

A HISTORICAL BOOKLET
OF
Altalaha Evangelical Lutheran Church

Rehlersburg, Berks County

Pennsylvania

Published For

THE 200TH ANNIVERSARY

Sunday, June 23, 1957

Written and prepared by Schuyler C. Brossman

THE REV. GEORGE C. MYERS, JR., Editor

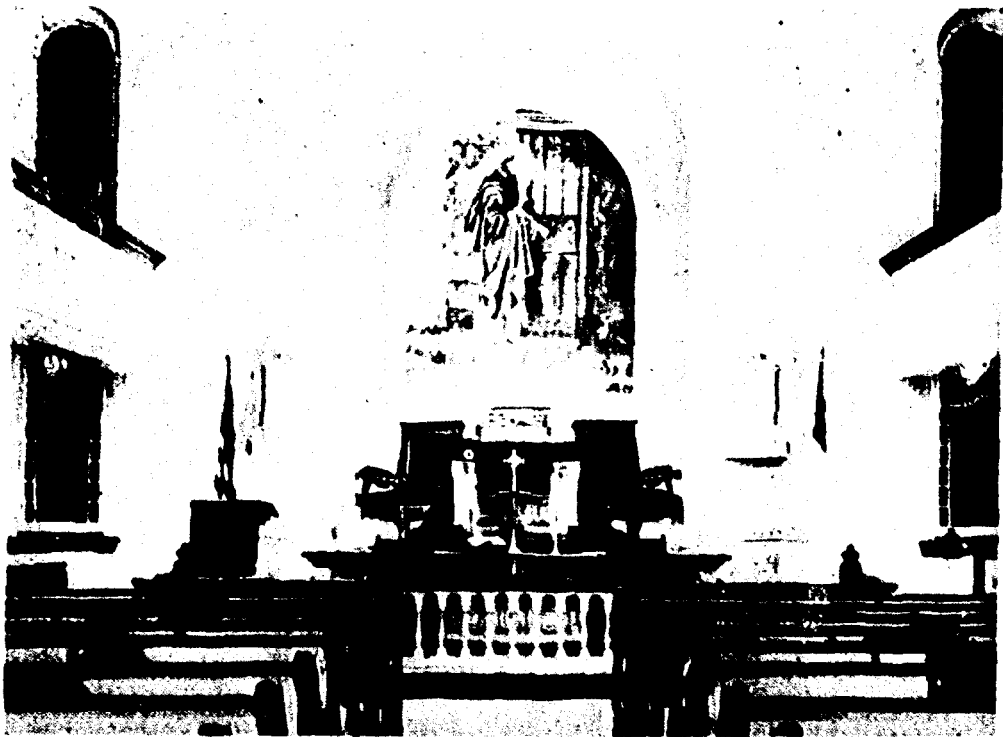
PUBLISHED BY AUTHORITY OF CHURCH COUNCIL



**PRESENT CHURCH BUILDING
ALTALAHA LUTHERAN CHURCH**

Rehrersburg, Berks County

Pennsylvania



INTERIOR VIEW OF PRESENT CHURCH BUILDING

Section I

THE ANNIVERSARY SERVICE

THE 200TH ANNIVERSARY
Sunday Morning, June 23, 1957, at 10:30 A.M.

Organ Prelude

The Processional Hymn 158 "Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty"

The Service — Page 9

The Introit and Collect — Page 92

The Epistle — 1 John 4:16-21

Anthem — "Let There Be Peace on Earth"*Miller*

ALTALAH A SENIOR CHOIR

The Gospel — Luke 16:19-31

The Apostles' Creed

Anthem — "Jesus, Thou Art Calling Me"*Doane*

ALTALAH A JUNIOR CHOIR

The Announcements

Hymn 195 — "A Mighty Fortress is Our God"

Sermon — "An Audit and a Budget"

— The Rev. Henry H. Bagger, D.D., LL.D.

President of the Lutheran Theological Seminary in Philadelphia

The Offertory and Offering

Anthem — "A Canticle of Praise"*Thompson*

ALTALAH A SENIOR CHOIR

General Prayer and the Lord's Prayer

Hymn 203 — "O Where Are Kings and Empires Now?"

The Benediction

The Recessional Hymn 437

— "Saviour, Again to Thy Dear Name We Raise"

Silent Prayer

Organ Postlude

THE 200TH ANNIVERSARY

Sunday Afternoon, June 23, 1957, at 2:15 P.M.

The First Sunday After Trinity

Organ Prelude —

Processional Hymn 164 — “Come, Thou Almighty King”

The Vesper Service — Page 40

Psalm 93 — Page 187

The Gloria Patri

I Lesson — Joshua 3:7-17

Anthem — “Thee Will I Love”*Beethoven*

TRINITY AND ALTALAHA CHOIRS

II Lesson — John 14:15-21

Announcements

Hymn 150 — “Come, Gracious Spirit, Heavenly Dove”

Sermon — “Pioneers With a Purpose” The Rev. Karl S. Henry, D.D.
*Secretary of the Division of Survey and Research,
Board of American Missions*

The Offering

Anthem — “The Lord is Exalted”*West*

TRINITY AND ALTALAHA CHOIRS

Hymn 243 — “Great is The Lord Our God”

The Canticle — “Nunc Dimittis”

The Prayers and The Lord's Prayer

The Benediction

The recessional Hymn 431 — “Lord Dismiss Us with Thy Blessing”

Silent Prayer

Organ Postlude

THE 200TH ANNIVERSARY
Sunday Evening, June 23, 1957, at 7:30 P.M.

The First Sunday After Trinity

Organ Prelude

The Processional Hymn 202 — "Rise Ye Children of Salvation"

The Vesper Service — Page 40

Psalm I — Page 161

The Gloria Patri

I Lesson — I Timothy 6:6-16

Anthem — "And the Glory of the Lord"*Handel*

COMBINED PARISH CHOIRS

II Lesson — Luke 12:22-31

Announcements

Hymn 199 — "I Love Thy Zion Lord"

Sermon — The Rev. Charles M. Cooper, Ph.D., D.D.

*The President of the Ministerium of Pennsylvania
and Adjacent States*

The Offering

Anthem — "Come Holy Spirit"*Schnetky*

COMBINED PARISH CHOIRS

Greetings from Our Former Pastors (or Their Representatives):

Mr. John W. Dry, Esq.

Son of the late Rev. W. S. Dry

The Rev. E. Richard Acker

Pastor Christ Lutheran Church, Schuylkill Haven, Pa.

The Rev. Karl S. Henry, D.D.

Secretary on the Board of American Missions

The Rev. Luther N. Schaeffer, S.T.M.

Pastor, St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Sarasota, Florida

The Rev. Martin L. Rothenberger

Pastor, St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Fleetwood, Pa.

Hymn 140 — "Spirit of Truth and Love"

The Canticle — "Nunc Dimittis"

The Prayer and the Lord's Prayer

The Benediction

The Recessional Hymn 379 — "Onward Christian Soldiers"

Silent Prayer

Organ Postlude

Section II

THE HISTORY

- 1 — History of the Congregation
- 2 — The Pastoral History
- 3 — History of the Church Records
- 4 — History of the Church School
- 5 — History of the Aid Society
- 6 — History of the Luther League
- 7 — History of the Choir
- 8 — History of the Altalaha Cemetery
Association

The History of Altalaha Lutheran Church

Rehrersburg, Pennsylvania

A heritage of two-hundred years is ours today. A blessing so rare should be the cause of much rejoicing and, certainly, today we do rejoice. Much history has been made since the founders of this congregation first gathered to worship in God's name.

The world has been changed politically, socially, and economically. Many things that were then established institutions, many personalities who were then outstanding influences, are long since gone and forgotten. Yet here we have something that has endured — the church. Through war and peace, through hard times and prosperity, the church remains.

We who stand here today to honor and recognize the two-hundred years this congregation has endured, know it has been made possible not by the strength of men, but by the power of God revealed through Jesus Christ. For this we rejoice.

Remembering our places and responsibilities here in the present, as well as those that lie ahead in the future, let us now look back. Let us examine those two-hundred years which form the history of Altalaha Lutheran Church.

A GENERAL HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

In the early 1700's Queen Anne of England sent German Palatine refugees to the New York colony. Each of the refugees had been previously promised a farm and free transportation to America. When they arrived in New York they received their land as had been promised; a tract approximately ten acres in size. However, they were expected to pay for their transportation. If unable to do so they were taken to Livingstone Manor and given the job of burning tar and cultivating hemp for the British navy. After enduring this unfair treatment for a few years, these Germans decided to leave and go to Schoharie County, forty miles west of Albany.

In 1723, William Keith, Baronet Governor of Pennsylvania, invited these settlers to Pennsylvania. They accepted this offer and in that same year a group of German Palatines came and settled in the region of the Tulpehocken and Swatara Creeks. In 1727, additional settlers came from Wurtemberg, Dormstadt and the general area of Germany. Two years later, in 1729, another group came from Schoharie County. The settlers who came from Schoharie came by way of the Susquehanna River and then overland from the river to this region of the

Tulpehocken Creek. Today there are still some in this congregation who can trace their ancestry back to some of these original immigrant families.

