

# Silver Anniversary

1924 - 1949

Faith Lutheran Church  
HILLIARD ROAD and WOODWARD AVENUE  
LAKEWOOD, OHIO



Our Altar

# *Anniversary Services*

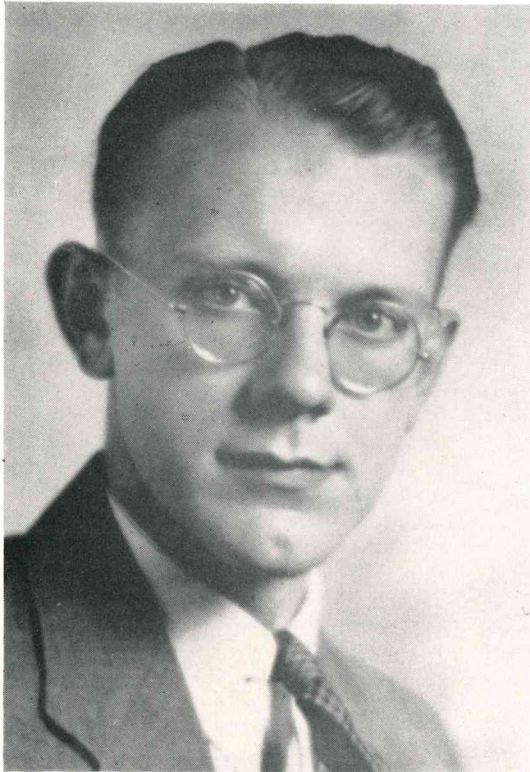
PROGRAM FOR SUNDAY, OCTOBER 2, 1949

A service of praise and thanksgiving to God and dedicated to the children of our Church.

THE PREACHER FOR THIS DAY: The Rev. J. Wm. Althaus, Toledo, Ohio.

THE SERMON THEME: "A Lamp Unto My Feet."

A SPECIAL ANNIVERSARY ORGAN RECITAL—By Paul Street . . . 4:00 P.M.



THE REV. J. WM. ALTHAUS is as yet the only man from Faith Congregation who has entered the Christian Ministry. It is for that reason that he has been invited to be our preacher this morning.

Pastor Althaus attended our Sunday School and was confirmed in our Church in 1928. He entered Capital University in 1932 and graduated from the Seminary and was ordained June 11, 1939. His first pastorate was at Port Clinton, 1939-1942. He served as a chaplain in the army, spending 27 months overseas in the European Theatre. He became pastor of the Lutheran Church in Howell, Michigan, and served there from 1946 to 1948. He is now the pastor of Bethel Lutheran Church in Toledo, Ohio. He is married and has one son. We are happy to have him return to us as our guest preacher today.

## THE ONWARD MARCH OF FAITH

Faith Lutheran Church of Lakewood, Ohio, was established by the Home Mission Board of the Evangelical Lutheran Joint Synod of Ohio in the year of our Lord, 1924.

The first meeting of this new mission was held on September 7, 1924, in a store-room at 15635 Madison Avenue, with the Rev. Edward W. Schramm, who had accepted a call as missionary to this field while he was still a student at the Theological Seminary of Capital University, Columbus, Ohio, conducting the service. A constitution was adopted on October 13, 1924, at which time Rev. Schramm was officially elected as pastor of the newly organized church, his installation to office taking place on November 16, 1924. At about this time arrangements were made to worship in the Madison School Building and services were conducted there until February, 1926. The first Church Council meeting was held at the home of Rev. Schramm in May, 1925.

During the summer of 1925 several lots were purchased on the corner of Hilliard Road and Woodward Avenue as a site for a new church building. On September 29th of this same year the Church Council reached the momentous decision to have the architects proceed with the plans for the first unit, or basement, of our church structure. The cornerstone of our first building was laid on December 20, 1925. This basement church, which had a seating capacity of 230, was dedicated on February 21, 1926, the Rev. George C. Wagner of Akron, Ohio, delivering the dedicatory sermon.

# *Anniversary Services*

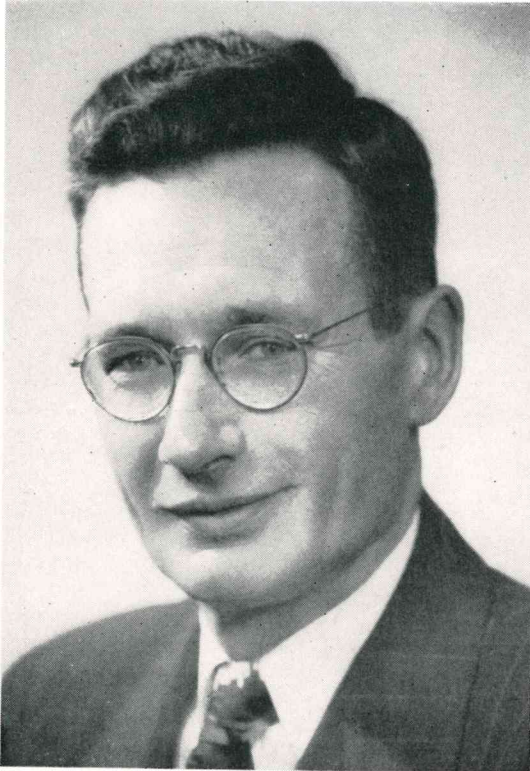
PROGRAM FOR SUNDAY, OCTOBER 9, 1949

A service of praise and thanksgiving to God and dedicated to the Women of our Church.

THE PREACHER FOR THE DAY: The Rev. Edw. Schramm, D.D., Columbus, Ohio.

THE SERMON THEME: "Is Your Name Mary?"

A Special Anniversary Harp Recital—By Dorothy Dregalla Henschen . . . 4:00 P.M.



