

HISTORICAL SOUVENIR

— OF —

Christ Lutheran Church

STONE CHURCH,
NORTHAMPTON COUNTY,
PENNSYLVANIA

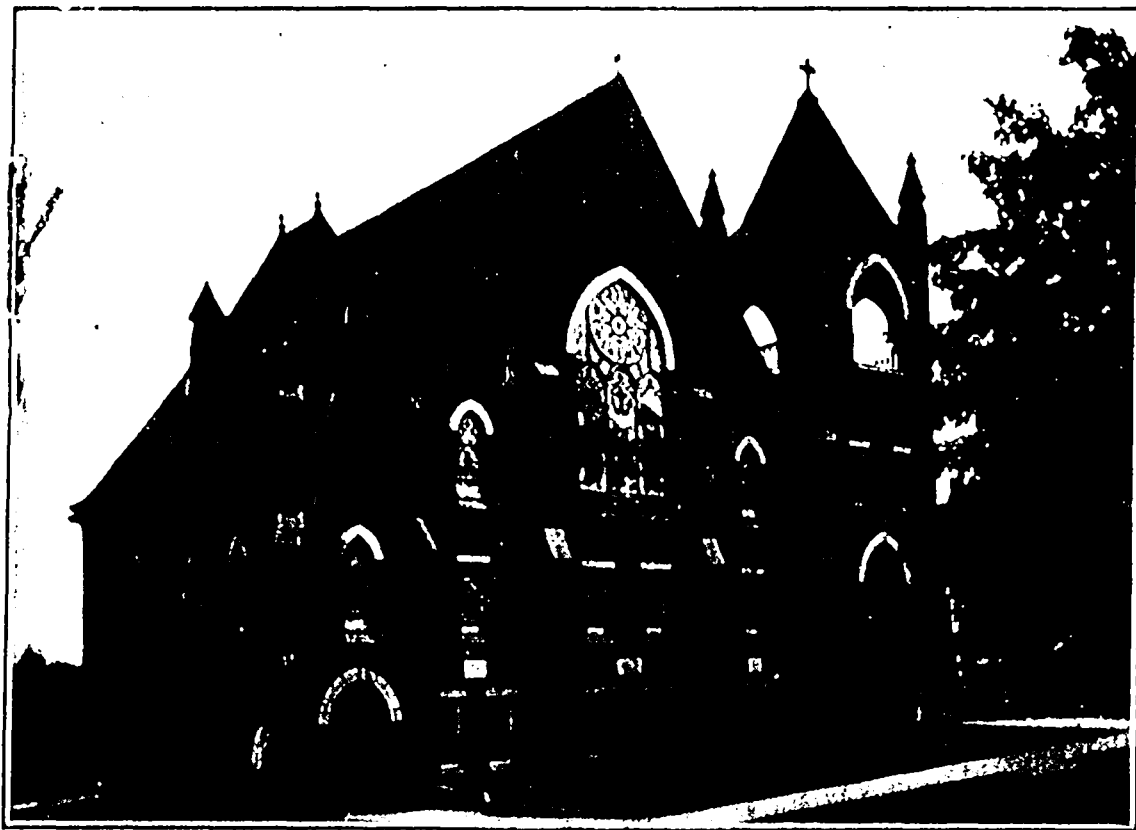


ISSUED AT THE

ONE HUNDRED AND FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY

1774

1924



CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH, REV. HARVEY C. SNYDER, PASTOR 1923

ANNIVERSARY DAY PROGRAM, OCTOBER 12, 1924

10.30 A. M.

Processional—Hymn 197

The Service—Common Service Book, page 9.

Hymn 199

Sermon*The Rev. P. A. Laury, D. D.,
President of the Allentown Conference.*

Offering

Anthem

Hymn 198

Benediction

2.30 P. M.

Processional—Hymn 286.

