

Oak Leaves

Newsletter of the ELS Historical Society

Volume 23

Winter 2019

Issue 1

EARLY ELS CHURCHES IN CHICAGO

by Theodore Gullixson

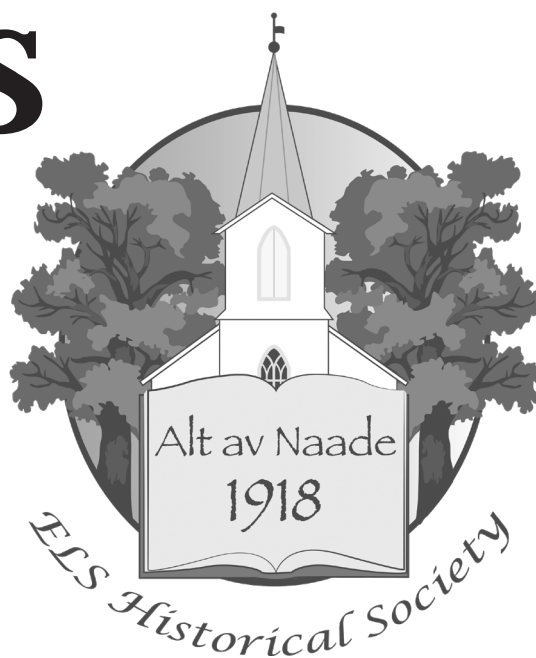
ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

In 1871, a cow kicked over a lantern and started the great fire in Chicago. From 1880 to 1890, five million immigrants came to America, many of them to Chicago and helped rebuild the city. By 1890, forty-four thousand Norwegians were living in Chicago— even more Norwegians than lived in Oslo, Norway!



St. Paul's Church

The poorer Norwegians moved to the vicinity of Humbolt Park, a part of North Avenue which became a Norwegian trading street; by 1905, about 65,000 Norwegians lived in three northside wards. To deal with their spiritual needs, Our Savior's Lutheran Church was located on May and Erie Streets. This congregation in turn started a mission in a store on Ashland and



Milwaukee streets. In May 1873, the Norwegian Synod approved funds to establish a new church on Park and Lincoln Streets, called St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church. In 1887, St. Paul's merged with St. Peters, which was on Campbell Avenue and Frederick Street, and moved to a larger building on 2200 West North Avenue. Dedication day was November 13, 1892, with the Norwegian Synod President H. A. Preus preaching the sermon. This was the first mission congregation of the synod.

The following pastors served St. Paul's until the 1917 merger: H. Johnson (1876-1878), A. Mikkelsen (1879-1881), O. H. Lee (assistant—1879-1881), Student Arvesen (1881-1882), J. I. Welo (1882-1887), O. C. O. Hjort (1887-1890), I. B. Torrison (1891-1899), O. E. Heimdahl (1889-1902), and G. A. Gullixson (1902-1933).

Before the 1917 merger, St. Paul's experienced liveried drivers of carriages bringing many finely dressed worshippers to services. Men attended services in formal clothing and the pastor wore a Prince Albert coat whenever he went to visit parishioners. The choir sat in the front-left of the church near the large pipe organ. The furnaces that used coal at \$3 a ton in 1892 were replaced with oil burners after World War II. Mr. Walter Meyer (father to Marvin and LeRoy Meyer) helped keep the furnaces going. Gas fixtures were replaced with electric lights in 1919.

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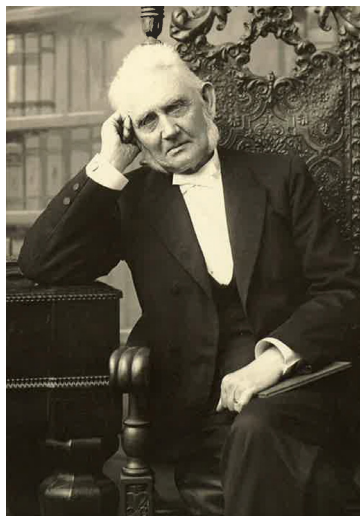
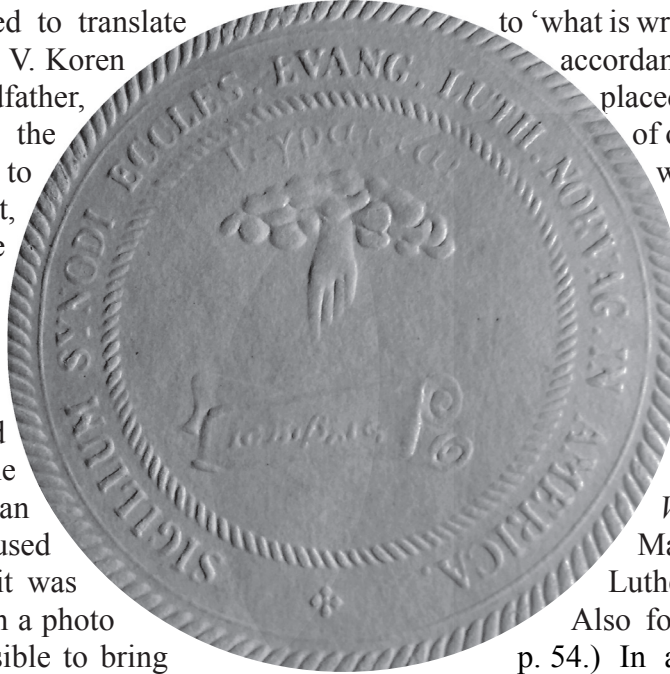
FROM THE EDITOR

