the evening service and afternoon Sunday School from May 15 until the fall. The next congregational meeting was scheduled for May 16 at which meeting John Lengemann and Paul Overhage would be nominated to be superintendent and vice superintendent of the Sunday School respectively. A proposal to perform an annual audit of the accounts of the various church organizations would also be discussed.

16 May (pp. 96–98) - Quarterly CONGREGATIONAL MEETING at which 24 members were present. Pr. Koepchen reported that all was going well in the congregation's organizations and that the lecture about Martin Luther had been well attended. The congregation then elected John Lengemann and Paul Overhage as superintendent and vice superintendent of the Sunday School respectively. The meeting agreed to cancel worship services and the

Sunday School in August and until September 11. The worship service on June 26 was canceled to allow members to attend the festival at Bethlehem Orphanage. The congregation also permitted the Hospital in East New York to use the church on June 19 at 3pm for its 40th anniversary celebration. Herr Kirchhoff reported that the envelope system was working well. The Sunday School announced that the June Walk in Central Park would be held on June 11. The chair reported that the collection from the Luther celebration had yielded \$600.

8 June (pp. 98–99) - Meeting of the CHURCH COUNCIL at which they agreed to let Frau Hildebrand redeem her \$100 interest-free bond. The chair reported that he had received an offer of \$400,000 for the church property. There would be deliberations over this offer, since the congregation had already decided not to sell the property for less than \$425,000. [see notes for the meeting of May 17, 1920].

11 July (pp. 99–108) - Special CONGREGATIONAL MEETING called to ratify the sale of the church property. [These minutes are written in English.] The main points of the meeting were (pp. 99–104):

After the legally required preliminaries, the secretary read the board of trustees minutes for June 19, 1921 at which it was recorded that the chair had executed a contract for the sale of the property on behalf of the church council (pp. 101–102). The congregation then approved the following resolutions (pp.102–103):

- To ratify the minutes of June 19, 1921
- To authorize the sale of the church property
- To authorize the preparation of all necessary documents required by the Religious Corporation Law of New York State
- To authorize the president (chair) of the congregation to transfer the deed and other documents when appropriate

[The minutes of this meeting were certified on July 27, 1921.]

21 July (pp. 104–109) [English handwritten transcriptions of the necessary legal documents, including:

- Petition to the Supreme Court of the State of New York, New York County
- The proposed distribution of the funds realized by the sale of the property
- Fees and expenses related to the sale: \$5,100
- Debt repayment: \$15,000
- Purchase of land: \$115,000
- Construction of church and parish house: \$200,000
- Balance placed in trust for the church: \$64,900

21 September (pp. 110–111) - Meeting of the CHURCH COUNCIL at which the treasurer presented his quarterly report. On September 1, the account held \$461.97 [no further financial information given]. He also reported that he had redeemed the \$100 bond for Frau Hildebrand. The chair informed the council that the \$10,000 he had received from the sale of the property had been invested in government bonds. Pr. Koepchen announced that the bazaar would take place at the end of November or the beginning of December. The council approved Pr. Koepchen's request to hold a farewell service for missionaries to India on November 5. Herr Maute thanked the council for the surprise party honoring him on June 8. Herr Lengemann reported that the Sunday **School enjoyed good** attendance. The chair appointed a committee to determine if the organ could be used in the basement of the new church.

[pp. 111–112) Copy of a letter of condolence to Henry Suhrig and his daughter on the death of their wife and daughter.

17 October (pp. 113–114) - Quarterly CONGREGATIONAL MEETING called to consider the plans for the new church prepared by the architect, Edward L. Tilton, who was present at the meeting. Pr. Koepchen presented the plans using slides. After much discussion, the congregation could not come to a decision and asked Mr. Tilton to prepare other plans for consideration, preferably in two weeks. Mr. Tilton was pleased to do so. (After the meeting, Herr and Frau Schaefer gave a surprise party for their parents, Herr and Frau Bernard Karsch to celebrate their Golden Anniversary.)

