

filled church in 1925 and the broadening effect of this lecture quickened the response to missionary efforts on the part of our people.

Another speaker known throughout the land and whose tragic death following her visit to Williamsport, will never be forgotten by our people. We refer to Mrs. E. C. Cronk, General Secretary of the Young People's Division of the Missionary Societies of the Lutheran Church in America. Her reputation extended beyond our church because of her literary work which was apart and beyond her denominational affiliation. Mrs. Cronk delivered her last speech of a long and successful career, in our church on Sunday night, December 12th, 1926. At the conclusion of the address she collapsed in the Pastor's study and remained in our city hospital for several weeks, finally a little later departing this life in the Lankenau Hospital of Philadelphia.

The missionary society now numbers about 70 active members and is doing a most courageous and commendable work. As a congregation we must remember that the last act of Jesus on earth was to lay the mantle of his mission on our shoulders, saying "Go ye therefore into all the world and preach the gospel."

THE BROTHERHOOD

Pastor Spaeth was also active in binding our man-power more firmly together in the work of the church. The Martin Luther Brotherhood is promoting good fellowship among our men and holding the younger boys interested in our church.

Dr. Spaeth's real sentiment toward his beloved people up to the very moment of separation were beautifully expressed in a telegraphic message sent to the congregation, while the Pastor was in the far south, seriously ill. The substance of this impressive greeting was, that nothing, not even death, could separate him from the love which he felt his people had manifested for him in so many ways during the years of pastoral relationship at St. Mark's, and which he most sincerely reciprocated.

AMENDMENTS TO THE CHARTER OF OUR CHURCH

Three changes in our Charter were granted by the decree of the Court of Lycoming County, on June 24, 1928. The first that St. Mark's relation to the East Pennsylvania Synod be changed to its present relationship with the "Evangelical Lutheran Ministerium of Pennsylvania and adjacent states"; second, hereafter the church's property

would no longer be deeded and conveyed to the Trustees of the Church Council, but to the Corporation or the Church itself, through its officers.

A third amendment to the charter was granted, i. e. the name of our congregation was changed from the "English Evangelical Lutheran Church of Williamsport, Pa.," to the present name of "St. Mark's Lutheran Church of Williamsport, Pa."

The charter of the congregation was thus changed as found on page 327, charter book No. 2, in the Register and Recorder's office in the Court House of Lycoming County, Williamsport, Pa.

The Rev. Paul L. Yount, D.D., then Pastor of St. Paul's Church, Philadelphia, succeeded Dr. Spaeth on July 3rd, 1920, and is the present Pastor.

Because of its historical value, and in no sense of self-laudation, on the part of the present Pastor, but merely to state facts for the encouragement of the present membership, and to give credit for the splendid loyalty and co-operation on the part of this active congregation, we now give some information concerning the present status of St. Mark's Church.



INTERIOR OF THE PRESENT CHURCH

God has been very gracious and has richly blessed the activities of our people during these seven years of the present pastorate. The peace and prosperity we are now enjoying is certainly due to Our Heavenly Father and the harmonious contacts of Pastor and people in working for a stronger St. Mark's.

One year after the installation of the present Pastor, the church council decided to improve and transform the

St. Mark's of former days, into the modern sanctuary in which we now worship. On Sunday, October 9, 1921, the church was re-dedicated. The exterior woodwork of the church was painted; the walls of the building were re-decorated in a Tiffany-blend color scheme; a new brass pulpit, lecturn, and other chancel appointments were installed; the entire lighting system of the church building was changed with more artistic modern fixtures installed. The Sunday school room was also renovated and generally improved. The parish house as before mentioned in this little booklet was transformed and better equipped for institutional use of the church societies. The parish house and the sexton's home were painted on the exterior. The sum total of these improvements was approximately \$12,000. The total expenditure was completely paid on Easter Sunday, 1922.

It is a noteworthy fact that since 1920, to the present year, we have been financing our church without negotiating any loans, paying all obligations by the free will weekly offerings of the people, with the special Easter contribution on the part of the membership. A record not attained by many congregations in the Ministerium of Pennsylvania

was reached last year (1926) when our records showed that 97 per cent of our people paid their financial pledges to the church treasurer and that the same percentage had communed at least once during the church year. Because our congregation has paid its apportionment to Synod, which money is used for charitable and benevolent purposes of the Ministerium of Pennsylvania, and the United Lutheran Church, we have been placed upon the honor roll of the Synod for the past seven years. The apportionment has increased from \$1,700 in 1920 to \$4,000 in 1927. This fact shows a healthy growth on the part of our membership and also a fine willingness to help others outside of our own church.