“IT IS WRITTEN”— THE SEAL AND MOTTO OF THE NORWEGIAN SYNOD OF 1853

Some time ago, I was asked to translate the letter of call President U. V. Koren sent to my Teigen grandfather, Martin Teigen, assigning the new seminary graduate to the area north of Minot, North Dakota to gather the Norwegian immigrants into congregations. The letter was dated June 5, 1900, written and signed in Koren's hand. But in the lower left hand corner of the letter was the embossed seal of the Norwegian Synod. Of course, ink is not used with an embossed seal, so it was barely legible. However, with a photo editing program, it was possible to bring the lettering out. After our first efforts to come up with a legible copy, Secretary Ferkenstad located a better impression of the seal, a copy of which appears on this page.

In the circular margin of the seal is “sigillum synodi eccles. Evang. Luth. Norveg. in America” (seal of the synod of the Norwegian Lutheran church in America). In the center section in Greek letters is *GEGRAPTAL*, (“it is written”). Below it is a cloud, with a hand pointing down to two scrolls, apparently representing the Old and New Testaments. On one of them is written also in Greek letters, *Biblia*.

U. V. Koren described the importance of what is engraved on the seal: “This is what the Norwegian Synod has wanted, and still wants: Unwavering obedience



U.V. Koren

to ‘what is written,’ and a frank confession in accordance with it. We have therefore placed this word in the official seal of our Synod: *GEGRAPTAL*, i.e., ‘It is written,’ and we have therefore chosen as a motto for our *Kirketidende* these words of our Savior in John 8:31-32: ‘If ye continue in My word, then you are My disciples indeed; and you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free’” (from *U. V. Koren's Works*, Edited by Mark DeGarmeaux, vol. 3, 417, Lutheran Synod Book Co., 2013. Also found in *Faith of our Fathers*, p. 54.) In a biography of U. V. Koren, Herman A. Preus reported that Koren was the one who suggested *gegraptai* as the motto of the synod (DeGarmeaux, Vol. 4, 473).

When the remnant of the Old Norwegian Synod reorganized the synod in 1918 and 1919, they were minded to continue the church paper *Evangelisk Luthersk Kirketidende*. But they realized that could cause them some unnecessary difficulty with the merged church. So, the first issue has the front page banner *Luthersk Tidende*, but with a drawing of a church (resembling the Lime Creek church) placed between *Luthersk* and *Tidende*. A few weeks later, an inscription was placed right under the church — *Der Staar Skrevet*, Norwegian for *GEGRAPTAL*, “It is Written.” In the second volume of *Tidende*, they had added the word *Evangelisk* in an arch above the church. So, now they had almost duplicated the name of their beloved paper, *Evangelisk Luthersk Kirketidende*. 🍁

FROM THE MUSEUM

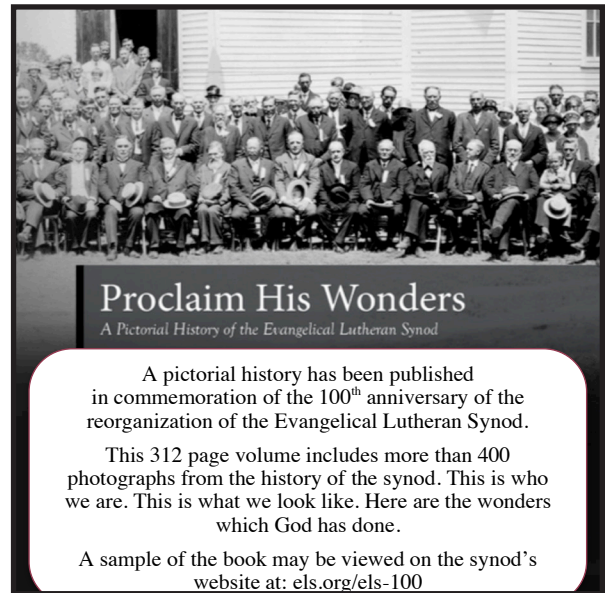
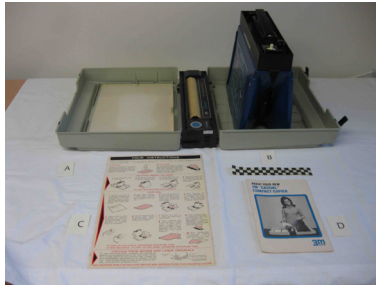
With recent changes to the storage space in the Synod Archives, a few long-lost artifacts were discovered and transferred to the Ottesen Museum.

