90th Anniversary
Souvenir
1840 1930

Evangelical Lutheran St. Paul's Congregation
NEW ORLEANS, LA.

SOUVENIR BOOKLET
of the
90th ANNIVERSARY
of
Evangelical Lutheran St. Paul's Church and School
NEW ORLEANS, LA.

Comprising a short history of the Congregation and the Christian Day School from its inception to the present date, as well as the programs of the various services held during Anniversary Week, July 27 to August 4.
INTRODUCTORY SERVICE

Sunday, July 27, 1930—7:30 A. M.

Pastor G. J. Wegener officiating.
Organ Prelude-------------------Prof. R. W. Wismar, Organist
Hymn—“Lord Jesus Christ to Us Attend.”
Liturgy, Prayer and Scripture Reading.
Vocal Solo ---------------------Miss Helen Hasenkampf
Hymn—“Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken.”
Sermon—“Why Do We Celebrate?”
Selection ----------------------By St. Paul’s Choir
Hymn—“Hark, the Church Proclaims Her Honor.”
Closing Liturgy and Benediction.
Doxology.
Organ Postlude.

CHILDREN’S AND YOUNG PEOPLE’S SERVICE

Tuesday, July 29, 1930—7:30 P. M.

Pastor H. G. B. Reinhardt officiating.
Processional of Children and Young People.
Organ Prelude.
Hymn—“Praise to the Lord, the Almighty.”
Liturgy, Prayer and Scripture Reading.
Children’s Chorus—“Beautiful Savior.”
Hymn—“Glorious Savior, Gentle Shepherd.”
Sermon—“You and God.”
Walther League Chorus—“The Walther League Song.”
Offertory.
Hymn—“How Shall the Young Secure Their Hearts.”
Liturgy, Prayer and Benediction.
Doxology.
Organ Postlude.
SERVICE FOR THE AUXILIARY SOCIETIES

Thursday, July 31, 1930—7:30 P. M.

Pastor M. S. Gebauer officiating.

Processional of all Auxiliary Societies.
Organ Prelude.
Hymn—“Now Thank We All Our God.”
Liturgy, Prayer and Scripture Reading.
Vocal Solo.-----------------------------Mrs. R. W. Wismar
Hymn—“Holy Father! Thou Hast Taught Me.”
Sermon—“Peace and Prosperity.”
“Come Thou Almighty King”---------St. Paul’s Male Quartet
Offertory.
Hymn—“Ye Servants of the Lord.”
Prayer and Benediction.
Doxology.
Organ Postlude.

ANNIVERSARY SERVICE

Sunday, August 3, 1930—8:30 A. M.

Pastor H. B. Roepe officiating.

Prelude—“March for a Church Festival”------The Organist
Pastor:  Glory Be to God on High.
Congregation (standing):  “All Glory Be to God on High.”
Hymn—“Holy, Holy, Holy.”
Liturgy, Prayer and Scripture Reading.
Vocal Solo.-----------------------------Mrs. P. Scherf
Hymn—“O Word of God Incarnate.”
Sermon—“How Should We Celebrate?”
Selection -------------------------------By St. Paul’s Choir
Offertory ------------------------------The Organist
Hymn—“Glory Be to God the Father.”
Prayer and Benediction.
Doxology.
Organ Postlude.
OUR TEACHERS

R. W. WISMAR.

E. A. GROTH.

JOINT JUBILEE SERVICE

Sunday, August 3, 1930—7:30 P. M.

Prelude ___________________________ Prof. R. W. Wismar

Hymn—“Come Thou Almighty King.”
Liturgical Service ________________ Pastor H. B. Roepe

Vocal Duet _________________________ Prof. and Mrs. P. Scherf

Hymn—“I Love Thy Zion Lord.”
Sermon—“The Habitation of God’s House” ________

Selection __________________________ By Lutheran Choral Club

Offertory—Collection for Synodical Budget.

Hymn—“Lord Jesus Christ With Us Abide.”
Liturgical Service __________________ Pastor J. Wegener

Doxology.

Organ Postlude ______________________ The Organist.

ANNIVERSARY SOCIAL

Monday Night, August 4, 1930—7:30 P. M.

