

The New Sanctuary

Photo by Bob Reef



The Old Sanctuary

### A Brief History of the Congregation

A group of men and women met at the home of Christian Poock, on April 10, 1908, to form a congregation, and one month later a Sunday School was organized. On June 17, 1908, the congregation was organized and named the "German Evangelical Lutheran St. Luke's Congregation" and met on the following Sundays in the old YMCA on E. 4th, the Jewish Synagogue on N. Jefferson, and on the 3rd floor of a building at Wayne and Pearl. The first year also saw the organization of a Ladies' Aid, Young People's League, and the call to the first Pastor, Rev. F. A. Meusch January 10, 1909.

On May 8, 1910, the double lot was purchased at the corner of McLain and Potomac Sts. for \$6,500.00. The Rev. Carl Schaeffer began his pastorate on October 25, 1911 with the installation service in charge of the Rev. Fred Zimmerman, who had supplied previously. On November 17, 1912, the Cornerstone was laid and the new building erected and by September 14, 1913, the new Sunday School part of the building was completed and dedicated. The Rev. Carl Bizer began his pastorate in June of 1919 and by September 9, 1923, the new Sanctuary part of the building was completed and dedicated.

The Rev. George Sonneborn began his pastoral service on November 23, 1924, and on October 18, 1925, the new parsonage at 409 Kenilworth Avenue was dedicated and valued at \$12,000. During this period the congregation met the test of financial readjustments the whole country was facing. In September of 1935 the Rev. Paul Schlueter began his ministry introducing the Weekly Bulletin, vacation Bible School, directory of church members, and dedication of the Acousticon.

On December 3, 1941, the Rev. Frederick Rest began his pastorate. A new constitution was approved, the entire building redecorated, with a new ceiling and lights in the sanctuary, new altar hangings, liquidation of the building debt October 14, 1945, organization of the men's group, purchase and dedication of a new sound motion picture projector and equipment, dedication of the Good Shepherd Window, the Maas Chimes, new hymnals, and all-directional speaker in the tower. Plans were made to remodel the sanctuary, but were not carried to completion. In March of 1949, the Rev. Paul Stange became Pastor. A major redecorating project was completed and plans were again made to remodel the sanctuary, but after one approval and then a reconsideration the project was dropped. The first son of the congregation to enter the Christian Ministry, the Rev. Donald W. Hafner, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Paul Hafner, was ordained on June 28, 1953.

On September 1, 1953, the Rev. Marion C. Harrison became Pastor. Average attendance at worship increased and along with that a renewed interest was shown in improving the property of the church. In September, 1954, a daughter of the congregation, Miss Ruth Sponsel, was united in marriage to the Rev. Paul Bendit, a recent graduate from Eden and Pastor at Wells, Minnesota, and the oldest son of Rev. and Mrs. Harrison, Marion, Jr. became the 2nd son of St. Luke's to prepare for the ministry by entering Eden Seminary. In the same year many improvements were added: a 50 watt Bell Amplifier, a high fidelity record player for tower music and other uses, new folding dining tables, fluorescent lights in the S. S. rooms. The congregation was challenged to consider some major improvements in the sanctuary, new gas furnaces, off street parking facilities and a recreation room. At the annual congregational meeting January 16, 1955, following reports by a study committee, Carl Augustus, Chairman of Trustees, Edward Yackley, President, and the Pastor, favorable action was taken to secure a loan up to \$35,000 and proceed with the three phase improvement program. It included securing bids and letting contract for new gas furnaces, since the church could use gas for space heating; securing an architect to prepare preliminary sketches for a remodeled sanctuary; and taking legal steps to secure the property on the corner of McLain and Potomac Streets, across from the church for off-street parking.

The firm of Lagedrost and Walter was secured and following several meetings with the special Chancel Remodeling Committee, composed of representatives from each organized group in the congregation, along with the Trustees, a special congregational meeting was held May 1, 1955, and approval given to proceed with the remodeling, including a completely new chancel, a center aisle, new carpet and tile floor covering, new Kilgen organ console and lighting improvements. In the meantime the hurch Council had authorized an Improvement Fund Crusade, to raise the \$35,000 to be paid in subscriptions over a three year period. The period of March 27, 28, 29 was set for visitation of all the homes, which resulted in the raising of over \$35,000 by the end of March. During the next few weeks new subscriptions, special gifts, and memorials, along with the subscriptions of organized groups within the church, resulted in an additional \$10,000 dollars, making a total anticipated income as of December 31, 1955 of \$45,113.88.