From the days of mimeograph machines is a specially designed board for working on stencils. It was built by Mr. N. E. Solli of the Parkland congregation for Pastor Walt Gullixson. A stencil would be placed on the adjustable board. One could then draw pictures on it with a stylus or score lines with the accompanying T-square. The glass on the board would allow light to shine through the drawings and the plastic backing board would help with measurements and ensure that the glass wouldn't get scratched.

The second object presents a bit of a puzzle. It's a portable photocopier. A label on it indicates that it was the property of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod. But it's not clear when it was used or who used it. If any one has information on this, or any other Museum artifact, please contact Rebecca DeGarmeaux at the Museum.



could then draw pictures on it with a stylus or score lines with the accompanying T-square. The glass on the board would allow light to shine through the drawings and the plastic backing board would help with measurements and ensure that the glass wouldn't get scratched.



ELS HISTORICAL SOCIETY ANNUAL MEETING

The 2019 Annual meeting will be held at Bethany Lutheran College on Synod Sunday, June 23, at 7:00 p.m.

The program will revisit the second annual convention, at which the synod was officially constituted, and will highlight the constitution, the opening sermon by G. A. Gullixson, and other important actions taken by the convention.

Watch for details in the next issue.

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Oak Leaves welcomes articles of both Synodical and local significance for publication. Articles may be edited for style, clarity, or length to allow for publication. Each issue will be deposited in the archives of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod.

Check out the Historical Society website

<http://www.els-history.org/>

St. Paul's membership grew from 86 souls and 51 communicants in 1884, reported by Pastor Welo, to a peak of 700 souls and 520 communicants in 1912 under Pastor George A. Gullixson, who served the congregation for 31 years. When he died of cancer in May of 1933, his son, Rev. George A. R. Gullixson (1933-1940) was installed as pastor of St. Paul's. After him were Pastors Bjarne W. Teigen (1941-1945) and Eivind Unseth (1945-1953).

At its centennial service in 1987, St. Paul's listed 3,131 baptisms, 1,737 confirmations, 1,828 weddings, and 1,614 funerals.



G.A. Gullixson

ST. LUKE'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

On Sunday, September 15, 1911, Rev. J. O. Tweeten began canvassing an area west of St. Paul's. On the 24th, a Sunday School was organized with three students and four teachers. That week, twelve ladies met at Rev. Tweeten's home (5947 Iowa Street) to organize a Ladies' Aid Society. On November 5, 1911, Rev. G. A. Gullixson installed Rev. Tweeten as missionary on the west side of Chicago. By January 3, 1912, St. Luke's Lutheran Church was organized. On February 20, the group purchased the First Swedish Baptist Church at 5916 Sophia Street for \$3,000, with full possession of the building taking place in September of that year. Rev. Gullixson was present on April 20,

1913 to dedicate the church building.

Rev. Tweeten finished his pastorate in 1915. Rev. Herman A. Preus from Spokane, Washington was installed as St. Luke's new pastor. He served for ten years. By 1917, the debt of the church was reduced by \$500 at the fifth anniversary service. On January 1, 1918, Rev. Preus left St. Luke's to serve as a military chaplain at Camp Wadsworth, Spartansburg, S.C. After one year, Preus returned and was re-installed as pastor.

In the fall of 1919, the basement of St. Luke's was repaired and redecorated. On December 7, 1921, the second annual get-together was held at St. Luke's with Rev. J. A. Moldstad, pastor at St. Mark's, as speaker. During this time, the Old Norwegian Synod's mission board was supplying funds for the pastor's salary. At this meeting, funds were raised so that the church

could pay \$300 towards the pastor's salary.

St. Luke's did not enjoy a large growth of members during the first ten years, due in part to the 1917 merger. Rev. G. A. Gullixson preached at the anniversary service in 1921. In the evening, the congregation held a song service, sponsored by the Young People's Society; the St. Paul's



J.A. Moldstad

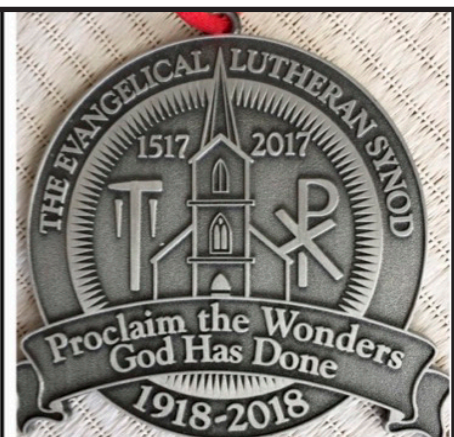
choir sang and Alf Christiansen played a violin solo.

The balance of the church's debt was paid off by August 17, 1922. From April through June of 1923, Rev.

PROCLAIM THE WONDERS GOD HAS DONE

In commemoration of the centennial of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod, the ELS Historical Society has produced the medallion pictured to the right.