AN INVITATION

All members of St. Paul’s are most cordially invited to attend this Anniversary Social. You will enjoy meeting your old friends and forming new friendships. An informal program consisting of musical numbers and short talks will be given. Refreshments, sandwiches and cake, will be served.

A free will offering will be taken to help defray expenses.

Once more, Come and enjoy an evening of Christian sociability. You are welcome!
IMPORTANT DATES IN CONGREGATION'S HISTORY

On two previous occasions the writer has had the privilege of compiling a brief history of St. Paul's Congregation, the first in German, covering the fifty years from 1840 to 1890, and the second in English for the 75 years from 1840 to 1915. Copies of the 1890 German booklet, and, in a larger number, of the 1915 English pamphlet may, no doubt, still be found in many of our people's homes. For the present occasion, therefore, only the more important dates in the congregation's history are given.

1840-1856

1840—Sunday, August 2, first German Protestant preaching service in this section of the city by Rev. C. Sans, and Parochial School opened by the brothers Jacob and John Ueber.

1842—March 23, congregation legally incorporated under name of "The German Orthodox Evangelical Congregation of New Orleans and Lafayette." ("Lafayette," now a part of uptown New Orleans.)

1843—First church building (one-story frame, 65x27), erected on present site, corner Craps (now Burgundy), and Port Streets, also used for school purposes.

1843-1844—Rev. Sans leaving for another field, a division occurred. Rev. R. Kornnoerfer serving the larger, and Rev. J. E. Schneider the other faction—the latter adopting the name, "The German Evangelical Lutheran Congregation," Dec. 2, 1843.

1845—The two factions reunited in calling Rev. Christian Schreck and adopting the name: "The German Evangelical Orthodox Church of New Orleans, La." P. Schreck working successfully and gaining many new members until 1848.

1848-1856—The Rev. Jacob Buehler, in charge of congregation from February, 1848, to May, 1856, the congregation retaining the name adopted under P. Schreck, and constantly growing in numbers. Considering the large influx of German immigrants in those days and the fact that P. Buehler's was the only German Protestant church in the territory below Canal Street, it is not surprising that, for example, in 1850 he performed 251 Baptisms, 46 Confirmations, and 114 Marriages. There are, however, up to that time no records of the number of communicant and active members.
1856—The Rev. C. G. Moedinger, having assisted P. Buehler since Christmas, 1855, became his successor and was installed as pastor of the congregation on June 28.

1858—After due instruction by the pastor in the doctrines and practices of the Lutheran Church the congregation adopted a new constitution under the name of "The First German Evangelical Lutheran Congregation of New Orleans, La.," accepting all the Symbolical Books (especially "Luther's Catechism and the Augsburg Confession") as its own confession.

1860—In spite of this change in its name and confession and controversies resulting therefrom, the congregation continued to grow as before, the pastor, in this year, baptizing 286 children, confirming 53, and solemnizing 108 marriages. In April of this year, 1860, the entire property of the congregation, both church and parsonage, was destroyed by fire, but a new and larger church edifice (80x44), was at once erected and dedicated in December of the same year, the lower floor being arranged for better school facilities. A new parsonage was also built. In that year the congregation also followed the pastor in joining the "Ev. Luth. Synod of Texas."

1861—1865—During these years of the civil war, while its members shared the afflictions of many others, the congregation under God's protection and blessings met with no special hardships, being able to continue its still ever growing work. It is reported that in those days even the large new church, on many occasions proved too small for the large number of worshipers.

1866—The congregation, under P. Moedinger, organized a society for the support of needy orphans, which was incorporated as "Orphan Asylum Association of the First German Ev. Luth. Congregation of the Third District, New Orleans, La."

1867.—The Sunday School was established chiefly for children not attending the Christian day school.

1868—Mr. J. Jacob Broders became teacher in lower grades of day school.

1869—P. Moedinger was given an assistant, in the person of P. O. Koelle who, however, remained only about six months.

1870—Pastor and congregation, for reasons of conscience, severed their connection with the Texas Synod. Mr.
H. L. Huettmann, First Missouri Synod teacher, was called, serving from 1870-1871. Mr. J. J. Broders remaining in large lower department.

