

## St. Matthews Evangelical Lutheran Church

Welland, Ontario



The Fifty-Fifth Anniversary Survey

1876 « » 1931

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## Church Directory

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Pastor—S. W. GARTUNG Parsonage, 31 Grove St.

Phone 772J

Morning Service—10.30 a.m. Sunday School 11.30 a.m. Evening Service—7.00 p.m.

Church Council—First Thursday, 8.00 p.m.
Choir Practise—Wednesday, 8.00 p.m.
Women's Auxiliary—First Thursday, 3.00 p.m.
Men's Club—First Tuesday, 8.00 p.m.
Senior Luther League—2nd Thurs., 8 p.m., Business and Social 4th Thurs., 8 p.m., Devotions
Junior Boys' League—Friday, 7.00 p.m.
Junior Girls' League—1st Friday, Business and Devotions
3rd Friday, Work.
Sunday School Council—3rd Thursday, 8.00 p.m.
Confirmation Class—Jr., Sat., 10 a.m.
Sr., Sat., 11.00 a.m.

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## The Programme

Sun Oct 4.

10.00 a.m.-Sunday School. 11.00 a.m.-Morning Service.

Service Pastor S. W. Gartung Sermon Dr. Jacob Maurer (Pastor First English Lutheran Church, Kitchener, Ont. )

#### 7. P.M., EVENING SERVICE

Service-Rev. Theo. Iseler, Pastor S. W. Gartung Sermon Rev. Hugo L. Dressler (Pastor of Atonement Lutheran Church of Buffalo, N.Y.)

#### TUESDAY, 7.30 P.M.

Anniversary Banquet-Mr. Fred. Dobrindt, Chairman. Speaker-Rev. F. B. Clausen, President of Waterloo College and Seminary.

Guests-

Rev. T. Iseler Rev. Frederick Berman Rev. F. Howald Rev. W. A. Schmidt Rev. W. H. Knauff Dr. M. J. Bieber

Rev. J. Reble, President of Synod.

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#### PRESIDENT REBLE'S REMARKS

Though slow progress has been made for a long period in the history of your congregation we pay our sincere tribute to and recognize the hard labor of the founders of the congregation and those that followed in their footsteps. They laid the foundation. But you and your pastor are the true builders of your church. You labored hard, and heavy were the demands knocking at your doors time and again. But the fruit is yours: God's blessing and the joy of success. The times might be disturbed by vast and stupendous problems, but "on every side the latch is lifting and the door of our opportunity stands ajar."

> J. Reble, President Evangelical Lutheran Synod of Canada.

## **Foreword**

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St. Matthew's Lutheran Church greets you on this her Fifty-Fifth Anniversary.

The occasion is unique because it is also the fifth anniversary of the determination to live. For a period of practically fifty years the congregation did not have a resident pastor. For many years there was no pastoral oversight. During this time, it is said that services were held on an average of twice a month. It may seem strange that after Fifty-Five years a congregation should still be a "Mission," but the niracle really is that the congregation was sustained. There is of course, only one explanation, namely, "Faith in Jesus Christ."

We do desire, for the above reason, to keep the twofold nature of this anniversary in mind. The first half of a century, and the first lap of the second half. It is our confirmed opinion that God has favoured us with a new outlook. An outlook where-

in a new opportunity of serving Him is granted.

It is our purpose, in this survey, to register our appreciation for this new opportunity, to record our visions and hopes in this venture for God, and to link this new effort with the past so as to register our consciousness that these early builders in St. Matthew's did raise a structure of their faith worthy of our praise

and gratitude.

They were Lutheran. They recorded their conviction, and deposited it in the corner-stone of their church building. They thus had the confidence, which comes from the assurance that God has spoken through the Word. They were secure because of the gift of salvation which they received through that Word. Times indeed have changed, but let us remember they too had a life to live. In that obligation they felt the need of the security which comes through the church. If it be true that ours is a harder life, it should then only make the glory of God's security more evident. Indeed God's security is never measured; it cannot be. "Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death—" I am surrounded by this security.

