

1876

1951

75th Anniversary



ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

Gordon, Pennsylvania



REV. A. C. HARRIS

PASTOR

1876

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FOREWORD



It is fitting and proper that we, who are privileged to be members of St. Paul's Lutheran Church, should pause and hear testimony to our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ, for his many blessings and to rededicate ourselves on this seventy-fifth anniversary of our congregation.

A review of our history reveals that we have grown not only in numbers and physical equipment, but have played a worthy part in the life and work of the Lutheran Church in our local conference, Synod, and United Lutheran Church. Our history will not depict the growth of our members spiritually which is, after all, the true function of every church of God. We are justly thankful for the individual devotion of many of our members. We have learned to love our church because we have been taught the true lessons of reverence and grace.

A tribute should be paid to our pastors and leaders who during their many years have served as our Shepherds and Guides. Our fathers and forefathers have given us a beautiful church which is an inheritance that is most sacred. Mere acceptance of these gifts is not enough. Greater achievements should be attained in his name. We are thankful for the material improvements made to our buildings during the past year and dedicate them to the glory of God. The advancement of our church in its various fields of endeavor should be planned. We should strive to reactivate our members who have become lukewarm in their church life. All of us, if we wish to fulfill our responsibilities as Christian Stewards, must be living witnesses of his word and his grace, and become evangelists.

As we celebrate our seventy-fifth anniversary, we are grateful to our Heavenly Father for his loving care and divine guidance from the very inception of the church even down to this day. We pay sincere tribute to all who have given us their time, talents, treasure and most of all themselves in true consecration and devotion to our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ for his glorious church. God has abundantly blessed us so that we may be a blessing to the community and to the world.

May St. Paul's Lutheran Church continue to show the way and to so work together as a Christian congregation that each one of us will be a better Christian and a better citizen. We extend a hand of true Christ-like fellowship to all who wish to enter into our communion.

Early History of Gordon and the Beginning of St. Paul's Lutheran Church

A time-worn chart exists, indorsed "Draft of three tracts of land, the property of David and James McKnight." The earliest warranty date is March 24, 1788. Of the seventeen tracts shown on the "draft" seven are patented to members of the Kunckle family and it was the remnant of these lands that came into the possession of the McKnights of Reading, whose descendants founded the village of Gordon, named by them after Judge Gordon of Reading, to whom they gave a lot, which was conveyed by him to Mary Ann Lewis on May 17, 1844. This deed, recorded at Orwigsburg, in April 1844, was the first deed ever recorded covering a real estate sale in Gordon. This lot is on the corner of Biddle and McKnight streets and is occupied as a dwelling by John F. Lewis 2nd. At the present time this building also houses the Post Office.

The erection of the planes was a slow job, interrupted for some time by the financial embarrassments of the company; but on September 16, 1854, the first cars were hoisted over the planes which however, due to minor adjustments, were not in full operation until 1855. Gordon contained, in 1880, the repair shops and round-house of the railway company, two hotels, a good school building, two general stores, one church edifice, several groceries, and about 800 inhabitants. The Gordon planes, the mechanical wonder of the vicinity, lifted from 1,500 to 2,000 cars of coal daily over the mountain; and formed an outlet for an extensive field which, without this mechanical assistance to the ordinary railroad, would have been unable to mine coal with any profit. The planes were not used for trade after August 18, 1896, and were dismantled June 8, 1899, after having been in operation 45 years.

The building of the Mine Hill and Schuylkill Haven Railroad and the staking out of the planes was the first influence that attracted immigration to Gordon. In 1846 William Stevenson built a steam saw mill at a point below the site of the village, known on the old maps as Mount Hope, and also built a new road now forming the principal street of the village. Andrew Wilson put up a hotel to board the workmen at the mills, and soon afterward Jonathan Faust started a store, which was supplemented by one kept by a man named Johnson, about a year later.

Gordon was incorporated as a borough in 1891. In 1909 an acetylene gas plant was installed to provide the first artificial lighting system for street and home use. The operation of the gas plant was discontinued in 1924 giving way to modern electricity when the Pennsylvania Power and Light Company ran their service lines into the borough. The country roads were in existence until 1930 when the three main streets of the borough were macadamized. The street running east and west through town was named Main Street according to the old map but was later changed to Biddle Street in honor of Judge Biddle of Reading. Gordon is a railroad center which today has modern shops and necessary equipment for the operation and maintenance of the railroad. Due to modern transportation almost 50% of the men employed in town are non-residents which contributes to the fact that the population has remained fairly stable.

Population Figures for Gordon Borough

YEAR	POPULATION
1950	1,039
1940	1,062
1930	1,069
1920	1,078
1910	1,185
1900	1,165
1890	1,194
1880	753

Early History of Lutheranism in Gordon



In 1892 Rev. A. R. Glaze wrote the following account for publication in the History of the East Pennsylvania Synod. It is copied verbatim:—

"Gordon is situated in the west-central part of Butler township, Schuylkill county, Pennsylvania. (The borough in 1911 has a population of 1,200 souls.) It bears its name in honor of Judge Gordon, of Reading.

"The first congregation for religious worship at Gordon was assembled in a school-house in the outskirts of the village about 1854 by Rev. Joseph Adams, who was located in Northumberland county and a member of the Northumberland Presbytery. He preached in the above named place every two weeks for several years. There were a few Methodist families in the village, and, during the ministrations of Rev. Adams, a union Sunday School, composed of Presbyterians and Methodists, was organized in the same school-house, and was conducted very successfully.

"The first Methodist preaching at Gordon was in the year 1857, by Rev. J. A. DeMoyer, who was stationed on what was then the Catawissa circuit of the Baltimore Conference.

"Rev. Robert C. Bryson, of Ashland, became the successor of Rev. Adams, serving also the Presbyterian congregation at Gordon. It was not long until the school-house became too small to accommodate the children for the public school. Then a new school-house was built nearer the center of the village.

"In the year 1859 a Methodist Society was organized. Worship was held every two weeks in the new school-house alternately by the Presbyterians and the Methodists about a year. The various preachers supplying the Methodist Society from time to time came from the surrounding towns. Among them were Revs. Kester, Stevens, Cathers, Bickerton, McKee, Mullen, McWilliams, Shields, Trigillis and Drake.

"Rev. Bryson continued to serve the Presbyterians, whose congregation outnumbered the Methodists. When it was thought expedient to erect a church edifice, a vote was taken by the citizens to decide which denomination should have the choice of building. It was decided in favor of the Presbyterians, who, in 1860, built the church alongside of the public school-house on the lot presented by the McKnights of Reading, and secured a clear title for the same. The edifice cost about \$2,500. The Northumberland Presbytery donated \$1,000 toward the enterprise.

"This edifice remained in possession of the Presbyterians until December 2nd, 1872, when, on account of their decrease in membership caused by many removals, it was purchased by the Methodists, who had by this time increased in membership, for the sum of \$1,300. Rev. J. T. Satchell was sent to the pastorate. He was succeeded by Rev. Josiah Bawden in 1874, and he by Rev. James Sampson in 1876.

"In the meanwhile several Lutheran families appeared in the place. These, with the surviving Presbyterians, were served successively by Revs. Sikes, Curtis, and Hackenberg, pastors of the Lutheran Church at Ashland. One by the name of Washburne, an Episcopalian minister of Ashland, also served them for a while.

"In 1877, the church, being involved in debt, was sold, and was purchased by the Lutheran denomination for \$600, from R. C. Wilson, the Methodist Society being compelled to seek a shelter elsewhere. The Lutheran church at Gordon was organized by Rev. O. D. S. Marcley on September 3rd, 1876."

IMPORTANT AND INTERESTING EVENTS

Of the First 75 Years' History of St. Paul's Lutheran Church
Arranged Chronologically, According to Pastorates



REV. O. D. S. MARCLEY (Deceased), 1876-'78

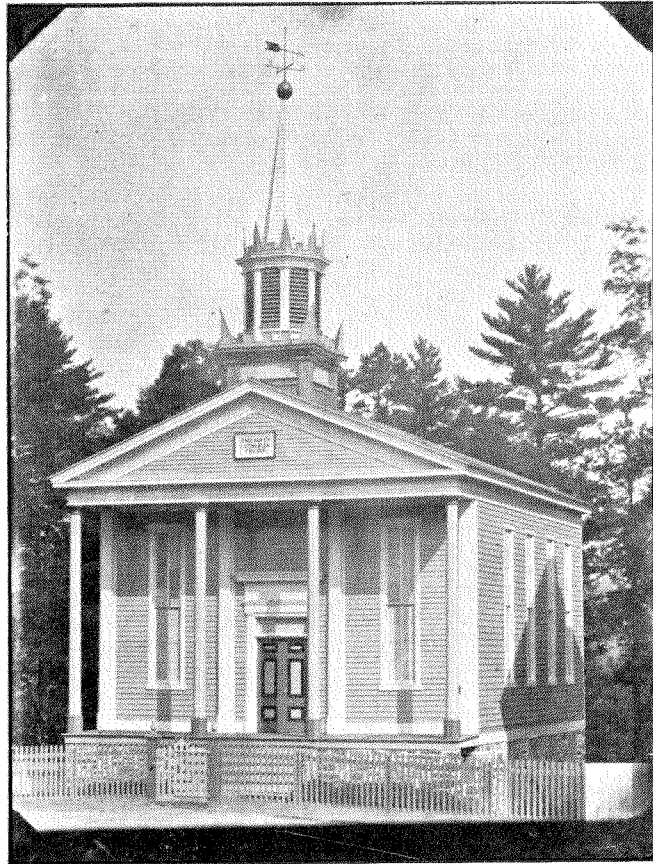
The beginning of the Lutheran Church at Gordon presents many interesting facts of history to the observer of the present day. The English Evangelical Lutheran Church of Gordon, Pa., was organized on September 3rd, 1876, as a part of the Ashland charge, with Rev. O. D. S. Marcley (or Marclay) as pastor. The Gordon Church was connected with St. James' Lutheran Church at Ashland. From the Resolutions drawn up by the congregation at the time of Rev. Marcley's departure from Gordon, it is evident that he was held in high esteem by all. The sixteen months of his pastorate were highly important months for the future of Lutheranism in Gordon.

