

A Brief History

of

Salem Evangelical Lutheran Church

Ellerton, Ohio

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Rev. R. A. Albert. D. D., Pastor

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The One Hundred Twenty-Fifth
Anniversary

1815

1940

PROGRAM
of
ANNIVERSARY SERVICES

Sunday, October 6, 1940

9:15 A. M. Sunday School.

10:30 A. M. Church Service.

Sermon by Rev. W. P. Christy, D. D.,
Minneapolis, Minn.

12:00 Noon—Basket Dinner.

2:00 P. M. Informal Service

Mark Eshbaugh, presiding.

Greetings by ministerial sons of the congregation and others.

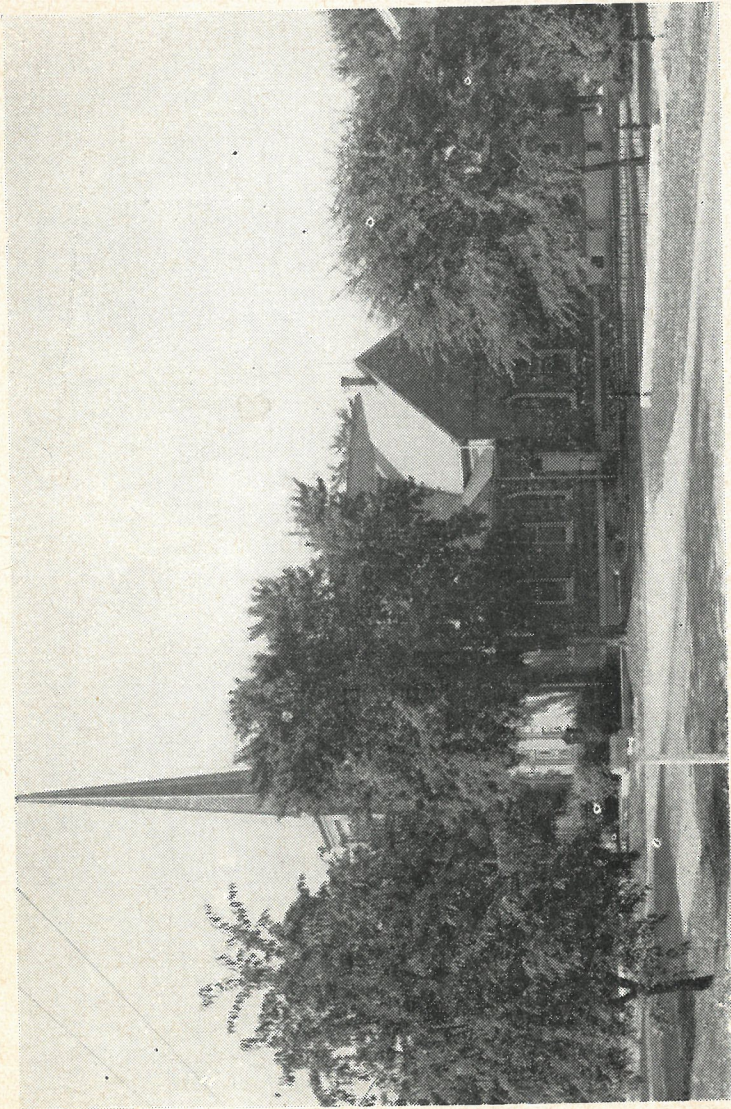
Wednesday, October 9, 1940

7:30 P. M. Vesper Service

Address: "The House Beautiful,"

Rev. H. C. Getter, D. D., Lewisburg.

Motion pictures of the congregation at worship and at work.



SALEM EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

Beginnings

At the beginning of the nineteenth century land patents were being issued to settlers coming into Jefferson Township from Maryland, Virginia and Pennsylvania. Among them were Lutherans of German stock. Many had among their possessions their Bibles, catechisms and prayer books. Deprived of the spiritual leadership of pastors, they maintained their religious life as best they could by family worship and by meetings in each other's log cabins for informal services. It may be supposed that itinerant ministers occasionally passed through this section and held services in school houses and homes.