St. Mark's is splendidly equipped in conducting its financial affairs. We employ a parish clerk, whose duties are to enter the envelope contributions each week to the credit of the givers, and to send quarterly and annual statements to all the members. This office has been splendidly filled and the work of the parish clerk is deeply appreciated.

The congregation now has a membership of 930. According to our church records, 450 of these members have

been received since 1920. The congregation is indebted to a faithful and efficient church council and to a treasurer and assistant treasurer whose work is tedious and voluminous and yet is performed patiently and efficiently. The superintendent of the Sunday school and teachers, and the officers of Cotta, Dorcas, Missionary, and Brotherhood, all deserve our commendation. The director of the choir, the organist, and singers have been giving our services fine musical rendition and leadership in our congregational singing, which is above the average. The faithful sexton of our church is esteemed and appreciated by us all because of his fidelity to duty and his willingness to do more than he is required in his service to the church. To the credit of the congregation, as Pastor, we are appreciative of the fine attendance on the part of the membership at both services Sunday after Sunday, throughout the year.

In spite of our down town location, with a neighborhood that offers scarcely any increase in our constituency, yet St. Mark's has a reputation of being one of the best attended Protestant churches in our city.

The Church Council desires for historical reasons to have the following memorials and gifts to our church received

during the administration of the present Pastor, to be herein recorded as follows:

A brass eagle lecturn, in memory of Mr. and Mrs. Godfrey Hess, presented by their children.

A brass pulpit in memory of Rev. W. F. Rick, the builder of this church, presented by Miss Katie Flock.

The altar, in memory of the late Pastor, Rev. Henry Douglas Spaeth, D.D., presented by Mr. Louis Welker, Jr., who designed and executed this central appointment of our chancel.

Two Bibles for use on pulpit and lecturn, in memory of Mrs. Rebecca Masters, presented by her daughter, Miss Emma Masters.

The set of chimes, a gift of the Cotta Society.

A new choir curtain and re-burnishing of brass rail, a gift of Miss Katie Flock.

A brass alms basin, in memory of Jacob and Louisa Schaefer, given by their six sons.

A cathedral lantern was presented by an unnamed giver, and was installed at the entrance of the church.

An altar book rest, in memory of Rev. A. L. Yount, D.D., presented by William A. Ertel, Walter E. Ertel, and William V. Welker.

Two bronze candelabra standards were installed on either side of the altar in memory of Mr. and Mrs. Charles F. W. Flock by their children.

A bronze kneeling bench to be used by the Pastor at communion services and at preparatory services, was presented by an unnamed giver.

A bequest of \$2,000.00 was received from the estate of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Blaisdell, the annual interest of which was to be applied to the current expenses of the church.

An amount of money was given in memory of Mrs. Mary Schempp by Mr. and Mrs. Charles Schempp. This money has been invested by the Trustees and the interest will be annually paid to the Germantown Lutheran Orphans' Home at Philadelphia, Pa.

CONCLUSION

St. Mark's stands as a Christian landmark in the history of Williamsport. As a congregation our chief purpose

here has been from the beginning until now, to glorify God and His Son, Jesus Christ, and not to advertise ourselves. In this age of novelties, when people religiously have itching ears, this church has carefully kept clear of fads and fancies of the times, in her customs, preaching and teaching, and above all, in her conduct of worship. She has maintained a conservative, and we trust, a wise attitude towards all public questions and morals. This old church has been motherly to old and young in caring for spiritual comfort and offering the "bread of life" to countless numbers who have worshipped here during the years.

We have had a blessed and glorious past, but the present time places responsibilities upon us and may God help us to meet the needs of our day and lay plans for even a greater future in Christ's service. Let St. Mark's ever remain a house of prayer and praise and a haven of divine peace, for the many souls who may hear the call of our beloved church bell in the years that are to come.

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Miss Kathryn M. Anderson
Miss Elsie M. Anderson
Mr. Carl Anderson
Mrs. Carl Anderson
Mr. C. W. Antrim
Mrs. C. W. Antrim
Mr. Fred R. Applegate
Mrs. Fred R. Applegate
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Mrs. M. Averill
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Mr. George M. Barner
Mrs. George M. Barner
Mr. E. Mason Batschelet
Mrs. E. Mason Batschelet
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Mrs. Victor Beach
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Mrs. Earl Bush
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Mr. Elwood Calvert
Miss Marion Calvert
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 Mr. Ernest Renninger
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 Miss Louise Schaefer
 Mr. W. E. Schaefer
 Mrs. W. E. Schaefer
 Mr. Walter Schaefer, Jr.

