

1904

## Book of Remembrance; 1904-

Bethany Evangelical Lutheran Church

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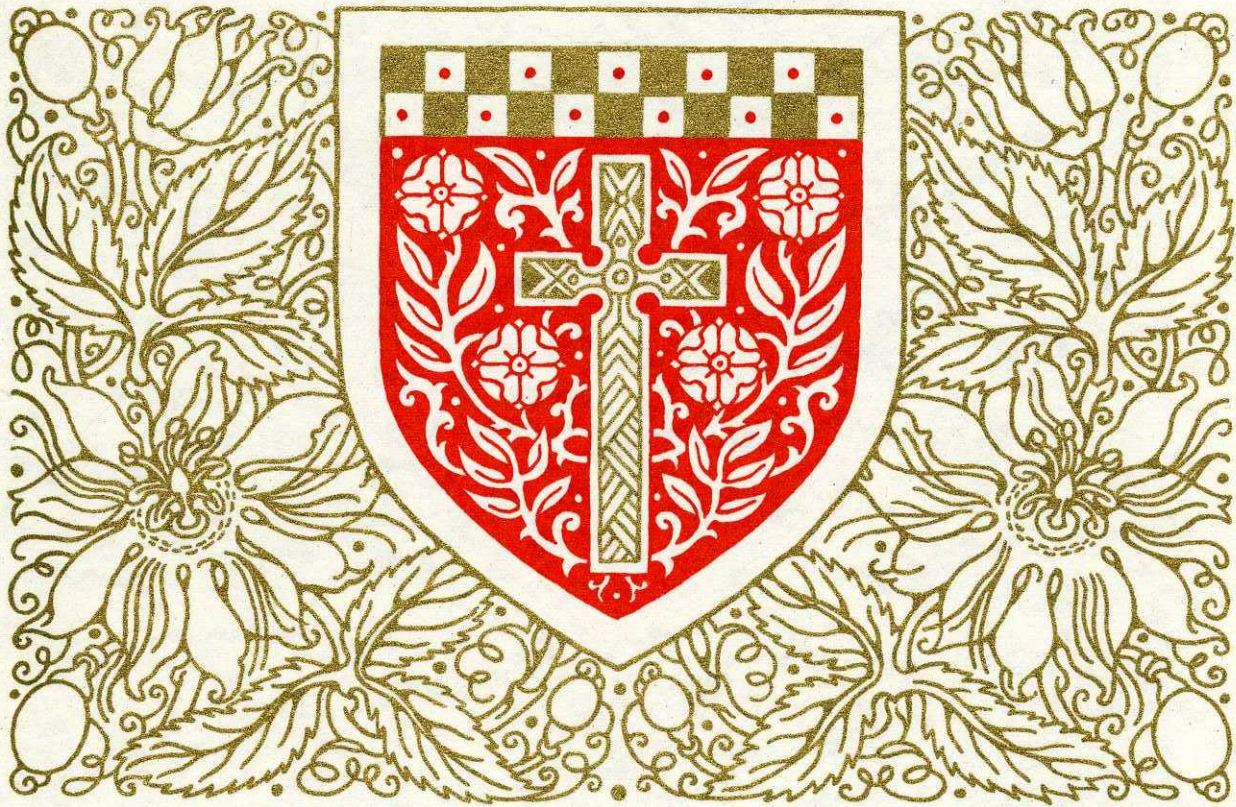
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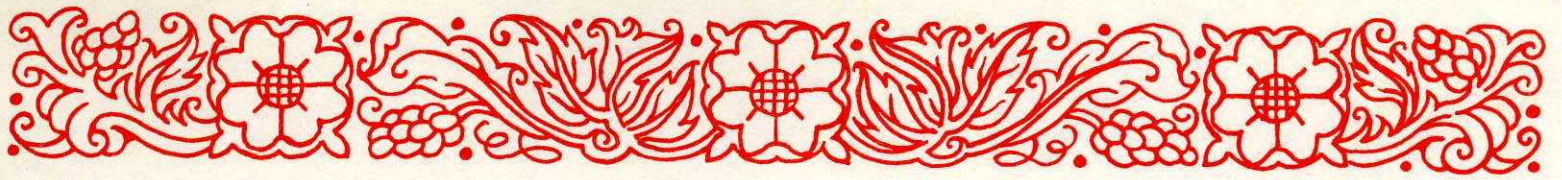
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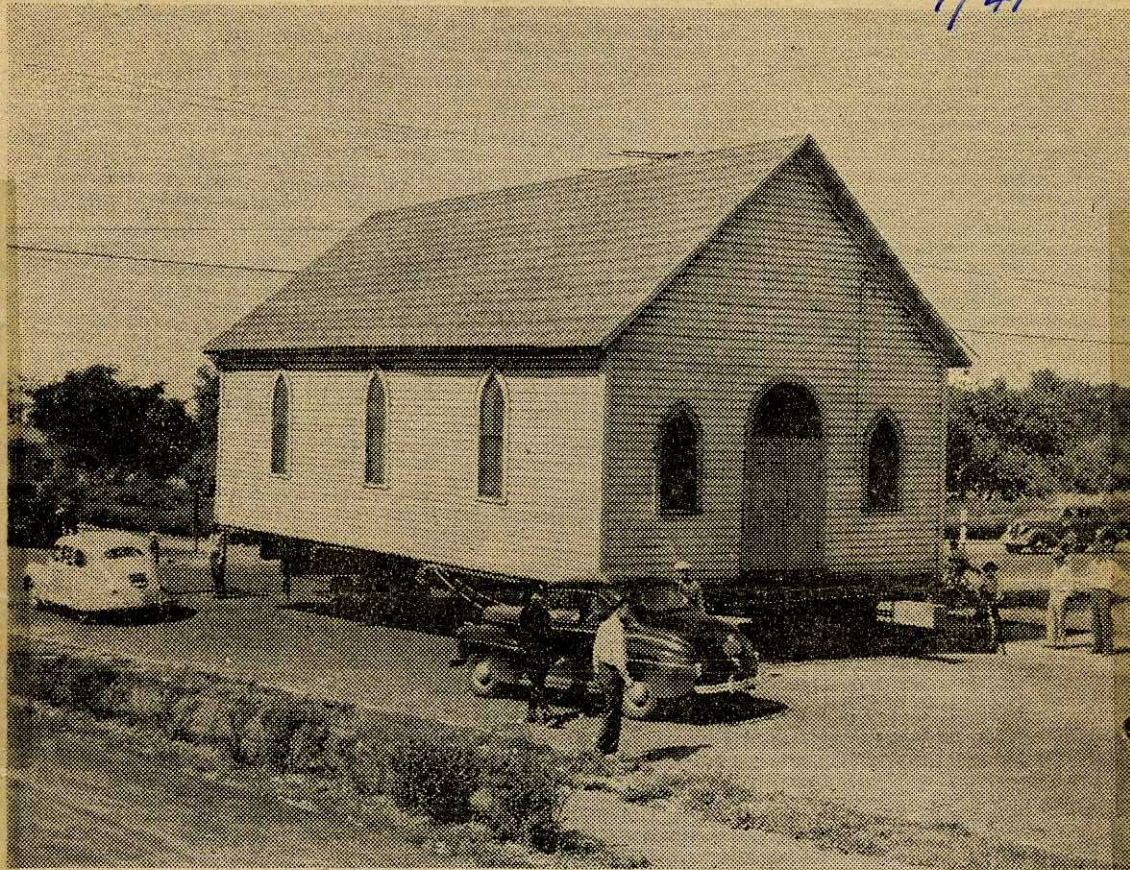
The Book  
of  
Remembrance





## Church Now in New Location

7/41

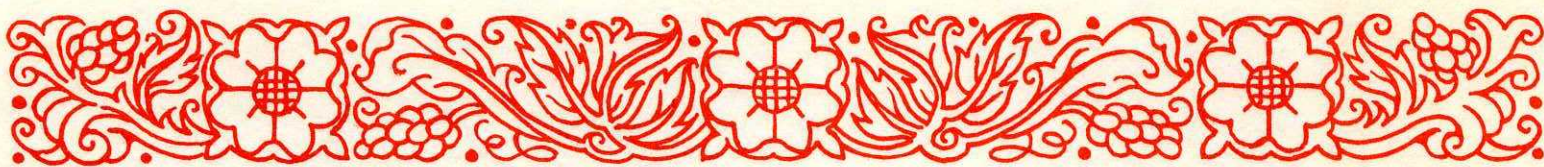


Bethany Lutheran church, of which the Rev. J. E. Nelson is pastor, is now in its new location in Hyde Park boulevard at Porter road, after having been moved from its old location at Ferry avenue and Twenty-seventh street.

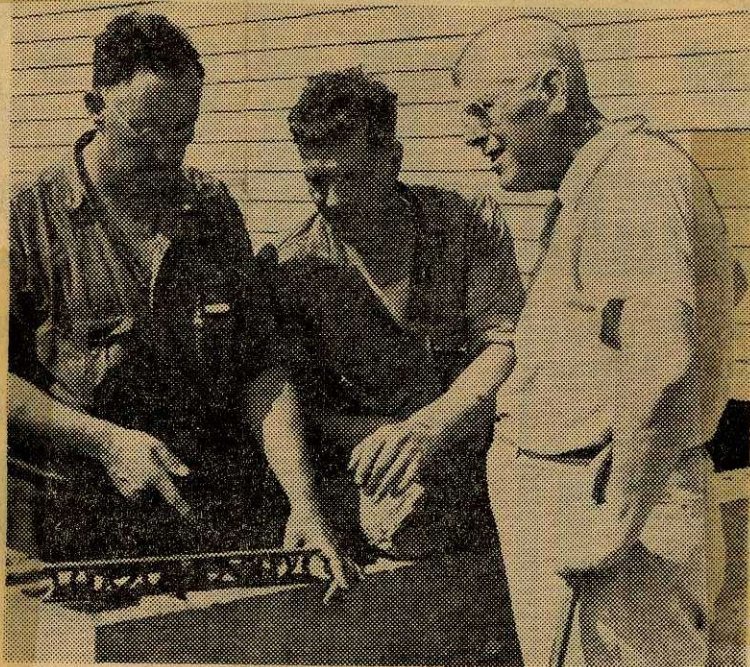
The church was moved on Wednesday. The route over which the wooden building was taken was in Ferry avenue to Thirty-first street and thence over Hyde Park boulevard to Porter road.

To permit passage of the building it was necessary to remove telephone and electric light wires in some instances and at Pine avenue and Hyde Park boulevard the traffic light signal had to be removed.

Before services are again held in the church an inspection will be made to determine if the interior of the building was damaged in the move. It is planned to enlarge and remodel the building.



## Church Folk Do Own Work



Out of the free-given toil of such men as these is evolving the enlarged building that is to house the congregation of Bethany Lutheran Church at the new site, Hyde Park Boulevard and Porter Road, Niagara Falls. Pastor Joshua E. Nelson, at right, is himself one of the hardest workers. Elmer Johnson, 605 92d Street, is at the left and Albert Olson, 205 69th Street, is in the center.

## Falls Church Being Rebuilt On a Pay-As-You-Go Policy

Pastor and members donate labor, cash to construct new Bethany Lutheran edifice

*Courier-Express Niagara Falls Bureau*

Niagara Falls, Aug. 2—There'll not be any heavy debt to worry about when the present expansion activities of Bethany Lutheran Church are completed. It will all have been paid-for and worked-for in full.

For some years several of the lay organizations have been contributing their finances in this direction; John A. Anderson, 414 72d Street, contributed one of the lots for the location in Hyde Park; sale of the old site at Ferry Avenue and 27th Street yielded some more working cash.

And the actual work is being done by the clergyman and men of the church. This honor roll includes besides Pastor Joshua E. Nelson, William Eklof, Charles A. Johnson, Theodore Pettitt, Fred Olson, Charles Johnson, Elmer Johnson and Albert Olson. Oscar Munson is chairman of the building committee, other members being Axel Anderson, vice-chairman; Edith Yngve, secretary; Rudolph

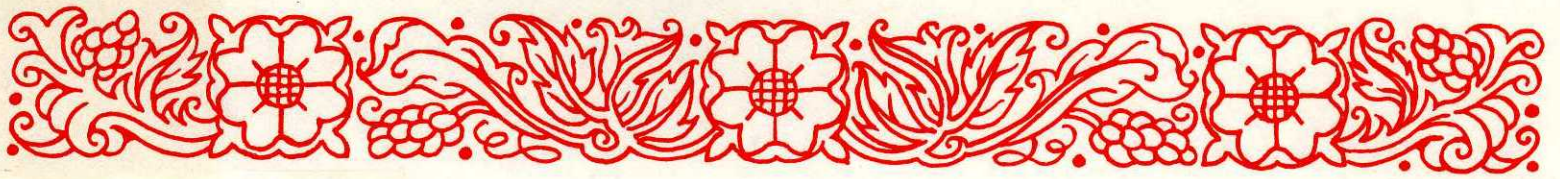
Steinwall, treasurer; Mrs. Joshua E. Nelson, Annette Johnson, Edith Johnson, Herman Nelson, Einar Pearson, Everett Benson and L. P. Olson.

### To Be Greatly Enlarged

The basement is considerably larger than the edifice; this will make possible the building of a chancel, choir room and study for the pastor. In the basement will be a kitchen as well as Sunday school class rooms. The interior is to be renovated, new siding is to be placed on the outside and an attractive front stairway is to be built.

This isn't the end of the planning and financing in advance, though. There's already some money in the organ fund. And there's another lot alongside that which is being used, which will take care of future expansion needs.

Services, interrupted by moving of the edifice from Ferry Avenue are to be resumed at 11 a. m. Sunday, Pastor Nelson hopes.



*E. Johnson*

CONFIRMANDS OF BETHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH

CLASS OF 1905

Henry Yngve

CLASS OF 1906

Victoria Edlund Yngve 6  
\* Arthur Yngve 5  
Theresa Dahlgren Wheeler 4  
Ossian Blixt 2  
\* Doris Blixt 1  
Elsas Lindbergh 3

CLASS OF 1910

Hildur Johnson  
Augusta Yngve Flood

CLASS OF 1913

Lilly Johnson Babcock 1  
Henry Johnson 3  
Fred Johnson 2  
Anna Odell 4

CLASS OF 1917

Mabel Carlson  
\* Carl Frid  
George Frid  
Albin Johnson  
Hazel Carlson Martin  
Florence Strom  
Edith Yngve  
Emil Yngve

CLASS OF 1922

Alice Johnson  
Edith Johnson  
Alice Larson  
Anna Nordstrom Mackenzie  
\* Viola Steele Nelson  
Ellen Carlson Swetland

CLASS OF 1925

Evelyn Carlson Allen  
Walter Carlson  
Edgar Johnson  
Arline Hartburg Justice  
Mildred Frid Leinig  
\* Margaret Nelson Blackick

CLASS OF 1928

Rhea Hartburg Clark  
Helen Olson  
Ruth Olson  
Esther Olson Storin  
Mabel Frid Williams

CLASS OF 1931

Eva Carlson Harvey 2  
Sylvia Olson Aleksevich 1  
May Wheeler Short 3  
Thelma Carlson Wetzel 4  
Stanley Wheeler 5

CLASS OF 1934

Harold Ankenbaur  
Robert Ankenbaur  
Margaret Carlson  
Carolyn Hartburg Nixon  
George Pettitt  
Arthur Sandstrom

CLASS OF 1936

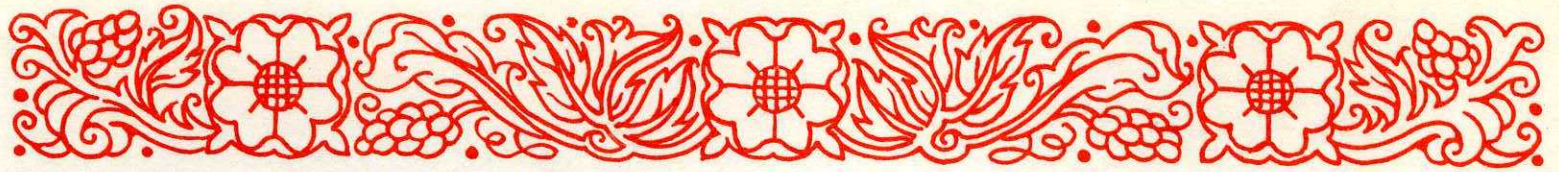
Margaret Sandstrom  
Norma Warren  
Gloria Yngve

CLASS OF 1940

Marcella Peterson Johnson  
Edna Lofstedt

*Class of 1945*

*Anne Johnson 2  
Janet Atkinson 1  
Esther Olson 6  
Martha Lundgren 3  
Patty Seaman 9  
Gary Rank 8  
John Peterson 7  
Albert Messing 5  
Richard Mackenzie 4*

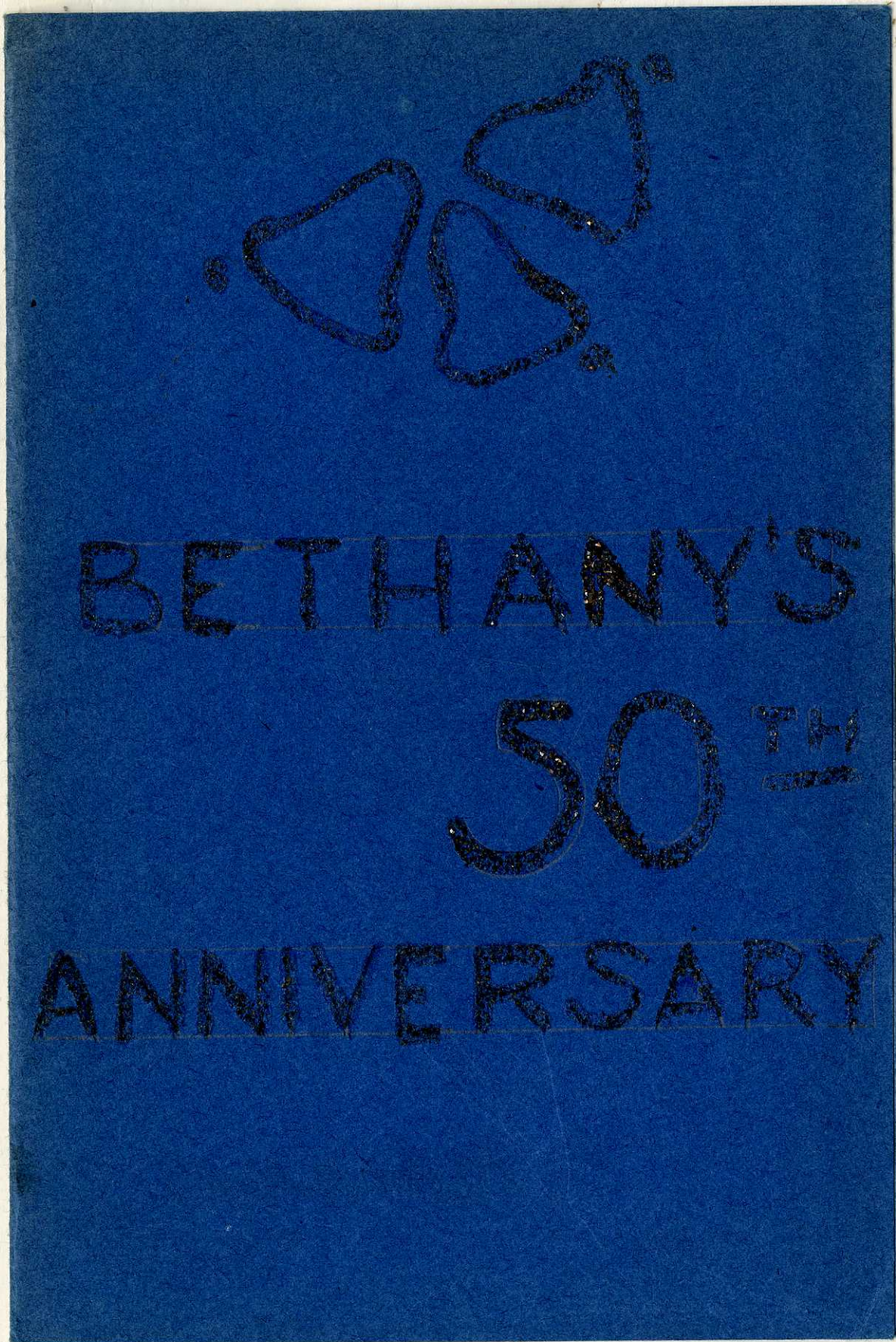
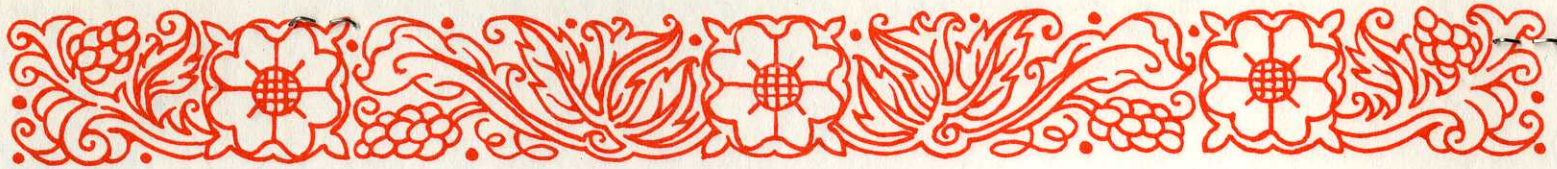


*Photo by Kondo Studio.*

**CONFIRMATION CLASS**—Members of the 1945 Confirmation Class of Bethany Lutheran church, Hyde Park boulevard and Porter road, are shown in the above photograph.

