

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., DECEMBER, 1908.

No. 3.

CONGREGATIONAL ITEMS.

Zeltenreich.

At a congregational meeting held after the preparatory service, Saturday, November 7, the Committees on Finance and Building offered their reports. They were both adopted. The Building Committee was discharged, having finished the work for which it was appointed. The Finance Committee was continued until the balance due on the church is collected.

At the same meeting the treasurer, John Flickinger, submitted the following report:

Receipts.	
Subscriptions and donations.	\$7,096.57
Subscriptions for windows.	710.00
Subscriptions for carpet	255.85
Materials sold, old and new.	98.67
Borrowed	1,000.00
Total	\$9,161.09
Expenditures.	
Bricks	\$955.93
Laying bricks	917.88
Carpenter work	952.51
Sand and freight	126.26
Mortar stain	50.36
Lime	224.75
Hardware, paint, etc.	323.70
Copper sheathing	79.78
Mason work	109.38
Lumber and mill work	2,047.27
Slate	326.75
Window and door sills and steps	264.00
Flagstones (donated)	9.60
Plastering	247.25
Spouting and coping	196.69
Manual labor	83.67
Hauling water	46.00
Painting	59.00
Donated	3.00
Pews	647.75
Chairs and freight	100.99
Bell (donated)	355.00
Glass	610.00
Pulpit furniture	147.00
Carpet and rugs	236.76
Expenses at corner-stone laying and dedication	15.00
Gate (donated)	7.00
Total	\$9,149.78
Balance on hand Nov. 7.	11.31
	\$9,161.09
Unpaid subscriptions for church and windows	\$101.00
Unpaid bills on hand	29.30

This report of the treasurer, together with his book accounts, were referred to an auditing committee consisting of Ezra H. Burkholder, Farmersville, and Charles E. Seldomridge, Ephrata. This committee is to report to the congregation at some future meeting. Mr. S. M. Seldomridge was appointed with authority to appoint another suitable person to inquire into the necessity of procuring a charter for the congregation.

At the same meeting Elder Jeremiah Seldomridge was re-elected for three years, and Deacons Harry Diller and Louis C. Leberman were also re-elected for the same terms.

At a meeting of the consistory, held after the meeting of the congregation, Elder G. W. Bair and Deacons Harry Diller and Louis C. Leberman were appointed a committee to procure a sexton for next year.

We had a fine day for the communion on November 8, and a good attendance. But the pastor, in making up the record of those who communed, missed quite a number of names. It is taken for granted that the absent ones had a good reason for remaining away.

The furnaces are giving satisfaction so far; but the weather has not yet been cold enough to test them thoroughly.

St. Stephen.

The Sunday School is at present engaged in practicing the hymns for the Christmas service. All should attend these meetings for practice, so that every one may become familiar with the service.

A telephone has been placed in the parsonage by the Enterprise Telephone and Telegraph Company. This convenience will be appreciated by the members and friends of the congregations, who have occasion to communicate with the family in the parsonage, as well as it is by the occupants themselves.

The class in the catechism, which meets every Sunday evening at 6 o'clock, is not as large as it ought to be, but it is growing. An encouraging feature is the attendance of quite a number of the young members who

were confirmed in recent years. Occasionally, too, some of the older members are present. This is as it ought to be. The Reformed Church believes in educational religion. This does not mean that we try to make Christians by education, but that we believe that Christians ought to be educated, or taught those things which pertain to their religion. God alone can make Christians as He alone can make human beings. And just because we are human beings and Christians we ought to be instructed as such from childhood. And we should never get the feeling that we are ausgelernt, that is, that our learning is finished in either direction.

The usual union services of Trinity Lutheran and St. Stephen Reformed congregations were held on Thanksgiving Day in St. Stephen Reformed church. The sermon was preached by Rev. S. M. Mountz. The offerings, as usual, were given to the General Hospital, Lancaster.

This congregation has a good and an unusual record, considering its somewhat limited membership, in the fact that two of its members are graduate trained nurses and another one is in training.

St. Paul.

The last communion in this congregation, held November 15, was the smallest during the present pastorate. This was partly due to the heavy snowfall on the preceding day and night, and to a funeral in Voganville at 1 P. M. of the same day. But we all are aware that this congregation is not holding its own numerically. The many removals in recent years, and the deaths, have reduced the membership considerably, and the increase has not been sufficient to make up for the losses. At present the pastor is making an effort to get at least a small class together for confirmation in the spring. No doubt the future of this congregation will be one of the matters brought to the attention of the joint consistory at its next annual meeting in the spring.

Mrs. Mary Buck has been on the sick list. The pastor gave her communion at her home.

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Rev. John G. Noss, Editor.

Wm. M. Stauffer, Publisher.

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DECEMBER, 1908.

CHRISTMAS.

We all know that Christmas is the annual festival in celebration of the birth of Jesus, the Son of Mary; and that He was at the same time the only begotten Son of God, begotten of the Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made; of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven, and was incarnate by the Holy Ghost of the Virgin Mary, and was made man. We all know, too, that He was named Jesus by the angel who made known His coming conception and birth to Mary. Jesus means Saviour. It is the personal name of our Lord. All that He did and suffered was in harmony with His person, and, therefore, also in harmony with His name. The person is not for the name, but the name for the person. In the case of Jesus, the name and the person were in full harmony. He is the only Saviour of men from sin. As such He was promised to man from the beginning of man's sin. The promise was made to Eve that her seed should bruise the head of the serpent. And to Abraham the promise was given that in his seed all the nations of the earth should be blessed. In both cases the promised seed meant Jesus, the Saviour of men.

