Reformed Church Gleanings

A Monthly Journal Devoted to the Interests of the New Holland Charge, New Holland, Lancaster County, Pa.

Vol. 2.

NEW HOLLAND, PA., APRIL, 1909.

No. 7.

THE ZELTENREICH CHURCH RECORD

The following is a translation of the things written in German on the first, or title page, of Zeltenreich Reformed church, the oldest record in the custody of the pastor:

Church Record

of

The Zeltenreich Congregation, Begun in the year 1766,

Ву

John George Witner, Bellheim, Palatinate.

Chosen the Reformed pastor of the four united congregations: Cocalico, Modecreek, Reihers and Zeltenreich.

The parsonage, which the four united congregations, namely, Zeltenreich, Modecreek, Cocalica and Reihers, built, and afterwards improved, cost altogether five hundred and thirty-five pounds in Pennsylvania currency

On July tenth, in the year of our Lord, 1779, the four united congregations bought 155 acres of land from John Palmer for 3,500 pounds cash. Of the above mentioned land they sold on July 17th twenty-five acres, together with the parsonage, for 4,000 pounds cash.

Explanatory Notes,

The date of the building of the parsonage is not given, but the formation of the letters indicates that this part of the page was not written by Mr. Witner, and that, therefore it was built after his pastorate. The parsonage here mentioned was located near Bethany church (then known as the Cocalico church), not far from the toll gate, east of Ephrata.

The subsequent sale of the parsonage, together with part of the land bought from John Palmer, would indicate that another parsonage was built on the remaining land. But the record does not mention this fact. From other sources, however, we know that such a parsonage existed, and that the

congregations who owned it so'd it, about the year 1850, together with the land, and divided the proceeds between them. The New Holland congregation, as the successor, at the time, to the old Zeltenreich congregation and heir to the latter's interest in the joint property, received as its share of the proceeds \$1,150.

This money was used in purchasing, in 1852, the property, then known as the Alderfer property, and now owned and occupied by Carpenter Weaver, near the U. B. church, New Holland. The congregation paid \$1,300 for it, and in the following year sold it for \$1,400. The proceeds were used in building the present parsonage of St. Stephen Reformed church in 1857, on a lot bought from Isaac Brimmer for the sum of \$500, which amount was donated by Hon. William Hiester, then an active member of St. Stephen.

The Reihers congregation mentioned on the title page is the present White Oak church, now a part of the Bethany charge.

The price of land in 1779 seems to have been high according to the record. But it is to be remembered that this was during the time of the Revolutionary War, when the paper, or Continental currency was at a heavy discount, as compared with silver and gold. The land was not so dear, but the money was cheap. Those who had business transactions during our Civil War had practical knowledge of how much cheap money it took to buy the necessaries of life. During Lee's invasion of Pennsylvania, a Confederate officer offered the pastor, then a student in the seminary at Mercersburg, a five-dollar Confederate bill for a three-cent U.S. postage stamp. As it was too difficult a problem to estimate the value of such a U. S. stamp in Confederate currency the stamp was donated and the bill returned to the officer.

In the next number of the Gleanings will appear some of the baptisms recorded in this old old church record.

CONGREGATIONAL ITEMS.

Zeltenreich.

The spring communion will be held at 10 A. M., Sunday, April 25, and the preparatory service at 2 P. M., Saturday, April 24. The offerings at this communion ought to be liberal, so as to enable the treasurer to pay the apportionment in full, as usual

Levi Yost has taken the place of Graybill Sprecher in the sexton's house for the coming year.

Small amounts of money have come in towards the payment of the heating plant and the debt.

Some of the members seem to think that the debt might as well remain for the present. But as the congregation continued the Committee on Finance until the amount of the debt is raised and paid, those in charge of this matter must consider it their duty to try to collect the money needed for this purpose

St. Stephen.

Communion, as usual, will be held at 10:30 A. M. on Easter Sunday, and service at 7:30 every evening during Passion Week, except Saturday. On Friday evening there will be confirmation service and on Saturday, at 2 P. M., preparatory service. In connection with this service the annual election of officers will also take place. The following candidates have been proposed to the congregation by the consistory:

Elders, Henry J. Besore, David F. Besore, Jonathan H. Weaver and Frank Raezer, two to be elected.