Pictured above, in the first row, from left to

right, are Janet Atkinson, Ann Johnson, Rev. J. E. Nelson, pastor of the church, Martha Sandgren and Betty Seaman. In the second row, from left to right, are Richard MacKenzie, John Peteresen, Esther Olsen, Gary Rink and Albert Messing.



## Bethany Church Will Celebrate 50th Birthday

The Bethany Lutheran Church, Hyde Park and Porter Rd., will review its 50 years of church activity at special services tomorrow and Sunday.

Tomorrow night a golden anniversary dinner will be held at the church with T. J. Antonson, general chairman of the anniversary program, as toastmaster. The Rev. Harris Willis and Carl Ericson will bring greetings from the congregation of Trinity Lutheran Church, Buffalo, with which the Bethany church has had close association.

The Rev. T. A. Gustafson, D.D., of East Orange, N. J., will deliver the dinner address. Four charter members of the congregation, Mrs. Swan Johnson, Mrs. Charles Johnson, Miss Bertha Viberg and Gust Johnson, will receive special recognition.

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Pastors of the Jamestown district will attend. A social hour in the church basement will follow the anniversary service.



HISTORY

1904

1954

BETHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH

The first recorded visit of an Augustana Synod representative for the purpose of conducting services of worship in the Swedish language, was student J. A. Nordling's visit here while serving as student pastor in Buffalo during the year 1903. Through the efforts of Miss Bertha Viberg, who traveled to Buffalo to worship in our church there, the first service of worship was held in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Johnson, 1519 Whirlpool Street. When Student Nordling returned to the seminary, Rev. A. M. Benander, pastor of Immanuel Lutheran Church, Jamestown, New York, and president of the Jamestown District, made visits to this city because it was evident that services of worship in their mother tongue were desired by the Swedish speaking people.

In January 1904, the Swedish Evangelical Lutheran Church Association was organized in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Swan Johnson, 523 19th Street. The first officers of this association were: Swan Carlson, chairman, Gust Johnson, secretary and Swan Johnson, treasurer. This association was the forerunner to the organization of the Swedish Evangelical Lutheran Bethany Church on August 16, 1904, in the German Evangelical Church on Michigan Avenue near Main Street. Four of the charter members, Mrs. Annette Johnson, Mrs. Serafia Swanson Johnson, Miss Bertha Viberg and Mr. Gust Johnson, are still active members of our church. Rev. J. A. Nordling who after ordination became pastor of the Buffalo church assisted in the organization, hence a petition was sent to the Buffalo church for the privilege of sharing his services.

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Members of the 19...  
Lutheran church  
road, are shown  
st row, from left

Services of worship were held in various places, the Evangelical Church on South Avenue, the Presbyterian Church on 27th Street, the Zion Lutheran Church, Michigan Avenue, where the first Confirmation Class was confirmed, and the Shredded Wheat Company's auditorium.

Because of the evident enthusiasm which gave hope to speedy progress and growth, Pastor Nordling urged, at the annual meeting January 10, 1906, that steps be taken to purchase a lot and build a church. On September 19, 1906, the bid from Mr. J. Lindeberg to build a church for \$1166.79 on the lot located on 27th Street corner Ferry Avenue purchased from Simons and Baker was accepted. This was financed by a loan of \$1000 at 5% interest, the only debt incurred to date by our church, from the Simons and Baker firm.

The Sunday School was organized May 21, 1905, Mr. Charles Yngve the first Superintendent, using the members' homes for their meeting place.

The growth of the congregation was very slow due to the inability of the congregation to afford to have their own pastor and to the location of the church. A movement for relocation was started and in January 1926 a lot was purchased on the corner of Weston Avenue and 16th Street. This parcel of land was deemed too small for any future expansion and too close to surrounding churches and was sold in 1930. The proceeds of the sale was the nucleus of the Building Fund.

During the summer of 1928 Professor Pearson of Upsala College was engaged jointly by the congregation and the Mission Board to spend his

summer vacation in the service of the church and in making a survey of the possibilities for the future. Dr. F. V. Hanson, then president of the New York Conference, together with the congregation strongly urged the Mission Board to place a full-time pastor in Niagara Falls since the Sunday afternoon, twice a month, services of worship by the Buffalo pastor were deemed insufficient to warrant an Augustana church here. As a result of the survey and persuasion the Board called Rev. Joshua E. Nelson who accepted the call and became Bethany's first full-time pastor June 1, 1929, thereby severing our connections with the Buffalo congregation.

On March 12, 1941, the decision was made at a Congregational Meeting to purchase a lot on Hyde Park Blvd. corner of Porter Road. The lot next to it was donated to the Congregation by Mr. J. A. Anderson. The Building Committee began work immediately with plans to move the church building from 27th Street to the new location. The last service of worship in the church at the 27th Street location was conducted Sunday, June 29, 1941 and the first service of worship at the new location, Sunday July 30. Through the willingness and generosity of the membership, the building was moved and completely remodeled without going into debt, much of the work was performed by the members and friends. The Dedicatory Service was held June 27, 1943.

In 1945 the Ladies' Aid purchased and gave to the Church the lot on Hyde Park adjacent to the lots already owned by Bethany together with the lot on Porter Road bordering the corner lot. In 1946 a fourth lot in the block on Hyde Park was donated to the church by Carl and Ludwig Laurier in memory of their parents.

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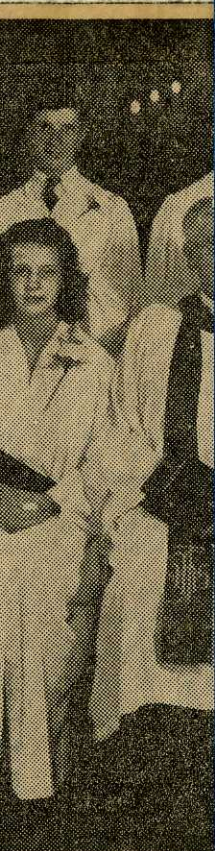
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Members of the 19... any Lutheran church... first row, from left

The growth of our congregation since relocation, and especially the Sunday School, has brought visions of the need for additional building and in 1948 committees were appointed to explore the possibilities of building expansion and raising of funds. Again the Ladies' Aid came forth and purchased the final lot in the block, the one at the corner of Hyde Park and Cleveland Ave. The deed for this lot was presented to the Trustees in 1948. The Building Fund now totals \$8618.83 cash plus Government Bonds whose present value is approximately \$1136.20, and the expansion is still being explored.

In 1948 an amendment was made to the charter of the church which changed the name to read Bethany Evangelical Lutheran Church. The use of the Swedish language had been dropped for many years.

Bethany Church has been remembered with bequests in the wills of the following members:

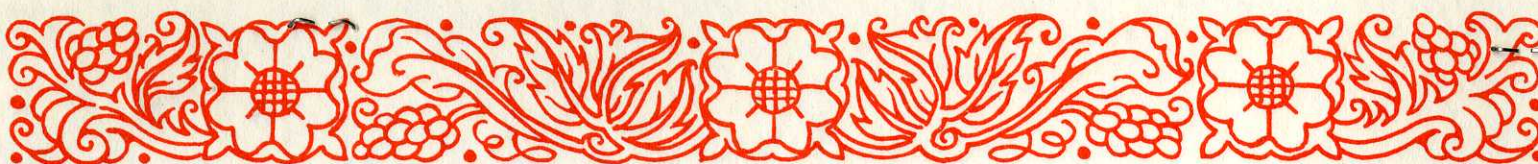
- Mr. A. G. Larson
- Mrs. Elizabeth Seifert
- Mrs. Hilda Allinson

The growth in the membership of the church in the last twenty-five years is evidenced by the increase in membership, as shown below:

Total membership	December 31, 1929	89*
"	December 31, 1940	104*
"	December 31, 1953	208*

\*Adult members and children.

Bethany has received no Mission monetary support since 1933. It has met all of its financial obligations to the General Body,



Conference, Church and Missions, It has supported generously Lutheran World Action Offerings, Upsala College Chapel Fund and Seminary Building Fund. In 1943, during its remodeling and relocation program, it subscribed \$1225 to the Augustana Centennial Thanks Offering. During the current year \$1380 was subscribed to the Advance For Christ program. Boxes have been packed and shipped periodically to the Lutheran World Relief.

On November 3, 1929 at the Twenty-Fifth Anniversary Celebration, Pastor Nelson presented a brief Historical sketch which included these statements: "This our Twenty-Fifth Anniversary Celebration with the evident enthusiasm that prevails, encourages your pastor, I dare prophecy, that by the grace and power of the Lord, we love and serve, even Jesus Christ, the twenty-five years of labor and prayers expended upon this field will yield as results a harvest that shall prove the promised hundredfold returns." "Let us hope and pray and labor to the end that the half century celebration may be one to gladden the hearts of all -- a congregation worthy to represent the labors of the past and of the next twenty-five years; a well equipped, if not large, church;....." The last twenty-five years have covered periods of financial depression and prosperity, years of devastation and wars and still the harvest has proved the promised hundredfold returns. The "well equipped, if not large, church" clearly needs extension in order that the youth program may continue to grow so that the next anniversary celebration may include in its history hundredfold returns to a praying and laboring congregation.

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CHARTER MEMBERS  
(According to the Minutes of Meetings)

- Arvid Aschan
- Serafia Carlson
- Mr. and Mrs. Swan Carlson
- Mr. and Mrs. Carl Hermanson
- Gust Johnson
- Reinhold Johnson
- Mr. and Mrs. Swan Johnson
- Mr. and Mrs. Edward Larson
- Mr. and Mrs. John Munson
- Herman Nelson
- Hjalmar Swanson
- Serafia Swanson
- C. J. Sellman
- Bertha Viberg

PASTORS  
Who have served Bethany Church

- Rev. Julius A. Nordling 1904-1908
- Student Edor Larson during vacancy until 1911
- Rev. A. J. Okerbloom 1909-1915
- Rev. J. E. Swanbom, retired, during vacancy until 1916-1920
- Rev. Emil F. Bergren 1916-1920
- Rev. Charles E. Anderson 1921-1926
- Student Otto Bergquist during vacancy until 1926-1928
- Rev. Robert W. Ericson 1926-1928
- Rev. Joshua E. Nelson June 1, 1929

ORGANIZATIONS

- | Year Organized | Organization   |
|----------------|--|
| 1905           | Ladies' Aid  |
| 1905           | Sunday School  |
| 1908           | Luther League (originally organized as Young Peoples' Society) |
| 1920           | Sick and Aid Society   |
| 1941           | Bethany Circle   |
| 1948           | Couples Club   |
| 1949           | Bethany Brotherhood  |

Historians:  
 Rev. Joshua E. Nelson  
 Mrs. Mead Swetland  
 Edith Yngve

Members of the 19... Lutheran church... road, are shown... row, from left

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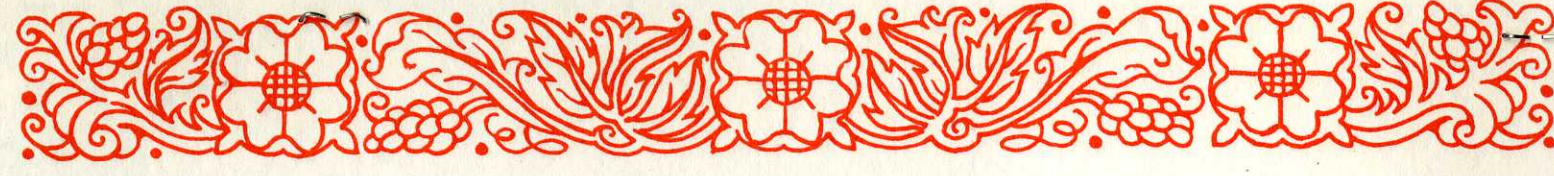
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ORGANIZATIONS

BANQUET PROGRAM

T. J. Antonson - Toastmaster  
George Ross - Song Leader  
Mrs. C. Gierach - Accompanist

Young Peoples' Society  
Luther League (originally organized as  
Bethany Circle)

God Bless America - Assembly

Invocation - Rev. Harris Willis

Community Singing during Dinner

Song: Children of the Heavenly Father - Assembly

Greetings: - Guests

Song: My Hope is Built on Nothing Less - Quartet  
G. Ross, G. Guinther, C. Gierach, T. Antonson

Introduction of Speaker - Rev. J. E. Nelson

Address: Jubilee Memories - Dr. Thorsten A. Gustafson

Benediction: - Rev. Willis

Closing Song: May the Good Lord Bless and Keep You.

Members of the 19...  
ny Lutheran church  
er road, are shown  
st row, from left

God bless America, Land that I love;  
Stand beside her and guide her  
Through the night with a light from above -  
From the mountains to the prairies  
To the oceans white with foam,  
God bless America, My home sweet home,  
God bless America, My home sweet home.

Children of the heavenly Father  
Safely in His bosom gather;  
Nestling bird nor star in heaven  
Such a refuge e'er was given.

God His own doth tend and nourish:  
In His holy courts they flourish.  
From all evil things He spares them,  
In His mighty arms He bears them.

Praise the Lord in joyful numbers:  
Your Protector never slumbers.  
At the will of your Defender  
Every foeman must surrender.

Though He giveth or He taketh,  
God His children ne'er forsaketh,  
His the loving purpose solely  
To preserve them pure and holy.

Let me call you sweetheart, I'm in love with you  
Let me hear you whisper that you love me too  
Keep the lovelight glowing in your eyes so true.  
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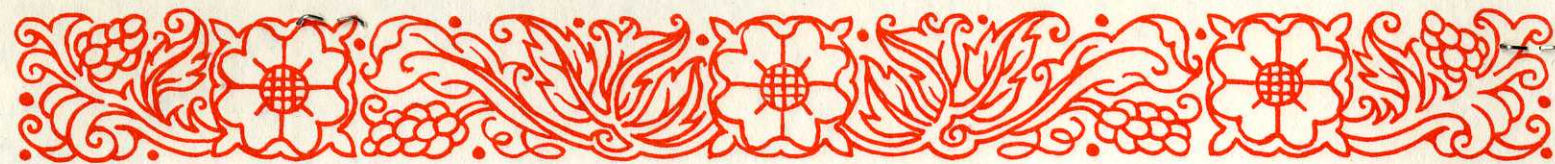
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The more we get together, together, together,  
 The more we get together,  
 The happier we'll be.  
 For your friends are my friends,  
 And my friends are your friends.  
 The more we get together, the happier we'll be.

This little light of mine,  
 I'm going to let it shine  
 This little light of mine  
 I'm going to let it shine, let it shine,  
 let it shine, let it shine.

Hide it under a bushel? No,  
 I'm going to let it shine.  
 Hide it under a bushel? No,  
 I'm going to let it shine, let it shine,  
 let it shine, let it shine.

Don't you try to blow it out,  
 I'm going to let it shine.  
 Don't you try to blow it out  
 I'm going to let it shine, let it shine,  
 let it shine, let it shine.

Hold it high so all can see,  
 I'm going to let it shine.  
 Hold it high so all can see,  
 I'm going to let it shine, let it shine,  
 let it shine, let it shine.

Members of the 19...  
 Lutheran church  
 road, are shown  
 row, from left

**TUNE:** Auld Lang Syne  
 A smile is quite a funny thing,  
 It wrinkles up your face,  
 And when it's gone you'll never find  
 Its secret hiding place.  
 But far more wonderful it is  
 To see what smiles can do,  
 You smile at one, he smiles at you,  
 And so one smile makes two.

He smiles at someone, since you smiled,  
 And then that one smiles back,  
 And that one smiles until, in truth,  
 You fail in keeping track.  
 And since a smile can do great good  
 By cheering hearts of care,  
 Let's smile, and smile and not forget  
 That smiles go everywhere.

May the good Lord bless and keep you,  
 Whether near or far away,  
 May you find that long-awaited golden day today,  
 May your troubles all be small ones  
 And your fortune ten times ten,  
 May the good Lord bless and keep you till we  
 meet again.  
 May you walk the sunlight shining,  
 And a bluebird in every tree  
 May there be a silver lining,  
 Back of ev'ry cloud you see.  
 Fill your dreams with sweet tomorrows,  
 Never mind what might have been,  
 May the good Lord bless and keep you till we  
 meet again;  
 May the good Lord bless and keep you till we  
 meet again,  
 Till we meet again.

### Bethany Church Will Celebrate 50th Birthday

The Bethany Lutheran Church, Hyde Park and Porter Rd., will review its 50 years of church activity at special services tomorrow and Sunday.

Tomorrow night a golden anniversary dinner will be held at the church with T. J. Antonson, general chairman of the anniversary program, as toastmaster. The Rev. Harris Willis and Carl Ericson will bring greetings from the congregation of Trinity Lutheran Church, Buffalo, with which the Bethany church has had close association.

The Rev. T. A. Gustafson, D.D., of East Orange, N. J., will deliver the dinner address. Four charter members of the congregation, Mrs. Swan Johnson, Mrs. Charles Johnson, Miss Bertha Viberg and Gust Johnson, will receive special recognition.

Sunday at 10:30 a.m. the worship service will be held with Bethany's pastor, the Rev. J. E. Nelson, as liturgist. The sermon topic, "Golden Opportunities," will be preached by Dr. Gustafson. The senior choir will sing the anthem "In the Quietness," by Ellen June Lorenz. The junior choir will sing "Shepherd Divine."

The anniversary service will begin at 3:30 p.m. Sunday. At that time Dr. Gustafson's message will be "One Long Look Ahead." The choir will sing the anthem "Prayer of Thanksgiving." A quartet arrangement of "Praise Ye the Father" by Charles Gounod will be sung by Mr. Antonson, Charles Gierach, George Guinther and George Ross.

Pastors of the Jamestown district will attend. A social hour in the church basement will follow the anniversary service.



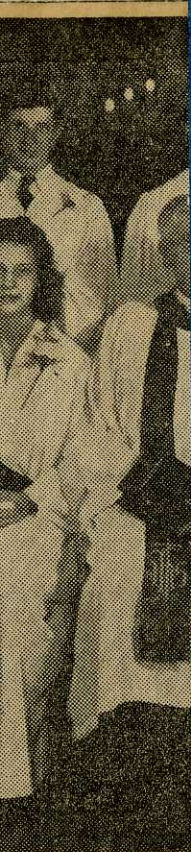
TUNE: You Are My Sunshine

Dear Rev. Nelson, he is our Pastor,  
He tells us what we should not do,  
He spreads the gospel and makes us happy  
And he wears a number 12 shoe.

Dear Mrs. Nelson, you spread the sunshine,  
You're always happy and never blue.  
You are so pleasant and diplomatic;  
And that's the reason we all love you.

When You and I Were Young Jennie

I wandered today to the hill, Jennie,  
To watch the scene below,  
The creek and the old rusty mill, Jennie  
Where we sat in the long, long ago.  
The green grove is gone from the hill, Jennie,  
Where first the daisies sprung;  
The old rusty mill is still Jennie,  
Since you and I were young.  
The green grove is gone from the hill, Jennie,  
Where first the daisies sprung;  
The old rusty mill is still Jennie,  
Since you and I were young.



Members of the 19...  
ny Lutheran church  
er road, are shown  
st row, from left

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# BETHEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

WEST THIRD STREET at CATLIN AVENUE

JAMESTOWN, NEW YORK

LAWRENCE F. NORDSTROM, Pastor

155 Cook Avenue Telephone 4001



## UPSALA COLLEGE

EAST ORANGE

NEW JERSEY

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

October 13, 1954

Rev. Joshua E. Nelson  
Bethany Lutheran Church  
Niagara Falls, New York


My dear Brother:

I am so happy to send you this brief greeting from your Alma Mater, Upsala College. You have always been a loyal son, and that we appreciate very much indeed. We are happy to learn that you are being honored on this occasion, and only wish that we could be present to share in the joy of the evening.

We will never forget your visit on the campus a few years ago, when we paid a tribute to our first football team, in history, at the same time doffing our hats to Josh Nelson, the first manager. Our hats are still off to you!

Cordial greetings, and best wishes.

Very sincerely,

  
Evald B. Lawson  
President

L:B

Lawrence F. Nordstrom



WHEN BETHANY MEMBERS CELEBRATED ANNIVERSARY

Left to right, seated: Dr. Thorsten Gustafson, president of the New York Conference; Mrs. Gustafson and the Rev. Harris Willis, pastor of Trinity Church, Buffalo. Standing: Dr. Joshua E. Nelson, pastor of Bethany Church; Mrs. Nelson, and Theodore J. Antonson, general chairman of the anniversary celebration.

