

St. Peter Evangelical Church

(Evangelical & Reformed)
Grant Park, Illinois

(Commemorated April 15th — April 22nd)

A Dedication and Foreword

There have been two church buildings, the Christian's earthly "Spiritual Homes," erected during the three-score years and fifteen of this congregation's history. Both of them were appropriately dedicated and consecrated to the worship, the praise of our Almighty God and Heavenly Father; and His well-beloved Son, our only Saviour, even Christ Jesus, our Lord. In the "Word of God," fittingly also referred to as "The Divine Library," we read in Deuteronomy 20: 5—"And the officers shall speak unto the people, saying, what man is there that hath built a new house, and hath not dedicated it?" and in Psalm 127: 1—"Except the Lord build the house, they labor in vain that build it."

We dedicate this booklet to more than a building, for the Church of Jesus Christ is first of all and primarily a fellowship of believers in the Christ Way of living, in the power and hope of His Resurrection. The forces of nature, or the destructive powers of sinful men may lay the church as a building in ruins; but the Living Church, composed of likeminded souls and divinely inspired spirits, shall stand forever victorious, yea even before "the gates of hell" itself. Therefore, this dedication to . . .

The founders of this the St. Peter Evangelical Church, they who are now members of the Church Triumphant; they who so loyally consecrated themselves to the great task, with much self-sacrifice, of providing this heritage of the "Faith of Our Fathers" unto us and our posterity;—

The sons and daughters of those who formed the solid foundation, who are keenly aware of this holy trust, and are meeting the challenge to carry on in their spirit;—

The young people, the children, who being inspired by worthy and noble example, will perpetuate the work of the local church, and the Kingdom enterprises of Christ's Church Universal; and

The individuals of our congregation who are answering the call of our nation. God grant that they return to us soon, healthy and well in body, mind and spirit!

With deepest gratitude to Divine Providence for blessings and guidance in the past, we prayerfully place the future in God's benign care and dependable keeping!

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(Evangelical & Reformed)
Grant Park, Illinois

SOUVENIR OF THE

Seventy-fifth Anniversary



Celebration

1870 --- 1945





The First Church and Parsonage





The Old Church Destroyed by Cyclone, April the 21st, 1912



The Present Church Building—Dedicated March 2nd, 1913



The Parsonage—a fully modern ten-room dwelling.

A Brief, Concise, Historical Sketch



It is with gratitude for God's gracious blessings of the past, and with confident trust in His providential guidance for the future, that we record this resume of our beloved church's history. Seventy-five years have come and have gone, with successive generations worshiping, labouring together; and mutually blessing one another in this, one of the innumerable fellowships of believers in Christ. A congregation must be no less than a communion of potential saints, that is, sinners, who by the grace of God hope to enjoy sainthood in the divinely appointed eternal abode for the faithful. We confess: "I believe in the communion of saints." All of the original faithful founders of this church have been translated from this "Church militant" to the "Church Triumphant."

At the outset of this historical account may we permit the "word of God" to direct, guide and keep us as we are engaged in making and writing the current, the future history of this congregation, both locally and its relation to the world-wide Kingdom of God enterprises.

Appropriate unto this Diamond Jubilee anniversary are the words from Psalm 75, verses 1-3, inclusive: "Unto Thee, O God, do we give thanks, unto Thee do we give thanks; for that Thy name is near Thy wondrous works declare. When I shall receive the congregation I will judge uprightly. The earth and all the inhabitants are dissolved. I bear up the pillars of it." Yea, though storm and flood, war and fire destroy the building made by human hands; God will with everlasting arms bear up the real, vital, pillars thereof, namely the loyal, staunch and true flesh and blood pillars of His well-beloved Son's Church. The true Church is therefore in the earth and the world, but is of and from heaven; she is in time and space, but notwithstanding is from eternity and will exist eternally!

On April the 1st in the year of our Lord 1870, the St. Peter Evangelical congregation of Grant Park, Illinois was organized. There were nineteen charter members, the Rev. F. G. Reinicke being their first pastor. The first worship services were held in a school house in the town of Sumner. The

congregation then acquired a burial place, the present cemetery, "God's Acre," which was a gift of Mr. F. Heusing.