No wonder, then, that the angel said to the shepherds on the night of the birth of our Lord: "Behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people; for unto you is born this day, in the city of David, a Saviour (Jesus), which is Christ the Lord;" and that the heavenly host, in the company of the angel, sang, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men." There have been many births of sons, in the history of the world, that caused great joy to families and nations on earth; and there are many celebrations of the birthdays of notable men by the different nations of the world today, because of what these men were and did in their day and genera-

tion; but these men were, after all, only of the earth and their history-making deeds were effective only in things in time. The best of them could not take away a single sin of their own, or of others. Jesus, however, is the Saviour from sin of all who believe in Him, and His glory shall fill heaven and earth, and of His kingdom there shall be no end. For God has "given Him a name which is above every name; that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth and things under the earth; and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father." No wonder that the angels of heaven called upon men on earth to rejoice with them at the birth of Jesus.

We Christians, therefore, should especially rejoice on the birthday of Jesus; and it may help us to appreciate the great blessings which have come to us by the birth of Jesus, by trying to think of what our condition and that of the world should be if Jesus had not been born. Let us all rejoice with a holy joy.

I. H. S.

Some time ago the pastor was asked by some one what these letters, generally seen in the form of a monogram in churches, mean. The person said he had been told that they stood for the words: "I have suffered." The pastor has since discovered that others also do not know what these letters mean. They are the initial letters of the Latin words *Iesus, Hominum Salvator*, and these words mean "Jesus the Saviour of men." These Latin words were a favorite inscription upon church furniture from ancient times, and it has been the practice long since to indicate them only by their initials, especially in the form of a monogram. The same is true of the Greek letters α and ω which often appear on windows and in other parts of the churches of today. They are the first and last letters of the Greek alphabet—Alpha and Omega—and are explained by what our Lord says of Himself in Rev. i, 8: "I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the ending, saith the Lord, which is and which was and which is to come, the Almighty."

The robes of lawyers are lined with the obstinacy of suitors.—Italian.

He that brings good news knocks hard.—Irish.

ON THE SICK LIST.

Mrs. John L. Mentzer, who was lately confirmed in St. Stephen church, New Holland, has been quite ill since the birth of her child. At present there are indications that look favorable for her recovery. May the Lord spare her life.

Elder Edwin C. Mentzer is able to be about again, and his daughter, Mrs. James W. Brubaker, is also around again after being ill for a few weeks.

Mrs. Lem. R. Boyer has also been ill for about ten days, but the indications are that she also can get out of bed in a few days.

MARRIED.

At the parsonage, New Holland, November 5, Leroy Hess, of Byers-town, to Miss Annie G. B., the second daughter of Mr. and Mrs. S. Diller Bowers, of New Holland.

At the residence of the bride's parents, near New Holland, November 12, Morris M. Kling, to Miss Ruth A., the second daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Hooper.

The Almanacs.

The almanacs of the Reformed Church for the year 1909 are on hand, and are being distributed among the members of the three congregations. It is desirable that this publication should be in every household in the charge. The members should be informed in the matters contained in this almanac of the Church, which, as usual, is filled with facts and pictures interesting to all.

A gem is not polished without rubbing, nor is a man perfected without trials.—Chinese.

One man may teach another to speak, but none can teach another to hold his peace.—Polish.

Better pass a danger once than be always in fear.—Italian.

The nimblest footman is a false tale.—Welsh.

He who grasps too much lets much fall.—German.

He has nothing who is not content with what he has.—Portuguese.

A bad workman quarrels with his tools.—English.

Anger is as a stone cast into a wasp's nest.—Malabar.

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

A friend that you buy with presents will be bought from you.—English.

One hour's cold will drive out seven years' heat.—Scottish.

Everybody's friend is nobody's friend.—Spanish.

He loses nothing who keeps God for his friend.—English.

Woman, wind and luck soon change.—Portuguese.

A wise man carries his cloak in fair weather, and a fool wants his in rain.—Scottish.

Words are the daughters of earth, and deeds are the sons of heaven.—East Indian.

CHURCH CALENDAR.

The services for December are as follows:

Zeltenreich.

Sunday, 6th., 10 a. m., Catechism, 9 a. m.

Saturday, 12th., Catechism, 2 p. m.

Sunday, 20th., 2 p. m., Catechism, 1 p. m.

Saturday, 26th., Catechism, 2 p. m.

St. Stephen.

Sunday, 6th., 7 p. m.

Sunday, 13th., 7 p. m.

Sunday, 20th., 10:30 a. m.

Sunday, 27th., 10:30 a. m.

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.

St. Paul.

Sunday, 13th., 10 a. m., Catechism, 9 a. m.

Sunday, 27th., 2 p. m., Catechism, 3 p. m.

CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICES.

Zeltenreich, 10 a. m.

St. Stephen, 7 p. m.

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