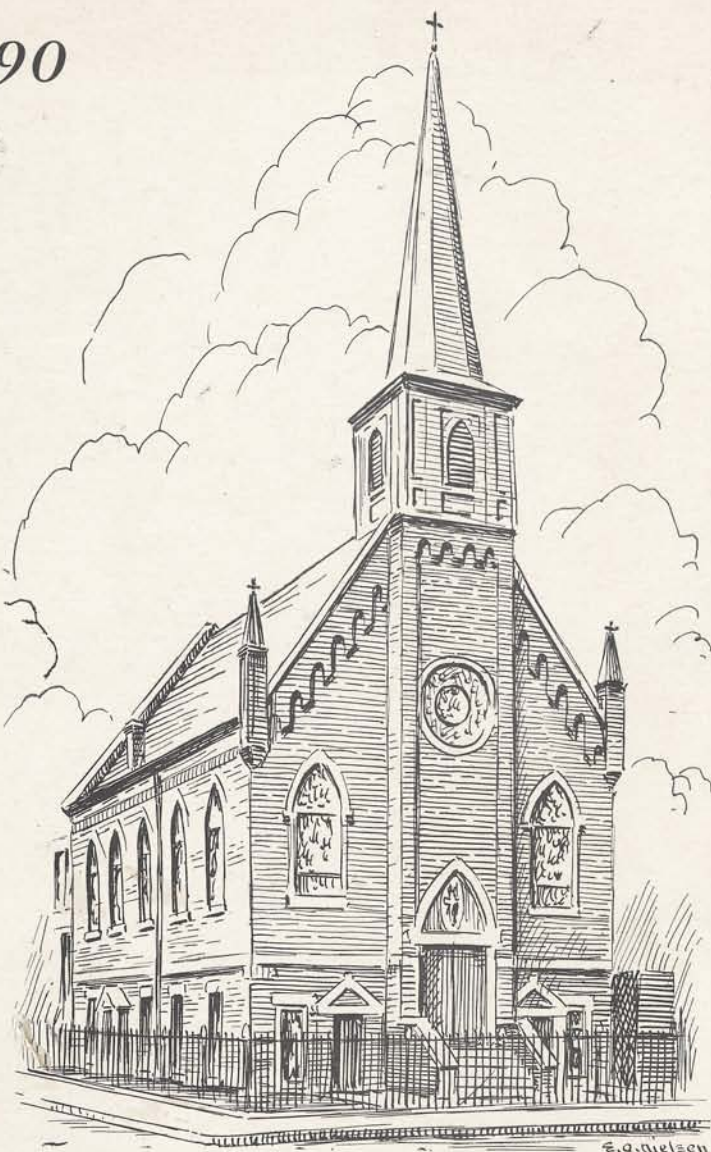


1890

1965



75th Anniversary Memorial History
of
Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church
Hoboken, New Jersey



Preface

*"I was glad when they said to me,
'Let us go to the house of the Lord!'"*

Psalm 122:1

The Seventy-fifth Anniversary Memorial Booklet records the blessings of Almighty God and the joyful response of God's people in the history of two Lutheran Congregations which, after many years of independent service, were led to merge, creating a third Lutheran Congregation.

The Scandinavian Evangelical Lutheran Trinity Church served from 1890-1947, a period of 57 years. The Holy Trinity English Evangelical Lutheran Church served from 1900-1947, a period of 47 years. The merged Church, Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church has served from 1948 to the present, 1965, a period of 18 years. The combination of the Church histories covers a continuous period of 75 years of service to Christ in the City of Hoboken, New Jersey.

The history of the churches will challenge our hearts as we read of the faith of our fathers who sacrificed much in order that their families and friends might have a place of worship, a "House of the Lord" in their midst.

This historical booklet has been written by Mrs. Carl Hero, who has gathered historical materials from Church Records and compiled them into the following histories. The history of the Scandinavian Evangelical Lutheran Trinity Church has been well documented in the journals issued at the 25th and 50th Anniversaries of the congregation's founding. Only the first three years of the Holy Trinity English Evangelical Lutheran Congregation have been so documented. All additional information had to be obtained from the often brief records of council meetings and church societies and from existing programs of various church and organization affairs. Its history, therefore, lacks the detailed accounting of important events possible for the Scandinavian Church. We are deeply grateful to Mrs. Hero for her tireless effort in order that the history of these congregations may be completely and accurately recorded for the future.

This historical booklet is presented in memory of the Lord of the Church, Jesus Christ, who gave himself in order that men may be saved and come to a knowledge of the truth. It is also presented in memory of all of our members who have spent their lives in the service of the Church. It is to the glory of God and in memory of these beloved servants of Christ, that we dedicate this Memorial Historical Booklet. This publication has been sponsored by the Enduring Memorial Fund of Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church. This is a fund within the Church Treasury into which memorial gifts are received and used for important projects of the Church. Please note in the last page of the booklet the names of memorials and donors to this fund.

As we celebrate the achievements of the past, let us be challenged to serve our God with a strong faith and a joyful heart in the present and in the years ahead.

Pastor Arnold Nicholson, Jr.

History of Scandinavian Evangelical Lutheran Trinity Church Hoboken, New Jersey

One of the many problems which faced members of the early Scandinavian population of Hoboken and vicinity was the lack of a church wherein they could worship the Lord according to the Lutheran faith and in a language which they could best understand. Since only German was spoken in the existing Lutheran Churches, their children were sent to Sunday Schools of other Protestant denominations. When the services of a Scandinavian minister were required, application had to be made to Brooklyn.

On Sunday, April 22, 1890, 21 men and women met at 310 Bloomfield Street to discuss the possibility of forming a Scandinavian Lutheran congregation. Pastor Kr. K. Saarheim, a seaman's pastor in Brooklyn, was elected Chairman, and Thord Einarsen, Secretary. The prospect of the responsibilities it was to assume must indeed have been cause for grave concern to the little group, composed as it was, entirely of small wage earners, but their faith in the Almighty God sustained them and gave them courage. At a later meeting, held in St. Matthew's Evangelical Lutheran Church on June 22, 1890, the Scandinavian Evangelical Lutheran Church was organized with the following charter members:

Tobias Haavardsen
Svein Pedersen
Theodore Andersen and wife
Henrik Granlund and wife
Edvard Granlund and wife
Torvald Larsen and wife
Theodor Jensen and wife
Anton E. Olsen
John A. Brown and wife
Anna K. Eriksen
Thord Einarsen and wife
Tomas Mikkelsen and wife
Robert Einarsen
Ivar Einarsen
Sigrid Einarsen

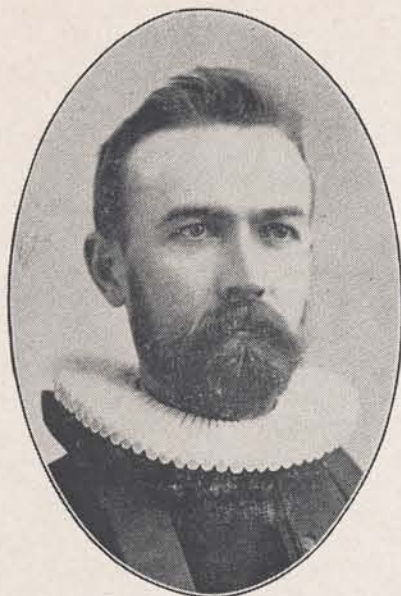
Ingeborg Einarsen
Ludvig Rasmussen
August J. Sjostrom and wife
Isak Mortensen
Knut Olsen
Hans L. Hansen and wife
Marie Nelsen
Hans C. Jorgensen
Elias Hansen

The members elected to serve on the Board of Trustees were:

Tobias Haavardsen, Chairman
Anton E. Olsen, Treasurer
Thord Einarsen, Secretary
Theodore Andersen
A. J. Sjostrom
John A. Brown
Thomas Mikkelsen
Hans Hansen
Ludvig Hansen

On July 29, 1890, the first service with Holy Communion was held in the basement of St. Matthew's Evangelical Lutheran Church. Pastor Saarheim preached the sermon and Pastor Eversen conducted the ritual for communion. Ministers from Brooklyn continued to serve the church until November 2 when Pastor Sigvard Gramstad became its first resident pastor. He was succeeded by Pastor Carl Schive in 1892.

In January, 1893, the congregation bought a lot 25/100 feet at the corner of Ninth and Clinton Streets for \$1,550. Details of the purchase of the remainder of the present 50/100 feet are not available. The adjacent streets were not as yet filled in and there were no sidewalks. In August of the same year, it was decided to build a church. Since the congregation was still small, a costly building was out of the question. The first church was, therefore, a modest structure without a foundation, costing about \$950. It



PASTOR SIGVARD GRAMSTAD
1890-1892



PASTOR AND MRS. CARL SCHIVE
1892-1895



THE ORIGINAL CHURCH
1894-1901

was dedicated on September 23, 1894 by Dr. H. G. Stub. In the following winter, the parsonage was built at a cost of \$2,200. The comparatively low cost of the two buildings was due to the fact that much of the labor and material was donated.

During its first years, the church had shared its minister with the newly established sister church in Jersey City. After Pastor Schive's resignation in 1895, this practice was discontinued. For a year the church was served by Pastor Christian Hovde. On Easter Sunday, 1896, Pastor Olaf Amdalsrud assumed the pastorate which he held until July, 1898. He was succeeded by Pastor Hans M. Gundersen, who began his service to the congregation, for a period of fourteen years, on August 18, 1898.

Shortly after his installation, Pastor Gundersen went to Norway to be married. Mrs. Gundersen was a competent and willing worker for the church, particularly with the children. She was a trained teacher and in addition to her Sunday School work, she also held daily classes for pre-school children.

The present basement, 30/60 feet, on which the frame church was placed, was built in 1901. It was dedicated on September 8 of that year by Dr. Stub. Again the cost was reduced by monetary contributions as well as labor. Men who worked the long hours of a six day week came down to dig the foundation after work and sons able to handle a shovel were pressed into service after school. The debt of the church now stood at \$3,500.

In 1912, Pastor Gundersen resigned to become Institutional Missionary in Greater New York. In August, 1912, the pastorate was again assumed by Pastor Amdalsrud.

At this time, the congregation began to make plans to further liquidate its indebtedness. However, it became increasingly aware that the little wooden church was not only in need of extensive repairs, but was also becoming too small for the growing membership. After a long and careful deliberation, it was decided, in May, 1913, to build the present sanctuary. Thord Einarsen was chosen to supervise the erection of the church. On June 20, 1913, the 23rd anniversary of the congregation, the cornerstone was laid. For some weeks, services were conducted in the old church while the new brick walls rose outside. On July 20, the congregation with thanks

to God for His immeasurable grace in the past and with confidence in His promise for the future, took leave of its humble house of worship.

Work on the building progressed rapidly under the able leadership of Thord Einarsen. Notable, too, is the handsome cabinet work of the altar and pulpit, made by Robert Einarsen, a charter member of the congregation. The date set for the dedication of the new sanctuary was December 7, 1913. Pastor Stub, who had officiated at the dedication of the other structures, was asked to preach the dedicatory sermon.

On December 7, 1913, the present sanctuary was consecrated by Pastor Amdalsrud. The introductory sermon was preached by Pastor H. M. Gundersen. He asked the congregation to thank God and to rejoice because of the great blessings He had bestowed on them. Dr. Stub, in his dedicatory sermon, reminded the assemblage that a house of worship is precious because here the bliss, which the Christian hopes to attain in heaven, begins. As part of the service, a baptism was solemnized.

Other congregations were well represented and the church was filled to overflowing. Refreshments were served by the Ladies Aid after the afternoon service to over 600 persons. An additional service was held in the evening during which a letter from Pastor Gramstad, the first minister of the church, was read.

The sanctuary has a seating capacity of about 250. Its cost, with a hot water heating system serving also the parsonage and the custodian's dwelling, and including all renovations made in the basement, was \$14,000. The debt on the church property, now at an estimated value of \$31,000, was \$11,000.

In 1915, the congregation celebrated the twenty-fifth anniversary of its founding. A journal giving a history of the church, illustrated with pictures of old and new buildings, portraits of pastors and charter members and of organization members, was published.

From the beginning, the congregation had held membership in "The Synod of the Norwegian Lutheran Church of America." At the union of the Synod with the United Lutheran Church and the Hauge's Synod, in 1917, the congregation automatically became a member of the "Norwegian Lutheran Church of America."



PASTOR CHRISTIAN HOVDE
1895-1896



PASTOR HANS M. GUNDERSEN
1898-1912



THE NEW BASEMENT, THE ORIGINAL CHURCH,
AND THE PARSONAGE — 1901-1913

Pastor Amdalsrud resigned in 1918 and was succeeded by Pastor P. A. Kittilsby who served about a year. He was replaced by Pastor A. O. Bjerke. With his coming, the parsonage was again presided over by a pastor's wife. Mrs. Bjerke, in her quiet gracious manner, gave willing service to the church in many ways. In 1925, about the time of the 35th anniversary of the founding of the congregation, the mortgage on the church property was burned. Both Pastor Kittilsby and Pastor Bjerke are remembered for their friendliness and faithfulness in their service. In the summer of 1925, Pastor Bjerke resigned to take up the duties of Superintendent of Norway House in Brooklyn. He continued to serve until his successor, Pastor Christian Davick, was installed on September 13, 1925. Pastor Davick's ministry, lasting for 22 years, was to be the longest in the history of the church. His wife, Gertrude Davick, an accomplished pianist, gave willing assistance to the musical efforts of the congregation and was an active and able participant in various other aspects of church work.

Up to this period, the language of the church had been pre-dominantly Norwegian. The time had come, however, when English must be introduced for the benefit of the younger generation. After some experimentation, it was decided that English should be used in Sunday School, and at Sunday services held at 10 o'clock, with Norwegian worship at 11 o'clock on the first and fourth Sundays of the month. On holidays, services in both languages were to be conducted.

Pastor Davick's ministry included the depression years. It has been said that the first membership was outstanding in its sacrifice for the needs of the church. It can also be said that the trait was not absent in this difficult period. Much of the needed repairs could not have been made if it had not been for the voluntary labor of members in addition to the generous contributions to the financial requirements of the church. Ingvald Olsen is to be specially commended for the work he gave to the church in this period. When funds were especially low, Pastor Davick did not receive his salary. This debt was later paid in full. Mrs. Clara Compton performed her duties as organist several years without remuneration. In spite of heavy local

obligations and reduced incomes, the congregation subscribed about \$2,100 to the Lutheran Centennial Appeal.