Will you therefore accept and treasure this Fifty-Fifth Anniversary Survey. It registers the faith of men and women who dared to speak for Christ in the past. It declares the obligation that rests upon us to continue thus to speak, and suggests avenues

whereby we can best express our faith.

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#### Our Yesterday (Cont'd)

The congregation is a member of the Ev. Lutheran Synod of Canada, whose President is T. Fischburn, Because they belong to the Canada Synod they also belong to the General body of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of North America, of which Dr. Kurtz of Philadelphia is President.

This letter is the only adequate record of the early history of the church. There were about 20 charter members. The first Church Council consisted of J. F. Ott, Treasurer; Frank Ott, Frank Kleckner, Secretary; and Mr. Wolle.

The pastors during the early history were Rev. Mr. Meier, 1878-1880; Rev. Mr. Chambelain, 1880-81; Rev. T. Snyder, 1881-1885; Rev. J. Badke, 1886-1888; Rev. T. Snyder, 1888-1913.

At this time Dr. M. J. Bieber, Fild Missionary, took charge of the Field. Rev. W. H. Knauff supplied until Jan. 1914. at which time Dr. Bieber commenced his service. The following items of interest should be noted during Dr. Bieber's pastorate which ended in Aug., 1915.

- 1. The Sunday School was organized with 10 pupils.
- 2. Evening services were instituted.
- 3. Electric lights were installed in the church.
- 4. Women's Missionary Society was organized.
- 5. The Duplex Envelope was introduced.
- 6. Luther League was organized.
- 7. The Congregation joined the Synod of Central Canada. Rev. W. H. Knauff, 1915-1919.

At this time the congregation was linked with Holy Trinity, Humberstone, to form a Parish. Services were held morning and evening alternately.

The Interior of the Church was re-decorated including a metal ceiling.

Rev. J. Frederick Berman, 1920-23.

Luther League donated cross and offering plates.

Rev. W. A. Schmidt. 1923-25,

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#### Our Yesterday (Cont'd)

The Luther League and Choir were re-organized.

Rev. S. W. Gartung, 1926-

Because of the union of St. Paul's and Holy Trinity at Humberstone, the pastor could no longer supply Welland. Welland was therefore made a Mission Parish in connection with Bridgeburg.

The words of Rev. W. A. Schmidt are to the point: "Though few in numbers, and served only by a pastor who was not able, due to his work at Humberstone, to devote sufficient time to the work, attendance was good, and contributions excellent." It was soon learned that if progress was to be made at Welland concentration was necessary. In order to keep the joint Parish of Welland and Bridgeburg it was necessary to continue the alternative service plan, which proved unsatisfactory for Missionary activity. Thus after one year it was decided to make Welland a separate parish. This gave Welland its first real opportunity to bear witness and grow. The fact that concentration is necessary for successful missionary work in our large cities is well evidenced in the history of St. Matthew's. Through the long history the only real progress was under such concentration during the present pastorate and that of Dr. Bieber. May we suggest that Welland should have remained as a separate parish since 1914. The proof is that such able men as Revs. Knauff, Berman and Schmidt did not register positive progress. The records show a splendid record of activity, but in these methods there is a lack of power to beckon others. During the four years of a resident pastor the following items of interest are to be noted: The Fiftieth Anniversary, 1926; Speakers, Dr. J. Chantry Hoffman, Dr. T. Snyder, Rev. W. A. Mehlenbacher and Rev. W. A. Schmidt.

The Laying of the Corner-Stone of the New Church, Aug 19, 1928; Speakers, Rev. T. Iseler, Rev. W. A. Mehlenbacher. Dedication of New Church Dec. 2-4, 1928; Speakers, Dr. M. J. Bieber, Rev. W. A. Knauff, Rev. Albert Jacobi, Rev. J. Reble. The Dedication of the New Altar and Lecturn, March 29, 1931. Donated by Miss C. Cronmiller in memory of her sister, Susanna Cronmiller.