## A Niagara Falls Jubilee

By Theodore J. Antonson

THE last days of October were joyous days at Bethany Church in Niagara Falls, New York, when the 50th anniversary of the founding of the congregation was celebrated.

The two-day celebration began with a jubilee dinner on Saturday night at which time the Rev. Joshua E. Nelson was honored for his twenty-five years of service to the congregation. Theodore J. Antonson, anniversary chairman and toastmaster, read the messages of congratulations and appreciation which had been received from out-of-town members and friends.

William Stube, deacon and Sunday school superintendent, in presenting a monetary gift from the congregation and friends, thanked the pastor for his leadership during his pastorate in Bethany.

Dr. Thorsten A. Gustafson, New York Conference president, speaker during the two-day celebration, spoke Saturday night on "Jubilee Memories." He congratulated the four charter members, Mrs. Annette Johnson, Mrs. Serafia Swanson, Miss Bertha Viberg and Mr. Gust Johnson, who are still

active members of Bethany, for the work they had done in establishing a congregation in Niagara Falls. He referred to memories of difficulties in the early history of the congregation, which was organized August 16, 1904, by the Rev. A. M. Benander, pastor of Immanuel Lutheran Church, Jamestown, New York.

Services during the first year and a half of the congregation's history were conducted on Sunday afternoons twice a month by Pastor Julius Nordling of Buffalo. Sunday school and Ladies Aid meetings were held in the homes of members.

### Call Full-time Pastor

In 1928 it became evident that Sunday afternoon services twice a month by a visiting pastor were insufficient to warrant an Augustana church in Niagara Falls. Dr. F. V. Hanson, then president of the New York Conference, joined the congregation in strongly urging the Mission Board to place a full-time pastor in Niagara Falls. As a result of this persuasion, the Board called the Rev. Joshua E. Nelson, who

accepted the call and became Bethany's first resident pastor on June 1, 1929.

In 1941, after many years of relocation exploration, property was secured on Hyde Park Boulevard and Porter Road, and the church which had been built in 1906 was moved from its original location to the new location, a distance of approximately two miles. Here it was completely remodeled. In the past thirteen years five lots adjacent to the corner lot have been donated to the congregation, one by Mr. J. A. Anderson, three by the Ladies' Aid and one by Carl and Ludwig Laurier in memory of their parents.

The growth of the congregation since relocation, and especially the Sunday school, shows needs for additional building. Committees are at work exploring possibilities of building expansion and fund raising. To date, the building fund approximates \$10,000.



Gazette Photo—Leep Zelones

### BETHANY ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATED

Standing, from left, are the Rev. Mr. Nelson, Mrs. Nelson and Mr. Antonson. Seated, from left, are Dr. Gustafson, Mrs. Gustafson and the Rev. Willis.

## Conference Official Cites Progress Of Local Bethany Church in 50 Years

Fifty years of progress by the Bethany Lutheran Church was outlined by the Rev. Thorsten Gustafson, D.D., at a jubilee dinner of the church Saturday which was attended by a capacity crowd of more than 90 parishioners and guests in the parish hall.

Dr. Gustafson, who is president of the New York Conference of the Augustana Lutheran Church, mentioned in particular the moving of the church from 27th street and Ferry avenue to its present location at Hyde Park Blvd. and Porter Rd.

He said the four charter members of the church have many memories of the accomplishments made during the past half century and congratulated the congregation and pastor, the Rev. Joshua E. Nelson, on the great progress made.

The four charter members are Mrs. Annette Johnson, Mrs. Serafia Johnson, Miss Bertha Viberg and Gust Johnson. Dinner chairman was T. J. Antonson, vice president of the board of administration.

Highlight of the dinner was the

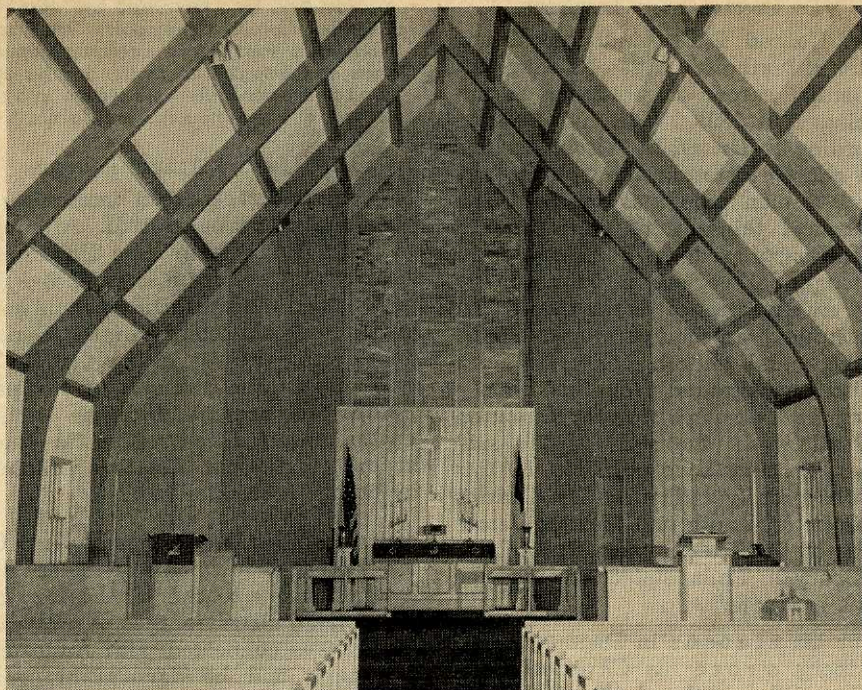
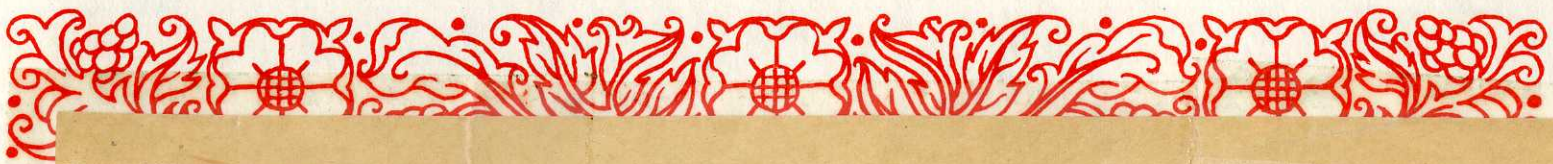
presentation of a purse to the Rev. Mr. Nelson in recognition of his 25 years of service as Bethany's pastor.

The Rev. Mr. Nelson, who completes 40 years in the ministry this year, accepted a call to serve at Bethany in June, 1929. A native of Whitehall, Mich., he was graduated from Upsala College, East Orange, N. J., in 1911, and received his divinity degree from Augustana Theological Seminary, Rock Island, Ill., in June of 1914. He married Miss Jennie Johnson, this city, and served congregations in Brooklyn, Titusville, Pa., and Windbur, Pa.

The presentation of the purse was made by William Stube, a member of the board of administration of the church. Invocation was given by the Rev. Harris Willis, Trinity Lutheran Church, Buffalo.

Services marking the anniversary were held yesterday morning and afternoon. Mr. and Mrs. Perry Atkinson were accepted as anniversary members during the afternoon service.





Left:  
BETHANY'S NEW SANCTUARY

Below:  
ON DEDICATION SUNDAY: Left to right are T. J. Antonson, president of the board of trustees; Pastor Russell Swanson, president of the Western New York District; Pastor J. E. Nelson of Bethany Church; Dr. Thorsten A. Gustafson, president of the New York Conference; and William Stube, chairman of the building committee.

## New Niagara Falls Church

By EDITH M. YNGVE



**B**ETHANY Lutheran Church in Niagara Falls, N. Y., is worshipping in a beautiful new sanctuary. The first service was conducted by the Rev. Joshua E. Nelson on Sunday, November 8, 1959, when a capacity congregation filled the structure. Dr. Thorsten A. Gustafson, president of the New York Conference, dedicated the new church in the afternoon, assisted by Dr. Daniel Nystrom and all of the pastors of the Western New York District.

Pastor Russell Swanson, District president, brought greetings and commended Pastor Nelson for the leadership he has given to Bethany during the thirty years he has been its pastor.

The new building marks the second major expansion since Pastor Nelson came to Niagara Falls in June 1929. In

1941 the small chapel, which was erected in 1906 at 27th Street and Ferry Avenue, was moved to the present location at Hyde Park Boulevard and Porter Road, where it was enlarged and remodeled to provide a seating capacity of approximately 100.

### *Growth Necessitates Expansion*

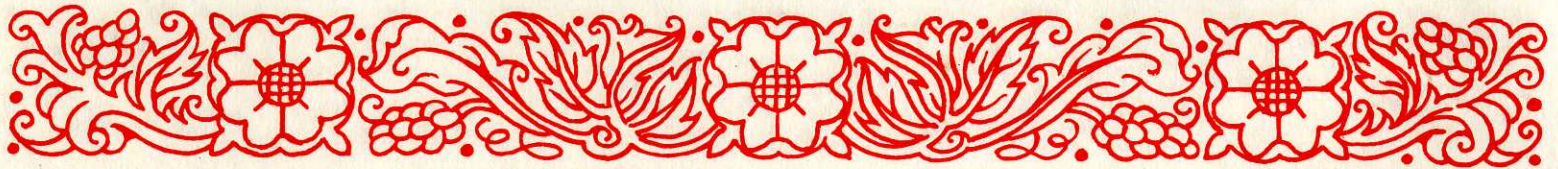
The growth of the congregation, resulting from the change in location, necessitated more facilities for Sunday school work. The new church, designed by Charles F. Obenhack, a local architect, has a seating capacity of 225. Members of the congregation, under the direction of William A. Stube, building committee chairman, did much of the work, thereby saving approximately 20 per cent of the estimated

cost of \$80,000.

Miss Bertha Viberg, who became a charter member of the congregation when it was organized in 1904, was present at both the morning worship service and the dedication service. The only other living charter member, Mrs. Swan Johnson, who will be 94 this month, was unable to attend the services because of ill health.

The chapel will be remodeled and used for educational purposes and social functions.

Although the Rev. Nelson resigned some months ago as pastor of Bethany Church and was voted the honorary title of "Pastor Emeritus," he is serving the congregation until his successor, the Rev. S. Kenneth Arntsen of Omaha, arrives on July 1.



Sunday, July 26, 1959

Niagara Falls Gazette

## Members Join in Building New Lutheran Church Here

By DON GLYNN  
Gazette Staff Writer

**MEMBERS OF** the Bethany Lutheran Church, Hyde Park Blvd. and Porter Rd., found a way to have a new church built at a minimum cost—they're helping to build it themselves and their task is nearly completed.

The exterior of the building is constructed and only some interior finishing work remains.

Church members work under the direction of the building committee with William N. Stube, a mechanical engineer, as chairman.

The building committee acts as general contractor and is responsible for the subletting of contracts for work which cannot be done by the parishioners.

Serving on the committee are the Rev. Joshua E. Nelson, pastor of the church; Oscar Munson, T. J. Antomson, Mr. and Mrs. J. Robert Yngve, Gordon Storin, Peter Sherman, William G. Johnson and Mrs. Richard Hartberg.

Mr. Munson, a former sexton of the church and a retired DuPont engineer, was also instrumental in laying the foundation of the old church in 1941.

**MR. ANATOMSON** is on the board of trustees and vice president of the board of administration of the church.

J. Robert Yngve is treasurer of the church and Mrs. Yngve is secretary of the committee.

William G. Johnson, a salesman at Bell Aircraft Corp., engaged the contractor for laying the foundation of the church.

Peter Sherman, a mechanical engineer, Gordon Storin and Mrs. Richard Hartberg are also committee members.

The new church will replace the old chapel which was built at 24th St. and Ferry Ave. in 1905 and moved to its present site in June 1941.

Rev. Nelson has been pastor of the church since June 1929.

Construction of the new church actually began in September 1957.

\* \* \*

**DESIGNED BY** Charles Obenhack, the church will have many modern features. The building is 80 feet long and 30 feet wide and will have a seating capacity of 225 in comparison with the old chapel which seats only 100.

The church will have besides the new chapel, a sacristy, a church office, a conference room, a basement with kitchen facilities and a store room.

The roof of the church is made of tectum, a fiber material which is supported by beams of southern pine wood.

The front and rear of the church is built of white pine wood and aluminum is used for the siding.

A large red wood cross is at the front of the church. The arms of the church serve as part of the frames for the stained glass windows.

New electric lights will be in hidden clusters which reduce the glare of overhead lighting.

The church will be heated by gas from a central boiler which has three units to heat rooms individually.

Steel rods welded to support the floor of the

building and thus pillars are not needed in the basement.

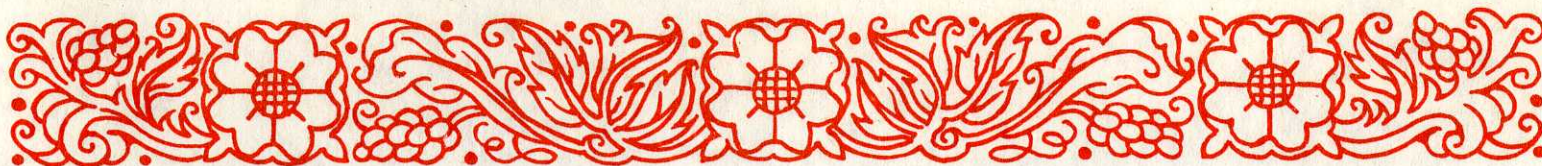
When the sound proof basement is completed it will be used for church dinners and club meetings. It will have a seating capacity for 200 persons.

\* \* \*

**CARPENTRY,** painting, waterproofing of the walls, much of the masonry work and even the planting of a new lawn are being done by church members.

The original cost was estimated at \$80,000 but Rev. Nelson says that "much of that is being absorbed through free labor and the unselfish work of the parishioners and even some who are not members of the church."

Plans are already underway for the formal dedication to be held in the last week of October.



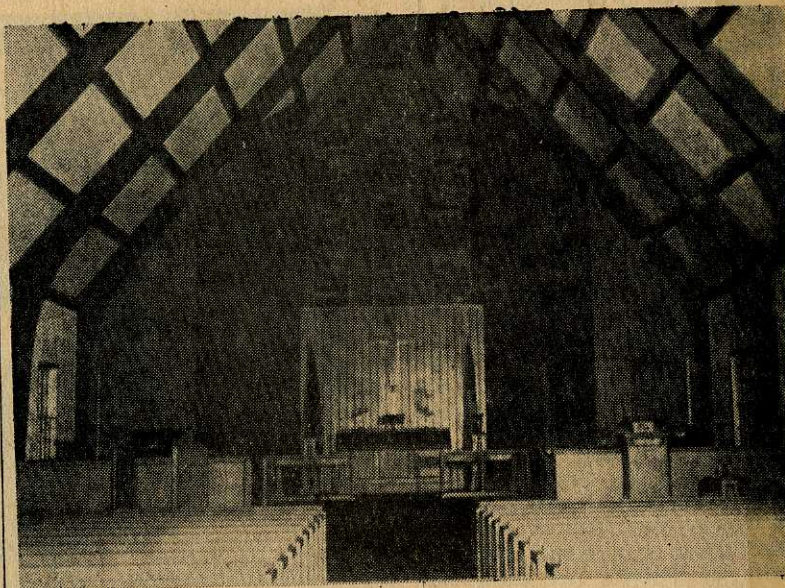
## CONFERENCE NEWS

# New Sanctuary Dedicated In Niagara Falls

Prayerful plans for a new church building for Bethany Church in Niagara Falls, N. Y., came to fruition recently when the fifty-five-year-old congregation dedicated its new sanctuary. It was on November 8th of last year that Pastor Joshua E. Nelson held the first worship service in the new church and thus was brought to completion the second major expansion program since he came to Bethany in 1929.

The beautiful new temple was dedicated in the afternoon of that memorable day by the New York Conference president, Dr. Thorsten Gustafson, assisted by all of the pastors of the Western New York District, including Dr. Daniel Nystrom, now retired and living in Alden, N. Y. Greetings were given by the president of the District, Pastor Russell E. Swanson of Tonawanda.

The new church is built at right angle to the chapel, which the congregation has used at its present location since 1941, and is connected to it both in the basement and on the main floor. Above the altar is an oak cross with its internal lighting throwing a lighted background, outlining the cross on the planking in light. The woodwork is of red oak in blond dressing. The colored windows, pulpit and lectern Bibles, the lectern and several benches, a credence shelf, and the memorial gift record and



Interior of Bethany Lutheran Church in Niagara Falls, dedicated last November. Joshua E. Nelson has been pastor of this congregation since June of 1929.

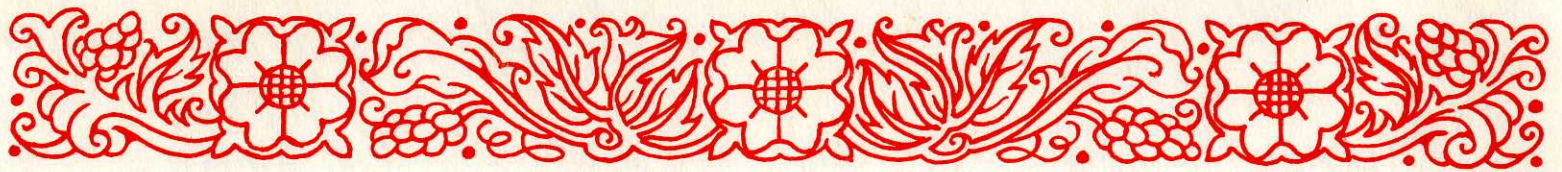
stand are all memorial gifts.

On the outside a cross is built into the wall fronting Porter Road, around which are built beautifully colored windows.

The new building was designed by Charles F. Obenback, a local architect. Members of the church, under the direction of the building committee chairman, William M. Stube, performed much of the work with resultant saving of

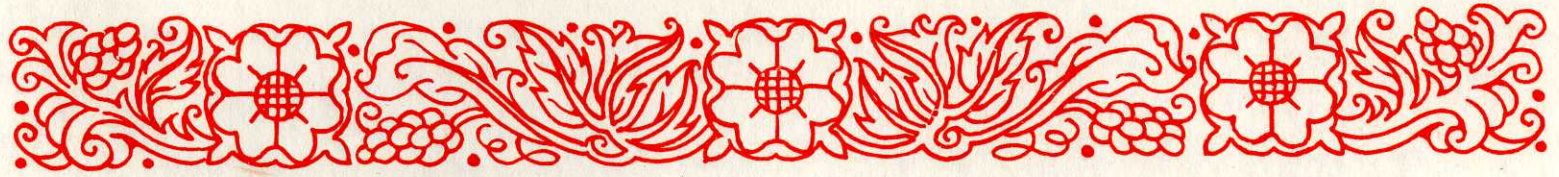
thousands of dollars. The total property value is more than \$125,000.

Definite action to erect a new church came on October 7, 1956, when it was decided to build a new edifice so constructed that the chapel could be used as a parish building annexed to it. Ground breaking ceremonies for the new structure were conducted on August 11, 1957.