In 1878 the congregation decided to erect and dedicate to the glory of God a House of Worship. These founding fathers were far-sighted and wise in planning to build in town, because as is the case now, a goodly share of the membership live here in Grant Park proper as well as in the vicinity of the cemetery. Mr. C. Campbell donated a piece of ground upon which was erected the first church building, with dedication ceremonies taking place on March the 2nd, 1879. This building was used by the congregation until the terrible cyclone of 1912 destroyed the same. We are told by witnesses to the scene of destruction on that dismal Sunday afternoon, that the pulpit withstood the onslaught of the terrific impact of the wind, with the Bible opened thereon. The writer of these lines has not been able to find out what chapter of the Holy Scriptures that happened to be. Is this not eloquent testimony to the statement of Jesus: "My words shall not pass away" (Matthew 24: 35). It was then that the congregation decided to change the location of the new church. The old church had stood on the east side of the Chicago and Eastern Illinois Railroad tracks. The location of the new church property was to be, and is to this day, the northwest corner of town. The present fully modern and wellequipped church and parsonage were dedicated on March the 2nd, 1913. The following ministers' names appear on the dedicatory program: the Revs. G. B. Schiek, G. Horst, A. Niedergesaesz, Siegfried, Seidenburg, Wilkinson, and Professor P. N. Crusius of Elmhurst College. Appropriate services were held at 10 a. m., 2 and 7 p. m.

During the pastorate of the Rev. Edwin F. Mayer the congregation celebrated the Golden Anniversary, commemorating fifty years of worship in God's House on His Holy Sabbath, and of service in God's Kingdom at home and abroad. This jubilee event was celebrated in three services with the Revs. E. Kroencke, G. B. Schiek, H. J. Schick, A. A. Zimmermann, Edward Lawrenz, and E. F. Roe giving the addresses. The records state that the energetic and willing members of the Ladies' Aid served about 1,200 individuals with food for the body during the course of the day. Miss Hulda Blanke directed the choir, and served as soloist. Today this talented

member of our church is a vocal teacher of note in the Chicago metropolis.

As you will see, we have given ample space to, and extensively displayed, pictures in this book. We contend that ofttimes pictures speak more eloquently than the written word; and so we shall at this time draw this historical resume to a close. Besides the sons of the congregation now in the ministry, whose pictures and brief biographies you will find elsewhere herein; three women during the course of the years entered special service in the church. Mrs. (Dr.) C. H. Nielsen entered the foreign medical missionary field of Christian endeavor, and Misses Frances Cloidt and Theresa Ihfe entered the Evangelical (Deaconess) Hospital of Chicago.

Benevolent giving, financial assistance for others, has always been stressed in St. Peter Church of Grant Park. Throughout the years there have been contributions for Missions, the Larger Kingdom Service program of the Church; for The Evangelical Home for Children and the Aged at Bensenville, Illinois; for the American Bible Society and the Gideon Bible Society; for our church-related Colleges and Seminaries; for various charitable institutions; and for "War Emergency Relief." There is an old saying "that charity begins at home," but it certainly need never be confined there; for it has also been said: "If our love cannot cross the oceans, then that love has a broken wing."

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"Give of thy sons to bear Christ's message glorious; Give of thy wealth to speed them on their way; Pour out thy soul for them in prayer victorious, And all thou spendest Jesus will repay!"

Even so—

"O Lord, thy benediction give
On all who teach, on all who learn,
That so thy church may holier live,
O bless the shepherd, bless the sheep,
That guide and guided may be one,
One in the faithful watch they keep,
One in the joy of work well done."

Amen.

The Ministry of the Word of God



The Pastor and His Family-Minister since June, 1936

The Reverend Edwin A. Wahl, B.D., student pastor at Labadie, Mo., and pastor of Advent Evangelical Church, Jamestown, Mo., 1934-36.

Mrs. E. A. Wahl, R.N., the former Evelyn A. Kasmann.

Annette Kay, born July the 31st, 1944.

Robert Rudolph, born October the 4th, 1940.

Former Ministers

The former ministers of this church were the Reverends:

Friedrich G. Reinicke1870-1872	
P. Keuchen1872-1879	O. Schroeter1881-1884
F. Keunkel1879-1880	J. Dippel1884-1886

F. W. Schnathorst......1886-1890

(No pictures available for the above pastors)



A. C. Roth (deceased) 1930-1936. The Rev. Roth's widow is still living, her address being: Mrs. Amalie C. Roth, 523 East Locust St., Boonville, Ind.



E. Kroencke 1890-1896



G. B. Schiek 1896-1914

The above former pastors now rest from their labors, but their works here do follow them!



Arno A. Zimmermann, D.D., 1914-1920, now pastor of St. Paul Church, Pekin, Ill.



Edwin F. Mayer, 1920-1927, now pastor of Bethany Church, Detroit, Mich.