Deacons, B. Franklin Alderfer, Jason D. Bair, F. E. Williamson and Charles F. Bair, two to be elected.

Trustees, Elias Groff and George Keiser, one to be elected.

The trustees have appointed G. Weidler Bensinger sext on for the coming year. Mr. Bensinger occupied this position for a number of years formerly

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Rev. John G. Noss, Editor. Wm. M. Stauffer, Publisher.

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APRIL, 1909.

PASSION WEEK AND EASTER

Passion Week is so named because it marks the period of the great suffering of Jesus, the Christ, in Gethsemane and on the cross. All Christians have great cause to make much account of this suffering for they are the beneficiaries of untold blessings because of it It has to do with what the Lamb of God did for them. His agony in the Garden and on the Cross was endured for their sake. He laid down His life for them. And what He did for us is of far greater account than anything we can do for Him. Love for others manifested by suffering, even in human life, is the surest test of its quality. "Greater love hath no man than this that a man lay down his life for his friends." And those who benefit by such love must be ingrates, indeed, if they are not made the better by being reminded of

But all human love could never have accomplished for us, even by the greatest possible suffering, what the love of Jesus has effected for us by his inexpressible agonies during the last week of His life on earth. The love of our hearts should be greatly quick. ened by calling to mind and dwelling upon this unfathomable love of our suffering Saviour.

Whenever the Church of Christ ceases to study and to heed the lessons taught by the history of Passion Week, she will not only give the surest evidence that her love for the crucified Christ has grown cold, but she will also become powerless to draw men unto Him who was Tifted up." If Passion Week teaches us the lesson of the love of Christ by suffering, Easter reveals to us His power over death and the grave. Victory after seeming defeat is always cause for great rejoicing in any sphere. But no victory has ever been snatched from

the jaws of seeming defeat equal to that of the resurrection of Jesus on Easter morning. The tomb of Joseph of Arimathea was not merely the narrow space which marked the restful abode for the broken body of Jesus, but it was the scene also of the greatest triumph over an enemy the world has ever known. It was not simply a restoration to the former life as in the case of Lazarus and others who were raised from the dead by the power of God, but it was the glorification of the mortal into the immortal, the corruptible into the incorruptible and the natural into the spiritual. "Knowing that Christ, being raised from the dead, dieth no more; death has no more dominion over Him. For in that He died He died unto sin once; but in that He liveth He liveth unto God."

Passion Week should arm us with the willingness of mind to suffer with Him, if need be; Easter should impart to us the consciousness of victory over death and the grave. Our union with Him ought to afford us the assurance at all times that in Him we have already passed from death into life. If during Passion Week we can sing with Monsell: "My sins, my sins, my Saviour," we can sing with Harbaugh on Easter, and ever after, "Jesus, I live to Thee."

THE LAYMEN'S CONVENTION AT HARRISBURG.

The pastor was not present at this convention, which met in Salem Reformed church, March 16-18. Neither was any member of the New Holland charge present so far as he knows. This is no evidence of indifference. The fact is that the spring of the year is a very busy time with all our members, and all our members too have employment. We have no men who can command much leisure. From reports received through other sources, however, it is learned that the convention was largely attended there being over six hundred delegates present and was a revelation to many of the strength and zeal of the laymen of the Reformed Church. The convention took action looking toward of the men throughout the Church.

The great essentials of happiness are, something to do, something to love and something to hope for.—Thomas Chalmers.

MEETING OF THE JOINT CONSISTORY

The Joint Consistory of the New Holand charge will meet in St. Stephen church in New Holland, at 2 P. M., Saturday, April 17, to elect officers for the coming year, and to elect delegates to the annual meeting of the Classis of Lancaster, as also to transact such other business as may come before this judicatory. It is desirable that all the elders and deacons attend this meeting. The Classis of Lancaster will hold its annual meeting in Faith Reformed church, Lancaster, Monday, May 3, and will not be in session over Sunday.

He who errs and mends, Himself to Heaven commends.

-Spanish.

