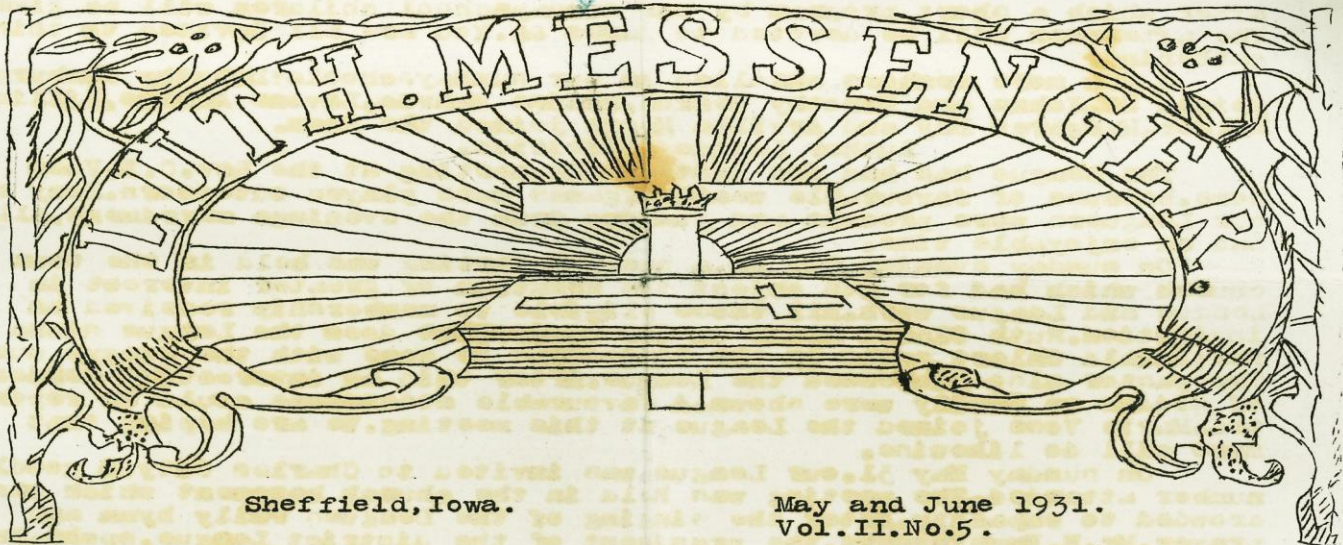


As part of our anniversary celebrations (75 years in this building and 150th year of being a church), we are including some tidbits of history that we hope you will find informative and enlightening! If you have suggestions or items to submit, send them to secretary@zionstjohn.org or drop them off in the church office. This month's clip is a scan of a 1931 newsletter found in Burnie G's documents. We hope you enjoy!



Sheffield, Iowa.

May and June 1931.
Vol. II. No. 5.

Some facts about the church of which you are a member: There are eighty two million Lutherans in the world today, a body almost as large as all other Protestant bodies combined. Of these there are 4,278,416 baptized Lutherans in the United States and Canada; 16,727 congregations which are served by 11,852 pastors. In the United States alone there are 3,966,003 baptized Lutherans. Our church is gaining in membership from year to year. During the last two years its increase in membership was greater than that of any other protestant body. In 1930 its gain was the highest of any other body, Protestant or Catholic; 56,180 were added to our body. The property owned by the Luth. church in the United States and Canada is valued at \$372,107,077, of which \$261,214,139 for church buildings and \$23,397,063 for parsonages. Other institutions such as theological seminaries, colleges, academies, junior colleges, publication houses, charitable institutions are valued at \$88,139,904. In foreign missions the American Lutherans have 3,867 congregations with a property valued at \$5,886,787.

We are members of this great church body. Let us be worthy and faithful members of this church, to the advancement of our spiritual life, to the edification of our soul and to the glory of God.

Order of Services.

Sunday June 7. 1st Sunday after Trinity - German.

Sunday June 14. 2nd Sunday after Trinity, Sunday school gathering on Mr. J. Tuecker's pasture - English services and program by the children, beginning at 10.30 A.M.

Sunday June 21. 3rd Sunday after Trinity - German.

Sunday June 28. 4th Sunday after Trinity - Synodical Sunday.

"O come, let us worship and bow down, let us kneel before the Lord our maker", Psalm 95.6.

Sunday school: Country 10.45 A.M. Town 10 A.M.

Luther League: Devotional meetings: Every other Sunday at 7.30 P.M.

Social meetings: On the first Friday of every month.

Ladies Aid: Country: First Thursday of the month.

Town: Second Wednesday of the month.

Ministerial Acts.