Order it from the ELS Ottesen Museum for \$15 (or \$10 dollars for members of the ELS Historical Society) plus \$2.50 shipping (6 Browns Court, Mankato MN 56001). 🍁



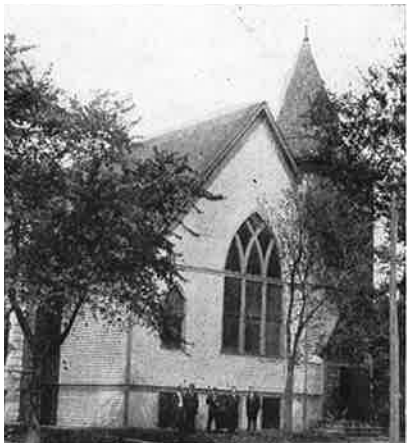
Preus took a leave of absence from St. Luke's to act as the assistant pastor to his father, Rev. J. W. Preus who served in Calmar, Iowa. His father was dealing with heart troubles. Rev. Lauritz S. Guttebo and Prof. Scaer of Luther Institute in Chicago helped fill the pulpit until Rev. Preus' return. In January, February and March of 1923, Rev. Preus was in charge of the Bethany Mission, N. Long and Lemoyne. He would preach there at 10:00 a.m., take a taxi to St. Luke's and begin service at 11:00 a.m.

In 1924, the church decided to remodel its building, at a cost of \$7,000. On December 14, a re-opening service was held; then synod president, G. A. Gullixson delivered the sermon and an address Rev. John. A. Moldstad delivered an address.



H. Preus

In January, 1925, Rev. Preus accepted his call to serve at Calmar, Iowa (where he remained until he retired in 1966. The Rev. J. J. Strand became pastor for about five years. In 1930, he suffered a stroke so that he could not serve and the Rev. Hans A. Theiste of Forsyth, Montana, accepted the call to serve St. Luke's. He was installed by pastors John Moldstad, G. A. Gullixson, and J. J. Strand.



St. Luke's

In 1932, St. Luke's celebrated its twentieth anniversary, with Rev. H. A. Preus returning to preach the festival sermon. When Rev. Strand died On September 5, 1933, his funeral was conducted by Rev. Theiste with Rev. Moldstad preaching

and the committal service was conducted by his son, Rev. Ahlert Strand of Duluth, Minnesota.

St. Luke's continued to exist until 1946. Rev. Theiste served from 1931 to 1937, then Rev. Ahlert Strand served from 1937 to 1946. In 1946, the congregation decided to merge with St. Mark's Lutheran Church at 1701 North Tripp. The church building was sold to St.

Paul's, a neighboring Missouri congregation. A fire had destroyed St. Paul's church, so there was a need to purchase the St. Luke's church building.

ST. MARK'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

This congregation was organized on March 2, 1900 at a meeting held at Bethel Ev. Lutheran Church (LCMS) on Springfield and Hirsh Streets. Pastor O. K. Ramberg served as pastor for one year. The first worship service was conducted on March 11 in a building at 1571 W. North Avenue (straight west of St. Paul's). In September 1903, the congregation borrowed \$1,000 from the Norwegian Synod's building fund to place a "binder" on property at Tripp and Wabansia Avenues.

Originally, the members were tradesmen and businessmen. Johnson Chair company, Schwinn Bicycle Company, and many stores and construction projects provided wages for the people.

At a July 6, 1904 meeting, Pastor Blegen and student of theology John A. Moldstad served as advisory members, since St. Mark's was without a pastor. Rev. M. K. Bleken also served temporarily. He officiated at the cornerstone laying ceremony on August 28, 1904, conducted in Norwegian.



St. Mark's

Lauritz Guttebo had completed his theological studies at Luther Seminary, St. Paul, Minnesota, and accepted the call to St. Mark's. He was installed on September 11, 1904 and conducted the first service in the new church building on November 20, 1904. Rev. Guttebo became ill in 1906 and had to resign as pastor. Upon graduation from Concordia Seminary in St. Louis, Missouri, John A. Moldstad accepted the call to serve

St. Mark's. He was ordained in the summer of 1906 and served there forty years until he died in 1946. It was his death that led to the merger of St. Mark's and St. Luke's, with Rev. Ahlert Strand becoming pastor of the combined congregation.

The merger brought St. Mark's to the high point in attendance and membership. In 1947, a Christian Day School was begun with teachers Rev. Strand and student of theology Neil Hilton. This school continued operating until 1966, when the school was discontinued because of a lack of teachers and the cost of complying with stringent fire codes. The records show that by the 35th anniversary in 1935, 1,919 people had been baptized, 989 confirmed, 921 marriages, and 733 burials.

After Rev. Strand retired in 1977, the following pastors have served St. Mark's: Rev. John Shep (1977-1980), Rev. Howard Behrens (1980-1998), Rev. Stephen Schmidt (1998-2001), student Christian Eisenbeis (2001-2003), and of the WELS Rev. Theodore Wendt (2004-2005) and Rev. Gary Young (2005-2010). In 2010, the congregation disbanded.

