

L U T H E R A N C H U R C H N E W S

Monthly Newsletter of
Gloria Dei Lutheran Church
Highland, Indiana

VOL. I - No. 4

April, 1960.

The Rev. Harold E. Koch, editor

A CHURCH IS BORN

What glorious words were, "I do now declare Gloria Dei Lutheran Church of Highland, Indiana duly constituted as a congregation of the church of Christ." These words marked the end of a lot of dreams, prayers and efforts. But more, they marked the beginning of a new "Communion of saints" a fellowship of believers with all of the dreams, prayers and efforts that lie in the future.

The organization membership included 115 confirmed and 82 child members or a total of 197 baptized members. Dr. Wick, the president of the Indiana Synod, said, "...probably your mission is the largest that we have ever organized in Indiana."

But, friends, our mission is just beginning. Now we must go out and bring others into the fold. "There is more joy in heaven over one sinner that repents than over the 99 who need no repentance." True, we have been born. Now we must grow.

ORGANIZATION DAY OFFERING EXCEEDS GOAL

Cautiously the Steering Committee set a goal for the Day's Offering at \$750.00 to be designated for the Site and Building Fund. When all envelopes had been opened and tabulated the total was \$ 1,216.95 ! As one man put it, "Pastor, we sure were pikers, weren't we?" This certainly tells a story of what happens when we make the venture in faith and leave the results to God.

THANKS FOR THE LOANS, FRIENDS.

Choir robes and the kneeling bench were loaned by the First Presbyterian church, Highland; the acolyte's robe by First United Lutheran, Hammond; filmstrip projector for use in EMV visitors' training by First and also Redeemer Lutheran, Highland.

NEXT RECEPTION OF MEMBERS: JUNE 12

New members will be received on The Festival of the Holy Trinity. Speak to the Pastor if you are interested in membership with us. An Inquirers' Class will begin at a time convenient for those interested.

INDIANA SYNOD TO CONVENE AT ELKHART

Beginning with a Service of Holy Communion on Sunday, May 8 the annual convention of the Indiana Synod will be held in Grace Lutheran Church, Elkhart through Wednesday, May 11. On Monday morning Gloria Dei will be received into the Synod. We'd like to have a large delegation present for this occasion. Mr. Aaron Nelson has been elected the congregation's delegate. Let's plan a caravan for this great day.

WE "KICK-OFF" HIGHLAND'S CLEANUP CAMPAIGN

One of Highland's "eyesores", as it was called recently, namely, the burned house on our church site, was removed several weeks ago. We are deeply indebted to Mr. Douglas Crowe for using his crane to demolish the house and to Mr. Bob Crowe for loading the remains on his dump trucks for removal to the city's disposal area. Some of our men spent many hours in the operation to this point.

Now, men, the time has come to finish the job. So, this Saturday, April 30, at 9:00 a.m. we will gather with rakes and muscles at our church site. Come when you can and stay as long as you can. Thanks!

E.M.V. A HUGE SUCCESS

Even though the final report is not in yet (8 families yet to be contacted), our first Every Member Visitation exceeded our hopes and prayers. The weekly budget of \$207 is almost met; we are confident that the final tabulations will put us over the top. Thanks to those who participated in the visitation. Thanks to you who stayed home and received the visitors. Thanks to all for your generosity!

ANOTHER NEW MISSION STARTS

The first service of a new ULCA mission in Merrillville was conducted last Sunday and attended by 93 people. Meeting in the Merrillville Methodist Church, the group has its service at 12:15 p.m. after the Methodists are finished. Church School will begin Sunday, May 8. The Rev. Garland Baer is the mission developer.

THE LUTHERAN TO ALL MEMBERS

The membership list is being processed in the Publication House which takes about 4 to 6 weeks. So, about June 1 each member family will receive The Lutheran, the weekly magazine of our Church that has received many awards for its excellence. We hope you will find it informative, stimulating, as well as interesting reading.

THE COST OF DISCIPLESHIP

"What does it cost to become a member of the church?" is a question often asked. One of our teenagers learned recently the cost of discipleship. When a decision needed to be made between attending a public school function on Palm Sunday during the school vacation and attending the organizational service of Gloria Dei, the decision was made as a Christian that found this person in church. The cost? A lowered grade in a nonacademic subject to the point where the honor roll was missed. You draw your own conclusion as to the fairness of such a situation. The Pastor has drawn - and expressed - his. The cost of discipleship? Loss of "honor" in the eyes of the public school system. BUT, MORE IMPORTANT, a clear conscience and a sense of rightness in the eyes of God. Congratulations, Teenager!

MORE GIFTS SINCE LAST REPORT

Two candle-lighters given by Mr. & Mrs. James O'Reel. Red paraments given by Mrs. Maude Blaeser. Green paraments given by Mr. & Mrs. Walter Boldt. Missal stand and two offering plates given by Mrs. Cross, Mrs. Dearth and Mrs. O'Reel.

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING: May 22.

GLORIA DEI LUTHERAN CHURCH
P. O. BOX # 1672
HIGHLAND, INDIANA

Church School - 9:30 a.m.
The Service - 10:45 a.m.
Nursery during The Service
(Highland Christian School)

WORSHIP ATTENDANCES AND OFFERINGS

Because the last Newsletter was mailed early in March, here are figures for March and April:

Date	Attendance	Offerings	Bldg. Fund
2/28	153	\$ 108.97	\$ 30.50
3/2	67(Wed)	37.16	
3/6	131	128.15	30.00
3/9	38(Wed)	21.20	3.00
3/13	130	122.62	33.00
3/20	143	115.22	134.00
3/23	47(Wed)	27.61	
3/27	121	113.00	26.00
3/30	45(Wed)	24.91	
4/3	145	158.16	23.00
4/6	42(Wed)	22.85	
4/10	226(AM)	109.44	17.50
4/10	118(PM)	7.00	2.00
4/14	102(Thur)	71.97	12.35
4/17	202	153.68	*363.00*
4/24	126	124.17	13.00

* This figure includes \$335.00 given by sister congregations as "birthday offerings"

CHURCH SCHOOL ATTENDANCES AND OFFERINGS

2/28	99	\$ 20.20
3/6	105	22.02
3/13	95	19.95
3/20	96	19.51
3/27	103	21.07
4/3	116	23.91
4/10	103	23.59
4/17	118 (high)	28.62
4/24	84	15.30

We are growing to the point where we need more teachers, especially with summer vacations coming on will we need substitutes. If YOU would be willing to teach in our Church School, please let Mary Clark or the Pastor know of your desire to share in this great responsibility.

Non-Profit Org. U. S. POSTAGE
P A I D
Hammond, Ind. Permit No. 1537