Lesson

Hymn 351

Address*The Rev. C. P. Wiles, D. D.
President of the U. L. C. Parish and School Board*

Addresses by former pastors of Christ Congregation and visiting
clergy.

Offering

Solo

Hymn 437

Benediction

7.30 P. M.

Processional—Hymn 426

Vesper Service—Common Service Book, page 40

Hymn 224

Sermon*The Rev. H. A. Weller, D. D.
President of the Ministerium of Pennsylvania*

Offering

Anthem

Vesper Service, page 42.

Hymn 467

Benediction

OFFICERS

The Council

Rev. Harvey C. Snyder	
Luther Dietterich	<i>President</i>
E. J. Nicholas	<i>Recording Secretary</i>
Henry Brodt	<i>Financial Secretary</i>
Clark Horn	<i>Treasurer</i>
John Sträub	
Otto F. Horn	
Joseph Fisher	
Milo Schoch	
Oliver Morey	
Amos Ackerman	
Lovine Koehler	
Bert Horn	
Ralph Horn	
Elwood Dietterich	

The Sunday School

Ralph O. Horn	<i>Superintendent</i>
Henry J. Brobt	<i>Assistant Superintendent</i>
Clarence D. Sandt	<i>Secretary</i>
Elmer Horn	<i>Treasurer</i>
Miss Mary Ackerman	<i>Pianist</i>
Miss Stella Smith	<i>Assistant Pianist</i>
Elwin J. Nicholas	<i>Teacher Men's Bible Class</i>
Frank P. Horne	<i>Teacher Ladies' Bible Class</i>
Mrs. Jay J. Hartung	<i>Teacher Young Peoples' Bible Class</i>
Mrs. Martha Smith	<i>Superintendent Primary Dept.</i>
Mrs. Henry Brobt	<i>Teacher (Primary Dept.)</i>
Mrs. Clarence Sandt	<i>Teacher (Primary Dept.)</i>
Mr. Otto F. Horn	<i>Intermediate Class</i>

Junior League

Mrs. H. C. Snyder	<i>Superintendent</i>
Carl Ettinger	<i>President</i>
John Sandt	<i>Vice-President</i>
Edna Smith	<i>Secretary</i>
Myrtle Hess	<i>Assistant Secretary</i>

Ladies' Missionary Society

Mrs. William Rippley	<i>President</i>
Mrs. Joseph Fisher	<i>Vice-President</i>
Mrs. Luther Beck	<i>Secretary</i>
Mrs. Luther Dietterich	<i>Treasurer</i>