At the organization meeting on September 3rd, the pastor presided, and Joseph L. Harper was chosen Secretary (pro-tem), with Alexander Kaufman as Assistant Secretary pro-tem). The first Minutes of the church meetings contain a list of 62 different members. The first Communion roll a month after the organization of the Church embraces a list of 72 names. So it is difficult to determine exactly how many members dated their adherence to the church so far back as 1876.

The first official business of which there is record is the election of a governing Council of at least 7 members. These persons composed the original Council:—Elders: Thomas Rasbridge and Wm. H. Anthony; Deacons: George F. Reick, Charles F. Hoffman, Joseph L. Harper, Edward G. Ebling, and Frederick Rice. One historian thinks that the name of Boaz Dreher also should appear in the original Council. Bro. Anthony seems to have been recognized as Chairman, and Bro. Ebling was elected as Secretary, with Bro. Hoffman as Treasurer. The Church Council was duly installed by the pastor, and the General Synod Formula of Government was formally adopted. This organization meeting was closed by the singing of the doxology and with the benediction.

It is interesting to note that about six months after the founding of the Church, the pastor's salary was fixed at "\$150 per year and horse hire." At a congregational meeting held on April 29, 1877, it was voted to buy the Church building of Father Wilson for the sum of \$600, and the property was finally transferred to the Lutheran congregation in June of that year. Extensive repairs were made to the structure at a cost of \$148.70, which sum was collected by two ladies and one man appointed to that duty. Thus it appears that the ladies were active workers in the Church even from its beginning; a "Ladies Aid Society" must have existed almost from the first.

One of the last things noted in the pastorate of Rev. Marcley is worthy of mention as an interesting sidelight on the spirit of the times. One of the officials of the Church was found guilty of "using profane language at diverse times,"



Original Church Building built 1860, destroyed by fire 1890.

and was promptly excommunicated from the congregation. A revival of such discipline might increase the power of any Church even at the present day. Rev. Marcley's labors at Gordon closed about March 1, 1878. His labor of love has borne abundant fruit.

REV. D. E. RUPLEY, 1878-'79

A complete Record Book for the Church was not secured until five years after its founding. The earliest records are far from satisfactory because of their incompleteness. Much of the early history of the Church is unrecorded.

Some time during the year 1878, a bell was purchased for the Church tower at a cost of \$160. Besides the erection of a fence about the property in April of that year, the entire exterior and interior of the building were painted at the cost of \$126. Bro. F. E. Dreher's name first appears in the active work of the Church, when he was made chairman of a committee having in charge a big Fair, which was held during all of Christmas week, 1878. This enterprise produced \$493.85 as proceeds for the Church's treasury, so that by the close of that year there was a balance of \$142.11 in the Treasurer's hands. This was a great improvement financially over the first year's record.

By his call to another field of labor, Rev. Rupley's services at Gordon were brought to an early close about March, 1879.

REV. J. H. WEBER, D.D., (Deceased), 1879-'86

Rev. Weber entered upon the work of the Ashland-Gordon charge on November 1, 1879. Large things were done in a material way, especially in alterations to the church building, during his pastorate at Gordon. Even greater was the spiritual fruitage of his work. Many of the present active workers date their spiritual awakening to the time of Rev. Weber's revival services.

An interesting reminder of an old custom is seen in the order passed in 1879, that the janitress should be paid an extra fee for the tolling of the church bell at the time of the death of any member.

A \$250 organ was secured for the Church the year 1880. On Saturday, August 8, 1885, the Church bell was ordered to be tolled 63 taps (for 63 years of age) between the hours of 1 and 5 P.M., in memory of General U. S. Grant, whose remains were interred at New York between those hours.

Very extensive alterations and repairs were made to the sanctuary in 1882. These consisted of the removal of the gallery, putting in stained-glass windows, painting exterior and papering interior of Church, securing new pulpit furniture, building altar railing, and placing a new chandelier.

As early as July, 1885, there was talk of separating the Gordon Church from the St. James' Church at Ashland, because the duties of the combined pastorate were too arduous for one minister. Ten shares of Building Fund stock were secured, looking forward to the erection of a parsonage at Gordon. The purchase of a lot belonging to L. H. Knabb opposite the Church also was seriously considered. These matters were finally adjusted in November of that year, when the home of one George Hudson was purchased as a parsonage for the sum of \$1,400.

In November, 1885, the Church was legally incorporated under the present name of St. Paul's Lutheran Church, of Gordon, Pa. Upon the charter, granted on December 7th, 1885, the names of these brethren appear as Trustees or as petitioners:—Rev. J. H. Weber, Wm. H. Anthony, Thomas Rasbridge, Chas. F. Hoffman, David Slanker, F. E. Dreher, A. J. Wagner, and Frederick Boltz.

In October, 1885, at a joint Council meeting it was agreed that the Gordon congregation be separated from the Church at Ashland, and become a distinct charge not later than July 1, 1886. Accordingly Rev. Weber tendered his resignation, to take effect by the above-mentioned date. He closed his successful services for his people, however, on February 28, 1886, with a moving Communion service, and the addition of seven members. During the six years or more of his pastorate, Rev. Weber had a net increase in membership at Gordon

of 64 persons. The record says "he began with 42 members, and left the Church with a roll of 106 persons." He baptized 73 infants, performed 15 marriage ceremonies, and conducted 31 funerals.

REV. W. G. THRALL, 1886-'87

Rev. W. Gardner Thrall, then of South Valley, N. Y., became the first pastor belonging exclusively to St. Paul's Lutheran Church at Gordon. He accepted a call offering \$40 salary per month, and the use of a parsonage. The new pastor and his wife, upon their entrance upon the Gordon field, March 1, 1886, were tendered a reception and a donation by the members of the congregation. The holding of preaching service both morning and evening of Sunday dates from 1886. Rev. Thrall was duly installed on October 17, 1886, Rev. Dr. Menges, of Philadelphia, and Prof. Dimm, of Selinsgrove, preaching the sermons.

As early as April 2, 1876, a Union Sabbath School had been organized in Gordon with 68 scholars and 7 teachers. Wm. H. Anthony was elected Superintendent, and held that position for years. There still remain some relics of this Union School in the form of old library books and the like. As a true Lutheran pastor, Rev. Thrall naturally felt that the Church should have connected with itself a Lutheran Sabbath School.

On October 30, 1887, Rev. Thrall resigned as pastor at Gordon, his resignation taking effect the first Sunday in December. During the closing week of his administration the Church enjoyed entertaining the Lebanon Conference in annual session from November 28th to 30th. At this Conference it was voted to try to effect a union between the Church at Gordon and the Lutheran congregation at Port Carbon, combining them as one pastorate. This proposition, however, was later rejected by the Port Carbon Church.

During Rev. Thrall's stay at Gordon, he received 13 members into church fellowship, baptized 42 infants, and married 2 couples. He conducted 16 funerals.

REV. C. M. SANDT, 1888-'91

Having been unanimously elected, Rev. C. M. Sandt, of Easton, became the new pastor of the Gordon Church on July 1, 1888. His salary at the beginning was \$40 per month, but within two years it had been increased regularly to \$50.

The important and never-to-be-forgotten event of this pastorate was a combined misfortune and blessing,—a misfortune because valuable property was destroyed, but a blessing in that new and better property is the result. On the night of March 28, 1890, one of the worst fires in Gordon's history, originating in the school-house (a large frame building just next to the Church), destroyed both the school-house and the Lutheran Church. This was a terrible night for the congregation, but indirectly great blessing has come from it.

Aunt Martha Wilson, whose home is just next to where the old school-house stood, seems to have been one of the first persons to discover the fire. She caught sight of the over-heated stove, smelled smoke, and spread the alarm. The fire raged during a greater part of the night, charred embers being carried a block away by the wind. Adjoining properties were carefully guarded all night. Water was kept constantly on the nearest dwellings, or wet pieces of

carpet hung out from second-story windows to protect from the fierce heat. A bucket-brigade, while all worked faithfully and hard, was unable to save either the school-house or Church, though many articles were saved from the Church furnishings.