Early in 1815 what must have been their fond hope of the organization of a congregation and the erection of a suitable house of worship began to be realized. For on February 17 of that year a deed was given by one William Brown for 120 square perches of land to Henry Gephart, Peter Kreitzer, Jacob Weaver, John Schnaapp, George Gephart, and Frederick Stiver, members of the Lutheran Church, and to Peter Baker, Conrad Leighty, Christian Shuder and John Stump, members of the Presbyterian Church of which the Reformed later became and continued to be the successors. This quaint and unique document clearly reflects the religious fervor and the fixed devotion of the grantor. In it Mr. Brown specifically sets forth that he is "positively averse and entirely against having any part of it set apart and appropriated for any

other purpose whatsoever" than as a place for worship and as a burial ground. He provides that in case either congregation permits it to be used for any other purpose that such congregation shall forfeit all right and title to the ground. And in case both churches should ever suffer this ground to be used for any other than the stipulated purposes, "both churches declare themselves to have forfeited all their right to said ground and to the improvements that have been made on it forever" and that in such case "the ground is no more to be the property of any man or set of men upon this earth but is immediately to become the property of the Almighty Himself that the bones of His servants may rest in it unmolested until He is graciously pleased to order the trumpet to be sounded for their resurrection in Christ Jesus our Lord, to Whom be eternal praise forevermore, Amen."

The First Pastor

In the fall of 1815 Rev. John Casper Dill came to Germantown from the Lutheran Ministerium of Pennsylvania to become pastor of the Lutheran Church of that place and also of Stettler's and Gephart's churches near Miamisburg. He was born in Germany in 1758. He received his theological education in the Lutheran University of Giessen. He was a good theologian and an excellent preacher. He emigrated to Pennsylvania where he was ordained and began his ministry. That he was a tireless worker is seen in the fact that he conducted services not only in his three congregations but organized several other churches. Among them one at Bear Creek, now Ellerton.

A log church was soon begun by the Lutherans and

the Presbyterians (now Reformed). The task of hewing and hauling the logs and building the church was accomplished chiefly by donated labor. The church was said to have been built of huge logs, one story high, and with high pulpit and galleries on three sides. The German language was used exclusively in its public worship, but later, and by degrees, as the people more largely adopted the English, it also came to be spoken. Rev. Dill was in his late fifties when he came to this vicinity. The hardships of the work in those early days, when roads were bad and preaching points were widely scattered began to tell on his health and strength. After a ministry of but nine years in and around Germantown, he died in August, 1824.

The Second Pastor

His successor, Rev. Henry Heincke, was born in Germany where he received a liberal preparatory education and served as a soldier in the army of Napoleon Bonaparte. He immigrated to America at the age of 23. He spent two years in the study of theology under the direction of Rev. J. C. Dill. He was licensed to preach in 1820 and probably served as an assistant to his preceptor in his large parish. He was ordained in 1825 and immediately entered upon his work as pastor of four congregations, in and around Miamisburg, Ellerton being one of them. In addition to his four congregations, he frequently visited and preached in communities in the counties of Champaign, Greene, Warren, Butler and Darke, as well as in Indiana. Though a German by birth and education, he acquired sufficient English to enable him to serve acceptably the English element in his large

field. He would frequently preach three sermons a day, using both languages, ride on horse back from fifteen to twenty miles, through cold and heat, wet and dry, the roads sometimes being almost impassable. His service was one of love, and not for worldly gain. When wheat was selling for twenty-five cents a bushel, and other produce in proportion, many with their best desires were not able to do much for him. He labored for years for less than one hundred and fifty dollars a year. Yet he toiled faithfully and uncomplainingly.

During his ministry, on September 14, 1841, an acre of ground adjoining the church site was purchased from Lewis Ebert for additional hitching posts and also for burial purposes. One fourth of an acre at the southeast corner of the previously acquired property was secured from Jacob Getter on June 14, 1858.