The founding of the Altalaha Lutheran Congregation at Rehrersburg officially in 1757, was of great significance to this community which was just beginning. (The official founding of this town was not until 1801 by Jacob Roehrer.) The land on which the church now stands was given to the Penn family by the king of England in payment for certain debts which he owed the family. This land was included in the tract which was named, "Pennsylvania," (freely translated meaning Penn's Woodland). Part of the general area was given to Richard Penn, son of William Penn. This land was known as "Richard Penn's Manor." This, in turn, was divided into 29 farm tracts. The tracts were set up in a survey made in 1741-1742. They were referred to as "being a part of the Honorable, the Propriery Richard Penn, Esquire, his manor of Andulhea."

The Lutheran Church at Rehrersburg was about two and one-quarter miles from the northern boundary, almost one and three-quarter miles from the eastern boundary, about two miles from the southern boundary and about one and one-half miles from the western boundary of this estate.

Although 1757 is generally accepted as the year during which the first congregation was established, there is evidence that Pastor J. Casper Stoever led a congregation at "Atolhoe," as he spelled it in his records, as early as 1746. The Reverend J. S. Stoever kept records of his baptisms and general church records. There are records of 41 marriages, and 106 baptisms between the years 1746 and 1757. These records were kept separate from the Bethel, Northkill, and Tulpehocken districts.

The names of some of the members of this first congregation can be determined from these early baptismal records. The list that follows includes the names of all the heads of families in which a child had been baptized:

John Jacob Soerer
John Thontheur
Joseph Keller
Mattheis Brickler
John Jones
Peter Creutzer
Valentine Meyer
John Nicholas Simon
Martin Troester

Jacob Storkberger
Heinrich Holzman
Casper Spring
George Pressler (Bressler?)
Johannes Stein
Adam Fix
Ludwig Potts
Johannes Becker
George Wolfe

Jacob Thani
 Michael Auer
 Gottfried Roerer
*(of the family who
 founded Rehrersburg)*
 John Heinrich Deck
 Daniel Schneider
 Cunradt Foarster
 Joseph Roth
 John Jacob Gassert
 Philip Kreber
 Sebastian Brosius
 Micheal Mooser
 John Heinrich Stein
 Jacob Roehrer
 Heinrich Adam Schneider
 Abraham Stein
 Abraham Schneider

Mattheis Reich
 Simon Sechbach
 Christian Pfoffenberger
 Jacob Leininger
 Cunradt Scharff
 Nicolaus Brosius
 Thomas Downsen
 Nicholaus Klestmann
 Christian Bechtel
 Wilhelm Stein
 Johannes Appel
 John Jacob Metz
 John Nicolaus Schaeffer
 John George Stauch
 Christopher Schaum
 Jacob Soerer, Jr.

Other names appearing on additional records are:

Fehlers
 Kramers
 Froeslers
 Holtzmans
 Schloesmans
 Loeshers
 Muenchs
 Paffenbergers
 Thomas
 Wohlfarths
 Hassingers
 Artzs

Decks
 Kobels
 Durrs
 Roehrs
 Zerbens
 Zeiglers
 Brickers
 Gerbrichs
 Koellers
 Houtzes
 Ritzmans
 Brosius

TRIAL AND TRIBULATION

As Altalaha was establishing itself as a congregation, its members as well as all the other inhabitants of this area, had to face the horrible realities of the French and Indian War (1754-1763). The worst year was 1755. During this year especially, there were frequent Indian raids south of the Blue Mountains into Berks County. A fort, named Fort Henry, but commonly referred to as "Dietrich Six's" was erected atop the Blue Mountain near here. Its site can still be seen today.

Many letters were sent to the authorities in Philadelphia asking for protection against these fierce attacks. The following is from an article appearing in the *Pennsylvania Gazette* November 20, 1755, reproduced here to give you some idea what the settlers in this area and undoubtedly the founders of this congregation had to go through.

'Jacob Morgan, a captain in Colonel Weiser's regiment being sworn on the Holy Evangelists of Almighty God doth dispose and say that on Sunday, the sixteenth of November 1755 at about 5 o'clock P.M., he the deponent Mr. Philip Weiser and Mr. Peter Weiser set out from Heidelberg to 'Dietrich Sixs' to get intelligence of the mischief done at Tolheo or there about, and to go and get a number of men to join them and go and seek for the persons scalped by the Indians and to help the best manner they could the poor distressed inhabitants. Then about nine miles from Mr. Weiser's they found a girl about six years old, scalped but still alive, but he knows not whose house it was, nor the name of the child.

"That at the request of the people there Mr. Weiser's son and deponent went back to Mr. Weiser for powder and lead. That at or about two o'clock yesterday morning they were alarmed at Mr. Weiser's with an account that the Indians had beset George Dollinger's house and his family were fled. Where upon Philip Weiser and the deponent, and a person whose name he does not know, set off immediately, and at Christopher Weiser's overtook a large company, consisting of about 100 men, and with them proceeded to George Dollinger's house and surrounded it, where they found a good deal of damage done and in the garden, a child about eight years old lying dead and scalped.

"That the whole company went on to the plantation of Abraham Sneider and found in a cornfield the wife and a child about eight or nine, both dead and scalped, and in the house they found another child about ten, dead and scalped, but the deponent knows not of what sex either of these two children was. That while they were preparing the grave, they were alarmed by the firing of a gun, and flying to their arms, they went to the place from whence the sound came, and about half a mile from the place they came from, they met with a company, one of whom had indiscreetly discharged his musket, and then went back to bury the dead, on their return they found the scalp of a white person. That having buried the woman and children they went on to Thomas Bower, in whose house they found a dead man, scalped, whose name the deponent thinks was Philip, by trade a shoemaker."

"That the company increased fast, and there were now about 130 men who marched on the Shamokin road (the main routes from Conrad Weiser's residence at Womelsdorf to the Indian's general camp at Shamokin (the present day Sunbury) which passes through Tulpehocken Township and Bethel and across the mountains north of Bethel to Shamokin) to near Dietrich Six's (Fort Henry) about half a mile

from whose house they found Casper Spring dead and scalped, and having buried him they marched about one hundred rods and found one Beslinger dead and scalped. That at the same distance from Breslinger they found a Delaware Indian scalped by Mr. Frederick Weiser the day before.

"That twenty of their body, who had gone a little out of the road, about two miles from Dietrich Six's found a child of Jacob Wolfe scalped. The father carried it in his arms, to be buried. Everything is in the utmost disorder and the people quite in despair.

"Sworn at Reading, the eighteenth of November 1755, before us."

JONAS SEELY

HENRY HARRY

JAMES READ

Thus, we have here briefly described a picture of those trying days which the founders of this congregation had to endure. It is no wonder, with such experiences, that these people developed a strong sense of fellowship and felt closely bound to one another. With faith, and determination they endured, and the church was finally established.

THE FIRST CHURCH IS BUILT

Even though the year 1757 is the date of the founding of the congregation, a permanent church building was not built until 1765. However, in 1757 land had been procured from one John Wolfhart for the purpose of a church site. The amount was four acres. A temporary structure was erected in 1757. Prior to that those who comprised the congregation may have worshipped in private homes or some other convenient place. In 1765 an additional two and one-half acres was deeded to the trustees, Christian Moyer, Ulrich Fisher, and Thomas Kurr to allow enough ground for the erection of a school.

At this time (1765), eight years after the temporary structure had been erected, a more permanent building was constructed. It was a two-story building of hand-hewn logs. This building was used for forty-three years. It had stood approximately one hundred feet west of the present church building.

Then in 1795 the parochial school, for which land had been previously granted, was built. It was a two-roomed house also of log construction and was used as a school house until 1882. In that year a new school house was built large enough to accommodate four grades.

The log church of 1765 was served by Pastor John Nicholas Kurtz and his successor, Pastor Christopher Emanuel Schulze, son-in-law of the famous Henry Melchoir Muhlenberg and father of John Andrew Melchoir Schulze. The ministry of these two men covered the turbulent years of two major wars, the French and Indian War and the Revolutionary War. Pastor Schulze, it should be mentioned, was an ardent patriot during the war for American Independence. His son John, mentioned above later became a governor of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Quite a few of the members of the congregation served in the Continental Army and fought against the British.

THE BUILDING OF THE PRESENT CHURCH

In 1808, the present church was erected and when it was completed the log edifice was razed. As this new project was undertaken plans were made concerning how it was to be financed.

A subscription list was first circulated among the members of the congregation. Each subscriber agreed to pay one-third of his pledge by January 1, 1808, another third when the church was under roof and the final third on the day of dedication. This procedure was followed in order to avoid burdening future generations with a staggering debt. Some members also promised to work a certain number of days and provide teams and wagons to haul stones and material. The following men were on the building committee: Daniel Hoffman, Thomas Kurr, Jacob Artz, John Emerick, Gottfried Riehl, Martin Walborn, and Henry Walborn. The chief mason and bricklayer was George Walsberger. The chief carpenter was John Weber.

It is interesting to note that this congregation never completely succumbed to the general tendency of the times for churches (Lutheran and Reformed) to become unionized. However, it is probable that some of the Reformed faith of this community occasionally worshipped in this church during the time the old church stood and after 1808. The church came close to becoming a union congregation, when in 1808 the Reformed were granted official rights to hold public services, with their pastor preaching and conducting baptismal and communion rites. But all these things were provisional, and were never to interfere with Lutheran services. They were also given a voice in management of the church and its business affairs, and permission to bury their dead on the cemetery. But there is no record indicating whether or not use was ever made of these privileges.