1871—Teachers C. F. K. Zeige (1871-1875), and H. D. Schroeder (1871-1875), were called from same Synod.

1872—Its charter expiring about this time a new charter and constitution were adopted and the congregation incorporated as “The German Evangelical Lutheran St. Paul's Congregation, U. A. C., of New Orleans, La.” February 20, 1872.

1873—Teacher L. Wisbeck was called as the fourth teacher of the Parochial School, remaining, however, only one year.

1874—By unanimous vote the congregation, in December, 1873, decided to join the “Ev. Luth. Synod of Missouri, Ohio and other States,” and both P. Moedinger and the congregation were received into membership at the meeting of the Western District, held in St. Louis, Mo., in June 1874.

1875—P. Moedinger confirmed 119 children, the largest class in the congregation's history. Teacher H. D. Schroeder followed another call, leaving the school, for the next three years, with only two teachers, Mr. Zeige in the first and Mr. Broders in the second department.

1878—In this year of one of the most fearful epidemics of yellow fever, the congregation again took a forward step in calling Teacher C. W. Sauer (1878-1887) to the second department of its school.

1879—Mr. Zeige accepting a call to St. Paul, Minn., Mr. Sauer was given charge of the first, and Mr. J. F. Thomson (1879-1906), called to the second department, Mr. Broders again continuing in his old position.

1880—The congregation united with its Lutheran fellow-Christians in the celebration of the 300th anniversary of the “Book of Concord.”

1881—St. Paul's was joined by St. John's and Zion sister congregations, in the organization of the “Evangelical Lutheran Bethlehem Orphan Asylum Association of New Orleans, La.” turning over its funds of several thousand dollars collected since 1866, for the purchase of the present site of the Asylum.

1882—The congregation took an active part in the organization of the Southern District of the Missouri Synod, February, 1882.
1883—When, on July 8, the Bethlehem Orphan Asylum was opened, P. J. Maisch, its first Superintendent, became assistant pastor at St. Paul’s. In November he organized the “Ladies’ Aid Society.”

1883—Supplying a long-felt want, regular English services were introduced, temporarily conducted by several local pastors.

1884—St. Paul’s oldest teacher, Mr. J. J. Broders, and his wife became Superintendent and Matron of the Asylum, August, 1884, again leaving the school with only two teachers.

1884—The Rev. G. C. Franke was called as P. Moedingr’s assistant (1884-1887), charged especially with the English work, and soon organizing the English speaking members as a congregation within St. Paul’s.

1887—In the summer of 1887 St. Paul’s received official notice that this English congregation had “disbanded,” P. Franke following a call to the East, all of which meant that for the time being all English work was suspended.

1887—Owing to increasing feebleness, P. Moedingr retired from active work, preaching his last sermon from St. Paul’s pulpit in the early summer of 1887. In the fall of the same year Teacher Sauer accepted another call, Mr. Th. Stenzel succeeding him in the first, and Teacher C. Doepke called for the second department of the school.

1887-1930

1887—November 13, the 23rd Sunday after Trinity, the present pastor, G. J. Wegener, formerly in Altamont, Ill., was installed by P. Moedingr. The congregation opposed the resumption of English preaching, but allowed the pastor to instruct the 38 boys and girls who, besides a German class of 41, had applied for confirmation.

1889—After their confirmation in April the pastor was permitted to preach English to them and others attending evening services. With the congregation’s consent and complying with its wishes “The First English Congregation” was organized by seven former members of St. Paul’s which was served by St. Paul’s pastor until it secured its first pastor in the person of the Rev. Th. J. A. Huegli in October, services being continued in St. Paul’s until January, 1889, when the congregation dedicated its own church building, cor, Port and St. Claude Avenue.
1889—February 5, fire originated in the basement of the church and completely destroyed the entire building. The parsonage was not damaged and all valuable church records were saved. Erection of new church begun at once, cornerstone laid Palm Sunday, April 14, and church dedicated Sunday, September 15. First societies for young people were organized, the "Young Men's Society" on November 11, 1888, being followed by "Young Ladies' Society" December 1, 1889.