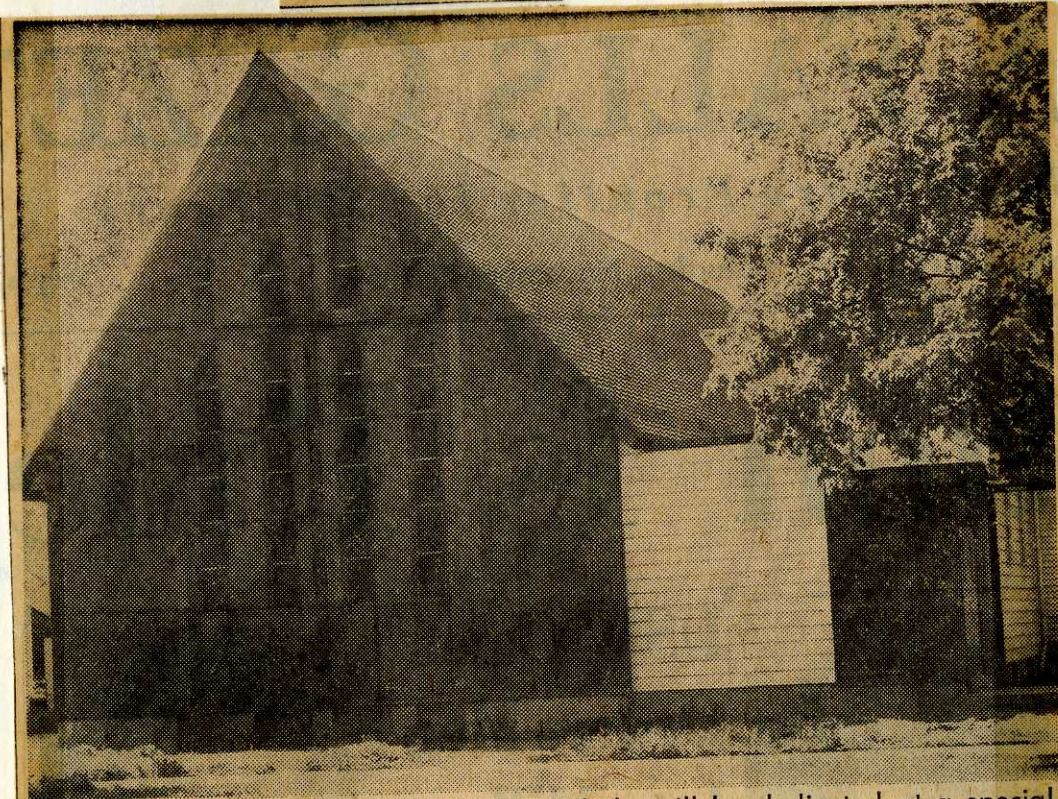


## Service Book and Hymnals

- 2 - Robert and Verna Hanson, Williams Bay, Wisconsin  
1 - Mr. and Mrs. C. H. Josephson, Titusville, Pennsylvania  
2 - Miss Erma Hanson, Kersey, Pennsylvania  
2 - Mr. and Mrs. Alvan Josephson, Falconer, New York  
In loving memory of Sally Rae Eklof
- 2 - Given by Junior Class of Sunday Church School  
Mrs. Joseph Clive, Teacher  
Florence Bunston, Nancy Gierack, James Hill,  
Laurie Peterson, Nancy Schwenkbeck,  
Paul Sherman and Alice Stickney
- 3 - Given by Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Clive  
In loving memory of their mothers,  
Mrs. Eliza Dyer and Mrs. Emily Robinson
- 5 - Given by Mrs. Mabel Campbell, Mrs. Vernon  
Grandin, Mrs. Hugo Sandstrom, and Mr. John  
Herod  
In loving memory of their sister,  
Mrs. Anne Chappell
- 3 - Given by members of 1965-66. Women's Bowling Team.  
Dorothy Allen, Evelyn Allen, Marian Arntsen, Frances Chapin,  
Peggy Broadbent, Beverly Dale, Ariel Martin, Esther Sherman



NIAGARA FALLS GAZETTE  
Saturday, November 7, 1959



**NEW CHAPEL** — Bethany Lutheran Church's new sanctuary in Hyde Park Blvd., will be dedicated at a special service Sunday at 4 p.m.

## *Dedicate Lutheran Sanctuary on Sunday*

The Rev. Thorsten A. Gustafson, D.D., president of the New York Conference of the Augustan Lutheran Church, will dedicate Bethany Lutheran Church's new sanctuary in Hyde Park Blvd. Sunday.

The dedication service will be held at 4 p.m. The Rev. Russell Swanson, Augustan Evangelical Lutheran Church, Town of Tonawanda, president of the Western New York District, and visiting clergy from Jamestown, Falconer and Amherst, will assist.

At 11 a.m., the Rev. J. E. Nelson, pastor, will conduct the first worship service.

The new building marks the second major expansion since 1929. It will replace the chapel built in 1906 at 27th St. and Ferry Ave., which was later moved to Hyde Park Blvd.

Charles F. Obenhack designed the structure and members of the congregation, under the direction of William A. Stube, building committee chairman, did much of the work.

The chapel will be remodeled and used for educational purposes and social functions.



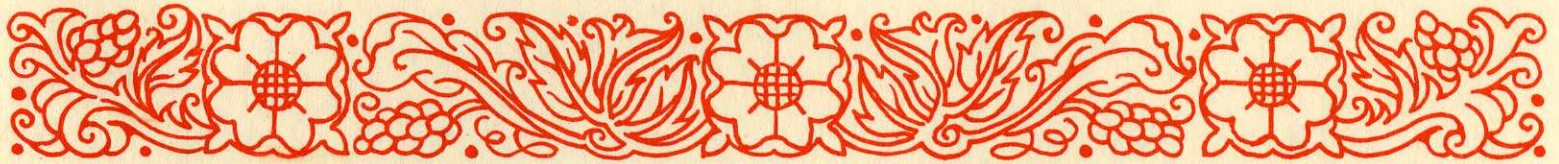
# NIAGARA FALLS GAZETTE

Monday, November 9, 1959

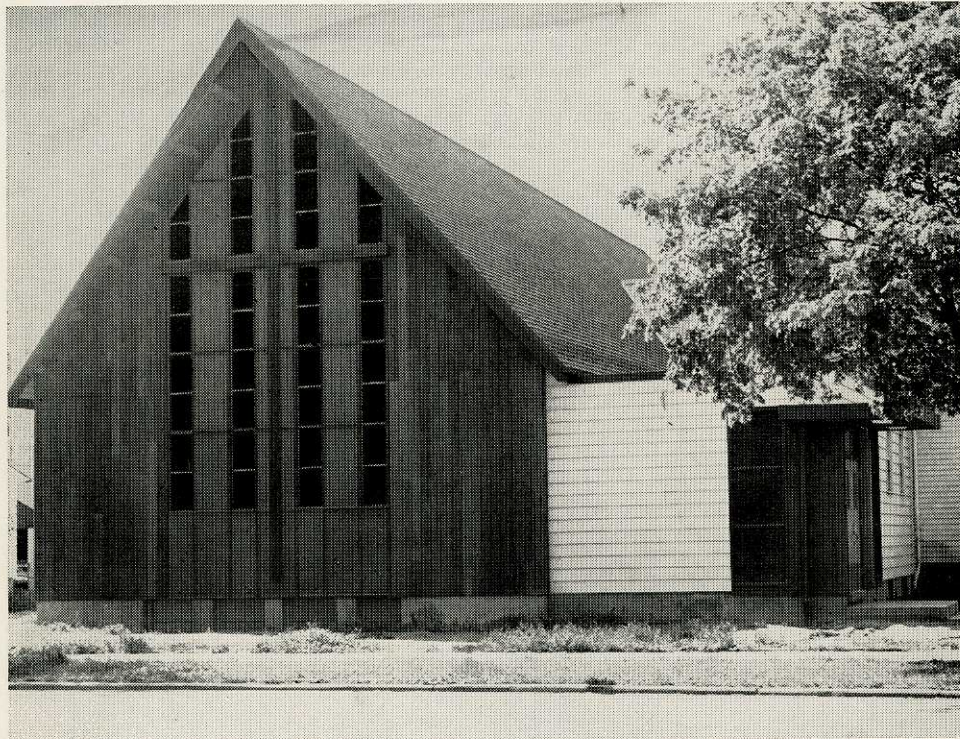


**BETHANY DEDICATION** —The Rev. Thorsten A. Gustafson, D. D., president of the New York Conference, Augustan Lutheran Church, dedicated Bethany Lutheran Church's new chapel in Hyde Park Blvd., before 250 persons Sunday. Participating in the ceremony were, from left, T. J. Antonson,

vice president, board of administration; the Rev. R. E. Swanson, Augustan Evangelical Church, Town of Tonawanda; the Rev. J. E. Nelson, Bethany pastor; Dr. Gustafson, and William Stube, building committee chairman.—Gazette Photo.



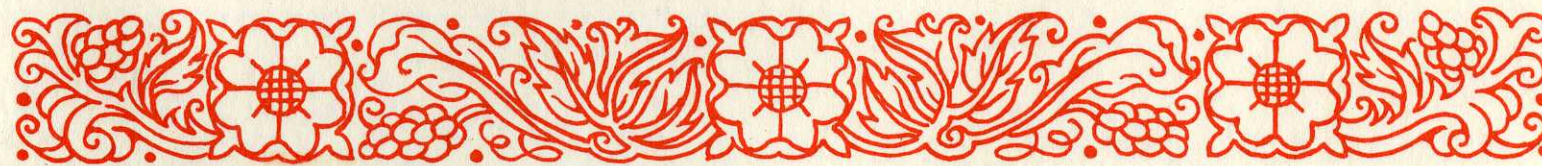
*Dedication Services*



**Bethany Evangelical Lutheran Church**

Hyde Park Boulevard and Porter Road  
NIAGARA FALLS, N. Y.

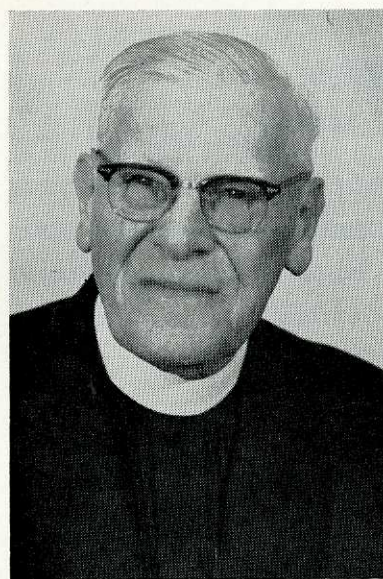
**DEDICATION - - - NOVEMBER 8, 1959**



Old church as it appeared at dedicatory service, June 27, 1943.



Members of the committee at the ground breaking service, left to right: Charles F. Obenhack, T. J. Antonson, Rev. J. E. Nelson, William M. Stube and Oscar Munson.



Rev. J. E. Nelson accepted a call to serve Bethany in June, 1929. He was born in Whitehall, Michigan. He graduated from Upsala College, East Orange, N. J., in 1911, and received his divinity degree from Augustana Theological Seminary, Rock Island, Ill., in June of 1914, and was ordained at Sycamore, Ill.

TO BETHANY'S MEMBERS AND FRIENDS:

"The Church's one foundation  
Is Jesus Christ her Lord;  
She is His new creation  
By water and the Word:  
From heaven He came and sought her  
To be His holy bride,  
With His own blood He bought her,  
And for her life He died."

Fifty-five years ago Bethany became "His new creation," when a little band of Lutheran immigrants founded her on the "Church's one foundation." Two of her founders are still with us, one a nonagenarian, her oldest member.

Bethany has suffered birth, growing, depressing, and transplanting, pains but her "Foundation" remains intact. Through the years:

"One holy Name she blesses,  
Partakes one holy food  
And to one hope she presses,  
With every grace endued."

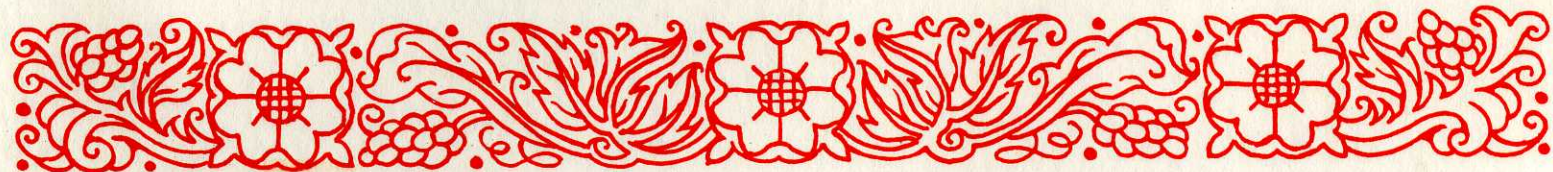
Bethany has been and is blessed by faithful and dedicated members full of grace, strong in faith, rich in love, devoted and willing workers. Bethany's heart is overflowing with gratitude to God and her children for past and present blessings, and for the prospect of a still more fruitful future.

With wide open arms Bethany invites all her children, and her many friends, to congregate and to rejoice in the Lord as her beautiful temple is dedicated to the glory of God, divine worship, and expanded facilities for serving this community and His kingdom at large.

God grant that in days and years to come many souls, through Bethany's missionating spirit, may find their way to the outreaching arms of Him who calls: "COME TO ME, ALL WHO LABOR AND ARE HEAVY LADEN, AND I WILL GIVE YOU REST. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden light." Matt. 11:28-30.

— Bethany's Pastor.





## Charter Members

*(According to the Minutes of Meeting)*

Arvid Aschan	Mr. and Mrs. Edward Larson
Serafia Carlson	Mr. and Mrs. John Munson
Mr. and Mrs. Swan Carlson	Herman Nelson
Mr. and Mrs. Carl Hermanson	Hjalmar Swanson
Gust Johnson	Serafia Swanson
Reinhold Johnson	C. J. Sellman
Mr. and Mrs. Swan Johnson	Bertha Viberg

## Bequests

Bethany Church has been remembered with bequests in the wills of the following members:

Mr. and Mrs. A. G. Larson	Mrs. Hilda Allinson
Mrs. Elizabeth Seifert	Mr. J. A. Anderson

## In Memoriam

*Memorials and gifts are listed in the Book of Remembrance, located in the Narthex.*

We pause to give thanks and to remember with thanksgiving those who have loved and served thee in thy church and now rest from their labors.

It was this heritage of the past which provided our blessing of today. How well we protect this heritage and how well we find and face the opportunities of today will determine our blessings of tomorrow.

At home on the beautiful hills of God  
By the valley of rest so fair  
Someday, sometime, when our task is done  
With joy we shall meet you there.

## CHURCH OFFICERS

REV. J. E. NELSON	Pastor
MISS EDITH YNGVE	Organ
MRS. ROBERT BROADBENT	Choir Director
GORDON SANDSTROM	Custodian

## BOARD OF ADMINISTRATION

J. E. NELSON	Chairman
T. J. ANTONSON	Vice-Chairman
WILLIAM M. STUBE	Secretary

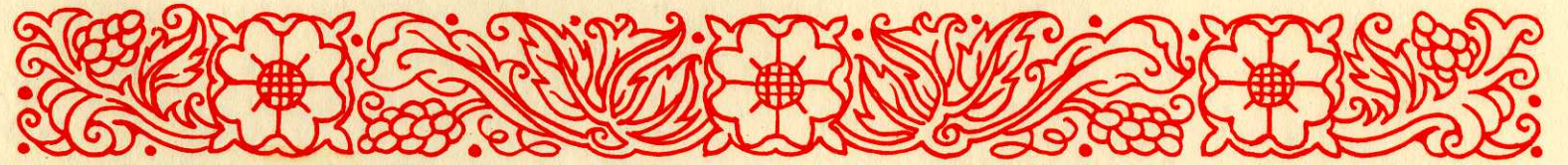
## BOARD OF DEACONS

Axel Anderson  
George Guinther  
Floyd W. Peterson  
Edward Phillips  
Peter Sherman  
August Storm  
William Stube

## BOARD OF TRUSTEES

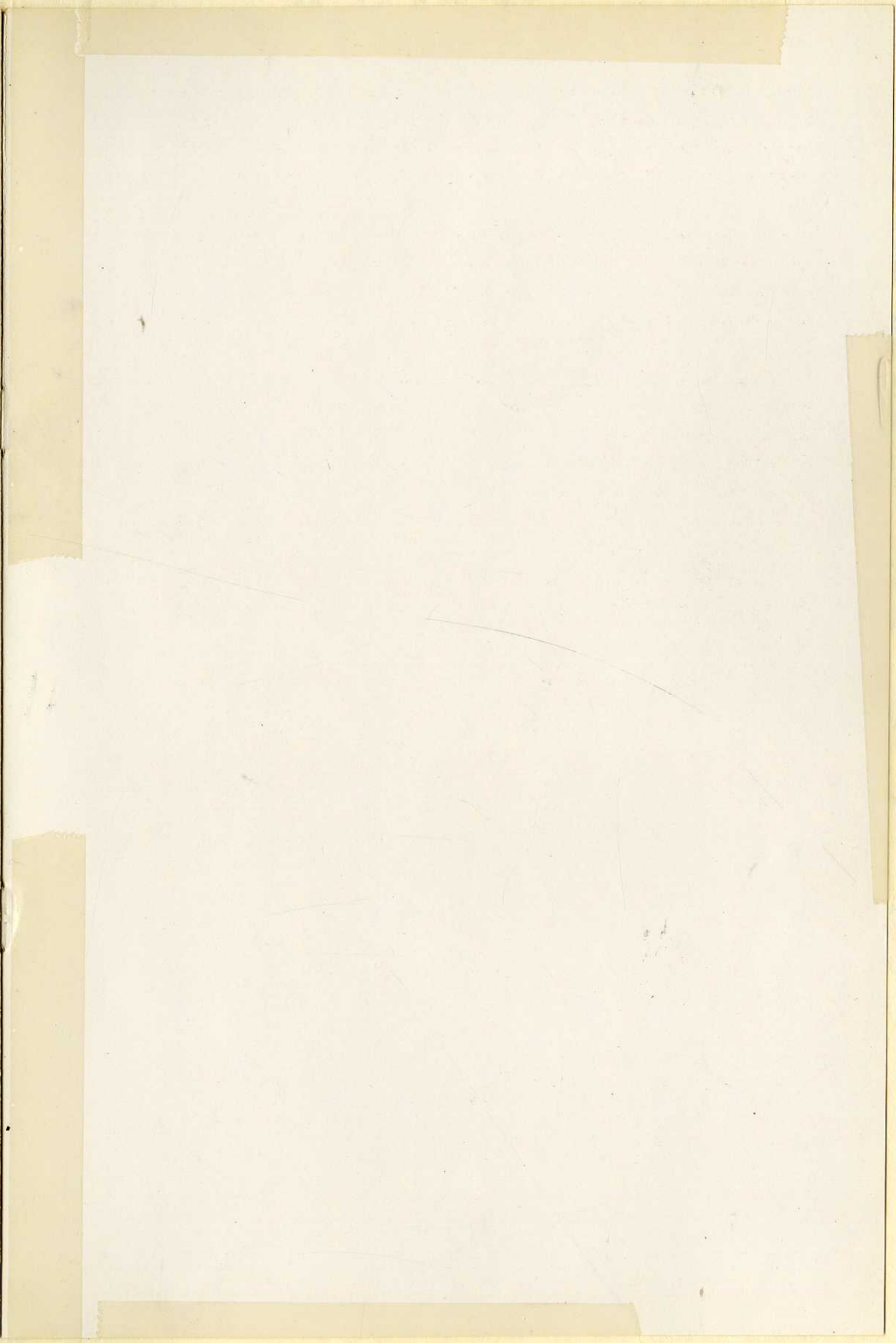
T. J. Antonson  
Charles Gierach  
Daniel Larson  
Robert Outland  
Hugo Sandstrom  
C. R. Steinwall  
Gordon Storin

MRS. FLOYD W. PETERSON	Secretary of Congregation
WILLIAM EKLOF	Financial Secretary
CHARLES GIERACH	Treasurer



ing a basement unit for future church; 3. a small addition to the present chapel to care for immediate Sunday School needs; 4. a church so constructed that the present building would be utilized only for Sunday School with added room in the basement of the new church for classes and providing room for social functions. Recommendation No. 4 was favored and a Building Committee consisting of William Stube, Chairman, William Johnson, Gerald Moldenhauer, Peter Sherman, Gordon Storin and Axel Anderson were elected. This committee was later enlarged to include Mrs. Richard Hartburg, Oscar Munson with Edith Yngve to serve as secretary. At the October 7, 1956, meeting a Finance Committee, consisting of T. J. Antonson, Chairman, Charles Gierach, Robert Outland, John Weisflog, Robert Yngve, Edith Johnson, Edith Yngve and Mrs. Evelyn Allen, secretary, was elected. The committee added William Eklof, Ann Antonson, Axel Anderson, Arline Justice, Ruth Olson, Floyd Peterson, Hugo Sandstrom and Rudolph Steinvall to its membership. On December 2, 1956, a final report was made to the congregation by the Financial Committee, showing \$26,879 had been pledged.

Charles F. Obenhack was selected as Architect and subsequently groundbreaking ceremonies for the new sanctuary were conducted Sunday, August 11, 1957.



UPSALA COLLEGE  
EAST ORANGE  
NEW JERSEY

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

April 21, 1960

Rev. Joshua E. Nelson  
3124 Highland Avenue  
Niagara Falls, New York

My dear Josh:

I am so happy to learn that Bethany Lutheran Church, of Niagara Falls, is to honor you on Friday evening, April 29.

Your name is still something of a legend among the "old timers" of Upsala College. During your student days here you were very active on the campus, and you made a name for yourself through your ability in public speaking. Needless to say, you also made a real reputation as a mighty good fellow.

Upsala College congratulates you on what you have achieved in the ministry, and at this moment we are thinking particularly of the erection of the new church in Niagara Falls.

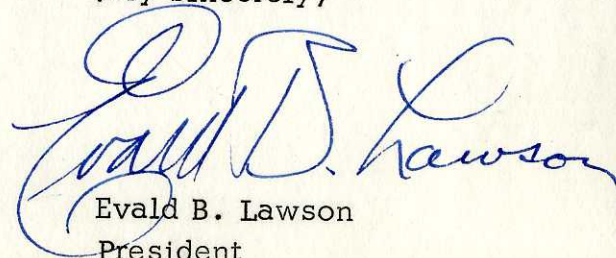
Just the other day our Director of Admissions, Professor Theodore B. Fleck, gave me a review of his recent trip, and he made special mention of the very cordial and spirited reception he was given in Niagara Falls, and particularly through you. "Just like Josh!" was my thought and comment.

We also wish to greet Mrs. Nelson on this occasion. She has been your faithful helpmate, and I know that she has assisted you all your years in the ministry.