THE REV. EDW. SCHRAMM was the first pastor of Faith Church. His home was in Butler, Pa. He attended Capital University and graduated from the Seminary there in the spring of 1924. He came to Lakewood in August of 1924 for the purpose of trying to organize a congregation here. He served here until November of 1926. He served in San Antonio from 1926 to 1928. He was appointed editor of the Lutheran Standard, the official paper of the American Lutheran Church, in 1929 and has since continued to fill that position admirably. His first wife who helped so faithfully with the work here in Lakewood departed this life in 1929. His present wife and son John now live in Columbus, Ohio. He is the author of several books. We are happy and honored to have our first pastor with us today as our guest preacher.

## THE ONWARD MARCH OF FAITH

(Continued)

Our congregation had occupied its new home for only a few months when it became necessary to grant Pastor Schramm a leave of absence on account of the serious illness of his wife. The Rev. J. F. A. Lautenschlager, retired pastor of Massillon, Ohio, was requested to serve our congregation during our pastor's absence. Rev. Lautenschlager served us from November 28, 1926, to July 1, 1928. During this period the health of Mrs. Schramm had shown very little improvement and in May, 1928, the congregation received, and with very much regret, accepted the resignation of Rev. Schramm.

Immediately following the resignation of Rev. Schramm a call was sent to The Rev. J. J. Lippoldt, who at that time was a student at the Theological Seminary of Capital University, requesting that he serve our congregation as pastor. The call was accepted and Rev. Lippoldt was installed on July 8, 1928, by Rev. G. C. Gast, D.D., assisted by Rev. N. A. Menter.

By early 1930 the confirmed membership of our congregation had reached the two-hundred mark and the baptized membership was over three hundred. At this time it became apparent that the size of our church building must be increased in order that it might keep pace with our growth in numerical strength. On May 7, 1931, at a congregational meeting, a decision was reached to go forward with a church building program that was to provide a seating capacity of more than five hundred and with adequate provisions for a fast-growing Sunday School.

# *Anniversary Services*

PROGRAM FOR SUNDAY, OCTOBER 16, 1949

THE CELEBRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION.

THE PREACHER FOR THE DAY: Rev. Marvin E. Wilt.

THE SERMON THEME: "Do You Love Him?"

THE ANNIVERSARY CONGREGATIONAL FELLOWSHIP DINNER . . . 6:30 P.M.

Our present Pastor, the Rev. Marvin E. Wilt, is our preacher for this day which has been set aside for the purpose of special celebration of our 25th Anniversary and for our extraordinary spiritual privilege of receiving the Lord's Supper. Like the rest, our present pastor is a graduate of Capital University and completed his Seminary work in the spring of 1938. From July of that year until February of 1942 he served as the assistant pastor in Grace Lutheran Church, Columbus, Ohio. He moved to Lakewood with his wife in February 1942. Pastor and Mrs. Wilt have one child, a daughter, Marilyn.

## THE ONWARD MARCH OF FAITH

(Continued)

This ambitious program was made possible by the financial assistance given us by the American Lutheran Church. Dr. Poppen, President of the American Lutheran Church, assisted us in the securing of a loan of \$45,000.00 from the Investment Fund and Dr. Lehmann appeared in our behalf in the arranging of a loan of \$25,000.00 from the Synodical Building Fund. We have always been very grateful that Almighty God in His wisdom has provided men such as these to lead us and to intercede for us in our times of need.

Ground was broken for the addition to the basement church on August 4, 1931, the cornerstone for the new edifice being laid on September 27, 1931, the Rev. E. E. Mutschmann delivering the address and Pastor Lippoldt laying the cornerstone.

Services were held in the Harding School Auditorium while work proceeded on the church structure. The new church building, completed by the Grace of God, was dedicated in His Name and to His Glory, on Easter Sunday, March 27, 1932. This was less than eight years from the time of the meeting held in the empty store room at 15635 Madison Avenue in the year of 1924. By the end of 1932 our confirmed membership had reached 315 souls and our baptized membership, 485.

On July 22, 1934, Rev. Lippoldt, due to ill health, submitted a letter of resignation to the congregation. Pastor Lippoldt's labors in our midst had been very successful and borne much fruit, and because of this his resignation was accepted with much regret.

Dr. Emmanuel Poppen, President of the Ohio District of the American Lutheran Church, was again called upon for assistance and counsel. Dr. Poppen recommended that we send a call to Rev. Arthur P. Michelfelder of Junction City, Ohio. Following a unanimous decision of the congregation at a special meeting held on August 12, 1934, a call was sent to Rev. Michelfelder who accepted same and was installed as our pastor on September 15, 1934.

Due to forces of the depression our congregation was very hard pressed to meet its financial obligations during the 1930's. However, through careful management of our financial problems all obligations and liens were disposed of by September 1939, with the exception of a first mortgage which was held by the American Lutheran Church. This mortgage was in the total amount of \$87,000.00, together with an unpaid interest charge of approximately \$15,000.00, making a total indebtedness of approximately \$102,000.00.

During the latter part of the year 1939, arrangements were made with the American Lutheran Church through Rev. Meuser, Executive Secretary, whereby the back interest charge of \$15,000.00 would be waived provided we pay \$2,000.00 to apply against the principal of the mortgage by January, 1940, and follow up with payments of \$2,250.00 per year until economic changes, at which time the problem was to be re-appraised.