Eugene F. Wilking, 1927-1930, now pastor of St. Paul Church, Malone, Wisconsin.

Sons of the Congregation Now in the Christian Ministry of Reconciliation



The Rev. E. F. Lawrenz

For many years Rev. Lawrenz was with his parents a resident of the Grant Park Community. Mr. John Lawrenz, a member of our congregation is an uncle of his, and Mrs. Ernest B. Hamann also a member of this church is his cousin, as is also Edmund Lawrenz of Grant Park. The Rev. Lawrenz graduated from Eden Theological Seminary in June of 1907, and was ordained July the 7th, 1907 in the St. John Church of Danville, Ill. by the Rev. Strehlow, assisted by the Revs. L. Kurz and H. Mueller. He has served the following churches during his ministry: Fargo, N. D. and Barnesville, Minn., Lansing, Michigan, Urbana, Ind., Wakarusa, Ind., and since 1924 Trinity Church, the largest congregation of our denomination in Detroit, Mich.



The Rev. Warner H. Siebert

More so than any other of the four sons of the congregation now serving in the ministry, the Rev. W. H. Siebert is that in the truest sense of the term. He was born and spent his entire childhood in the Grant Park vicinity. He was confirmed in this church in the year, 1919, and ordained a pastor on September the 11th, 1927 in St. Peter Church, Grant Park. The Rev. Arno Zimmermann, who confirmed him, was the ordaining pastor. The Rev. Siebert writes: "It was he who inspired me to study for the ministry." Brother Siebert has one sister, Anna B. Siebert, and one uncle, Herman Siebert, who are members of this congregation; and other relatives in this church. In 1939 his father was laid to rest on our church cemetery, with the present pastor conducting the funeral rites. This, and the fact that the writer of this biographical sketch was a guest in Brother Siebert's home, Jackson, Mo., while a student, make our friendship one of long standing. The Rev. Siebert has served the following congregations: Student Pastor at the University of Illinois, Champaign, St. John, Danville, Ill., Emanuel, Jackson, Mo., Grace, Detroit, Mich., and since 1941 Friedens, Syracuse, N. Y.



The Rev. Herman J. Schick, S.T.D.

As a son of the Rev. G. B. Schick, pastor of this church for eighteen years, the longest pastorate to date, we count the Rev. H. J. Schick as one of this congregation's sons. He was ordained in this church on July the 12th, 1900, by his father, assisted by the Rev. Peter Goebel and the Rev. H. Siegfried. Dr. Schick has been pastor at Sandwich, Ill., Bensenville, Ill., Evansville, Ind.; and from 1919 to 1924 he was President of Elmhurst College. From 1924 until August the 1st, 1944, he had been pastor of Immanuel Church, Chicago and now Pastor Emeritus. Dr. Schick has published the following books: "The Way of Life," "In Loving Memory," "Afterwards," "Jesus of the Twentieth Century." He is to be our anniversary guest speaker on Sunday, April the 22nd.

The other guest speaker (by congregational vote) is to be Dr. A. A. Zimmermann on Sunday, April the 15th.

The Reverend William Rest, D.D., President of the North Illinois Synod of the Evangelical and Reformed Church, will bring the concluding message at the 2 p. m. service on April 22nd.

The evenings of the anniversary week will be devoted to the various organizations of the church, with guest speakers for each night.



The Rev. Samuel G. Schick, Th.D.

Another son of the Rev. G. B. Schick is the final member of this group. The Rev. S. G. Schick was ordained May the 5th, 1918 at Rock-River Presbytery, Illinois. He has served the following congregations at Crown Point, Indiana, Annapolis, Md., Indianapolis, Ind., Plattsmouth, Nebraska, and at present, St. John Church, Minneapolis, Minn.

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We wish to thank all of the above men, both former pastors and sons of the congregation, for their very fine letters of greeting and felicitation to the congregation. May God richly bless you and yours in your present fields of endeavor.

We would not forget a son of this congregation, and a former member, who is at present the coach and athletic director at our denomination's Elmhurst College, Elmhurst, Ill. He is Mr. Oliver Martin Langhorst, M.S., professor of physical education since the year 1933. He was confirmed in our church on April the 13th, 1919, by the Rev. Arno A. Zimmermann.

The Church Council, 1944 - 45



Beginning with the bottom row, left to right: Elmer Buhr, recording secretary; the pastor; Vern Ohlenkamp, president; Herman Langhorst, treasurer; Edward G. Hamann, trustee; Robert Temme, trustee; John Loitz, vice-president; Helmuth Weber, '44 member; Robert Hamann, financial secretary; and William Langhorst, '44 member of the Church Board.



