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Dedication Week
June Tenth to Seventeenth
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## **FOREWORD**

ELIEVING that many who have prayed and worked and waited with us thru many years for the coming of this glad event in the life of Salem will welcome a simple statement of the various steps which led to the accomplishment of a great task, we present herewith in twelve brief chapters the story of our new Church School and Parish House. It is offered in grateful recognition of unnumbered services, faithfully rendered, and of many sacrifices, cheerfully made by men and women who were willing to translate a glowing vision into crowning deeds. The new building is not a realization of our first plan. The ideal, as we saw it in the beginning, must forever remain a pleasant dream. But it is a building which will enable us to carry on an adequate program of Religious Education, and which provides ample opportunity for the expressional needs of our church life. It represents a significant forward step by means of which we hope to develop a more intelligent and active membership, and thereby to assume our full share in bringing in the Kingdom of our Lord.

Chapter One Page Two

# AN URGENT NEED

SALEM congregation was organized in 1873, and the church building was completed in the following year. The beautiful auditorium provided seating capacity for more than 1200 persons, but the first Sunday-school rooms could accommodate less than 400 pupils. In 1894 the average attendance passed the 600 mark and it became necessary to enlarge the existing quarters. This was done in 1895 at a cost of \$13,722, of which amount the sum of \$10,000 was borrowed. With these additions the school could house 600 pupils and this, apparently, met all requirements for a number of years. In 1910 a new era began as the following figures, denoting the average attendance for seven consecutive years, will clearly indicate:

1910		**	14		10			1/4/1	10.	- 6	9	10	47	15	676
1911											54		*:		726
1912					-		-			e.	24				822
1913					100									-	866
1914		-													1021
1915				(6)							-				1147
1916	4	-	12		14	4	- 4	255				-			1289

This steady growth created a very uncomfortable and perplexing situation. Here is just one illustration of what happened.



Junior Department in Session.

To crowd 1300 persons into a space which was intended to take care of only 600 is little short of criminal and makes efficient teaching impossible. Some of the departments were compelled to meet in the church auditorium. Later we filled to capacity the "Little Red House." Then we rented the Y. W. C. A. where the Men's Bible Class and the Young Men's Department have held their sessions for several years. Since 1919 our school has been meeting in four different buildings every Sunday. Something had to be done. The need was urgent and had to be met.

Chapter Two Page Three

# THE NEST EGG

ARLY in 1913 someone had a strange dream. One night, after returning from a Workers' meeting, he saw in his sleep a beautiful new Sunday School building and in Franklin Street hundreds of men and women, boys and girls who were carrying their Bibles and trying to reach the entrance. He awoke, and he began to think. Such things do not just happen; they must have a beginning, somewhere. Was this to be only a dream? Recognizing the need and also the possibility of making his dream become a reality, this some one went to the telephone and had a rather unusual conversation with a carpenter known to all Salemites as Fred Kleiner. On the following Sunday a big surprise was announced for the approaching Easter season. It came, and here it is:



From the English Columns found in the April issue of the "Salem's Bote" 1913 we quote the following paragraph:

"Were you surprised or disappointed—which? If you did not attend the Easter Service, ask some one who did. And never mind, 'there'll come a time some day' when our hopes will be fulfilled. Just wait and see, but 'hustle' while you wait."

That was ten years ago. Fifty-thousand dollars for a modern Sunday School building? It nearly took our breath away. "Impossible," said some; "pipe-dream" others. But into this Nest-Egg went our spare pennies, and nickels, and dimes, and dollars, year after year, and out of it came the "Little Red House" and a new Church School and Parish House which, when fully completed and equipped, represents an investment of five times fifty-thousand dollars. What "mighty oaks from little acorns grow."

Chapter Three

Page Four

## A GROWING VISION

ONDITIONS were getting worse and they impelled action. In the May issue of the "Salem Bote" 1917 we read the following important notice:

"It will interest our people to hear that at the annual meeting, held on the evening of April 16th, the congregation voted unanimously to purchase property adjoining the church on the South side for the sum of \$25,500. The two lots which have been secured measure 98 by 163 feet and furnish a splendid site for our new Sunday School building and Parish House to be erected at the earliest possible time."