In May, 1940, the church celebrated its fiftieth anniversary. A journal, similar to one issued by the congregation at its twenty-fifth anniversary was published, giving the history of the church and its organizations. On May 26, a service was held for the Sunday School, followed by a congregational festival service at which Pastor L. P. Qualben preached the sermon. A Confirmation Reunion took place in the afternoon and a musical program was given in the evening. On the following Friday evening, a banquet for members and friends was held in the church. The observance ended with a festival service in Norwegian on June 2 at which Pastor H. M. Gundersen preached the sermon. In the evening, the Ladies Aid were the guests of the church at a program given in their honor.

A project, especially dear to Pastor Davick's heart in his later years, was the "Lutheran World Action Appeal." To his great pleasure, the congregation pledged and raised the sum of \$1,000.00.

On June 9, 1947, it became the sad duty of the congregation to attend the funeral service of Pastor Davick who died on June 6. The twenty-two years of his able and devoted ministry will long be remembered by those who were privileged to be his parishioners. His widow remained with the church for several years afterward, during which time she functioned as organist and custodian. At present, Mrs. Gertrude Davick, who is still a member of the congregation resides at Eger Lutheran Home on Staten Island. Mrs. Davick is eagerly welcomed whenever she is able to be present at the church.

For a number of years, the changing population of Hoboken and vicinity and the continuing removal of members to the suburbs, had been reflected in a decline of church membership. After Pastor Davick's death, the congregation found it difficult to obtain a minister at a salary it could afford to pay. A merger with another church, possibly St. Olav's in Weehawken, was suggested as a solution. Before the matter could be resolved, a proposal for a merger was re-



PASTOR OLAF AMDALSRUD
1896-1898
1912-1919



PASTOR P. A. KITTILSBY
1919-1920



PASTOR A. O. BJERKE
1920-1925



PASTOR CHRISTIAN A. DAVICK
1925-1947

ceived from Holy Trinity English Lutheran Church of Hoboken, which was experiencing similar difficulties.

At a congregational meeting held on December 4, 1947, with Dr. Martin Andersen, President of the Eastern District, and Pastor Fredrik Schiotz of Brooklyn, present in an advisory capacity, a resolution was adopted that Holy Trinity be advised that the proposal for a merger was looked upon with favor. Work was begun immediately on the reorganization by committees appointed by the respective congregations for that purpose.

The following is a roster of the pastors who have served the Scandinavian Evangelical Lutheran Trinity Church:

Sigvard Gramstad	1890-1892
Carl Schive	1892-1895
Christian Hovde	1895-1896
Olaf Amdalsrud	1896-1898
Hans M. Gundersen	1898-1912
Olaf Amdalsrud	1912-1919
P. A. Kittilsby	1919-1920
A. O. Bjerke	1920-1925
C. A. Davick	1925-1947



When the present sanctuary was built, the following articles were given to furnish and beautify its interior:

Altar and Painting .. Ingeborg & Sigrid Einarsen

In memory of their mother. These sisters and Anna Iversen had previously given the silver communion set.

Altar Cloth Lea Langseth

Hymn Book and Bible Severine Jensen

Silver Candlesticks for

Altar Mr. & Mrs. Albert Johnsen

Carpet for Chancel Laides Aid Society

Kneeling Cushions for Altar .. George Halvorsen

Pulpit Thord and Robert Einarsen

Stained Glass Window Mrs. Tord Einarsen
and Mrs. Anna Eriksen

Stained Glass Window Sunday School

Electric Light Fixtures Anonymous

Pipe Organ Young People's Society

Church Bell Mr. and Mrs. Matthias Reiersen

Pulpit Chairs Mrs. H. B. Hyde and
Miss Gyda Waagbo

Prayer Stool for Altar Anonymous

Baptismal Font Mrs. J. McCarthy
(Anna Iversen)

Electric Candlesticks for

Altar Mrs. Margrethe Johannesen
and Mrs. Laura Aarvig

Pastor and Mrs.
C. A. Davick
1947



THE NEW CHURCH — EXTERIOR

1913-1965



THE NEW SANCTUARY — INTERIOR

1913

History of

Holy Trinity English Evangelical Lutheran Church

Hoboken, New Jersey

With the coming of the German Steamship lines to Hoboken, in the early nineteenth century, the city acquired a considerable German population, largely of the Lutheran faith. By mid-century a sizable German Lutheran congregation had been formed. Succeeding generations which had little or no knowledge of the German and later Norwegian, spoken exclusively in the Lutheran congregations, found their way to the many churches of other Protestant denominations. The first attempt to form an English Lutheran congregation was made in 1892. All that can be learned from the scant information available is that the congregation known as "The Church of The Holy Trinity" was organized in February, 1892, by Reverend Charles T. McDaniel, who served as its pastor. It apparently remained in existence until 1896.

In September, 1899, the Board of Home Missions of the United Lutheran Synod decided to locate a mission in Hoboken to canvass the field in the interest of establishing an English Lutheran church. A partial canvass conducted by Pastor H. C. Fulz, a missionary minister, found about 50 men and women who looked with favor on the venture. On November 5, an interested group of about eighty persons met at the pastor's residence. Several ministers from New York and neighboring New Jersey towns spoke words of encouragement and urged the group to keep striving until a church could be built.

A three story and basement dwelling at 904 Garden Street was rented, the two lower floors to be used for church purposes, the remainder for the pastor's residence. The sanctuary, located on what was known as the parlor floor, was equipped with a platform, altar, pulpit and other ecclesiastic appurtenances. Later the following articles were donated: carpeting for the plat-

form and an altar chair by the Ladies Aid, a framed altar picture by John C. Hinrichs and William Von Dreele, a hymn board by the confirmation class.

The Sunday School was organized on January 7, 1900, with 32 pupils and 14 teachers. A year later the enrollment was over a hundred. On February 5, 1900, the congregation of the Holy Trinity English Evangelical Lutheran Church was organized with 86 charter members. At first, the affairs of the church were administered by a board appointed by the pastor. In May, 1900, the following board of elders and deacons were elected by the congregation:

ELDERS

Christian Sinn	Charles Fraser
August Kall	

DEACONS

Eugene Gardner	Henry Brummer
Charles Koster	Henry Klussman
Peter Kessler	George Von Dreele
William Gutheil	J. C. Hinrichs

The presiding officer was the pastor, Church Treasurer, Charles Koster, Recording Secretary, Henry Klussman, Financial Secretary, J. C. Hinrichs. Henry Klussman was to remain Recording Secretary for sixteen years, during which period he also functioned as organist.

Holy Trinity was to remain a mission church for some years. The Board of Missions would, therefore, as was its custom, pay a considerable share of the pastor's salary, in order that as much as possible of the moneys raised by the congregation could be placed in the building fund.

On October 3, 1900, the congregation was incorporated under the laws of the State of New Jersey. It became a member of the New York

and New Jersey Synod of the United Evangelical Lutheran Church on October 12 of the same year.

Pastor Fulz resigned in December, 1900. He was succeeded by Reverend G. F. Behringer, who served from March, 1901 until November, 1902. A call was then extended to Pastor Charles T. McDaniel. While no mention is made of the fact, it can be presumed he was the minister who had organized the Church of the Holy Trinity. Pastor McDaniel was installed in June, 1903 by the Reverend J. B. Remensnyder, President of the Synod. The first step toward the building of a church came in December, 1903 with the purchase of a lot on the northwest corner of Tenth and Garden Streets. The cost of the property, 47/80 feet, with a four story dwelling at its western end, was \$9,000. While the house was larger than the rented location, its construction was essentially the same. The arrangement of combined church and parsonage was therefore continued. Since the sanctuary at 904 Garden Street could not accommodate the large attendance at confirmation services, permission had been asked of the First Baptist Church on Ninth Street to hold such services there. The practice was followed until Holy Trinity built its church in 1912.

Holy Trinity began to make plans for the construction of a church in 1910. Since there were insufficient funds to erect the complete church the congregation desired, only the basement was to be built at this time. It was to serve for all church purposes until the sanctuary could be erected over it. Its dimensions were 67/43 feet.

Although ground breaking ceremonies were held on November 6, 1910, building did not begin until September of the following year. On October 29, 1911, the cornerstone was laid. Pastor Frederick Knubel, President of the Southern Conference of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod of New York was the principal speaker. The church was consecrated by Pastor McDaniel on February 12, 1912. Assisting in the ceremony was Pastor Knubel and Pastor A. Stewart Hartman, General Secretary of the Board of Home Missions. Additional services on the following three days were conducted by visiting clergymen.

The altar in the sanctuary was given to the church by John Rosenbaum in memory of his

wife, and the baptismal font by Gertine Brown as a memorial to her son.

According to the program of the dedication ceremony, the church council and the board of trustees of that year consisted of:

PRESIDENT

Pastor McDaniel

ELDERS

Henry B. Klussman	Henry Bothe, Sr.
-------------------	------------------

DEACONS

Henry Sticht	Thomas Jacobsen
Harry Nelson	John Bothe

The congregation reached its peak membership about 1915 when an enrollment of over 300 confirmed members was recorded. The prospect of a completed church in the near future seemed promising but that hope was not to be realized. The time was rapidly approaching when the city's changing population was to affect all Protestant churches. For Holy Trinity, another factor was to have an equally serious effect. The use of English in the church, while the other Lutheran churches used German and Norwegian exclusively, had been an important factor in its growth. Soon, however, the other churches, for their own survival, began to institute the use of English in both church services and Sunday School, and the opportunity for acquiring new members from the younger generation of these congregations, to a large extent, no longer existed.

As the years went by, the diminishing congregation had to resort to its building fund for repairs and other expenses. Once again it had to apply to the Board of Home Missions for financial assistance. Added to its difficulties in the depression years was the freezing of its building fund by a bank failure. Eventually, about two-thirds of the fund in cash, bonds and bank stock was restored.

Pastor McDaniel's last years were saddened by the proposal of the Board of Home Missions that Holy Trinity merge with St. Matthew's Church in Hoboken. Since this church had a pastor, such a merger would have meant the end of his ministry. However, the congregation was not yet prepared to give up its church.



PASTOR CHARLES T. MCDANIEL
1903-1938



PASTOR KARL A. EBERHARDT
1939-1942



The Original Church
and Parsonage
1899-1903

904 Garden Street
Hoboken, New Jersey

In 1936, the congregation honored its pastor on the occasion of the fiftieth anniversary of his ordination as a Lutheran minister. Pastor Charles T. McDaniel, surely a faithful shepherd to his flock, died on December 4, 1938. He had then given thirty-five years of devoted, dedicated service to the church he loved and for which he had such high hopes. He is still spoken of with reverence by those who knew him.

Pastor Karl A. Eberhardt next served the church from October 1, 1939 until the summer of 1942 when he was succeeded by Pastor Walter S. Pura. With the growing need for Lutheran churches in the newly developed suburban areas, the Board of Missions had become reluctant to assist a church it felt had no future. Finally the Board announced that it could give no further aid. In 1947, Pastor Pura expressed doubt as to his ability to continue to serve under existing conditions. He urged the congregation to consider a merger with either Bethany Lutheran Church of North Bergen or the Scandinavian Lutheran Church of Hoboken, both of which

were without ministers. Bethany, because of its location, found little favor with the congregation which was composed almost entirely of Hoboken residents. The congregation was therefore urged to attend services at the Scandinavian Church, in order to form an opinion as to the advisability of such a merger. When a poll taken of the membership resulted in an almost unanimous vote in favor of the union, Holy Trinity sent a proposal of merger to the Scandinavian Lutheran Church.

The last Board of Trustees of Holy Trinity consisted of:

Herman Vorburger	William Sandominick
Herman Francke	George Ettinger, Sr.
Raymond Smith	

PASTORS OF HOLY TRINITY 1900 - 1947

H. C. Fulz	1900
G. F. Behringer	1901 - 1902
Charles T. McDaniel	1903 - 1938
Karl A. Eberhardt	1939 - 1942
Walter S. Pura	1942 - 1947



THE NEW PARSONAGE — 1903-1947
THE NEW CHURCH BASEMENT — 1912-1947



SANCTUARY INTERIOR RENOVATED
(Picture taken Christmas 1964)

Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church

Hoboken, New Jersey

A MEMBER OF
THE AMERICAN LUTHERAN CHURCH

On February 20, 1948, a joint meeting of the congregations of the Holy Trinity English Evangelical Lutheran Church and the Scandinavian Evangelical Lutheran Trinity Church was held in the latter church. Pastor Engebret Midboe, interim minister of the Scandinavian church, and Pastor Fredrik Schiotz of Brooklyn, were in attendance. The new constitution, presented by the Merger Committee, was read and adopted by the congregation present, effecting immediately the establishment of "Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church."

During the period of reorganization, the respective Boards of Trustees of both churches functioned independently in settling its own affairs and jointly whenever necessary.

Holy Trinity sold its property at 10th and Garden Streets and paid off its debts and obligations. The resulting balance was equally apportioned between the United Lutheran Synod, with which it was now severing its connection, and the treasury of the congregation being formed. The congregations known as the Holy Trinity English Evangelical Lutheran Church and the Scandinavian Evangelical Lutheran Trinity Church were dissolved. The new church body, designated as "Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church" was incorporated under the laws of the State of New Jersey on November 1, 1948.

At the Annual Congregational Meeting on November 5, 1948, the first elected Board of Trustees, consisting of members of both former congregations, was chosen. They were:

Herman Vorburger	Robert Einarsen
Herman Francke	John Ryersen
Raymond Smith	George Larsen
William Sandominick	Ole J. Olsen
George Ettinger, Sr.	Ellwood Einarsen
	Thomas Jensen
	Mrs. Anna Nilsen
	Mrs. Thora Tergesen

Chairman of the Board was Pastor Midboe, interim minister, Vice Chairman, Herman Vorburger, Recording Secretary, Thora Tergesen, Treasurer, Robert Einarsen, Financial Secretary, Ellwood Einarsen.

Pastor Engebret Midboe, after serving for two years as temporary minister was installed as pastor of the new congregation on May 8, 1949. To provide the pastor of the church with a home more suitable for family use than the old frame building adjacent to the church, a new parsonage was purchased at 22 Duer Place, Weehawken, N. J. After renovation, the old parsonage became a parish house. The following year the sanctuary was also renovated with individuals and organizations contributing to the cost. Standing candelabra was given to the church by Pastor Midboe and his wife.

In the beginning of Pastor Midboe's pastorate, the Order of Common Service was introduced, the use of seasonal altar cloths and pulpit antependia in liturgical colors was begun and Lutheran hymnaries purchased. The choir, augmented by voices from Holy Trinity, was robed. In 1950, Trinity Guild for women was formed by Helen Midboe, wife of the pastor. Evangelism visitation by laymen was instituted and an adult bible class was added to the Sunday School program. Giving increased greatly as the congregation became aware of stewardship. Monthly communion services were begun.