DIAMOND JUBILEE, ST. MARK'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Mr. Chester R. Schaefer	Mrs. Edward A. Shadle	Mr. Otto L. Sonder	Miss Jean E. Straub
Mr. Albert L. Schaefer	Mrs. John Shaffer	Mrs. Otto L. Sonder	Mr. W. Clyde Strayer
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Mr. Harry J. Schaefer	Mrs. Ben H. Shaffer	Miss Sara Sones	Miss Cleo M. Strayer
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Mr. William L. Schreyer	Mrs. Howard R. Shooter	Mr. Ralph G. Steinbacher	Mrs. Henry Stuempfle
Mr. Charles A. Schreyer	Mr. Charles Shooter	Mrs. Ralph G. Steinbacher	Mrs. Doyle F. Swoyer
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Miss Minnie B. Schroeder	Mr. J. H. Seigel	Mrs. Andrew Steinhilper	Mrs. Ellis Tallman
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Mrs. Thomas C. Schultz	Miss Elizabeth H. Simms	Miss Hattie Stiegler	Miss Elsie Tepel
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Mr. C. William Schuman	Miss Helen B. Sipe	Mr. Harry W. Stoetzel	Mr. John J. Tepel
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Mrs. Augustus Shadle	Miss Helen Smith	Mr. Luther Stonesifer	Mrs. Theodore Tressler
Miss Florence Shadle	Mr. Justus D. Smith	Mrs. Luther Stonesifer	Miss Ada R. Trognitz
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Mr. H. A. Villinger

Mrs. H. A. Villinger

Mr. George R. Villinger

Mrs. George R. Villinger

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Mrs. Edward O. Volkman

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Mr. Walter Wease

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Mrs. Lewis Weaver

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Mrs. Harry D. Welker

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Mr. Louis Welker, Jr.

Mrs. Louis Welker, Jr.

Mr. Lew H. Welker

Mrs. Lew H. Welker

Mr. Fred Welker

Mrs. Fred Welker

Mr. William V. Welker

Mrs. William V. Welker

Mr. William N. Welker

Mrs. William N. Welker

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Mrs. Helen Whitehead

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Mr. Verus Yoder

Mrs. Verus Yoder

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Mr. William L. Zeigler

Mr. Edward L. Zeigler

Mrs. Nathaniel Zerbe

Miss Margaret E. Zerbe

Miss Mabel H. Zerbe

Lutheran History in America

1529—1927

(Taken from "The American Lutheran Survey" and "The Lutheran Church in American History," by Wentz.

Paragraphs Selected by the Pastor to Inform Our People of Their American Heritage.

1529—Lutherans settled in Venezuela.

1531—Venezuela Lutherans adopt the Augsburg Confession. The First Confession of Faith adopted in America.

1564—Lutheran colony founded in Florida by Admiral Coligny.

1565—Colony in Florida destroyed by Menendez, a Spaniard. Colonists massacred and on a cross over their graves were these words written, "We slew you not as Frenchmen, but as Lutherans."

1619—Captain Jens Munck and sixty-six men land on Hudson Bay. They were Lutherans.

1620—The first Protestant minister buried in an American grave, Rev. Rasmus Jensen, a Lutheran pastor on Hudson Bay, who died February 20, 1620.

1623—Lutherans from Holland settled on Manhattan Island.

1637—Swedish colony founded on the Delaware River. A colony of Lutherans.

1637—First colony to forbid slavery. Lutheran colony on Delaware.

1639—The Rev. Reorus Torkillus became the first regular Lutheran pastor in America.

1642—First Protestant missionary to the American Indians, the Rev. John Campanius, was a Lutheran.

1646—First Lutheran Church in North America erected at Fort Christine in Delaware.

1646—First book translated into the language of the American Indian—Luther's Small Catechism, by Rev. John Campanius.

1703—First man ordained to the Protestant ministry in America was Rev. Justius Falkner, a Lutheran, in Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, Philadelphia, November 24.

1713—The first missionary to the Negro slave was Rev. Christian Fischer, a Lutheran, who began work on the Island of St. Thomas.

1721—The first missionary to Greenland, Hans Egede, who with his wife, Gertrude Rask, went from Norway in 1721, has been called the Apostle of the Greenlanders.

1734—After the founding of Georgia, a shipload of Salzburgers who had fled from the persecutions of the Roman Catholic archbishop of Salzburg, sailed into the mouth of the Savannah, and, led by General Oglethorpe, founded the town of Ebenezer.

1736—The first orphanage in America was established by the Lutheran Salzburgers at Ebenezer, Georgia.

1775—First troops to reach Boston at call of Continental Congress was a company of Pennsylvania Lutheran soldiers, July 18.

1776—Rev. Peter Muhlenberg, Lutheran pastor at Woodstock, Virginia, roused all Virginia into a frenzy of patriotism, declar-

ing, "There is a time to fight and that time has come," and recruited a company of volunteers in his own congregation.