In the June issue of the same year: "Since the annual meeting our Sunday School has acquired, merely as a means of future protection, the "Little Red House" for the sum of \$6000 of which amount \$4000 was paid in cash and \$789 of the fifth thousand is already on hand."

"For the purpose of securing the required funds (the amount has not been definitely fixed, but will not be less than one hundred thousand dollars) our Church Council has already arranged for a financial canvass to be conducted during the month of November, 1917."

November came and with it the great campaign. Under the efficient leadership of Mr. H. H. Patterson of Cleveland, Ohio, 300 men and 100 women secured 2285 pledges in six days, November 19th to 26th. These pledges amounted to \$154,101 (including the "Little Red House"), the individual contributions ranging from seventy-five cents to five thousand dollars. The entire expense of this great campaign, including the Commissary Department, was \$3,129.77. And here are some of the enthusiastic workers to whom we owe its success:



Financial Campaign November 19th-26th, 1917.

Chapter Four Page Five

# AN UNWELCOME POST-PONEMENT

THE greatest significance of the financial campaign of 1917 lay in the fact that it was successful at a time when our country was already involved in the horrible world conflict raging across the sea. On the evening of November 26th, the closing day of our campaign, the honorable mayor of our fair city, Hiram Edgerton, expressed to the workers his great satisfaction "that the church in these days of stress would dare to undertake and to do successfully such a big thing." In a congratulatory letter received at that time from Dr. H. H. Barstow of Westminster Church we read: "I feel that if in the midst of all the pressure for money that is upon the people now, Salem Church can accomplish their great purpose it will put heart into ministers and churches, and make us all feel that we can trust the heart of the church still to support its own great tasks as well as those of the nation." Dr. A. W. Beaven wrote: "That was a fine piece of work, particularly under the present stress of the times." And our good people did not shirk their duty toward the nation. Salem bought more Liberty Bonds than any other church in this community. More young men responded to the call of the Colors from our Bible School than came from any other Protestant church school in Rochester. As a people none were more truly loyal than ours.

But the war forced upon us the unwelcome postponement of our cherished plans. By order of the Government all building operations which were not an absolute necessity had to be abandoned, for the time being. The payment of pledges was delayed. Our people needed their money to meet the high cost of living and they were urged to invest any surplus in Government Bonds. We were compelled to wait a little while longer. For a time it seemed as if the vision would be dimmed, and faith would falter, and the enthusiasm must wane. But this was only for a time. We learned "to labor and to wait" and to those who have truly learned life's great lesson all things which are really necessary, will come in due season.

Chapter Five Page Six

# TO THE TASK

S early as June 8th, 1916 a building committee was appointed consisting of Messrs. Geo. F. Roth, Chas. W. Weis, Chas. G. Gerhard, Geo. J. Hafner, J. George Kaelber, Chas. Suss and the pastor exofficio. In view of the fact that the proposed new building was to meet primarily the needs of the Sunday School the members of the above committee requested the appointment of representatives from the school who were thoroughly familiar with the nature and the requirements of this important work. The request was cheerfully met by the Sunday School workers and the following men were chosen to represent the school on the Building committee: Charles T. Rau, J. J. Andersen, Fred J. Schminke, Wm. H. Brown and Henry Albrecht. The committee organized as follows: Geo. J. Hafner, Chairman, J. Geo. Kaelber, Vice-chairman, Chas. Gerhard, secretary, Chas. W. Weis, treasurer, Charles T. Rau, assistant treasurer. Mr. Kilian Schaeffer was engaged to serve as clerk and Mr. Emil Ludekans as Legal Advisor. Later Messrs. F. M. Dubelbeiss and Oscar Zabel were added to the committee in an advisory capacity. The good women of the church were also asked to appoint advisory representatives and they responded by choosing the following: Frauenverein: Mrs. B. Tischer, Mrs. R. Weis. Sister Society: Mrs. E. Norden, Mrs. J. Hoffman. Sunday School: Miss Emma Hempel.