Pastor Midboe resigned in 1951 to become Chaplain in the United States Army. He was succeeded by Pastor Richard Nybro who was installed on June 1, 1952. Pastor Nybro organized the "Brotherhood" for the men of the congregation. Also introduced was the Annual laymen's Sunday observance wherein the men of the congregation conducted the service, as a positive witness to their faith. Also organized was the



Pastor and Mrs.
Engebret O. Midboe & Family
1949-1951



Parsonage (1949-1959)
22 Duer Place
Weehawken, N. J.

Altar Guild which has continued in an active manner to the present. The initial membership was: Mabel Ryan, Chairlady, Martha Ettinger, Sr., Alice Einarsen Vanderheyden, Lea Langseth, Olga Larsen, and Dorothy Wohlrab. The practice of having an acolyte to assist the pastor in the worship service was begun with Harold Lind serving as the first acolyte. To inform and inspire the church membership through the printed word, the monthly newsletter "Voice of Trinity" came into existence. Evangelism visitation was continued in cooperation with other Protestant churches. In this period, many new furnishings were added to the sanctuary, Sunday School rooms, and the Pastor's office. In 1956, the debt incurred by the purchase of the Duer Place, Weehawken parsonage was paid, and the mortgage was burned.

In 1953, the last remaining charter member, Ingeborg Einarsen, died.

When Pastor Nybro left for a chaplaincy in the Army in 1957, the ministry was assumed by Pastor Gerald Gundersen who was installed on June 30, 1957. In the same year, Pastor Gundersen began the practice of conducting a Vacation Bible School for the children of the community. The new order of service for the American Lutheran Church was introduced and new hymnals provided. A survey of the community was made for the purpose of bringing new members to the church. For a brief period, a unit of Alcoholics Anonymous held meetings in the church basement. During Pastor Gundersen's ministry considerable renovations to the church property were made, furnishings were added to the sanctuary and equipment to the pastor's office.

In 1959, the Weehawken house used as the pastor's residence was sold. Pastor Gundersen moved into the present parsonage at 1125 Bloomfield Street, Hoboken, a new two-story building, in 1960.

On the occasion of the seventieth anniversary of the church, a new rose window, to replace the original damaged by a windstorm, was dedicated. Also dedicated was a lectern bible, given in honor of the founders and pastors of the church. Pastor Gundersen, as had his two predecessors, resigned for an army chaplaincy in 1961.

Pastor Arnold Nicholson, Trinity's present minister, was installed on September 10, 1961. In Lent of 1962, a six week Evangelism visitation of the community was conducted by the congregation under the leadership of Miss Thelma Tollefsen, Parish Worker, Division of American Missions of the American Lutheran Church.

Also in 1962 and 1963, a Church Improvement Fund was established in the amount of \$3,000 which resulted in the installation of Sunday School room dividers, refurbishing of the Parish House and new Sunday School furnishings.

In the season of Lent, 1963, emphasis was placed on the importance of the Lord's Supper in the life of the Church, which resulted in the establishment of a weekly celebration of Communion at every Sunday Service.

In 1963, the congregation pledged \$7,000 to the newly established Lutheran Camp, Koinonia, at Highland Lake, New York. It is to be paid within three years. William Preusse is the Treasurer of the Fund. At this time over \$5,500 has been contributed.

The Enduring Memorial Fund was established April 19, 1963 by the Board of Trustees. Such a Fund will receive donations in any amount in memory of departed loved ones. A Memorial Fund Scroll lists the memorials given and the names of donors. The Memorial Fund is to be used at the discretion of the Board of Trustees for various needs of the church as they arise.

In 1964, the Vacation Church School was enlarged with the joining of our congregation in the Lutheran Neighborhood Summer Program, a corporation of several Lutheran congregations in Hudson County, who cooperate to offer a school of six weeks duration, using college students as teachers. In 1964, the adoption of the Zone Plan of Evangelism strengthened our concern for the needs of our own people as well as giving greater emphasis on reaching the unchurched people in our neighborhood. This plan provides for the dividing of the congregation into Zones according to geographic area with a Zone Leader in each area who works with the Pastor in relation to his Zone.



Pastor and Mrs. Richard Nybro and Family
1952-1957



Pastor and Mrs. Gerald M. Gundersen and Family
1957-1961

Pastor Nicholson has brought about a closer relationship with the other Lutheran Churches of Hoboken, St. Matthew's Evangelical Lutheran Church and St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church. Since 1962, the three churches have held joint Lutheran Lecture Series and Joint Reformation Services. They have also conducted cooperative training sessions for their Sunday School teaching staff. The Ladies Aid Societies of St. Matthew's, St. John's and Trinity Lutheran Churches meet in the respective Churches three times a year. Since 1964, breakfast services during Holy Week for high school students have been conducted by the three ministers in the downstairs church rooms of Trinity Lutheran Church. In June, 1965, a combined Choir Concert was presented in St. John's Lutheran Church under the direction of Pastor Arnold Nicholson. In 1965, approval was granted for a Parish Worker to be shared between St. Matthew's Lutheran Church and Trinity Lutheran Church. This position remains to be filled.

On February 7, 1965, the congregation rejoiced in the burning of the mortgage of the newly purchased parsonage at 1125 Bloomfield Street, Hoboken.

PASTORS OF TRINITY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH — 1949-1965

Engebret Midboe	1949-1951
Richard Nybro	1952-1957
Gerald M. Gundersen	1957-1961
Arnold Nicholson	1961-

Officers of Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church Board of Trustees in the years 1948-1965 are:

CHAIRMEN

Herman Vorburger	Arnold Larsen
George Ettinger	

Until 1961, the Board of Trustees had been presided over by the Pastor of the church, with the title of President. At that time, however, the post of President was assigned to a lay member of the congregation.

PRESIDENTS

Thomas Jensen	Herman Francke
William Schwed	

VICE CHAIRMEN — VICE PRESIDENTS

Arnold Larsen	George Ettinger
Charles Carlsen	

SECRETARIES

Arnold Larsen	Roslyn Holmes
Thora Tergesen	

TREASURERS

Robert Einarsen	George Larsen
Herman Francke	Thomas Jensen
Roslyn Holmes	

FINANCIAL SECRETARY

Ellwood Einarsen

MAJOR REPAIRS, RESTORATIONS AND ADDITIONS TO CHURCH PROPERTY

1915 - 1965

1915-1940 — Pastors Amdalsrud, Kittilsby, Bjerke and Davick

Tower Repaired

New Floor in Basement, Parsonage, Dining Room and Kitchen.

Installation of oil burner and additional radiation.

1949-1951 — Pastor Midboe

Purchase of new parsonage at 22 Duer Place, Weehawken, N. J.

Renovation of old parsonage, after which it became a Parish House.

Renovation of Sanctuary, pulpit lowered and moved to the right.

Altar cloths and pulpit antependia in liturgical colors supplied.

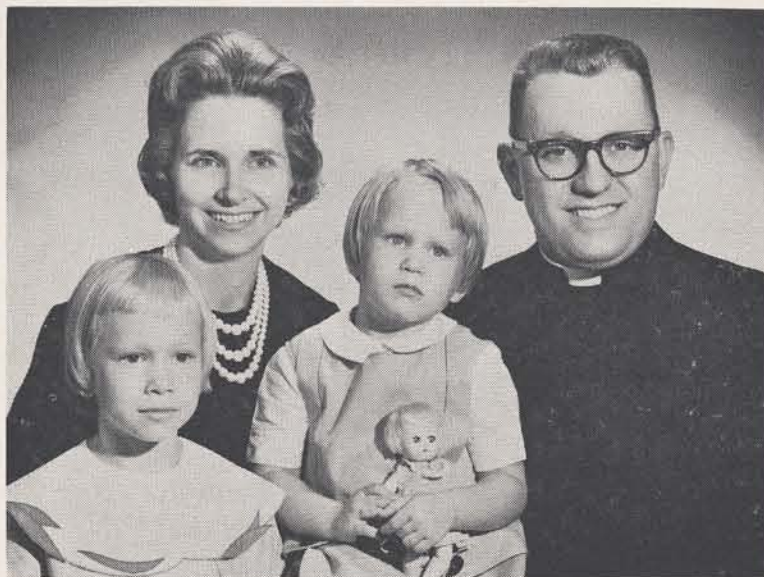
Pedestal candelabra for altar, gift of Pastor and Mrs. Midboe.

1952-1957 — Pastor Nybro

New Pews.

Carpet for sanctuary donated by choir.

New Altar Rail — Gift of Mrs. Clara Compton and Mrs. Jennie McDonald in memory of their parents, Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Johnsen.



Pastor and Mrs.
Arnold Nicholson, Jr.,
and Family (1961-)



Parsonage Since 1960
1125 Bloomfield Street
Hoboken, N. J.

Hearing Aids and Amplifying System, with Chimes in Tower — Gift of Mrs. Edna Henkel, Ruth Stevens, Evelyn Tibbets, in memory of parents, Mr. and Mrs. Oscar Hansen.

Organ reconditioned.

New Chairs for Basement — Gift of Ladies Aid.

New Hymn Board — Gift of Oscar Hansen in memory of his wife.

Purchase of Office Furniture.

1957-1961 — Pastor Gundersen

Additional Office Furniture, Mimeograph Machine, Projector.

New Hymnals.

Lectern for Sanctuary — Gift of Mrs. Emma Wippermuehler in memory of husband.

Altar for Sunday School room.

Altar Dossal.

Installation of new rose window to replace original destroyed in storm.

Renovation of Basement.

Weehawken Parsonage sold, newly built dwelling at 1125 Bloomfield Street, Hoboken, N. J., purchased for pastor's residence..

Latern Bible given in Memory of Founders and Pastors.

1961- — Pastor Nicholson

Lectern for Sunday School Room.

Sunday School rooms repainted.

Sunday School room equipped with room dividers.

New lighting fixtures in basement.

During the fifty-two years of its existence, the interior of the sanctuary has been redecorated approximately every ten years, and the outside renovated many times. Recently the exterior of the Parish House and the Basement level of the church was painted. The interior of the church was again repainted in time for the first observance of the seventy-fifth anniversary of the congregation's founding.

Except for the outright gifts mentioned, the expense of church renovations and new installations has been greatly reduced by contributions of organizations and individual members of the congregation.

Music

Organists

Andreas Johnsen, the first organist of the Scandinavian Evangelical Lutheran Trinity Church, served from 1890 until his death in 1910. Congregation members who have filled the post are Mrs. H. M. Gundersen, wife of the pastor, Miss Minnie Johnsen, Miss Clara Johnsen, now Mrs. Compton, who held the post for 32 years. During vacation periods for the latter, Mrs. Gertrude Davick served as organist.

Organists who have served Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church congregation are Mrs. Gertrude Davick, Mrs. Frances Willig, Mr. Raymond Henry, Pastor Paul Eid, Mrs. Electra Allyson and Mrs. Joanne Reed.

Choirs and Directors

The assistance of a choir of mixed voices at church services and festivals can be counted among the many blessings accorded the congregation down through the years. Numbered among choir directors of the Scandinavian Evangelical Lutheran Trinity Church are Andreas Johnsen, Ivar Einarsen, Gustav Nilsen, L. Koks-vig, Marie Andersen, Reidar Nordstrom, Sofie Loenen. During Pastor Bjerke's ministry, he conducted a male chorus, Luren, which disbanded after his departure.

In the 1920's the choir, in conjunction with those of Scandinavian churches of Brooklyn, gave several concerts in the Academy of Music



THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES — 1965

Front Row, left to right: Mrs. Thora Tergesen, Miss Maud Hansen, Miss Roslyn Holmes, Miss Anna Francke. Second Row: Mr. Charles Carlsen, Mr. Cor Loenen, Mr. William Schwed, Mr. Thomas Jensen, Mr. Ellwood Einarsen.

of that city. The same group also sang in Madison Square Garden on the occasion of Sonia Henie's first appearance in this country.

The organists of the Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church have also functioned as choir directors. They are Mrs. Frances Willig, Raymond Henry, Pastor Paul Eid, Mrs. Electra Allyson and Mrs. Joanne Reed.

Lutheran Girls' Choir

In May, 1928, a Girls' Choir was begun with Sofie Andersen, now Mrs. Cor Loenen, as director, and Ruth Waagbo, now Mrs. Miller, as accompanist. During the twelve years of its

existence, the group contributed much to the pleasure and edification of the congregation by singing at services and festivals. By sponsoring programs of its own, the choir raised about \$4,000, most of which it donated to the church treasury.

Soloists

Members of the congregation who have appeared as soloists at church services and other events are Hans Hvidsten, Marie Andersen, Kristine Hoiland, now Mrs. James, both as soloist and in duets with Anna Johnsen, now Mrs. Taxeraas, Esther Haabestad, now Mrs. M. Gootner, Thord Einarsen and Mrs. George Ettinger, Jr.

Auxiliaries of the Congregations

Ladies Aid Societies

The Ladies Aid Society of the Scandinavian Evangelical Lutheran Trinity Church, is the oldest organization of Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church, antedating the founding of the congregation by two months. It was organized on May 8, 1890, by Pastor Saarheim, with two Swedish, two Danish and four Norwegian women as charter members. They are Mrs. Anna Ericksen, Mrs. T. Andersen, Mrs. A. Sjostrom, Mrs. Carlsen and Mrs. Morsman. Mrs. Brown was elected President, Mrs. Einarsen, Secretary and Mrs. Morsman, Treasurer. With a starting capital of \$2 the group immediately began its work.

Meetings were held every two weeks at the homes of members. Materials, sewing equipment, including hand sewing machines and small children had to be brought from house to house, one as far away as Bayonne. The willingness of the women to endure the transportation difficulties is testimony to the fact that their faith and dedication amply compensated for their lack of financial resources. The blessings of the Lord were with them and four years later, their first goal was reached when the small wooden church was dedicated.

Only two of the original eight women were privileged to be members of the society at the dedication of the present sanctuary, in 1913. Their names, Lina Einarsen and Anna Eriksen, are inscribed on the stained glass window, which was their gift to the church.

In January, 1906, members who lived in Jersey City, formed a separate unit which met in the evenings at the homes of members. Mrs. Thomas Johnsen, the first president, held the office for 26 years.

In addition to sales, held for many years twice annually, the Society has regularly sponsored events of many kinds. It has been responsible for arranging and serving refreshments at all important church festivals and pastoral conferences at which pastors and members of other congregations have been in attendance.