# Anniversary Services

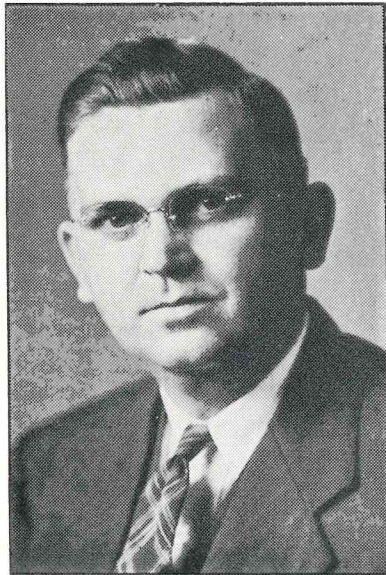
PROGRAM FOR SUNDAY, OCTOBER 23, 1949

A service of praise and thanksgiving to God and dedicated to the Youth of Our Church.

**THE PREACHER FOR THE DAY:** The Rev. James W. Schillinger, Columbus, Ohio, the former president of the Ohio District of the American Lutheran Church.

**THE SERMON THEME:** "On This Silver Jubilee, We Renew Our Pledge to Give All Honor to Jesus."

**ANNIVERSARY VESPER YOUTH SERVICE** . . . . . Presented by the Luther Leagues . . . . . 4:00 P.M.



**THE REV. J. J. LIPPOLDT** was the second pastor of our church. His home was in Holland, Indiana, from which he went to Capital University and graduated from the Seminary in June of 1928. He came directly from school to our church and served from 1928 to 1934. Since then he has been serving the Our Savior Lutheran Parish in and near Platteville, Wisconsin. His two daughters, both born in Lakewood, together with Pastor and Mrs. Lippoldt live in Platteville, Wis. We deeply regret that they have not found it possible to be with us at any time during our Anniversary celebration.

## THE ONWARD MARCH OF FAITH

(Continued)

In August of 1941, Rev. Michelfelder received a call from St. Mark's Lutheran Church in Columbus, Ohio. At a special Congregational Meeting held on August 24, 1941, he was given a vote of confidence and by unanimous vote was requested to remain here at Faith Lutheran Church. However, Pastor Michelfelder felt that he had received a challenge from his Master to labor in the new field at Columbus, and reluctantly requested his release. This request was very regretfully, but unanimously granted.

Rev. James W. Schillinger, Ohio District President, arranged for Rev. Albrecht of Columbus, Ohio, to act as our spiritual advisor and preacher until a new pastor could be obtained. Pastor Albrecht served us faithfully from September, 1941, until February, 1942, commuting each week end from Columbus to Lakewood.

Following the recommendation of Rev. Schillinger, made at a special Congregational meeting, held on January 11, 1942, a call was extended to Rev. Marvin E. Wilt of Columbus, Ohio. This call was accepted and Pastor Wilt was installed on February 15, 1942, Rev. Schillinger officiating.

Our membership as of January 1, 1942, had grown to 432 confirmed members and 561 baptized members. Our indebtedness to the American Lutheran Church was approximately \$81,000.00. The problem of how to liquidate this large debt within a reasonable time presented a major question for the whole congregation.

# Anniversary Services

PROGRAM FOR SUNDAY, OCTOBER 30, 1949

A service of praise and thanksgiving to God and dedicated to the Men of Our Church.

THE PREACHER FOR THE DAY: The Rev. Arthur P. Michelfelder, Columbus, Ohio

THE SERMON THEME: "Heroes of Faith."

An ANNIVERSARY CANTATA AND VESPER SERVICE presented by the Senior Choir . . . . . 4:00 P. M.



THE REV. ARTHUR P. MICHEL-FELDER was the third regular pastor who served our Church. His home was in New Washington, Ohio, where he was born, raised and confirmed in the St. John's Lutheran Church. He attended the academy at Capital University for one year and then continued to study in the college and seminary. He completed his theological training in 1931 and was ordained in June of that year. He served as the pastor of the New Lebanon Lutheran Church, Junction City, Ohio, from 1931 to 1934. He was installed as the pastor of our church in September of 1934 and served until September of 1941, when he became the pastor of St. Mark's Lutheran Church, Columbus, Ohio. Pastor and Mrs. Michelfelder have two children, Margaret and Robert. We are happy to have them here with us today to join in our joyful anniversary.

## THE ONWARD MARCH OF FAITH

(Continued)

On March 15, 1942, a special drive, known as the Tenth Anniversary Fund Campaign, was launched. The purpose of this drive was to raise approximately \$16,000.00 within the next two years thereby reducing our indebtedness from \$81,000.00 to \$65,000.00. This was accomplished by the Grace and to the Glory of God, together with the splendid cooperation of the entire congregation, by May 1944. This was real progress, since in 1939, only five years previous to this date, our indebtedness to the American Lutheran Church was \$87,000.00.

The year of 1944 was the Twentieth Anniversary of the founding of Faith Lutheran Church and a special drive was made to increase our membership by twenty per cent. Through much hard work by our pastor, assisted by many willing workers in the congregation, at the end of the year of 1944 our confirmed members numbered 548 and our baptized membership was 727. Our indebtedness had been reduced to \$60,000.00.