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## Our To-Day

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In introducing the St. Matthew's of to-day, it is expedient that we first express our gratitude to the Board of American Missions for their support. Without this aid there would be little to record. May we suggest that this aid is not accepted in the spirit of charity, but rather in the consciousness that the United Lutheran Church wishes to bear witness for Christ in this community, and we as a unit of that body have agreed to serve to the utmost of our ability.

#### THE CHURCH COUNCIL

Rev. S. W. Gartung

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#### Our To-Day (cont'd.)

The above organizations are active and function along lines suggested by their name. Mention should be made of their loyalty to the church. They purpose to support and glorify the church. The Men's Club is the youngest in point of organization. They thus far have chiefly played Horse-shoes, but since they have made it their duty to care for the property, and to co-operate with existing organizations in their respective programme of events, the fact that they propose also to work is already assured. In fact the lawn is already an evidence of their activity. Provision is also made for an Executive Council, consisting of the Presidents and Secretaries of all the organizations. The purpose of this Council is to consider all matters which require the co-operation of the different groups.

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The Sunday School is the brightest gem of our organizations. It is the bright ray of hope for to-morrow. The growth is suggested by the following figures:—

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1927—39	1930—93
1928-50	1931—105

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Superintendent of Cradle Roll—Miss C. Kottmier.

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	Mrs. L. H. Brennan	Mr. F. Dobrindt
	Mrs. V. Esser	Mrs. F. Dobrindt
	Mrs. S. W. Gartung	Rev. S. W. Gartung
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We are not proposing that this should be realized immediately, nor even suggesting the time when it might be realized. Let

it suffice to say that it presents the plans of to-morrow.

There arises from time to time a desire to memoralize a friend. Again there is a wish to express in some concrete way the gratitude of a blessing received. Or their may be a desire to dedicate certain funds to the church through a will. And there may be just a wish to satisfy a specific need. Conscious of these facts we present to you these plans without further comment.

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The second mortgage for \$2000 is held by the Canada Synod. This is for three years. Then 3% interest for the fourth year with an increase annually until it reaches 6%. It is our purpose to

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## Our To-Morrow

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In dealing with the to-morrow we touch the unknown. It is however, not an unknown which suggests a blank. It is rather a future of unknown possibilities. Those who work in faith have the assurance that their labors are not in vain. It therefore behooves us to labor in the spirit of this assurance.

We dare dream of, and work for, a greater to-morrow. True, the result may be entirely different to our mental picture, but it will be a worthy fruit of our labors. God is always building with His Word through us. Jesus kept the idea of eternal mansions before His disciples—this is also our lesson. It is however, expedient for us to remember that, the fruit of Christianity is not only a future prospect, but a present reality. In this spirit let us visionize a greater St. Matthew's, serving in an equally greater capacity for Christ in this community.

If we could accomplish this we must "Work." Our to-morrow is in a measure with us to-day. We are building for the future. Our Parents must be faithful to the Baptismal vow and teach their children accordingly. Our Sunday School must be at its best in order to properly aid the parents in their obligations. Our organizations must be on the alert in directing the members of the congregation into a life of service. Our Pulpit must declare the Word, and our people must willingly hear. This must be our prayer-guided ambition.

This is a simple plan, as it ought to be. Be sure that the work of God is not a complicated routine of activity. Let us serve the Lord Jesus. Let us not make our to-morrow a matter of speculation, but let us make it a matter of "Doing Now What We Can" We can but plant and water, but God sendest the increase.