Except for the purchase of equipment and furnishing related to their work, the greater part of all proceeds were for many years donated directly to the church treasury. At the time of the fiftieth anniversary of the church, the Society had raised \$26,000 of which \$24,000 had been given to the church. Since Pastor Midboe suggested that organizations be on record as having



THE LADIES' AID — 1965

Front Row, left to right: Miss Lea Langseth, Mrs. Dora Olsen, Mrs. Ethel Hero, Mrs. Mabel Ryan, Mrs. Olga Rasmussen. Second Row: Mrs. Therese Schwed, Mrs. Thora Preusse, Mrs. Emma Wippermuehler, Mrs. Martha Ettinger, Mrs. Henrietta Smith, Mrs. Gertrud Jaeger, Mrs. Alice Vanderheyden. Absent from this photo: Mrs. Gusta Christiansen, Mrs. Rebecca Hove.

contributed to various church projects, the group has responded generously to all such appeals. In addition it has donated over \$5,000 to the Church.

A number of willing and competent women from Holy Trinity English Lutheran Church became members of the Ladies Aid Society of Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church.

Trinity Lutheran Ladies Aid has contributed with other organizations to the expense of all major projects of the church. It has paid for the new chairs in the basement and the student chairs for the confirmands during their instruction periods. In addition to the cash contributions to the church treasury, it has made donations to outside charities and fund appeals.

The officers of the present Ladies Aid are:

Mrs. Carl O. Hero President
Mrs. William Schwed Vice President
Mrs. William Preusse Secretary
Mrs. Edward Ryan Treasurer

The congregation of Trinity Lutheran Church owes a deep debt of gratitude to the many women, who as members of the Ladies Aid worked so faithfully for the good of the Church. It would take many pages to record their names.



The Ladies Aid Society of the Holy Trinity Evangelical English Lutheran Church was organized by Pastor H. C. Fulz on February 15, 1900 in the church rooms at 904 Garden Street. A constitution and By-Laws were drawn up and the following officers were elected:

Mrs. John Rosenbaum President
Mrs. L. Linich Vice President
Mrs. E. Gardner Secretary
Mrs. C. Koster Financial Secretary
Mrs. G. Von Dreelen Treasurer

While there is no listing of charter members, the minutes of subsequent meetings indicate an average attendance of about 15 members. This small group was to become a large and active organization. Although the Society contributed to congregation expenses, the larger portion of the proceeds from its events were placed in the "Ladies Aid Church Building Fund" for which a bank account was established.

When the church was built in 1912, the Ladies Aid Society gave the following articles:

Two Chancel Chairs
Carpet
Communion Service
Altar Cloth and Communion Veil

It also contributed to the expense of the lighting system and the purchase of the organ. At the dedication of the church the members of the society were hostesses at a reception for the congregation.

Officers of the organization at this time were:

Mrs. Henry Sticht President
Mrs. H. C. Streckfuss Vice President
Mrs. Charles T. McDaniel Secretary
Mrs. W. H. Bohm Financial Secretary
Mrs. Henry Klussman Treasurer

Throughout its existence the group worked diligently for the church. Its many fund raising activities include bazaars, festivals of various kinds, and concerts and cantatas held in auditoriums such as Martha's Institute.

Helping Hand

In 1912, the members of the Ladies Aid Society of the Scandinavian Evangelical Lutheran Trinity Church organized the Helping Hand Society for the purpose of giving aid to the needy of Scandinavian origin and to visit the sick and lonely.

Its first officers were:

Mrs. Anders Haabestad President
Mrs. Ole Reitan Vice President
Mrs. Augusta Johannesen Secretary
Mrs. Lars Jacobsen Treasurer

Meetings were at first held once a month in the church. Later the group met in the homes of members. Clothing was collected, refurbished and distributed, together with food and other assistance as needed. At the time of the Fiftieth Anniversary of the church, over \$5,000 had been collected from dues, festivals and donations to carry on its work.

Throughout the many years of its existence, the efforts of the Helping Hand Society served to bring brightness and comfort into the lives of the less fortunate.



ALTAR GUILD AND ACOLYTES — 1965

Front Row, left to right: Mrs. Alice Vanderheyden, Arthur Marin, Thomas Sorensen, Charles Carlsen, Miss Lea Langseth. Second Row: Mrs. Mabel Ryan, Mrs. May Nelson, Mrs. Agnes Steible, Mrs. Therese Schwed, Mrs. Lillian Sorensen. Absent from this photo: Jon Olsen.

Dorcas

Dorcas, a society for young women of the Scandinavian Evangelical Lutheran Trinity Church was organized in 1912 and remained in existence until 1920. The members produced embroidered and crocheted articles which they presented for sale at the church bazaars.

Young People's Society — Luther League

The purpose of the Young Peoples' organization in the church is to meet the needs of the youth for healthy development under Christian guidance in activities suited for their years. It is an effort to foster in the youth of the church the consciousness that they are an integral part of the congregation and to prepare them for intelligent and active participation.

No details exist as to the formation of the first Young Peoples' Society of the Scandinavian Evangelical Lutheran Trinity Church but surely from the very beginning the young Scandinavians, who availed themselves of the opportunity to belong, found comfort and companionship at the meetings and guidance into membership in the church.

While the new sanctuary was being built, the now active Society conducted a vigorous fund raising campaign which enabled it to purchase the pipe organ costing \$1,350. It is still in use. In the years of its existence the group regularly contributed to the church the proceeds of its festivals and participation in sales sponsored by the Ladies Aid.

For many years the meetings were conducted in Norwegian. When the Young Peoples' Societies of the Lutheran Church became known as the Luther League, the use of English was introduced. In its early years, the Luther League met frequently in joint fellowship with similar groups from other Scandinavian Lutheran congregations in the metropolitan area.

Membership varied from time to time. Undoubtedly its peak was reached about the time of the congregation's 25th anniversary when the Society numbered 60 members.

The Luther League of the Holy Trinity English Evangelical Lutheran Church played an impor-

tant role in the life of the congregation. It gave the young people of the church an additional opportunity to worship God. It helped form a closer bond between the church and its younger members by providing them with the means of taking an active part in its work. Annually, the group sponsored entertaining programs which were well attended by the congregation. On several occasions, the League presented musical revues and plays, held at local schools, with its own talented members and professional artists as performers. The proceeds of all of its events were a welcome addition to the Building Fund for the church which was erected as well as that intended for its completion.

Aided by the training during their younger years in working for the good of the church, many of the members of the Luther League went on to assume the responsibilities of conducting the affairs of the church. In all respects, the Luther League of the Holy Trinity English Evangelical Lutheran Church can be said to have lived up to the aims and purposes for which it was founded.

The Luther League of Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church continued to concentrate its efforts on the aims of the League until it disbanded for lack of members.

Trinity Lutheran Church Women

The organization, first known as "Trinity Guild" was formed in January, 1950, by Helen Midboe, wife of the pastor, as a branch of the Women's Missionary Federation. Its purpose is to disseminate God's word through aid to local and foreign missions. In 1961 when the name of the parent organization was changed to "American Lutheran Church Women," the Guild became "Trinity Lutheran Church Women."

Of the twenty charter members, the following were elected officers:

Anne Reitan	President
Agnes Steible	Vice President
Elisabeth Simonsen	Secretary
Ella Wroldsen	Treasurer

At a convention in Jersey City on October 29, 1951, Mrs. C. Davick accepted on behalf of the church, an honor roll inscribed with her name as life member. Also inscribed was the name of



TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH WOMEN — 1965

Front Row, left to right: Mrs. Agnes Steible, Mrs. Mabel Ryan, Mrs. Gerthrud Jaeger, Mrs. Marion Jespersen, Mrs. Emma Anderson. Second Row: Miss Elizabeth Madsen, Mrs. Thordis Nelssen, Miss Roslyn Holmes, Mrs. Thora Tergesen, Miss Martha Olsen. Third Row: Mrs. Alice Vanserweyden, Mrs. May Nelsen, Miss Anna Francke. Absent from this photo: Mrs. Elizabeth Simonsen, Mrs. Carolyn Nicholson.

Anne Reitan who died early in the second year of her presidency.

The organization contributes to various local and foreign missions and charities. It assembles baskets for needy families outside the church at Thanksgiving and has set up a reserve of canned goods for the use of the pastor in visiting such families. In addition, it has shared with other church organizations the cost of such church projects as the Sunday School altar, replacement of church ceremonial flags and Sunday School room dividers.

Trinity Lutheran Church Women have sponsored Family Nights, Children's Parties, Mother and Daughter Dinners, and Everybody's Birthday Parties. Its members have also been active in the Ladies Aid, Eger Society, Altar Guild, Choir and Church Council.

Since 1955, Bible Study has formed a part of the program at the monthly meetings, with speakers from Lutheran Collegiate Bible Institute in Teaneck, pastors and members.

The present Executive Board consists of:

Roslyn Holmes	President
Agnes Steible	Vice President
Thora Tergesen	Secretary
Alice Vanderheyden	Treasurer
Thordis Nelssen	Educational Secretary
May Nelson	Stewardship Secretary
Carolyn Nicholson	Counselor

Brotherhood

The "Brotherhood," an organization wherein the men of the congregation could find a deeper Christian fellowship and an outlet for Christian service was formed by Pastor Nybro on March 1, 1954, with 24 members. George Ettinger, Sr. was its first President.

During the ten years of its existence, the Brotherhood contributed to all church projects. To gain a closer relationship with the boys of the church, it held Father and Son Dinners and took the boys to sports events. It conducted a Pro Deo Et Patria award ceremony for an outstanding Boy Scout of the congregation. The recipient of the award was George Sorensen. In addition, the group contributed money to send Sunday School pupils to Bible Camp. Several hymnals have been given to the church in memory of departed members. It conducted Laymen's Sunday services and participated in Men's Retreats.

At a meeting in June, 1964, the Brotherhood regretfully decided to disband because of lack of members. Five of its charter members had been in faithful attendance during its existence. They are:

Herman Francke (since deceased)
Thomas Jensen
Charles Carlsen
William Sandominick
Ellwood Einarsen

Parish Education

Sunday School

The instruction of children in the fundamentals of Christian truth has always been regarded in the Lutheran Church as one of its chief duties. This church has been no exception to the general rule.

The Sunday School of the Scandinavian Evangelical Lutheran Trinity Church was formed soon after the congregation was organized. For several weeks Nils Halling was its only pupil. Soon the number increased sufficiently for

classes to be formed with Matthias Reiersen as Superintendent. A special honor is due the men who were teachers in the early years with their long workday weeks. Some came from an area extending from Jersey City Heights to Cliffside. If it were at all possible they and their children walked long distances to save the expense of carfare.

Each year, from September until Spring, special instructions to prepare the child for confirmation is given by the pastor at specified periods each week. Recently the term has been extended to two years.



SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS — 1965

Front Row, left to right: Mr. Ellwood Einarsen, Mrs. Evelyn Carlsen, Mr. George Sorensen.
Second Row: Mrs. Evelyn Teisen, Miss Roslyn Holmes, Miss Martha Olsen. Absent from this photo Mrs. Elvine Reynolds.

The most important Sunday School event has always been its Christmas program, composed of recitations and songs by the pupils, followed by the singing of carols. In the early years, only a most courageous child refused to take part. A program of fifty or more numbers was, therefore, no novelty. The memory of the tree, while it was still lit by candles, is not complete without the picture of the two men who, armed with brooms and pails of water, stood ready to extinguish a too low burning candle.

Throughout the years, the Sunday School has contributed to the expense of repairs or additions to the furnishings of the church. The stained glass window depicting Christ as a child was its gift to the new sanctuary.

The largest enrollment, 140 pupils, was recorded in the decade 1915-1925. Sunday School Superintendents of the Scandinavian Evangelical Lutheran Trinity Church have been: Matthias Reiersen, Gunnar Nilsen, Nicolai Nilsen, Thomas Johnsen, Ludvig Larsen, Ivar Einarsen, Harold Einarsen and Edward Moller.

Holy Trinity English Evangelical Lutheran Church began its Sunday School on January 7, 1900 a month before the congregation was organized, with 32 pupils and 14 teachers. Since the church rooms at both 904 Garden Street and 204 Tenth Street could not accommodate the large attendance at confirmation services, permission was granted by the First Baptist Church to hold such services in its building. The practice was continued until the congregation built its church. Christmas Programs, Children's Day observances and picnics were yearly events. Assisted by the Sunday School Teachers Association of the church, the children made generous contributions to church expenses and the building fund. The Sunday School of Holy Trinity reached its peak enrollment about 1916, when over 200 pupils are listed.

Superintendents of the Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church since 1948 have been: Thomas Smith, Herman Francke, William Sandominick and Roslyn Holmes. Its present teaching staff consists of Roslyn Holmes, Superintendent, William Sandominick, Treasurer, Evelyn Teisen, Evelyn Carlsen, Martha Olsen, George Sorensen, Ellwood Einarsen and Elvine Reynolds.

Vacation Bible School

In 1958, the practice of conducting a Vacation Bible School was instituted by Pastor Gunderson. It was an immediate success, with children of various religious and national backgrounds in attendance. Sessions lasting two weeks were divided into periods of religious instruction, refreshments, recreation, group singing and projects. During the project period, articles depicting objects or scenes related to the religious instruction were made. The responsibility of teaching, and serving refreshments was assumed by women of the congregation, with male members directing recreation.

In 1964, at the congregational meeting, it was decided to join the Lutheran Neighborhood Summer Program in order to carry out the objectives of our Vacation Church School more intensively. The Lutheran Neighborhood Summer Program is a corporation of Lutheran congregations in Hudson County who carry on a six week program of summer activity in each of the congregations in the program. A teaching staff of college students from various parts of the country work in the churches involved in a program of religious instruction, craft, remedial reading, composition, recreation and trips to points of interest. This program involves morning and afternoon classes and evening visitation. The young people who serve as teachers receive no remuneration for their work.



