

# St. Matthew's Lutheran Church Has Active Record During Past 75 Years

Members of St. Matthew's Lutheran church and others who attended the 75th anniversary services of the church during the Thanksgiving weekend received handsomely-printed brochures containing pictures of church properties, a brief history of St. Matthew's 75 years, pictures of ministers who have served the church, and a sketch of the proposed new church building.

Also included were pictures of the individuals making up the church's "Christian Service Roll". These included the late Rev. John David Mauney, Rev. William Kiser, of Cicero, Ill., Rev. Jacob L. Lackey, of Hickory, Rev. William Medlin, of Blountville, Tenn., Rev. Hoyle Lee Whiteside, of Hickory, and Deaconess Sophie Moeller, of Whitetop, Va.

A section entitled "The Future", listed the two principal needs of the church as "a new church building and evangelism".

Mr. Mauney's history of the 75 years of church, follows:

"It was about the year 1875 that a little band of Lutherans settled at Kings Mountain and being desirous of organizing a

Lutheran church here arrangements were made for holding public worship in a small frame school building which was located on the spot now known as South-West Corner of Piedmont and King Streets. At this place now stands the Jacob S. Mauney Memorial Library.

"Later at this same place during 1876 the following persons: P. S. Baker, M. M. Carpenter, A. C. Carpenter, W. A. Mauney and wife Mrs. M. S. Mauney, J. S. Mauney and wife Mrs. M. J. Mauney, I. A. McAllister and wife Mrs. Catherine McAllister and Mrs. Mag S. Mauney formed an organization constituting the original St. Matthew's Evangelical Lutheran Church which organization was effected through the leadership of Rev. J. R. Peterson, who served as first pastor of the congregation until the completion of the church building, the cornerstone of which was laid in 1878.

"While a church building was being erected services were held in the school building where the present Central school is now located.

"In the year 1880 the Rev. N.

Aldrich took charge of the work. A church constitution was adopted under which the congregation has been working ever since. Rev. Aldrich served the congregation until May 1880, when he was called to Virginia, and W. P. Cline, a licentiate of the Synod, was called as supply, working under the direction of the Rev. A. J. Fox, D. D., and continued in this capacity until December, 1881, when Professor Junius B. Fox, also a licentiate of the Synod, was called and preached once a month until the close of 1883.

"In January, 1884, Rev. A. J. Fox was called as pastor and served the congregation until the time of his death the same year.

"Rev. Fox was succeeded in a short time by Rev. L. A. Bikle, D. D., who took charge of the work in June, 1884, and served the congregation for 20 years to June, 1904.

"During the latter part of the summer of 1904 and while the congregation was without a regular pastor it was decided that the old original brick building should be remodeled and an annex suitable for the needs of the Sunday School should be built. This work was completed with a building committee composed of W. A. Ridenhour, D. M. Baker and J. S. Mauney. The cost was \$6,000.00.

"On February 7, 1905, Rev. Chas. K. Bell, of Salem, Va., was called as pastor and entered upon the work on May 14th. The congregation had been at that time without a pastor for nearly 12 months.

"Rev. Bell served the congregation faithfully for more than 13 years and resigned the work on November 16, 1918, to take up work as Professor in the Seminary at Columbia, S. C.

"On April 16, 1919, Rev. H. Brent Schaeffer of Atlanta, Ga., was called as pastor and entered upon the work June 8th of that year. Soon a new enthusiasm was kindled to reach out to those of non-Lutheran environment. An intensive evangelistic program to reach the unchurched was begun. Adult catechetical classes and evangelistic services were held. In the first year Sunday School attendance increased from 94 to 154. On Pastor Schaeffer's first anniversary of service a movement was begun to erect a Parish School Building and within a few weeks \$20,000 was raised for this purpose.

"On April 4, 1921, the cornerstone of the Parish School building was laid and the first service held on November 13, 1921, with Rev. C. K. Bell, D. D., preaching. The dedication service was held on June 17, 1923, with Rev. J. L. Morgan, D. D., preaching. On that date the Sunday School attendance was 374 with an enrollment of 404.

"During the pastorate of Pastor Schaeffer the record attendance in the Sunday School reached 533. The confirmed membership of the church was increased to 327. In the Parish Building a motion picture machine was installed and there was regular showing of religious pictures. A bus for the transportation of Sunday School children was put into service and many members used their own cars to bring people to the services each Sunday.