It may be remarked that at the time of the building of the present church, it came to be generally known as "Roehrer's church." This is indicated in a statement from one of the record books which translated reads as follows: "Whereas the Evangelical Lutheran Congregation of the Addolhoe (commonly called, Rohrer's church), in Tulpehocken Township, Berks County, has resolved to build a new church, etc." The attachment of Roehrer's name was undoubtedly due to his having given the land for the erection of the first building, as well as its attachment to the town he founded. Perhaps also to his activity in the early life and history of this congregation. Gradually, however, the use of the original name for the congregation was revived and finally replaced Roehrer's name.

THE FIRE OF 1918

Since the present church was without a steeple, it was decided to add this to the building. In 1849 this was done, a steeple was built. This first steeple was replaced in 1882 at which time a bell was added to call the members to worship. A narthex (commonly called vestibule) was added in 1886 at the cost of \$8,000.00.

Sometime during the Spring of 1918 lightning struck the steeple during a thunderstorm. The minutes of church council and congregational meetings refer to this disaster with just a few words. "On May 20, 1918, the congregation met to discuss the rebuilding of the steeple which was recently severely damaged by fire." More details and facts have been obtained from eyewitnesses and those familiar with the event.

The fire did not break out immediately but smoldered in the steeple until the next day when it burst into flames. It was discovered between 8:30 and 9 A.M. and extinguished by noon time. When the fire was at its peak the steeple above the base collapsed and fell toward the east clear of the church. If it had fallen any other way the weight of it would have smashed the roof and the fire would have raged out of control. Beside the steeple itself, the weather vane was destroyed and the bell was cracked by the heat and water. It was later taken to Baltimore, Maryland to be recast.

While some of the men fought the fire others, expecting the whole church would be destroyed, threw everything they could out of the windows to save them: hymn books, Bibles, and benches. Today many of the benches still show some of the cracks from being thrown out the window.

Mr. Edwin Gassert, deceased, and Mr. Charles E. Smith, both of Rehrersburg were appointed to guard the church against a new outbreak. After the fire was extinguished, these men stayed at the church all night and repeated the same acts every night for a week after the fire.

Since there was no fire company in the community at this time, the Strausstown Fire Company, organized a year or two before was called to fight the fire. They put the hoses into the creek below the church and proceeded to extinguish the blaze. In recognition of services rendered and to show its appreciation the congregation donated \$100.00 to the Strausstown Fire Company. This disaster provided the initiative for the founding of the Keystone Fire Company on June 8, 1918.

The steeple was rebuilt by Adam Spatz, of Wernersville.

MORE RECENT EVENTS

At the annual congregational meeting held, April 21, 1924, the congregation decided to adopt the Duplex Envelope System as a means by which its stewardship might be improved.

On August 30, 1930, the church council acted to approve the proposal to revise and translate the church constitution from German to English. Pastor Karl Henry, F. I. Rollman, Samuel D. Snyder, and Ralph Derr served on the committee appointed for this purpose.

In the Spring of 1933, the steeple was again struck by lightning with considerable damage being caused. This, however, was soon repaired.

In 1948 part of the old shed, where once the horses and buggies were kept while the people attended church, was torn down. The lumber was used to make improvements to the church property. Some was used to make a furnace room and some was used to make a class room for the primary department of the Church School. This work was done on a voluntary basis by the men of the church and Sunday School under the supervision of Frank Dieffenbach.

On June 6, 1948 the congregation at a meeting voted to purchase a new heating system for the church. It was to be an oil heater using a hot air system. The cost of this improvement was \$2,630.00. This system is still in use today.

The entire exterior of the church was painted in 1950. The brickwork was painted red and the woodwork white. About a year later, in 1951, a cement walk was laid from the side entrance to the steps on Godfrey Street. A well was also drilled that same year at the sexton's

home and provision was made to make it possible to pump the water to the church should this be desired at a later date. In 1953 the men of the church repaired the stone wall along Godfrey Street.

REDECORATING THE CHURCH INTERIOR

In 1954 a program calling for the complete remodeling of the church interior was initiated. The project was begun by first renovating the church basement where Sunday School Classes were held. This included removing the old straight back benches and leveling the basement floor. This work was done by the men of the Congregation. Finally the basement was painted and the floor was covered with green tiling.

The important aspect of the renovating was the painting and redecorating of the nave and chancel of the church along with the halls and stairways. The following were appointed to serve on a committee to see that the expenses could be met: Charles Heberling, chairman, Clarence Yoder, Curtis Heberling, and Earl Schrack. This project was financed by voluntary donations. Those who wished to do so, paid their pledges over an eighteen month period. The goal of \$10,000 was realized in this way.

The Congregation awarded the contract for this work to the Roth Brothers, a firm from York, Pennsylvania. They agreed to do the job for \$9,090. The general redecorating included painting all the inside walls and ceiling (except the basement) installing a new lighting system, the laying of a new carpet imported from England, plus painting all the church furniture. Certain necessary repairs such as repairing pews, windows and weights, and strengthening roof beams were made by Mr. Frank Dieffenbach.

The church auditorium and halls were painted a delicate shade of pink with green trimming. The pews and other furnishings (lectern, pulpit, altar, front, etc.) were painted white and trimmed with mahogany. The carpet mentioned above was a light green or aqua with a fern design.

Behind and above the pulpit, dominating the chancel is a picture of Christ knocking at the door representing of course Christ trying to enter our hearts if we allow him to do so.

On the ceiling upon a background blending with the other colors of the auditorium, the symbols for the four Gospels were painted. One at each corner. Two verses, in the form of reminders to the worship-

pers are also found on either side of the ceiling: "Practice reverence in God's House" and "Humility becometh God's people." Three wrought iron electric lanterns hang from the ceiling above the center aisles of the nave.

Inspection revealed that certain additional repairs to the exterior of the church were necessary. The steeple and roof were leaking and had damaged the ceiling as well as the old Dieffenbach organ on the balcony. The roof was repaired by local tinsmiths, Messrs. Benjamin Noecker and Robert Zellers. New flashing was put around the steeple and the entire roof was covered with wood siding and painted white. The latter carpentry was done by Messrs. Frank Dieffenbach, Schuyler Brossman, and Robert Zellers.

In 1955 there were no major repairs made to the church. However in 1956 it was necessary to repair the steeple above the belfry. Some slate was added where necessary and iron yokes were fashioned and installed to secure the four ornamental fixtures at the base of the steeple. This job was done by Messrs. Edward Billman, Kenneth Dieffenbach, and Frank Dieffenbach.

More historical facts and details will be found entered in the pastoral histories which are also included in this booklet. Nevertheless, this is only the faintest sketch of 200 years. However, it will enable you in some way to recapture some of the rich heritage that was ours in the past, and we hope will continue to be ours in the years ahead.



Pastor Ulrich



Pastor Eggers



Pastor Mayser



Pastor Long



Pastor Dry



Pastor Longacre



Pastor Acker



Pastor Henry



Pastor Schaeffer



Pastor Rothenberger



Pastor Ballantine



Pastor Myers

The Pastors Who Served Our Congregation

Fourteen pastors have served Altalaha congregation since the Reverend J. Casper Stoeber first administered to the early Lutheran settlers in this as well as the adjacent localities. They are as follows:

The Reverend John Nicholas Kurtz	1757-1770
The Reverend Christopher Emanuel Schulze	1770-1809
The Reverend Daniel Ulrich	1811-1851
The Reverend Lewis G. Eggers1852-1867
The Reverend Franklin P. Mayser	1868-1873
The Reverend Achilles Johnson Long	1874-1908
The Reverend William S. Dry	1909-1921
The Reverend David F. Longacre	1922-1927
The Reverend Eugene Richard Acker	1927-1929
The Reverend Karl S. Henry	1930-1941
The Reverend Luther N. Schaeffer1941-1946
The Reverend Martin L. Rothenberger	1947-1954
The Reverend John O. Ballantine	1954-1956
The Reverend George C. Myers, Jr.1956-Present

Of these ministers three Pastors, Schulze, Ulrich, and Long died serving this parish. They are buried at Christ Lutheran Church, Stouchsburg, the Church which together with Altalaha comprises the Stouchsburg Lutheran Parish. Some of these men served many years. Pastor Ulrich served forty years, Pastor Schulze thirty-nine, and Pastor Long thirty-four years.

Many historical events have taken place during the ministry of these pastors.

While the REVEREND JOHN N. KURTZ was pastor the French and Indian war was fought. Quite a few lives in this very area were lost due to the fierce Indian attacks which raged for a time along the Blue Mountains. The Indians never appeared in great numbers but when they did, they either murdered their victims or took them captive. Homes and farms were ravaged and plundered. It was a period of terrible hardship. During this pastorate this congregation was officially organized (1757).

During the pastorate of the REVEREND CHRISTOPHER E. SCHULZE, Americans fought for and won their independence from England. Pastor Schulze himself married the daughter of the staunch American pat-

riot, Henry Melchoir Muhlenberg, who has been referred to as the "Patriarch of Lutheranism in America." This war was also felt by the early members of this congregation, but not as directly as had been the case in the earlier war. Some of the members of this congregation served in the Continental Army. Their names are recorded along with others from Berks County. There are a few who lie buried on our church cemetery. This is not the only help the community rendered to the American cause, for there is evidence that indicates that it contributed such things as clothing, grain and horses to the army of General Washington while it was encamped at Valley Forge during the winter of 1777-1778. These facts were gleaned from the records of one Henry Vanderslice, sheriff of Berks County then and also a wagon Master in the Continental Army.