Inscription on the refectory of a Franciscan convent at Lyons, France: Beware—

- Of wishing all you see;
- Of believing all you hear;
- Of saying all you know;
- Of doing all you can.

You may have silver vessels, but earthenware reasons, principles and appetites.—Epictetus.

Grief, it is truly said, is sacred; but grief brought forward promiscuously, harped upon, condoled over, made the staple of conversation, becomes rapidly profane.—Gail Hamilton.

Those that dare lose a day, are dangerously prodigal; those that dare misspend it desperate.—Joseph Hall

Let us believe neither half the good people say of us, nor half the evil they say of others.—Anon.

Well got wealth may meet disaster, Ill got wealth destroys its master.

-Spanish.

Continued from page 1. CONGREGATIONAL ITEMS.

St. Paul.

vention took action looking toward greater missionary activity on the part of the men throughout the Church.

The spring communion will be held in this congregation at 10 A. M., Sunday, May 2, and the preparatory service at 9:30 on the same day.

Elder E. H. Burkholder has been drawn as a juror for the coming session of the U. S. Court of the Eastern District of Pennsylvania, which meets in Philadelphia on Monday, April 5.

DIRECTORY.

PASTOR.

Rev. John G. Noss, New Holland.

ZELTENREICH.

Elders.

Jeremiah Seldomridge, Kinzer R. F. D. George W. Bair, New Holland. Cyrus Shaeffer, Bareville.

Deacons.

Harry Diller, New Holland R. F. D. James W. Brubaker, New Holland R. F. D.

Louis C. Leberman, New Holland R. F. D.

John Flickinger, New Holland R. F. D. John S. Livers, Gordonville R. F. D. Frank W. Miller, Gordonville R F. D.

ST. STEPHEN, NEW HOLLAND Elders.

Edwin C. Mentzer, New Holland R. F. D.

David F. Besore, New Holland. Henry J. Besore, New Holland. William M. Stauffer, New Holland.

Deacons.

Frank Raezer, New Holland. B. F. Alderfer, New Holland. Leroy W. Groff, New Holland. M. Darius Good, New Holland.

Trustees.

Elias Groff, New Holland. David F. Besore, New Holland. Henry J. Besore, New Holland.

Sunday School.

Elias Groff, Superintendent. Clifford Townsley, Secretary, Jason D. Bair, Treasurer, George Keyser, Librarian.

ST. PAUL, VOGANVILLE.

Elders.

Ezra H. Burkholder, Farmersville. A. V. Walter, M. D., Brownstown.

Deacons.

Isaac P. Mull, Voganville, Andrew F. Shrom, Voganville. Charles E. Seldomridge, Voganville. John M. Good, Ephrata, R. F. D.

Mighty Saviour, gracious King, Now Thy waiting people bless; Thou that dost deliverance bring; Come to reign in righteousness.

Thou dost heavenly light impart: Tune the ear to Zion's song;

Teach and guide the wayward heart, Loose and prompt the stamm'r ing tongue.

Pour Thy Spirit from on high; Come, Thy mourning Church to bless;

Streams of life and Joy supply; Fill the world with righteousness;

Light shall then possess Thine own,
Holy quiet, perfect peace;

And when heav'nly seed is sown, Thou wilt give the blest increase.

CHURCH CALENDAR.

The services for April are as follows:

St. Stephn.

Sunday, 4th., 7 p. m.

Saturday, 10th., 2 p.m., Preparatory service.

Sunday, 11th., 10:30 a. m, Holy Communion.

Sunday, 18th., 10:30 a.m. Sunday, 25th., 7 p. m.

Services every evening except Saturday, during Passion week.

Sunday School, 9:15 a.m. every Sunday.

Mid-week service at 7:30 p. m. each Wednesday.

Catechism at 6 p. m., every Sunday.

Zeltenreich.

Sunday, 11th., 2 p. m. Saturday 24th., 2 p. m., Preparatory service.

Sunday, 25th., 10 a.m., Holy Communion.

St. Paul.

Sunday, 4th., 10 a. m. Sunday, 18th., 2 p. m. Sunday, May 2nd., Preparatory service 9:30 a. m., and Holy Communion at 10 a. m.

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