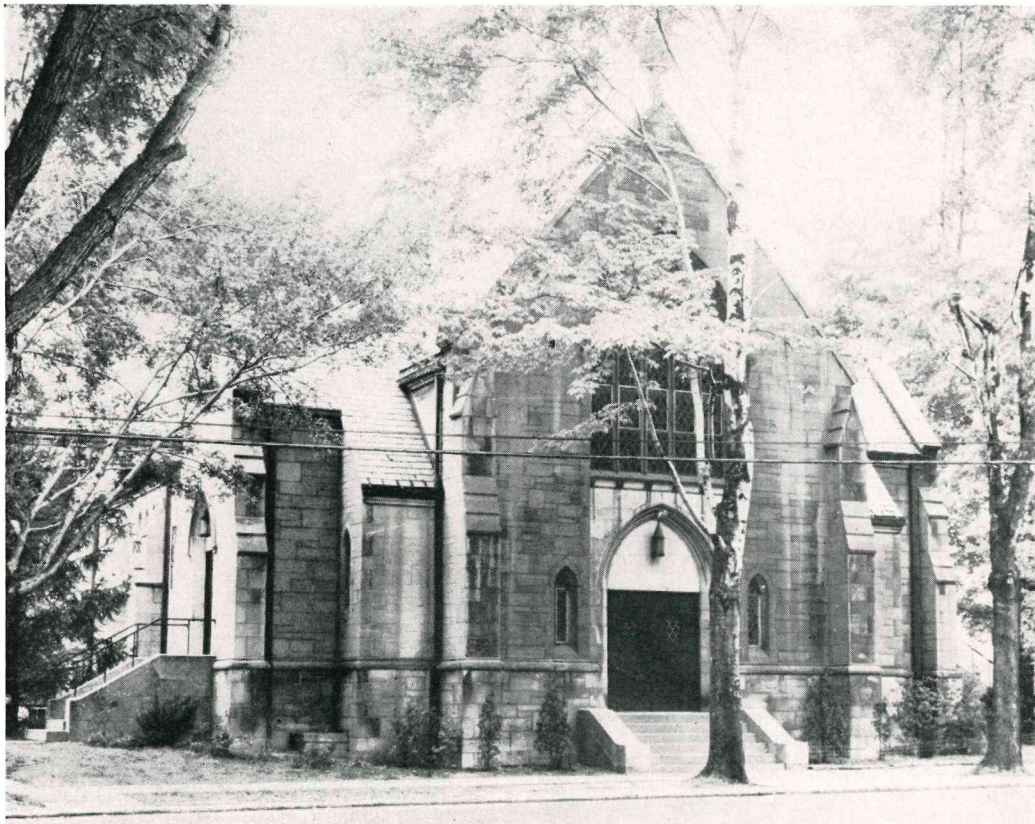
Faith Lutheran Church was unusually well represented in the armed forces of our country during the Second World War. The maximum number in service was reached in 1944 when eighty-five Sons and Daughters of our church wore the colors of our

## THE ONWARD MARCH OF FAITH

(Continued)

country. We are very grateful and thankful to our Lord God for the fact that by His Grace, all eighty-five returned home safely. Our Church, under the leadership of Pastor Wilt, participated in many worthwhile wartime activities, such as the collection and shipment of food and clothing to the destitute peoples of wartorn countries of Europe and in the many activities of the Red Cross.

In the month of June, 1946, with our indebtedness standing at \$50,000.00 an agreement was reached with the American Lutheran Church whereby we were to reduce the principal of our mortgage by the sum of \$5,000.00 each year for the next five years, interest to be at the rate of 3% per annum for the first two years and 3½% for the last three years of the agreement. By meeting this obligation our indebtedness will be reduced to \$25,000.00 by July 1, 1951. By the end of the year of 1946 our confirmed membership had grown to 605 and our baptized membership to 815. The principal of our mortgage had been reduced to \$45,000.00 by a payment of \$5,000.00 during the first six months of our new arrangement with the American Lutheran Church.



*The Main Entrance of Our Church*





*Our Parsonage*

In October of 1947 a home, located at 2197 Northland Avenue, Lakewood, was purchased for the sum of \$16,500.00 to be used as a parsonage for our pastor and his family.

On September 1, 1949, our confirmed membership was 760 and our baptized membership was 1014. Our indebtedness to the American Lutheran Church stood at \$34,000.00 and the mortgage on the parsonage was down to \$2700.00, making a total indebtedness of \$36,700.00.

Our goal for the year 1949 is that we eliminate completely the mortgage on the parsonage and that we reduce the principal of the mortgage held by the American Lutheran Church to \$30,000.00. This we can accomplish with the help of God and the cooperation of our membership. However, desirable as it may be to reach the above goal, it is of much greater importance that we strive for a gain in spiritual strength, so that we may be worthy of worshipping in this beautiful edifice erected to the Glory of God and dedicated for our use in serving Him.



## *Where We Worship*

The building in which we of Faith Church are privileged to worship is one which has about it the air of devotion. From the outside it is evident to anyone passing by that it is a church dedicated to the worship of God. It is built solidly of Indiana limestone and gives an appearance of coziness and warmth despite the fact that it easily seats more than 550 worshippers. Its architecture seems reminiscent of the English country chapels. It has many of the lines of a Gothic building yet lacking the embellishments and the massiveness of the European Gothic churches.



*Our Church (North side)*

As the worshipper enters our church it should be easy to enter into the spirit of worship. The church itself is a cruciform, that is, the floor plan of the church is in the shape of a cross. Here and there throughout the building can be seen the Christian symbols which ought to aid in putting into the mind of the worshiper the true purpose of his presence there. The church itself is bright and cheerful, being flooded with light from the leaded cathedral glass casement windows. But in contrast to the light coming through the windows, when one looks upward to the high open timbered roof our sight seems to be lost in the shadows. It fosters the idea of looking upward to thoughts of God and His holiness and greatness.

The focal point in the church is always the altar. It seems to center our thoughts especially upon the precious gift of the Holy Sacrament of the Lord's Supper which is served from that altar. The Lord's Body and Blood which Christ gives to us in this Sacrament assures us of Christ's desire to come into each of us and fill us with His presence. The two Eucharist candles upon the altar remind us of the God-man, Jesus Christ, who combined in Himself both the divine and the human nature. The altar in Faith Church is of stone. It is substantial and permanent, reminiscent of the God whom we worship and the gifts which He bestows upon Christians. The reredos, or the back of the altar, is of wood and embellished with carving. A brass cross stands in the center with

three candles on each side. The cross always speaks of Christ and His redeeming sacrifice. The candles, one for each of the three persons of the Godhead, are an ancient symbol of God who is the true bringer of light and eternal salvation into the lives of men. Jesus said, "I am the light of the world." The seven branched candelabra which stand on the floor of the chancel at each side of the altar carry that same thought. It reminds many Christians of the seven-branched candelabra which God directed should be placed in the Tabernacle and which also stood in the Holy place of the Old Testament Temple.