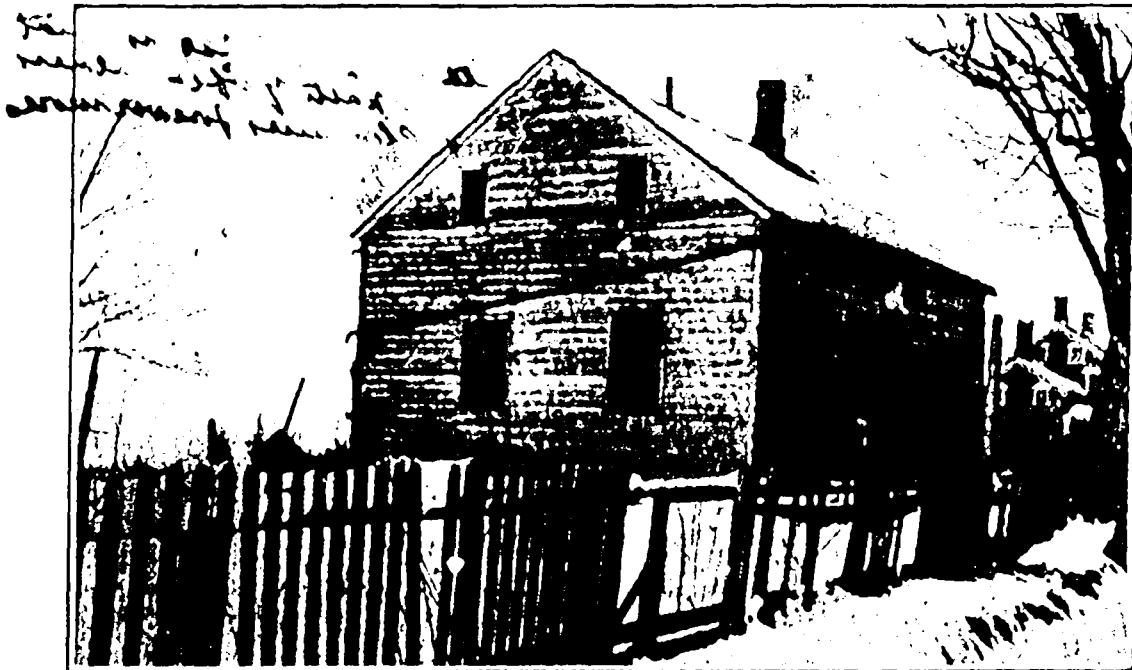
Brotherhood

Clarence D. Sandt	<i>President</i>
Ferman Dutt	<i>Vice President</i>
Lewis Nicholas	<i>Secretary</i>
Lewis Horn	<i>Treasurer</i>

HISTORICAL SKETCH

The earliest records of Lutheranism in this section of Northampton County take one back almost two centuries. In the year 1750 Muhlenberg visited various colonies of Lutherans in Northampton. His records tell us of one of his pastoral visits made in the year 1750, and he records the fact that on the 18th of August of the same year he forded the Delaware River near the present town of Stroudsburg.

The first records of Christ Lutheran Congregation give us but a very meagre history of the founding of the Church in the year 1774 in the town of Williamsburg (now known as Mt. Bethel). The records do not contain the names of the Lutheran Pioneer Pastors who cared for the spiritual welfare of the people



prior to the actual founding of the Church. The fact that Baptisms are recorded in the year 1774 and that on March 6th of the same year a confessional or preparatory service was con-

*Tomlinson in old graveyard. date of death 1750
old log church used for school & services
Jno. Oyer 1st teacher known, taught in the log church.
Mr. Laughlin taught in 1780. 1st church in township*

ducted, at which service forty-five people were present would lead us to believe that the early Lutheran settlers who organized our Church had been the recipients of good spiritual oversight by both clergy and laity prior to the actual organizing of the present Congregation.

The land on which the First Church stood was obtained from a Mr. Datesman, and contained two acres, three rods and six perches. The Church was a log building 24 x 38 feet with a ceiling eight feet high. The building encircled by a large grove had three very small windows, a narrow doorway and was furnished with rough wooden seats made of slabs. Along side of the church building was a burial place, and the old grave yard still being carefully guarded and preserved by residents of Mt. Bethel is the only land mark the passing years have left remain.



This first Lutheran Church in what is now known as Upper Mt. Bethel Township, according to records and tradition was originally a Church built exclusively by Lutheran people. The title page of the first Record Book begun in 1774 originally read "Church Book of the Evangelical Lutheran Congregation in Mt. Bethel Township, in Northampton County. The words "and Reformed" were inserted at a later date. The numerical strength of the Reformed congregation according to tradition was not as great as that of the Lutherans; and the latter are said to have aided the Reformed by assisting them financially in supporting their Pastors. This mutual co-operation on the part

of both congregations being by no means an unusual occurrence in any of the early churches. For during that period when parishes were frequently without a pastor, and services were not conducted on every Lords Day, devout people attended the Divine Services of both religious bodies.