This calamity to the congregation did not dishearten them, however. The courage and zeal of the members was very marked through all this trial. Within 24 hours from the time the flames had started their destructive work, the Church Council met with the pastor to discuss ways and means of rebuilding the house of God. The P. O. S. of A. Hall was at once leased in which to hold Sunday services during the interim. A pavilion was erected on the rear of the church lot in which to hold festivals and other projects for raising money. An earnest appeal was made to the other churches of the Lebanon Conference for financial aid, and the Conference loyally responded by agreeing to pay the interest on \$1,000 for a year.

A Building Committee was appointed, composed of Rev. Sandt, F. E. Dreher, George Hadesty, Wm. F. Wilson, Thos. Rasbridge, and A. J. Wagner. The architect selected for the new Church was Chas. W. Bolton, of Philadelphia. Wm. Magdeburg's bid of \$3,650 for the contract work was accepted, and hence he became the contractor to erect the structure. It was originally agreed that the total cost of the building should not exceed \$5,500, but the actual cost ran up as high as \$9,000 or \$10,000. The original amount of insurance taken out on the new Church was \$3,000. Work on the building proceeded very satisfactorily, and by October 5, 1890, the corner-stone was laid with appropriate ceremonies.

The ladies worked so faithfully to secure funds for the Church that at the congregational meeting the following January the Ladies' Aid Society and the Young Ladies' Guild were given hearty votes of thanks. By September 27, 1891, the Church was ready for dedication. Great enthusiasm and large crowds marked the day of dedication.

The new Church was built on the site of the former one, but the new school-house was erected upon a larger site opposite the old one. The new sanctuary is of brick construction, having an attractive audience room with a seating capacity of 350, and a convenient Sunday School room in the basement. It is rather unique in design and beautiful in appearance.

Beautiful memorial windows were dedicated to these persons: Martin Sager, Chas. F. Hoffman, Mr. and Mrs. Boaz Dreher, and A. J. Wagner. The following organizations also have memorial windows: Our Infant School, Our Sunday School, Young Men's Society, Ladies' Aid Society, and Young Ladies' Guild.

The Church records show that Rev. Sandt, while pastor at Gordon, took in 50 new members, officiated at the baptism of 61 infants, and at the marriage of 4 couples, also at 16 funerals.

REV. A. R. GLAZE, 1891-'96

Having been duly chosen as pastor of the new Church in November, 1891, Rev. A. R. Glaze, of Espy, began his work at Gordon on January 1, 1892. He received a salary of \$50 per month and use of the parsonage. Rev. Glaze was installed on March 17th, the sermons being preached by Rev. J. H. Weber, D.D., and Rev. W. B. Glanding.

One of the first acts of his pastorate was the passing of a Resolution of Thanks to be extended to President A. A. McLeod, of the Philadelphia and

Reading Railway Company, for the company's generosity in hauling material for the new building free of charge. That Mr. McLeod appreciated this evidence of gratitude is seen in the cordial spirit of his reply to the Church Council.

To the disappointment of the congregation, several defects were found in the new church building and its equipment. The roof was found to be defective, water leaking through and damaging the walls. After some litigation with the architect, this matter was later remedied. The heating system also proved defective. Insufficient heat being generated by the one original furnace, it was decided to place two furnaces in the basement. And very near was the Church a second time to a destructive fire. It seems to have been during Rev. Glaze's pastorate that the flooring around the heating pipe caught fire and only by its timely discovery by neighbors was the fire prevented from causing serious damage to the new building.

During the first year of Rev. Glaze's administration, he was able to write:—"From September, 1891, to September, 1892, this congregation was, in the providence of God, enabled to cancel orders to the amount of \$5,246.19. Its present indebtedness amounts to \$4,287.28. The communicant membership at present is 130, with a flourishing Sunday School of 150 scholars." During all these years, and for many years before, the synodical apportionment was paid in full, this to the credit of the Church at Gordon. For reasons not made plain in the Minutes, in March, 1894, the parsonage was disposed of for the sum of \$1,200. In November of that year there was some correspondence relative to uniting the Gordon Church with the Lutheran Church at Shenandoah as one charge. Nothing, however, resulted.

While at Gordon, Rev. Glaze admitted 90 new members into the congregation. He was the minister on the occasion of 101 infant baptisms, 19 weddings, and 32 funerals.

REV. G. E. HIPSELEY, 1896-1900

The successor of Rev. Glaze was Rev. G. E. Hipsley, who entered upon his duties on June 21, 1896. His salary, which began at \$40 per month, was raised in 1899 to \$45. As a parsonage at this time the congregation rented the house of Lawson Hubler, just opposite the Church.

It is interesting to note that already in April, 1899, there was talk about building a parsonage on the lot just east of the Church. In June of that year a project, which had been realized only in 1911, was mentioned,—the installation of a library in the Sunday School. Printed reports of the financial condition of the Church appeared first in 1900. In January, 1900, definite steps were taken for the liquidation of the remaining church debt of \$850.

Rev. Hipsley left Gordon about August 1, 1900, accepting a call to the pastorate of St. Luke's Church, Baltimore.

The record of Rev. Hipsley at Gordon, is as follows: 81 members received into church fellowship; 102 infants baptized; 22 wedding ceremonies performed, and 37 funerals conducted.

REV. P. E. BIERBAUER, 1900-'04

Rev. Bierbauer had written the following reminiscences of his pastorate at Gordon: "My arrival at Gordon on the evening of November 15, 1900, is very clearly fixed in my memory. I had come all the way from Colorado; and having

contracted a severe cold on the journey; reaching a place I had never seen before, in which there was no one whom I had before met; in the darkness of a cold, rainy November night,—one night of a particularly cold and stormy period of November weather,—was enough to make one feel far from happy and at home.

“Bro. William Marsh met me at the station, and guided me to the warmth and shelter of his home, where his good wife, aided by the kind and ever thoughtful ministrations of dear Mother Rasbridge, made provision for my wants.

“It was the beginning of three and a half years of service as pastor of St. Paul's. During those years God permitted the people of St. Paul's, and their pastor, to accomplish some things of a material nature that could be seen; and may His goodness make us to behold, in that great day, other works,, which by His grace we were able to accomplish.

“The last indebtedness on the beautiful Church was paid off in April, 1903. A pipe organ was installed in March, 1904; and used for the first time on Easter Sunday; and at the same time the church auditorium was newly carpeted. These improvements were made at a cost of about \$1,500.00.

During the early part of 1901 poor health made it necessary for Rev. Bierbauer to be granted a several months' leave of absence. In his place a Rev. Mr. Fortney, of Turbotville, supplied the pulpit until the return of pastor Bierbauer late in April.

It may also be noted that action was taken by the Church Council, in 1902, against the holding of any funerals on Sunday, which interfered with the regular services of the day.

The exact date of the paying off of the last indebtedness on the Church (referred to above) was April 16, 1903. On that date a special service of thanksgiving was held to celebrate the burning of the last mortgage. Rev. Dr. J. H. Weber, and Rev. A. J. Rudisill, of Mt. Carmel, took part in this service.

On November 30, 1904, Mr. Andrew Carnegie very kindly granted to the Church a donation of \$600 toward the purchasing of the \$1,200 pipe organ which adorns the Church. The organ was formally dedicated on April 24, 1904, Rev. G. E. Hipsley preaching the sermons of the day. About this time an additional \$1,000 insurance was taken out on the new organ. In April, 1904, Rev. Bierbauer handed in his resignation as pastor, to become effective by May 1st following.

During his Gordon pastorate, Rev. Bierbauer admitted 47 new members into the church; officiated at the baptism of 68 children, married 11 couples, and conducted 24 funeral services. His health was such at the time of his leaving Gordon that he was compelled to give up the work of the ministry for some years.

REV. E. E. SCHANTZ, 1904-'08

On June 5, 1904, Rev. E. E. Schantz was elected as the ninth pastor of St. Paul's Lutheran Church. He entered the field on July 5th. His salary began with \$500 per year, but beginning with 1906 the salary was increased to \$50 per month.

In a personal letter, Rev. Schantz says that he felt very discouraged, when he came to Gordon. There wasn't even a suitable house into which to move, he

says. Temporarily he rented a house up on the "Green." "Only a handful attended the services, scarcely a half dozen men being present." In general he felt that the prospect was far from bright. But with his optimistic spirit he began to work and he worked hard. He says: "The people responded to leadership, and all were anxious for better things. Soon I began to add members to the Church, and the attendance improved. The Lord owned and richly blessed our labors of love. I must commend the Council and the congregation for standing by me so nobly during those years."

A new Mite Society was organized by Rev. Schantz on September 11, 1904, with the intention that this Society should have special care for the proposed parsonage. To the joy of Rev. Schantz and to the satisfaction and pleasure of all pastors since his time, the fine home of George Dornsife, on Hobart street, was purchased as a parsonage on October 22, 1904. The price asked was \$900, but with a donation of \$50 from Bro. Dornsife, the actual amount paid was \$850. \$1,000 insurance was placed on the new parsonage. By the activity of the Mite Society and by the use of the "Birthday Bank" much money was secured, and largely devoted to the parsonage fund.