"Pastor Schaeffer preached his

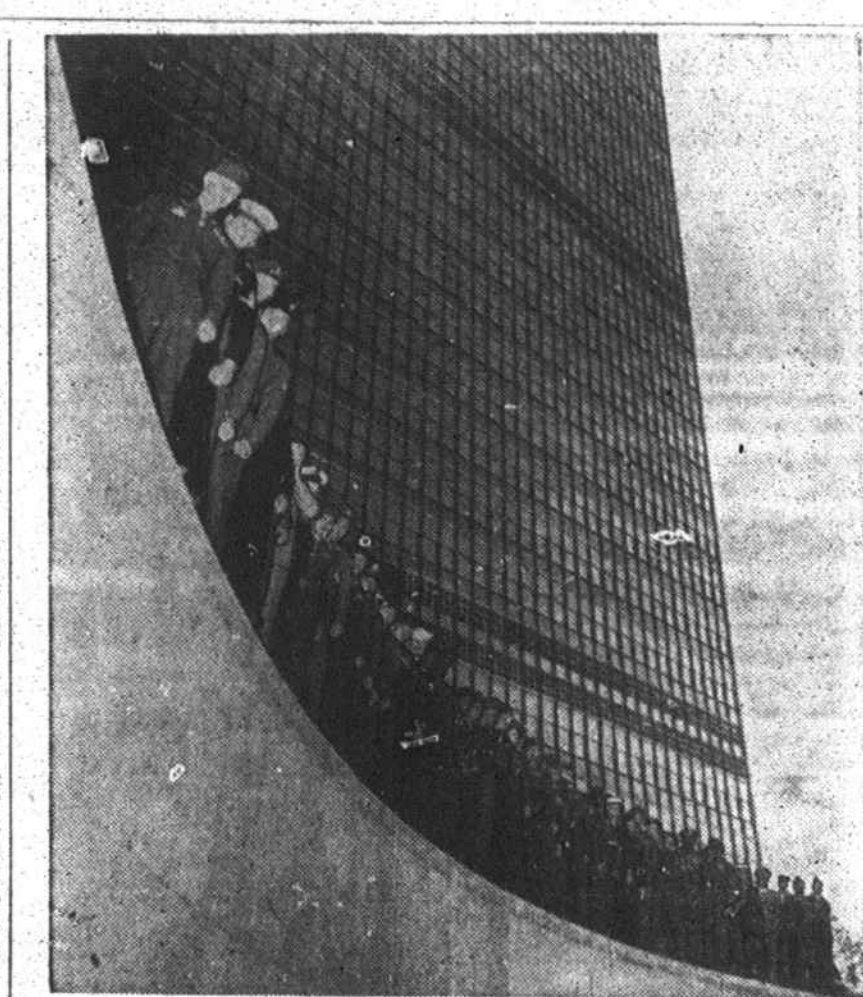
last sermon to the congregation November 4, 1923, and on March 2, 1924, Rev. A. M. Huffman entered upon the work. He served until he was called to Knoxville, Tenn., on September 1, 1929. It was during Pastor Huffman's services that the largest number in one year were added to the roll, 41 members during 1925. On June 21 of that year an anniversary program commemorating fifty years of Lutheran services in Kings Mountain was observed. Former living pastors had parts on the program and four living charter members pledged to the church \$37,000 in stocks to a new church building fund.

"Rev. C. K. Derrick served as pastor from January 1, 1930, until May 15, 1935, and the steady growth of the congregation was continued. Choir vestments were inaugurated, the church plant was renovated and all debts paid in full.

"Rev. L. Boyd Hamm accepted the call to the pastorate in September, 1935. In 1939 to provide for a men's Bible Class which had been meeting in the church auditorium, a pastor's office and social rooms the addition to the parish building was completed. In July, 1940, Pastor Hamm left to accept a call to Macedonia Lutheran Church, Burlington.

"December 17, 1940, Rev. Herman G. Fisher accepted the call to the congregation. He served until December 27, 1944, when he accepted the call to Concordia, Landis. He is now mission pastor at Spindale where real progress is being made with a growing new congregation.

"Rev. Wm. H. Stender became pastor May 1, 1945, and served until September 1, 1950. Many improvements were made in renovating the church and parsonage. Several new circles of the Women's Missionary Society were organized and all were united into one organization. The Women of the Church. Approximately thirty members were ad-



Fifty veterans of the United Nations forces in Korea representing 19 nations, are welcomed at U.N. Headquarters in New York. Men from Australia, Belgium, Canada, Colombia, Ethiopia, France, Greece, India, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, the Philippines, the Republic of Korea, South Africa, Thailand, Turkey, the United Kingdom and the USA, are in the line up above in front of the United Nations' 39 story Secretariat building.

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