LAKE VIEW LUTHERAN CHURCH

Not much is known about the beginnings of this church. The church building was located at 1015 Roscoe Street, near the Clark Street station. On July 7, 1918, Rev. George O. Lillegard was installed as pastor by Rev. G. A. Gullixson. Prof. O. A. Tingelstad of Luther College, Decorah, Iowa also assisted, taking the part of the altar service. As part of the Mission Services Sunday on July 7, Rev. Lillegard lectured on the "Economical, Political, and Social Conditions in China." On July 17 at the church, the Rev. M. E. Fretheim led the quarterly business meeting of the Homefinding Society. This society tried to find homes for Norwegian orphans who were immigrants.

The October church newsletter, "The Lake View Lutheran," reported that 67 students were enrolled in

Sunday School, with the largest attendance at 48. On January 5, 1919, Rev. Herman A. Preus of St. Luke's spoke about his experiences as a military camp pastor in Camp Wadsworth, South Carolina; Camp Grant,

Illinois; and Camp Robinson, Wisconsin. At the annual meeting it was reported that "An English translation of the Norwegian Constitution for the congregation adopted in 1875 was read and accepted."

At the Mission Festival on February 14, 1919, Rev. H. M. Tjernagel, of the Missouri Synod's Indian Mission in Gresham, Wisconsin, preached. In the evening he shared some of his experiences as pastor among the Eskimos in Alaska.

In his Parochial Report for 1920, Rev. Lillegard reported: "14 baptisms, nine weddings, two funerals.

The following services were held: 54 morning services, 49 by the pastor, 5 by visiting pastors, all in the English language; 39 evening services of which two were in the Norwegian language, four were Mission services, one of which was conducted by a visiting pastor, six were Song Services, seven were Lenten services, and 20 were Adult Bible Class meetings. The pastor has delivered four lectures and one sermon in other churches. The pastor made between 300 and 400 calls; mailed out an average of 150 copies of the Lake View Lutheran and 100 tracts each month and distributed about 250 in the neighborhood of the church."



St. Mark's



George Lillegard

ST. TIMOTHY LUTHERAN CHURCH LOMBARD, ILLINOIS

Thirty minutes west of St. Paul's and St. Marks, just off of North Avenue in the suburb of Lombard, the Evangelical Lutheran Synod began a mission church in 1956. Seminary student Robert Moldstad was called to begin mission work in the Lombard area. He had grown up at St. Mark's in Chicago, so he knew the area. The first service at the Pleasant Lake School was held on September 9, 1956 with 54 people present and 27 children in Sunday School. The next year, the small group purchased 13 lots of land just north of that school.

Two years later, the first service in the two-story building was held on Good Friday evening, March 27, 1959. After twelve years, the congregation resolved in 1968 to no longer receive mission subsidies from the synod. A parsonage was completed in 1968.

In 1975, construction began on a new church building. It was dedicated on September 12, 1976. From 1978 to 1981, St. Timothy conducted a weekly radio program on WKDC called Thoughts of Faith. Beginning in 1997, St. Timothy opened a pre-school program in the old church building. When the building was renovated in 2000, the church conducted a Christian day school until 2007.

The following pastors have served St. Timothy: Rev. Robert Moldstad (1957-1965), Rev. Eivand Unseth (1965-1974), Rev. John Schmidt (1974-1982), Rev. Richard Ziesmer (1982-1984), Rev. Matthew Luttman (1984-1988), Rev. Paul Zager (1989-2002), and Rev. Edward Bryant (2002-2018).

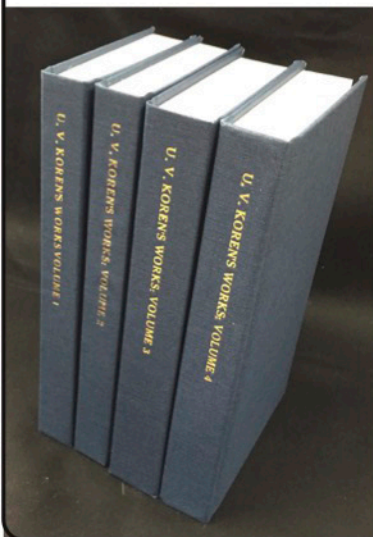
On May 20, 2007, the congregation celebrated its fiftieth anniversary and the sixtieth anniversary was held on October 7, 2018.

EMMAUS LUTHERAN CHURCH CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

Emmaus Lutheran Church was first begun in 1888 when German immigrants had settled on the west side of Chicago. A church building was erected in 1912. When the German population moved further west, the congregation purchased another building that had been built in 1919. In 1980, the members joined the Lutheran Church of the Reformation. In 1986, it became a member of the ELS.



Dr. Koren Still Speaks



U. V Koren's Works

Mark DeGarmeaux editor

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HOLD TO SCRIPTURE AND THE CONFESSIONS

Markus Frederick Wiese

We have previously printed translations of articles by M. F. Wiese from Luthersk Tidende in the first years of the reorganized Synod. During those first years, he was among four or five prolific writers for the Tidende. He had retired in 1917 from the Western Koshkonong congregation. He had been a tireless writer and scholar in the old Norwegian Synod, especially active on the committees which produced the synod's hymn books. The following article appeared in Evangelisk Luthersk Tidende, Vol. 2, page 287, and is translated by the editor.