In 1907, extensive repairs were made to the parsonage, and an additional 100 feet of cement walk laid and paid for by the sale of bulbs. The same year the outside woodwork of the Church was painted at the cost of \$45, and a cement porch and steps placed in front of Church, costing \$40. At this time the inside woodwork of the Church and the church furniture were also retouched. In 1908 various improvements were made to the kitchen of the parsonage at a cost of \$50.52, and the basement of the Church repaired at an expense of \$40 or more.

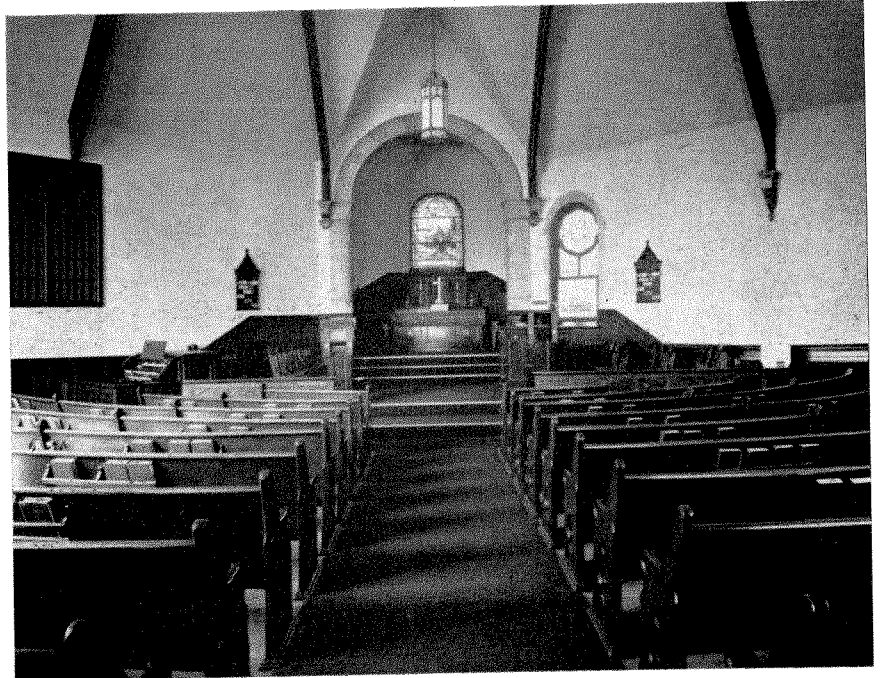
During Rev. Schantz's pastorate, union services during the summer months were inaugurated with the Methodist congregation. The Lebanon Conference again met at Gordon, in May, 1908. On Sunday, June 21, 1908, the last interest-bearing note was burned at the evening service, and St. Paul's Church and parsonage became free of debt.

Pastor Schantz, having received a call to the Schaefferstown charge, resigned the Gordon pastorate in June, 1908, his resignation becoming effective on July 1st. A record of his official acts at Gordon is as follows: 54 members received into Church; 69 infants baptized; 20 marriages performed; 27 funerals conducted.

REV. C. R. MYERS, 1908-'10

A very peculiar incident happened in the interval between the pastorates of Rev. Schantz and Rev. Myers, who succeeded him. One minister who had made application for the Gordon pastorate, had preached trial sermons, and was duly elected as pastor of the congregation. What household goods he had were in turn shipped to Gordon. The goods duly arrived at Gordon, and the pastor-elect himself came. But because of a very unusual demand which he made of the people, and which the Church felt unable to grant, the pastor-elect remained in Gordon only several hours and left again by the next train. He never entered the active service at Gordon. This is one of the most exceptional cases on record in ministerial annals.

On November 29, 1908, Rev. Charles R. Myers was regularly elected pastor of the Gordon Church. At that time he was still a student at the Susquehanna University, but served as a supply pastor at Gordon on Sundays until his graduation and ordination in May, 1909, when he assumed the full duties of the pastorate.



INTERIOR OF CHURCH

Rev. Myers' call specified a salary of \$700 annually, and free use of parsonage. During the early part of his ministry he boarded with the family that had temporarily rented the parsonage after Rev. Schantz's departure. But it was soon necessary for the new pastor to occupy the entire parsonage, for on January 12, 1910, he was happily married to Miss Edith Dreher, one of the active workers among the younger ladies of the Church.

Further improvements to the Church and parsonage were made during the pastorate of Rev. Myers. Through the aid of the Mite Society, the parsonage was renovated as to its interior, and a bathroom built and nicely equipped, at the cost of \$359.43. The Church was equipped with attractive gas lights during 1909, most of the work being done by members of the congregation, and, during the summer of 1910, the entire exterior of the Church was repainted. All of these improvements cost about \$700, part of which was raised by a play produced by the young people on February 22, 1909, from which there was \$107.25 net proceeds.

During March of 1910, Rev. Myers conducted a very successful series of evangelistic services in the Church. About the same time three of the children of Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Harper, after the death of their father, were placed in the Orphans' Home at Loysville.

It is of interest to note that in September, 1910, a resolution was passed in Church Council, legislating against the holding of any further money-making

enterprises in the house of God. This was a very commendable action. In May, 1910, the pastor asked for an increase in salary to \$70 per month, but the Church Council felt that the people could not afford such an increase at that time.

Having accepted a call extended him by Grace Lutheran Church, Philadelphia, on August 28, 1910, Rev. Myers resigned the Gordon pastorate, and left the field about October 1st. The fact that he did good work at Gordon was seen in large audiences at all services, especially on Easter Sunday, 1910, when all former records of attendance at Communion were broken,—197 persons being present at the Lord's Table. Rev. Myers added 50 persons to the Church's membership during his brief pastorate; baptized 36 infants, and officiated at 6 weddings and at 12 funerals.

REV. PAUL FROEHLICH, 1910-'13

Rev. Paul Froehlich was elected on October 30, 1910, and came to the work at Gordon on November 20th. His salary was \$700 and parsonage.

The people had continued their activity under that administration. The pastor and his family greatly appreciated the kindness and the loyalty of the congregation.

Material improvements had been made as follows: In March of 1911, a steam-heating plant was installed in the Church at a cost of about \$550. Members and friends of the Church subscribed about \$400 towards this project, and all the subscriptions were paid. There remained an indebtedness of about \$175 on the heating plant. A library was put in the Sunday School room, the case costing nearly \$50 and the first installment of books about \$40. A cement walk was laid around the church building which added considerably to the attractiveness of the Church.

Socially and spiritually, new attendance records were being set up for many of the services and a number of new organizations began to function. Work among the children was greatly developed and expanded under the leadership of Mrs. W. E. Wagner. A Mothers' Circle, a Boys' Brotherhood and a Junior C. E. Society were organized and proved quite useful. The Fellowship Bible Class was formed as a distinct unit on January 22, 1911. From an average attendance of 8 or 10, the attendance increased to 30 or 40 each Sunday, and this organization has continued to grow and prosper until now it is one of the leading Bible classes in this part of the state. Social features remembered with joy were the picnics of the Bible class at the Hadesty farm and the meetings in the various homes. The hikes and games and the camping trip with the boys also are very pleasant memories.

Many will recall the two weeks of evangelistic services conducted by Mr. John Warden of Harrisburg during February, 1911. What a stimulus these were to the spiritual life of the entire congregation! The thirty-fifth anniversary services in September of that year also proved to be a real inspiration. One concrete result of the increased spirituality was the decision of Ralph Wagner to study for the ministry. I shall never forget the night he came to the parsonage and laid his life and his talents on the altar of God's service. It was a joy to take him to Gettysburg for matriculation and to follow his career as student and as pastor. He served well the congregations near Carlisle, Pa., and now has become our pastor at Phoenixville. Harry Slanker also was influenced to enter Gettysburg College and has proved his worth as a high school teacher and in other lines of educational work. The directory or list of members of St. Paul's church and affiliated organizations, published just before I left Gordon, is still prized as an evidence of the congregation's growth and development.

Rev. Froehlich added 73 persons to the church's membership during his pastorate, baptized 48 and officiated at 10 weddings and at 27 funerals. At present Rev. Froehlich is serving the government at Washington as an editor in the Agricultural Department.