Undoubtedly a constitution was in effect in both denominations from the beginning, though we have no record of it. Near the close of Father Heincke's ministry after ground had been purchased as the site of a new church building, perhaps to assure a clear understanding of rights and duties among all concerned, a new constitution was adopted to be affective in both congregations. It is dated "July 24, 1858, in the 82nd year of the Independence of the United States, James Buchanon being President of the United States and Salmon P. Chase, Governor of Ohio." It very clearly and fully provides for all situations that may arise in the common ownership. If faithfully adhered to there would be little likelihood of trouble. The revision of the constitution now in effect was made and adopted December 26, 1898.

The pastorate of Rev. Heincke was brought to an

end by his death July 10, 1859. He had administered communion in a church in Champaign Country, some 45 or 50 miles from home, when he became ill. Arriving at Miamisburg by train, the sick man with his wife who accompanied him, had to walk a mile to their home. The exertion and exposure were too much for him. He rapidly grew worse and fell asleep at the age of 65.

The Third Pastor

He was followed by Rev. Christopher Albrecht who came to Miamisburg from Circleville, O., in 1860. He was born in Germany and came to America at the age of 9. He attended Capital University when its college and seminary faculty numbered only two professors. He was to become pastor of five congregations. Shortly thereafter, however, the parish was divided, three of the congregations being served by another pastor and Pastor Albrecht retaining the Miamisburg and Ellerton Churches.

A brick church to replace the log structure was erected south of the old building by the two churches in 1860. It was equipped with a gallery, a spire and a bell. The bell was made by the Buckeye Foundry in Cincinnati at a cost of \$200. The cost of the church was \$3000. This is the building that is at present being used by the Reformed congregation.

Readjustments

It was during this period that the General Council of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in North America was organized. Rev. Dill came to this vicinity as a member of the Ministerium of Pennsylvania and continued his

membership in that body until 1818 when he participated in the organization of the Joint Synod of Ohio and other states. The Joint Synod was originally an exclusively German speaking body. As the English language became more prevalent it was more and more used in worship. Accordingly the English District of the Joint Synod of Ohio was organized in 1857 with Rev. Albrecht as its first president. In 1867 the General Council came into existence, as a protest to the "New measurism" or emotional tendencies that were creeping into some parts of our church. The Joint Synod, disagreeing on several points, did not unite with the General Council. Its English District, however, entered wholeheartedly into this new body, Rev. Albrecht being one of its staunch supporters. The English District accordingly withdrew from the Joint Synod and became a part of the General Council. The word English was dropped and it became known as the Evangelical Lutheran District Synod of Ohio.

This District Synod of Ohio met in Ellerton September 20 to 24, 1882. Sometime during the following year the Miamisburg-Ellerton charge was divided and Rev. Albrecht was retained as pastor of Salem, Ellerton. On October 27 of that year there was purchased one-half acre of ground from Peter Shade on which the present parsonage was built for Pastor Albrecht and his successors.

Prior to this time no statistics were printed in the minutes of Synod for Salem congregation. Reports of members and finances were given for the parish rather than for individual congregations. In the minutes of 1884, however, Ellerton is listed as a separate parish. It was reported that \$50.00 was paid on apportionment,

quite in proportion to the gifts of other congregations. 265 communicant members were reported. The value of church property was \$5000.

Early in 1886 a dissolution of the partnership in the church building was affected. The Lutherans' share was purchased by the Reformed congregation. The Lutheran group obtained articles of incorporation from the Secretary of State on August 17, 1886. The name of the corporation is stated as: "The Evangelical Lutheran Congregation of Salem Church." The men who signed it were Rev. C. Albrecht, George Stine, John H. Recher, William Shell, Henry Shell, George H. Heller, and John H. Eck. The purpose is stated as being "not for profit but to provide a place of worship for its members, to be conducted according to the faith and discipline of the Evangelical Lutheran Church, to promote the interests of the Christian religion and to secure and hold donations and bequests and funds arising from other sources for the benefit of the said corporation."