1776—Pennsylvania Lutherans out-vote Quakers in Pennsylvania Convention, June 18, and bring Pennsylvania to support the Declaration of Independence, as the Keystone State.

1776—The sexton who rang the Liberty Bell on July 4, 1776, with the prophetic inscription, "Proclaim liberty throughout the land unto all the inhabitants thereof," was a Lutheran.

1776—First news of the Declaration of Independence was published in a Lutheran paper.

1777—Stars and Stripes first unfurled in battle at Oriskany, N. Y. General Herkimer, a Lutheran, commanding.

1777—General Muhlenberg, Lutheran, covers retreat at Brandywine and saves Washington's army.

1777—Washington dismisses bodyguard and appoints Lutheran soldiers in their places.

1777—Christopher Ludwig, Lutheran Washington's baker-general in demonstrating the use of substitutes, furnishes 135 pounds of bread for every 1000 pounds of white flour.

1777—John Adam Truetlen, a Lutheran, became the first Governor of Georgia after Georgia became a state.

1781—General Muhlenberg, Lutheran, storms the last redoubt at Yorktown.

1781—Congress celebrates victory over Cornwallis in Zion Lutheran Church, Philadelphia. The new Zion Lutheran Church is on the west side of Franklin Square. Its long pointed spire guards the entrance to the new Delaware River Bridge.

1789—The first Speaker of the House of Representatives was Rev. Frederick A. Muhlenberg, a Lutheran minister.

1790—The funeral of Benjamin Franklin was held in Zion Lutheran Church, April.

1799—Memorial service upon the death of Washington, held by Congress, in Zion Lutheran Church, Philadelphia. "First in war, first in peace, and first in the hearts of his countrymen."

1835—Organization of the "Central Missionary Society" of the General Synod, the first Lutheran missionary society in America. Organized in Mechanicsburg, Pa.

1842—Rev. C. F. Heyer, the first American Lutheran missionary who went to a foreign field, began work in India.

1852—The first deaconess in America consecrated by Dr. Passavant, was a Lutheran.

1883—The first single woman to go from the Lutheran Church in America to the foreign field, Miss Kate Boggs, reached India.

1917-18—The Lutheran Church sent 215,000 of her young men to the defense of the colors in the World War.

1917-18—The whole United States furnished four and four-fifths per cent of the inhabitants to protect the colors (4,800,000 soldiers and sailors.) The whole Lutheran Church (3,688,106 baptized members) furnished five and four-fifths per cent of its baptized members to defend the colors. (Eight and three-fourths per cent of its communicant members.)

1917-19—Three hundred and forty-nine Lutheran camp pastors and 68 Lutheran army chaplains served the forces of the United States in the World War.

1921—April 17, 400th anniversary of Luther at Worms. President W. G. Harding wrote: "On the occasion of the 400th celebration of Luther's stand before the Diet of Worms I think there will be general agreement that Luther's firm advocacy of unfettered opinion deserves commendation as one of the notable contributions toward mankind's intellectual emancipation. Its

fitting celebration will be a testimony to the fact that the world has, since his time, traveled far on the way to realizing his ideal of full individual liberty."

1924—October 24, in sending his greetings to the convention in Chicago of the United Lutheran Church in America, President Coolidge wrote, "Made up in such large degree of the descendants of that sturdy Lutheran stock which played such an important part in the development of the colonies and in the success of the Revolutionary War, the United Lutheran Church has a proud heritage * * * Muhlenberg and his men from Pennsylvania and the Lutheran soldiers from western Maryland, the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia, western North Carolina and South Carolina made glorious history for the patriot cause during the Revolutionary War. Their descendants, spreading out over the Mississippi Valley, had a leading role in the development of that great granary of the world. * * * It is little wonder that with such traditions to inspire their sons and grandsons, six per cent of the Lutherans in America were in the service of their country during the World War, as compared with four per cent for the

general population. * * * I am happy to recognize that the United Lutheran Church and its related bodies, all partaking of the Americanism implanted in their ancestry and traditions, are nurturing the same in the hearts of those of their faith who now leave Europe and cast their fortunes with our people."

1927—Lindbergh, a confirmed Lutheran, made the first non-stop flight across the Atlantic Ocean.

1927—We are a great growing church.

Lutherans use different languages and observe different customs but they hold a common faith, expressed in the unaltered Augsburg Confession. They number 81,000,000 and have trebled in 90 years. During the same period, Protestants doubled their membership. In America, Lutherans now have about 3,000,000 confirmed members and a population in the United States and Canada of about 10,000,000. Organized and utilized and made 100 per cent efficient, these Lutherans would be a mighty Christian army.