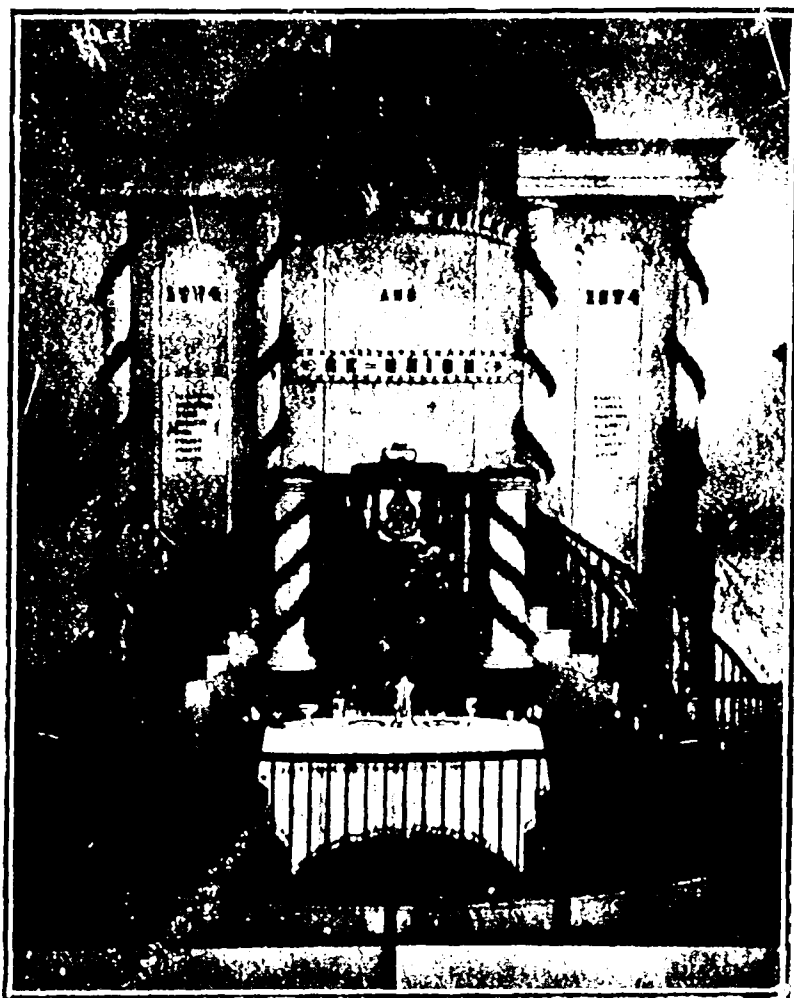
The old log Church being inadequate for the needs of the people, the Lutheran Congregation together with the German Reformed decided to build a stone church two miles south of the first edifice in the town of Centerville. The post office however was named after the Stone Church built by the Lutheran and Reformed people and has ever since been known as Stone Church. The articles of agreement entered into by the Lutherans and Reformed were signed on the 29th day of May, 1794; and a stone Church was erected on the land donated by Mr. Jacob Emerich" for church, burial and school purposes."



In the year 1830 the Evangelical Lutherans and German Reformed Congregations purchased an acre and a half of ground from Mr. Abraham Depui for the sum of 150 dollars; and on October 26th of the same year articles of agreement were entered

into to build the third Church. The corner stone being laid May 6th, 1832. The building was dedicated to the worship of the Triune God November 11th and 12th, 1832. Pastors Brobst, Miller, Yeager, Hoffenditz, Pomp and Becker preaching the sermons.

Brick burnt near the present location of the Church was the material used in building the edifice now owned by the Reformed Congregation. The building was 54 x 60 feet in dimensions, and of Colonial style architecture. The interior as well as the exterior presenting a very churchly effect.



*See Jordan
sketch for detail*

PASTORS FROM 1786 to 1924.

Even tho services were conducted prior to the year 1786 the old records state that the Rev. Carl Benjamin Dana was the first regular pastor of Christ Church. His labors began in Sept., 1786 and ended in the fall of 1788.