On Thursday April 30. Leroy Martin Day, son of Mr. and Mrs. L. E. Day, was baptized in the home his parents. Sponsors were: Mr. and Mrs. Martin Wearda and Mrs. L. Schulz.

On Sunday May 3. Leslie William Ginapp, son of Mr. and Mrs. Fred Ginapp, was baptized in the town church. Sponsors were: Mr. Arnold Liekweg and Mr. Herman Ginapp.

On April 3. the funeral of Mr. John Berding took place in the town church.

Sunday School Activities.

On the evening of May 19. the Sunday school teachers had a meeting in the parsonage in order to discuss plans for the Sunday school picnic. It was decided to have this gathering on Sunday June 14, on Mr. Tuecker's pasture, 3 miles east of town. English services will begin at 10.30 A.M.

after which a short program by our sundayschool children will be given. The afternoon will be devoted to games &&. You are all invited to this gathering.

A few more members enrolled in our sundayschools: Dorothy Humburg joined St. Johns and Dorothy Wearda, Elaine Wearda, Lavone Ahrens, Lillian Mulder, Margaret Day and Arvilla Meyer joined the town.

Luther League Activities.

The League has had its last social meeting at the Rev. C. E. Voss home. Because of favourable weather, games were played out-doors. Many of our Leaguers were present and judging from the evenings merriment, all had an enjoyable time.

On Sunday evening, May 10, a special meeting was held in the town church which had for its object the creation of greater interest in League and League work. All those eligible to membership received an invitation. Ruth Olkers spoke on the topic: What does the League stand for; Donald Ohlert spoke on the topic: What is done with the League dues. The pastor also addressed the League. After this an interesting series of slides on Sicily were shown. A favourable attendance could be reported. Marie Voss joined the League at this meeting. We are hoping that more will do likewise.

On Sunday May 31, our League was invited to Charles City. A goodly number attended. The meeting was held in the church basement which was crowded to capacity. After the singing of the Leagues rally hymn and prayer, Mr. H. Engelbrecht, the president of the district League, spoke. He said that the Luther League of the American Luth. Church was divided into national Leagues, district Leagues and federations. A feature which, we believe, interested our young people was that of the federation. The Leagues of Franklin, Cerro Gordo, Hancock and Wright counties will meet for a rally day twice a year. The first of these meetings will be held this fall; a camp meeting will also be held in Clear Lake sometime this summer. After the close of the business session, the Leagues assembled in the park for games and supper. It was an afternoon enjoyably spent.

Ladies Aid Activities.

The country aid met last month with Mrs. Geo. Bolk. It was decided to have a pantry sale, which was held in Bolk and Bokmeyers store on Saturday May 16. The receipts were \$14.85

The town aid met last month with Mrs. Herman Berding. It was decided to have a stand on our Community Day. The debt on the furnace was reduced to \$95. Mrs. J. Tuecke donated \$1 to the aid. We are thankful for this gift.

Miscellaneous.

Those who brought flowers for the Easter services were: For the country: Mrs. Albert Bielefeld; for the town: Mrs. H. A. Bolk. Pentecost: For the town: Mrs. K. Weltner and Miss Lieschen Westenberger. We thank you.

The Easter collection amounted to \$66.19 - country 22.70; town \$43.49. The Pentecost collection brought \$50.35 - country \$23.25; town \$27.00. Our quota for this year is \$585.25. We have thus far sent in \$160.76.

On the evening of March 31, Mr. and Mrs. Fred Liekweg were pleasantly surprised by their relatives, it being their 50 wedding anniversary. A short service was conducted after which those present enjoyed themselves in pleasant visit. Before departing, a lunch was served.

The town church has been renovated at a cost of \$123.35

The Hampton congregation will dedicate its parsonage on Sunday June 21 to which it invites us all. Services in the forenoon in German in the afternoon in English. Let us make it a point to go down, thereby showing that the neighbouring congregations are also taking an interest in the welfare of that young congregation.

The town congregation took up an offering for the choir and Luth. Messenger funds which amounted to \$14.55. Books for the choir have already been bought and with the \$11 given to us by Mr. C. F. Bokmeyer for a little work done on the Mimeograph, all debts for the mimeograph and supplies have been paid. We thank Mr. Bokmeyer and all others who have donated, for their help.

The confirmation school will begin on Monday June 8, beginning at 8.30 A.M. and will be held in the country schoolhouse.

On Sunday evening May 3, the pastor addressed the League of the Vilmar, Iowa congregation.

Mr. Henry Storck was elected delegate for synod which will meet in Manson, Iowa, June 24-28.

Mr. and Mrs. Geo. Mohle are the proud parents of a baby boy. Congratulations.