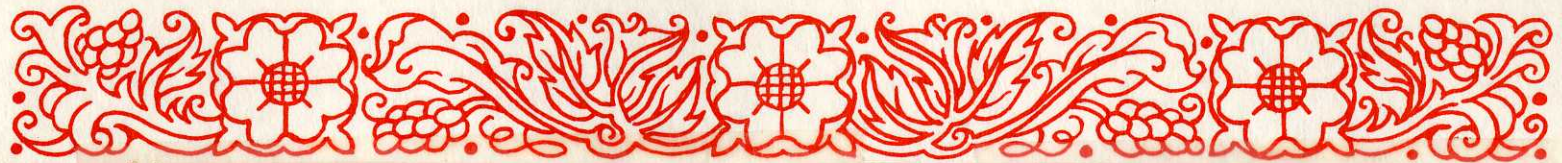
To both of you Upsala College extends most cordial greetings, and best wishes for future days.

Keep going!

Very sincerely,

  
Evald B. Lawson  
President

EBL:rb



# Bethany Church Stands as Tribute To Years of Hard Work, Dedication

By JERAULD BRYDGES  
Gazette Staff Writer

**THE SPANKING**, white church that sits solemnly at the corner of Hyde Park Boulevard and Porter Road was not always so spanking white.

It stands as tribute to years of hard work and faithful dedication of parishioners. The congregation at one time met in a private home when there was no "church" to greet the faithful.

This history of Bethany Evangelical Lutheran Church, one time member of the Augustana Synod, is one of patience, travail and trial.

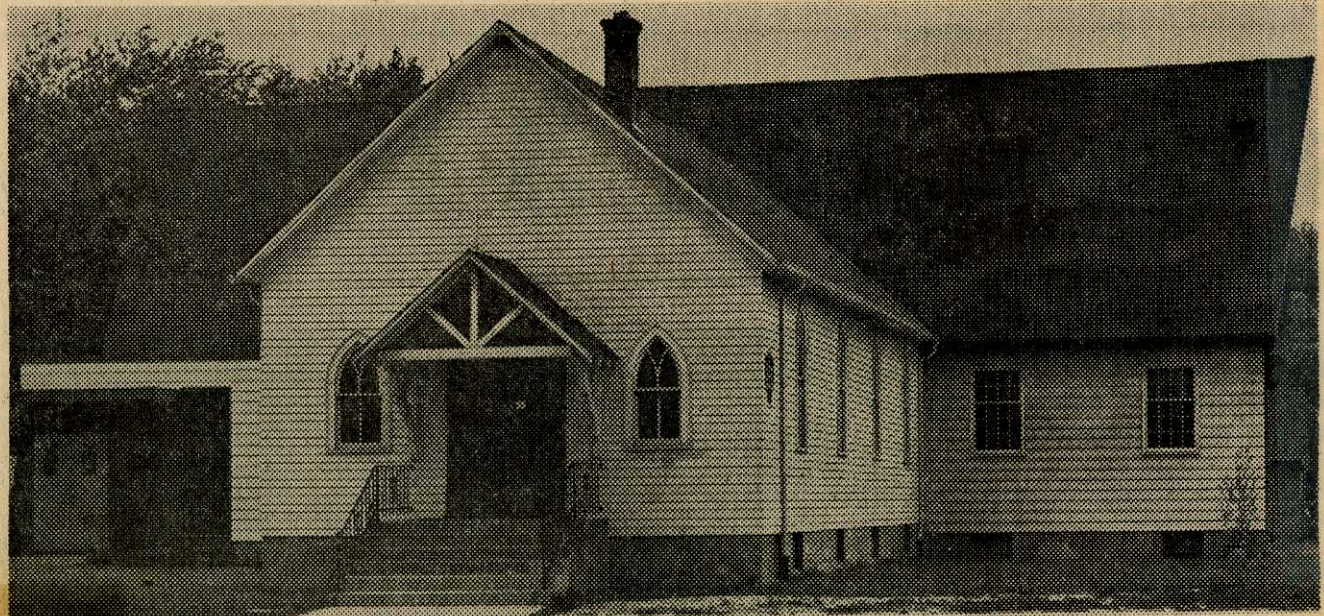
It all began in January 1904 when the Swedish Evangelical Lutheran Church Association was formed at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Swan Johnson, 523 19th Street on Aug. 16, 1904, the Swedish Evangelical Lutheran Bethany Church was organized in the German Evangelical Church in Michigan Avenue near Main Street.

**A CHARTER** member of this latter congregation, which later grew into the Bethany Evangelical Lutheran Church, still worships at the Hyde Park church. She is Bertha Viberg.

In succession, a Sunday school was organized, then a new location was enjoined in 1906 at 27th Street and Ferry Avenue.

In 1928 church officials here and members of the hierarchy sought the calling of a full-time pastor for the Niagara Falls parish. On June 1, 1929 Rev. Joshua E. Nelson became the first pastor of Bethany Evangelical Lutheran Church.

The church has had only two pastors since its formation. The current minister, Rev. E. Kenneth Arntsen, succeeded the Rev. Mr. Nelson on July 3, 1960, after 31 years of service.



BETHANY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

**THE CHURCH** in Hyde Park Boulevard was first built in 1940. The new building was completed and dedicated on Nov. 8, 1959.

The new contemporary style building has a seating capacity of 275 persons. Bethany Hall, in the lower level of the building is large enough to accommodate 10 church school classes.

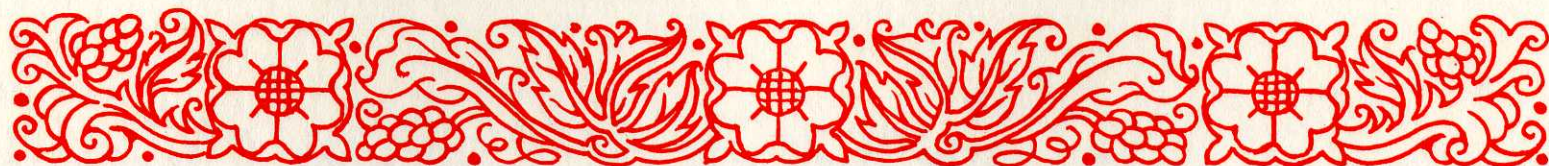
During Pastor Arntsen's ministry, the congregation has grown to 275 baptized members and Sunday school attendance to 111 regular members.

Under Pastor Nelson's pastorate, the church acquired new property to enlarge, founded a Ladies' Aid Society which donated purchased property, and eventually built the new Church.

**AS A RESULT OF** the merger of the Augustana Lutheran Church with the United Lutheran Church of America, American Evangelical Lutheran Church and Finnish Evangelical Lutheran Church, the local Lutheran group will become a member of the Lutheran Church of America in 1963. The new organization comprises 3,200,000 members.

Other designs at the new parish include a dorsal curtain, window drapes, landscaping and kitchen. A new organ is expected soon.

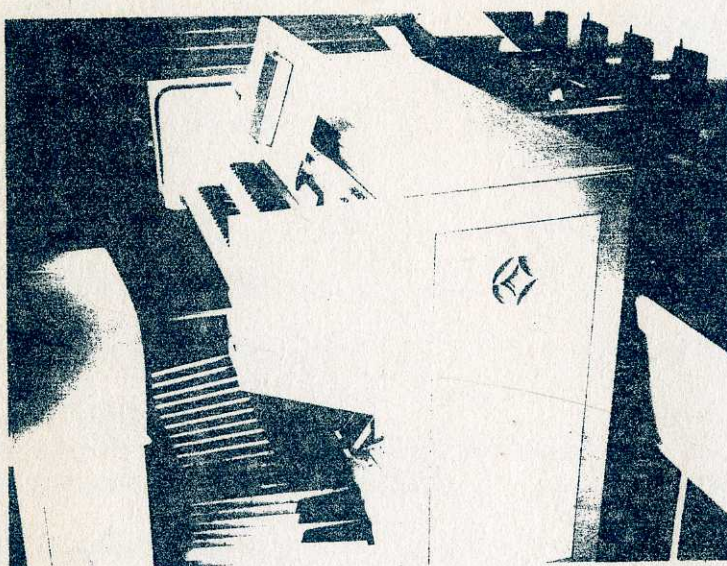
In carrying on the 58-year-old tradition of the church, Pastor Arntsen still relies on the parish's first minister, the Rev. Mr. Nelson. He still takes an active part in the worship and organizational life of the parish and has served as pulpit supply pastor in the absence of Pastor Arntsen.



## *Organ Dedication and Recital*

Sunday, November 4, 1962

4:00 o'clock



BETHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH

NIAGARA FALLS, NEW YORK

The Rev. S. Kenneth Arntsen, A.B., B.D., Pastor  
The Rev. J. E. Nelson, A.B., B.D., Pastor Emeritus  
Mr. Thomas Weisflog, Organist  
Mrs. Robert Broadbent, Choir Director  
Miss Edith Yngve, Junior Choir Director



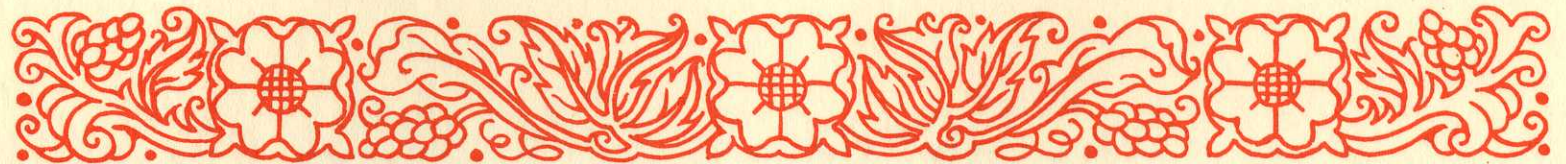
ALL SAINT'S SUNDAY

November 4, 1962

THE SERVICE

The Prelude "Oh Man, Bewail Thy Grievous Fall" Bach	
#The Processional Hymn . . . . .	Hymn 131
The Confession of Sins	Page 41
The Absolution	Page 42
The Introit	Page 114
#The Gloria In Excelsis	Page 49
The Salutation	Page 51
The Collect Prayer	Page 114
The Epistle	Revelation 7.2-17
The Alleluia	Page 52
The Holy Gospel	Matthew 5.1-12
The Apostles' Creed	Page 5
The Anthem	
The Temple Talk	Mr. Robert Outland
The Dedicatory Hymn . . . . .	Hymn 491
The Service of Dedication	Pastor Arntsen
The Offering	
The Offertory "Out of the Deep" Boehn	
The Offering Response (III)	Page 56
The Thanksgiving	
The Preface	Page 58
The Sanctus	Page 61
The Prayer of Thanksgiving	Page 62
The Lord's Prayer	
The Pax and Agnus Dei	Page 63
THE DISTRIBUTION OF THE ELEMENTS	
The Nunc Dimittis	Page 66
The Prayer	Page 68
The Benediction	
The Recessional Hymn . . . . .	Hymn 443
The Congregation will remain standing in silent meditation while the candles are extinguished.	
The Postlude "Be Glad Now, All Ye Christian Men" Bach	

# - Late worshipers may be seated at these times



ORGAN DEDICATORY RECITAL

Sunday, November 4, 1962

4:00 pm

The Invocation	Pastor Arntsen
I	
Preambulum	Girolamo Frescobaldi
Ricercare	
Toccata	
Variations on a Galliard by John Dowland	S. Scheidt
A Mighty Fortress is our God	Dietrich Buxtehude
Fantasia	Johann Pachelbel
Come, Holy Spirit, God and Lord	Friedrich Zachau
Trumpet Voluntary in D-Major	Henry Purcell
Tambourin for Flute and Reed Stops	J-P. Rameau
Prelude and Fugue in E-Minor	J. S. Bach

Philip Crawford, Mus. M.  
Organist, Zion Lutheran Church

The Offering

II

I Call to Thee, Lord Jesus Christ	J. S. Bach
O Hail This Brightest Day of Days	
Prelude and Fugue in D-Minor	
Praise to the Lord, the Almighty	Johann G. Walther
Organ Sonata No. 2, First Movement	Paul Hindemith
Improvisation on the Eighth Psalm Tone	E. Titcomb
Legende	Flor Peters
Thanksgiving	Richard Purvis

Thomas Weisflog  
Organist, Bethany Lutheran Church

THANK YOU

We are grateful to Mr. Philip Crawford and Mr. Thomas Weisflog for assisting us in the dedication of our pipe organ.

Mr. Crawford, a member of the Niagara Falls Chapter of the American Guild of Organists, is the Minister of Music at Zion Lutheran Church, Niagara Falls, N.Y. He has done outstanding work in connection with the music department at his church and has composed many selections for use by the choir.

Mr. Weisflog, an able young musician, and member of the Niagara Falls Chapter of the American Guild of Organists, is organist at Bethany Lutheran Church.

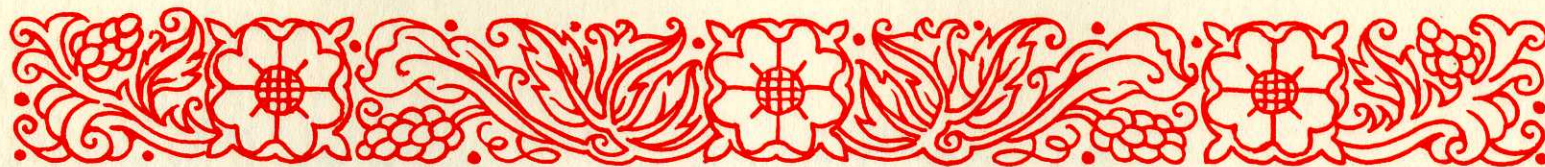
THE ORGAN

An organ properly designed and so situated to adequately serve all the musical requirements of this church and yet be a part of the architecture presented both a challenge and an opportunity to the organ builder. It is our belief that the M.P. Moller organ company has created an instrument which blends with the building both visually and acoustically.

A specially designed tone chamber was built at the left of the chancel. The pipes of the organ range in size from the large Pedal pipes over 10 feet long, to the smallest ones which are about the size of a lead pencil with a speaking length of less than  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch.

The two manual organ console is situated at the right of the chancel opposite the choir. As is usual with organs built by Moller, the console is completely electric in operation and is equipped with the adequate accessories which are listed in the specifications.

The instrument was installed by the Burger and Shafer Organ Company.



SPECIFICATIONS

GREAT ORGAN - 61 notes

Diapason	8'	73 pipes
Gedeckt	8'	85 pipes
Viole Dolce	8'	85 pipes
Octave	4'	61 notes
Flute	4'	61 notes
Fugara	4'	61 notes
Twelfth	2-2/3'	61 notes
Fifteenth	2'	61 notes
Trompette	8'	61 notes
Chimes (prepared for)		

SWELL ORGAN - 61 notes

Bourdon	16'	T.C.	49 notes
Gedeckt	8'		61 notes
Viole Dolce	8'		61 notes
Flute	4'		61 notes
Fugara	4'		61 notes
Flute Twelfth	2-2/3'		61 notes
Flautino	2'		61 notes
Trompette	8'		73 pipes
Clarion	4'		61 notes
Tremulant			

PEDAL ORGAN - 32 notes

Bourdon	16'	12 pipes
Diapason	8'	32 notes
Flute	8'	32 notes
Octave	4'	32 notes
Flute	4'	32 notes

COUPLERS

Swell to Great  
Great to Pedal  
Swell to Pedal

ADJUSTABLE COMBINATIONS

(Operated by pistons  
under Swell manual)

PISTONS NUMBER 1, 2, 3, 4

Affecting Full Organ

PEDAL MOVEMENTS

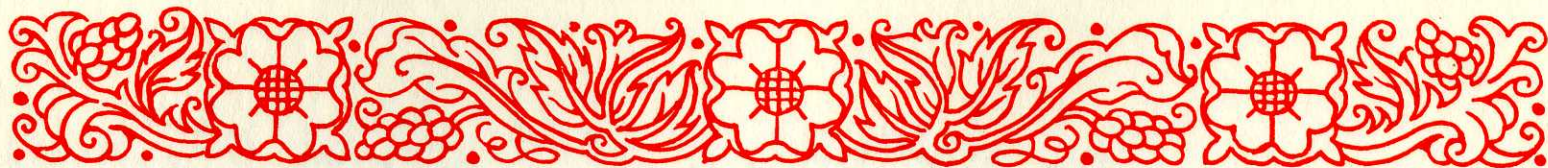
Great to Pedal, Reversible  
Balanced Expression Pedal  
Balanced Crescendo Pedal

Electro - pneumatic Action

The following members of Bethany Lutheran Church have made donations to the Organ Fund and are to be commended for their generous response to the appeal for funds:

Mr. & Mrs. Bernard Aderman  
Mr. & Mrs. James Aderman  
Mr. & Mrs. Nicholas Aleksivich  
Mr. & Mrs. Walter C. Allen  
Mr. James Allen  
Mr. & Mrs. Alfred D. Anderson  
Miss Ann Anderson  
Mr. & Mrs. Axel Anderson  
Miss Dorothy Anderson  
Mr. Gustave Anderson  
Mrs. Henry Anderson  
Miss Ann Antonson  
Mr. Theodore J. Antonson  
Rev. & Mrs. S. Kenneth Arntsen  
Mrs. Thyra Arntsen  
Mr. & Mrs. W. Perry Atkison  
Mrs. Harry Bearss  
Mr. & Mrs. Herbert Berk  
Bethany Lutheran Churchmen  
Bethany Lutheran Church Women  
Bethany Luther League  
Miss Dorothy Bower  
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Broadbent  
Mr. & Mrs. Douglas H. Bunston  
Mr. & Mrs. Raymond Calkins  
Mr. Dennis Calkins  
Miss Bonnie Calkins  
Mr. & Mrs. John Cane  
Miss Mabel Carlson  
Miss Frances Chapin  
Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Clive  
Mrs. Ethel Cummings  
Miss Linda Cummings  
Mrs. Robert Dahlgren  
Mr. & Mrs. Milford R. Dale  
The Dorcas Circle  
Mr. & Mrs. Peter Easton  
Miss Sally Eklof  
Mr. & Mrs. William Eklof  
Mrs. Kenneth Emerson  
Mrs. Carl Frid  
Mrs. Thomas Furan  
Mr. & Mrs. Forrest Gee





Mr. Robert Gee  
Mr. & Mrs. Charles A. Gierach  
Mr. Charles F. Gierach  
Mr. & Mrs. James Gordon  
Mr. George L. Guinther  
Mrs. Beverly Wagner Harold  
Mr. & Mrs. R. A. Hartburg  
Mr. & Mrs. Paul Harvey  
Miss Maryanne Harvey  
Mr. & Mrs. Angus Henwood  
Mr. & Mrs. Harry Hill  
Mr. & Mrs. Irvin Jacobs  
Mr. Gary Jacobs  
Mr. Paul Jacobs  
Miss Alice Johnson  
Mr. & Mrs. Carl V. Johnson  
Mr. Duane Johnson  
Miss Edith L. Johnson  
Mr. Filmore Johnson  
Mr. Fred Johnson  
Mrs. Gustave Johnson  
Miss Hildur Johnson  
Mrs. Roy Johnson  
Mrs. Swan Johnson  
Mrs. Thomas Justice  
Mr. & Mrs. Daniel Larson  
Mr. & Mrs. Harry Lee  
The Martha Circle  
Mrs. Thomas Martin  
Mrs. Jack McKie  
Miss Judith McKie  
Pfc Charles S. Messing  
Mr. & Mrs. Howard Messing  
Miss Marilyn Messing  
Mr. Franklin Meyers  
Miss Carolynne Mickiewicz  
Mr. Jearld Moldenhauer  
Mr. & Mrs. J. R. Moldenhauer  
Mr. Richard Moldenhauer  
Mr. & Mrs. Oscar Munson  
Mr. Lonnie Nearhood  
Mrs. Albert Nearhood  
Mrs. Herman Nelson  
Rev. & Mrs. J. E. Nelson  
Mrs. John Nixon  
Mr. Albert Olson  
Mr. & Mrs. L. P. Olson