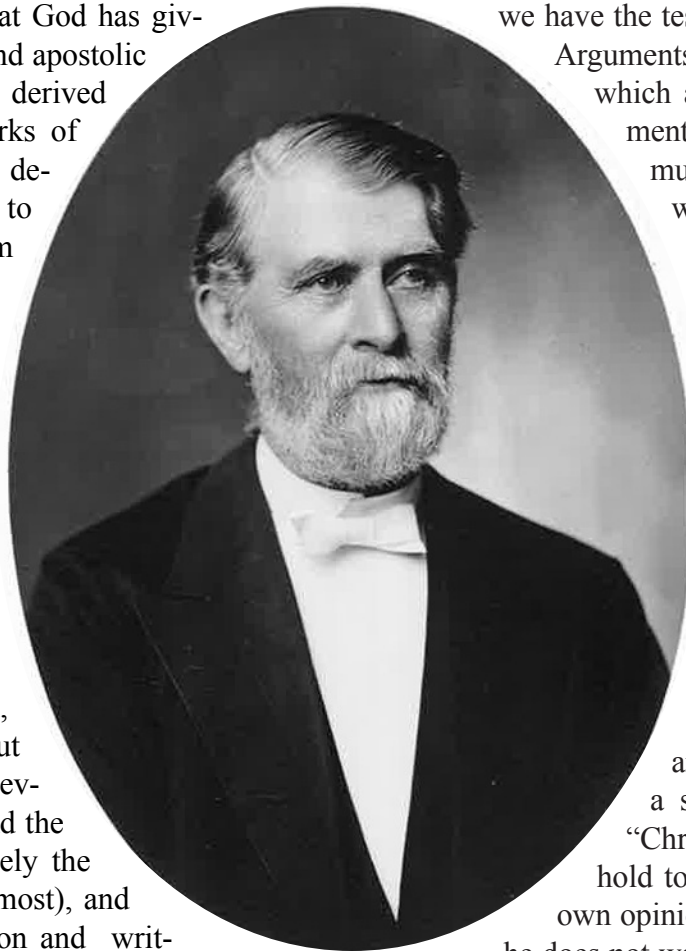
How many times have you had doubts about which church you should join when you see so many mutually disagreeing groups around you, all of which claim the church's name and title. Nowadays, such cases are not rare. It is in regard to such situations that Phillip Melanchthon says: "The answer is not difficult when one only follows the rule that God has given to us. For the prophetic and apostolic Scriptures and the symbols derived from them are the true marks of the church. They do not deceive. Only those who, cling to them without deviating from them are God's true church according to the word of Christ: "My sheep hear my voice" (John 10:27), and "No one can lay another foundation," etc. A faithful Lutheran confessor from the middle of the sixteenth century writes about the same thing: "It is well-known that this church (the orthodox Lutheran) church, in no way defends error, but it establishes and arranges everything according to one and the same unwavering rule, namely the word of God (first and foremost), and then the Augsburg Confession and writings of Luther, who by God's grace remained constant in the true truth. " And according to these statements, as the Pastor Magister Georg Grosch, in his excellent writing "Defense of the Lutheran Church" (1745, folio 806), writes: "We do not appeal to human testimony before a matter which is asserted is proven

by the word of God and found to be consistent with it. The papists, on the other hand, on such points as they cannot prove by the Holy Scripture, drown us with the authority of the church and pope. Such papal arguments we do not recognize since in the church of God we do not establish and defend anything unless we have the testimony of Scripture for us

Arguments concerning divine matters which are not based on God's judgment but only on human authority, must necessarily be rejected. But we do not use such arguments; on the contrary, we do not rely on human testimony unless it is consistent with the word of God."

Permit us to add here the words of Luther, by which the attentive reader, when he notices what is happening in our midst, will not find it difficult to see that the words in the book of Ecclesiastes that "there is nothing new under the sun" (1:9,10) are confirmed. Luther says in a sermon in his Church Postil: "Christ teaches us, that we should hold to Scripture and not follow our own opinion or any human teaching; for he does not want to have given us his Scrip-

ture in vain. He wants to be found there, and nowhere else. Whoever despises his word and rejects it will never find Christ: 'They have Moses and the prophets, let them hear them...If they do not hear Moses and the prophets neither will they be persuaded though one rise from the dead' (Luke 16:29,31). Against this faithful



M. F. Wiese

and divine teaching, our scholastics have now invented many ways to learn the truth; we must mention some so that we can know how to keep watch.” Luther then lists three ways in which the pope’s scholars, aside from and independent of the Holy Scripture, base their faith: “First they have laws, statutes, articles and dogma invented by men....Second, they treat us with the legends or examples of the saints, thus strengthening and justifying their man-made doctrines. And this strongly impresses many and depraves countless souls. Third, they cite the interpretation of the Scriptures by the saints, which must be a light, and hence they cling to this so firmly that they think they have something here

that nobody can reject.... Now in these three points — in human opinion; in the example of the saints; and in fathers’ glosses (biblical interpretation), they think, and everybody believes, they have done well and that there is no one who doubts or contradicts it so that they rule securely, and imagine that none but them have the Holy Scriptures which they have quite well included in these vessels “ (XIII, 266-9).