REV. GEORGE W. STYER, 1913-'17

Rev. George W. Styer took charge of St. Paul's pastorate June 1, 1913. In September of the same year a cement walk was laid in front of the parsonage at a cost of \$49. October 5 the bi-pocket envelope system of collecting was introduced with marked success. During the same month gas was installed in the parsonage for lighting, costing \$46. This expense, together with that of the cement walk, was met by the Mite Society. During the latter part of 1912 it was decided upon to build a frame annex to the church 32x36 feet for the use of the Primary Department of the Sunday School. The work was started, but little was done until September, 1913, when the matter was reconsidered, and then at a congregational meeting it was unanimously decided upon to build a two-story cement and brick building instead of a one-story frame. Bids were asked for and the contract was given to Gordon Nagle of Cressona, Pa., whose bid was \$3,840, not including stained glass windows, heating, lighting and furniture. Work was begun at once. The building was completed and dedicated May 24, 1914. Rev. Dr. Singmaster of Gettysburg preached the sermons and conducted the finances of the day. A statement was rendered by the Secretary of the Building Fund, W. E. Wagner, showing that the cost, including heat, lighting, windows and furniture, was \$4,768.05. Of this amount \$1,019.85 was paid before the day of dedication, and \$1,797 was subscribed on this occasion, leaving a balance of \$1,951.20. This amount was provided for by notes and action was taken to canvass the congregation and if possible secure by subscription an amount sufficient to cover the entire indebtedness. In May, 1915, the pipe organ was completely overhauled and tuned at a cost of \$60. During the same year the wall and woodwork of the basement was painted partly by donation and partly by paid labor. From the day of dedication of the new building to May, 1916, besides meeting all current expenses, the congregation paid on subscriptions and debt about \$2,200. At the same time an increase of \$100 on the salary was granted the pastor, October 1, 1914. Another increase of \$100 was granted on salary, January 1, 1916.

In December, 1916, a new heating plant was installed in the church at a cost of about \$460. Provisions were made for this expense by personal subscriptions. At the same time repairs and alterations were made on radiators and pipes at a cost of about \$75.

June 3, 1917, Rev. Styer resigned to accept a unanimous call to the Strasburg, Ohio, pastorate in the East Ohio Synod. Resignation went into effect June 30, 1917.

Pastor Styer admitted to church membership: By letter, 38; confirmation, 79; adult baptism, 2; infant baptism, 85. He also officiated at 9 weddings and 29 funerals. Rev. Styer is now the pastor of the English Lutheran church at Manlius, Illinois.

REV. G. W. MILLAR, 1917-'21

My Dear Brethren in Christ:

To write a brief history of my pastorate of St. Paul's, Gordon, seems to me quite a task because of the very many things undertaken and accomplished by the congregation in the four and a quarter years (almost) of Christian labor and activity, beginning October 1, 1917, and ending December 20, 1921.

First, I want to say I thoroughly enjoyed those years because "the people had a mind to work," as was well demonstrated by what the congregation did. A building debt of \$1,266.27, at the suggestion of the pastor to liquidate this debt in about three or four months, was done in just a short time more. Amidst much rejoicing the note was burned September 1st. At the pastor's suggestion an improvement fund was started whereby an electric fan blower was installed for the pipe organ, a plan adopted whereby it became possible to remove the piping for the acetylene lighting system and install the electric lighting system for both church and parsonage, to the delight of all. The parsonage had been repapered and the exterior painted. Beautiful paraments, covers and Bible markers for the festival seasons had been purchased and wrought by some of the lady members of the church.

Nor did the spirituality of the church decline. We believe this, too, was largely manifested by the material activities as well as by the attendance and marked willingness to do the Master's will. The membership continued to increase numerically, and we had all reason to believe spiritually. Midweek attendance was on the average gratifying, as those who were willing to take part, either voluntarily or when called upon. The last July communion the pastor administered was the largest, with but two exceptions, in the organization's 45 years' history, and those were very special occasions, however. Christian Endeavor was changed to Luther League, a young girls' choir organized and functioning well. Much faithful labor was also donated to the church during repairs and improvements.

During the pastorate of Rev. G. W. Millar 85 persons were admitted into church membership, 80 received the sacrament of baptism, and he officiated at 10 marriages and 48 funerals.



REV. AND MRS. A. C. HARRIS

Pastor of St. Paul's Lutheran Church
February 2, 1922 — October 1, 1951

REV. ARTHUR C. HARRIS, February 5, 1922—October 1, 1951

Pastor Harris was unanimously elected February 5, 1922. He will retire October 1, 1951. The longest pastorate in the history of our Church will come to a close at the end of our Seventy-Fifth celebration.

The Junior Choir, The Rev. Harris Young People's Bible Class, the Men's Brotherhood, the Bible School Association, the King's Daughters and the Daily Vacation Bible School have been organized during his pastorate. We have the oldest Daily Vacation Bible School in the County. Gowns for the choirs and a robe for the Pastor were also introduced.

Material improvements have cost \$58,710. The Bible School room was completely renovated, a new parsonage erected, and an addition built to the Church consisting of a boiler room, kitchen and Young Peoples Bible Class room. The Sanctuary has been completely remodeled, a new pulpit, lectern, and Altar as well as a Moller Organ installed. The Schukmerich Tower Music System and ear phones were dedicated Sunday, December 24, 1944, to the glory of God and in honor of the men and women of our Church who served their Country during the last World War.

Your entire contributions during these years amounted to \$248,015. We have met our benevolence in full every year and often exceeded it.

We have officiated at 144 weddings, baptized 379 persons, brought God's Word of comfort to the relatives and friends of 226 and received 572.

Words cannot express the appreciation of Mrs. Harris and I for the love and loyalty of the Congregation that has kept pace with the days and years of our relationship. We will carry with us many happy, golden memories of our fellowship with you that will linger with us as long as we live. The reception and banquet tendered us on the Twenty-Fifth Anniversary of our Pastorate was the greatest surprise during our ministry to you.

We thank God for your faithfulness to Him and for your loyalty to us in upholding our hands and praying for us in difficult situations and trying hours. May your faith increase and your loyalty to your next Pastor grow with the passing of the years as he seeks to bring you closer to our Lord and Master.

God bless and keep you in all His ways. "Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are honorable, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things."





LLOYD L. DORNSIFE

Over fifty years of service in the Official and Teaching capacity of the Sunday School.

The Fellowship Bible Class

On Sunday evening, January 22, 1911, after the evening church service, the Fellowship Bible Class was organized by Pastor Froehlich. A Committee consisting of Charles Helwig, Robert Haas, and Mrs. L. B. Kachel was appointed by the pastor to draft a constitution and by-laws. An election of officers took place; Lloyd Dornsife and Charles Helwig received the same number of votes for president. Mr. Dornsife withdrew his name and the following members became the first officers of the class: President, Mr. Charles Helwig; Vice-President, Mrs. Daniel Bolich; Secretary, Mrs. Harvey Smith; Treasurer, Mr. Robert Haas; Teacher, Pastor Paul Froehlich.

This organization had a steady and healthy growth. At the beginning more than a hundred members were enrolled and eighty-five were on the active membership. At present, we have an enrollment of fifty members and an average attendance of thirty-five.

We as a class have been very diligent in all the activities of the church aiding financially as well as spiritually. From the origin of the class, we have had annual banquets. These meetings were always looked forward to as a step toward Christian fellowship. Many influential men addressed us and left us with many inspiring thoughts helping us to be better church members and christians.

Before going any further, the origin of the name of our class should be mentioned. The names "Fellowship" and "Friendship" were suggested. After a brief discussion, "Fellowship" was selected as the bible class name. It is our hope that we as members of this class exercise the word fellowship.

The following names are to be found upon the charter of the class: Mrs. Daniel Bolich, Mr. Lloyd Dornsife, Mrs. Gilbert Duncan, Mr. William Gable, Mr. Robert Haas, Mr. Charles Helwig, Mrs. Charles Helwig, Mrs. Charles Hoffman, Mrs. L. B. Kachel, Miss Clara Kehler, Mrs. Wm. Marsh, Mrs. William Moyer, Mrs. Albert Rissmiller, Mrs. Walter Rissmiller, Mrs. Susan Schreppe, Mrs. C. E. Smith, Mrs. Harvey Smith, Miss Maude Snyder, Miss Ida Spotts, Mrs. Annie Wagner, and Rev. Paul Froehlich. This original charter can be found in the class room.

We held our Fortieth Anniversary on January 30, 1951. Pastor Adam Bingham, one of the boys from our church whom God has chosen to be his minister, was the speaker. His sincerity and expressions gave those present an inspiration for the better things in life. Only two of the chartered members, namely, Lloyd Dornsife and William Gable were present at our anniversary meeting.

We are always ready to enroll new members so that they might enjoy Christian Fellowship with us. Visitors are always welcome!

The present officers of our class are: President, Mr. Warren Hoffman; Vice-President, Mrs. Charles Fenstermacher; Secretary-Treasurer, Mrs. Kenneth Smith; Pianist, Mrs. Herbert Love; Librarian, Mrs. Warren Hoffman; Superintendent, Mr. Roy Hadesty; Teacher, Mr. Lloyd Dornsife.

—LLOYD DORNSIFE.

The Rev. A. C. Harris Young People's Bible Class

The Young People's Bible Class was organized on September 9, 1928, and a committee consisting of Mrs. Edna Coward, Miss Alva Wolfgang and Mr. George Lynch was appointed to draw up a constitution.