Prominent in their position at the very front of the Chancel are the Lectern and Pulpit. The Lectern is the reading stand from which the Gospel and Epistle Lessons are read each Sunday. The Pulpit is the position from which the Word of God is applied and explained by the pastor. These two pieces of furniture are placed in such positions to give evidence of the importance of the Word of God which is the food upon which Christians must be continually fed. On them, as well as on the altar, are placed cloth hangings of different colors. The colors are to symbolize the character of the day of the Church Year. White is used on special festival days when the purity and holiness of God and His Acts on behalf of mankind are to be set forth. White is always symbolic of purity and therefore also of God. Violet or purple hangings are used during Advent and Lent. It reminds us of our Lord and King. Advent speaks of the coming of our King, while Lent sets forth the suffering of Jesus endured in order that He might become our Lord and King. Green hangings are used during that season of the Church Year when our attention is to be directed toward the Christian's growth. Green is the color of growing plants in nature and reminds us that as Christians we must continually grow or else our faith will die. Red hangings are now also being supplied. The red or scarlet color is to remind us of the blood and fire of those who bled and died for their faith. It is used on church Anniversaries, Pentecost, Trinity, Thanksgiving and Reformation.

The worshiper is to be reminded of the Sacrament of Baptism by which we enter the Christian Church. The Baptismal Font stands at the one arm of the cruciform toward the north side of the Church, on the right side of the worshiper. The Font is of stone and has engraved upon it the words, "In the Name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost." That is the command which Jesus gave concerning Baptism, "Go . . . baptizing them in the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost."

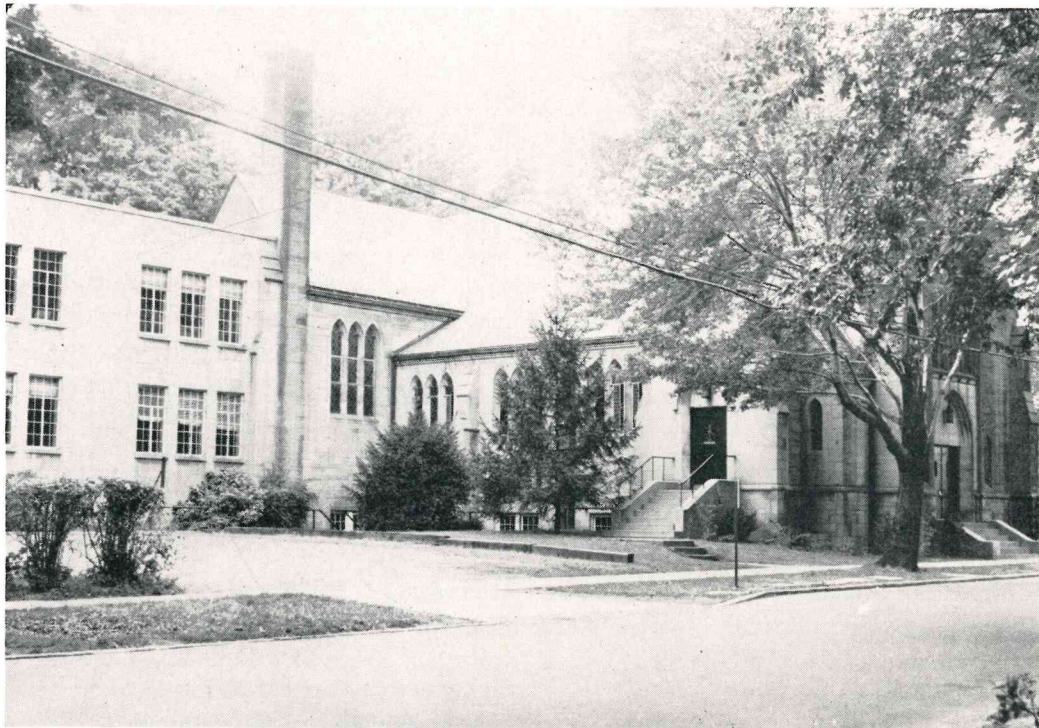
Music is always a great factor in helping to create an atmosphere for true worship and devotion. Faith Church is fortunate in having a pipe organ which is capable of producing the finest tones and music. It was built by the Reuter Company of Lawrence, Kansas. It is a three manual instrument, consisting of four separate divisions, namely, The Great, Swell, Choir, and Pedal. The speaking pipes of the organ are arranged in two large chambers. Behind the two grills in the transept, and the one in the Chancel are the tone openings through which the tone of the organ enters the church auditorium. There are thirty-three speaking stops in the organ, representing a total of 1,439 speaking pipes. In addition the organ also contains a set of Chimes of twenty tubular bells and a Harp Celeste of forty-nine metal bars. The pipes range in size from the longest, which is about eighteen feet in length and practically large enough for a person to get into, down to the shortest, whose speaking length is only about one-fourth of an inch and the diameter smaller than a lead pencil.

All who have heard the organ agree as to the sweetness and richness of tone that it possesses. It provides sufficient flexibility to provide truly varied and expressive combinations. It is truly a grand experience to hear our organ under the skillful and artistic touch of our organist.

Facing the altar of our Church we observe an arched door on the left and right of the Chancel.