During Pastor Schulze's years here, the present church building was built without placing the congregation in debt. It is interesting to note that this pastor was the father of John Andrew Melchoir Schulze who became a member of the State Legislature in 1806 and in 1821, state senator in 1822 and governor of Pennsylvania from 1823 to 1829.

The REVEREND DANIEL ULRICH served from 1811 to 1851. During this time two wars were fought, the War of 1812 and the War with Mexico (1846-1848). Records show that men of this congregation served in both these wars. During this pastorate Altalaha Lutheran Church had some strife of its own. A Reformed congregation was given the privilege of using this church for worship. However, trouble erupted when the Reformed people led by the Reverend Isaac Miesse started a movement to make this a union church. The Lutherans strongly opposed such a move and sent the Reformed congregation packing. In retaliation, Miesse and his followers proceeded to build Trinity Union Church in 1847. By so doing, they did succeed in taking with them some Lutherans who had married into Reformed families. These Lutherans were allowed to hold Lutheran services at Trinity and were served by the Reverend Thomas T. Jaeger.

During the pastorate of the REVEREND LEWIS G. EGGERS (1852-1867) this country passed through the critical years of the Civil War (1861-1865). Many young men from this section and several from this congregation either volunteered or were drafted into the Union Army. The names of these men can be seen on the lists of Berks County Civil War Companies. The pastor had the task of defending the cause of the Union. Therefore, such groups as the Knights of the

Golden Circle had to be opposed. This was a secret order dedicated to the dissolution of the Union. It disbanded after the war.

The pastorate of the REVEREND FRANKLIN P. MAYSER (1868-1873) was uneventful historically speaking. However, it should be noted that at this time the church attendance and membership was approaching its zenith.

PASTOR A. JOHNSON LONG came to Altalaha in 1874 and served here until his death in 1908. In 1882 a church steeple was built to replace the old one which had been built in 1849. In addition, a fine bell was also installed. In 1886 a narthex (vestibule) was added in conjunction with a general remodeling project that was undertaken at the cost of \$8,000.00. The church basement was dedicated on October 31, 1886 and the main church auditorium (nave and chancel) was dedicated May 14th and 15th in 1887. Below is an account in Pastor Long's own words which describes these two important occasions:

"Oct. 31, 1886 Consecration of the basement of the Rehrersburg Lutheran Congregation.

Very disagreeable day, rained all day. Notwithstanding the day — the audience was large, the basement filled at every service.

Rev. Wm. H. Kuntz of Schuylkill Haven, preached in the forenoon.

Rev. F. J. F. Shantz, of Myerstown, in the afternoon. Had a Reformation sermon and applied it to the present occasion.

Rev. H. Geisz, of Jonestown, in the evening.

Rev. Solomon Stupp made a few remarks after his sermon."

"Consecration of the Rehrersburg Lutheran Congregation May 14th and 15th, 1887.

The church was remodeled during the Summer of 1887, or rather during the Fall of 1886 and Spring of 1887.

Saturday, May 14th — Very pleasant day. Both days exceedingly pleasant, not a cloud to be seen.

Rev. S. B. Stupp preached on Saturday at 9 A. M., on Acts 16: 30-31 to a good audience.

Rev. H. S. Fegley, of Lynnvile, on Saturday afternoon, at 2 P.M., church well filled. Text James 1:22-27.

Rev. J. P. Mayser, of Lancaster, at 7½ P.M. in English.

Text — "Lord it is good for us to be here."

"Sunday, May 15th.

Rev. I. W. S. Erb, of Orwigsburg, preached at 9 P.M. on Rev. 1:8, to a crowded house.

Rev. F. P. Mayser preached the dedicatory sermon on Matt. 16:13-19. On this occasion an immense concourse of people present. About 1200 buggies and carriages. People estimated about 5,000, collection about \$400.00.

In the evening Rev. Erb preached in English on John 16:27."

Rev. A. Johnson Long, Pastor

During his ministry the membership of this congregation was depleted somewhat by the building of St. Paul's Union Church, New Schaefferstown. There are some who found it more convenient to attend this church rather than our own. Pastor Long supplied this church at first and later became its regular pastor. This increased the number of churches in the parish to five, those at Stouchsburg, Rehrersburg, Millbach, Newmanstown, and New Schaefferstown. The New Schaefferstown church was later transferred to the Strausstown Parish after Long's death.

Pastor Long also led the congregation through their 150th anniversary in 1907. Guest preachers were present, songs and anthems were offered by choirs from neighboring churches. A pamphlet containing the congregation's history was published. After A. Johnson Long died on September 18, 1908 services were held at each church in the parish in commemoration of his years of service. A pamphlet was published for this occasion also. It showed that he had baptized 1368, confirmed 1087, married 1368 couples, and officiated at 937 funerals.

The REVEREND WILLIAM S. DRY served this congregation from 1909 to 1921 during which time there was another war. Many young men from the congregation served during the Great World War. In 1914 at the cost of \$5500 the parish parsonage was built at Stouchsburg. Pastor Dry performed the following ministerial acts while here: 124 baptisms, 93 confirmations, 61 marriages and 106 funerals.

PASTOR DAVID F. LONGACRE served this congregation for five years between 1922 and 1927. During these years he left the following records: 37 baptisms, 28 confirmations, 13 marriages, and 49 funerals.

The REVEREND EUGENE RICHARD ACKER served Altalaha briefly from 1927 to 1929. During this time this congregation was one of five churches in the parish; the others being: Christ, Stouchsburg; Elias, Newmanstown; St. Paul's, Millbach; St. Paul's, Richland. Pastor Acker with the help of Herbert Marburger organized the church choir for Altalaha. In 1928 Pastor Acker was instrumental in the reorganization of the Lutheran Aid Society. During this time a private communion

set of silver was received and linoleum was laid on the stairs and in the narthex. The record he left, concerning pastor acts performed are as follows: 20 baptisms, 18 confirmations, 4 marriages and 21 funerals.

The REVEREND KARL S. HENRY (1930-1941) left the following record of pastoral acts performed: 36 baptisms, 99 confirmations, 25 marriages and 68 funerals. While he served, the old organ was replaced by a Hammond electric organ. The church council took action to revise the constitution of the congregation and translate it from German into English. The cemetery board was organized during these years. Two children were born while Pastor Henry served here, Barbara Jane and Ann Clarice. On June 1, 1941 he resigned to become superintendent of the Home Missions of the Ministerium of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia. Dr. Henry will be the speaker at the afternoon service at our 200th anniversary celebration. He comes to us as a member of the Board of American Missions of the United Lutheran Church in America.

The REVEREND LUTHER N. SCHAEFFER served from October 1 until December 31, 1946. While he was with us he baptized 44, confirmed 35, married 21 couples, and officiated at 31 funerals.

Pastor Schaeffer served us throughout the period of World War II and some of the highlights of his ministry are as follows: In 1942 choir musical programs were presented and continued for some time. The church became free of debt after a drive for that purpose was completed on September 7, 1943 when the balance of a \$13,000 debt was paid. On February 20, 1943 a service flag was dedicated in honor of the seven men then serving in the armed forces. The church improvement fund was started November 7, 1944 with the sum of \$1200 being raised by the Aid Society as the initial effort. During his ministry the Stouchsburg Parish was split into two separate parishes: the Millcreek Parish with churches at Richland, Millbach, and Newmanstown, and the Stouchsburg Parish made up of Christ, Stouchsburg and Altalaha, Rehrersburg. Pastor Schaeffer resigned as our pastor to become pastor of Millcreek Parish.

PASTOR MARTIN L. ROTHENBERGER served Altalaha from 1947 to 1954. Many changes occurred during his pastorate. In the summer of 1947 church services were held every week instead of every two weeks as had been the former custom. This move was now possible because in 1946 the parish had been reduced to a two congregation parish. Before 1946 there had been five churches in the Stouchsburg Lutheran Parish.

In 1949 the first steps were taken to departmentalize the Church School. The first task was making a room for the beginners in the basement.

During 1950 extensive repairs were made to the janitor's home and to the farm buildings. In that same year an endowment fund for the church was instituted by investing \$5,000 from Adam Manbeck estate. Shortly before Pastor Rothenberger resigned plans were made to have the church renovated. The following pastoral acts were performed by him: 50 baptisms; 23 confirmations; 22 marriages; and 44 funerals. Pastor Rothenberger resigned in 1954 to become pastor of St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Fleetwood, Pa.

The REV. JOHN O. BALLANTINE then served Altalaha for eighteen months, from June, 1954 until February, 1956. The most important event of this pastorate was the complete renovation of the sanctuary of the church. Both the actual work and the financing was completed while Pastor Ballantine was here. It should also be noted that while Pastor Ballantine was here the church council began to meet once a month which was a necessary step for more efficient church administration. This minister performed the following pastoral acts: 10 baptisms; 14 confirmations; 3 marriages; and 4 funerals. He resigned to become a Chaplain in the United States Air Force.