Thru seven long years the Building Committee has been faithfully at work. It studied the needs, carried on correspondence with leading Sunday School men, held conferences with architects, secured the firm Gordon and Kaelber to make plans and draw specifications and submitted them to the congregation. When these were rejected they started all over again, had other plans and specifications drawn and upon final acceptance, awarded the contracts, paid the bills, held innumerable meetings, often till nearly midnight, and thus saw our building project thru to its final completion.



The Men who Carried On.

Chapter Six Page Seven

## A MEMORABLE MORNING

THE first plans prepared by our architects, Gordon and Kaelber, were those of an ideal modern Sunday School building and in almost every detail contemplated an equipment such as we had dreamed of for many years. These plans and specifications were completed on July 27th 1921 and the architects were instructed to secure competitive bids. On September 21st, 1921 the bids were opened. The total cost of the various contracts submitted amounted to \$293,000. Already the congregation had twice raised the original appropriation of \$100,000; first to \$150.000 and then to \$175,000. To invest three times the amount originally specified seemed an impossibility. The bids were rejected and the committee was instructed to revise the plans and reduce the cost. This was done thru numerous eliminations and changes. On December 22nd, 1921 the second bids were opened which called for an expenditure of \$195,000, without equipment. These were also rejected by the annual meeting held on January 9th, 1922. The Building Committee was again limited to \$175,000 and instructed to proceed accordingly. Entirely new plans were made in which many desirable features were of necessity eliminated. At a special meeting of the congregation held on Monday, June 12th, 1922 the new plans were submitted and approved, the total contracts, exclusive of all unavoidable extras and necessary equipment, amounting to nearly \$165,000. The committee was urged to award the contracts to the lowest responsible bidders without delay, and to begin work immediately. It did, and seven days later; on Monday morning, June 19th at 8:30 o'clock members of the Building Committee and of the Church Council assembled to break ground for the new structure. After an earnest prayer in which the pastor invoked God's favor and blessing upon the undertaking a new spade was vigorously thrust into the earth and the ground turned over in the manner here shown.



Monday, June 19th, 1922, 8:30 A. M.

Chapter Seren Page Eight

# A GLAD DAY

NCE BEGUN the work on our new building progressed with greater speed than we had anticipated. Three months after the breaking of the ground we were privileged to celebrate the laying of the cornerstone. Sunday, September 17th, 1922 was a glad day for Salem. More than a thousand members and friends of our church assembled at three o'clock in the afternoon to witness the great event which marks one of the important mile stones in our history. Our heavenly Father blessed the occasion with glorious sunshine. The Reverend Richard Stave Ph.D. of St. Pau''s Church delivered a splendid address in which he emphasized the need of Religious Education in the program of the church. Professor Ludwig Schenck, kindly accepted our invitation to lead the congregational singing, as in the days gone by, and the joyous strains accompanied by Professor Carl Paul on the organ and assisted by several brass instruments gave evidence of the enthusiasm which filled the hearts of many true Salemites. During the service and long after its close the photographer was busy with his camera to preserve the happy scenes for future generations. Here is one of them.



September 17th, 1923.

In the center of the cornerstone we have placed a copper receptacle containing the following documents: The Bible, Elmhurst Hymnal, Evangelical Catechism, "Our Evangelical Church," a copy of the Constitution; the picture and story of the Nest Egg; copies of the "Salem's Bote" giving information about the Financial Campaign of 1917, the list of contributors, Our Larger Program, Annual Reports 1921; a list giving the names of the Officers and Members of all Organizations, the Church Council, The Building Committee, the Architects and the Contractors; copies of "Der Friedensbote" Evangelical Herald, Evangelical Teacher, Year Book 1922; Copies of Democrat and Chronicle, Rochester Herald, Post Express, Times-Union, Rochester American, Die Abendpost; The Christian Flag and the American Flag.