Enduring Memorial Fund

Gifts Received in Memory of:

From:

Mrs. Engela Reitan	Relatives and Friends
Mr. Raymond Sorensen	Mrs. R. Sorensen & Family, Boy Scout Troop No. 90, North Bergen, Mullin Family, Olaf Olsen, Mr. & Mrs. Michael Nerney
Mrs. Arne Lee	Mother, Mrs. Olga Thompson
Mother and Father, Mr. and Mrs. T. Teisen and brother Arthur	Christensen Family and Wroldsen Family
Mr. John Reinertsen	Wife, Clara
Miss Margaret Francke	Friends of the family, Mrs. Anna Bell
Mr. Herman Francke	Board of Trustees, Relatives and Friends
Anna and Gustaf Gundersen	Thora and Ole Tergesen
Mrs. Dorothy Wohlrab	Sister, Mrs. Mabel Ryan
Mr. John Salvesen	Wife, Georgianna
General Gift to Fund	Mrs. Robert Christiansen, Mr. & Mrs. Alfred Wroldsen
Miss Edith Madsen	Miss Anna Francke
Mr. Hugh Crawford, father of Mrs. J. Jespersen	Trinity Lutheran Church Women
Mr. George Ettinger, Sr.	Wife, Martha
Mother and Father, Robert and Petra Einarsen and sister Sigrid and brother Emil	Evelyn, Alice and Ellwood
Mrs. Olga Thompson	Carlsen and Vanderheyden Families and Ellwood Einarsen
Pastor C. A. Davick	Friend and Pupil
Father and Mother, Mr. and Mrs. Frederick Francke, brother Herman and sister Margaret	Anna Francke
Departed Loved Ones	Ingeborg Larsen
Father and Mother, Mr. and Mrs. Charles F. Holmes, Sr.	Roslyn Holmes
Martha, wife and mother	Mr. Olaf Olsen and Family
Teresa, sister	Mr. & Mrs. Michael Nerney
Loving Aunt, Anne Reitan	Susan Schwed
Beloved Parents	Mr. & Mrs. William Schwed
Husband, Fred	Emma Wippermuller
Parents	Mr. and Mrs. O. J. Olsen
Departed Loved Ones	Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Jensen
Mr. & Mrs. T. Teisen, Arthur and Clara	Ralph N. Teisen Family
Mr. & Mrs. Lars Jacobsen, parents	Mr. & Mrs. Carl Hero

MEMORIAL GIFTS TO CHURCH TREASURY

Gifts Received in Memory of:

From:

Parents, Mr. & Mrs. Einar Reitan	Mr. and Mrs. R. Valentine
Parents, Mr. & Mrs. T. Teisen and brother Arthur	Mrs. Ella Wroldsen
William and Linda Johnsen	Son and four Daughters
Dina Johnsen	Mrs. George Talpo

Archives 2005.007.0030

[cover]

1890 1965

[drawing of church exterior by E.A. Nielsen]

75th Anniversary Memorial History
of
Trinity Evangelical Church
Hoboken, New Jersey

====

Page [1]

The Seventy-fifth Anniversary Memorial Booklet records the blessings of Almighty God and the joyful response of God's people in the history of two Lutheran Congregations which, after many years of independent service, were led to merge, creating a third Lutheran Congregation.

The Scandinavian Evangelical Lutheran Trinity Church served from 1890-1947, a period of 57 years. The Holy Trinity English Evangelical Lutheran Church served from 1900-1947, a period of 47 years. The merged Church, Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church has served from 1948 to the present, 1965, a period of 18 years. The combination of the Church histories covers a continuous period of 75 years of service to Christ in the City of Hoboken, New Jersey.

The history of the churches will challenge our hearts as we read of the faith of our fathers who sacrificed much in order that their families and friends might have a place of worship, a "House of the Lord" in their midst.

====

page [2]

This historical booklet has been written by Mrs. Carl Hero, who has gathered historical materials from Church Records and compiled them into the following histories. The history of the Scandinavian Evangelical Lutheran Trinity Church has been well documented in the journals issued at the 25th and 50th Anniversaries of the congregation's founding. Only the first three years of the Holy Trinity English Evangelical Lutheran Congregation have been so documented. All additional information had to be obtained from the often brief records of council meetings and church societies and from existing programs of various church and organisation affairs. Its history, therefore, lacks the detailed accounting of important events possible for the Scandinavian Church. We are deeply grateful to Mrs. Hero for her tireless effort in order that the history of these congregations may be completely and accurately recorded for the future.

This historical booklet is presented in memory of the Lord of the Church, Jesus Christ, who gave himself in order that men may be saved and come to a knowledge of the truth. It is also presented in memory of

all of our members who have spent their lives in the service of the Church. It is to the glory of God and in memory of these beloved servants of Christ, that we dedicate this Memorial Historical Booklet. This publication has been sponsored by the Enduring Memorial Fund of Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church. This is a fund within the Church Treasury into which memorial gifts are received and used for important projects of the Church. Please note in the last page of the booklet the names of memorials and donors to this fund.

As we celebrate the achievements of the past, let us be challenged to serve our God with a strong faith and a joyful heart in the present and in the years ahead.

Pastor Arnold Nicholson, Jr.

=====

page [3]

History of
Scandinavian Evangelical Lutheran Trinity Church
Hoboken, New Jersey

One of the many problems which faced members of the early Scandinavian population of Hoboken and vicinity was the lack of a church wherein they could worship the Lord according to the Lutheran faith and in a language which they could best understand. Since only German was spoken in the existing Lutheran Churches, their children were sent to Sunday Schools of other Protestant denominations. When the services of a Scandinavian minister were required, application had to be made to Brooklyn.

On Sunday, April 22, 1890, 21 men and women met at 310 Bloomfield Street to discuss the possibility of forming a Scandinavian Lutheran congregation. Pastor Kr. K. Saarheim, a seaman's pastor in Brooklyn, was elected Chair-man, and Thord Einarsen, Secretary. The prospect of the responsibilities it was to assume must indeed have been cause for grave concern to the little group, composed as it was, entirely of small wage earners, but their faith in the Almighty God sustained them and gave them courage. At a later meeting, held in St. Matthew's Evangelical Lutheran Church on June 22, 1890, the Scandinavian Evangelical Lutheran Church was organised with the following charter members:

Tobias Haavardsen
Svein Pedersen
Theodore Andersen and wife
Henrik Granlund and wife
Edvard Granlund and wife
Torvald Larsen and wife
Theodor Jensen and wife
Anton E. Olsen
John A. Brown and wife
Anna K. Eriksen
Thord Einarsen and wife
Tomas Mikkelsen and wife
Robert Einarsen
Ivar Einarsen

Sigrid Einarsen

Ingeborg Einarsen
Ludvig Rasmussen
August J. Sjostrom and wife
Isak Mortensen
Knut Olsen
Hans L. Hansen and wife
Marie Nelsen
Hans C. Jorgensen
Elias Hansen

The members elected to serve on the Board of Trustees were:

Tobias Haavardsen, Chairman
Anton E. Olsen, Treasurer
Thord Einarsen, Secretary
Theodore Andersen
A. J. Sjostrom
John A. Brown
Thomas Mikkelsen
Hans Hansen
Ludvig Hansen

On July 29, 1890, the first service with Holy Communion was held in the basement of St. Matthew's Evangelical Lutheran Church. Pastor Saarheim preached the sermon and Pastor Eversen conducted the ritual for communion. Ministers from Brooklyn continued to serve the church until November 2 when Pastor Sigvard Gramstad became its first resident pastor. He was succeeded by Pastor Carl Schive in 1892.

In January, 1893, the congregation bought a lot 25/100 feet at the corner of Ninth and Clinton Streets for \$1,550. Details of the purchase of the remainder of the present 50/100 feet are not available. The adjacent streets were not as yet filled in and there were no sidewalks. In August of the same year, it was decided to build a church. Since the congregation was still small, a costly building was out of the question. The first church was, therefore, a modest structure without a foundation, costing about \$950. It

====

page [4]

[photo]
PASTOR SIGVARD GRAMSTAD
1890-1892

[photo]

PASTOR AND MRS. CARL SCHIVE
1892-1895

[photo]
THE ORIGINAL CHURCH
1894-1901

====

page [5]

was dedicated on September 23, 1894 by Dr. H. G. Stub. In the following winter, the parsonage was built at a cost of \$2,200. The comparatively low cost of the two buildings was due to the fact that much of the labor and material was donated.

During its first years, the church had shared its minister with the newly established sister church in Jersey City. After Pastor Schive's resignation in 1895, this practice was discontinued. For a year the church was served by Pastor Christian Hovde. On Easter Sunday, 1896, Pastor Olaf Amdalsrud assumed the pastorate which he held until July, 1898. He was succeeded by Pastor Hans M. Gundersen, who began his service to the congregation, for a period of fourteen years, on August 18, 1898.

Shortly after his installation, Pastor Gundersen went to Norway to be married. Mrs. Gundersen was a competent and willing worker for the church, particularly with the children. She was a trained teacher and in addition to her Sunday School work, she also held daily classes for pre-school children.

The present basement, 30/60 [30x60] feet, on which the frame church was placed, was built in 1901. It was dedicated on September 8 of that year by Dr. Stub. Again the cost was reduced by monetary contributions as well as labor. Men who worked the long hours of a six day week came down to dig the foundation after work and sons able to handle a shovel were pressed into service after school. The debt of the church now stood at \$3,500.

In 1912, Pastor Gundersen resigned to become Institutional Missionary in Greater New York. In August, 1912, the pastorate was again assumed by Pastor Amdalsrud.

At this time, the congregation began to make plans to further liquidate its indebtedness. However, it became increasingly aware that the little wooden church was not only in need of extensive repairs, but was also becoming too small for the growing membership. After a long and careful deliberation, it was decided, in May, 1913, to build the present sanctuary. Thord Einarsen was chosen to supervise the erection of the church. On June 20, 1913, the 23rd anniversary of the congregation, the cornerstone was laid. For some weeks, services were conducted in the old church while the new brick walls rose outside. On July 20, the congregation with thanks

to God for His immeasurable grace in the past and with confidence in His promise for the future, took leave of its humble house of worship.

Work on the building progressed rapidly under the able leadership of Thord Einarsen. Notable, too, is the handsome cabinet work of the altar and pulpit, made by Robert Einarsen, a charter member of the congregation. The date set for the dedication of the new sanctuary was December 7, 1913. Pastor Stub, who had officiated at the dedication of the other structures, was asked to preach the dedicatory sermon.

On December 7, 1913, the present sanctuary was consecrated by Pastor Amdalsrud. The introductory sermon was preached by Pastor H. M. Gundersen. He asked the congregation to thank God and to rejoice because of the great blessings He had bestowed on them. Dr. Stub, in his dedicatory sermon, reminded the assemblage that a house of worship is precious because here the bliss, which the Christian hopes to attain in heaven, begins. As part of the service, a baptism was solemnized.

Other congregations were well represented and the church was filled to overflowing. Refreshments were served by the Ladies Aid after the afternoon service to over 600 persons. An additional service was held in the evening during which a letter from Pastor Gramstad, the first minister of the church, was read.

The sanctuary has a seating capacity of about 250. Its cost, with a hot water heating system serving also the parsonage and the custodian's dwelling, and including all renovations made in the basement, was \$14,000. The debt on the church property, now at an estimated value of \$31,000, was \$11,000.

In 1915, the congregation celebrated the twenty-fifth anniversary of its founding. A journal giving a history of the church, illustrated with pictures of old and new buildings, portraits of pastors and charter members and of organization members, was published.

From the beginning, the congregation had held membership in "The Synod of the Norwegian Lutheran Church of America." At the union of the Synod with the United Lutheran Church and the Hauge's Synod, in 1917, the congregation automatically became a member of the "Norwegian Lutheran Church of America."

====

page [6]

[photo]

PASTOR CHRISTIAN HOVDE
1895-1896

[photo]

PASTOR HANS M. GUNDERSEN
1898-1912

[photo]

THE NEW BASEMENT, THE ORIGINAL CHURCH, AND THE PARSONAGE — 1901-1913

====

page [7]

Pastor Amdalsrud resigned in 1918 and was succeeded by Pastor P. A. Kittilsby who served about a year. He was replaced by Pastor A. O. Bjerke. With his coming, the parsonage was again presided over by a pastor's wife. Mrs. Bjerke, in her quiet gracious manner, gave willing service to the church in many ways. In 1925, about the time of the 35 th anniversary of the founding of the congregation, the mortgage on the church property was burned. Both Pastor Kittilsby and Pastor Bjerke are remembered for their friendliness and faithfulness in their service. In the summer of 1925, Pastor Bjerke resigned to take up the duties of Superintendent of Norway House in Brooklyn. He continued to serve until his successor, Pastor Christian Davick, was in-stalled on September 13, 1925. Pastor Davick's ministry, lasting for 22 years, was to be the longest in the history of the church. His wife, Gertrude Davick, an accomplished pianist, gave willing assistance to the musical efforts of the congregation and was an active and able participant in various other aspects of church work.

Up to this period, the language of the church had been predominantly Norwegian. The time had come, however, when English must be introduced for the benefit of the younger generation. After some experimentation, it was decided that English should be used in Sunday School, and at Sunday services held at 10 o'clock, with Norwegian worship at 11 o'clock on the first and fourth Sundays of the month. On holidays, services in both languages were to be conducted.

Pastor Davick's ministry included the depression years. It has been said that the first membership was outstanding in its sacrifice for the needs of the church. It can also be said that the trait was not absent in this difficult period. Much of the needed repairs could not have been made if it had not been for the voluntary labor of members in addition to the generous contributions to the financial requirements of the church. Ingvald Olsen is to be specially commended for the work he gave to the church in this period. When funds were especially low, Pastor Davick did not receive his salary. This debt was later paid in full. Mrs. Clara Compton performed her duties as organist several years without remuneration. In spite of heavy local

obligations and reduced incomes, the congregation subscribed about \$2,100 to the Lutheran Centennial Appeal.

In May, 1940, the church celebrated its fiftieth anniversary. A journal, similar to one issued by the congregation at its twenty-fifth anniversary was published, giving the history of the church and its organisations. On May 26, a service was held for the Sunday School, followed by a congregational festival service at which Pastor L. P. Qualben preached the sermon. A Confirmation Reunion took place in the afternoon and a musical program was given in the evening. On the following Friday evening, a banquet for members and friends was held in the church. The observance ended with a festival service in Norwegian on June 2 at which Pastor H. M. Gundersen preached the sermon. In the evening, the Ladies Aid were the guests of the church at a program given in their honor.

A project, especially dear to Pastor Davick's heart in his later years, was the "Lutheran World Action Appeal." To his great pleasure, the congregation pledged and raised the sum of \$1,000.00.

On June 9, 1947, it became the sad duty of the congregation to attend the funeral service of Pastor Davick who died on June 6. The twenty-two years of his able and devoted ministry will long be remembered by those who were privileged to be his parishioners. His widow remained with the church

for several years afterward, during which time she functioned as organist and custodian. At present, Mrs. Gertrude Davick, who is still a member of the congregation resides at Eger Lutheran Home on Staten Island. Mrs. Davick is eagerly welcomed whenever she is able to be present at the church.