The Ministry of Music in the House of God



Our Church Organist, Mrs. Edward G. Hamann

To her we dedicate this page, in gratitude for her twenty-five years of efficient and loyal service; the last twenty years being uninterrupted, with only two absences from her post of duty. What an extraordinary record that is! We pray and trust that Mrs. Hamann will preside at our church organ for many years yet to come.

The above picture was taken on the occasion of Mr. and Mrs. Hamann's Silver Wedding Anniversary, at which time the congregation presented to them a gift of sterling silver.



The Senior Choir and the Men's Chorus



The Junior Choir (a few of this group absent)

"A Singing Church Is a Conquering Church"

Music hath charms to still and calm the human breast of its distress, weariness, and sadness.

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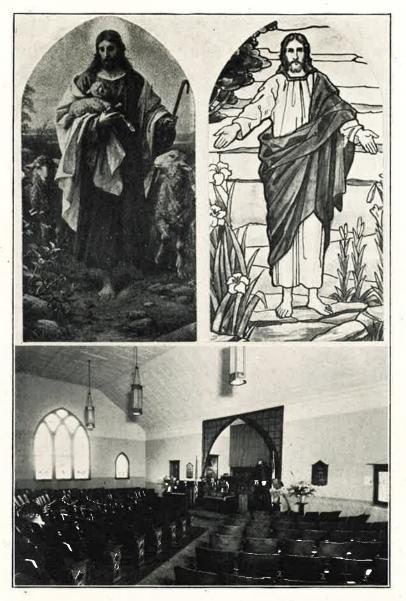
"Sing unto the Lord a New Song"

How impoverished would our worship services be without music's universal language displayed in congregational hymns!



The Congregation Remaining on Sunday, January the 28th, 1945

Communicant Membership as of February the 4th, 363



Herewith are two pictures of the Art Glass Window subjects which will be installed in time for our Anniversary Celebration. Descriptions and names of donors are given on page thirty. Due to circumstances of these times, the windows do not appear on the above picture of the Sanctuary, because they had not as yet arrived.

In the Service of Our Beloved Nation

NOTE: No ranks nor addresses are given, because of the frequent changes which may occur after this goes to print.

Members of This Church

Designated by the Stars on the Service Flag

Carl J. Hamann

Dale B. Hamann

Franklin B. Hamann*

(Twice wounded)

Rolland L. Hamann*

Vance M. Hamann

Arthur J. Kapchinske*

Edwin A. Kapchinske*

Ralph L. Kapchinske*

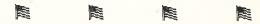
Garland C. Lagesse

Vance M. Hamann

Ardell R. Hannover*

Eldon Heusing*

We thank God that to date none of the above men have been listed as serious casualties, and we pray that such will not be the case!



Friends of the Church

The following, whose parents or wives are members or who themselves were members of an organization of this church at the time of their induction, are also found on our Church Honor Roll. We hope and pray that the families of the men reported missing will have received good, encouraging news when this appears in book form.

Richard L. Alexander* (Prisoner Walter Krech (Was overseas, on of war) leave from A. A. F.) William Delbert Casey* Williard Krech* Clarence Heldt* (Missing in Ac-Lester A. Maass (Wounded overtion) seas, now hospitalized in the U. S. A.) Raymond A. Hoffmann Arthur G. Kiedaisch* Gerald L. Murray (Twice wounded) Robert L. Peck Lester Kramer William F. Piper George Z. Krech* (Missing in Ac-Arthur W. Westerberg tion)

^{*} Stands for overseas.

Our Servicemen



Arthur J. Kapchinske,*
 Roland F. Laking, *
 Rolland L. Hamann,*
 Lawrence Loitz,*
 Vance M. Hamann,*
 Ralph L. Kapchinske,*
 Ardell R. Hannover,*
 Franklin B. Hamann,*
 Edwin A. Kapchinske,*
 Elden Heusing,*
 Garland C. Lagesse,
 Kenneth M. Hoffman,*
 Dale B. Hamann.

The Department of Christian Religious Education



The Anniversary Confirmation Class of 1945

Twelve potential disciples of the Christ.

Let us pray for, and help them to remain loyal to their vows, faithful to Christ their Saviour, and to His glorious Kingdom and Church.

The Sunday School

Their current church expense obligation are payments made toward the fuel bills.