Chapter Eight Page Nine

### DEDICATION WEEK

HEN work was begun on June 19th, 1922 we expressed the hope that the new building might be dedicated in June 1923. With profound gratitude to God who blessed our efforts and to the many fellow-laborers who worked diligently, day by day, we are in a position to announce that the goal has been reached within a year from the day on which we began. Salem Church School and Parish House will be dedicated on the tenth of June 1923. "This is the day which the Lord hath made; let us rejoice and be glad in it."

The Dedication Committee consisting of fifty-seven members and representing the various organizations within our church has prepared an elaborate program which provides for an entire week of varied festivities. For the information of all our friends who rejoice with us and also for the benefit of those who in future days will carry on the work we present herewith

#### THE PROGRAM OF DEDICATION

JUNE TENTH TO SEVENTEENTH

SUNDAY-	-Dedicatory	Service	, 9:0	ю А.	М.				-	*	The l	Rev. F	. Niebi	ahr, E	etroit
	Processiona	1, 10:0	ο A.	M.											
	Department	tal Med	ting	s in	New	Buil	ldin	g, 10:3	so A	. M					
	Elementa	ry .	7			(5)						. Th	e Rev.	R. Ni	iebuhr
	Intermedi	iate	100		-						76		Mr. W	McF	arlane
	Young Po	eople	21					4	-		4		Mr.	W. S	tackel
	Adult .					1						The	Rev. Jo	hn S.	Wolff
MONDAY	-Men's Nig	ht, 8:0	οP.	M.					6	+)	100	. Th	e Rev.	Theo.	Bode
TUESDAY	-Young Peo	ople's l	Nigh	t, 8%	00 P.	M.	100				The	Rev.	Orlo J.	Price	, D.D.
WEDNESD	AY—Bible S	School	Wor	kers,	, 8:00	P. 1	М.						Mr. H	erbert	Weet
THURSDA	Y—Women'	s Day,											Pro. Paul		
FRIDAY-	Evangelical	Night,	8:00	P. N	M.			-		-	Pasto	ors of	our Sist	er Ch	urches

Opportunity will be given each night to see the whole building. Well informed guides will conduct the several groups. Members of the orchestra the Church quartet and our choirs will furnish the music. The good Women of Salem will serve refreshments to all who come. Each night of Dedication week will be a spiritual, an intellectual and a social feast.

Chapter Nine

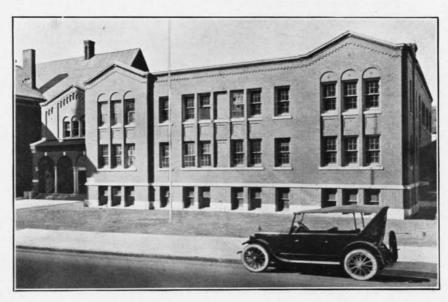
### LOOKING IT OVER

Page Ten

A GLANCE at the exterior of our new building does not give one an adequate conception of all that it contains and of the facilities it offers. Practically it is a three-story building, for the basement so-called is much more than this name ordinarily implies. Here is a spacious kitchen and a large dining-room. Both are well lighted and ventilated and furnished with every modern convenience.

The dining room offers seating capacity for 750 persons and is admirably adapted for meetings, entertainments, mass-games and similar events. Grouped about this are the Boy Scout room, class-rooms, store-rooms, dressing-rooms etc.

On the first floor are the church offices with every up-to-date equipment, a work-room for the secretaries, and others, a beautiful church parlor, comfortably furnished with kitchenette adjoining and a gallery which offers additional space to the dining room below. The second floor is devoted entirely to various departments of our Bible School, namely the Junior, Intermediate and Senior groups, each department being divided into three grades by means of folding partitions and equipped with blackboards built into the walls, and desk-chairs for the convenience of the pupils. The Beginners and Primary Departments and also the pastors' offices will be located in the old plant which will be completely remodeled and re-furnished. Most of the rooms are intended to serve many and varied purposes. Salem is to become a seven-day church open all week for worship and work.



