

RECORD

— OF —

Interesting and Important Events

OCCURRING FROM TIME TO TIME

— IN THE HISTORY OF —

St. John's Evan Sutherland Church.

What is now St. John's Congregation began or met for the first time in June or July 1909, Rev. Richard Eirich, Baltimore pastor. (Rev. Eirich was a member of the Evangelical Lutheran Church or the Missouri Synod.) At that time (pastor of Martini Luth. Church, Sharp & Henrietta Sts, Balt.) He did not organize the congregation, simply started the Mission. Some time after the first meeting he organized a Men's Club, had catechetical instruction, 38 Sunday School scholars, 3 young ladies of Martini congregation served as S. S. teachers and organist. Mr. and Mrs. Philip Meyer, 13 S. 6th St., Brooklyn were the very first members. Rev. Eirich was succeeded by the Rev. P. G. M. Dorn of the same Synod who rec'd all records & data. The congregation met on 2nd floor of Mr. Fred Fehrmann's store, 5th & Patapsco Ave., Brooklyn, Md.

According to Mr. & Mrs. Philip Meyers, 13 S. 6th St., the Mission was opened July 4, 1909 by Rev. Steffens (Missouri Synod). Rev. Eirich preached two years. Rev. Dorn a single man preached one year while located at the Glen Bournie Church. He confirmed the first class of 7 in 1912. When he left the Mission was abandoned and sold to the General Home Mission Board.

March 22, 1914 about nine persons met at the home of Mr. John Dornbusch, Brooklyn, Anne Arundel County, Maryland to organize a Lutheran Mission. The meeting was called by the Rev. Ernest von Hahmann, pastor of Salem Lutheran Church, Baltimore. A congregation was organized that day. At a meeting held in a hall above Mr. Fehrmann's grocery store (Patapsco Ave. & fifth St. now) September 28, 1914 the constitution recommended by the Home Mission Board was adopted. A few months later the newly organized congregation purchased the books and organ of the Missouri Synod Home Mission Board.

At a Supper given at the home of Mrs. H. F. Kuehnle, about May 20th 1914, the new Mission was named St. John's after Rev. von Hahmann's son Johannes born July 3, 1913 and deceased May 3, 1914.

Dr. von Hahmann made the first pulpit and altar with his own hands. His wife Mrs. von Hahmann made the altar cover and pulpit insignia. The crucifix was given by Rev. von Hahmann. These two articles, altar and pulpit in their first coating of white paint are still in use in the chapel (January 12, 1926)

July 25, 1915 the Rev. von Hahmann resigned as pastor of the mission and accepted a call to Amsterdam, N.Y. Later in the same year, the Rev. Walter Schmitt of Salem Church, Rev. von Hahmann's successor, took charge of the mission.

June 18, 1916, upon the recommendation of the Home Mission Board, Brooklyn and Lauraville were made one parish, the pastor to live at Lauraville. Rev. M. H. Franck was recommended by the Home Mission Board and called by the two congregations.

During Rev. Ernst von Hahmann's pastorate, the congregation bought a lot 90 X 100 ft. on Washington & 3rd St.

During Rev. Schmitt's pastorate they completed the payment of \$1350.

In January 1917, Dr. Franck having resigned, the trustees of St. Johns asked Rev. P. C. Burgdorf, Ph. D. of Jerusalem Church, Belair Road, Baltimore, to assist the congregation, and to keep together what was left of the mission.

Upon recommendation of the officers of the Home Mission & Church Extension Board the congregation was reorganized.

On account of the war, labor and material being high, the officers of the Synod advised the building of a temporary building, and so on August 5, 1917, the congregation decided to build a frame chapel on one of the lots facing Washington Ave. A portable frame building was erected. The men of the congregation erected the chapel with their own hands in less than three days, the cost being about \$1,170. The building was consecrated December 4, 1917.

With the completion of the splendid Hanover St. Bridge, bright prospects arose.

On May 10th 1925 a new brick parsonage costing \$7,000 was dedicated. The new building is a credit to Brooklyn, and contains all modern improvements. The dedicatory services were in charge of Dr. P. C. Burgdorf, who has been supplying the mission, and was assisted by the officers of Synod Rev. John Weidley D.D. and Rev. W. A. Wade, Sec. of Synod and Rev. Carl Wiebking a son of the congregation.

Rev. Wiebking was formerly Supt of the S.S. and upon completion of his Seminary training at Mt. Airy Philadelphia, married a very popular daughter of the congregation Miss Frieda Dornbusch, one of St. Johns most enthusiastic workers.

On Sept 5, 1926 Miss Amelia Wiebking a sister of Rev. Wiebking, at 10:30 AM was commissioned by the Foreign Mission Board as a Nurse to the African Lutheran Mission Field. This service took place in the auditorium of St. Stephens Church on S. Hanover St., Miss Wiebking is the first Nurse to be sent out in the Maryland Synod.

Sept 12th Miss Wiebking worshipped with us at the morning service and in the evening became a member of our Luther League. She sailed from N.Y. Sept. 19th.

The following section was later added and is written in Pastor I. Wilson Kepner's hand:

July 17 1927, Rev. I. Wilson Kepner was installed as Pastor. Those taking part in service Mr. J. E. Byers and Mr. J. Lillian Hoffmann.

August 26 1928 Commencement for new church laid, those present and having part in program, Mr. W. A. Wade, Mr. A. P. Hancher, Rev. Carl C. Wiebking and Mrs. B. Brown.

Palm Sunday March 24 1929 New church dedicated. Those present Mr. B. Brown, Mr. S. Smith, Mr. J. E. Byers, Mr. A. P. Hancher and Rev. C. C. Wiebking.