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Welland, Ontario

## OUR CHURCH and "Waterloo College and Seminary"



TAS our Lutheran Church in Welland any definite and distinctive interest in the Lutheran seminary and college in Waterloo? Most assuredly. Your pastor is a graduate of both schools. And should you lose him you would naturally look to another graduate of our seminary to fill the vacancy. Other Lutheran congregations of our synod would do likewise. Even bilingual churches can make a good selection of pastors from the number of our graduates as many of them have been qualified to preach in English and German. That our seminary is serving the Lutheran Church in Canada can be demonstrated by the fact that 90% of the graduates of Waterloo College have entered

the ministry and most of them are pastors of churches in our synod. The existence of the Lutheran Church in Canada is, humanly speaking, largely bound up with the welfare of our college

and seminary.

In the few months that we have been privileged to serve our Church in the present office we have met this contention, that while the necessity of our seminary is admitted and accepted, the need of a high grade college is questioned. Our answer to such questioning is this: The seminary is impossible without the college. Before a man may enter the seminary he must have a college education. Private or Provincial colleges and universities would not furnish the seminary with students for the ministry. Statistics prove this. They tell us that about 90% of the ministers and 99% of the missionaries have been trained in Church colleges. Less than 3% of non-church schools graduates enter religious work. The atmosphere of these non-church colleges is not tavorable to Christian faith and piety. Many of them have outspoken atheistic professors and at best, most of the teachers are not vitally interested in the Church nor in the personal problems of their students. Consequently, if the church colleges are closed, the theological seminaries and the churches and the missions stations must be closed.

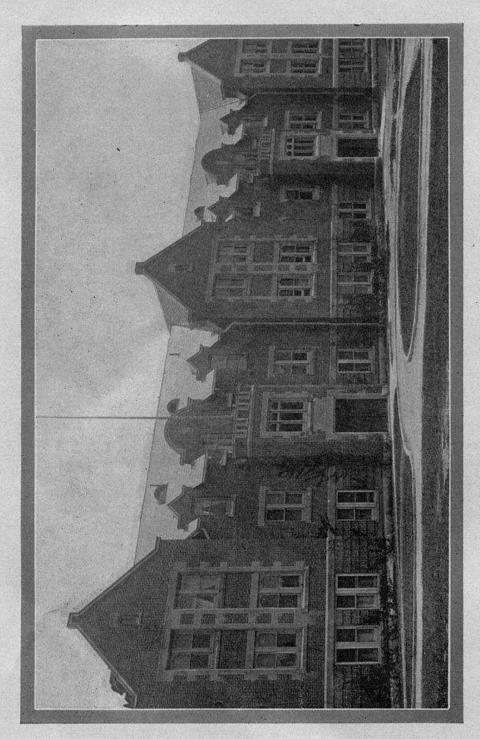
#### Our Church, etc. (Con'td.)

Christian colleges like our own Waterloo are the only schools that truly educate their students. President Butler of Columbia university says. "Education must mean a gradual adjustment to the spiritual possessions of the race. The child is entitled to his scientific, literary, aesthetic, institutional and religious inheritance. Without them he cannot become a truly educated or cultivated man. The religious element may be not permitted to pass wholly out of education unless we are to cripple it and render it hopelessly incomplete."

All of the institutions and tested conventions, which we cherish and without which a healthy social and sound economic society would be impossible, are rooted in the principles of the holy gospel from which they derive their sanctions, support and strength. If we are concerned to perpetuate such a state of society and hand it down to our children, we must have not only ministers to preach these truths but leaders in every walk of life to demonstrate them by precept and example. Non-church schools cannot furnish us with such leaders since such schools have no place in their curricula for definite religious teaching, nor any interest in the faith and personal life of their students. Hence our civilization and culture are bound up with the church college.

What a tremendous stake this church and every Lutheran church has in Waterloo college and seminary! May the considerations here pointed out impress every individual among us with his or her own personal responsibility to support our christian college and our seminary. In spite of the hard times through which we are passing, we can do nore if we will and we will if we are most deeply concerned for the life of the Church and the health of Christian common wealth.

-FRED B. CLAUSEN.