1890—P. Moedinger died January 25, at the age of 58 years, 9 months and 14 days, having been with the congregation over 34 years and in active service for more than 31 years. During his ministry he baptized 7,157 children, confirmed 1,679, married 1,959 couples and buried 1,685 persons. August 3 and 4 the congregation celebrated its 50th Anniversary. Teacher F. Doepke accepted call to Houston, Tex. Vacancy temporarily filled by Student Tob. Joeckel and later by Miss Anna Wurthmann.

1891—Teacher F. W. A. Beeskow was called to second department of school in January.

1892—Concordia Young People's Society organized in April.

1893—After six years of work in German only, circumstances demanded the introduction of regular English services. First service held Sunday, October 1. English confirmation class, besides the German, at same time.

1894—Teacher Beeskow called to First English School. Mr. L. T. Knief followed him Sept. 2.

1895—The growth of the school having made a third department necessary, Miss Anna Klein was engaged as assistant teacher, November 1.

1896—The Charter and Constitution of the congregation for the first time appeared in English print.

1897—Fiftieth (50th) Anniversary of Synod was celebrated. In the fall the school was temporarily closed on account of yellow fever.

1898—The "Ladies' Mission Society" founded February 28. English services changed from 7:30 P. M. to 7:30 A. M.

1899—Third department of school closed on account of decreased attendance. Miss Klein dismissed after four years' service.
1900—The building adjoining old school house converted into club house and gymnasium for the Young Men's Society. German religious instructions in school were abolished.

1901—Amendment adopted eliminating the word “German” from congregation's name.

1902—German catechetical instructions and confirmation discontinued. Teacher Knief following call to St. Louis, Miss Anna Klein again engaged to fill vacancy.

1903—For the first time the number of English services exceeds the German: 75-69.

1904—Permission was granted to all members below Poland Street to join new mission (later Christ Church), and for a house to house collection towards building church.

1905—Miss Theresia Thomson (Jan. 1), and Miss Magdalena Brunig (Oct. 1), followed Miss A. Klein in second department of school. Second story added to rear portion of parsonage. Sunday School donated new altar and Mrs. L. Eicke a pair of bronze candelabras.

1905—German services ordered held only on Sundays and church holidays in the morning, all mid-week services to be English. After efficient service of 27 years (1879 to 1906), Teacher J. F. Thomson resigned.

1907—Teacher F. W. Niermann installed February 17, and Miss Brunig resigning, remained alone to end of term. The new teacher for second department, Mr. O. H. Burger, installed Sept. 1. The present order of English services and custom of kneeling at holy communion introduced.

1908—Rule established that catechumens be at least 12 years on the 1st of January preceding their confirmation.

1909—Both German and English minutes still being kept, the English were declared the official records. Teacher Burger, following call to Wisconsin, Miss Rosa Niermann is placed in charge of second department.

1910—Releases granted to all members living in the vicinity of the Fair Grounds to help in founding Mt. Calvary congregation. Adult Bible Class organized with 41 charter members, Teacher Niermann in charge. Memorial Services on last Sunday of church year inaugurated.
1911—Teacher Niemann accepted call to Cape Girardeau, Mo., and Miss Rosa N. resigning in February, both departments of school were placed in the hands of Student Bernh. Seefeldt. In the fall, September 3, Teacher R. W. Wismar was installed for the first, and Mr. Rich. Wenzel temporarily engaged for the second department.

1912—Mr. Wenzel having resigned at the close of the school term, Miss Bertha Johansen succeed him in the school.

1913—The now customary annual report on congregation's affairs sent out for the first time to all members. The Parochial School opened as a Free School for all children of the congregation. Miss Johansen, leaving city, Miss Emilie Schubert became her successor.

1914—Many improvements made in Church, School and parsonage; installation electric lights, etc., costing over $4,500, and Memorial Windows by individual members at a cost of $2,400. A chapel arranged in church basement, first service September 6.

1915—Further improvements in interior and exterior in preparation for congregation's 75th Anniversary or Diamond Jubilee, a suitable souvenir with history of the church and school-published, and the Jubilee fittingly celebrated Sunday and Monday, August 3 and 4. On Sept. 29 a hurricane of unusual violence blew down the 125 foot steeple, demolished a large part of the new roof and did great damage to the organ and interior decoration. Several thousand dollars was required for restoration work.