For a number of years, the changing population of Hoboken and vicinity and the continuing removal of members to the suburbs, had been reflected in a decline of church membership. After Pastor Davick's death, the congregation found it difficult to obtain a minister at a salary it could afford to pay. A merger with another church, possibly St. Olav's in Weehawken, was suggested as a solution. Before the matter could be resolved, a proposal for a merger was re-

====

page [8]

[photo]
PASTOR OLAF AMDALSRUD
1896-1898
1912-1919

[photo]
PASTOR P. A. KITTILSBY
1919-1920

[photo]
PASTOR A. O. BJERKE
1920-1925

[photo]
PASTOR CHRISTIAN A. DAVICK
1925-1947

====

page [9]

ceived from Holy Trinity English Lutheran Church of Hoboken, which was experiencing similar difficulties.

At a congregational meeting held on December 4, 1947, with Dr. Martin Andersen, President of the Eastern District, and Pastor Fredrik Schiotz of Brooklyn, present in an advisory capacity, a resolution was adopted that Holy Trinity be advised that the proposal for a merger was looked upon with favor. Work was begun immediately on the reorganization by committees appointed by the respective congregations for that purpose.

The following is a roster of the pastors who have served the Scandinavian Evangelical Lutheran Trinity Church:

Sigvard Gramstad 1890-1892

Carl Schive 1892-1895

Christian Hovde 1895-1896

Olaf Amdalsrud 1896-1898

Hans M. Gundersen 1898-1912

Olaf Amdalsrud 1912-1919

P. A. Kittilsby 1919-1920

A. O. Bjerke 1920-1925

C. A. Davick..... 1925-1947

[photo]
Pastor and Mrs. C. A. Davick 1947

When the present sanctuary was built, the following articles were given to furnish and beautify its interior:

Altar and Painting .. Ingeborg & Sigrid Einarsen
In memory of their mother. These sisters and Anna Iversen had previously given the silver communion set.

Altar Cloth Lea Langseth

Hymn Book and Bible..... Severine Jensen

Silver Candlesticks for
Altar Mr. & Mrs. Albert Johnsen

Carpet for Chancel Ladies Aid Society

Kneeling Cushions for Altar .. George Halvorsen

Pulpit Thord and Robert Einarsen

Stained Glass Window Mrs. Tord Einarsen
and Mrs. Anna Eriksen

Stained Glass Window..... Sunday School

Electric Light Fixtures Anonymous

Pipe Organ Young People's Society

Church Bell Mr. and Mrs. Matthias Reiersen

Pulpit Chairs Mrs. H. B. Hyde and
Miss Gyda Waagbo

Prayer Stool for Altar..... Anonymous

Baptismal Font Mrs. J. McCarthy
(Anna Iversen)

Electric Candlesticks for
Altar..... Mrs. Margrethe Johannesen
and Mrs. Laura Aarvig

=====

page [10]

[photo]
THE NEW CHURCH — EXTERIOR
1913-1965

=====

page [11]

[photo]
THE NEW SANCTUARY — INTERIOR
1913

=====

page [12]

History of
Holy Trinity English Evangelical Lutheran Church
Hoboken, New Jersey

With the coming of the German Steamship lines to Hoboken, in the early nineteenth century, the city acquired a considerable German population, largely of the Lutheran faith. By mid-century a sizable German Lutheran congregation had been formed. Succeeding generations which had little or no knowledge of the German and later Norwegian, spoken exclusively in the Lutheran congregations, found their way to the many churches of other Protestant denominations. The first attempt to form an English Lutheran congregation was made in 1892. All that can be learned from the scant information available is that the congregation known as "The Church of The Holy Trinity" was organized in February, 1892, by Reverend Charles T. McDaniel, who served as its pastor. It apparently remained in existence until 1896.

In September, 1899, the Board of Home Missions of the United Lutheran Synod decided to locate a mission in Hoboken to canvass the field in the interest of establishing an English Lutheran church. A partial canvass conducted by Pastor H. C. Fulz, a missionary minister, found about 50 men and women who looked with favor on the venture. On November 5, an interested group of about eighty persons met at the pastor's residence. Several ministers from New York and neighboring New Jersey towns spoke words of encouragement and urged the group to keep striving until a church could be built.

A three story and basement dwelling at 904 Garden Street was rented, the two lower floors to be used for church purposes, the remainder for the pastor's residence. The sanctuary, located on what was known as the parlor floor, was equipped with a platform, altar, pulpit and other ecclesiastic appurtenances. Later the following articles were donated: carpeting for the plat-

form and an altar chair by the Ladies Aid, a framed altar picture by John C. Hinrichs and William Von Dreele, a hymn board by the confirmation class.

The Sunday School was organized on January 7, 1900, with 32 pupils and 14 teachers. A year later the enrollment was over a hundred. On February 5, 1900, the congregation of the Holy Trinity English Evangelical Lutheran Church was organized with 86 charter members. At first, the affairs of the church were administered by a board appointed by the pastor. In May, 1900, the following board of elders and deacons were elected by the congregation:

ELDERS

Christian Sinn
August Kail
Charles Fraser

DEACONS

Eugene Gardner	Henry Brummer
Charles Koster	Henry Klussman
Peter Kessler	George Von Dreele
William Gutheil	J. C. Hinrichs

The presiding officer was the pastor, Church Treasurer, Charles Koster, Recording Secretary, Henry Klussman, Financial Secretary, J. C. Hinrichs. Henry Klussman was to remain Recording Secretary for sixteen years, during which period he also functioned as organist.

Holy Trinity was to remain a mission church for some years. The Board of Missions would, therefore, as was its custom, pay a considerable share of the pastor's salary, in order that as much as possible of the moneys raised by the congregation could be placed in the building fund.

On October 3, 1900, the congregation was incorporated under the laws of the State of New Jersey. It became a member of the New York

=====

page [13]

and New Jersey Synod of the United Evangelical Lutheran Church on October 12 of the same year.

Pastor Fulz resigned in December, 1900. He was succeeded by Reverend G. F. Behringer, who served from March, 1901 until November, 1902. A call was then extended to Pastor Charles T. McDaniel. While no mention is made of the fact, it can be presumed he was the minister who had organized the Church of the Holy Trinity. Pastor McDaniel was installed in June, 1903 by the Reverend J. B. Remensnyder, President of the Synod. The first step toward the building of a church came in December, 1903 with the purchase of a lot on the northwest corner of Tenth and Garden Streets. The cost of the property, 47/80 [47x80] feet, with a four story dwelling at its western end, was \$9,000. While the house was larger than the rented location, its construction was essentially the same. The arrangement of combined church and parsonage was therefore continued. Since the sanctuary at 904 Garden Street could not accommodate the large attendance at confirmation services, permission had been asked of the First Baptist Church on Ninth Street to hold such services there. The practice was followed until Holy Trinity built its church in 1912.

Holy Trinity began to make plans for the construction of a church in 1910. Since there were insufficient funds to erect the complete church the congregation desired, only the basement was to be built at this time. It was to serve for all church purposes until the sanctuary could be erected over it. Its dimensions were 67/43 [67x43] feet.

Although ground breaking ceremonies were held on November 6, 1910, building did not begin until September of the following year. On October 29, 1911, the cornerstone was laid. Pastor Frederick Knubel, President of the Southern Conference of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod of New York was the principal speaker. The church was consecrated by Pastor McDaniel on February 12, 1912. Assisting in the ceremony was Pastor Knubel and Pastor A. Stewart Hartman, General Secretary of the Board of Home Missions. Additional services on the following three days were conducted by visiting clergymen.

The altar in the sanctuary was given to the church by John Rosenbaum in memory of his

wife, and the baptismal font by Gertine Brown as a memorial to her son.

According to the program of the dedication ceremony, the church council and the board of trustees of that year consisted of:

PRESIDENT

Pastor McDaniel

ELDERS

Henry B. Klussman Henry Bothe, Sr.

DEACONS

Henry Sticht Thomas Jacobsen

Harry Nelson John Bothe

The congregation reached its peak membership about 1915 when an enrollment of over 300 confirmed members was recorded. The prospect of a completed church in the near future seemed promising but that hope was not to be realized. The time was rapidly approaching when the city's changing population was to affect all Protestant churches. For Holy Trinity, another factor was to have an equally serious effect. The use of English in the church, while the other Lutheran churches used German and Norwegian exclusively, had been an important factor in its growth. Soon, however, the other churches, for their own survival, began to institute the use of English in both church services and Sunday School, and the opportunity for acquiring new members from the younger generation of these congregations, to a large extent, no longer existed.

As the years went by, the diminishing congregation had to resort to its building fund for repairs and other expenses. Once again it had to apply to the Board of Home Missions for financial assistance. Added to its difficulties in the depression years was the freezing of its building fund by a bank failure. Eventually, about two-thirds of the fund in cash, bonds and bank stock was restored.

Pastor McDaniel's last years were saddened by the proposal of the Board of Home Missions that Holy Trinity merge with St. Matthew's Church in Hoboken. Since this church had a pastor, such a merger would have meant the end of his ministry. However, the congregation was not yet prepared to give up its church.

=====

page [14]

[photo]

PASTOR CHARLES T. McDANIEL
1903-1938

[photo]

PASTOR KARL A. EBERHARDT
1939-1942

[photo]

The Original Church and Parsonage
1899-1903
904 Garden Street
Hoboken, New Jersey

=====

page [15]

In 1936, the congregation honored its pastor on the occasion of the fiftieth anniversary of his ordination as a Lutheran minister. Pastor Charles T. McDaniel, surely a faithful shepherd to his flock, died on December 4, 1938. He had then given thirty-five years of devoted, dedicated service to the church he loved and for which he had such high hopes. He is still spoken of with reverence by those who knew him.

Pastor Karl A. Eberhardt next served the church from October 1, 1939 until the summer of 1942 when he was succeeded by Pastor Walter S. Pura. With the growing need for Lutheran churches in the newly developed suburban areas, the Board of Missions had become reluctant to assist a church it felt had no future. Finally the Board announced that it could give no further aid. In 1947, Pastor Pura expressed doubt as to his ability to continue to serve under existing conditions. He urged the congregation to consider a merger with either Bethany Lutheran Church of North Bergen or the Scandinavian Lutheran Church of Hoboken, both of which

were without ministers. Bethany, because of its location, found little favor with the congregation which was composed almost entirely of Hoboken residents. The congregation was therefore urged to attend services at the Scandinavian Church, in order to form an opinion as to the advisability of such a merger. When a poll taken of the membership resulted in an almost unanimous vote in favor of the union, Holy Trinity sent a proposal of merger to the Scandinavian Lutheran Church.

The last Board of Trustees of Holy Trinity consisted of:

Herman Vorburger William Sandominick

Herman Francke George Ettinger, Sr.

Raymond Smith

PASTORS OF HOLY TRINITY 1900 - 1947

H. C. Fub.....	1900		
G. F. Behringer.....	1901	-	1902
Charles T. McDaniel	1903	-	1938
Karl A. Eberhardt	1939	-	1942
Walter S. Pura	1942	-	1947

[photo]

THE NEW PARSONAGE — 1903-1947
THE NEW CHURCH BASEMENT — 1912-1947

=====

page [16]

[photo]

SANCTUARY INTERIOR RENOVATED
(Picture taken Christmas 1964)

=====

page [17]

Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church
Hoboken, New Jersey

A MEMBER OF THE AMERICAN LUTHERAN CHURCH

On February 20, 1948, a joint meeting of the congregations of the Holy Trinity English Evangelical Lutheran Church and the Scandinavian Evangelical Lutheran Trinity Church was held in the latter church. Pastor Engbret Midboe, interim minister of the Scandinavian church, and Pastor Fredrik Schiotz of Brooklyn, were in attendance. The new constitution, presented by the Merger Committee, was read and adopted by the congregation present, effecting immediately the establishment of "Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church."

During the period of reorganization, the respective Boards of Trustees of both churches functioned independently in settling its own affairs and jointly whenever necessary.

Holy Trinity sold its property at 10th and Garden Streets and paid off its debts and obligations. The resulting balance was equally apportioned between the United Lutheran Synod, with which it was now severing its connection, and the treasury of the congregation being formed. The congregations known as the Holy Trinity English Evangelical Lutheran Church and the Scandinavian Evangelical Lutheran Trinity Church were dissolved. The new church body, designated as "Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church" was incorporated under the laws of the State of New Jersey on November 1, 1948.

At the Annual Congregational Meeting on November 5, 1948, the first elected Board of Trustees, consisting of members of both former congregations, was chosen. They were:

Herman Vorburger
Herman Francke
Raymond Smith
William Sandominick
George Ettinger, Sr.
Robert Einarsen
John Ryersen

George Larsen
Ole J. Olsen
Ellwood Einarsen
Thomas Jensen
Mrs. Anna Nilsen
Mrs. Thora Tergesen

Chairman of the Board was Pastor Midboe, interim minister, Vice Chairman, Herman Vor-burger, Recording Secretary, Thora Tergesen, Treasurer, Robert Einarsen, Financial Secretary, Ellwood Einarsen.

Pastor Engebret Midboe, after serving for two years as temporary minister was installed as pastor of the new congregation on May 8, 1949. To provide the pastor of the church with a home more suitable for family use than the old frame building adjacent to the church, a new parsonage was purchased at 22 Duer Place, Weehawken, N. J. After renovation, the old parsonage became a parish house. The following year the sanctuary was also renovated with individuals and organizations contributing to the cost. Standing candelabra was given to the church by Pastor Midboe and his wife.

In the beginning of Pastor Midboe's pastorate, the Order of Common Service was introduced, the use of seasonal altar cloths and pulpit ante-pendia in liturgical colors was begun and Lutheran hymnaries purchased. The choir, augmented by voices from Holy Trinity, was robed. In 1950, Trinity Guild for women was formed by Helen Midboe, wife of the pastor. Evangelism visitation by laymen was instituted and an adult bible class was added to the Sunday School program. Giving increased greatly as the congregation became aware of stewardship. Monthly communion services were begun.

Pastor Midboe resigned in 1951 to become Chaplain in the United States Army. He was succeeded by Pastor Richard Nybro who was installed on June 1, 1952. Pastor Nybro organized the "Brotherhood" for the men of the congregation. Also introduced was the Annual laymen's Sunday observance wherein the men of the congregation conducted the service, as a positive witness to their faith. Also organized was the

=====

page [18]

[photo]
Pastor and Mrs.
Engebret O. Midboe & Family
1949-1951

[photo]
Parsonage (1949-1959)
22 Duer Place
Weehawken, N. J.