WATERLOO COLLEGE and SEMINARY, WATERLOO, Ontario

#### HOME MISSION WORK

# AMONG THE HUNGARIAN LUTHERANS WITHIN THE TERRITORY OF THE EV. LUTHERAN SYNOD OF CANADA

In the Fall of 1928, home mission work started among the Hungarian Lutherans in Eastern Canada under the auspices of the Board of American Missions of the United Lutheran Church in America. The Rev. John L. de Papp, was appointed to canvass the field and organize new congregations where sufficient number of Hungarian Lutherans were gathered. Congregations were organized in Windsor, Montreal and Kitchener, the latter one has been organized by Student-Missionary Eugene Ruzsa, who in the meantime attended the Evangelical Lutheran Seminary of Canada at Waterloo. Divine services were occasionally conducted in Welland, Niagara Falls, Toronto and Brantford, where there were not sufficient number of Hungarians to organize a separate congregation of their own.

To-day, we have four Hungarian Lutheran Missionaries who are doing the work among the Hungarian Lutherans in Eastern Canada. The Rev. Herman Walther stationed at Kitchener, Cand. Andrew Kellnew stationed at Montreal, Student Eugene Ruzsa doing work in Welland, Hamilton, and Toronto, and the Rev. John L. de Papp serving the Hungarian Lutheran Congre-

gation at Windsor.

Perhaps it will be interesting to mention that there are 150,000 Hungarians in Canada scattered all over the Western Eastern sections of the Dominion. Approximately 8% of which (12,000) are Lutherans. It is a great task to gather these people into the Lutheran Church again of which they were members in the Kingdom of Hungary. Other denominations are doing their work very vigorously, and it is a pleasure to note that the Lutheran Church is not neglecting its duty to extend a brotherly helping hand toward these Lutheran people

The Hungarian Lutherans are deeply grateful for the spiritual care which they receive constantly from the Ev. Lutheran

Synod of Canada, its officers, pastors and laymen.

Hereby we earnestly urge our Hungarian Lutheran people to join the congregations of the Ev. Lutheran Synod of Canada wherever they are in Canada. This is the Church of our own to which every Hungarian Lutheran ought to belong as a member. We do not need to join other denominations on account of the language, because the gospel is preached in the Magyar tongue in the Lutheran Churches of Canada also.

Windsor, June 16th, 1931.

Rev. J. L. de Papp, Magyar Lutheran Missionary.

#### " MISSIONARY CONSCIOUSNESS "

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Our congregation, because it is a Mission, has a splendid opportunity to feel the responsibility of Missions. If we would effectively bear witness to Lutheran Truths there must be Lutherans. Practically every city and town has Lutherans, but they must be gathered. As individuals they are no essential force in a community, in fact they often lose their identity, but as a united group they become a power. "Where two or three are gathered together in my Name, there am I in the midst of them." However, it does not only require a united group, but a united group of workers. This requires leadership.

This is the work of Home Missions. To provide means to secure leadership and the wherewithal to work. Every true Mission is conscious of this purpose and therefore strives to become self-supporting, so as to enable the Church to meet the many invitations of cities and settlements to bear witness.

The Mission field of our Synod comprises 15 parishes with 20 organized congregations and 6 preaching stations. If we had sufficient means to support necessary leaders and provide suitable chapels, churches could be established in many of the cities and towns of our Province. This is equally true of every province of the Dominion. We may picture here the greater Lutheran Zion this would make possible in the To-Morrow of Lutheranism in Canada. Can we imagine such a picture without pondering over the "obligation of our faith" this suggests? We are after all not so much concerned in a big Lutheran Church as we are in the obligation to our scattered fellow Lutherans and to those who are seeking for the truths we have to give.

Your pastor desires to express to you, the appreciation of the church for your response to the call. May we likewise encourage you to continue this service for the Master so that we may turn from a unit of obligation to a unit of strength.

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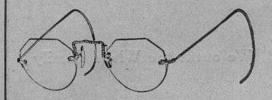
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