1916—After the hurricane of the previous year necessary repairs to the church-building and the steeple were undertaken and were largely paid for by voluntary contributions. When Teacher Wismar became seriously ill late in September of this year, Student Emilie Wenzel was placed in charge of the Parochial School until Mr. Wismar's recovery in December. In December Miss Schubert retired as teacher of the second department and Student Fred Honold served until June, 1917.

1917—The new steeple of the church being completed, special services of thanksgiving were held at its dedication. In September Mrs. Edwards, formerly Miss Emilie Schubert, returned as teacher of the second department of the Day School. In 1917 St. Paul's membership joined in the joint celebration in honor of the 400th Anniversary of the Reformation.
1918—This year saw the reduction of German services to twice a month and special holidays. The young people's organization, known as the Adult Bible Class, received its charter of membership from the ‘International Walther League.

1919—Although annual reports and other literature had been sent to all members with more or less regularity, it was felt that a need existed for a regular means of communication with all members of St. Paul’s. Hence St. Paul’s Visitor, financed by the Adult Bible Class, made its appearance. Another evidence of inward growth in the congregation for 1919 was the institution of the present system of monthly collection of contributions from all members. Year after year this system has increased in efficiency. The catechumens of this year were organized as “St. Paul’s Junior Bible Class,” the beginning of our present Junior Walther League.

1920—The dedication of Redeemer Church, on December 5, is a part of St. Paul’s history insofar as many of its members were among the organizers, or later members, of Redeemer. The nation-wide endeavor of the Lutheran Laymen’s League for an Endowment Fund was supported by St. Paul’s to the extent of $1,590. Miss Gertrude Wegener took charge of the second department of the Day School in this year, serving until 1922.

1921—At Easter of this year the Sunday School took the first step toward raising funds for a school-building for the Day School. Another grade, the eighth, was added to our Day School curriculum. Mrs. R. Wismar becoming a part-time assistant in the upper grades. Mr. H. L. Frantz, for many years able and active as president of St. Paul’s, retired from office in 1921 and Mr. John M. Neff was chosen as his successor.

1922—From the time that the first move for a new School Building was made interest steadily mounted until at the end of 1922 $5,200 were available. Student E. A. Groth took charge of the second department of the Day School, remaining in this position until 1924.

1923—St. Paul’s members subscribed $3,344 for the new Seminary building at St. Louis.
1924—On Sunday, June 29, the new School Building was dedicated, the corner stone having been laid on April 27. This new addition to St. Paul’s plant was erected at a total cost of $15,238.86, of which amount Mr. H. L. Frantz gave $3,000. In addition more than $700 was donated by individuals for desks, etc. Mr. Hy. Schaefer, a student of our St. Louis Seminary, was placed in charge of the second department.

1925—The constant changing of teachers in the second department was recognized as a detriment to the school, and in this year the congregation, with sincere thanks to the Lord, found itself able to call a second regular teacher for its Day School. Mr. E. A. Groth, who had supplied for two years as a student at St. Paul’s, was welcomed as this new addition of St. Paul’s teaching staff, his formal installation taking place in a special service on Thursday, August 27.

1926—Since a great number of smaller repairs and improvements to church and parsonage were deemed necessary a general renovation of the church, including all needed repairs to church and parsonage, was undertaken. This was done at a cost of $10,478 and a Rededication service was held on October 7, 1926.

1927—On May 1 of this year the writer had confirmed his 40th class of catechumens at St. Paul’s. In view of this fact a Grand Reunion Service of all these 40 classes was held Thursday, October 20. Never before was there so large a gathering at St. Paul’s or any other Lutheran Church in New Orleans. The writer should not fail to record here that, without his knowledge, the service was made the anniversary of his nearly 40 years’ stay with St. Paul’s and on this occasion was very lovingly remembered by his many friends.

1928—Having been overcome by weakness during the confirmation exercises on April 22, the congregation kindly granted their pastor a needed rest and engaged P. E. H. Wildgrube’s services until his return to work on July 8 of the same year.

