



St. Matthew's

CHURCH AND SCHOOL

1940's

100 YEARS IN GOD'S GRACE
1922 - 2022

- ✦ In January of 1940 the Church Council recommended that two services be held on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month with a German service at 9:00am.
- ✦ In July of 1940 a new member was mentioned—Mrs. N.E. Paustian. They were married shortly before that.
- ✦ It was motioned and carried to give Sunday School a fair trial at St. Matthew's.
- ✦ A motion was given to thank the Building Committee, those that donated, and those that labored so faithfully during the construction of the parsonage—1/8/1941.
- ✦ A new sign board was made in April of 1941 for St. Matthew's.
German services at St. Matthew's were changed to only the 1st Sunday of the month at 9:00am.
- ✦ In January of 1943, because of “War Conditions” and gas rationing, meetings were to be held after church services so more members could have the opportunity to attend.
- ✦ It was moved and accepted that the organist salary be increased to \$75/year and that the Pastor's salary be increased by \$25/month.
- ✦ It was moved and accepted to have one Memorial Service after the war.
- ✦ The church driveway was graveled in April of 1944.
- ✦ In January of 1945 excerpts from Pastor Paustian's letter to the congregation cited that the church was debt free and that \$1,000 be placed into a special account for building a new church, connecting it to the present parsonage. **See handout below!**
- ✦ Our congregation was blessed to have a Ladies Choir, Men's Choir, and a Mixed Choir enhancing our services.

St. Matthews Statistical Totals for this decade		1941 - 1950 from Annual Reports	
Baptisms	Confirmations	Marriages	Deaths
141	104	57	39

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TO THE MEMBERS OF ST. MATTHEW'S CONGREGATION:

When the final history of our congregation is written, the year 1944 will probably be recorded as an outstanding year. Like the years that have gone before, 1944 has shown a healthy increase in membership, in church attendance, in communion attendance, and in contributions both for home and synodical purposes, all of which has been very encouraging to all of us, especially to me as the pastor, for it indicates very clearly that, in spite of trying and discouraging world conditions, aggravated because of the present world-wide war, and the sorrows it brings with it, the Gospel will not return void, but will accomplish that which pleases the Lord, whether that agree with human standard of success or not. It is not in this that the year has been outstanding over any other year, for the Lord's mercy has always been and still is new unto us every morning, but outstanding during 1944 is the fact, that the year 1944 marks the year in which the congregation for the first time in its history has become debt-free. By the grace of God the entire mortgage of the church has now been paid off, and in addition to that the treasurer reports a balance of over \$1000.00. A gift of \$1000.00 from a friend in the congregation has been received for the new Building Fund, and according to all indications this fund will enjoy a healthy growth during the years to come.

In spite of the sordid world conditions, we look forward to the future with courage and confidence, assured that we are doing the Lord's work and that His cause will eventually prevail. If we remain faithful to Him and to His Word, threatening clouds may hover for the time being, but "behind a frowning providence He hides a smiling face." Whatever the new year may hold in store for us, as individuals, as a congregation, as a nation, may we learn more and more to trust Him fully and completely, and say:

"Blind unbelief is sure to err
And scan His work in vain;
God is His own interpreter
And He will make it plain."

In closing, may I urge especially those who until now have shown but little interest in the church, seriously to resolve that 1945 shall be different, by attending the services of the church more regularly, by appearing at the Lord's Table more frequently, by praying daily for their pastor and their church, and last but not least, by contributing toward the support of the church according as God has blessed them, remembering the Lord's unfailing promise: "Give and it shall be given unto you."

Your co-worker in Christ,
Rev. N. E. Paustian,
Pastor