2 November (pp. 115–116) - Meeting of the CHURCH COUNCIL at which the chair proposed asking the congregation whether to preserve the memorial windows for the new church. He had already conferred with Herr Kochick and together had concluded that preserving the side windows was not advisable. After determining that they wanted at least 500 seats in the new church, the council decided to retain most of the pews and cushions. The council approved J. Roden's request to donate some of the pews to St. John's Lutheran Church in Merrick, L.I. Herr Barklage requested some cushions for [St. John's?]. The council also determined to retain the organ, bell, altar, altar rail, clock, carpets, and baptistry. The chair then named a committee to hire someone to remove and restore the present pews. The council agreed to send out postcards inviting all members to the last worship service in the church [no date given]. They then decided to continue the envelope system for the following year and to use the envelopes for a collection for missions.

23 November (p. 117) - Special CONGREGATIONAL MEETING called to approve plans for the new church. The plans presented were approved unanimously. The chair announced that the last worship service at the 42nd St. church would be on December 11, 1921. He also reported that the church had agreed to a contract with the Selwyn Realty Corporation to use its theater on 229–231 W. 42nd Street for worship services on Sunday mornings from 9:00am until 12:30pm from December 18, 1921 until June 25, 1922 at a rental cost of \$87.50 per Sunday. [The former Selwyn Theater is now the American Airlines Theater.] The meeting agreed to let the sexton go on December 31, 1921 since there was no more work for him. The Christmas offering would be donated to the Sunday School.

7 December (pp. 118–121) - Meeting of the CHURCH COUNCIL at which the chair announced that the closing of the sale of the church property would occur on December 15, 1921. The council then briefly adjourned to allow for a special meeting of the board of trustees. [There are no details of that meeting in the council notes.] When the council meeting resumed, the chair reported that the board had decided to petition the New York Supreme Court to postpone the conclusion of the sale until January 3, 1922. The council unanimously supported this action. The council decided to cancel the evening worship service on December 18 to permit the Young People's Group to decorate the church for Christmas. The congregation would celebrate the Lord's Supper at the morning service that day. The next congregational meeting was scheduled for December 26. The council also permitted the deaf congregation to hold its Christmas celebration at the church. Reversing its decision on November 23, the council decided that the Christmas offering would be used to benefit the congregation rather than the Sunday School because the Sunday School would have held its Christmas celebration before Christmas and thus would have collected an offering. Elections for candidates for upcoming vacancies followed. The council agreed to give two pews from the old church to F.W. Tietjen and to give Herr Rodenberg the pulpit from the Sunday School. John Mille would be asked to

remove, clean, and store the carpets for the new church. Worship services would begin at the Selwyn Theater on January 8, 1922. The Construction Committee would decide what to do with the organ; the council decided to retain the organ motor. The council agreed to let the Ladies Aid Society retain the proceeds from the bazaar on November 16–17 so they could sponsor something for the new church. The installation of the newly elected church officers would occur during the worship service on January 1, 1922. A committee was formed to prepare an inventory of furnishings to preserve for the new church. Chair Schaefer agreed to address the congregation at its last worship service in the old church on January 1, 1922.

26 December (pp. 122–123) - Quarterly CONGREGATIONAL MEETING at which Pr. Koepchen announced that the following Sunday would be the last in the present church. He invited all to attend and reminded them that there would be no evening worship service. He noted that in the coming year, choir rehearsals and the confirmation class would meet in his home [431 W. 43rd St.]. The Ladies Aid Society will meet in the home of Frau J. Louis Schaefer [327 W. 108 St] and that future church council meetings would be held in the same location. The meeting voted to donate the organ in the sanctuary and the organ in the schoolroom to small congregations. It was also decided to use the envelope system on January 8 for a collection for the Hospital in East New York. Elections for officers for 1922 followed.