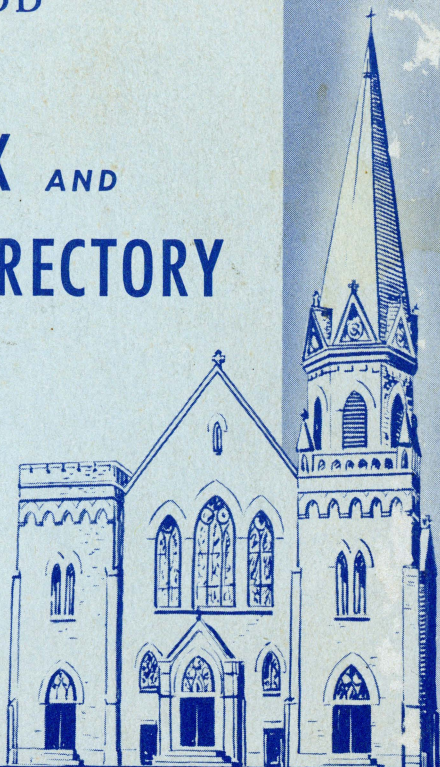


1890 - 1950

BETHEL EVANGELICAL
LUTHERAN CHURCH
OF ENGLEWOOD

YEAR BOOK AND
CHURCH DIRECTORY



SIXTIETH ANNIVERSARY

MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY and YEAR BOOK
OF
BETHEL EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN
CHURCH OF ENGLEWOOD

6200 South Peoria Street
Chicago 21, Illinois



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MRS. WILLIAM JOHNSON.....*Executive Editor of Bethel Light*
MRS. NAOMI RICHARDS.....*Congregation Secretary*
MRS. IVER PEARSON.....*Bulletin Secretary*

1994/95: 76

Anniversary Reflections

“LOOK AHEAD”

HEN the Bethel Light Staff met in the home of the Executive Editor to make plans for the printing and distribution of the Sixtieth Anniversary Year Book, one of the Board members let fall this significant remark: “Let us take a look ahead instead of harkening back to the good old days.” The suggestion was favorably received and therefore the emphasis will be upon the future rather than the past.

Of course the past cannot be entirely disassociated from the present; every individual lives in two worlds, that of memory and that of action. Yesterday becomes a memory; today becomes a field for action. Hence we cannot help but look back over the way the fellowship has traveled and take cognizance of the leaders who had to carry the burden of responsibility. We think first of all of Rev. A. S. Becklund who was here from 1890 to the turn of the century; and of Dr. A. P. Fors who served Bethel over a period of 27 years. “THEIR WORKS DO FOLLOW THEM.” We could enumerate a long list of faithful leaders and members who put all their fine concentrated energies into the building up of Bethel’s fellowship.

But what we are primarily concerned with, is the “look ahead”. After sixty years Bethel has become an American Lutheran church. Our community has changed by reason of a new infiltration of dwellers who are of different racial and even religious backgrounds.

The old nationalistic spirit represented by the Swedish immigrants has receded into the background and a new generation comprising different shades of belief and racial heritage is in our midst. Our church school for instance, no longer has on its rolls a preponderant Scandinavian membership. A "look ahead" is necessary to obtain a balanced perspective.

Shall Bethel "move". This has been the conscientious concern of some who feel that the future in the Englewood area means a gradual decline. Other churches are moving to more advantageous localities; but the leadership of Bethel believes in the Englewood community. We "look forward" because the souls of men, women and children in the community have been entrusted to our care by the good Lord Himself, who still loves the whole world and gave His son the Redeemer of us all.

Bethel's future? We look about us and note the fine leadership qualities which have enriched our church life. There is no dearth of leaders in Bethel, particularly among the growing generation. We could go on and mention the elements of strength which constitutes our church fellowship. We humbly thank God for the manifestation of His grace in providing us with concentrated loyal and faithful co-workers.

We "look ahead" like Paul of old who said: "I stretch forward to the things which are before": We look up into the face of our Christ who first loved us and because he died on the tree for the sins of the world, we know that He will by his redemptive power, through the gospel, energize his followers. We may fail God in so many things but God will never fail us. The "look ahead" is refreshingly good as He says to us: "I am with you always even unto the end of the world".

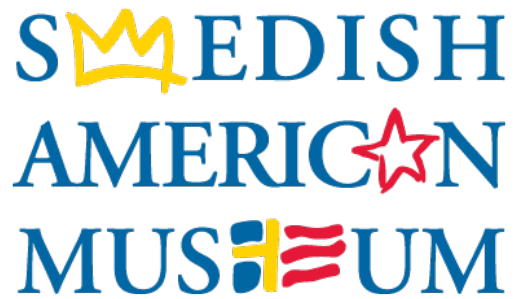
CHARTER MEMBER

Our congregation acknowledges the services with devout gratefulness of its one Charter member, Mrs. ANNA GUSTAFSON, 6553 South Carpenter Street; and wishes her in the sunset of her life, the continued guidance of her dear Lord, and the blessing that our heavenly Father bestows on His servants.

Our Beautiful Sanctuary



*W*HOSOEVER thou art that entereth this Church remember that it is the house of God. Be reverent, be silent, be thoughtful, and leave it not without a prayer to GOD . . . for thyself, for those who minister, and for those who worship here."



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1890 ♦ 1950