Through the door to the right we find an outer office for the Church Secretary, then our Pastor's study with a book room and wash room. Stairs lead both to an exit on Hilliard Road and to the basement.

Through the arched door to the left of the Chancel we have our Church Office. A Chapel seating about 75 persons is also on this floor. Off the Chapel we have a small Sunday School room. Further down the hall we have our choir robe room, a class room, a ladies' lounge and stairs to the basement and second floor. These stairways, one at the rear and the other at the side exit, are of fireproof construction and could serve as fire escapes.



*The Education Unit of Our Church*

On the second floor we have 6 Sunday School rooms each equipped with permanent seats and black boards, except the beginners' room which has small chairs.

As we enter our church from Woodward Avenue we find a door to the right and one to our left. On the left is a small public rest room and on the right are stairs leading to the basement. In the basement we find our cloak room and a small dining room. Off of this is our church kitchen equipped with large gas range, electric refrigerator and steam tables, dishes, coffee urns and cooking utensils.

From the kitchen we enter our Sunday School general assembly room and main dining room. This room has a stage completely lighted and equipped for small plays which our various organizations present from time to time. It also provides space for dinners and banquets. We have tables and space here for serving about 300 people.

To the right of the stage we have 2 Sunday School rooms. To the left we have our heating plant which is a coal fired low pressure steam plant equipped with stoker.

Our church is also equipped with a portable loud speaker system that can be used in the church proper or any other part of the building or to broadcast the music of our church organ outside.

In the rear of the church is parking space for about 20 cars which is floodlighted at night.

We maintain a nursery each Sunday for taking care of young children. Ours is a family church earnestly seeking to serve the spiritual needs of all ages.

### HOW OUR CHURCH IS GOVERNED

The highest power lies in the Congregation as expressed by the decision of the voting members. All organizations and schools are organized with the consent and labor under the control of the congregation.

Officers of the congregation consist of the pastor, who acts as president, two elders, the senior of which acts as vice-president, four deacons, five trustees, one recording secretary, one financial secretary, one treasurer, and one Sunday School superintendent. These officers constitute the Church Council whose duties are to see that all laws and regulations of the congregation are rightfully executed and that discipline is properly exercised. The Church Council meets the first Tuesday of each month.

The President of the congregation is also chairman of the Church Council and presides at all meetings of the congregation and the Church Council. He also performs such other duties as may be required of him by virtue of his office.

The Vice-President performs all duties of the president in the absence or disability of the president or when requested to do so by the president, the congregation or the council.

The Elders are responsible for the safeguarding of the spiritual welfare of the congregation, that the doctrine preached and taught are in accordance with God's Word and the Confessions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church. They assist the Pastor in visiting the sick and distressed.

It is the responsibility of the Deacons to look after the financial obligations of the individual members of the congregation, and to see that the necessary funds are gathered in a regular and orderly manner. Also to officiate in the preparation of the church for services.

The Trustees are responsible for the care of the church property, to see that it is kept in good repair and appearance and that any special assessments against the property are paid.

The Recording Secretary keeps accurate minutes of all meetings of the Church Council and Congregation and conducts necessary correspondence.

The Financial Secretary supervises the Every-Member Canvass, keeps records of individual pledges and payments of members of the congregation.

The Treasurer receives and deposits all monies, issues checks in payment of all obligations as ordered by the Finance Committee and approved by the Church Council. He presents financial statements at the regular meetings of the Church Council and at meetings of the congregation submits an account of all receipts and disbursements.

The Sunday School Superintendent is the head of the Sunday School and reports to the Church Council with such recommendations as the best interests of the school may require.

The Church Council is assisted in the carrying on of its work by the recommendations of four committees whose fields of labor are as their names imply, namely: Committee on Religious Activities, Committee on Religious Education, Committee on Finances, and Property Committee.

Throughout its history, Faith Lutheran Church has been fortunate in its selection of officers and committees who with the help of God and the cooperation of the congregation have been able to guide it successfully in the service of our Lord and Master.

## OUR SUNDAY SCHOOL

The character of any church can be judged quite accurately by the manner in which it provides for the spiritual upbringing of its children. The Lutheran Church has always been known for its great emphasis upon the work of teaching our children. There is no more important work than that of helping our children to come to a knowledge of the Truth that makes men free. Faith Church has always been conscious of the importance of such work and has sought to carry out its responsibility with sincere diligence. Those who were charged with the planning of our building exercised great foresight in providing class room space to house a Sunday School and allow room for all other teaching activities. Each of our classes in Sunday School meets in a separate room and is, therefore, free from the distractions that often hamper many Sunday Schools. Black boards and bulletin boards are provided for each class, and every other physical help is provided.

But the real character of any Sunday School is determined by the type of persons who do the teaching and supervising. We are extremely fortunate in having always had such faithful and godly teachers and Sunday School workers who have devoted their talents to the religious teaching of our children. There are now 12 individual classes in our Sunday School. Each class has a teacher and an assistant teacher. These teachers plus the other officers comprise a staff of about 35 people. Our teachers are faithful in their attendance and lesson preparation and are directly responsible for having earned for our School a very high reputation among the people of Lakewood. Their reward for such faithfulness is the joy of serving Christ and His children.

Our Sunday School operates as three groups or departments. The Beginners Department meets in its own room on the second floor of the educational unit of our church building. There about 65 children gather each Sunday and are taught by about 10 teachers and helpers. The children are between the ages of two and six, but their age does not hinder them from enthusiastic participation and a whole-hearted reception of the joyful Gospel story.

The children between the ages of 7 and 9 comprise what we call the Primary Department. They meet in the Chapel on the first floor and each Sunday morning have their own opening and closing services. They are beginning this month to use their own small hymnals. There are almost 60 children also in this department of our Sunday School.