The name of the Rev. Frederick Niemeyer appears next on the records. He served the Congregation from April 12th, 1789, to October 27th, 1792. Following his pastorate the Congregation was without a regular pastor for a period of approximately 16 years. During this period Christ Church was cared for by the Lutheran Pastors of St. Johns Church, Easton Pa. The Revs. Solomon Frederici 1792-1798; Henry August Schmidt 1799-1801 and Christian F. Endress 1801-1814 labored here as time and circumstances permitted.

The Rev. John Casper Dile began his pastorate in the year 1806. He served in this field but a short time and was succeeded by the Rev. Carl Wilhelm Colson who was pastor from 1811 to 1815. In the year 1812 the Rev. Colson being present at the meeting of Synod gave the following report from Christ Church-152 baptized, 39 confirmed and 240 communicants.

The Rev. John August Brobst became pastor May 22nd, 1819. He was a man of eminent learning, and served the Congregation twenty five years, until his death March 10th, 1844. Rev. Brobst preached in Saucon, Forks, Plainfield and Mt. Bethel. It was during the first year of his pastorate that he procured the Charter for Christ Lutheran Church. During his pastorate Mt. Zion, the Lutheran and Reformed Church of Lower Mt. Bethel was built. The original structure is still being used by the two congregations. The church is colonial in architecture, and is built of stone. The walls however have since been weather boarded. Mt. Zion is one of the few old Colonial Churches in Northampton County that still remains true to its original style of architecture.

August 10th, 1844, the Rev. Marcus Harpel became pastor. He served the needs of his people for a period of four years. He was succeeded by his brother the Rev. Jeremiah Harpel, M. D., The latter not a member of the Synod of Penna., of which this Congregation is a part served but a short time. According

Dile + Colson 1816 Travelling preachers.

Doc. Hist 286
" " 315
Easton - Poor re
auth. 320
Registered - 329

Licence 1791
White Hall 1793
Jordan, 1791

Poor, invalid
aid p. 5 year.

Mt. Bethel not
including Plainfield

1844
25
19

5 3.00
1849

ordained 1802
1806. Mt. Bethel
Hamilton
Plainfield
monks
Call
Forks, 1815
+ Mt. Bethel
Doc. Hist 496
Contributions to
Synod 12.00
Deacons 181620
Declared Pastor
of right hand
Fellowship.
12 others also
Vid Doc. Hist 565
Vs constitution
7 Gen. 5 year

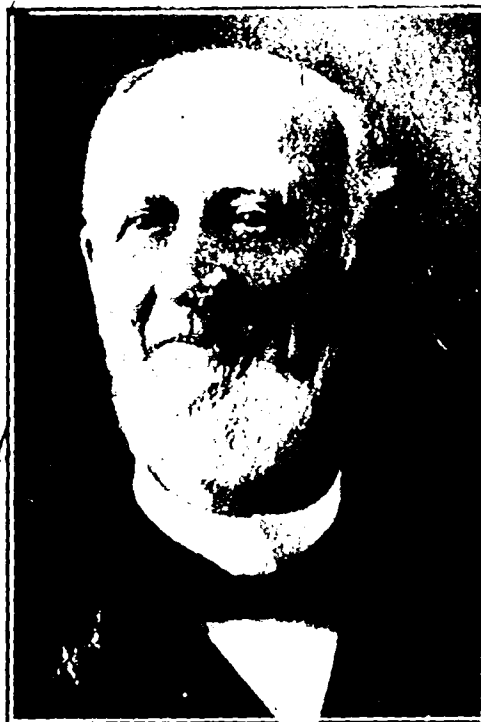
minutes of 1860 pages - cony. in a deplorable condition reported vacant.
 paid no attention to advice of officers of Synod

see minutes of 1860
 report vacant
 not called 1860

to the charter obtained by the Rev. Brobst in the year 1819 the Pastor of Christ Lutheran Church must be a member of the Ministerium of Pennsylvania, and for this reason Rev. Harpel was obliged to resign. His friends and followers following this action built a Church at Johnsonville, now known as the Bethel Lutheran and Reformed Church.