The Present Building

One and 28-100 acres were purchased on September 25, 1886, from George Miller to the south of the acre purchased from him April 4, 1877 on which in 1886 and 1887 was built the present church. The cornerstone of the new building was laid October 30, 1886 by Pastor Albrecht, assisted by visiting pastors. The contractor was Mr. C. D. Routzahn. Building operations were carried on through the winter as the weather permitted. A heavy blow was suffered by the congregation in the death of their pastor on January 22, 1887. He had been in good health, when on Saturday evening he walked to

the church to note its progress. The walls were almost finished and nearly ready for the roof. He suddenly became ill, sat on some lumber, then attempting to go home, he fell to the ground. Some workmen carried him home where he breathed his last about an hour later. At his funeral, Rev. Seibert preached in English and Rev. Mechling in German. During the summer of that year, Student W. L. Hunton of the Philadelphia Seminary supplied the congregation.

The Fourth Pastor

The new building having been completed, was dedicated October 2, 1887. The sermon was delivered by Rev. Seibert on Hag. 2:9—"The glory of this latter house shall be greater than the former, saith the Lord of Hosts; and in this place will I give peace, saith the Lord of hosts." He was assisted by Rev. Poorman and Rev. Brown. Rev. Amos Poorman, pastor of St. Andrew's Church, Farmersville, served as supply pastor for some months from that time. The next regular pastor was to be Rev. H. J. Kuder who came from Pennsylvania. He arrived in December, 1888. To the 1889 convention of Synod he reported 500 souls, 275 communicants, 250 communed. After a short pastorate Rev. Kuder's resignation became effective November, 1889.

The Fifth Pastor

His successor was Rev. V. B. Christy. His academic training was obtained at Capital University in Columbus and at Fairfield College, Fairfield, Iowa, and his theological education at Mt. Airy Seminary in Philadelphia. He had previously given 22 years of ministerial

service to three parishes. He came to Ellerton from Zelienople, Pennsylvania, in April, 1890. His installation took place August 31, 1890, the officiating ministers being Rev. Mechling, Rev. Neiffer, and Rev. Seibert. Very soon after his coming, the Slifer's Lutheran congregation, being without a pastor, asked him to supply them temporarily. He replied favorably to this request and though never called formally to that church, he continued to serve them until his death.

In 1898 the Primary Room was built. In 1900 a recess was added to the church in which the pipe organ was installed and a general renovation of the church took place at a cost of about \$2500. The dedication of the organ and the reopening of the church took place December 23, 1900, Rev. F. W. E. Peschau delivering the sermon. The chairs with which the auditorium was equipped were replaced by the present comfortable pews in the spring of 1913. The 38th annual convention of the District Synod of Ohio was held in Ellerton June 12 to 16, 1914. In the printed minutes of Synod for that year, appears the following: Salem Lutheran Church, Ellerton, after undergoing extensive renovations, was reopened with appropriate services on the 22nd Sunday after Trinity. The principal sermon was delivered by Rev. J. Sarver of Washington, Pa., and brief addresses were made by neighboring pastors. The improvements consist of new art glass windows, the frescoing of the interior walls, pews costing \$1,100, carpets and chandeliers, all of which amounts to an expenditure of about \$3,000, all paid for.

The year 1915 marked the centennial of the Ellerton congregations. The two groups united in a note-

worthy celebration of the event on Thursday, August 26, 1915. The Miamisburg News of that time published a full account of the observance. From it we quote: "Services were held both morning and afternoon. There was a combined choir of both congregations. A platform was erected on the lawn just north of the Reformed Church yard and south of the plot where stood the first log church, used from 1815 to 1860. On the platform was the communion table, hand made, and used in the first church. There was a picnic dinner on the grounds. Three tables, each about 100 feet long, were loaded with good things from the countryside, and friends from near and far lined along their sides and did ample justice to the magnificent spread. By 1:30 p. m. six or seven hundred people had come together to hear and take part in the program. Addresses were delivered by Reformed ex-pastors Beck and Burkhalter; and by the only living Lutheran ex-pastor, Rev. H. J. Kuder of Bethlehem, Pa. Rev. Wagner and Rev. Seibert gave historical addresses and Rev. Brown and Rev. Peters spoke words of congratulation on the happy occasion. Letters were read from Rev. Segrist and Rev. Stump. A dispatch from Dr. Peschau was also read. The quaint old deed given by William Brown for the first land for the church and cemetery was read."