The Luther quotation is taken from Luther’s Church Postil, Sermon for “the day of the wise men” Matthew 2:1-12, p. 71 f. The quoted material is found in *Luther’s Works*, Vol. 72, Church Postil II, Gen Ed. Christopher Boyd Brown, Volume eds Benjamin T. G. Mayes, and James L. Langbartels, St. Louis: Concordia Publishing House, 2013, 81-86.



ACORNS FROM THE ELS ARCHIVES

Theodore G. Gullixson Archivist



The following appeared in “The Chicago Lutheran Herald,” Vol. 1, No. 2, June 1919, pages 1-3.

This article was written by Rev. John A. Moldstad, pastor of St. Mark’s Lutheran Church. The “Chicago Lutheran Herald” was established after the formation of the “little Norwegian Synod” to inform people in Chicago about the work of five Norwegian Synod congregations in that city. The five were St. Mark’s Lutheran Church (Rev. John A. Moldstad), Bethany Lutheran Church (Rev. J. A. Moldstad), St. Luke’s English Lutheran Church (Rev. Herman A. Preus), St. Paul’s N. E. Lutheran Church (Rev. George A. Gullixson), and Lake View Lutheran Church (Rev. George O. Lillegard).

The C. L. Herald’s editor was Rev. G.A. Gullixson and Rev. H.A. Preus served as Business Manager.

THE NORWEGIAN SYNOD OF THE AMERICAN EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH SECOND SYNOD CONVENTION

By John A. Moldstad, I

Ascension Day morning, May 29th, the Norwegian Synod of the American Lutheran Church convened at Albert Lea, Minn. The convention was opened with a divine service conducted by Rev. G. A. Gullixson of Chicago. The Scripture lesson chosen for the opening sermon was the command of God to Moses recorded in Exodus 14:15:

**“Speak to the children of Israel,
that they go forward.”**

The people of Israel had reached the Red Sea. Before them lay the sea, on either side the cliffs, behind them in hot pursuit came Pharaoh with his army. All seemed lost. To go forward into the sea appeared certain death. But God commanded, Israel obeyed, and the Lord

helped. He made a way, and the people walked in safety across the sand to the other shore. Pharaoh and his mighty host lie buried in the sea.

What a hopeless task does it not seem for us to attempt to carry out the Lord’s command and to continue His work according to the old principles. The opposition is so great; the difficulties are so tremendous; the spirit and the trend of the times are against us; it seems such a futile, losing struggle. Yet there stands the Lord, the risen and exalted Savior; He says, “Go forward.” He makes the way, leads, helps and protects. It is His cause. Our duty is simply to obey. Hence be confident, courageous and faithful, go forward.

The chief event of the afternoon session was the reading of President [Bjug] Harstad’s message to the Syn-

od. The message spoke of the various happenings of the past year and devoted considerable time to the subject,

“The correct Christian training of the rising generation and the need of parish schools.”

Friday morning —Memorial Day— the session was opened in the usual manner with a hymn, Scripture reading, and prayer. On motion by Mr. James H. Boye, of Chicago, seconded by Rev. H. A. Preus, it was unanimously resolved to adjourn for the day in honor of the nation’s heroic dead. The session closed with the singing of “America.”

The greater part of Saturday forenoon was devoted to the reading of Rev. M. K. Bleken’s excellent paper on “the correct principles for the reading and the exposition of the Holy Scriptures.” During pauses in the reading the paper was discussed by the Reverends Harstad, Gullixson, Wiese, and Blaekkan and Mr. E. B. Ellingsen, of Washington. Committees were elected to report on the following subjects: Finance, Publications, Missions, Schools, Church Extension Fund, Incorporation of the Synod, etc.

At the afternoon session Saturday the report of the committee on the president’s message was read by Rev. G. A. Gullixson, secretary of the committee. The report was submitted in the form of resolutions on the subjects dealt with in the message. These subjects were considered so important that every resolution was carefully discussed before its adoption. The exchange of views was lively and many took part in the discussion.

The late afternoon and the evening were given up to the rehearsals of the Choral Union.

On Sunday forenoon divine worship was held in Guldbranson Hall, which had been profusely decorated with flowers. In spite of the inclement weather and the muddy roads many people drove in from a distance, so that the congregation numbered more than seven hundred. Rev. Geo. O. Lillegard conducted the altar service. The Norwegian sermon was delivered by Rev. John A. Moldstad, and the English sermon by Rev. Paul Brammer, of St. Ansgar, Iowa. Rev. Mold-

stad preached on Christ’s command to His disciples, “Ye also shall bear witness”, John 15:27. Rev. Brammer’s text was “Endeavor to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace”, Ephes. 4:3. The offering for missions amounted to \$266.00.— On the previous afternoon one of the old veterans present gave the treasurer, Rev. A. J. Torgerson, a check for \$100.00, while another handed Rev. Harstad \$40.00 for the Church Extension Fund.