PASTOR GEORGE C. MYERS, JR. was called to the Stouchsburg Parish at a special congregational meeting on April 29, 1956 conducted by Mr. Alan Hawman, special representative of the Ministerium of Pennsylvania. Pastor Myers began his duties officially on June 1, 1956. He had graduated a few weeks before from the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia. On June 23, 1956 he married the former Edith M. Murray of Birdsboro, Pa. Their first child, Todd Jeffrey, was born on April 20, 1957.

By action of church council a new two-year program of catechetical instruction was adopted and went into effect in October, 1956. In response to an urgent appeal for clothing following the Hungarian Revolution, a Thanskiving Clothing Appeal was conducted during the week of November 18 to 25. The response was beyond expectation and the people were commended for their benevolent action.

At the annual congregational meeting a church budget was adopted for the year ahead. Previously there had been no church budget. In addition a program calling for an increased number of communion services was accepted. This made possible seven opportunities to commune during the year instead of the previous four times.

During the week of January 27 to the 31st Altalaha participated in the Lutheran Evangelism Mission of the Reading Conference. Six church services were held. The Rev. Lawrence L. Hand, Pastor of Zion Lutheran Church, Ashland, Pa., was our missionary. He preached at the services on the theme, "You and God." He also addressed members who served as visitors. 3/ served as visitors to members and prospective members. In spite of bad weather most of the week, the total attendance was 719, an average of 120 per service. Our communing membership then was 205. The mission improved the church attendance and won good response.

The program was under the direction of the Evangelism committee headed by Mr. Charles Heberling. Others on the committee were: Curtis Heberling, Earl Schrack, Frank Dieffenbach, Daniel Harnish, Theodore Manbeck, Wilmer Billman, John Richard and Willard Berger. In connection with our 200th anniversary celebration, the church records back to 1757 have been microfilmed by the Berks County Historical Society in Reading.

Of course the big event not only in this pastorate but in the life of this church is the 200th Anniversary.

The pastoral acts of our present pastor as of May 5, 1957, are as follows: 1 confirmation, 2 marriages, 4 funerals, and 8 baptisms.

The Church Records

In the year 1757 a book was purchased to be used for keeping of church records. A paragraph translated from the German reads as follows:

This Church Book was purchased in the year 1757 by the kindly disposed Christian people, who love good order for the Evangelical Lutheran Church here at the Beaver Creek.

The deacons then in office Thomas Kurr and Abraham Schneider, from a Christian spirit and for the Glory of God collected the money.

The object was to have (the names of) all the children brought to our Pastor for baptism in our Church already referred to recorded therein for the advantage of each and every one.

Ad Tolohoe 1757

(This is the English translation by Reverend J. W. Early.)

From the beginning only baptisms were recorded. It is a wonderful experience to page through this book seeing all the names and dates of important events of the individuals who had doings with the church.

When the Reverend Daniel Ulrich came to this church in 1811 he started keeping records of communions and communicants. The annual treasurer's report and the annual election of officers were also added. The Reverend Lewis G. Eggers added catechumens and all confirmations in 1852. Also a section for deaths and burials was provided first by Pastor Eggers. In 1868 Pastor F. P. Mayser added a section for marriages.

By being so thorough these ministers have through good and faithful service provided complete records. Many members long since passed away can be traced from the cradle to the grave. From baptism to confirmation, on to marriage and then often times as parents having their own children baptised and finally the date of death and burial. Many a family tree can be traced by these records. From the beginning all records were written in German. The first entry by the Reverend John Nicholas Kurtz being as follows:

Geboren: 1757 Den 6 Ten October 1757 is Dem Daniel Schneider ein Tochterlein Geboren, und Den 13 Ten November Jur Heiligen Tauf Gabbracht, da Durch Dass Eintrilt der Gevatterschaft Versehn. Sebastian Brosius und Seiner Hausfrau, Welche Ihr Den Nahmen Anna Margareta Mitgetheilt.

Later the records were changes as follows:

Date of birth - Date of Baptisms - Name of Child - Parents -
Sponsors - Pastor

This method made it much easier to keep and is easier for one who wishes to check for family names.

As a precaution against fire, theft or any other occurrence which could happen to destroy or lose these records, ermission was granted by the church council in November of 1956 to have these records microfilmed by the Berks County Historical Society at 940 Centre Avenue in Reading, Penna. This was done, and by doing so, a duplicate copy of the records will always be on hand for study and research. The society has a projector by which each page may be magnified many times making it easier to read. The society also plans to

translate all the German into English, therefore making it easier to read and understand. The last entries in the old register are as follows:

BAPTISMS — Nancy Sue Bentz, daughter of Leroy and Grace Bentz, December 30, 1956

CATECHUMENS — Class confirmed May 22, 1953 (13)

MARRIAGES — Robert M. Miller and Shirley M. Manbeck July 28, 1956

DEATHS — Samuel Snyder, age 91, died December 23, 1955

In 1956, a new parish register was purchased by order of Church Council. It was purchased in order to preserve the earlier volumes which had become quite fragile due to age. The new register was purchased also for the purpose of keeping a more detailed record.

The Parish Register is the third volume of church records used by this congregation. The first register was in use from 1757 to 1850, the second from 1851 to 1956. The entries made in the new register began January 1, 1957. There are twelve sections in this new book which appear in the following order:

Charter: A space where the charter of the church can be written.

Pastors: The page is divided and place provided for the name of pastor, date called, date he took office, date he relinquished office, and remarks.

Church Council: Names of council, their office, date elected, date terminated and reason, remarks.

Roll of members: Name, date received, date removed, and remarks.

Roll of Child members: Name, date of birth, received in church by baptism, removed to adult roll by confirmation or other cause removed, remarks.

Record of communions: Name, Date of Communions.

Baptisms: Sex, Surname, date and place of birth, date baptized, residence, father's name, Mother's maiden name, sponsors and remarks.

Confirmation: Name, date, father's name, mother's maiden name, remarks.

Marriages: Date, names of bride and groom, address, ages, are they members, witnesses, license number.

Funeral: Child or adult, member or non-member, name, date, cause of death, age, where buried, remarks.

Summaries: Annual Parochial summary.

Annual Financial summary.

Historical events: A place to mark all events of importance and text of the sermons given each service.

The first entries to be made in the new parish register are as follows:

Baptisms: Brian Bruce Billman, baptized January 20, 1957.

Confirmations: Ronald L. Houch, confirmed March 3, 1957.

Marriages: Gerald K. Heberling and Fern M. Matthew, married April 20, 1957.

Funerals: William F. Snyder, died March 11, 1957.

Altalaha Lutheran Sunday School

The Altalaha Lutheran Sunday School in Rehrersburg, Pennsylvania was founded sometime before 1870, probably before the Civil War. The oldest living members recollect attending Sunday School in their childhood. Before the Sunday School existed the church used to hold a parochial school. This, however, yielded to the public school system and in its stead the Sunday School was founded. The Sunday School used to meet in an old log building about one hundred yards west of the present church building. Half of this log building was the sexton's residence and the other half was used by the Sunday School. The names of the men and women who organized the Sunday School are not known, but among those who were active in the early days were Frank Derr, Ralph Derr and a Mr. Deck.

In the year 1886 the church was remodeled with the addition of a basement for Sunday School purposes. The Sunday School met in the basement until 1954, at which time it moved to the main church auditorium. In 1949 a section of the basement was partitioned for the Beginner and Primary classes. These two classes have grown to such an extent that the room is being overcrowded.

In the year 1954 considerable improvements were made to the basement. The old benches with the narrow seat and straight back were removed. Linoleum was laid over the entire floor and the woodwork was painted. This work was done by the men of the Sunday School. The Junior, Intermediate and Senior class now meet in the basement. The Adult class meets in the main auditorium.

It is traditional for the Sunday School to have a picnic or an outing once a year. The earliest picnics were held about a mile south of the church in what is known as Kurr's Mountain. Later the Sunday School went to Hershey Park where basket lunches were served in a

pavilion and free tickets were given to the children for rides on certain amusements. Since 1950 the Sunday School meets at Theodore Manbeck's farm where various games and chicken noodle soup are enjoyed by all.

The Sunday School has conducted various projects to raise money. Some of these were Strawberry and Ice Cream Festivals, Talent Contests, Everybody's Birthday Party, Sale of Easter Candy and since 1953 an annual ham and beef supper was held at Long's Grove, Stouchsburg, Penna.

The following is a list of superintendents taken from Sunday School record books on file dating back to 1890: 1890-1893 Reverend Long; 1893-1895 R. K. Derr; 1895-1904 W. M. Houncker; 1904-July 10, 1910 F. I. Rollman; July 10, 1910 to December 24, 1911 No Sunday School; December 24, 1911 to May 1912 F. I. Rollman; May 1912 to March 17, 1923 No Sunday School; March 17, 1923 to 1926 Robert I. Rollman; 1926 to 1936 Alvin Knoll; 1936 to 1944 Stewart Schucker; 1944 to 1951 Harvey T. Manbeck; 1951 to 1957 Daniel J. Harnish; and 1957 Curtis Heberling.

In recent years the high points of the Sunday School year have been the Children's Day Program, Sunday School Annual Supper, Rally Day and the Christmas Program. The Sunday School has become noted for its elaborate pageants which are presented at the Christmas Program. Recitations are given by the younger Sunday School members and the singing of songs is enjoyed by all. The whole Sunday School is called on to participate in the pageant of the birth of our Savior, which is presented in the form of a play.