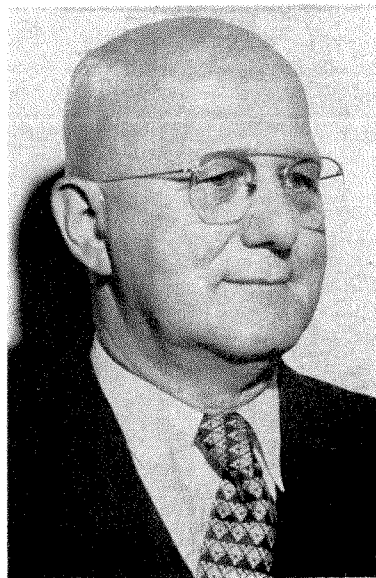
The first section of the constitution is as follows and we quote, "We are choosing the name of 'The Rev. A. C. Harris Junior Bible Class of St. Paul's Lutheran Church of Gordon, Pa.,' as an inspiration, so that we may ever continue the work that has been started by our Pastor, who suggested this move, trying to be disciples of the Master Teacher and living examples of the help which He can give.

The class has received many inspirations from what has been taught them by their various teachers as attested by the fact that many of them today are still active in the Church.

The first teacher was Mr. George Lynch to be followed by Mr. Louis Pounder, Miss Pauline Neugard, Mr. Harry Evelyn, Mr. Robert Wolfgang and the present teacher Mr. Herbert S. Love. They also received splendid teaching support from Mrs. Lewis K. Kaufman, the Rev. Adam Bingaman, Ralph Harris, Celester C. Maurer and Pastor Harris.

The class in the last few years has put on some very excellent plays through the direction of Miss Elizabeth Hubler.

The present officers of the class are as follows: President, Miss Edith Wagner; Vice-President, Miss June Kaufman; Treasurer, Carol Lewis; Secretary, Mamie Dengler.



ROBERT E. MARTZ

Superintendent of the Intermediate Sunday School, 1922-19

Intermediate Department

It is with a deep sense of gratitude that we recount the years we have spent in the Intermediate Department of our Church School.

Soon after Pastor Harris assumed the pastorate of St. Paul's, it was your servant's privilege to be elevated from the Secretaryship to that of Superintendent.

We were not unmindful of our many failings and shortcomings, but we endeavored to accept this appointment with a great deal of thought, knowing the responsibility that was entailed, and the very little experience we had in teaching and conducting a Sabbath School.

Many changes have passed as we look back through the years, which seem but yesterday, as many of the young people that have passed out into the various walks of life, were scholars, and were newly advanced from the Primary Department.

Two of our teachers throughout the years have been with us the entire time. We refer to Miss Pauline Neugard and Mrs. Elda Martz. Our many fine pageants and portrayals of church events, were handled by these ladies and a host of others, and it was an inspiration to witness the culmination of many of their Children's Days, Christmas, and other church holidays entertainments.

We pay particular compliment to these ladies, and to their assistants, that have passed into other phases of church duties.

Sitting before the Sunday School, and looking over the fine appointments, we can visualize the old type furnace that sat in the room, the old lighting fixtures, desks and cupboards, and now noting our floors, new tables, chairs, desks, filing cabinet and a lighting system, second to none in the country, together with our movie projector, we feel that the school has really gone ahead with the march of time, in the past years.

Our school attendances have wavered with the years, not through any loss of interest in either the scholar or the teacher, but with the number of inhabitants in our town. At one time we strove for a Rally Day attendance of 400—today we feel that we would overstep our fondest thoughts if they asked for 200.

We have a unified system of grading and teaching and the scholars are advanced in line with their classes, similar to public school practice.

It has been a pleasure to serve as a superintendent of such a live and growing organization, and the success that has been extended to us by our Heavenly Father, and has been reflected through the years, is in turn extended to those who have served with honor and dignity as our help mates through our term of office.

—ROBERT E. MARTZ.



TEACHERS OF THE PRIMARY DEPARTMENT

Front row, left to right: Miss Clara Neugard, Mrs. Beulah Mer-
vine, Mrs. Betty Lynch, Mrs. Blanche Dornsife.

Second row: Mrs. Edna Haas, Mrs. Alma Kaufman, Miss Edna
Kaufman.

Primary Department

In the Primary Department the children receive their first impression of the work of the church and learn to worship together. The teachers have a tremendous responsibility but with it goes the commendation of the Master to the faithful when He said, "Well done; thou good and faithful servant."

As early as April 2, 1876, a Union Sabbath School had been organized in Gordon. Wm. H. Anthony was elected Superintendent. Rev. F. G. Thrall, Lutheran pastor from 1886-87 only naturally felt that the Lutheran Church should have connected with itself a Lutheran Sabbath School. So on July 24, 1887, the Lutheran Sunday School was organized.—(The above taken from the History of St. Paul's Lutheran Church 35th Anniversary 1911.)

Some of the older members of our church can recall being taught in a Primary Department by a Miss Katie Hoffman and Mrs. L. Sager.

About 1889 Mrs. W. E. Wagner became active in the department and after many years of faithful and loyal service resigned in September 1922. Miss Clara Neugard having been assistant superintendent was elected to fill the vacancy and served under this capacity until she resigned in 1944. Miss Neugard was active in the Department for 51 years. Many of the members of our church recall with gratitude the many precious hours spent under her guidance. Following Miss Neugard's resignation Mrs. Robert Haas became superintendent after serving in the Primary Department since 1911. Prior to 1911 she had taught in the Main School since 1904.

The Department suffered a real loss in the departure of Mrs. Laura Bolich who taught our children for thirty-five years. She resigned the 18th of January 1949 and was called to her eternal home just 2 months and 2 days after her resignation. The Department is now conducted by the following: Superintendent, Mrs. Robert Haas; Teachers, Mrs. George Kaufman, Mrs. William Lynch, Mrs. Edna Kaufman, Mrs. Paul Dornsife, Mrs. Beulah Mervine.

The present enrollment 53 scholars. Suffer the little children to come unto me, and forbid them not; for such is the kingdom of God.

—MRS. EDNA HASS.

The Luther League

The Luther League began the new year by electing the following officers: President, Grace Burmeister; Vice-President, June Kaufman; Secretary, Joyce Klinger; Treasurer, Jane Miller.

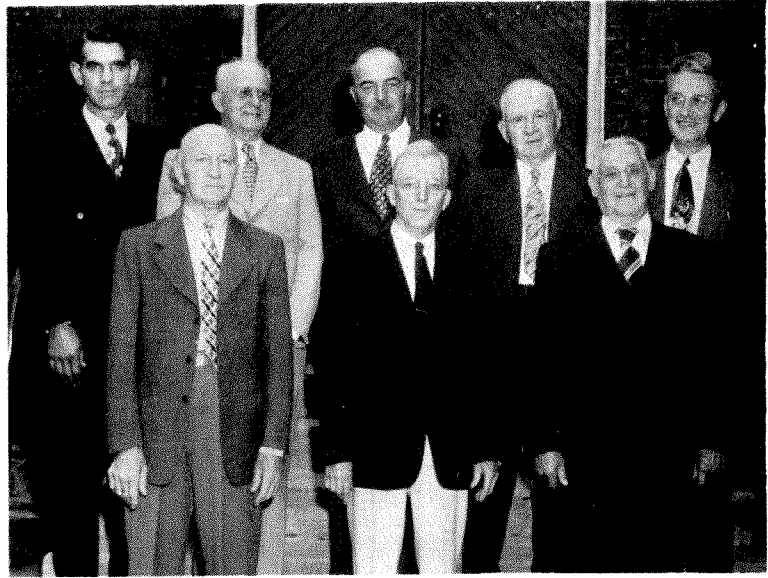
During the course of the year the Luther League proved that it can be and is an active organization of the church, when the Leaguers presented the play entitled "The Portal."

This fall we will lose many of our old faithful members, but we hope that the new members from the Confirmation Class will be just as active and cooperative as the old members were.

Our activities during the year included roller-skating parties, selling candy, and presenting a play. We hope in the near future to have a doggie-roast, holiday parties, and a Luther League Rally which will be held in St. Paul's Lutheran Church.

By God's help may our League continue to grow in members and in spiritual value to our members and to the church.

—MISS GRACE BURMEISTER.



THE CHURCH COUNCIL

Front row: Lewis Kaufman, Pastor A. C. Harris, John F. Lewis.
 Second row: Warren Hoffman, Robert Martz, William Evely,
 Charles Maurer, Herbert Love.