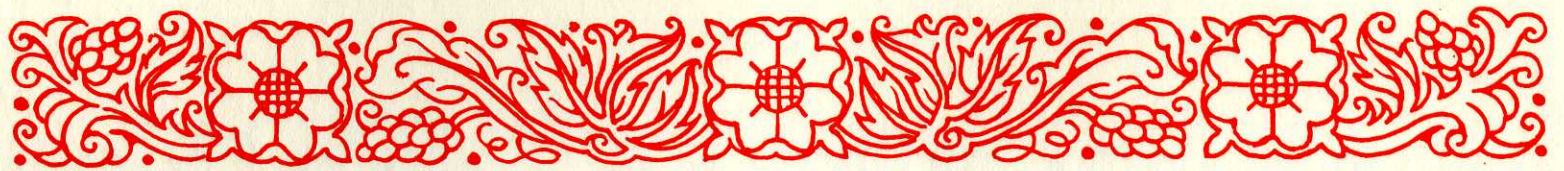
Miss Helen Olson  
Miss Ruth Olson  
Mr. & Mrs. Sigfrid A. Olson  
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Outland  
Miss Laraine Outland  
Mr. Einar Pearson  
Miss Elsa Pearson  
A2/c Einar William Pearson  
Mr. & Mrs. Floyd W. Peterson  
Mr. & Mrs. Edward Pettitt  
Mr. & Mrs. Edward Phillips  
Mr. Alfred Sandstrom  
Mrs. Arthur Sandstrom  
Miss Gail Sandstrom  
Mr. Gordon Sandstrom  
Mr. & Mrs. Hugo Sandstrom  
Miss Lorene Sandstrom  
Mr. Robert Sandstrom  
Mr. & Mrs. John Schwenkbeck  
Mr. & Mrs. William Scott  
Mrs. Ida Setterblade  
Mr. & Mrs. Richard Sharp  
Miss Diane Shelstad  
Mr. & Mrs. Peter Sherman  
Mr. & Mrs. C. R. Steinvall  
Pvt. Carl Steinvall  
Miss Harriett Stewart  
Pvt. Nelson C. Stewart  
Miss Barbara Storin  
Miss Brenda Storin  
Miss Carolyn Storin  
Mr. & Mrs. Gordon K. Storin  
Mr. & Mrs. William R. Storr, Jr.  
Miss Karen Stube  
Mr. Roger Stube  
Mr. & Mrs. William M. Stube  
Miss Irma Sundling  
Mr. & Mrs. Sigfrid Swanson  
Mrs. Mead Swetland  
Miss Bertha Viberg  
Mrs. Thomas Volante  
Miss Joanne Weisflog  
Mr. Thomas Weisflog  
Mr. & Mrs. John Weisflog  
Mr. & Mrs. M. Bert Winans  
Mr. & Mrs. Martin O. Winans  
Miss Edith Yngve



Our congregation has also received donations from friends and non-members who have expressed their interest in our new organ. We would express our sincere thank you and appreciation to them for their kind and generous support. These donors include:

Mrs. Anna H. Anderson  
Mrs. May Anderson  
Mr. & Mrs. Robert F. Anderson  
Mr. & Mrs. Claude Annette  
Mr. Neal Annette  
Dr. Dean Babbage  
Miss Gloria A. Baratta  
Mrs. Ruth Barnes  
Mr. & Mrs. A. Horton Bassett  
Mr. Donald L. Bassett  
Dr. Leslie A. A. Benson  
Mr. & Mrs. Felix O. Blixt  
Mr. & Mrs. Dick Brydges  
Mrs. A. Campbell  
Mr. & Mrs. Earl F. Campbell  
Dr. Donato J. Carbone  
Mr. & Mrs. Walter N. Carlson  
Mrs. Archie Case  
Mr. & Mrs. Lester Case  
Mr. & Mrs. William Cass  
Miss Marie Colosi  
Mr. & Mrs. Erwin Frake  
Mr. & Mrs. Gilbert Fraser  
Mr. & Mrs. Clifford Gawley  
Mr. & Mrs. Eugene Gebauer  
Mr. & Mrs. Jack E. Gellman  
Mr. & Mrs. Phillip S. Gellman  
Mr. & Mrs. Vernon Grandin  
Mrs. Mary Harvey  
Mr. & Mrs. Harvey Hayes  
Mr. & Mrs. T. D. Holley  
Mr. & Mrs. Alfred W. Hopton  
Mrs. Alta Horgan  
Mrs. Marian Jones  
Mr. & Mrs. Arthur Kemp  
Dr. Francis J. Kennedy  
Mr. & Mrs. Richard Kennedy  
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Knowlton  
Mr. & Mrs. Bryant S. Kurtzman

Mr. & Mrs. Isac Lammi  
Mrs. Mildred Leinig  
Mr. & Mrs. R. D. Matteson  
Miss Ellen Mortenson  
Dr. R. Osgood  
Mrs. F. E. Peabody  
Mrs. Erma S. Peterson  
Mr. & Mrs. Alexander Reap  
Mr. & Mrs. George Scott  
Mr. & Mrs. Ralph Skinner  
Mr. & Mrs. Newell Shields  
Mr. Rudolph Stenbeck  
Mrs. Robert Stevens  
Mrs. Susan Stevenson  
Mr. & Mrs. August Strom  
Mr. & Mrs. Andrew P. Swift  
Dr. Thomas K. Terrell  
Mr. Donald Terryberry  
Mr. & Mrs. James P. Terryberry  
Mr. & Mrs. William J. Tilford  
Mr. & Mrs. Norman Tuurie  
Mr. & Mrs. Gerald Volante, Jr.  
Mr. Gerald Volante, Sr.  
Mr. & Mrs. Richard Volante  
Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Volante  
Mrs. J. M. Wainscott  
Dr. Alan Winterberger  
Mr. & Mrs. Elmer Worgilen  
Mr. Ronald G. Wright  
Miss Mary C. Wynes  
Mrs. Victoria Yngve



The following loved ones have been memorialized through gifts which have been given by members and friends of our congregation:

Mr. Axel Anderson  
Parents of Mr. & Mrs. Axel Anderson  
Mr. Charles Anderson  
Mr. Charles Anderson, Jr.  
Mr. Ernest W. Anderson  
Mrs. Ida Anderson  
Mr. Leo Anderson  
Mrs. Marie Anderson  
Mr. Marius R. Arntsen  
Mr. William M. Arntsen  
Parents of Mr. & Mrs. W. P. Atkison  
Mr. Carl Oscar Blixt  
Mrs. Emma C. Blixt  
Mr. Elmer Carlson  
Mr. Elmer Carlson  
Mr. Glen Carlson  
Mrs. Ida Carlson  
Mr. Robert Carlson  
Mr. Rudolph Carlson  
Mr. & Mrs. Swan Carlson  
Mr. Sydney Chappell  
Mr. August Dahlgren  
Mrs. Maria Dahlgren  
Mr. Robert Dahlgren  
Miss Sally Rae Eklof  
Mr. Carl Frid  
Mr. Carl Elmer Frid  
Mr. Albert Johns  
Mr. & Mrs. Daniel Johns  
Mrs. Annette Johnson  
Mr. & Mrs. Charles Johnson  
Mrs. Thomas Johnson  
Mrs. Gunda Cromwell LaCombe  
Mrs. Hilda C. Landeen  
Parents of Mr. & Mrs. Harry Lee  
Loved ones of Mrs. Mildred Leinig  
Mrs. Laura Moy Lewis  
Mr. Arthur MacDonald  
Mrs. Evelyn Martin  
Mr. & Mrs. Albert Messing  
Mrs. Carrie Messing

Mr. & Mrs. Bernard Nelson  
Parents of Mr. & Mrs. Sigfrid A. Olson  
Mrs. Grace E. Pearson  
Mrs. William Robson  
Mr. Arthur Sandstrom  
Mrs. Ida B. Scholl  
Mr. Birger Setterblade  
Lt. Russell Setterblade  
Mrs. Emma Steele  
Father and brother of Mr. C. R. Steinvall  
Parents of Mrs. C. R. Steinvall  
Mothers of Mr. & Mrs. August Strom  
Mr. Mead Swetland  
Mr. Mauritz Viberg  
Mr. Adolph Yngve

A gift to the organ fund was given in loving memory of Mr. Ernest W. Anderson and in tribute to his family; Mrs. Anna H. Anderson, Mr. and Mrs. Robert F. Anderson, and Rev. and Mrs. S. Kenneth Arntsen by Mr. and Mrs. A. Horton Bassett and Mr. Donald L. Bassett.

A gift was given to the organ fund by Mr. and Mrs. Charles A. Gierach in honor of their children, Charles, Richard, Nancy, David, and Mary.

A gift was given to the organ fund by the Bethany Luther League in tribute to the five men of our congregation who are now serving in the Armed Forces of our country. Those honored include:

L/Cpl. John Anderson, U.S. Marine Corps  
Pfc Charles S. Messing, U.S. Army  
A2/c Einar William Pearson, U.S. Air Force  
Pvt. Carl M. Steinvall, U.S. Army  
Pvt. Nelson Charles Stewart, U.S. Marines



#### ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

We are pleased to express our appreciation to the following additional firms and individuals for their work and cooperation.

M. P. Moller, Inc., of Hagerstown, Maryland.

Mr. Victor I. Zuck, Moller Company sales representative.

Burger and Shafer Organ Company, for the installation and voicing of the organ.

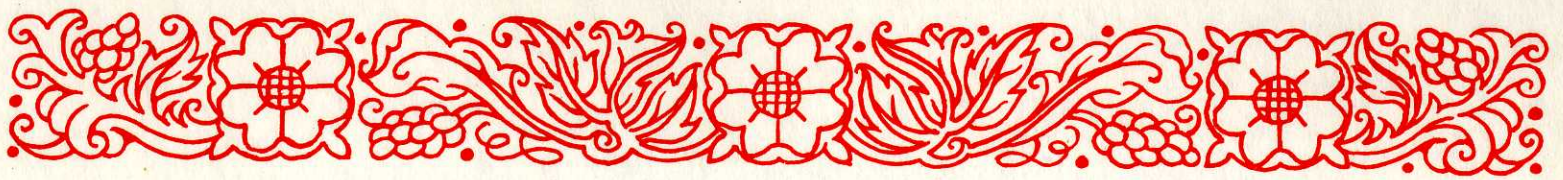
Mr. William M. Stube, Mr. Peter Sherman, Mr. Daniel Larson, Mr. Oscar Munson, Mr. Roger Stube, and Mr. George Guinther for preparing the organ pipe chamber and the electrical and windpipe work.

#### The Organ Committee

Mr. Charles A. Gierach, Chairman  
Mrs. Robert Broadbent  
Miss Edith Yngve  
Pastor S. Kenneth Arntsen

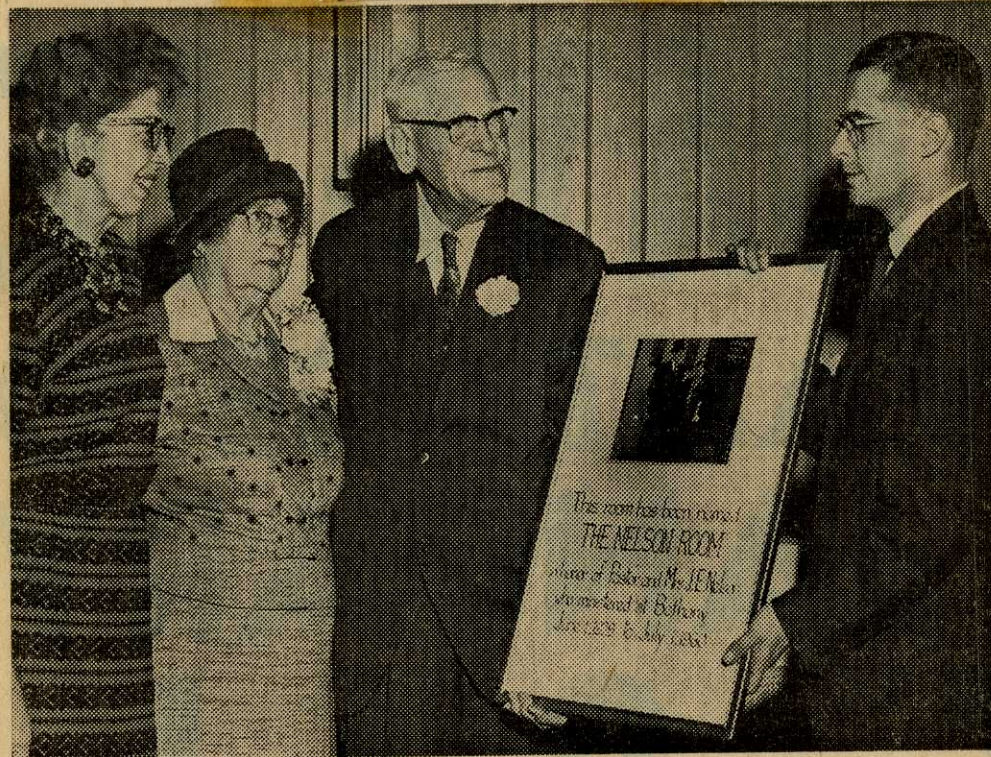
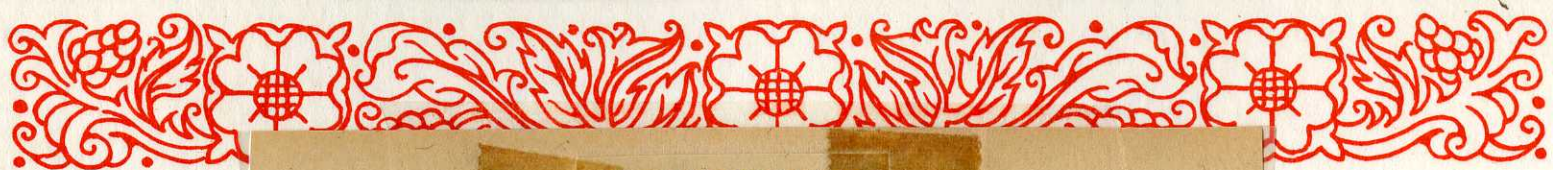
The staff and members of the Senior Choir for arranging the social hour following the organ dedicatory recital.

The total cost of the organ with the completed installation amounted to \$8,324.70.



Organ Fund Donations - Nov. 4, 1962

Mr & Mrs. Bernard Aderman	Mr. Dennis Calkins
Mr & Mrs. James Aderman	Miss Bonnie Calkins
Mr. & Mrs. Nicholas Aleksivich	Mr. & Mrs. John Cane
Mr & Mrs. Walter C. Allen	Miss Mabel Carlson
Mr. James Allen	Miss Francis Chapin
Mr. & Mrs. Alfred Anderson	Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Clive
Miss Ann Anderson	Mrs. Ethel Cummings
Mr & Mrs. Axel Anderson	Miss Linda Cummings
Miss Dorothy Anderson	Mrs. Robert Dahlgren
Mr. Gustave Anderson	Mr. & Mrs. Melford R. Dale
Mrs. Henry Anderson	The Dorcas Circle
Miss Ann Antonson	Mr. & Mrs. Peter Easton
Mr. Theodore J. Antonson	Miss Sally Eklof
Rev. & Mrs. S. Kenneth Arntsen	Mr & Mrs William Eklof
Mrs. Thyra Arntsen	Mrs. Kenneth Emerson
Mr. & Mrs. W. Perry Atkison	Mrs. Carl Frid
Mrs. Harry Bearss	Mrs. Thomas Furan
Mr. & Mrs. Herbert Berk	Mr. & Mrs. Forrest Gee
Bethany Lutheran Churchmen	Mr. Robert Gee
Bethany Lutheran Church Women	Mr. & Mrs. Charles Gierach
Bethany Luther League	Mr Charles F. Gierach
Miss Dorothy Bower	Mr & Mrs. James Gordon
Mr & Mrs Robert Broadbent	Mr. George Guinther
Mr & Mrs Douglas Bunston	Mrs. Beverly Wagner Harold
Mr & Mrs Raymond Calkins	Mr. & Mrs. Richard Hartburg



**CHURCH SERVICE HONORED** — Tribute for 31 years of service to Bethany Lutheran Church was paid to Rev. and Mrs. J. E. Nelson by the congregation Friday. A room in the church has been named in their

honor. The Rev. Mr. Nelson is pastor emeritus. Shown from left during ceremonies are Miss Irma A. Sundling, Mrs. Nelson, Mr. Nelson and Peter R. Sherman.—Gazette Photo.

## Rev. and Mrs. Nelson Honored By Bethany Lutheran Church

The Bethany Lutheran Church congregation at its annual meeting Friday night honored its pastor emeritus and his wife, Rev. and Mrs. J. E. Nelson, 3124 Highland Ave., by naming a remodeled and redecorated fellowship lounge, the Nelson Room.

The resolution unanimously passed by the congregation cited the pastor and his wife for their "31 years of faithful and loyal service to their Lord and this congregation," and "for giving unselfishly of their talents, interest, and witness" during that time.

### Unveil Plaque

Miss Irma Sundling, secretary of the congregation, presented Mrs. Nelson with a corsage on behalf of the members. Peter Sherman, vice president of the Church Council, unveiled a plaque which is to be placed in the Nelson Room. The plaque features a colored picture of the Nelsons with the added inscription:

"This room has been named the Nelson Room in honor of Pastor and Mrs. J. E. Nelson who ministered at Bethany June 1, 1929 to July 1, 1960."

The Nelson Room will be used for informal organizational meetings, committee meetings, and for various fellowship functions of the congregation. It will also be used in part as a church school classroom and church nursery during the morning worship service. The room has been appointed and furnished through efforts of the congregation and organizations of the church.

### Hear Reports

The congregation also reviewed the financial and organizational reports of the past year at the meeting.

Rev. S. Kenneth Arntsen, pastor, cited various members of the church staff and congregation who had given generously of time and talents during the past year. He also called upon the members for a renewed emphasis upon "spiritual growth and a strengthening of the faith," during the coming year.

### Read Beck Note

A communication from the Rev. Dr. Alfred L. Beck, president of the New York Synod of the Lutheran Church in

America, was read by the church secretary. Dr. Beck congratulated the congregation for its "excellent benevolence record." He stated that "we know well that it required sacrificial giving on the part of many to reach the 100 per cent mark, so please express our gratitude to your members for all they are doing to advance the cause of the Kingdom in their midst and across the world."

Elected as deacons on the Church Council for a period of three years were Charles A. Gierach, Helen C. Olson, Irma A. Sundling, and Gordon H. Sandstrom.

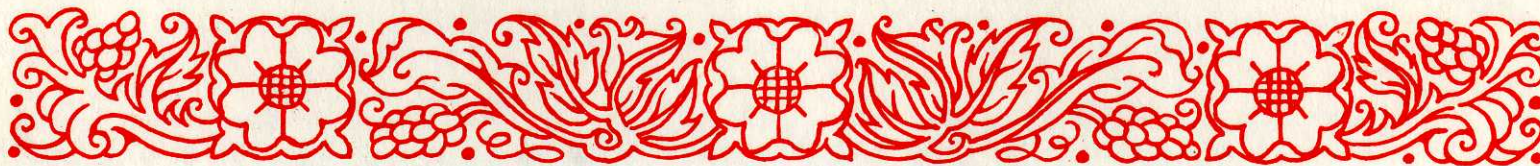
Joseph Clive was elected as a deacon on the council for one year. Carl Johnson, Mrs. Esther Sherman and Mrs. William Eklof were elected to the nominating committee for 1964. Mrs. Mead Swetland was elected as delegate to the Niagara Council of Churches.

A fellowship hour was held at the conclusion of the meeting. Refreshments were served by a committee of women under the chairmanship of Mrs. Charles A. Gierach.



Organ Fund Donations

Mr. & Mrs. Paul Harvey.  
Miss Maryanne Harvey.  
Mr. & Mrs. Angus Henwood  
Mr. & Mrs. Harry Hill  
Mr. & Mrs. Irvin Jacobs  
Mr. Gary Jacobs  
Mr. Paul Jacobs  
Miss Alice Johnson  
Mr. & Mrs. Carl V. Johnson  
Mr. Duane Johnson  
Miss Edith L. Johnson  
Mr. Filmore Johnson  
Mr. Fred Johnson  
Mrs. Gustave Johnson  
Miss Hildur Johnson  
Mrs. Roy Johnson  
Mrs. Swan Johnson  
Mrs. Thomas Justice  
Mr. & Mrs. Daniel Larson  
Mr & Mrs. Harry Lee  
The Martha Circle  
Mrs. Thomas Martin  
Mrs. Jack McKie  
Miss Judith McKie  
P.f.c. Charles Messing



NIAGARA FALLS GAZETTE  
Saturday, June 13, 1964

## Tribute to Pastor Emeritus Planned by Bethany Church

Bethany Lutheran Church will honor its pastor emeritus, Rev. Joshua E. Nelson, 3124 Highland Ave., Sunday, on the 50th anniversary of his ordination. The congregation has designated the day as "Pastor Nelson Sunday" in his honor.

He will deliver the sermon at the morning worship service. A dinner for all members and friends will be held immediately after the service, at which time greetings will be presented to the guest.

The Rev. Mr. Nelson was born Feb. 11, 1881, in Whitehall, Mich., the son of Mr. and Mrs. Eric Nelson. He matriculated as a student at Upsala College, East Orange, N.J., in 1907 and received a bachelor of arts degree in 1911. Graduate studies were taken at the Augustana Theological Seminary, now known as the Lutheran School of Theology at Rock Island, Ill. He received a bachelor of divinity degree from that institution in 1914.

The Rev. Mr. Nelson was ordained into the ministry on June 14, 1914, by the former Augustana Evangelical Lutheran Church, which was recently merged into the new Lutheran Church in America. He accepted a call to serve as pastor of Emmanuel Lutheran Church in Greenpoint, Brooklyn, where he remained for four years.

The Rev. Mr. Nelson was



REV. J. E. NELSON

called as the first full-time pastor of Bethany Lutheran Church in July, 1929. He has been at Bethany the longest period of time, serving as pastor for 31 years, and retiring on June 30, 1960. The congregation honored him on the occasion of his retirement by calling him to the position of pastor emeritus.

On Aug. 26, 1915, he married the former Jennie Elizabeth Johnson, a resident of Niagara Falls, and the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Johnson, who at that time lived at 3120 Highland Ave. The Nelsons continue to make Niagara Falls their

home and are active members of the congregation.