The Teachers and Officers

Reading from left to right, bottom row: Misses Rosanna Reaman, Elaine Temme, Fay Breiter, Carol Breiter, Assistant Supt. Center row: Mrs. Ernest Reaman, Mrs. B. C. Hamann, Mrs. Charles W. Henerberg, Martin Hoevet (until 1945 for many years an officer), Charles W. Henerberg, Superintendent. Top row: Mrs. Elmer Buhr, Cradle Roll Supt.; Lyle Weber, Secretary-Treasurer; Mrs. Robert D. Hamann, Secretary of the Cradle Roll Dept.; Rev. Wahl. (These three not on the picture: Mrs. Leon Hoevet and Mrs. Edwin Rasche, treasurer and vice-president of the "Cradle Roll" respectively; and Ermal Engelking, teacher and pianist.)



Primary and Beginners



Juniors, Intermediates, Young People, and Adult Departments

Organizations



The Tabitha Sewing Circle

1945 membership, 45. Their obligation toward current expenses is the payment of taxes on the parsonage.

The present officers: Mesdames Vern Richmond, president; Harry Kutemeier, vice-president (absent); Milford Boicken, secretary; and Robert Temme, treasurer.



The Women's Guild

1945 membership, 68, as of February the 4th, but by April we are confident of reaching the anniversary goal of 75 members.

This society's obligation is the payment of insurance on all church property.

Present officers: Mesdames E. A. Wahl, president; Herman Langhorst, vice-president; Ernest Schneider, secretary; and Charles Schneider, treasurer.

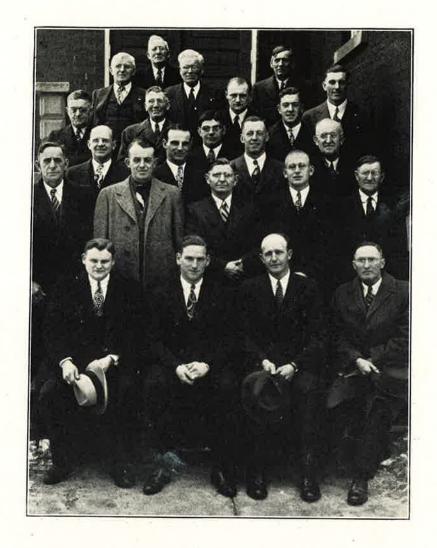


The Young People's League

1945 membership, 39.

This group's obligation toward the local church is the payment of light, public service bills.

Officers: Margaret Vagt, president; June Engelking, vice-president; Anita Reaman, secretary; Mardele Engelking, treasurer.



The Churchmen's League

1945 membership, 43.

This organization's church obligation is the payment of the telephone bills (exclusive of toll calls) and the city water tax.

Officers: Bernard C. Hamann, president; Martin Hoevet, vice-president; Walter Kiedaisch, secretary; William Fick (absent), treasurer.

St. Peter's Evangelical Church Cemetery Association Board

They who supervise the care of "GoD's ACRE," where beloved ones are laid to rest.

President, Martin Hoevet; Vice-president, Bernard C. Hamann; Secretary and Superintendent, Henry C. Weber; and Treasurer, Edward Martens.

Officers of the Trust Fund

President, Edward G. Hamann; Secretary, Milford Boicken, and Treasurer, Clarence Schneider.

Note: We are sorry, that we could not list all names of organizational members. In frequent instances members did not appear on the several pictures due to illness, the icy roads or extreme cold; or for less valid reasons.

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Our Anniversary Projects

AND THE CONCERNS THAT HAVE SERVED US

Grateful appreciation is herewith extended to all who contributed to the projects listed below, or to the general Anniversary Fund. Heartiest thanks are also tendered all those who served on committees, who donated their labor in the construction of the Gothic Arch above the choir loft; to Bert Wright, carpenter and cabinet maker, who supervised the same; and to Leslie Martens, electrician, for installing the light fixtures.

Painting, Redecorating of the Sanctuary, Class Rooms and Halls. (H. W. Simpson, Cedar Lake, Ind.)

The New Light Fixtures. The Sacristy Light is a special gift from the choirs. (The Architectural Bronze Studio, St. Louis, Mo.)
Two Art Glass Windows:

"Come Unto Me"—Dedicated to the memory of Mrs. Emelie Maass, and given by her daughter, Mrs. Leona Wilken of Chicago Heights, Illinois.

"The Good Shepherd"—Dedicated to the glory of God, a gift of the "Women's Guild."