Sunday afternoon and evening the Choral Union gave sacred concerts. The program was the same for both; the afternoon concert was advertised as a “grand rehearsal” but was really a very good concert. The program consisted of sacred music, selected and arranged according to the church year. The soloists were Miss Elma Winden, of Minneapolis, Rev. Chr. Anderson and Geo. O. Lillegard. Rev. H. Ingebritson was the director, Miss Nelsine Ludvig, pianist, Miss Olga Overn, organist. During a brief intermission in the afternoon program Rev. J. A. Moldstad took the audience with him for a hurried visit to Wittenberg, the cradle of the Reformation. An important part of the evening program was an address on the Church Year by Rev. Holden M. Olsen, of Madison, Wis.

Most of the Monday forenoon session was devoted to the adoption of the Constitution. Some of the sections provoked a lively discussion. The one great desire of pastors and delegates was to preserve the democratic character of the Synod, and to safeguard the rights of the local congregations in every way possible.

Monday afternoon the report of the committee on schools and colleges was adopted:

- 1) We establish a permanent endowment fund for parish schools and elect a parochial school board of three members.
- 2) We establish a professorship at Concordia College, St. Paul, Minn., and make this institution the Synod’s college. We elect a board of higher education. — The committee on missions urged the Synod to give thanks to God for the prosperous missionary activity of the past year; commended the work of our traveling home missionary; proposed the establishment of a foreign mission treasury and a foreign mission board. The home mission treasury contained a balance on hand of \$1,700.59.

Monday evening the Choral Union gave another sacred concert, rendering John Stainer's cantata "The Crucifixion." Soloists were Mr. M. Bryant Stanford, of Minneapolis, Rev. Chr. Anderson, and Mr. Edward A. Hansen, of St. Paul. It was a most excellent concert.

Tuesday forenoon the committee on publications advised that the Synod's weekly "Evangelisk Luthersk Tidende" be doubled in size and that it be published alternately in English and Norwegian; that it be edited by an editorial board of three members; that a calendar be published for next year; that if possible a book concern be established. This committee report was adopted. — Officers were elected for two years as follows: President, Rev. B. Harstad; Vice-Pres., Rev. J. A. Moldstad; Sec'y, Rev. L. P. Jensen; Alternate, Rev. C. N. Peterson; Treasurer, Rev. A. J. Torgerson; Alternate, Mr. L. E. Ludvig; Auditors, Rev. E. Hansen and Mr. Einar Tyssen.

Tuesday afternoon, Rev. G. P. Nesseth read an excellent treatise on the subject "The Office of the Keys, or Confession and Absolution."

Tuesday evening there was divine worship. The confessional sermon was preached by Rev. B. Harstad; the pastoral sermon was delivered by Rev. L. P. Jensen. Rev. A. J. Torgerson conducted the altar service. A sacred duet by Grieg, "The Great White Host" was sung by Mrs. Mabel Braaten Leusman, of Albert Lea, and Mr. Edward A. Hansen, of St. Paul.

Wednesday forenoon, June 4th, it was resolved to establish a Church Extension Fund and to solicit cash and Liberty Bonds for same. It was decided to apply for membership in the Synodical Conference; and Rev. G. A. Gullixson and Rev. L. P. Jensen were elected delegates to the next meeting of same, while Rev. Chr. Anderson and Rev. J. A. Moldstad were to be alternates. — A treatise by Rev. O. M. Gullerud on "The Sinner's Justification before God" was read.

The report of the Treasurer showed the following balances on hand: in the general expense fund \$1,046.74; in the home mission fund \$1,700.59.



The following committees were elected:

Editorial, Rev. J. A. Moldstad, Rev. H. A. Preus, Rev. G. A. Gullixson.

Home Missions, Rev. Chr. Anderson, Rev. H. Ingebritson, Mr. Ole Tweden.

Foreign Missions, Rev. Geo. O. Lillegard, Rev. L. S. Guttebo, Mr. G. H. Kiland.

Publications and Book Concern, Rev. H. A. Preus, Rev. Holden M. Olsen, Mr. Theo. M. Olsen.

Parochial Schools, Rev. B. Harstad, Rev. H. Ingebritson, Mr. E. B. Ellingsen.

Higher Education, Rev. A. J. Torgerson, Rev. H. Ingebritson, Rev. Chr. Anderson.

Church Extension Fund, Rev. J. A. Moldstad, Rev. Holden M. Olsen, Mr. Wm. Saxon.

Finance, Rev. A. J. Torgerson, Rev. H. Ingebritson, Rev. Emil Hansen

Incorporation, Mr. James H. Boye, Rev. John Hendricks, and Rev. H. Ingebritson.

The Church Extension Fund has already on hand \$620.00. The Treasurer has also received various notes and testamentary gifts.

The meeting was closed at one o'clock with a hymn, Scripture reading and prayer.

It was in every way a most blessed meeting.

"The unity of the Spirit" prevailed.

Three doctrinal papers were read, four sermons delivered, many Bible truths held forth. Much work was planned for the future. May the Lord bless our labors and keep us steadfast in the faith and faithful in the service unto His glory and the salvation of many souls.



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