At the convention of the District Synod held in Findlay, O., May 30 to June 3, 1918, the Synod set apart the Sunday evening service of June 2, for a fitting celebration of the golden anniversary of Pastor Christy. Addresses were delivered by his ministerial neighbors, Dr. Wagner, Dr. Siebert and Dr. Peters, and by his lay delegate, Mr. John A. Shell. Salem congregation also celebrated this golden jubilee and extended their apprecia-

tion of their pastor's ministry. In 1918 the United Lutheran Church was formed and in 1920 the District Synod merged with three other synods to form the Synod of Ohio of the United Lutheran Church.

The fruitful thirty-three years ministry of Pastor Christy in this parish and the fifty-five years of distinguished service in the gospel ministry terminated on July 7, 1932. A stroke of paralysis on June 15, while at the home of Mr. John Eck resulted in his death a few weeks later. Sorrowing parishoners and admiring friends to the number of about 1000 came to the funeral service. The sermon was delivered by Rev. W. L. Spielman and twenty-two other ministers were present. In the matter of bodily vigor and health, Pastor Christy enjoyed a unique distinction. Because of his feeble condition he was not able to be in his pulpit the last four Sundays of his life. But other than this, he had not missed a single service on account of his own health during the entire 55 years of his ministry. During his long period of service in this congregation he administered 485 baptisms, performed 220 marriages, conducted 440 funerals and received into membership 557 members.

The Sixth Pastor

The successor to Pastor Christy, Rev. R. A. Albert, came to Ellerton from his former field in Ada, O., December 10, 1923. A graduate of Wittenberg College and Chicago Lutheran Seminary, he was ordained at the golden jubilee convention of the District Synod of Ohio at Lancaster, O., June 17, 1906, by Rev. V. B. Christy, then president of the Synod. In the summer of 1924 a water system was installed in the parsonage. In 1926 the walls were re-frescoed, hard-wood floor laid and new

carpet placed in the chancel and aisles. The re-dedication and reopening service took place on Sunday, May 29, 1926, Dr. Paul Koller, President of the Synod of Ohio, delivering the sermon. In 1927 the new porch was built at the parsonage and other improvements made. The church was again frescoed in the fall of 1936. On October 3, 1937 the fiftieth anniversary of the erection of the present church building was observed with a special service at which Prof. E. E. Flack of Hamma Divinity School preached. An informal program was held in the afternoon with short talks by visiting pastors. In 1936 Wittenberg College conferred on the pastor the degree of Doctor of Divinity. The congregation graciously recognized this honor by the gift of a fine silk doctor's robe.

In 1938 the room for Sunday School and social purposes was added to the west end of the church, the organ was reconditioned, the chancel and choir loft enlarged and other improvements were made. The dedication service was held on Sunday, December 18, with Rev. J. W. Frease, Director of Religious Education and Young People's Work of the Synod of Ohio, as the guest preacher. During the present pastorate there have been entered in the church record of this congregation the names of 287 members received, 220 baptisms, 67 marriages, 214 burials. In connection with the campaign of Wittenberg College for endowment funds begun in 1920 and concluded in 1924, this congregation is credited with having contributed \$5,793. In the appeal for a four million dollar endowment fund for Ministerial Pensions and Relief in 1928, this congregation responded with a total of \$2,667.80. During the present pastorate of 16 years, up to January 1, 1940, this church and its organ-

izations have contributed gifts in the following total amounts:

For our own current expenses - - -	\$50,549
For unusual expenses, building, improve- ments, etc. - - - - -	\$17,370
Making a total for our own use of -	\$67,919
For apportionment - - - - -	\$24,080
For other benevolences - - - - -	\$14,481
Total benevolences - - - - -	\$38,561

A grand total for all purposes for ourselves
and others - - - - - \$106,480

Through all the years the members of this church have given of their means for the extension of the Kingdom of Christ. It would be interesting to know the amounts of the gifts of the congregation in all the preceding years but such figures are not available.