1929—From the date last mentioned (July 8, 1928), the pastor (with some assistance, especially during the Lenten season, and six weeks’ summer vacation), until November 6, 1929, could once more attend to his usual duties. On the evening of that day, however, he was again stricken with a severe spell of weakness and the congregation at once relieved him from all work until his
recovery. In the meantime several other local pastors did the necessary supply work, P. Sig. Thies, especially being engaged by the congregation, and the pastor himself only advising and directing so far as this was necessary. St. Paul's Men's Club was organized on September 30.

1930—Already for several years the congregation had considered the desirability of calling a permanent assistant pastor. For reasons just stated this had now become a necessity. The Rev. H. B. Roepe, of Garrison, N. D., having accepted the call, was installed in a special service on Sunday, February 16, by the Rev. M. W. H. Holls, the president of the Southern District, and delivered his first sermon on the following Sunday. From the first to this day Pastor Roepe's labors have been full of promise for St. Paul's future. May God continue to bless him and all his co-laborers both in church and school. And may dear old St. Paul's after the past 90 years of divine grace and blessings, yet see before it the best days in its history. To Him who alone giveth success through the abounding grace in Christ Jesus St. Paul's congregation and all its members are prayerfully commended by

G. J. WEGENER.

New Orleans, La., July 14, 1930.
FINANCIAL STATEMENT
as of July 1, 1930

Current Assets and Liabilities

LIABILITIES

Due Whitney Bank .................................$ 5,020.00
Due Organ Fund .................................... 4,000.00
Due c/o Certificates of Indebtedness .......... 1,190.00
Due 3rd District Building Association .... 1,600.00
Due Poor and Needy Fund ......................... 358.78

Total Liabilities .................................... $12,148.78

ASSETS

Balance in Bank ...................................$223.27
Balance in 3rd District Building Associa-
tion—Loan a/c .................................. 15.18
Balance in 3rd District Building Associa-
tion—Interest a/c ................................. 688.35 $ 926.80

Total Indebtedness of our Church ................. $11,221.98

The above statement carries its own message. To rem-
edy the condition shown, a number of endeavors have been
initiated. Among others, all collections at the Anniversary
Week Services with the exception of the collection of the
Sunday evening service, August 3, and the Special Anniversary
envelope offering will flow into the general treasury of the
congregation.

The collection of the evening service on August 3 will
be devoted to the Synodical Budget Missions.

The Special Envelope Collection will be used for the Debt
Retirement Fund of the congregation.
STATISTICS OF 1929

Membership

Souls (estimated) .................................................. 1,675
Communicant members ............................................ 1,291
Voting members on list .......................................... 75

Church Schools

Christian Day School enrollment .............................. 100
Christian Day School teachers ................................. 2 male, 1 lady assistant
Sunday School enrollment ...................................... 242
Cradle Roll .......................................................... 200
Officers and teachers of Sunday School ...................... 42

Church Societies

Ladies' Aid ........................................................... 52
Ladies' Mission ..................................................... 205
Senior Walther League ........................................... 50
Junior Walther League ........................................... 48
Men's Club ........................................................... 25
Choir ................................................................. 25
Sunday School Teachers Association ......................... 40
Adult Bible Class ................................................... 45

OFFICIAL ACTS—1840-1930

ations.  mations.  riages.  
1840-1856 (low estimate).
Incomplete records before 1848 ......................... 2,000  700  1,000  400
1856-1887—P. Moeding 7,167  1,679  1,959  1,685
1887 - July 1, 1930 — P. Wegener 2,587  1,708  1,065  1,415
Totals ............................................................. 11,754  4,087  4,024  3,500

SOME COMPARATIVE STATISTICS

ations.  mations.  municants.  riages.  
18'0 .................................................. 212  46  No Record  114  No Record
1850 .................................................. 288  53  575  107  43
1870 .................................................. 282  113  1,289  78  56
1880 .................................................. 205  68  1,409  47  55
1890 .................................................. 117  45  1,447  32  62
1900 .................................................. 52  28  1,227  14  36
1910 .................................................. 57  43  1,596  21  28
1920 .................................................. 31  36  1,603  18  29
1929 .................................................. 32  27  1,570  5  18

* Records incomplete.
ST. PAUL'S SCHOOL, BUILT 1924