The eight classes which range from children 10 years old through the adult Bible Class meet together in the basement auditorium each Sunday for their opening service. Attendance seems to vary remarkably between summer and winter time, but the average attendance for this group during the winter usually is about 150.

The regular lesson material used in our Sunday School is the Augsburg Lesson Series. Each class uses a different lesson book and the work is so graded as to fit the age of the pupil. A special group of three teachers is in charge of the work of Visual Education and they provide special helps and visualized lessons for the entire Sunday School. Projected pictures and sound movies are used at regular intervals. Rally Day is a regular event on the first Sunday in October each year. The Congregation Picnic and fellowship gathering is sponsored by the Sunday School and provides a pleasant outing for the children and adults alike. Daily Vacation Bible School is conducted each year under the supervision of the pastor and the Education Committee. Attendance this year averaged over 80 pupils for the three week period. Classes are held every morning studying the Bible and teaching hymns and Bible verses and combining with these important purposes a liberal amount of enjoyment. The Christmas Program provided each year by the Sunday School is always an interesting event. It has been attended by such increasingly large numbers of people that last year it was held in the auditorium of Harding Junior High School. More than 700 people attended.

The Sunday School has always been self supporting. It provides for its own teaching materials, etc. In addition each year it has contributed substantial amounts toward the Building Fund of our church, Lutheran World Action, Leper Missions, etc. The children of the Sunday School display their sales talents each year by selling large numbers of Christmas Seals for the support of the Grace Lutheran Tuberculosis Sanatorium.

The supervision of all these many activities of the Sunday School is in the hands of the Religious Education Committee which meets once each month to plan for the well-being of our Sunday School and especially of our children. We ought to give a special prayer of thanksgiving to God for our Sunday School and for those who serve in it.

### OUR WOMEN'S SOCIETY

It seems that in any congregation the women are among the first to assume responsibility for special needs that appear. Just two months after our church was organized the small group of women formed what they called a Ladies' Aid Society. This organization has been continuous throughout these twenty-five years undergoing only a few minor changes and enjoying steady growth and progress. It is somewhat amusing to read that none other than the first pastor of the Congregation served as the first president of this Ladies' Aid Society. But the women have developed their own leaders and have written a truly important page in the history of Faith Church. As time passed the group assumed a longer name. They called it the Faith Ladies' Aid and Missionary Society. But in the last two years the name was again shortened. Now we speak of the Faith Women's Society. The intent of the name is to show that it is not a separate and distinct organization which is exclusive in its membership, but that it is the women of our Church banded together to carry on their important work.

The Women's Society actively promotes the work of the Women's Missionary Federation of the American Lutheran Church. The "Outlook," the magazine published by the Federation, is received by all the women and is the basis for many of the programs that are planned. The Women's Society meets on the first Thursday of each month and centers the program around the topics suggested by the Federation. These topics are intended to make us aware of our Christian responsibilities and opportunities in various parts of the world. Topics are presented by members of the Society and occasionally by an invited speaker.

Many of the women of our church hold "Life Memberships" in the Federation. Such a Life Membership is purchased through the Federation and the interest from the money thus collected through various societies throughout the American Lutheran Church is used for the promotion of various mission projects, especially that of Mexican Missions. Memorials are also purchased for members who have departed this life. In such a way each person may feel that she has an "investment" in the work of spreading Christ's Kingdom.

Reading of good literature is promoted through the literature department of the Society. Book reviews are held from time to time to allow all to enjoy certain outstanding books. A library is maintained by the Society and is open to all who may wish to borrow books for their own enjoyment.

The Women have always distinguished themselves for the aid and support which they have given to many and varied causes. Their annual Thankoffering is devoted to missions. A special offering is given for work among the women of India. Used clothing has been collected and distributed under the supervision of the Women's Society Special Needs Department. Substantial payments have been made each year toward the Building Fund of our own Church.

At least once each month, usually more than once, a group of women gather to do the work of the Sewing Circle. This is a department working under the Women's Society, but doing an important work. They prepare bandages for our New Guinea Mission Field, make other articles which many of us are happy to buy, and supply for our Church what their needles can provide. The robes worn by our choirs are the workmanship of the Sewing Circle.

With the celebration of the Silver Anniversary of our Church we must likewise rejoice in the great contribution which the Women of our Church have made and are making toward the work of His Kingdom.

### OUR MEN'S CLUB

The men of our Church are banded together in an organization called the Men's Club. It is not an exclusive organization, but invites all men who wish to try to accomplish a few simple objectives. It is the aim of the Men's Club to promote Christian fellowship among the men of Faith Church; to help one another grow in our personal Christian faith; to give active support to our own congregation and to the church at large; and to promote the work of spreading Christ's Kingdom here and everywhere.

Meetings are held on the first Friday of each month and interesting programs are always provided. It affords the men of our Church the much needed opportunity to get together and to learn to know each other. The Men's Club has given substantial help to our Church by their gifts of money as well as of time and effort. They have supported Lutheran World Action and have sent other help overseas in the form of CARE packages. They have taken an active part in the organization of a Federation of Lutheran Men of Greater Cleveland.

The men of our Church are active in the Work of building Christ's Kingdom and look forward to even greater opportunities for service.



## OUR SOCIAL CLUB

During the 1930's when our country was undergoing a "depression" we all found that it meant that our personal funds were at a low level. It was then that Faith Social club was started. The original idea was to provide an opportunity to get together for a pleasant evening of relaxation without being required to pay a high price for our entertainment. The name chosen for this group was "The Young People's Society." But as time went by conditions changed and a more clear cut purpose for the group became evident. It seems to be such a good thing for us to have an occasion when we can come together merely for the purpose of getting better acquainted with other members of our church by spending a social evening together. Faith Social Club meets once each month, or perhaps we should rather say, that once each month fifty or sixty of our people of Faith Church gather in the Church basement for an evening of pleasant sociability. There are no rules regarding membership. No one is too old. Men and women find this to be a fine way to become acquainted with others who are a part of this large family of Faith Church.