=====

Altar Guild which has continued in an active manner to the present. The initial membership was: Mabel Ryan, Chairlady, Martha Ettinger, Sr., Alice Einarsen Vanderheyden, Lea Langseth, Olga Larsen, and Dorothy Wohlrab. The practice of having an acolyte to assist the pastor in the worship service was begun with Harold Lind serving as the first acolyte. To inform and inspire the church membership through the printed word, the monthly newsletter "Voice of Trinity" came into existence. Evangelism visitation was continued in cooperation with other Protestant churches. In this period, many new furnishings were added to the sanctuary, Sunday School rooms, and the Pastor's office. In 1956, the debt incurred by the purchase of the Duer Place, Weehawken parsonage was paid, and the mortgage was burned.

In 1953, the last remaining charter member, Ingeborg Einarsen, died.

When Pastor Nybro left for a chaplaincy in the Army in 1957, the ministry was assumed by Pastor Gerald Gundersen who was installed on June 30, 1957. In the same year, Pastor Gundersen began the practice of conducting a Vacation Bible School for the children of the community. The new order of service for the American Lutheran Church was introduced and new hymnals provided. A survey of the community was made for the purpose of bringing new members to the church. For a brief period, a unit of Alcoholics Anonymous held meetings in the church basement. During Pastor Gundersen's ministry considerable renovations to the church property were made, furnishings were added to the sanctuary and equipment to the pastor's office.

In 1959, the Weehawken house used as the pastor's residence was sold. Pastor Gundersen moved into the present parsonage at 1125 Bloomfield Street, Hoboken, a new two-story building, in 1960.

On the occasion of the seventieth anniversary of the church, a new rose window, to replace the original damaged by a windstorm, was dedicated. Also dedicated was a lectern bible, given in honor of the founders and pastors of the church. Pastor Gundersen, as had his two predecessors, resigned for an army chaplaincy in 1961.

Pastor Arnold Nicholson, Trinity's present minister, was installed on September 10, 1961. In Lent of 1962, a six week Evangelism visitation of the community was conducted by the congregation under the leadership of Miss Thelma Tollefsen, Parish Worker, Division of American Missions of the American Lutheran Church.

Also in 1962 and 1963, a Church Improvement Fund was, established in the amount of \$3,000 which resulted in the installation of Sunday School room dividers, refurbishing of the Parish House and new Sunday School furnishings.

In the season of Lent, 1963, emphasis was placed on the importance of the Lord's Supper in the life of the Church, which resulted in the establishment of a weekly celebration of Communion at every Sunday Service.

In 1963, the congregation pledged \$7,000 to the newly established Lutheran Camp, Koinonia, at Highland Lake, New York. It is to be paid within three years. William Preusse is the Treasurer of the Fund. At this time over \$5,500 has been contributed.

The Enduring Memorial Fund was established April 19, 1963 by the Board of Trustees. Such a Fund will receive donations in any amount in memory of departed loved ones. A Memorial Fund Scroll lists the memorials given and the names of donors. The Memorial Fund is to be used at the discretion of the Board of Trustees for various needs of the church as they arise.

In 1964, the Vacation Church School was enlarged with the joining of our congregation in the Lutheran Neighborhood Summer Program, a corporation of several Lutheran congregations in Hudson County, who cooperate to offer a school of six weeks duration, using college students as teachers. In 1964, the adoption of the Zone Plan of Evangelism strengthened our concern for the needs of our own people as well as giving greater emphasis on reaching the unchurched people in our neighborhood. This plan provides for the dividing of the congregation into Zones according to geographic area with a Zone Leader in each area who works with the Pastor in relation to his Zone.

====

page [20]

[photo]

Pastor and Mrs. Richard Nybro and Family
1952-1957

[photo]

Pastor and Mrs. Gerald M. Gundersen and Family
1957-1961

====

page [21]

Pastor Nicholson has brought about a closer relationship with the other Lutheran Churches of Hoboken, St. Matthew's Evangelical Lutheran Church and St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church. Since 1962, the three churches have held joint Lutheran Lecture Series and Joint Reformation Services. They have also conducted cooperative training sessions for their Sunday School teaching staff. The Ladies Aid Societies of St. Matthew's, St. John's and Trinity Lutheran Churches meet in the respective Churches three times a year. Since 1964, breakfast services during Holy Week for high school students have been conducted by the three ministers in the downstairs church rooms of Trinity Lutheran Church. In June, 1965, a combined Choir Concert was presented in St. John's Lutheran Church under the direction of Pastor Arnold Nicholson. In 1965, approval was granted for a Parish Worker to be shared between St. Matthew's Lutheran Church and Trinity Lutheran Church. This position remains to be filled.

On February 7, 1965, the congregation rejoiced in the burning of the mortgage of the newly purchased parsonage at 1125 Bloomfield Street, Hoboken.

PASTORS OF TRINITY EVANGELICAL

LUTHERAN CHURCH — 1949-1965

Engebret Midboe..... 1949-1951

Richard Nybro 1952-1957

Gerald M. Gundersen 1957-1961

Arnold Nicholson 1961-

Officers of Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church Board of Trustees in the years 1948-1965 are:

CHAIRMEN

Herman Vorburger Arnold Larsen
George Ettinger

Until 1961, the Board of Trustees had been presided over by the Pastor of the church, with the title of President. At that time, however, the post of President was assigned to a lay member of the congregation.

PRESIDENTS

Thomas Jensen Herman Francke
William Schwed

VICE CHAIRMEN — VICE PRESIDENTS

Arnold Larsen George Ettinger
Charles Carlsen

SECRETARIES

Arnold Larsen Roslyn Holmes
Thora Tergesen

TREASURERS

Robert Einarsen George Larsen
Herman Francke Thomas Jensen
Roslyn Holmes

FINANCIAL SECRETARY

Ellwood Einarsen

MAJOR REPAIRS, RESTORATIONS AND ADDITIONS TO CHURCH PROPERTY 1915 - 1965

1915-1940 — Pastors Amdalsrud, Kittilsby, Bjerke and Davick

Tower Repaired

New Floor in Basement, Parsonage, Dining Room and Kitchen.

Installation of oil burner and additional radiation.

1949-1951 — Pastor Midboe

Purchase of new parsonage at 22 Duer Place, Weehawken, N. J.

Renovation of old parsonage, after which it became a Parish House.

Renovation of Sanctuary, pulpit lowered and moved to the right.

Altar cloths and pulpit antependia in liturgical colors supplied.

Pedestal candelabra for altar, gift of Pastor and Mrs. Midboe.

1952-1957 — Pastor Nybro

New Pews.

Carpet for sanctuary donated by choir.

New Altar Rail — Gift of Mrs. Clara Compton and Mrs. Jennie McDonald in memory of their parents, Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Johnsen.

====

page [22]

[photo]

Pastor and Mrs. Arnold Nicholson, Jr., and Family
(1961-

[photo]

Parsonage Since 1960
1125 Bloomfield Street
Hoboken, N. J.

====

page [23]

Hearing Aids and Amplifying System, with Chimes in Tower — Gift of Mrs. Edna Henkel, Ruth Stevens, Evelyn Tibbets, in memory of parents, Mr. and Mrs. Oscar Hansen.

Organ reconditioned.

New Chairs for Basement — Gift of Ladies Aid.

New Hymn Board — Gift of Oscar Hansen in memory of his wife.

Purchase of Office Furniture.

1957-1961 — Pastor Gundersen

Additional Office Furniture, Mimeograph Machine, Projector.

New Hymnals.

Lectern for Sanctuary Gift of Mrs. Emma Wippermuehler in memory of husband.

Altar for Sunday School room.

Altar Dossal.

Installation of new rose window to replace original destroyed in storm.

Renovation of Basement.

Weehawken Parsonage sold, newly built dwelling at 1125 Bloomfield Street, Hoboken, N. J., purchased for pastor's residence.

Lectern Bible given in Memory of Founders and Pastors.

1961- — Pastor Nicholson

Lectern for Sunday School Room.

Sunday School rooms repainted.

Sunday School room equipped with room dividers.

New lighting fixtures in basement.

During the fifty-two years of its existence, the interior of the sanctuary has been redecorated approximately every ten years, and the outside renovated many times. Recently the exterior of the Parish House and the Basement level of the church was painted. The interior of the church was again repainted in time for the first observance of the seventy-fifth anniversary of the congregation's founding.

Except for the outright gifts mentioned, the expense of church renovations and new installations has been greatly reduced by contributions of organizations and individual members of the congregation.

MUSIC

Organists

Andreas Johnsen, the first organist of the Scandinavian Evangelical Lutheran Trinity Church, served from 1890 until his death in 1910. Congregation members who have filled the post are Mrs. H. M. Gundersen, wife of the pastor, Miss Minnie Johnsen, Miss Clara Johnsen, now Mrs. Compton, who held the post for 32 years. During vacation periods for the latter, Mrs. Gertrude Davick served as organist.

Organists who have served Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church congregation are Mrs. Gertrude Davick, Mrs. Frances Willig, Mr. Raymond Henry, Pastor Paul Eid, Mrs. Electra Allyson and Mrs. Joanne Reed.

Choirs and Directors

The assistance of a choir of mixed voices at church services and festivals can be counted among the many blessings accorded the congregation down through the years. Numbered among choir directors of the Scandinavian Evangelical Lutheran Trinity Church are Andreas Johnsen, Ivar Einarsen, Gustav Nilsen, L. Koksvig, Marie Andersen, Reidar Nordstrom, Sofie Loenen. During Pastor Bjerke's ministry, he conducted a male chorus, Luren, which disbanded after his departure.

In the 1920's the choir, in conjunction with those of Scandinavian churches of Brooklyn, gave several concerts in the Academy of Music

=====

page [24]

[photo]

THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES — 1965

Front Row, left to right: Mrs. Thora Tergesen, Miss Maud Hansen, Miss Roslyn Holmes, Miss Anna Francke. Second Row: Mr. Charles Carlsen, Mr. Cor Loenen, Mr. William Schwed, Mr. Thomas Jensen, Mr. Ellwood Einarsen.

=====

page [25]

of that city. The same group also sang in Madison Square Garden on the occasion of Sonia Henie's first appearance in this country.

The organists of the Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church have also functioned as choir directors. They are Mrs. Frances Willig, Raymond Henry, Pastor Paul Eid, Mrs. Electra Allyson and Mrs. Joanne Reed.

Lutheran Girls' Choir

In May, 1928, a Girls' Choir was begun with Sofie Andersen, now Mrs. Cor Loenen, as director, and Ruth Waagbo, now Mrs. Miller, as accompanist. During the twelve years of its existence, the group contributed much to the pleasure and edification of the congregation by singing at services and festivals. By sponsoring programs of its own, the choir raised about \$4,000, most of which it donated to the church treasury.

Soloists

Members of the congregation who have appeared as soloists at church services and other events are Hans Hvidsten, Marie Andersen, Kristine Hoilund, now Mrs. James, both as soloist and in duets with Anna Johnsen, now Mrs. Taxeraas, Esther Haabestad, now Mrs. M. Gootner, Thord Einarsen and Mrs. George Ettinger, Jr.

Auxiliaries of the Congregations

Ladies Aid Societies

The Ladies Aid Society of the Scandinavian Evangelical Lutheran Trinity Church, is the oldest organization of Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church, antedating the founding of the congregation by two months. It was organized on May 8, 1890, by Pastor Saarheim, with two Swedish, two Danish and four Norwegian women as charter members. They are Mrs. Anna Ericksen, Mrs. T. Andersen, Mrs. A. Sjostrom, Mrs. Carl- sen and Mrs. Morsman. Mrs. Brown was elected President, Mrs. Einarsen, Secretary and Mrs. Morsman, Treasurer. With a starting capital of \$2 the group immediately began its work.

Meetings were held every two weeks at the homes of members. Materials, sewing equipment, including hand sewing machines and small children had to be brought from house to house, one as far away as Bayonne. The willingness of the women to endure the transportation difficulties is testimony to the fact that their faith and dedication amply compensated for their lack of financial resources. The blessings of the Lord were with them and four years later, their first goal was reached when the small wooden church was dedicated.

Only two of the original eight women were privileged to be members of the society at the dedication of the present sanctuary, in 1913. Their names, Lina Einarsen and Anna Eriksen, are inscribed on the stained glass window, which was their gift to the church.

In January, 1906, members who lived in Jersey City, formed a separate unit which met in the evenings at the homes of members. Mrs. Thomas Johnsen, the first president, held the office for 26 years.

In addition to sales, held for many years twice annually, the Society has regularly sponsored events of many kinds. It has been responsible for arranging and serving refreshments at all important church festivals and pastoral conferences at which pastors and members of other congregations have been in attendance.

Except for the purchase of equipment and furnishing related to their work, the greater part of all proceeds were for many years donated directly to the church treasury. At the time of the fiftieth anniversary of the church, the Society had raised \$26,000 of which \$24,000 had been given to the church. Since Pastor Midboe suggested that organizations be on record as having

====

page [26]

[photo]

THE LADIES' AID — 1965

Front Row, left to right: Miss Lea Langseth, Mrs. Dora Olsen, Mrs. Ethel Hero, Mrs. Mabel Ryan, Mrs. Olga Rasmussen. Second Row: Mrs. Therese Schwed, Mrs. Thora Preusse, Mrs. Emma Wippermüller, Mrs. Martha Ettinger, Mrs. Henrietta Smith, Mrs. Gertrud Jaeger, Mrs. Alice Vanderheyden. Absent from this photo: Mrs. Gusta Christiansen, Mrs. Rebecca Hove.

====

page [27]

contributed to various church projects, the group has responded generously to all such appeals. In addition it has donated over \$5,000 to the Church.

A number of willing and competent women from Holy Trinity English Lutheran Church became members of the Ladies Aid Society of Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church.

Trinity Lutheran Ladies Aid has contributed with other organizations to the expense of all major projects of the church. It has paid for the new chairs in the basement and the student chairs for the confirmands during their instruction periods. In addition to the cash contributions to the church treasury, it has made donations to outside charities and fund appeals.

The officers of the present Ladies Aid are:

Mrs. Carl O. Hero President

Mrs. William Schwed Vice President

Mrs. William Preusse..... Secretary

Mrs. Edward Ryan Treasurer

The congregation of Trinity Lutheran Church owes a deep debt of gratitude to the many women, who as members of the Ladies Aid worked so faithfully for the good of the Church. It would take many pages to record their names.

--

The Ladies Aid Society of the Holy Trinity Evangelical English Lutheran Church was organised by Pastor H. C. Fulz on February 15, 1900 in the church rooms at 904 Garden Street. A constitution and By-Laws were drawn up and the following officers were elected:

Mrs. John Rosenbaum President

Mrs. L. Linich Vice President

Mrs. E. Gardner Secretary

Mrs. C. Koster Financial Secretary

Mrs. G. Von Dreelen Treasurer

While there is no listing of charter members, the minutes of subsequent meetings indicate an average attendance of about 15 members. This small group was to become a large and active organization. Although the Society contributed to congregation expenses, the larger portion of the proceeds from its events were placed in the "Ladies Aid Church Building Fund" for which a bank account was established.