The Sunday School distributes a blue ticket to each person as they attend the services. Five blue tickets may be redeemed for one red ticket and the red tickets can be redeemed for Bibles, crosses, plaques or many other items desired.

For a perfect attendance for a full year a pin of perfect attendance is given. The second year a wreath to be attached to the pin is given and from then on a bar for each year of perfect attendance is given. There are eighteen (18) perfect attendance pins or bars given out for the year 1956.

On the following roll of the Sunday School, the numbers in parenthesis beside certain names stands for the numbers of years of perfect attendance:

ADULT CLASS

Walter E. Reber (18)
Lester Moyer (3)
Doris Bennethum
Lillie Frantz
Mary Harnish
Helen Heberling
Sally Keener
Grace Koch
Margaret Engle
Helen Richards
Grace Sholly
Lizzie Brossman
Ruth Edris
Gladys Brossman
Virginia Breidigan
Dawson Harnish
John Richards
Donald Sholly
Curtis Heberling
Daniel Harnish
Theodore Manbeck
William Frantz
Helen Billman
Elsie Keener
Wilmer Billman
Schuyler C. Brossman
Dell Shiffer
Russell Miller

INTERMEDIATE CLASS

Lillian Harnish,
(Teacher)
Norman Dieffenbach (10)
Wayne Moreland (10)
Jay Dubbs
Donald L. Weidman

JUNIOR CLASS

Wayne Dieffenbach (10)
(Teacher)
Charles Schucker, 3rd
(1-year)
Rose Dubbs
Rose Baum
Melvin Schucker
Nancy Berger
Dennis Heberling
Donald Lutz
Donald Keener
Terry Tryon
Myron Schrack
Betty Ulrich

SENIOR CLASS

Frank Dieffenbach (10)

(Teacher)

Loretta Dieffenbach (10)
Gloria Manbeck
Patsy Manbeck
Phyllis Dieffenbach
Harold Schneck
Edwin Engle
Sue Ann Beidler
Helen Engle
Kenneth Heberling
Jean Koch (7)
Harold Troutman, Jr.
Sadie Berger
Dolores Schrack
Nelson Beidler
Joan Beidler
Willard Berger
Kenneth Dieffenbach
Gerald Heberling
Barbara Saul
Beatrice Ulrich

PRIMARY CLASS

Grace Schucker (3)

(Teacher)

Florence Schrack

(Teacher)

Glenn Dieffenbach (4)
Lester Moyer, Jr. (4)
Robert Moyer (4)
Shirley Moyer (4)
Ruth Schucker (3)
Janice Bennethum
Richard Schrack
Phyllis Tryon
Jeanne Manbeck
Shelby Lutz
James Schucker (3)
Glenn Sholly
Henry Breidigan
Dolores Brossman
Lester Billman
Robert Edris, Jr.
Dennis Sholly
Janice Ulrich
Dennis Ulrich
Kenneth Ulrich

Edna Billman
George Shiffer
Franklin Shiffer

BEGINNER CLASS

Mrs. Lester Moyer (4)
(Teacher)
Mrs. Franklin Dieffenbach
(Teacher)
Allen Brossman
Paul Brossman
Bruce Billman
Susan Edris
Theresa Richards
Kay Manbeck
Eugene Lutz
Mary Ann Brossman

Brenda Billman
Kenneth Sholly
Patti Sholly
Gary Sholly
Willard Shiffer
Daniel Shiffer

CRADLE ROLL

Mrs. Theodore Manbeck
(Superintendent)
Diane Louise Brossman
Jeffrey Lynn Schucker
Wesley Allen Edris
Clarence Luther Brossman
Sarah Jane Brossman
Lynn Scott Keener
Carol Jean Dieffenbach
Rebecca Shiffer

OFFICERS FOR 1957

President	The Reverend George C. Myers, Jr.
Vice-President	Daniel Harnish
Secretary	Joan Beidler
Assistant Secretary	Loretta Dieffenbach
Treasurer	Mrs. Helen Heberling
Superintendent	Curtis Heberling
Assistant Superintendent	Wayne Dieffenbach
Assistant Superintendent	Theodore Manbeck
Adult Teacher	Daniel Harnish
Adult Teacher	Curtis Heberling
Adult Teacher	Theodore Manbeck
Senior Teacher	Frank Dieffenbach
Senior Teacher	Curtis Heberling
Senior Teacher	Theodore Manbeck
Intermediate Teacher	Mrs. Lillian Harnish
Intermediate Teacher	Nelson Beidler
Junior Teacher	Gloria Manbeck
Junior Teacher	Wayne Dieffenbach
Primary Teacher	Mrs. Grace Schucker
Primary Teacher	Mrs. Florence Schrack
Beginner Teacher	Mrs. Pauline Moyer
Beginner Teacher	Mrs. Frank Dieffenbach
Home Department Superintendent	Mrs. Helen Richard
Cradle Roll Superintendent	Mrs. Elsie Manbeck
Pianist	Phyllis Dieffenbach

Pianist	Joan Beidler
Pianist	Delores Schrack
Pianist	Loretta Dieffenbach
Usher	Norman Dieffenbach
Usher	Wayne Morland
Usher	Jay Dubbs
Hospitality Committee	Mr. and Mrs. Curtis Heberling
Hospitality Committee	Mrs. Lillian Harnish
Hospitality Committee	Mrs. Grace Schucker
Primary Department Superintendent	Mrs. Pauline Moyer
Assistant Primary Department Superintendent	Mrs. Grace Schucker
Primary Department Treasurer	Mrs. Grace Schucker
Primary Department Ushers	Ruth Schucker
Primary Department Usher	Jeanie Manbeck
Primary Department Usher	Richard Schrack
Primary Department Usher	Lester Moyer, Jr.

'The Aid Society

The Aid Society was organized in 1886. The first meeting was held on May 18, 1886. The purpose of the Aid Society is according to the second article of the constitution which reads as follows:

Article II. Object of the Society

The object of the society shall be to interest the lady members of the above named congregation in the great work of the church and also to collect money to purchase necessary articles after the completion of the church such as carpets, altar furniture, etc., as the majority of the members shall decide.

At first only lady members could join the society but on January 2, 1897 it was decided to take in male members and has been so ever since. There were no male members in the society for a long period of time but at present there are male members belonging to this organization.

While going through the books from 1886 to 1910 many interesting things were noted. The Aid Society has purchased carpet for the church several times. The last time being when the church was remodeled in 1954 when carpet for the entire main auditorium was purchased.

On June 1, 1887, a mention in the books that two altar chairs, altar cover and tassels were paid for, the price being \$49.12.

Many other things can be credited to the first Aid Society. There is mention about carpet, cushions and cushion covers, insurance for certain years on church furnishings, organ for Sunday School, \$200.00 towards a new house, very likely this was the sexton's home; donations to Orphans Home at Topton, Pa., window shades; service and hymn books. To raise money for these things they had various programs and activities such as: oyster festivals, sewing parties, strawberry festivals, turkey suppers and fairs.

The first society gradually suffered by lack of enthusiasm and the last meeting was held October 18, 1910. That meeting was adjourned with the minutes stating that the next date for meeting would be announced by the pastor but no more entries are listed, so we can assume that there was no other meeting until 1927 when Reverend Acker brought the society back to life and since that time the Aid Society has been going strong.

The purpose of the present day Aid Society is much the same as it was in 1886 when those faithful members organized to do their part for the church. As Miss Alice Derr wrote January 25, 1888, "To most of our members no obstacle was too great. Noble was the work; it was for the cause of God, the adornment and the beautifying of God's House, His Holy Tabernacle." "The members proved the truth of the saying, 'Where there is a will there is a way'."

The present society has given many beautiful gifts to the church besides financial assistance. Among the gifts were the outside bulletin board, altar covers, material for covering cushions and all the labor for doing this work when the church was remodeled in 1954. The cash gifts were \$500.00 towards the cost of the heating system, carpet when church was remodeled in 1954—\$3,146.00, donation towards electric organ \$900.00, plus \$272.00 for chimes. A donation of \$500.00 was turned over to the building fund. These accomplishments can be borne by the members of the Aid Society with pride and as Miss Alice Derr said sixty-nine years ago, "The members proved the truth of the saying 'Where there is a will there is a way'."

Officers of Aid Society in 1888 were:

Mrs. J. B. BarnetPresident

Mrs. Dewilla SnyderVice-President

Miss Alice DerrRecording Secretary

Miss Blanche DeckAssistant Secretary

Mrs. Daniel AnspachTreasurer

Officers of Aid Society in 1957:

Mrs. Harry D. Beidler	President
Mrs. Daniel Harnish	Vice President
Mrs. Harold Troutman	Recording Secretary
Mrs. Frank Dieffenbach	Assistant Secretary
Mrs. Clarence Yoder	Treasurer

At present there are 38 members belonging to this organization. All members of the congregation are urged to join and participate in this fine organization. The Aid Society meets at present on the first Thursday of every month.

In conclusion, let us say, well done and may the future bring even greater accomplishments. The old maxim again which states "Credit where credit is due" cannot be applied to a more worthy organization.