The Church Council

The Church Council who have served the past 75 years are as follows:

Thos. Rasbridge	'76	W. O. Seitzinger	'99
Wm. F. Anthony	'76	L. B. Kachel	'00
Geo. F. Reick	'76	John Dornsife	'06
Chas. F. Hoffman	'76	Guy G. Hubler	'08
Jos. L. Harper	'76	Nathan Gable	'08
Edw. G. Ebling	'76	Wm. Gable	'11
Frederick Rice	'76	Albert Angle	'11
Boaz Dreher	'77	Geo. E. Slanker	'13
Martin Sager	'78	Mervin Kahn	'15
John Miles	'79	C. M. Kehler	'16
Milton E. Kantner	'81	Charles A. Maurer	'17
Thos. Miles	'81	John G. Moyer	'20
Wm. J. Pounder	'82	R. E. Martz	'21
Wm. F. Wilson	'83	Geo. E. Trommetter	'21
David Slanker	'83	D. W. Allvord	'26
F. E. Dreher	'83	H. E. Schreppe	'34
Frederick Boltz	'85	H. S. Love	'33
A. J. Wagner	'85	Lloyd Dornsife	'33
Geo. Shutt	'86	Alfred Burmeister	'38
Daniel Sturm	'87	Harry S. Evely	'40
Anthony Proud	'87	Russel Troutman	'40
Wm. E. Wagner	'90	Norman A. Stitzer	'40
Jos. H. Pounder	'90	Roy Hadesty	'42
Wm. H. Mason	'93	Warren Hoffman	'43
R. C. Dornsife	'94	Celester Maurer	'44
Geo. Dornsife	'95	Wm. Evely, Jr.	'45
Jacob Trommetter	'96	Lewis Kaufman, Sr.	'45
Wm. Marsh	'99	John F. Lewis	'46



A Group consisting of Teachers and Officers of the Sunday School.

Ladies Aid Society

The Ladies Aid Society was organized almost seventy-two years ago during the pastorate of Dr. Weber. In the years that have passed and up until the present time this society has always worked untiringly, with the love and loyalty of their Master to guide them and give them the strength to work and give their services wherever needed. Through the past years and up until the present time many things have been accomplished, such as donating to the parsonage fund, purchasing various articles for the parsonage and helping in its upkeep. Many other things were also purchased, and other deeds done, showing how loyal and faithful this society has been. Some years ago a much needed improvement was made when the church council decided to build a kitchen on to the rear of the church building. This was greatly appreciated by the society. The ladies worked to purchase dishes, utensils, and the necessary equipment for the kitchen. Many happy hours have been spent there preparing for the different socials, sales and other functions, trying in their own active way to earn money to help with the expenses.

For a couple of years during the Second World War the women were a little handicapped in their efforts, due to the food rationing, yet they continued on trying to do their best under the conditions and thanking God for the provisions given them to work with. We are thankful for our faithful members, some may not be able to come out and work, but they do their part in their own quiet way. We hope and pray that our society may continue on in their willingness to work and help. May God bless and strengthen them to continue on. We are very proud to say that we still have some members in our society that have been members of the church for over fifty years. They are still faithful.

May the Lord bless them and keep them ever in his care is our earnest prayer. We would not forget our faithful officers and members of the years gone by. Many have gone on to their eternal home. We will never forget their faithfulness and will always cherish in our hearts the kind and happy memories they have left behind. To our present members we say God bless you all for your willingness and your untiring efforts in the past, may you be granted many more years to continue on in the work for our Lord and Master. Our society is praying that our membership will be increased and that we will be permitted to do even greater things in the future.

The present officers are as follows: President, Mrs. Charles Mertz; Vice-President, Mrs. Russell Kaufman; Secretary, Mrs. Kenneth Smith; Treasurer, Mrs. Lewis Kaufman, Sr.

—MRS. KENNETH SMITH.



BERTHA HUBLER



CLARA NEUGARD

50 years of continuous service as teachers of the Sunday School.

Lutheran Men's Brotherhood

This organization came into being in 1931, and has continued faithfully throughout the years. It has been the aim of the Brotherhood to promote fellowship among the members of the church, restore lapsed members, and assist in the promotion and care of the material properties.

Through the Brotherhood many of the men have been trained in the operation of the church, and it has been a stepping-stone to the teaching and councilmanic duties afforded time.

Mother's Day Services have been conducted regularly, and at times various of the members have assisted the pastor as lay readers. While the membership has moved with the times, still a faithful few deem it of such importance, that the third Monday of each month, is a part of their churchly ritual, and an invitation to others to meet with them.



A group consisting of those having continued membership of fifty years and over.

Confirmed Members of St. Paul's Lutheran Church with Continued Membership of 50 Years and Over

	Years			Years	
Mrs. Elizabeth Martz	1881	70	Mr. Fred Sell	1897	54
Mrs. Ida Dreher	1883	68	Mr. Lewis Kaufman	1897	54
Miss Clara Neugard	1886	65	Mrs. Lewis Kaufman	1897	54
Mrs. Minnie Wolfgang	1886	65	Mr. William Maurer	1898	53
Mr. Charles Maurer	1891	60	Miss Pauline Neugard	1899	52
Mrs. Charles Maurer	1899	52	Mrs. Mary Kaufman	1899	52
William E. Hubler	1892	59	Mrs. Emma Rismiller	1899	52
Mrs. William Hubler	1896	55	Mrs. Mary Shreppel	1900	51
Mr. Frank Dornsife	1893	58	Mrs. Edward Korn	1900	51
Mr. Lloyd L. Dornsife	1894	57	Mrs. Edna Hass	1900	51
Mr. Guy Hubler	1896	55	Mrs. Guy Hubler	1901	50
Mrs. Annie Lynch	1896	55	Mrs. William Gable	1901	50
Mrs. Harry Smith	1896	55			

Officers and Teachers Association

This group of people, as the name signifies, represents the officers and teachers of all the Sunday School Bodies. It has been in service for over 12 years, and during this time has encouraged the teaching profession among the various Church School members. Meeting on the first Monday, of each second month, a program of religious study, entertainment, and good fellowship is enjoyed by the members. We are confident that the association will continue with the years, as the enthusiasm at the meetings is very pleasing, and optimistic reports of the conduct of the school are brought forcibly home to those who participate and attend.



THE SENIOR CHOIR

First row: Mrs. William Maurer, Miss June Kaufman, Mrs. Raymond Miller, Mrs. Chetwin Getty, Mrs. A. C. Harris.

Second row: Miss Edna Kaufman, Mrs. Benjamin Jones, Miss Mae Robbins.

Third row: Chetwin Getty, William Gable, Raymond Miller.

The Senior Choir

The first choir was organized in 1880. Mr. Fred Dreher was the first chorister and continued in that capacity until 1911.

Our choir under the present leadership of Mrs. Harris, is one of the most faithful organizations of the church. We have always furnished music for every service that had been required of us, and hope to keep up the good work in the future.

—EDNA KAUFMAN.

The King's Daughters

The King's Daughters were organized in 1922, the girls losing interest, was reorganized November 24, 1943, and have been very active ever since. The girls do an excellent piece of work. In the years that have passed we have purchased the Bibles for both the Lectern and the Pulpit, also a set of ribbons for Bibles as markers and also the motion picture screen. Silently, they do the Master's work and are the future leaders of the church.

—JUNE KAUFMAN.

ANNIVERSARY COMMITTEE

Historical Committee:

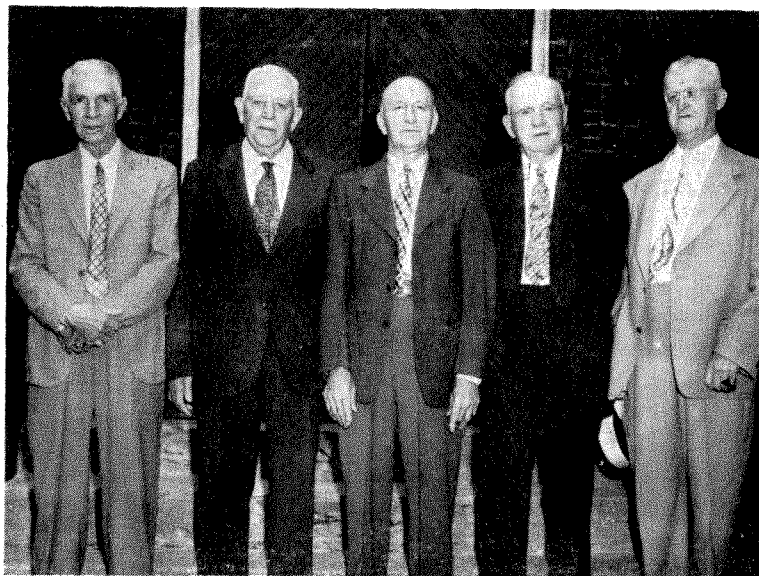
Mr. Lloyd Dornsife Mr. John F. Lewis, Sr.
Mrs. George Kaufman

Entertainment Committee:

Mrs. Herbert Wolfe Mr. Warren Hoffman

Banquet Committee:

Mrs. G. G. Hubler Miss Edith Wagner
Miss Elizabeth H. Hubler



Five men, who 60 years ago, aided in different ways in the construction of our Church. Also, these five men are Reading Railroad Retired Pensioners.

F. E. Dornsife, 77; W. E. Hubler, 75; Lewis Kaufman, 75; Charles Maurer, 73; Lloyd L. Dornsife, 71.

Ministers Who Served St. Paul's Lutheran Church During
the 75 Years of its Existence

Rev. O. D. S. Marclely.....	1876-78	Rev. P. E. Bierbauer.....	1900-04
Rev. D. E. Rupley.....	1878-79	Rev. E. E. Schantz.....	1904-08
Rev. J. H. Weber, D.D.....	1879-86	Rev. C. R. Myers.....	1908-10
Rev. W. G. Thrall.....	1886-87	Rev. Paul Froehlich.....	1910-13
Rev. C. M. Sandt.....	1888-91	Rev. George Styer.....	1913-17
Rev. A. R. Glaze.....	1891-96	Rev. G. W. Millar.....	1917-21
Rev. G. E. Hipsley.....	1896-00		

Rev. A. C. Harris, February 8, 1922-October 1, 1951. Pastor Harris was given the honor of Pastor Emeritus at the regular Congregational meeting held January 1951.