Rev. G. A. Wentzel, D. D., served the Congregation from August 27th, 1850 to April 17th, 1853. He was succeeded by the Rev. William Gerhardt who served from July 10th, 1853 to Jan. 1st, 1855. The Rev. Jacob Albert from Jan. 1st, 1855 to Oct. 1st, 1859. The Rev. Natham Yeager from June 29th 1860 to July 1st 1863, and Rev. Ernst Lubkert from April 19th 1863 to September 1st, 1864.

Stone Church
 Jesse
 Pearson
 & family
 Sept 15, 1832
 Nov. 21, 1914



December 1st, 1864 the Rev. Benjamin Franklin Apple accepted the call to the Mt. Bethel parish. To Rev. Apple Christ Church owes a great debt of gratitude. His untiring energy and indefatigable oversight as a faithful servant of the Master attained for this Congregation a strength and power that placed her among the foremost of her time. Rev. Apple may truly

be called the Missionary Pastor of this parish. During his laborious and faithful ministry he organized Trinity Church at Bangor. The Congregation being organized April 6th, 1878 with a membership of twenty has steadily progressed, and now with a communicant membership of 581 Trinity has become the largest Lutheran Church in the northern part of Northampton County.

It was during the pastorate of Rev. Apple that the Congregation suffered the loss of the parsonage, which was destroyed by fire—and rebuilt at a cost of two thousand dollars.

In October 1874 the Centennial of the Congregation was observed. The exercises were impressive, recalling the work of a century in this old parish, the founding of which antedates the War for Independence. Sermons were preached by the Revs. G. F. Krotel, D. D. F. A. Muhlenberg, D. D., E. Greenwalt, D. D., C. F. Welden, F. W. Weiskotten, A. K. Brobst and A. R. Horne.



The Rev. John W. Klingler succeeding Rev. Apple became Pastor of the Mt. Bethel parish, Sept. 4th, 1883. He was noted as a pulpit orator and a preacher of more than ordinary ability. As a pastor he devoted a great deal of his energy in directing and guiding the younger members of the congregation. During his pastorate which covered a period of four years there was a marked increase in membership and in church finance. Rev. Klingler resigned Dec. 27th, 1886.

March 22nd, 1887 the Rev. J. W. Lazarus was elected pastor and was installed May 15th, 1887. He was a firm advocate of Christian Education, and his efforts as pastor and teacher re-



sulted in having this parish send six young men to Muhlenberg College. Two of these men having completed their college course entered Mt. Airy Lutheran Theological Seminary, and upon their graduation were ordained in the Lutheran Ministry.

Rev. Lazarus will always be remembered not only for his pastoral work, but for his labors as an organizer. During his pastorate the Sunday School was greatly strengthened. He also organized the First Women's Missionary Society and the First Luther League in the parish.

In the year 1899 the Church then a union church was completely renovated at a cost of twelve hundred and eighty-five dollars. The 125th Anniversary of the founding of the Church was observed that same year. Rev. Lazarus having served the Mt. Bethel Parish for a period of sixteen years resigned on the 31st of December, 1903.

1899
1774

125

The Rev. W. F. Heldt succeeding the Rev. Lazarus began his ministry in this parish on the 17th of April, 1904. During his pastorate the work of the entire parish was faithfully executed. Rev. Heldt was a conscientious and energetic worker, and the



activities of the congregation in the parish were but the evidence and fruit of his labor. After serving the congregation for a period of four years, Rev. Heldt resigned and accepted the Call to Christ Church, Conyngham, Pa.

The Rev. W. E. Wenner succeeding the Rev. Heldt became pastor of Christ Church July 3rd, 1908. It was during the pastorate of the Rev. Wenner that the joint interests of the Lutheran and Reformed in the Union Church was dissolved. The Reformed congregation purchasing the interests of the Lutherans for the sum of five thousand dollars.