Boys In The Ministry

Salem congregation has furnished a commendable number of young men for the gospel ministry. Indeed, few churches have a record that compares with it in this respect. The first young man to volunteer for full time Christian service was Gomer B. Matthews. He was born in Durham County, England, Mar. 21, 1872. In early youth he emigrated to America and came into this vicinity. Some three or four families received him for a time into their homes until he had completed his elementary education. He was confirmed by Rev. Kuder in 1889. Desirous of entering the ministry, he entered Muhlenberg College where he graduated in 1897. He completed his theological preparation at Mt. Airy Seminary, Philadelphia, in 1900 and was soon ordained by the Ministerium of Pennsylvania. He served as Mission-

ary to India for about one year. He became pastor of Lutheran congregations first in Lancaster, Pa., and then in Cleveland, O. In 1909 and 1910 he was financial secretary of Thiel College. He entered the ministry of the Episcopal church in 1910, serving as rector of parishes of that faith in Pennsylvania until his death January 18, 1923.

William P. Christy, son of Rev. and Mrs. V. B. Christy, received his A. B. Degree at Thiel College in 1901. He graduated at Chicago Lutheran Seminary in 1904. That same year he was ordained by the Synod of the Northwest and became pastor of Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, Janesville, Wis. Later he went to a congregation in LaCrosse, Wis., and from there to St. Mark's Lutheran church, Minneapolis, Minn., where he has been for 27 years. He has been President of the Board of Directors of Northwestern Seminary almost since its founding in 1920. He was awarded the honorary degree of Doctor of Divinity by Carthage College in 1934.

Walter I. Eck, son of Mr. and Mrs. John H. Eck, received his academic training at Thiel College, graduating in 1901 and at Chicago Lutheran Seminary, graduating in 1905. His seminary year was interrupted by one year of service as assistant student pastor in Portland, Oregon. He was ordained in 1905 by the Pacific Synod and has given his entire ministry to two congregations, first at Vancouver, Wash., and now for many years at The Dalles, Oregon.

William C. Stump, son of Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Stump, received his A. B. Degree at Wittenberg College in 1907 and completed his theological training at Chicago Seminary in 1910. He was ordained in that year also by the District Synod of Ohio. He served the East German-

town, Ind., parish and St. John's, Oskosh, Wis. Was Field Missionary in Wisconsin for ten years until 1927. Then pastor in Pontiac, Mich., and since 1930, St. Mark's in Omaha, Neb.

Herman C. Getter, son of Mr. and Mrs. Henry B. Getter, after his high school course in Miamisburg, went to Wittenberg College, receiving the Bachelor's degree in 1911. He completed the theological course at Chicago Seminary in 1914 and was ordained by the District Synod of Ohio at its convention in Miamisburg in 1914. He has been pastor of the Amanda, O., parish, Trinity church, Lakewood, Emmanuel's, New Philadelphia, and since 1939 at Trinity, Lewisburg. He received the honorary degree of Doctor of Divinity at Wittenberg College in 1934.

Walter D. Sharritt took his liberal arts course at Ohio State University, and in the fall of 1917 entered the Chicago Seminary, from which he graduated in 1920. He was ordained in that year by the Synod of the Northwest within whose bounds he labored until he received a call to become Field Missionary in Cleveland, O., in 1923. In 1926 he became a Boy Scout executive, with headquarters in Columbus. In 1928 he transferred his membership to the Michigan Synod and served congregations in Detroit and Pontiac. He demitted the ministry in 1937 in order to enter the business world.

John P. Eshbaugh, son of Mr. and Mrs. Peter Eshbaugh, graduated from Thiel College in 1918. He saw a year of service in the World War. He graduated from Northwestern Seminary in 1922. He was ordained in 1923, having received a call to the Alden-Walters, Minn., parish. Resigning this parish in 1923 he has since followed calls to the Hiles-Argonne, Wis., parish, 1925-

1926; Walton, Ind., 1927-1928; Hillsdale, Mich., 1929-1938. He resigned on account of his health and for a time sought to regain his bodily vigor. He is at present serving as supply pastor at Antigo, Wis.