Chapter Ten

Page Eleven

# TOLD IN FIGURES

O doubt everybody will be interested to know the cost of our building operations. In round figures this will be about \$250,000, or five times the amount mentioned on Easter Sunday 1913, when the congregation was surprised with the gift of our famous Nest-Egg. We are not in a position to present at this time all expenses in a complete financial statement. However, we can give the cost of the most important items now and we refer our friends to the full report of the Building Committee which will be prepared in detail and submitted to the congregation at the earliest possible time.

D I F						
Real Estate			- 5			\$25,500.00
"The Little Red House".	9 E	1.0	- 50	14	4	6,000.00
Cost of Financial Campaign .						3,129.77
Stallman Sons, Mason Contracto			27	7.	-	73,104.00
Luther & Sons, Carpenter Work	100		*			39,120.50
Howe and Bassett, Heating & Pl	lumb	ing		-		26,546.08
Leo Lagler, Roofing			-			2,192.00
Laube Electrical Co.	2 2					2,417.23
Waltjens, Painting and Decorating	ng .	-	100		2	4,095.00
Sager, Metal Weatherstrips .				10	.8	620.00
Wheeler Green, fixtures			-	<u>.</u>	2	1,450.00
Wheeler Green, fixtures Central Supply House, Kitchen e	quip	men	t	9		2,132.75
						1,385.00
Sibley, Lindsay & Curr Co., Win	dow	sha	des		-	246.97
						3,000.00
Chairs, Cupboards, Tables						5,150.75
Stage Curtain and Equipment						908.45
Office Furniture and Equipment						1,114.00
Church Parlor Furnishings						1,500.00
					\$	5199,612.50
To this amount must be added:						
Cost of lot on North side						6,000.00
Cost of alterations in old plant						30,000.00
Architects Fees and other Items	e					12,000.00
Miscellaneous, e.g. Moving					ne	12,000.00
etc., and other unforseen expe	ndir	nres	1412	DDF	ovi	
mately		urcs	, 4	PP	OA1-	
matery		*	*		1	2,500.00
		Tot:	al		\$	250,112.50
W1 11:-!1			1			
We need an additional amount	to c	ance	1 01	ar I	ores-	
ent indebtedness				*		37,000.00
Grand	Tota	1			c	28- 112 20
Grand	LUCA				φ	287,112.50

Of this amount we have already raised \$150,000; we shall borrow \$100,000 on First Mortgage, and we expect to secure \$30,000 thru the Anniversary Offering in the fall of this year.

Chapter Eleven Page Twelve

### A SIMPLE TRIBUTE

It is impossible to mention the names of all who have a share in this our new and great enterprise. Thousands of men, and women, and children have labored and given and prayed for the new building which we now occupy. Many who worked so faithfully with us thru the years and who longed to see what we are permitted to see have been called from our midst and have gone to their reward. How they would rejoice with us on this glad day. Let us with gratitude remember these and their ministries.

WE thank God for the spirit of 1873 which moved the Founders of Salem to erect the beautiful church in which we still worship, and which lives in their sons and daughters of 1923. The spirit of unfailing love and unfaltering faith has prepared the way; the spirit of cheerful co-operation and willing sacrifice has brought us to the coveted goal. But this spirit comes from God and therefor we say; "Not unto us, O Lord, not unto us, but unto Thy name give Glory."

TO the members of the Building Committee who in the face of many difficulties and much criticism have carried on thru seven long years, the writer must pay a special tribute. One of our number has gone home. Mr. Charles W. Weis who served our church for twenty-five years as Treasurer, and who was also the first treasurer of our Building Fund, is no longer with us. We honor his memory and his many services. The other members were permitted to continue in the work until the goal has been reached. Special credit must be given to our esteemed chairman, Mr. Geo. J. Hafner, and our loyal secretary, Mr. Charles G. Gerhard, who have not only attended all meetings regularly, but who gave so liberally of their time and talent to the accomplishment of the task. Brethren of the Building Committee, we appreciate you. May the work which you have done be your joy, and the many services which you have rendered, your great reward. And to all who have encouraged us with your interest and your gifts and your prayers we say a hearty Thank You!