Shortly before his retirement, the Rev. Mr. Nelson climaxed his long ministry at Bethany when he dedicated the new church building which was erected by the congregation under his leadership.

He served the Mayor's Food Committee during World War II.

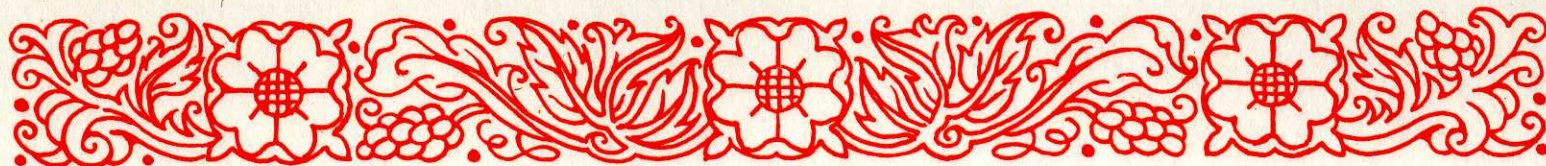
Rev. S. Kenneth Arntsen, pastor of Bethany, and members of the Church Council have made the arrangements for the golden jubilee celebration.

Mrs. Raymond Calkins, chairman, and members of the Christian Service Committee of the Bethany Lutheran Church Women are in charge of the dinner.

Greetings on behalf of the congregation will be given by Peter Sherman, vice chairman of the congregation; Mrs. Charles A. Gierach, president of the Bethany Lutheran Church Women; Hugo Sandstrom, president of the Bethany Lutheran Churchmen, and Miss Maryanne Harvey, president of the Luther League.

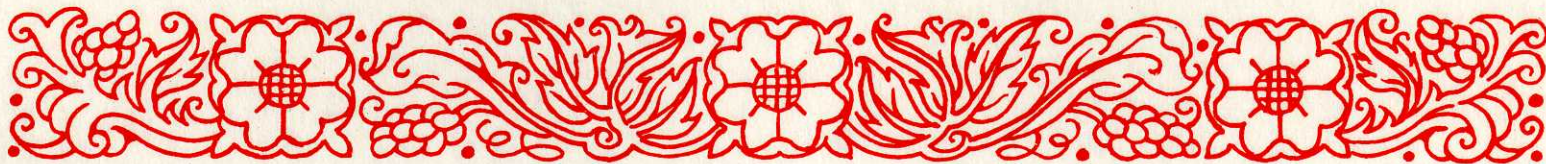
Special music for the program will be sung by the Bethany Choir, under the direction of Mrs. Robert Broadbent, and accompanied by the church organist, Thomas D. Weisflog. The anniversary service will begin at 11 a.m. Sunday.





## Organ Fund Donations

Mr. & Mrs. Howard Messing  
Miss Marilyn Messing  
Mr. Franklin Meyers  
Miss Carolynne Mickiewicz  
Mr. Jearld Moldenhauer  
Mr. & Mrs. J. R. Moldenhauer  
Mr. Richard Moldenhauer  
Mr & Mrs Oscar Munson  
Mr. Lonnie Nearhood  
Mrs. Albert Nearhood  
Mrs. Herman Nelson  
Rev. & Mrs. J. E. Nelson  
Mrs. John Nixon  
Mr. Albert Olson  
Mr. & Mrs. L. P. Olson  
Miss Helen Olson  
Miss Ruth Olson  
Mr & Mrs. Sigfrid A. Olson  
Mr & Mrs. Robert Outland  
Miss Laraine Outland  
Mr. Einar Pearson  
Miss Elsa Pearson  
A 2/c Einar William Pearson  
Mr. & Mrs. Floyd Peterson  
Mr & Mrs. Edward Pettitt



Niagara Falls Gazette Saturday, Sept. 17, 1966

# Church to Mark End of Mortgage

A project begun 10 years ago terminates Sunday with a mortgage-burning ceremony at Bethany Lutheran Church.

The program will officially mark the liquidation of indebtedness incurred in construction of a new church completed in 1962.

Rev. S. Kenneth Arntsen, pastor, will conduct the ceremony at the morning worship service, aided by Rev. Joshua E. Nelson, under whose pastorate the church was built.

#### Others to Assist

Also assisting will be Theodore J. Antonson, chairman of the board of trustees and chairman of the finance committee during church construction; William Stube, building committee chairman, and Douglas H. Bunston, vice chairman of the church council.

The Bethany Lutheran Church women will sponsor a fellowship hour after the ceremony and service. Chairman of refreshments is Mrs. Hugo Sandstrom.

Two complete silver services, presented to the congregation by the former Ladies Aid Society, will be used for the first time during the fellowship hour.

The new church at the corner of Hyde Park Boulevard and Porter Road was conceived in

1956 by a planning committee comprised of Alex Anderson, chairman, and Peter Sherman, Mr. Stube, Gordon Storin and William Johnson.

The late Charles F. Obenhack was architect for the building which replaced a small frame chapel on the same property.

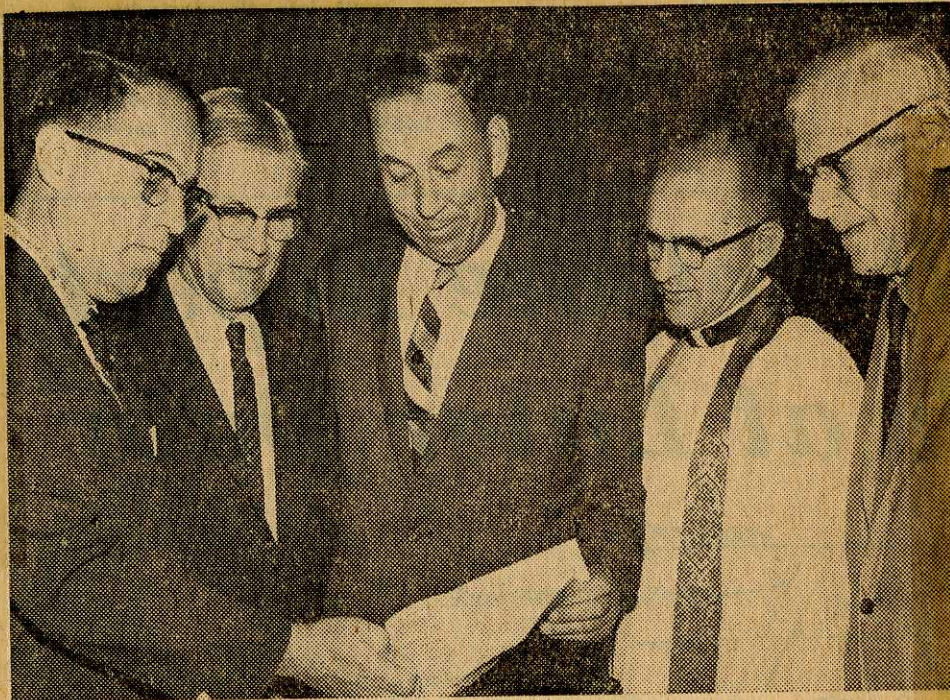
#### Headed Committee

Mr. Stube headed the building committee which incorporated members of the planning committee and Jerauld Moldenhauer, Mrs. R. A. Hartburg, Oscar Munson and Miss Edith Yngve, secretary.

Ground-breaking ceremonies were held Aug. 11, 1957, with construction commencing the next day. Much of the interior work was volunteered by members of the congregation.

Cost of the building was \$69,000. In addition to the mortgage, money from the church building fund and \$27,000 pledged by 70 church families went toward meeting the expenses.

Niagara Falls Gazette - Monday, Sept. 19, 1966



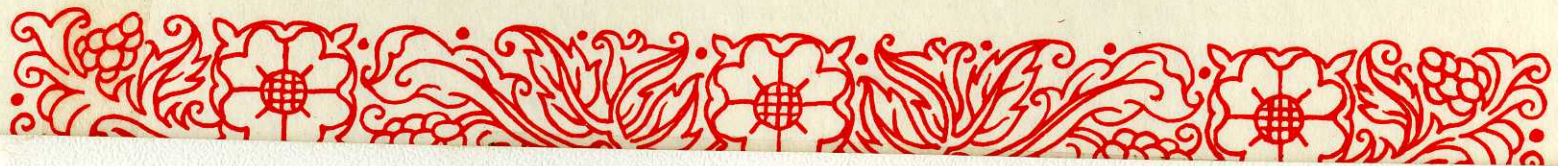
**MORTGAGE BURNING** — Bethany Lutheran Church officials participated in a mortgage-burning ceremony on Sunday which marked the end of indebtedness for the church building which was completed in 1962. Joining in the ceremony, from left, are Douglas

Bunston, vice chairman, Church Council; Theodore Antonson, former chairman of the Board of Trustees; William Stube, chairman of the Building Committee; Rev. S. Kenneth Arntsen, pastor, and Rev. J. E. Nelson, pastor emeritus of Bethany Lutheran Church.

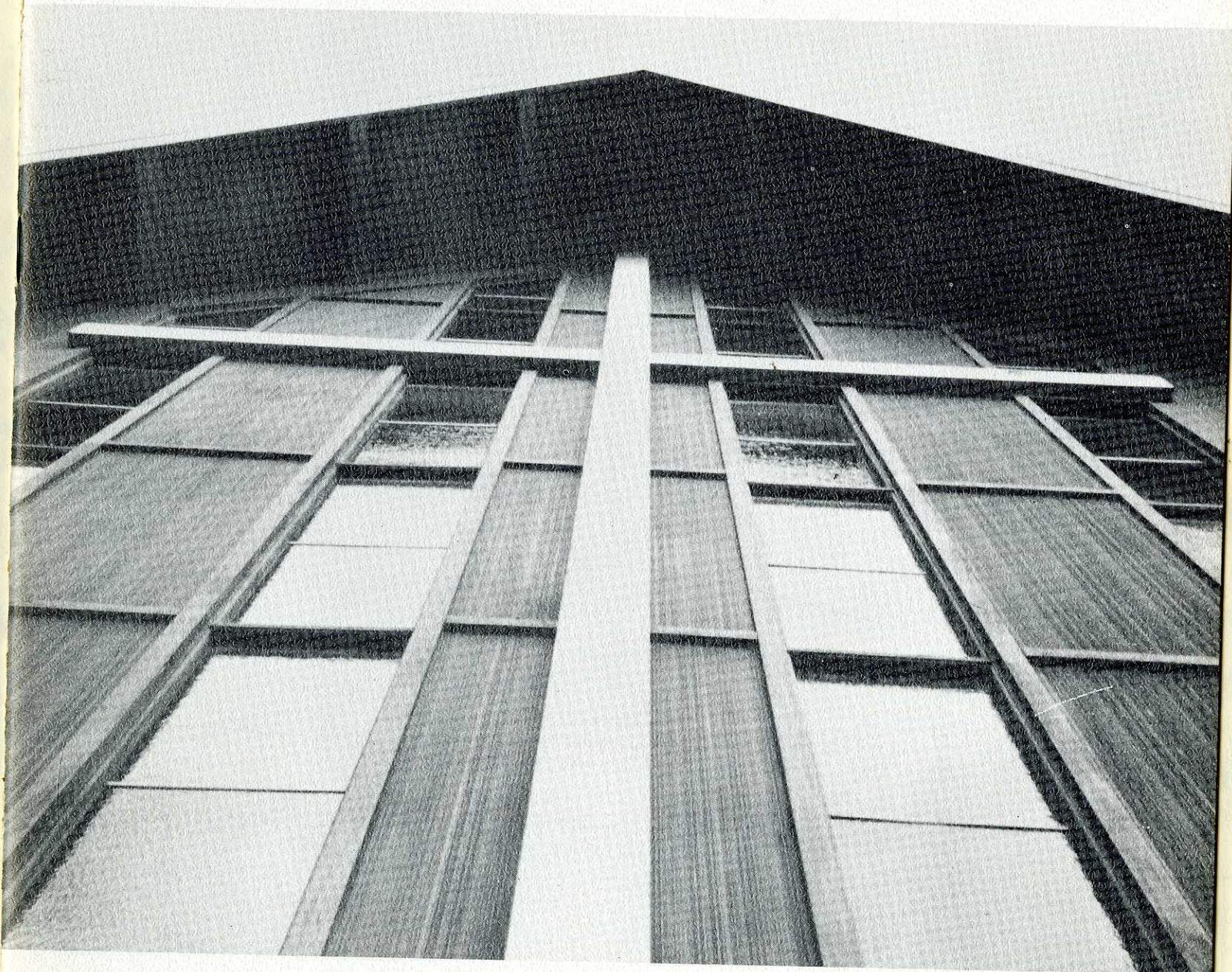


Organ Fund Donations

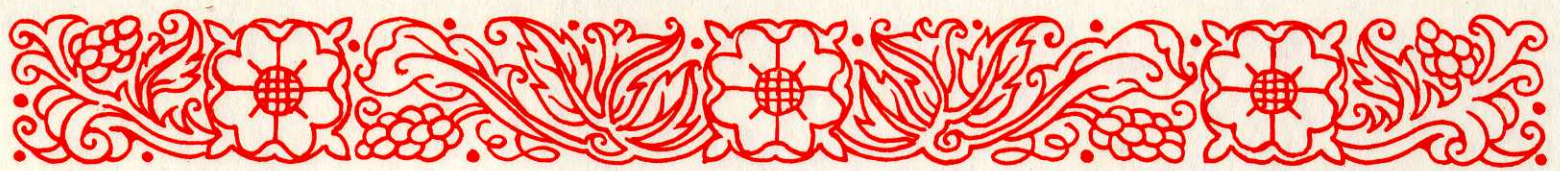
Mr. & Mrs. Edward Phillips  
Mr. Alfred Sandstrom  
Mrs. Arthur Sandstrom  
Miss Gail Sandstrom  
Mr. Gordon Sandstrom  
Mr. & Mrs. Hugo Sandstrom  
Miss Lorene Sandstrom  
Mr. Robert Sandstrom  
Mr. & Mrs. John Schwenkbeck  
Mr. & Mrs. William Scott  
Mrs. Ida Letterblade  
Mr. & Mrs. Richard Sharp  
Miss Diane Shelstad  
Mr. & Mrs. Peter Sherman  
Mr. & Mrs. C. R. Steinwall  
Pvt. Carl Steinwall  
Miss Harriett Stewart  
Pvt. Nelson Stewart  
Miss Barbara Storin  
Miss Brenda Storin  
Miss Carolyn Storin  
Mr. & Mrs. Gordon H. Storin  
Mr. & Mrs. William R. Storr, Jr.  
Miss Karen Stube  
Mr. Roger Stube



**BETHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH 1906/1973**

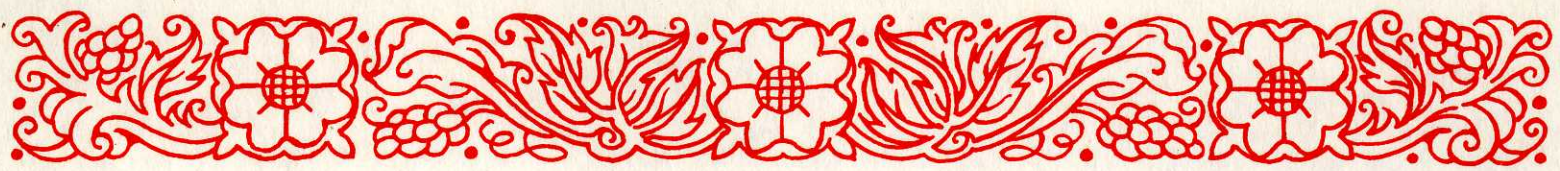


**1941 HYDE PARK BOULEVARD  
AT PORTER ROAD  
NIAGARA FALLS, NEW YORK**



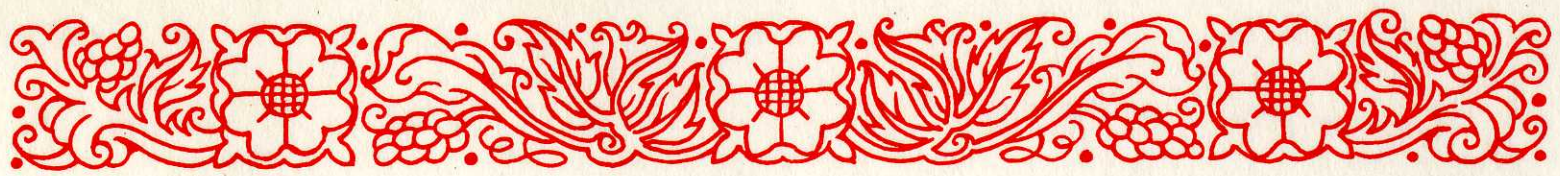
Organ Fund Donations

Mr. & Mrs. William M. Stebe  
Miss Irma Sundling  
Mr. & Mrs. Sigfrid Swanson  
Mrs. Mead Swetland  
Miss Bertha Viberg  
Mrs. Thomas Volante  
Miss Joanne Weisflog  
Mr. Thomas Weisflog  
Mr. & Mrs. John Weisflog  
Mr. & Mrs. M. Bert Winans  
Mr. & Mrs. Martin O. Winans  
Miss Edith Yngve



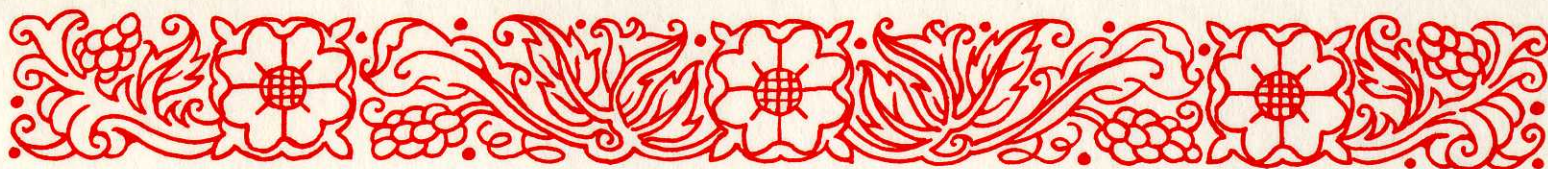
Friends & Non Members Donating To Organ Fund

Mrs. Anna Anderson  
Mrs. May Anderson  
Mr. & Mrs. Robert F. Anderson  
Mr. & Mrs. Claude Annett  
Mr. Neal Annett  
Dr. Dean Babbage  
Miss Gloria A. Baratta  
Mrs. Ruth Barnes  
Mr. & Mrs. A. Horton Bassett  
Mr. Donald L. Bassett  
Dr. Leslie A. A. Benson  
Mr. & Mrs. Felix O. Blixt  
Mr. & Mrs. Dick Brydges.  
Mrs. A. Campbell  
Mr. & Mrs. Carl F. Campbell  
Dr. Donato J. Carbone  
Mr. & Mrs. Walter N. Carlson  
Mrs. Archie Case  
Mr. & Mrs. Lester Case  
Mr. & Mrs. William Cass  
Miss Marie Colosi  
Mr. & Mrs. Erwin Frake  
Mr. & Mrs. Gilbert Fraser  
Mr. & Mrs. Clifford Gawley



Friends Donating to Organ Fund

Mr. & Mrs. Eugene Gebauer.  
Mr. & Mrs. Jack E. Gellman  
Mr. & Mrs. Phillip S. Gellman  
Mr. & Mrs. Vernon Grandin  
Mrs. Mary Harvey  
Mr. & Mrs. Harvey Hayes.  
Mr. & Mrs. T. D. Holby  
Mr. & Mrs. Alfred W. Hopton  
Mrs. Alta Horgan  
Mrs. Marian Jones  
Mr. & Mrs. Arthur Kemp  
Dr. Francis J. Kennedy  
Mr. & Mrs. Richard Kennedy  
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Knowlton  
Mr. & Mrs. Bryant S. Kurtzman  
Mr. & Mrs. Isaac Lammi  
Mrs. Mildred Leinig  
Mr. & Mrs. R. D. Matteson  
Miss Ellen Mortenson  
Dr. R. Osgood  
Mrs. F. E. Peabody  
Mrs. Erma S. Peterson  
Mr. & Mrs. Alexander Reap  
Mr. & Mrs. George Scott  
Mr. & Mrs. Ralph Skinner



Friends Donating to Organ Fund

Mr. & Mrs. Newell Shields  
Mr. Rudolph Stenbeck  
Mrs. Robert Stevens  
Mrs. Susan Stevenson  
Mr. & Mrs. August Strom  
Mr. & Mrs. Andrew P. Swift  
Dr. Thomas K. Terrell  
Mr. Donald Terryberry  
Mr. & Mrs. James P. Terryberry  
Mr. & Mrs. William J. Tilford  
Mr. & Mrs. Norman Tuwie  
Mr. & Mrs. Gerald Volante, Jr.  
Mr. Gerald Volante, Sr.  
Mr. & Mrs. Richard Volante  
Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Volante  
Mrs. J. M. Waincott  
Dr. Alan Winterberger  
Mr. & Mrs. Elmer Worgelen  
Mr. Ronald G. Wright  
Miss Mary C. Wynes  
Mrs. Victoria Yngve





Loved Ones Memorialized Thru Gifts to Organ Fund.