Richard W. Albert, son of the Pastor and wife, graduated at Wittenberg with the class of 1933. He went on into Hamma Divinity School, receiving the B. D. degree in 1936. He was ordained at Mansfield at the 1936 convention of the Synod of Ohio. He had previously begun and after his ordination continued to serve as Assistant Pastor at St. John's, Dayton. Upon the resignation of Dr. Wagner as pastor in 1937, he was chosen to become the latter's successor. In March, 1939 he entered upon the pastorate of the First Lutheran Church, Bellefontaine, O.

Harold R. Albert, also from the Ellerton parsonage, is an alumnus of Wittenberg College (1935) and of Hamma Divinity School (1938). In his senior year he became supply pastor of St. Paul's Lutheran church, near Springfield, and a call to that pastorate became effective immediately after his ordination by the Synod of Ohio at its convention at Canton in May, 1938.

John M. Recher and Paul S. Recher are both sons of Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Recher. For some years the family lived elsewhere than in this vicinity and connected with Lutheran churches that were accessible. But Salem, Ellerton has always been home to them and with it they have been affiliated the major portion of their lives. These two sons were baptized here by Pastor Christy. We are proud to own them as our sons. John received his college training at Weidner Institute, Mulberry, Ind., and graduated at Northwestern Seminary in 1922. He was ordained by Northwest Synod in 1922. He was

pastor in White Bear Lake, Minn., in Yakima, Wash., in Vancouver, British Columbia. In Ohio he served the Stone Creek parish and is at present at the Fifth Lutheran Church, Springfield, O. His brother, Paul, studied at Weidner Institute and at Wittenberg College prior to his going to Northwestern Seminary in 1922. After his graduation and his ordination in 1925, by the Indiana Synod, he served parishes at Middletown, Terre Haute, Walton, and now at Otterbein charge, all in Indiana.

The latest one of our recruits for the ministry is Austin F. Shell. He has just recently entered the freshman class of Wittenberg College as a pre-theological student in preparation for the holy office.

The Cemetery

The land originally deeded to the two churches was for a site of a house of worship and for a burial ground. Additions were made to it from time to time until the present fine large cemetery was the possession of the Salem congregations. It was administered by the trustees of the two organizations. Even after the dissolution of the partnership in the church building in 1886, the burying ground continued to be managed by a joint board of trustees until 1908. By that time it had become a community, rather than a church cemetery and it was thought that the interests of the country side would be better served by making it so in reality. Accordingly both churches relinquished their claim to ownership and an Ellerton Cemetery Association was organized and a constitution adopted in 1908.

Auxiliary Organizations

The oldest and largest organization in the church is

the Sunday School. It was not until 1839 that any attempt was made to have a Sunday School. It was chiefly German. The idea of a school on Sunday and in the church was considered an innovation in those early days. and due to opposition and lack of support it was discontinued in a couple of years. Not until 1852 was the effort revived. Again there was opposition to the Sunday School being held in the church and the effort was again dropped after three or four years. In the summer of 1861 it was again started, this time not in the church, but in a brick school house located at Five Points. Once more the workers became discouraged and after a few months gave up. The next record is 1867 when the effort was again revived. By this time the idea had caught on and the project succeeded. It was a union school until the separation in 1886. In the early years it was held only in summer but later held its sessions throughout the year. In 1887 the enrollment was 200 and the "penny collection" for the year was \$116.87.

Since then the school has had a continuous existence. It has had the cooperation and the support of the membership generally. Several of its workers have enjoyed the distinction of having given almost or quite a half century of service as teachers.

The Women's Missionary Society was organized July 19, 1917, in the home of Mrs. Louise Recher, with a charter membership of 33. As its name implies, its purpose is to learn about and in every possible way, help the missionary cause. It has met monthly, for the study and discussion of the topics provided for it. For many years it has supported a girl's scholarship in our Girls' Central School in Rajahmundry, India. It has regularly and generously contributed to all the causes presented by

the Missionary Society of the United Lutheran Church. At present there are nine life memberships and six In Memoriam memberships. The society quite regularly finds a place on the honor roll of the Women's Missionary Society of the Synod of Ohio by measuring up to the standards set by it. Since its organization this group of women have contributed a total of about \$5,600.00 to the missionary causes of our church.