## OUR LUTHER LEAGUES

We are truly proud of the young people of our Church. They are a wholesome, enthusiastic and active group. There are two organizations which are intended to provide an extra outlet for some of this energy. There is the Junior Luther League, composed of the members of the two last confirmation classes, and the Senior Luther League for all those over that age. It is not always true that these groups are very active or well attended. But it must be remembered that there are so many claims upon the time of our young people. In their own way our Luther Leagues have made a great contribution to our Church.

Our local leagues are a part of the Luther League of the American Lutheran Church and the program of our Leagues is molded around the four-fold plan of the International League. There are these four avenues of purpose: Worship, Work, Education and Play. Our young people seek to encourage one another to attend Church and Sunday School regularly and at their regular League meetings conduct their own worship services. They have served our Church from time to time as the need arises in such ways as raking leaves, shoveling snow, painting, etc. Each meeting of the group is intended to provide opportunity for growth in knowledge of spiritual things through discussions and special speakers. The opportunities for getting together to play is also worthwhile. The social evenings are always a lot of fun and help to strengthen the ties that bind us as Christians together. The Luther Leagues have produced several full length three-act plays which have been a real delight to the audiences that have assembled to see them. We are truly thankful on the occasion of our anniversary to be able to salute the fine young people of our church and especially our Luther Leagues.

## OUR CHOIRS

It was Luther who especially emphasized the important place of music in the Christian service of worship. Lutheran composers have done much to bring religious music to a position that is able to command the respect of all. To us at Faith Church music lends so much to the atmosphere of our worship and to the expression of our hearts. To enhance the beautiful music of our fine organ and organist, we rejoice each Sunday in the contributions of our three choirs. Each choir makes its own particular contribution to the beauty of our Service.

Our Senior Choir is composed of persons of Senior High School age and over. All are volunteers and give freely of their time and talents to the building of a well balanced and very capable choir. They appear each Sunday in their robes of black cassocks and white surplices. Each year they present a special program of music for our Christmas Eve Midnight Service and our Good Friday Evening Service. During this Anniversary Month they will present a special vesper Cantata as their contribution to our celebration.

Our Intermediate Choir is composed of young people of Junior High School age. This choir has just completed one year of service and in that time have distinguished themselves by their regular and talented presentations. They are present each Sunday and wear robes of liturgical green cassocks with white surplices. We are truly thankful for the fine addition which this choir has made to the beauty of our worship services.

Our Junior Choir is always a delight to hear. It is composed of children between the ages of 8 and 12. Their young voices blended together in the worship of our Heavenly Father is always a pleasure and an inspiration. They each Sunday appear fresh and alert in their scarlet skirts and white surplices with large scarlet ties.

Our sincere appreciation on the occasion of our Anniversary is extended to our Choirs and all who have a part in making them what they are.

### OUR BOY SCOUTS

Our Church has a complete scouting program for boys. There is a Cub Pack which includes boys between the ages of 9 and 12. This Pack meets once each month in the Church Basement, and each week in their separate dens at the homes of various scouters. The regular Scouts meet each week at the church in their scout room and carry on a complete scouting program. We have competent men as our scout committee and a good scout master. Those boys who are over the age of 15 are eligible for our Senior Patrol. These boys have made an outstanding record for themselves and for the Patrol. They were given National Rating last year for their work.

Scouting provides a wonderful outlet for the energy of boys and young men and provides a real program for building them into good upright men.

### OUR GIRL SCOUTS

Each week a Girl Scout troop meets in our church and carries on the regular Girl Scout Program. These girls are active in the program which is designed to build them for womanhood. We are happy to have even a small part in furthering such a worthwhile purpose.

## *And Now Tomorrow*

Through Twenty Five Years the rich blessings of our loving and merciful God have rested upon our beloved Faith Lutheran Church. His work has been continued and His purposes have been carried out. Wherever there has been a lack in anything it has not been due to any shortening of God's hand, but only and always a lack of zeal and will on our part to follow where He directs. God has never failed us, but we have often failed Him We have not always been willing to embrace the opportunities which He has set before us. We have not always allowed His Will to prevail in us and through us.

The future of Faith Church can not fail to be bright with promise. The same loving God is over us. His Grace is still our hope and surety. The Cross of Christ is still the only hope for all the world. The glory of this congregation as of the whole Church of Christ, lies in the fearless and aggressive proclaiming of this Christ who is the true and only Savior. In our community and in our day "the field is ripe unto harvest," and it remains for us to be diligent and zealous and courageous in furthering the Church's only work, that is, of proclaiming the Gospel of Salvation through Jesus Christ. To do that work we must keep ourselves constantly ready and eager to serve our Lord, willing always to allow Him to use us according to His Purposes.

So then, each one of us, members of this happy family of Faith Lutheran Church, may today renew our prayer to Christ, "Lord, keep me ever faithful to Thee. Ever cleanse me with Thy precious Blood and strengthen me day by day that I may live for Thee." And at the same time we will also resolve to seek

More diligently to read and study His Word,

More faithfully to accept the privilege of worshipping in His House  
and receiving the Sacraments,

More zealously to serve Him with my talents, my possessions and myself.

"O God, our Help in ages past," as we give thanks to Thee for Thy great mercies and blessings of the years now passed, renew in us such zeal and determination that with loving hearts we may serve Thee and Thy Church now and throughout our days.

"To God alone be Glory"  
AMEN