Mr. Axel Anderson.  
Parents of Mr. & Mrs. Axel Anderson  
Mr. Charles Anderson  
Mr. Charles Anderson, Jr.  
Mr. Ernest W. Anderson.  
Mrs. Ida Anderson  
Mrs. Marie Anderson  
Mr. Marius A. Arntsen  
Mr. William M. Arntsen  
Parents of Mr. & Mrs. W. P. Atkison  
Mr. Carl Oscar Blist  
Mrs. Emma C. Blist  
Mr. Elmer Carlson  
Mr. Elmer Carlson  
Mr. Glen Carlson  
Mrs. Ida Carlson  
Mr. Robert Carlson  
Mr. Rudolph Carlson  
Mr. & Mrs. Swan Carlson  
Mr. Sydney Chappell  
Mr. August Dahlgren  
Mrs. Maria Dahlgren  
Mr. Robert Dahlgren  
Miss Sally Rae Eklof



Loved Ones Memorialized By Gifts to Organ Fund

Mr. Carl Frid  
Mr. Carl Elmer Frid  
Mr. Albert Johns  
Mr. & Mrs. Daniel Johns  
Mrs. Annette Johnson  
Mr. & Mrs. Charles Johnson  
Mrs. Thomas Johnson  
Mrs. Gunda Cromwell LaCombe  
Mrs. Hilda C. Landean  
Parents of Mr. & Mrs. Harry Lee  
Loved ones of Mrs. Mildred Leinig  
Mrs. Laura Moy Lewis  
Mr. Arthur MacDonald  
Mrs. Evelyn Martin  
Mr. & Mrs. Albert Messing  
Mrs. Carrie Messing  
Mr. & Mrs. Bernard Nelson  
Parents of Mr. & Mrs. Sigfrid Olson  
Mrs. Grace E. Pearson  
Mrs. William Robson  
Mr. Arthur Sandstrom  
Mrs. Ida B. Scholl  
Mr. Birger Setterblade  
Lt. Russell Setterblade  
Mrs. Emma Steele



Loved Ones Memorialized By Gifts to Organ Fund

Father and brother of Mr. C. R. Steinwall  
Parents of Mrs. C. R. Steinwall  
Mothers of Mr. & Mrs. August Strom  
Mr. Mead Swetland  
Mr. Mauritz Viberg  
Mr. Adolph Yngve.



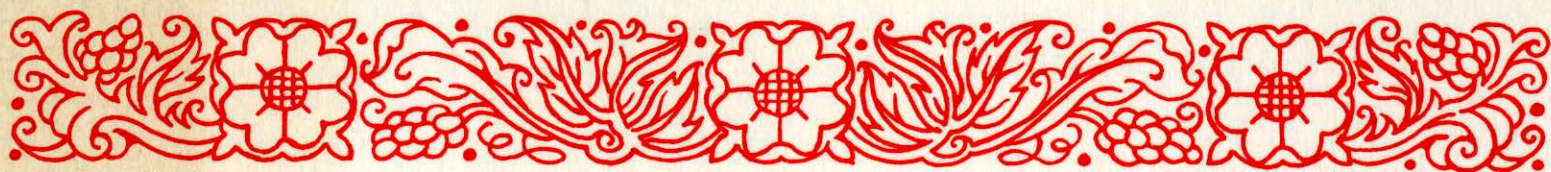
## Pews

In memory of Abel Hartburg - Brother and Sisters

In memory of Mrs. Robert Engve - Mrs. Richard Sharp & Miss Maud Frenberg

In memory of Mrs. Howard Messing (Olive) - Mrs. Irvin Jacobs,

Mrs. Daniel Larson, Mrs. Joseph Zapp, Mrs. Thomas Volante



## Gifts and Memorials

Front and Back Stained Glass Windows in Sanctuary - Bertha Viberg  
in memory of sister Olivia and brothers Henry and Mauritz  
Communion Service - Pastor and Mrs. Nelson - in memory of their parents

Lighted Cross - Mr. and Mrs. Moldenhauer

Credence Table - Mrs. Carl Frid in memory of her husband and son, Carl

Book of Remembrance and Stand - Edith Ingre - in memory of brother J. Robert

Bible for Pulpit - Mr. and Mrs. Atkison

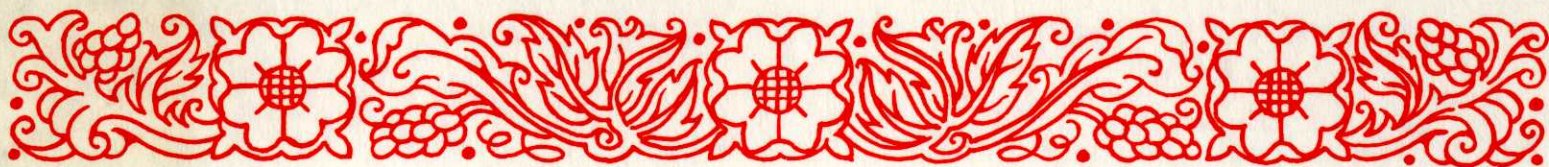
Bible for Lectern - Mr. and Mrs. William Eklof

Gift of money towards payment of carpet in chancel - Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Clarke

Landscaping - J. J. Antonson

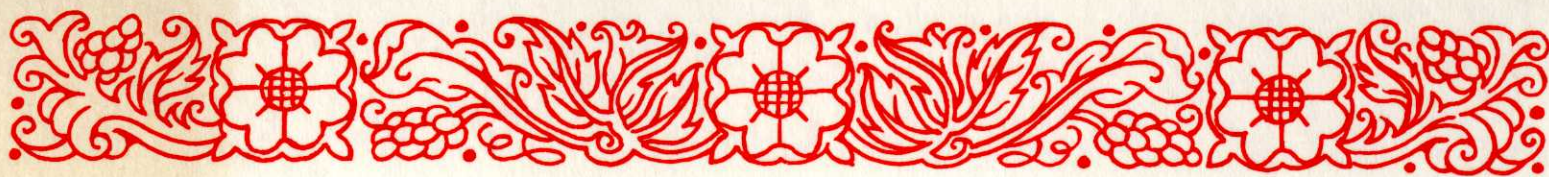
Tables and Chairs for Bethany Hall - Bethany Brotherhood

Hymn Boards - Mr. and Mrs. William Stube



*Gifts and Memorials*

- Sept. 24, 1960 - White, Purple, and Green Altar Hangings  
for Church School Altar
- Oct. 10, 1960 - Lectern in Bethany Hall  
Given by Mr. & Mrs. Oscar Munson
- Oct. 30, 1960 - Chancel Lectern  
Given by Mr. & Mrs. Robert Outland,  
Laraine and Robert in loving memory of  
their parents and grandparents,  
Mr. & Mrs. William C. Outland
- Jan. 18, 1961. - Clock for Bethany Hall  
Given by Mr. & Mrs. William M. Stube
- May 21, 1961 - Sunday Church School Altar in Bethany  
Hall, given by Mrs. Birger Letterblade  
in loving memory of her son,  
Lt. Russell A. Letterblade
- May 21, 1961 - Dossal Curtain on stage in Bethany Hall,  
Given by Bethany Sunday Church School  
Made by Mrs. Marian Arntsen, Mrs. Ida  
Letterblade, Mrs. Esther Storin and  
Mrs. Ruth Stube.



- May 21, 1961 - Red Altar Hanging for Church School Altar  
Made and given by Mrs. Marian Arntsen
- June 15, 1961 - Landscaping around new Church  
Gift of the Bethany Lutheran Churchmen.
- June 25, 1961 - Brass Altar Candlesticks for Altar in Bethany Hall  
Gift of 1961 Confirmation Class and their parents  
Mr. + Mrs. Forrest Gee and Robert  
Mr. + Mrs. Charles Gierack and Charles  
Mr. + Mrs. Paul Harvey and Maryanne
- Oct 1, 1961 - Two Communion Trays and Glasses  
Given by Pastor and Mrs. J. E. Nelson  
in loving memory of their parents
- Nov. 12, 1961 - American Flag and Christian Flag  
Given by Mr. Theodore J. Antonson
- Nov 26, 1961 - Altar Fair Linen  
Made and given by Mrs. Thyra Arntsen,  
in loving memory of her husband,  
Marius R. Arntsen
- April 10, 1962 - Oak Projector Stand for Church School  
Given by Mr. + Mrs. Oscar Munson



- April 15, 1962 - Four Brass Offering Plates  
Given by Miss Bertha C. Viberg  
in loving memory of her parents  
Mr. Johan Wiberg and Mrs. Johanna Anderson Wiberg
- June 15, 1962 - Wrought Iron Railing at Entrance of Church  
Given by Mr. & Mrs. Walter C. Allen
- July 10, 1962 - White Altar Superfrontal and White Pulpit  
and Lectern Falls.  
Given by Bethany Altar Guild and Bethany Circle
- Sept 7, 1962 - Lenticolor Movie Screen for Bethany Hall  
Given by Bethany Luther League
- Sept. 12, 1962 - Drapes for Bethany Hall  
Sewn by Mrs. Evelyn Allen, Mrs. Esther Storin  
and Mrs. Ruth Stube
- Sept. 30, 1962 - Brass Offering Plates for Church School Altar  
in Bethany Hall.  
Given by 1962 Confirmation Class and their parents  
Mr. & Mrs. Angus Henwood and Cheryl  
Mr. & Mrs. Hugo Sandstrom and Lorene  
Mr. & Mrs. John Schwenkebeck and John





- Nov. 4, 1962 - Four Rank Moller Pipe Organ.  
Donors listed in front of book.
- Dec. 20, 1962 - Fair Linen for the Altar  
Given by Mrs. John Weisflog
- Feb. 3, 1963 - Couch for the Church Office  
Given by the Bethany Luther League
- Mar. 10, 1963 - Mahogany Commode Table for Church Office  
Given by Miss Edith Yngve
- June 10, 1963 - Linen Veil for Communion Vessels  
Given by Mrs. Nicholas Aleksivich
- June 25, 1963 - Green Altar Superfrontal, Green Pulpit  
and Lectern Falls  
Given by Bethany Altar Guild  
Sewn by Mrs. Marian Arntsen, Mrs. Esther Sherman,  
Mrs. Anna Olson and Miss Hilder Johnson
- Sept 4, 1963 - Altar Paramount Cabinet  
Given by Miss Ruth Olson  
Made by Mr. Oscar Munson.



- Sept 10, 1963 - Perma-Power Transistor Portable Public Address System  
Given by Bethany Lutheran Church Women
- Mar. 22, 1964 - Purple Altar Superfrontal, Purple Pulpit and  
Lectern Falls  
Given by Mr. & Mrs. E. Burdell Straub, Miami Beach,
- June 15, 1964 - Metal Office Desk for use in Church Office  
Given by Bethany Lutheran Churchmen
- June 19, 1964 - Church School Bulletin Board.  
Given by Mrs. Ethel Cummings  
Made by Mr. Oscar Munson.
- June 19, 1964 - Church School Bulletin Board  
Given by Miss Edith Yngve  
Made by Mr. Oscar Munson
- June 19, 1964 - Royal Electric Typewriter  
Given by Bethany Lutheran Churchwomen.
- Nov. 1, 1964 - Red Pulpit Fall  
Given by Mr. & Mrs. E. B. Straub, Miami Beach, Florida  
in loving memory of her sister,  
Mrs. Elmyra Dale.



Nov. 1, 1964 - Red Lectern Fall  
Given by Mr. & Mrs. W. Perry Atkison  
Both the Red Pulpit Fall and the Lectern Fall  
sewn by Miss Hildur Johnson

Jan. 17, 1965 - Brass Alms Basin  
Given by Miss Edith Johnson  
in loving memory of her parents,  
Mr. & Mrs. Charles Johnson.

April 15, 1965 - Narthex Bulletin Board  
Given by Miss Edith Yngve  
Made by Mr. Oscar Munson

June 15, 1965 - Landscaping of the Church Sign Area -  
Upright Yew Tree.  
1964-65 Women's Bowling Team - Beverly Dale,  
Dorothy Bower, Margaret Broadbent, Evelyn  
Jacobs, Ollie Larson, Ariel Martin and  
Hilda Sandstrom.

Spreading Yew Trees.

Junior Confirmation Class of 1965 - Mrs. J.  
Clive, Florence Bunston, Nancy Gierach,  
James Hill, Timothy Monroe, Laurie Peterson,  
Nancy Schwenkbeck, Paul Sherman



Large Upright Yew.

1964 Confirmation Class and Parents

Mr. & Mrs. Cyril Clive and Linda

Mr. & Mrs. Charles A. Gierach and Richard

Mr. & Mrs. Paul Harvey and Andrew

Mr. & Mrs. Harvey Hayes and Stephen

Mr. & Mrs. Harry Hill and Christine

Mrs. Roy Johnson and Diane

Mr. & Mrs. John Schwenkebeck and Karl.

Mr. & Mrs. Richard Sharp, Judy and Eric

Mr. & Mrs. Peter Sherman and Beth

Spreading Yews.

1966 Confirmation Class and Parents

Mr. & Mrs. Robert Broadbent and Gerald.

Mr. & Mrs. Forrest Gee and Deborah

Mr. & Mrs. Angus Henwood and Robert

Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Martin and Garth

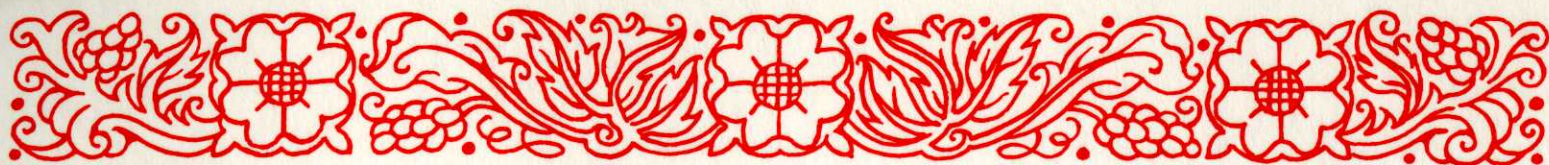
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Outland and Robert

June 24, 1966 - Outdoor Church Sign

Given by members and friends

in loving memory of Mr. Lars P. Olson  
Husband of Mrs. Alma Olson, father of Helen  
and Ruth Olson and Mrs. Esther Storin,

Grandfather of Carolyn, Brenda and Barbara Storin



- Sept. 18, 1966 - Two Sterling Silver Service Sets  
One Silver Flower Bowl  
One Set Three-Armed Candelabra  
Given by former Ladies Aid
- Sept. 18, 1966 - Tostoria Crystal Four Gallon Punch Bowl  
with Matching Stand and Ladle  
Given by Mrs. Evelyn Jacobs and Mrs. Beulah  
Messing.
- Sept. 18, 1966 - Two Vinyl Palm Plants  
Given by the Bethany Altar Guild
- Mar. 19, 1967 - Altar Candelabra Tube Assemblies  
Given by members and friends in loving  
memory of Mr. Elmer Johnson.  
late husband of Mrs. Anna Johnson, Tucson, Arizona
- Mar. 19, 1967 - Brass Offering Plate  
Given by Miss Edith Johnson  
in loving memory of her parents  
Mr. & Mrs. Charles Johnson



Mar. 19, 1967 - Standing Brass Floor Candelabra.  
Given by members and friends in  
loving memory of Mr. Richard A. Hartburg,  
Husband of Mrs. Emma Hartburg, and father of  
Mrs. William Clark, Mrs. Thomas Justice,  
and Mrs. John Nixon.

May 28, 1967 - Yamaha Church Piano  
Given by members and friends in  
loving memory of Mrs. Elsa Crocker,  
wife of Mr. Glenn Crocker, daughter of  
Mr. Einar Pearson, and sister of Mrs.  
Edward Phillips and Mr. William Pearson.

In loving memory of Mrs. Mary Harvey,  
mother of Mr. Paul Harvey, and  
grandmother of Maryanne & Andrew Harvey.

In loving memory of Miss Bertha Viberg,  
Charter member of Bethany.



May 28, 1967 - Five Copies of the Holy Bible  
Given by 1967 Confirmation Class  
and their parents  
Mr. & Mrs. Douglas Bunston and Florence  
Mr. & Mrs. Charles Gierach and Nancy  
Mr. & Mrs. Harry Hill and James  
Mr. & Mrs. John Schwenkbeck and Nancy  
Mr. & Mrs. Peter Sherman and Paul

June 11, 1967 Church Sound System  
Given by members and friends  
in loving memory of  
Mr. and Mrs. Milford R. Dale  
parents of Miss Beverly Dale and  
Mr. Richard Dale.

May 31, 1968 - Steel File and Two Office Chairs  
Given by members and friends  
in loving memory of  
Mr. Thomas Justice, husband of  
Mrs. Arlene Justice, and father of  
Tom Justice and Nan Hammer.



Dec. 1, 1968 -

Lectionaries given by members and friends  
in loving memory of Mrs. Hilma  
Anderson, mother of Miss Dorothy  
Anderson and Miss Victoria Anderson

In loving memory of Mr. Albert Gierach,  
father of Mr. Charles Gierach.

In loving memory of Mr. & Mrs. Milford  
Dale, by their daughter, Miss Beverly Dale.

Dec. 1968

New Concrete Driveway and Apron given by  
members and friends in loving memory of  
Mr. Samuel Nelson, brother of Pastor  
Emeritus Joshua Nelson.

In loving memory of Mr. Albert Olson,  
father of Mrs. Nicholas Aleksivich, Mrs  
Peter Sherman and Mr. Bert Olson

A gift from Mr. & Mrs. Gordon Storin & family.

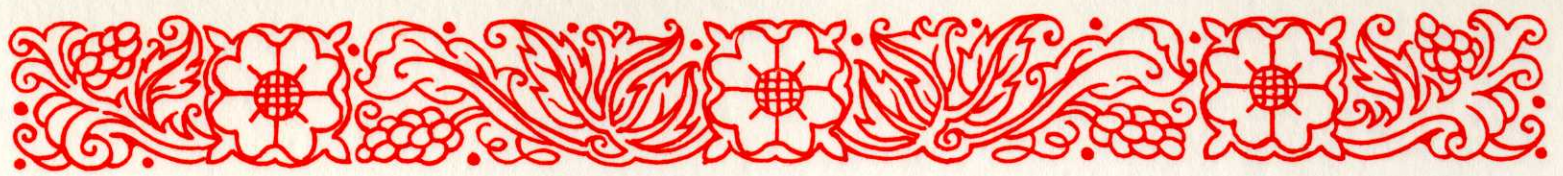




July 31, 1968 -

Air Conditioner for Pastor's Study  
was given by friends and members  
in loving memory of the following:

Mr. Marius Arntsen  
Mr. William Arntsen  
Mrs. Anna Elstrodt  
Mr. Oscar Sid Johnson  
Mrs. Emma Rigge  
Mrs. Mina Specht  
Mr. Floyd Swanson  
Mrs. Alma Wicklund  
Mr. James Wood  
Mr. Alva Rice  
Mr. James Dryden  
Mr. Elmer Johnson  
President John F. Kennedy  
Mr. John Zygonce  
Mrs. Selma Magnuson  
Mr. Gustave Anderson  
Mrs. Charles Forsythe  
Mr. Oscar Hartburg  
Mrs. August Strom  
Mrs. Mildred Wiseman



June 1968 - Two Copies of Young Peoples Bible Dictionary  
by 1968 Confirmation Class and their parents  
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Broadbent and Linnea.  
Mr. & Mrs. John Schwenkbeck, Ruth and Robert.

Jan. 1969 - Repair and replace Stained Glass Windows  
Install Plexiglass Panel over windows  
In Loving Memory of :

Mrs. Orville Bower  
Mrs. Sophie Carlson  
Mrs. Ann Chappell  
Mrs. Elsa Crocker  
Mr. William Euller  
Mrs. Charles Harper  
Mr. Richard Hartburg  
Mr. Carl Johnson  
Mr. & Mrs. Charles Johnson  
Mr. Thomas Justice  
Mrs. Myrtle Krick  
Mr. Elvie Lockhart  
Mr. Robert MacDonald  
Mrs. Dorothy Mollnow  
Mr. Lonnie Nearhood



Mr. Samuel Nelson  
Mr. Arthur Sandstrom  
Mr. William Stube Sr.  
Miss Bertha Viberg

Feb. 1969 - G. E. Portable Stereo Record Player  
Given by members and friends in  
loving memory of Mr. Bernard Aderman

Dec. 1969 - Memorial Funds donated to "Act"  
by members and friends in loving  
memory of Mrs. Alma Olson.

May 1970 - New Typewriter  
Given in loving memory of Miss  
Bertha Viberg

Sept 1970 Refurnishing of Nelson Room.  
Donated in loving memory of  
Pastor and Mrs. J. Nelson  
Mr. & Mrs. Ted Pettit  
Miss Bertha Viberg  
Mr. Fred Johnson



March 1971 - Communion Linens -  
Given by members and friends in  
loving memory of Mr. Bernard Aderman,  
husband of Mrs. Dorothy Aderman.