After the separation had been accomplished the Lutheran Congregation purchased a lot for two thousand dollars, and on it erected the splendid edifice in which we now worship. Christ Church built during Rev. Wenner's pastorate was erected at the cost of approximately twenty-five thousand dollars. The Church was dedicated on the 27th of October, 1912. The sermon was preached by the Reverend Edward Traill Horne, D. D., LL. D., President of the Ministerium of Pennsylvania.

Even tho Rev. Wenner labored ardently in this parish, the building of Christ Church which was made possible thru hard labor and hearty cooperation both on the part of the pastor and the congregation will always remain in the minds of our people as the outstanding achievement of his pastorate.

Rev. Wenner served Christ Congregation and the Mt. Bethel parish for a period of almost twelve years. He relinquished his labors April 1st, 1920.

The Rev. Mahlon F. Cope succeeded Rev. Wenner as Pastor of the Mt. Bethel parish. Rev. Cope began his pastoral work June 1st, 1921. During his pastorate the parsonage was renovated and greatly improved—a water system and a new heating plant was installed.



Rev. Cope labored faithfully in this parish for a period of seventeen months. He resigned as pastor on November 1st, 1922 and accepted the Call of Kellers parish, Kellers, Pa.

In April 1923 at a Congregational Meeting, Harvey C. Snyder a Senior at Mt. Airy Lutheran Theological Seminary was unanimously elected as pastor of the Mt. Bethel parish. May 7th a Call was extended to Rev. Snyder, and having accepted



it began his work in this parish June 10th. Rev. P. A. Laury, D. D., President of the Allentown Conference installed the present pastor, August 19th, 1923.

During the present pastorate of Rev. Snyder the Common Service Book was introduced, and is now being successfully used in two congregations in the parish. The Duplex system has also supplanted the former method of raising current and benevolent funds. Thru the efforts of the Council and Pastor,

together with the hearty cooperation of the congregation the Duplex system will enable us not only to raise our funds for current expense, but will help us fulfill our Christian obligation relative to apportioned benevolence.

July 14th, 1923 a Junior League was organized with 20 children present. The League meets every Saturday afternoon for a period of two hours. One hour is devoted to religious training and instruction. The second hour is spent by the children doing hand work and playing games. The membership of the League has steadily increased and at the present time has 46 children on the roll from the ages of 4 to 14 years. The Junior League of Christ Church was the first league registered in the Allentown Conference. The work of the league is supervised by Mrs. Snyder who has been ably assisted by the ladies of the congregation.

In March 1924 the men of the congregation organized a Brotherhood. Even tho the Brotherhood has been organized but a short time--the men have evidenced their desire to live true to the cardinal principles of the Brotherhood of the United Lutheran Church. It was largely thru the efforts of the Brotherhood that the publication of this Historic Pamphlet has been made possible; and we trust that they may as a Brotherhood of Christian men accomplish great things in our Church, and for the Kingdom of Christ thruout the world.

The 1924 Minutes of the Evangelical Lutheran Ministerium of Pennsylvania and Adjacent States shows Christ Lutheran congregation as having for the year May 1, 1923 to May 1, 1924, 210 baptized members, 200 confirmed and 106 communicant members. The total congregational expenses for the same period of time were \$1632.00 and the total apportioned benevolence paid \$150.00. The congregation has not advanced so rapidly in membership, but it has grown in Christian liberality, and in faithful service in God's vineyard. And we pray that the blessings of Jesus Christ, the great Head of the Church, be continually showered upon us all.

PATRONS

MR. OTTO F. HORN
MRS. OTTO HORN
MR. E. J. NICHOLAS
MR. M. E. HOUSEBERG
MR. BERT HORN
MR. FERMAN DUTT
MR. HENRY BRODT
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REV. H. C. SNYDER

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REV. H. C. SNYDER

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