The Willing Workers began their existence as an organization on December 23, 1924. They have had for their aim chiefly the furthering of the interests of the local congregation. By their faithful and persistent efforts they have succeeded in accumulating a considerable sum of money for our congregational projects. They contributed \$2500 to the building project in 1938 and have since then donated about \$500 additional for equipment for the new building. This society has also presented a number of miscellaneous gifts of equipment and toward the expenses of the congregation.

While the Luther League has not had a continuous existence, yet at various times the young people have been organized for the study and discussion of the history, teachings, missionary work and devotional life of their church. Too much emphasis cannot be placed on the importance of developing and using the latent forces in our youth in the work of the Church.

On October 29, 1939, the Children of the Church began meetings to be held on alternate Sunday mornings for the instruction that is provided for the children from age 4 to eleven by the Parish and Church School Board and the Women's Missionary Society of the United Lutheran Church. Around thirty children, divided into three groups according to ages, receive this training.

Conclusion

The congregation and pastors have always been loyal to the Word of God as confessed and taught by the Evangelical Lutheran Church. With sincere and humble thanks to Almighty God whose goodness and mercy have so manifestly rested on Salem congregation through the century and a quarter of her history, and with grateful recognition of the heritage that we have received from the fathers and the mothers in the flesh and in the faith who have now been transferred from the Church Militant to the Church Triumphant, the present membership goes forward in the task committed to them by the great Head of the Church and handed down to them by bygone generations. We are living in ominous days. They call for heroic courage. The world, the flesh, and the devil were never more vicious and more effective in their assaults upon the followers and upon the cause of the Man of Nazareth. The world was never more in need of the message the Church has to offer. We have the examples of stout hearted fidelity on the part of those who have labored and sacrificed before us. It is ours to enter into their labors and by divine grace to build the Church in our day as they did in theirs. In this present world crisis and in the crises in our individual lives, we need to be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. We must put on the whole armor of God, that we may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places. Wherefore we must take on the whole armor of God, that we may be able to stand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. Eph. 6:10-13.



Upper Left—

REV. JOHN CASPER DILL

1815-1824

Upper Right—

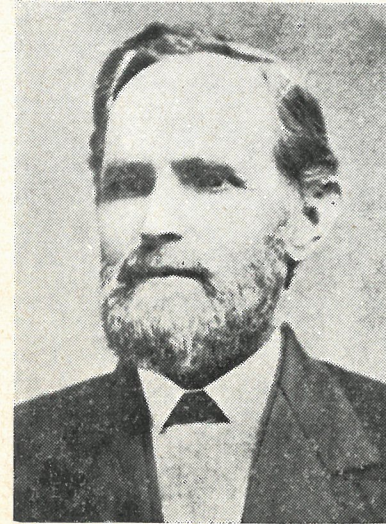
REV. HENRY HEINCKE

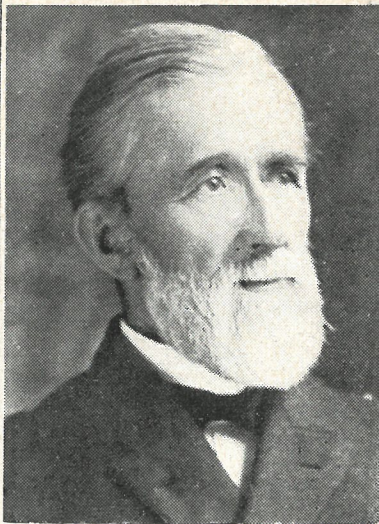
1825-1859

Left—

REV. CHRISTIAN ALBRECHT

1860-1887





Upper Left—

REV. HIRAM J. KUDER

1888-1889

Upper Right—

REV. V. B. CHRISTY

1890-1923

Left—

REV. R. A. ALBERT, D. D.

1923-