When the church was built in 1912, the Ladies Aid Society gave the following articles:

Two Chancel Chairs

Carpet

Communion Service

Altar Cloth and Communion Veil

It also contributed to the expense of the lighting system and the purchase of the organ. At the dedication of the church the members of the society were hostesses at a reception for the congregation.

Officers of the organization at this time were:

Mrs. Henry Sticht..... President

Mrs. H. C. Streckfuss.....Vice President

Mrs. Charles T. McDaniel Secretary

Mrs. W. H. Bohm Financial Secretary

Mrs. Henry Klussman Treasurer

Throughout its existence the group worked diligently for the church. Its many fund raising activities include bazaars, festivals of various kinds, and concerts and cantatas held in auditoriums such as Martha's Institute.

Helping Hand

In 1912, the members of the Ladies Aid Society of the Scandinavian Evangelical Lutheran Trinity Church organized the Helping Hand Society for the purpose of giving aid to the needy of Scandinavian origin and to visit the sick and lonely.

Its first officers were:

Mrs. Anders Haabestad President

Mrs. Ole Reitan Vice President

Mrs. Augusta Johannesen Secretary

Mrs. Lars Jacobsen Treasurer

Meetings were at first held once a month in the church. Later the group met in the homes of members. Clothing was collected, refurbished and distributed, together with food and other assistance as needed. At the time of the Fiftieth Anniversary of the church, over \$5,000 had been collected from dues, festivals and donations to carry on its work.

Throughout the many years of its existence, the efforts of the Helping Hand Society served to bring brightness and comfort into the lives of the less fortunate.

====

page [28]

[photo]

ALTAR GUILD AND ACOLYTES — 1965

Front Row, left to right: Mrs. Alice Vanderheyden, Arthur Marin, Thomas Sorensen, Charles Carlsen, Miss Lea Langseth. Second Row: Mrs. Mabel Ryan, Mrs. May Nelson, Mrs. Agnes Steible, Mrs. Therese Schwed, Mrs. Lillian Sorensen. Absent from this photo: Jon Olsen.

====

page [29]

Dorcas

Dorcas, a society for young women of the Scandinavian Evangelical Lutheran Trinity Church was organized in 1912 and remained in existence until 1920. The members produced embroidered and crocheted articles which they presented for sale at the church bazaars.

Young People's Society —

Luther League

The purpose of the Young Peoples' organization in the church is to meet the needs of the youth for healthy development under Christian guidance in activities suited for their years. It is an effort to foster in the youth of the church the consciousness that they are an integral part of the congregation and to prepare them for intelligent and active participation.

No details exist as to the formation of the first Young Peoples' Society of the Scandinavian Evangelical Lutheran Trinity Church but surely from the very beginning the young Scandinavians, who availed themselves of the opportunity to belong, found comfort and companionship at the meetings and guidance into membership in the church.

While the new sanctuary was being built, the now active Society conducted a vigorous fund raising campaign which enabled it to purchase the pipe organ costing \$1,350. It is still in use. In the years of its existence the group regularly contributed to the church the proceeds of its festivals and participation in sales sponsored by the Ladies Aid.

For many years the meetings were conducted in Norwegian. When the Young Peoples' Societies of the Lutheran Church became known as the Luther League, the use of English was introduced. In its early years, the Luther League met frequently in joint fellowship with similar groups from other Scandinavian Lutheran congregations in the metropolitan area.

Membership varied from time to time. Undoubtedly its peak was reached about the time of the congregation's 25 th anniversary when the Society numbered 60 members.

The Luther League of the Holy Trinity English Evangelical Lutheran Church played an impor-

tant role in the life of the congregation. It gave the young people of the church an additional opportunity to worship God. It helped form a closer bond between the church and its younger members by providing them with the means of taking an active part in its work. Annually, the group sponsored entertaining programs which were well attended by the congregation. On several occasions, the League presented musical revues and plays, held at local schools, with its own talented members and professional artists as performers. The proceeds of all of its events were a welcome addition to the Building Fund for the church which was erected as well as that intended for its completion.

Aided by the training during their younger years in working for the good of the church, many of the members of the Luther League went on to assume the responsibilities of conducting the affairs of the church. In all respects, the Luther League of the Holy Trinity English Evangelical Lutheran Church can be said to have lived up to the aims and purposes for which it was founded.

The Luther League of Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church continued to concentrate its efforts on the aims of the League until it disbanded for lack of members.

Trinity Lutheran Church Women

The organization, first known as "Trinity Guild" was formed in January, 1950, by Helen Midboe, wife of the pastor, as a branch of the Women's Missionary Federation. Its purpose is to disseminate God's word

through aid to local and foreign missions. In 1961 when the name of the parent organization was changed to "American Lutheran Church Women," the Guild became "Trinity Lutheran Church Women."

Of the twenty charter members, the following were elected officers:

Anne Reitan President

Agnes Steible Vice President

Elisabeth Simonsen Secretary

Ella Wroldsen Treasurer

At a convention in Jersey City on October 29, 1951, Mrs. C. Davick accepted on behalf of the church, an honor roll inscribed with her name as life member. Also inscribed was the name of

====

page [30]

[photo]

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH WOMEN — 1965

Front Row, left to right: Mrs. Agnes Steible, Mrs. Mabel Ryan, Mrs. Gerthrud Jaeger, Mrs. Marion Jespersen, Mrs. Emma Anderson. Second Row: Miss Elizabeth Madsen, Mrs. Thordis Nelssen, Miss Roslyn Holmes, Mrs. Thora Tergesen, Miss Martha Olsen. Third Row: Mrs. Alice Vanserweyden, Mrs. May Nelsen, Miss Anna Francke. Absent from this photo: Mrs. Elizabeth Simonsen, Mrs. Carolyn Nicholson.

====

page [31]

Anne Reitan who died early in the second year of her presidency.

The organisation contributes to various local and foreign missions and charities. It assembles baskets for needy families outside the church at Thanksgiving and has set up a reserve of canned goods for the use of the pastor in visiting such families. In addition, it has shared with other church organisations the cost of such church projects as the Sunday School altar, replacement of church ceremonial flags and Sun' day School room dividers.

Trinity Lutheran Church Women have sponsored Family Nights, Children's Parties, Mother and Daughter Dinners, and Everybody's Birthday Parties. Its members have also been active in the Ladies Aid, Eger Society, Altar Guild, Choir and Church Council.

Since 1955, Bible Study has formed a part of the program at the monthly meetings, with speakers from Lutheran Collegiate Bible Institute in Teaneck, pastors and members.

The present Executive Board consists of:

Roslyn Holmes President

Agnes Steible Vice President

Thora Tergesen..... Secretary

Alice Vanderheyden Treasurer

Thordis Nelssen..... Educational Secretary

May Nelson Stewardship Secretary

Carolyn Nicholson Counselor

--

Brotherhood

The "Brotherhood," an organization wherein the men of the congregation could find a deeper Christian fellowship and an outlet for Christian service was formed by Pastor Nybro on March 1, 1954, with 24 members. George Ettinger, Sr. was its first President.

During the ten years of its existence, the Brotherhood contributed to all church projects. To gain a closer relationship with the boys of the church, it held Father and Son Dinners and took the boys to sports events. It conducted a Pro Deo Et Patria award ceremony for an outstanding Boy Scout of the congregation. The recipient of the award was George Sorensen. In addition, the group contributed money to send Sunday School pupils to Bible Camp. Several hymnals have been given to the church in memory of departed members. It conducted Laymen's Sunday services and participated in Men's Retreats.

At a meeting in June, 1964, the Brotherhood regretfully decided to disband because of lack of members. Five of its charter members had been in faithful attendance during its existence. They are:

Herman Francke (since deceased)

Thomas Jensen

Charles Carlsen

William Sandominick

Ellwood Einarsen

PARISH EDUCATION

Sunday School

The instruction of children in the fundamentals of Christian truth has always been regarded in the Lutheran Church as one of its chief duties. This church has been no exception to the general rule.

The Sunday School of the Scandinavian Evangelical Lutheran Trinity Church was formed soon after the congregation was organized. For several weeks Nils Hailing was its only pupil. Soon the number increased sufficiently for classes to be formed with Matthias Reiersen as Superintendent. A special honor is due the men who were teachers in the early years with their long workday weeks. Some came from an area extending from Jersey City Heights to Cliffside. If it were at all possible they and their children walked long distances to save the expense of carfare.

Each year, from September until Spring, special instructions to prepare the child for confirmation is given by the pastor at specified periods each week. Recently the term has been extended to two years.

====

page [32]

[photo]

SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS — 1965

Front Row, left to right: Mr. Ellwood Einarsen, Mrs. Evelyn Carlsen, Mr. George Sorensen. Second Row: Mrs. Evelyn Teisen, Miss Roslyn Holmes, Miss Martha Olsen. Absent from this photo Mrs. Elvine Reynolds.

====

page [33]

The most important Sunday School event has always been its Christmas program, composed of recitations and songs by the pupils, followed by the singing of carols. In the early years, only a most courageous child refused to take part. A program of fifty or more numbers was, therefore, no novelty. The memory of the tree, while it was still lit by candles, is not complete without the picture of the two men who, armed with brooms and pails of water, stood ready to extinguish a too low burning candle.

Throughout the years, the Sunday School has contributed to the expense of repairs or additions to the furnishings of the church. The stained glass window depicting Christ as a child was its gift to the new sanctuary.

The largest enrollment, 140 pupils, was recorded in the decade 1915-1925. Sunday School Superintendents of the Scandinavian Evangelical Lutheran Trinity Church have been: Matthias Reiersen, Gunnar Nilsen, Nicolai Nilsen, Thomas Johnsen, Ludvig Larsen, Ivar Einarsen, Harold Einarsen and Edward Moller.

Holy Trinity English Evangelical Lutheran Church began its Sunday School on January 7, 1900 a month before the congregation was organized, with 32 pupils and 14 teachers. Since the church rooms at both 904 Garden Street and 204 Tenth Street could not accommodate the large attendance at confirmation

services, permission was granted by the First Baptist Church to hold such services in its building. The practice was continued until the congregation built its church. Christmas Programs, Children's Day observances and picnics were yearly events. Assisted by the Sunday School Teachers Association of the church, the children made generous contributions to church expenses and the building fund. The Sunday. School of Holy Trinity reached its peak enrollment about 1916, when over 200 pupils are listed.

Superintendents of the Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church since 1948 have been: Thomas Smith, Herman Francke, William Sandominick and Roslyn Holmes. Its present teaching staff consists of Roslyn Holmes, Superintendent, William Sandominick, Treasurer, Evelyn Teisen, Evelyn Carlsen, Martha Olsen, George Sorensen, Ellwood Einarsen and Elvine Reynolds.

Vacation Bible School

In 1958, the practice of conducting a Vacation Bible School was instituted by Pastor Gundersen. It was an immediate success, with children of various religious and national backgrounds in attendance. Sessions lasting two weeks were divided into periods of religious instruction, refreshments, recreation, group singing and projects. During the project period, articles depicting objects or scenes related to the religious instruction were made. The responsibility of teaching, and serving refreshments was assumed by women of the congregation, with male members directing recreation.

In 1964, at the congregational meeting, it was decided to join the Lutheran Neighborhood Summer Program in order to carry out the objectives of our Vacation Church School more intensively. The Lutheran Neighborhood Summer Program is a corporation of Lutheran congregations in Hudson County who carry on a six week program of summer activity in each of the congregations in the program. A teaching staff of college students from various parts of the country work in the churches involved in a program of religious instruction, craft, remedial reading, composition, recreation and trips to points of interest. This program involves morning and afternoon classes and evening visitation. The young people who serve as teachers receive no remuneration for their work.

=====

pg [34] blank

=====

[inside back cover]

Gifts Received in Memory of: From:

Mrs. Engela Reitan Relatives and Friends

Mr. Raymond Sorensen Mrs. R. Sorensen & Family, Boy Scout Troop

No. 90, North Bergen, Mullin Family, Olaf Olsen, Mr. & Mrs. Michael Nerney

Mrs. Arne Lee Mother, Mrs. Olga Thompson

Mother and Father, Mr. and Mrs. T. Teisen and brother Arthur Christensen Family
and Wroldsen Family

Mr. John Reinertsen Wife, Clara

Miss Margaret Francke Friends of the family, Mrs. Anna Bell

Mr. Herman Francke Board of Trustees, Relatives and Friends

Anna and Gustaf Gundersen Thora and Ole Tergesen

Mrs. Dorothy Wohlrab Sister, Mrs. Mabel Ryan

Mr. John Salvesen Wife, Georgianna

General Gift to Fund Mrs. Robert Christiansen,
Mr. & Mrs. Alfred Wroldsen

Miss Edith Madsen Miss Anna Francke

Mr. Hugh Crawford, father of Mrs. J. Jespersen Trinity Lutheran Church Women

Mr. George Ettinger, Sr..... Wife, Martha

Mother and Father, Robert and Petra Einarsen and sister Sigrid and brother Emil
Evelyn, Alice and Ellwood

Mrs. Olga Thompson Carlsen and Vanderheyden Families
and Ellwood Einarsen

Pastor C. A. Davick Friend and Pupil

Father and Mother, Mr. and Mrs. Frederick Francke, brother Herman and sister Margaret Anna
Francke

Departed Loved Ones Ingeborg Larsen

Father and Mother, Mr. and Mrs. Charles F. Holmes, Sr Roslyn Holmes

Martha, wife and mother Mr. Olaf Olsen and Family

Teresa, sister Mr. & Mrs. Michael Nerney

Loving Aunt, Anne Reitan Susan Schwed

Beloved Parents Mr. & Mrs. William Schwed

Husband, Fred Emma WippermueLLer

Parents Mr. and Mrs. O. J. Olsen

Departed Loved Ones..... :.....Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Jensen

Mr. & Mrs. T. Teisen, Arthur and Clara..... Ralph N. Teisen Family

Mr.& Mrs. Lars Jacobsen, parents..... Mr. & Mrs. Carl Hero

MEMORIAL GIFTS TO CHURCH TREASURY

Gifts Received in Memory of:

From:

Parents, Mr. & Mrs. Einar Reitan..... Mr. and Mrs. R. Valentine

Parents, Mr. & Mrs. T. Teisen and brother Arthur Mrs. Ella Wroldsen

William and Linda Johnsen Son and four Daughters

Dina Johnsen.....Mrs. George Talpo

====

====