(The St. Joseph, Mo. Art Glass Works)

Refinishing of the Church Floors. Sponsored by the "Sewing Circle." (The Hillyard Co., St. Joseph, Mo.)

The Gothic Arch, behind which is installed indirect lighting.

New Dishes for the Church purchased from the "Stearnes Co.," Chicago, Ill. Provided jointly by "The Tabitha Sewing Circle" and the "Women's Guild."

New Shrubbery, trees for church and parsonage from the "Cradle Roll" Department. (Sirois Bros. Nursery, St. Anne, Ill.)

Replacement of shades throughout the parsonage. Bought by the "Women's Guild."

Brocaded Cloth Covering for the organ pipes, and the grillwork of the gothic arch. Purchased by the "Sewing Circle." (Plache Decorating Co., St. Louis, Missouri)

New kitchen sink and cabinets for the parsonage. Bought by the "Women's Guild."

Two New Hymn Boards for the Sanctuary, complete with numerals and letters. Bought by the Young People's League.

New Tables for our Church basement, purchased by the Sunday School.

Wall Mottoes for the entrances to the Church, new offering plates, and redecorating of the church kitchen, sponsored by the Churchmen's League.

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Program of Events during the Course of Our Anniversary Commemoration

Anniversary Sunday-April 15th.

Worship Service at 10:30 A. M. with the Reverend Arno A. Zimmermann, D.D., as the guest speaker.

Evening of Music at 7:45 o'clock, sponsored jointly by the Junior and Senior Choirs and the Male Chorus, with the following soloists appearing on the program: Miss Hulda Blanke, soprano; Wesley Hamann, cornetist; and a ministerial sextette composed of Mrs. T. M. Haefele, Mrs. S. A. Recht, and the Revs. Theodore Haefele, Siegfried Recht, Edwin Wahl, and Walter Wilke, with Mrs. Margaret Ringe as the accompanist for this group.

Young People's Night—Monday, April 16th. Fellowship Supper at 6:30 o'clock for members and parents; an informal program at 8 P. M., with Professor Oliver Martin Langhorst, M.S., coach and director of physical education at Elmhurst College, as the speaker. Mr. Langhorst was confirmed in our church in the year 1919.

MEN'S NIGHT—Tuesday, April 17th at 8 o'clock. Devotional Period led by the Rev. Victor Langhorst of Kankakee. Dart-ball Game with the Brotherhood team of the Sherburnville Christian Church.

THE TABITHA SEWING CIRCLE'S NIGHT—Wednesday, April 18th. Supper for members and families at 7 o'clock and worship service at 8. Mrs. Arno A. Zimmermann will serve as the guest speaker, having been one of the initial officers when this worthy society was organized thirty years ago this past March 17th.

THE WOMEN'S GUILD NIGHT—Thursday, April 19th. Worship Service at 8 P. M. with Mrs. Erich Bizer of Frankfort, Illinois, as the guest speaker. This organization of women is now in its 58th year of service to the local church and the Kingdom of God at large.

REDEDICATION AND RECONSECRATION SUNDAY-April 22nd.

Morning Worship at 10:30 o'clock, with the Reverend Herman J. Schick, S.T.D., preaching the sermon.

The Concluding Worship Service at 2:30 P. M., with the Reverend William L. Rest, D.D., President of the North Illinois Synod of the Evangelical and Reformed Church, serving in the pulpit. The Reverend C. Earl Livengood, pastor of the local Methodist church, will lead in prayer. The ministerial choir of the Monee Regional Pastoral Circle will present an anthem.

Enter to Worship! - Depart to serve!

Mrs. Augusta Wahl Albrecht and Mrs. R. H. Kasmann have at times been members of the parsonage household. They are the mothers of the pastor and of his wife.



In Memoriam

THE REVEREND R. H. KASMANN July 25th, 1885 — March 18th, 1944

Mrs. Wahl's father was a frequent visitor in our midst and often served here as guest preacher previous to his untimely and sudden departure. "Well done, thou good and faithful servant . . . enter thou into the joy of thy Lord." (Matthew 25: 21.)

An Anniversary Prayer-Hymn

(Tune: "Faith of Our Fathers")

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Guards of the sacred altar flame,

Bringers of learning and of faith,

They lumined life in His Blessed Name,

And hope they flared in day of death—

God of the faithful, grant that we,

Their sons, do follow faithfully!

Theirs was the Presence ever sure,

Theirs was the all-abounding grace,

Theirs was the passion good and pure

To honor God in all their ways—

God of the Christlike, grant that we

Their sons will follow worthily. Amen.