Letters Received from Former Pastors of St. Paul's Lutheran Church

2223 Lawrence St., N.E.,
Washington 18, D. C.
August 8, 1951.

Dear Mrs. Wolfe:

A few days ago I received your very gracious invitation to be a guest at the 75th Anniversary Services of the Gordon Church, to be held in late September. This invitation is deeply appreciated. Nothing could give me greater pleasure than to be able to be with you all on that happy occasion. I am sure the services will be well attended and will be inspiring, especially to the older folks who can remember the early history of the church. If my memory is right, I think I served in Gordon from 1910 to 1913, which is nearly 40 years ago, and I doubt whether many persons remember me at all.

I greatly regret that I am not in position to accept your kind invitation. In June 1950 I retired from Government service (after 37 years in the Department of Agriculture), and subsequently—that is in January 1951—I got a commercial job with the "Evening Star," one of our larger newspapers here. During this first year of my employment by the "Star" I am not entitled to any leave or vacation. This makes it impossible for me to go to Gordon, I am very sorry to say.

Let me thank you sincerely for thinking of me and for inviting me to be with you all at the Anniversary. Believe me when I say that I would like to be there, and I do regret that I cannot come. Please give my regrets to Pastor Harris and others. (By the way, I was surprised to learn that he will soon be leaving Gordon.) I shall try to send some brief message, to be read at an Anniversary service, if you see fit to do so. With congratulations and very best wishes,

Cordially yours,

PAUL FROEHLICH.

P.S.—Please give my kindest regards to anybody who remembers me. Each year I publish the "1904 Bulletin" of Gettysburg College. I am sending you a copy (and you can lend it to others). On pages 83 and 97-99 are some items about my work; you may be interested in these.

Assumption, Illinois.
August 16, 1951.

Dear Friends,

I was very pleased to receive an invitation to the 75th Anniversary of St. Paul's Church, of which I have fond and pleasant memories, during the years of my service as its pastor.

I was privileged to be present and participate on the 50th Anniversary, but on this occasion I do not feel able to make the trip.

However, I wish to be remembered to all my friends of by-gone days, together with retiring pastor, and his family.

With best wishes for abundant future success, I am,

Fraternally,

GEORGE W. STYER.

Biography of Rev. Adam P. Bingaman

Born—December 14, 1906, Urban, Pa. (Northumberland County). Baptized and confirmed in Immanuel Lutheran Church, Hunter Station, Pa. (Northumberland County). Transferred membership to St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Gordon, Pa. Son of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Bingaman of Gordon.

Graduate of Trevorton High School and Mahanoy City High School; Susquehanna University, Susquehanna Seminary, Selinsgrove, Pa.

Pastorate: St. John's Lutheran Church, Montgomery, Pa., R.D. 1, since August, 1932.

Activities: Synod, Member of Nominating Committee; Conference, Chairman of Youth Work Committee, whose task is to promote Camp Susquehanna—Camp for youth of the Susquehanna Conference; Secretary of the Montgomery Rotary Club; Chaplain, Lycoming County Pomona Grange; President, Montgomery Ministerial Association; Member of Board of Directors—(1) Lycoming County American Red Cross, (2) Lycoming County Community Chest, (3) Lycoming County Visiting Nurse Association.

Mrs. Bingaman is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Lewis Kaufman of Gordon, Pa. Mr. and Mrs. Adam P. Bingaman have two sons, John and David.

Biography of Rev. Ralph L. Wagner

Baptized and Confirmed (by Rev. Charles R. Myers), in St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church, Gordon. Son of Mr. and Mrs. William E. Wagner of Gordon. Graduate of Gordon (2 year) High School; Gettysburg Academy; Gettysburg College; Gettysburg Theological Seminary.

Pastorates: Lower Frankford Charge, Carlisle, Pa.; Central Lutheran Church, Phoenixville, Pa.; Holy Communion and St. Mark's, Yeagertown, Pa.; Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church, Philadelphia, Pa., since October, 1943.

Volunteer Chaplain at Woman's Hospital, Philadelphia, under the Board of Inner Missions.

Mrs. Wagner is the daughter of the late Luther M. Shumaker, M.D., of Harrisburg, Pa. Rev. and Mrs. Wagner have two daughters, Margaret Elizabeth, employed as "Rater" in the Office of the American Mutual Liability Insurance Company, Philadelphia, and Carolyn Gertrude, who is a senior in Julliard School of Music, New York City.

Program

SEPTEMBER 26, 1951
7:30 P.M.



VESPERS

Processional: Hymn No. 198
Vesper Service: 1
Psalm No.
Scripture Lesson:
Musical Selections By the Balladeers
Under the direction of Mrs. Ruth Kyler Wetzel
Sermon: "Abiding Faith" Rev. Ralph L. Wagner,
Guest Pastor,
Grace Lutheran Church,
Philadelphia, Pa.
Offertory:
Anthem Choir of St. Paul's Lutheran Church
Prayer
Benediction:
Recessional Hymn No. 360



SEPTEMBER 27, 1951
7:00 to 7:30 P.M.

Organ Recital S/Sgt. Wm. R. Gable
Processional
Hymn No. 295
Vesper Service
Psalm 18
Musical Selection Mr. Wm. T. Henninger,
Accompanist
Hymn 202
Sermon Rev. Adam Bingaman,
Guest Pastor,
St. John's Lutheran Church,
Montgomery, Pa.
Offertory
Anthem Choir of St. Paul's Lutheran Church
Prayer
Benediction
Recessional Hymn No. 333

Program

SEPTEMBER 28, 1951

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
SUNDAY SCHOOL ROOMS

BANQUET

6:30 P.M.



Program

America

Invocation Pastor, Rev. A. C. Harris

Dinner

Remarks Dr. G. G. Hubler, Toastmaster

Musical Selections Eugene Schenk

Reading Mrs. Russel Todd

Address Pastor Emil W. Weber, D.D.,
Trinity Lutheran Church,
Pottsville, Pa.

Musical Selections

Under the direction of Mrs. Ruth Kyler Wetzel

Introduction of Guests

CHURCH COUNCIL

Pastor Harris, President
Charles Maurer, Financial Secretary-Treasurer
Robert E. Martz, Corresponding Secretary
Warren Hoffman
Lester Maurer
Herbert S. Love, Vice-President
William Evely
Lewis Kaufman, Sr.
John F. Lewis, Sr.

BIBLE SCHOOL

PRIMARY DEPARTMENT
Mrs. Robert Haas, Superintendent

TEACHERS

Mrs. George Kaufman
Miss Edna Kaufman
Mrs. William Lynch
Mrs. Beulah Mervine
Mrs. Paul Dornsife

INTERMEDIATE DEPARTMENT
Mr. R. E. Martz, Superintendent

TEACHERS

Mrs. Edna Coward
Mrs. Roy Dornsife
Mrs. Ray Hubler
Mrs. Lewis Kaufman, Sr.
Mrs. Russell Troutman
Mrs. Robert E. Martz
Miss Pauline Neugard
Miss Mae Robbins
Mrs. Jennie Trometter

Mr. Celester Maurer, Secretary
William Maurer, Asst. Secretary
Norrine Rickard, Pianist
Ronald Kahn, Assistant Secretary
George Leibig, Assistant Secretary
Nancy Trometter, Assistant Pianist
Mr. Charles Maurer, Treasurer

LIBRARIANS

Ronald Burger
Donald Lentes
John Zerby

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Miss Edith Wagner, President
Miss Mamie Dengler, Secretary
Mr. Herbert Love, Teacher
Miss June Kaufman, Vice-President
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Mrs. Kenneth Smith, Sec.-Treas.
Mrs. Warren Hoffman, Librarian
Mrs. Chas. Fenstermacher, Vice-Pres.
Mrs. Herbert Love, Pianist
Mr. Roy Hadesty, Superintendent
Mr. L. L. Dornsife, Teacher

MEN'S BROTHERHOOD

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Mr. Warren Hoffman, Treasurer
Mr. Daniel Allvord, Vice-President
Mr. Herbert S. Love, Secretary

LADIES' AID

Mrs. Charles Mertz, President
Mrs. Kenneth Smith, Secretary
Mrs. Russell Kaufman, Vice-Pres.
Mrs. Lewis Kaufman, Sr., Treasurer

LUTHER LEAGUE

Miss Grace Burmeister, President
Miss Joyce Klinger, Secretary
Mrs. Arthur C. Harris, Choir Director
Miss June Kaufman, Vice-President
Mrs. Chetwin Getty, Organist
Miss Jane Miller, Treasurer
Mr. Lewis Kaufman, Sr., Sexton