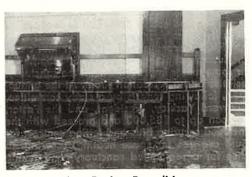
On July 8th the Trustees purchased the property for parking for the sum of \$8,000. Work was begun on the sanctuary August 1, 1955, with the congregation meeting in the Church School Auditorium until the first worship was held in the new sanctuary on December 4th, although the organ was not completed until February 19, 1956.

The gas Armstrong Industrial furnaces were installed during the summer of 1955 and ready in time for the heating season. The house and barn and about three feet of earth were removed from the newly acquired property and the stone and gravel base laid. During the preparation of this history, the Trustees have authorized the construction of a retaining wall and the laying of a blacktop surface along with other items necessary to comply with the requirements of the City Plan Board. In addition to the foregoing, the Trustees authorized the renewing of the electric wiring in parts of the building, to carry additional load as required, the congregation authorized the completion of the recreation room under the sanctuary, and purchase of Frigidaire drinking fountain. Two special committees were also appointed to plan for chancel memorials, and for Dedication Week arrangements. In this past year and a half your Pastor has really appreciated the efforts of all the standing and special committees, the Crusade Visitors, the persons delegated with individual responsibilities, and all the members and friends who have entered into this venture of faith, and brought us, with God's guidance, to this Week of Dedication. It is the prayer and hope of your Pastor that by our 50th anniversary, two years from now, we can declare all financial debt for our Improvements removed. It can be done if we lay aside periodically, amounts of money that we shall contribute to the Current, Benevolent, and Improvement Funds. Remember the words of Jesus, as recorded by John 4:37,38: "For here the saying holds true, one sows, another reaps, I sent you to reap that for which you did not labor; others have labored, and you have entered into their labor."

"The Grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the Love of God and the Fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with You All." Amen.

12

Marion C. Harrison, Pastor



**View During Demolition** 



Rev. Marion C. Harrison

A Memorial Plaque listing the Chancel Gifts 1955-56 is placed on the Chancel and is included in the Act of Dedication.

Appreciation is expressed to all who have had a part directly or indirectly; in the planning and carrying forward of the Improvement Program in St. Luke's Church, the many duties and obligations relating the preparation and serving in the Services of Dedication Week, the secial contributions and gifts of congregation and friends that have made possible our progress; and last but not least, the prayers to Almighty God that He might watch over us from this time forth and forevermore, through our Savior, Jesus Christ.

#### SUMMARY OF IMPROVEMENT COSTS

(Round figures given)	. 1	
Armstrong Gas Furnaces	\$5,845	5,845
•	E 40E	
General Contract—Foster Construction Co	5,485	
Pew Alterations—Requarth	1,960	
Endicott Church Furniture Co	3,086	
Carpet—Rike's	1,495	
Altar Carving—Ossit	630	
Kilgen Organ	5.785	
	2,119	20,500
Fees and Expenses	2,112	20,500
Parking Lot—		
Purchase of Real Estate	8,025	
Grading, Base and Driveway	1,400	
Retaining Wall, Blacktop Surface	2,166	11,591
(Bumper Blocks, Shrubbery not included)	_,	•
	7.704	1 70 4
Recreation Room	1,784	1,784
Electrical Improvements	1,315	1,315
TOTAL (actual and estimated) COST		\$41,035
Indebtedness April 1, 1956 — \$20,250.00		
Total Anticipated Income — \$45,115.00		
Total Anticipated Income — \$45,115.00		

## THE CHURCH COUNCIL 1955-1956

	.Edward Yackley (1955); Don Niehus (1956)
Vice President	
SecretaryMiss Amelia Nicl	cel (1955); Miss Norma Jean Demmler (1956)
Financial Secretary	
Treasurer	Kenneth Dale Cramer
Chairman of Trustees	S. A. Block
	George Lasanen

#### Fred Bauch (1956)

# Minister ......Rev. Marion C. Harrison

# IMPROVEMENT FUND Financial Secretary — Ray Hawke Treasurer — William Feldmaier Legal Counsel — Earl Moore, Atty.

#### **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

Appreciation is expressed to the following firms who participated in the design, supply and construction of our new chancel, remodeling of our sanctuary, and the other varied improvements to St. Luke's property.

Lagedrost & Walter (Architects)
Requarth Lumber Co. (Pews)
Foster Construction Co. (Gen. Contr.)
Myron Cornish Co. (Tile)
Rike-Kumler Co. (Carpet)
Walter Litsey (Refinishing)
Kastle Electric Co.

Endicott Church Furniture Co. (Chancel)
Ossitt Church Furniture Co. (Carving)
Kilgen Organ Co.
Hinds & Yancey (Demolition)
Warren Construction Co. (Lot Base)
Human Construction Co. (Wall)
Republic Asphalt Co. (Blacktop)