The members of the Aid Society are:

Mrs. Helen Bashore	Mrs. Mary Harnish
Mrs. Mollie Brown	Mrs. Daniel Harnish
Mrs. Katie Beidler	Mr. Daniel Harnish
Mrs. Dorothy Berger	Mrs. Mabel Heagy
Mrs. Mabel Christ	Mrs. Sallie Keener
Miss Alice Derr	Mrs. Elsie Keener
Mrs. Harry Artz	Mrs. Carrie Klopp
Mrs. Frank Dieffenbach	Mrs. Edna Kilmer
Mr. Frank Dieffenbach	Mrs. Elsie Manbeck
Mr. Harry Emerich	Mrs. Harvey Manbeck
Mrs. Harry Emerich	Mrs. H. P. Obold
Mr. Robert Emerich	Mrs. Bessie Reber
Mrs. Robert Emerich	Mrs. Evelyn Schneck
Mrs. Verna Gassert	Mrs. Florence Schrack
Mrs. Katie Good	Mrs. Esther Strickler
Mrs. Nora Gruber	Mrs. Mary Spannuth
Mrs. Minnie Gettel	Miss Anna Spannuth
Mrs. Lewis Henninger	Mrs. Mildred Troutman
Mrs. Carrie Henne	Mrs. Mabel Yoder

The Luther League

The Luther League was formed November 1, 1955 during the ministry of Reverend Ballantine who was pastor at that time.

At first there were approximately 15 members. The present 1957 membership is 32, the majority being active members. Attendance at meetings is high.

The purpose of the Luther League is to carry on an active spiritual program for the youth of the church and community. Conventions, rallies and workers conferences are sponsored by the Luther League. The purpose of the rallies is to enlist the youth in a more intelligent and active participation in church life.

Thus far, the achievements of the league have been attending of rallies and conventions. The most important being at Muhlenberg College in the fall of 1956, a program for all Luther Leagues in the Reading Conference. Other projects accomplished are repairing of the church hymnals by adding the service sections where the old section was in need of repair, also the Luther League decorated the church for the Christmas Season.

An aim of the league is to serve Christ and to provide wholesome programs for our young people in the form of dances, stunt night, roller-skating parties, etc. The congregation can take pride in their young people.

The older members can rest assured that when these people take over the duties of the church they will pass on to good hands.

The following are members of our Luther League, the names with an asterisk are members of the League but are associated with other churches in this vicinity.

Richard Bashore
Joan Beidler
Nelson Beidler
Norman Dieffenbach
Loretta Dieffenbach
Helen Engle
Jean Koch
Patsy Manbeck
Dolores Schrack
Kenneth Berger
Kenneth Heberling
Robert Boehmer *
Gloria Brown *
Robert Hardick *
Delores Long *
Sandra Swope *

Ronald Bashore
Sue Ann Beidler
Sadie Berger
Phyllis Dieffenbach
Wayne Dieffenbach
Mary Ann Keeney
Gloria Manbeck
Harold Schneck
Harold Trautman
Kenneth Dieffenbach
Suzanne Bickel *
Carol Brown *
Margaret Hardick *
Joan Lehman *
Constance Royer*
John Zeigler *

It is interesting to note the many members of the league who are associated with other churches in this region. This is a fine example of the spirit of our young members in this area, showing they can work together as a group. The other members of the Church will do well by following their example.

The Choir of Altalaha Lutheran Church

The choir has not kept records of their organization. However, it can be said that this organization does a fine job at every church service by leading the congregation in singing and by providing an anthem every service.

Choir leaders and organists of the past are listed below. The exact dates each one served is not known in some cases, so there are no dates included with their names. However, they are in the proper rotation; the oldest known being from 1880.

Isaac Deck
Dora Snyder Kline
Willoughby Wolfe
John Dietrich
Emma Grimes
Eli Schucker
Herbert Marburger
Anna Tailor
Lester Keener
Margaret Engle

The present organist and leader is Mrs. Margaret Engle and the present members of the choir are the following:

Joan Beidler	Gloria Manbeck
Nelson Beidler	Helen Engle
Sue Ann Beidler	Edwin Engle
Kenneth Dieffenbach	Lillian Harnish
Loretta Dieffenbach	Helen Richards
Phyllis Dieffenbach	Harold Schneck
Wayne Dieffenbach	Harold Troutman
Patsy Manbeck	Dolores Schrack

Altalaha Cemetery Association

On March 14, 1931, the church council met, at which time a cemetery committee was appointed as follows: Aaron Schaeffer, term to expire 1932; Sallie Keener, term to expire 1933; Frank Snyder, term to expire 1934; Ida Smith, term to expire 1935; F. I. Rollman, term to expire 1936. This committee to be subject to election by the congregation. According to the records no action was taken on this subject by the congregation until August 5, 1934. At this time a motion was made at a meeting that the Alalaha Lutheran Cemetery become the property of Altalaha Lutheran Cemetery Association, and the first officers were Ralph K. Derr, F. I. Rollman, Frank Snyder, Charles Smith, and Jacob Knoll. Mr. William Webber and Mr. William Frantz also served many years in this association.

The purposes of the cemetery association is to establish and maintain a cemetery for human burial for members of the church.

The cost of a plot large enough for eight graves is \$125.00, of which \$25.00 is for the plot and the additional \$100.00 is to be put in trust. The interest to be used to keep the plot in perpetual care. The money which is placed in trust cannot be used for any other purpose. All money received from interest is paid to the caretaker who mows the grass and maintains the cemetery. The present caretaker is Mr. LeRoy Lutz.

The financial condition at present is \$292.74 in the working fund and \$11,074.86 in trust.

The present officers are:

Curtis Heberling	President
Harry D. Beidler	Treasurer
Daniel Harnish	Secretary
Clayton Heberling	Director
John Richards	Director

Section III

The Church Council

The List of Confirmed Members

The Anniversary Committees

Acknowledgements

The Congregation of Altalaha Lutheran Church

At the 200th Anniversary of Its Founding

THE REV. GEORGE C. MYERS, JR., B.D., *Pastor*

THE CHURCH COUNCIL

Vice President	Clayton Heberling
Recording Secretary	Lester Keener
Financial Secretary	Theodore Manbeck
Treasurer	Charles Heberling

TRUSTEES

Clarence Yoder
Lester Keener
Curtis Heberling

ELDERS

Wilmer Billman
Howard Heagy, Jr.
John Richard
Frank Dieffenbach

DEACONS

Ronald Bashore
Daniel Harnish
Willard Berger
Kenneth Heberling

CONFIRMED MEMBERSHIP LIST

(as of May 1, 1957)

A

Anspach, Calvin
Artz, Charles
Artz, Mrs. Charles
Artz, Frank
Artz, Harry T.
Artz, Mrs. Harry
Artz, Harry, Jr.

B

Bashore, Norman M.
Bashore, Mrs. Norman
Bashore, Richard
Bashore, Ronald
Beidler, Harry
Beidler, Mrs. Harry
Beidler, Joan N.
Beidler, Nelson E.
Beidler, Sue Ann
Bender, Clifford E.
Bender, Lester
Bender, Mrs. Lester
Bender, Pauline
Bennethum, Mrs. Raymond
Bentz, Mrs. LeRoy
Berger, Sadie
Berger, Willard
Billman, Edwin
Billman, Mrs. Edwin
Billman, Frank A.
Billman, Mrs. Frank
Billman, Franklin M.
Billman, Mrs. Franklin
Billman, Lester
Billman, Mrs. Lester
Billman, Wilmer
Braidigan, Mrs. Virginia
Brightbill, Mrs. Ruth
Brossman, Howard
Brossman, Mrs. Howard
Brossman, Schuyler
Brossman, Mrs. Schuyler
Brown, Carl
Brown, Laura J.
Brown, Mrs. Mollie
Burkhart, William
Burkhart, Mrs. William

C

Christ, Mrs. Walter
Clemens, Guernsey

D

Deck, John
Deck, Hebert
Deck, Mrs. Hebert
Dengler, Mrs. William
Deppen, Ernest
Derr, Alice R.
Derr, Sadie
Dieffenbach, Curtis
Dieffenbach, Mrs. Curtis
Dieffenbach, Donald
Dieffenbach, Mrs. Donald
Dieffenbach, Frank
Dieffenbach, Mrs. Frank
Dieffenbach, Harry
Dieffenbach, Kenneth
Dieffenbach, Phyllis
Dieffenbach, Victor
Dieffenbach, Wayne
Donahue, Daniel
Donahue, Mrs. Daniel

E

Eckert, Mrs. Elsie
Edris, Robert
Eisenhauer, Mrs. Harry
Emerich, Harry W.
Emerich, Mrs. Harry
Emerich, Robert
Engle, Helen

F

Fink, Mrs. Forrest
Frantz, Martin L., Jr.
Frantz, William
Frantz, Mrs. William

G

Gassert, Mrs. Gilbert
Gassert, Verna
Gettle, Mrs. Anson

Good, Mrs. Katie
Graeff, Mrs. Earl
Grimes, Mrs. Minnie
Gruber, Mrs. Nora

H

Haas, Mrs. Susan
Hamaker, Mrs. Emily
Harnish, Daniel
Harnish, Mrs. Daniel
Harnish, Mrs. Mary
Heagy, Howard, Jr.
Heagy, Mrs. Mabel
Heberling, Allen
Heberling, Charles
Heberling, Clayton
Heberling, Curtis
Heberling, Mrs. Curtis
Heberling, Kenneth
Heberling, Gerald
Henne, Mrs. Pearl
Henne, Mrs. Willis
Henninger, John L.
Henninger, Lewis
Henninger, Mrs. Lewis
Hertzler, Ralph
Himmelberger, Mrs. Dorothy
Holtzman, Charles
Holtzman, Mrs. Charles
Holtzman, Earl R.
Houck, Ronald L.
Houncker, Earl H.