Chapter Twelve

Page Thirteen

# THE SOLEMN CHALLENGE

WE dare not close this bit of history in the development of our beloved church without asking and answering several very important and vital questions. Why have we done this? To what purpose have we erected our new building? What is it all for? What use shall we make of our larger and better equipment? The real test has not been met in the accomplishment of yesterday; it must be met in the achievement of today and of tomorrow. Only the manner in which we shall make the fullest possible use of the larger opportunities now offered, can determine the real value of our new building in the life of the church and the community of which we are a part.

WE have named the new building "Church School and Parish House" and we dedicate it to a three-fold purpose: "Instruction, Inspiration and Expression," It is more than a Sunday School; we hope, God helping us, to make it a Church School of Religious Education in which the teachings of Jesus will be offered every day of the week, and in which people will be inspired to live the Christ-life. Here we shall endeavor to train Christian workers, and to develop religious leaders. It is Salem's work-shop where our Church life can find its true expression; where men and women, boys and girls, at all times can engage in ministries which will help to advance the Kingdom of God.

DO we believe in aggressive and progressive Christianity? Are we ready to accept the solemn challenge of a new and better day? Is Salem willing to assume her full responsibility in the world-task? Then let us make Dedication Week a season of renewed consecration to the Christ, whose we are and whom we serve. In the spirit of unfeigned love and unceasing loyalty let us join hearts and hands, and together

"GO FORWARD."

Page Fourteen

# THE DEDICATION COMMITTEE

THE members of our Dedication Committee, fifty-seven in number and representing every organization within our church, have spared neither time nor effort to make all necessary preparations for the great event. We take pleasure in presenting on this page their names and we feel that we are expressing the sentiment of all who enjoy Dedication Week with us, if we add a word of sincere appreciation.

#### THE COMMITTEE

WILLIAM H. BROWN		-	-	-		. Chairman
HENRY F. ALBRECHT						Vice-Chairman
MISS MARY EMICH		8			1040	. Secretary
Mrs. Geo. J. Hafner						. Treasurer

#### Members of Dedication Committee:

- CHURCH COUNCIL—Henry F. Albrecht, Julius J. Andersen, Louis C. Deininger, Chris. Merlau, Alfred F. Scheible.
- Frauenverein-Mrs. C. L. Hempel, Mrs. P. Leppla, Mrs. S. Paul, Mrs. K. Tischer, Mrs. R. Weis.
- Sister Society—Mrs. Wm. H. Brown, Mrs. F. J. Dubelbeiss, Mrs. Geo. J. Hafner, Mrs. R. Kaucher, Mrs. Wm. F. Wolfsperger.
- Ladies' Bible Class—Miss Gertrude Kalmbach, Miss Mary Kleiner, Miss Lucia Rau, Mrs. Otto Schlegel, Mrs. Henry Schwab, Miss Anna Young.
- Men's Bible Class—Carl Fischer, William Hieb, Harry Herbst, G. Wallace Neth, Geo. C. Wickman.
- Sunday School—Miss Mildred Berg, Fred. M. Dubelbeiss, Mrs. F. Frankenfeld, Miss Amelia Kall, Miss Ethel Woehrlen, Chas. F. Then.
- Mission Society—Miss Mary Emich, Mrs. Wm. Freckleton, Mrs. A. J. Hartel, Miss Lena Kettwig, Mrs. H. G. Loesch, Mrs. H. Murenberg.
- SALEM BENEVOLENT SOCIETY—Fred. Baetzel, W. L. Bailey, William Hormuth, William Jostmeier, J. F. Kleiner.
- Young Peoples C. E.—Older Group: Dr. John F. Zabel.
- Young Peoples C. E.—Walter Bettin, Edwin Genf, Raymond Meise, Miss Ester Schacht, Miss Frances Yarach.

Scouts-Jacob H. Vogel.

CHOIR-Mrs. L. Dettman.

GIRL'S CHORUS-Mrs. R. Lagler.

The President of the Church, Mr. Charles Suss, the chairman of the Building Committee, Mr. Geo. J. Hafner, Mr. Wm. H. Brown, Director of General activities, and the pastors are members "ex-officio" of this committee.

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