K

Kalbach, Mrs. Lillian
Kantner, Lillian
Kantner, Mrs. Selas
Keener, Lester
Keener, Mrs. Lester
Keener, Mrs. Sallie
Keener, Mrs. Thomas
Keeney, Mrs. Earl
Keeney, Mrs. Mabel
Kendal, Mrs. John
Kilmer, Mrs. Edna
Kintzer, Mrs. Edwin
Klopp, Mrs. Carrie
Knapp, Andrew
Knapp, Mrs. Andrew

Knoll, Alvin
Knoll, Jacob
Knoll, Mrs. Jacob
Knoll, Vernon
Koch, Jean R.
Koch, Samuel
Koch, Mrs. Samuel

L

Lebo, Elva

M

Manbeck, Alletta
Manbeck, Earl
Manbeck, Mrs. Emma
Manbeck, Gloria
Manbeck, Harvey J.
Manbeck, Mrs. Harvey
Manbeck, Lee W.
Manbeck, Patricia
Manbeck, Paul
Manbeck, Mrs. Paul
Manbeck, Ralph
Manbeck, Robert
Manbeck, Mrs. Robert
Manbeck, Theodore
Manbeck, Mrs. Theodore
Manbeck, Webster
Manbeck, Mrs. Webster
Manwiller, Ralph G.
Manwiller, Mrs. Ralph
McAllister, John
McAllister, Mrs. Mary
McCarthy, Mrs. Pearl
Mengel, Mrs. Lillie
Miller, Mrs. Robert
Mohn, Mrs. Laura
Moyer, Mrs. Lester
Muth, Leroy
Muth, Mrs. Leroy

N

Neiswender, Mrs. Bertha
Ney, Samuel
Ney, Mrs. Samuel
Noecker, Benjamin
Noecker, Mrs. Benjamin

O

Obold, Mrs. Annie

P

Potteiger, Mrs. Ezra J.

R

Raber, Paul
Reber, Mrs. Bessie
Reber, Paul J.
Reber, Mrs. Paul
Richard, John
Richard, Mrs. John
Rissinger, Mrs. Lynn
Rollman, Mrs. Carl

S

Saul, Barbara
Sauley, Mrs. Verna
Schaeffer, Cyrus
Schaeffer, Mrs. Thomas
Schaeffer, William
Schaeffer, Mrs. William
Schlappig, Carl
Schlappig, Cora
Schneck, Mrs. Evelyn
Schneck, Harold
Schrack, Earl
Schrack, Mrs. Earl
Schrack, Reilly
Schucker, Mrs. Grace
Schucker, Mrs. Irene
Shaak, Luther S.
Shaak, Monroe
Shaak, Mrs. Monroe
Shalters, Lester
Shalters, Mrs. Lester
Sholley, Donald
Sholley, Mrs. Donald
Smith, Arthur D.
Smith, Carl
Smith, Charles
Smith, Evelyn
Smith, Gilbert N.
Smith, Milton
Smith, Mrs. Milton
Smith, Norton
Smith, Mrs. Norton
Snyder, Frank
Snyder, Mrs. Frank
Snyder, George
Snyder, Mrs. George

Spaid, John O.
Spaid, Mrs. John O.
Spannuth, Anna
Spannuth, Mrs. Mary
Spannuth, William
Spitler, Byrl
Spitler, Mrs. Byrl
Strickler, Warren A.
Strickler, Mrs. Warren A.
Strickler, Warren J.
Swoyer, Mrs. Dorothy

T

Troutman, Harold E.
Troutman, Mrs. Harold E.
Troutman, Harold E., Jr.
Tryon, Jacob
Tryon, Mrs. Jacob

U

Umbenhauer, Mrs. Mabel
Urich, Mrs. E. P.

W

Wagner, Earl
Wagner, Fred
Wagner, Horace
Wagner, Mrs. Horace
Walmer, Mervin
Weaver, Annie
Weaver, George E.
Webber, William
Weidman, Helen M.
Weidman, Raymond
Weidman, Mrs. Raymond
Weidman, Richard E.
Wood, Annie

Y

Yeager, Mrs. Carrie
Yeager, Mrs. Paul
Yiengst, Mrs. Clara
Yiegst, Miles
Yiengst, Miles
Yoder, Clarence
Yoder, Mrs. Clarence

Z

Zugzda, Mrs. Phyllis

Announcements and Acknowledgments

Every effort has been made to present a true and accurate history; if, however, mistakes are made please forgive us, if names are omitted it is by error and not by design. If important errors are noted we ask that they be brought to our attention so that they may be corrected in future histories.

There will be an historic exhibit in the basement where items of historic interest will be on display. All items will be marked and there will be someone on hand to answer questions concerning them.

Souvenirs have been prepared by the Lutheran Aid Society; they are on display in the basement for those interested in securing a memento of this important milestone in our church life.

Thanks is extended to the many people who helped to make this affair a success. For the information needed to write the history of the church we owe thanks to the secretaries of the various organizations of the church for their help.

Acknowledgment of thanks is given to "The Historic Society of Berks County," for the information on the former owners of the land for the church. Mr. Richard Essick and Mrs. LeRoy Sanders were co-operative in this matter. Additional thanks are in order to the Historic Society for microfilming our records, thus insuring a duplicate for us in case the originals are lost or destroyed.

The item from the Pennsylvania Gazette and the letter from Conrad Weiser to the Governor were both taken from the book entitled, "The Indians of Berks County," by S. B. Brunner, A.M. This book was published in 1897 by Eagle Book Print, Reading, Penna. The newspapers of this locality are thanked for keeping the progress of this event continually before the public. The name of the papers which covered our event are the Reading Times, Reading Eagle, Reading Record, and the Lebanon Daily, Lebanon Semi-Weekly News and the Harrisburg Patriot.

A word of thanks is also extended to Richard Weidman, Miss Joan Beidler, and Harold Schneck who helped type up this history and prepare it for printing.

The Following Committees Served at This Anniversary

PASTOR GEORGE C. MYERS, JR., *Chairman of all Committees*

GENERAL ANNIVERSARY

COMMITTEE

Schuyler Brossman
Frank Dieffenbach
Curtis Heberling
Daniel Harnish

PUBLICITY COMMITTEE

Schuyler Brossman
Richard Weidman
Mrs. Anson Gettle
Mrs. Robert Bennethum
Jacob Tryon

FINANCE

Charles Heberling

HISTORIC EXHIBIT

COMMITTEE

Mrs. Charles Schucker, Jr.
Mrs. Sally Keener
Mrs. Schuyler Brossman
Mrs. Grace Schucker

SOUVENIRS

All members of The
Lutheran Aid Society

MUSIC

Mrs. Lloyd Engle

HOSPITALITY

Frank Dieffenbach
Curtis Heberling

SUPPLEMENT

At the time the histories were sent to the printers, the 200th Anniversary Class had not yet been confirmed, we feel that the people should know the names of these young people who were confirmed on June 9, 1957. They are Loretta Dieffenbach, Mary Ann Keeney, Beatrice Ulrich, and Dolores Schrack.

The members of the Junior Confirmation Class that will be confirmed next year are as follows: Kenneth Berger, Nancy Berger, Norman Dieffenbach, Jay Dubbs, Roseann Dubbs, Wayne Moreland, Mildred Schaeffer, Viola Smith, Donald Weidman.

We are sorry that the name of Mrs. Katie Frantz was omitted by mistake from the confirmed membership list.

We wish to thank the Keystone Fire Co. of Rehrersburg for sponsoring the chicken barbecue in their dining hall. This was done as a convenience to us and our visitors.

Thanks is extended to Mr. Charles Schucker for the use of his parking facilities.

A special greeting is extended to Miss Alice Derr the oldest living member of this congregation. Miss Derr celebrated her 93rd birthday recently.

Each of these services is being recorded on tape. The recordings can be played to our shut-ins who cannot attend but who would enjoy these programs if they were available. Anyone knowing of shut-ins who might like to

hear these services please inform the pastor.

If anyone should want souvenir plates or a copy of the printed history after today, they can obtain one by mail or in person by contacting the president of the Aid Society, Mrs. Theodore Manbeck, Bethel R.F.D. #1, Pa.

A directory of all the persons that are buried on our cemeteries is being made at the present time. If you can identify any unmarked graves please inform Schuyler C. Brossman of Rehrersburg. The name of the person and the location of the grave are necessary. We ask all people to give us these names so they can be properly listed in the directory. Anyone desiring information of people buried on the cemetery and location of graves can do so by contacting Mr. Brossman. A sheet will be found along with the Historic Exhibit on which can be written the names of persons whose graves are not marked by a tombstone.

The congregation wishes to thank Station WEEU of Reading, and Station WLBR of Lebanon for their interest in the 200th Anniversary.

The basket of flowers has been presented by Mrs. Edgar Beckey and Mrs. Walter Christ in memory of their parents, Mr. and Mrs. H. Milton Houncker, and their brother, Raymond.