

Church/Organization: **GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH**
(also known as *Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church*)
Clifford Avenue & Manitou Street
Rochester, NY

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VOLUME CONTENT:

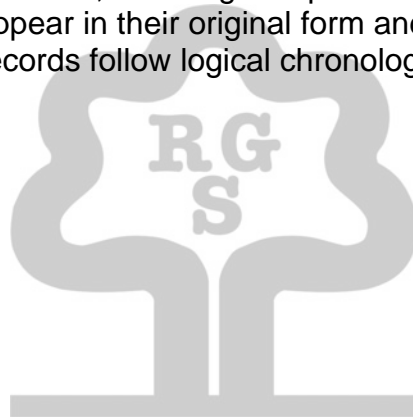
60th Anniversary Booklet 1889 - 1949

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Celebrating...

60 YEARS OF SERVICE



GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH
ROCHESTER, NEW YORK

The Reverend Paul R. Hoover,
Pastor

Mr. Edward H. Graef,
Organist - Director

Sunday, September 25, 1949

10:30 A. M.

spirit of Thy grace, we may unitedly serve in the upbuilding and furtherance of the Kingdom of God and of our Lord Jesus Christ, Thou, Who livest and reignest with the Father and the Son, ever one God, world without end. AMEN.

O Lord Jesus Christ, Who, in this our day, dost place before Thy Church a mighty opportunity for witnessing and service: Awaken us and all who call Thee Lord and Master to our holy privilege of laboring for Thee, and strengthen us to the accomplishing of Thy will, so that through the activities of Thy Body, the Church, the Gospel of redeeming love may be made known to the healing of souls and lives of men: Thou, Who livest and reignest with the Father in the unity of the Holy Ghost, One God, world without end. AMEN.

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 ANTHEM—"Thanks Be To God".....*Stanley Dickson*

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 THE EPISTLE LESSON.....*Galatians 5.25 - 6:10*

THE GOSPEL LESSON.....*Matthew 6:24 - 34*

THE APOSTLES' CREED.....*Page 17*

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 READING OF GREETINGS

DEDICATION OF MEMORIAL PULPIT AND LECTURN ANTEPENDIA  
 AND PASTORAL STOLES

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND INTRODUCTION OF THE SPEAKER

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 THE OFFERING

ORGAN INTERLUDE—"Arioso in A".....*J. S. Bach*

THE DOXOLOGY

HYMN—"Angel Voices Ever Singing".....*240*

Angel voices ever singing Round Thy throne of light, Angel harps, forever ringing, Rest not day or night; Thousands only live to bless Thee, And confess Thee, Lord of Might!	Yea, we know that Thou rejoicest O'er each work of Thine; Thou didst ear and hands and voices For Thy praise combine; Craftsman's art and music's measure For Thy pleasure Didst design.
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Thou, Who art beyond the farthest Mortal eye can scan, Can it be that Thou regardest Songs of sinful man? Can we know that Thou art near us, And wilt hear us? Yes, we can!	Here, great God, today we offer Of Thine own to Thee, And for Thine acceptance proffer, All unworthily, Hearts and minds and hands and voices, In our choicest Melody.
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Honor, glory, might and merit
Thine shall ever be,
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
Blessed Trinity!
Of the best that Thou hast given,
Earth and heaven
Render Thee. AMEN.

THE ANNIVERSARY MESSAGE.....*The Reverend Edmund A. Bosch*
 National Organizer and Executive Secretary,
 St. George Association of the United States

ANTHEM—"Gloria in Excelsis, from the 12th Mass".....*Mozart*

THE PRAYER, followed by the Choir singing "The Lord's Prayer".....*Malotte-Deis*

"THE BENEDICTION".....*Lutkin*

RECESSIONAL HYMN—"From All That Dwell Below The Skies".....*293*

From all that dwell below the skies Let the Creator's praise arise; Let the Redeemer's Name be sung Through ev'ry land, by ev'ry tongue.	Your lofty themes, ye mortals, bring; In songs of praise divinely sing; The great salvation loud proclaim, And shout for joy the Saviour's Name.
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Eternal are Thy mercies, Lord, Eternal truth attends Thy Word; Thy praise shall sound from shore to shore, Till suns shall rise and set no more.	In every land begin the song; To every land the strains belong; In cheerful sounds all voices raise, And fill the world with loudest praise.
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AMEN.

EXTINGUISHING OF THE ALTAR CANDLES.....*Silent Prayer*

ORGAN POSTLUDE—"Festal Postlude".....*Faulkes*

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 THE ALTAR FLOWERS are in loving memory of Edward R. Brockmann by the Rathke Family, his Wife and Family.

THE PALMS AND ADDITIONAL FLORAL DECORATIONS are in loving memory of Mr. Edward R. Brockmann by His Brothers.

THE MEMORIAL PULPIT AND LECTURN ANTEPENDIA are the gift of Miss Ethel Mackie in loving memory of Her Mother, Mrs. Sophie Morthorst.

THE PASTORAL STOLES are presented to the Church by the Altar Committee.

We welcome with pleasure as our Anniversary Speaker, wishing him Godspeed in his new work as Chaplain in the Police Department of the City of New York and as the National Organizer and Executive Secretary of the St. George Association of the United States, our good friend, the Reverend Edmund A. Bosch. His brother had a part in the 50th Anniversary celebration, thus making the Bosch Family a part of the continuing history of the Church.

We have set as our goal for the 1949-1950 season SIXTY NEW MEMBERS. If you do not have a church home, the Pastor will be glad to have your name and address and call upon you at his earliest convenience. Please sign the Guest Register in the Manitou Street vestibule after services today.

## HIGHLIGHTS OF YESTERDAY AND TODAY

**BEGINNINGS . . .** The facts of history are cold and lusterless; the people of history live and the record of their lives inspire! Facts and people, congregation and organizations, leadership and followers, — all combine to make the yesterdays of life intimately related to the today we enjoy.

Eternity has gently called to all but a few of those who remember how on January 5, 1889 the Reverend J. E. Whitteker, Pastor of the Lutheran Church of the Reformation was authorized by his Church Council to promote a mission congregation on the "Wakelee Farm". Two weeks and a day after this authorization, on January 20, 1889, seventeen teachers and officers together with ninety-seven pupils became the nucleus around which on September 25th the sentiments for a new church were crystallized into action. On that date, encouraged by the presence and use of a newly dedicated chapel costing three thousand dollars, twenty-one people signed their names to a document: "That We, the undersigned hereby form ourselves into an English Lutheran Society with a view of organizing an English Lutheran Congregation as soon as practicable, and we pledge it our moral and financial support." With the adoption of a constitution December 2, 1889, Grace Lutheran Church became a living reality.

**TIMES HAVE CHANGED . . .** We shall content ourselves in this review of highlights of the past only with those forces which strike one on a hasty reading of the records. In it no characteristic of past life is sharper than the ability possessed by the congregation to face change. While most congregations have to build only one church home, our church has had two. Ever since Miss Libbie Fricker was retained as the first organist "who shall receive the sum of fifty dollars per annum", or it was recorded in the Council minutes of May 10, 1892—"On motion the building committee was authorized to make some arrangements to prevent the chairs that are used in the choir from marking the walls", there is evidence of progressive thought and growing life dedicated to a persistent purpose. In the face of differences of opinion and different interpretations of change, relative to many phases of congregational life, when the situation began to clear and the emergency made real in the experience of members, the majority was willing to move with the demands of the times. This can be seen in relation to population shifts, to finances, to methods of operation, and to the multitude of forces and factors with which leaders of institutions particularly have to deal.

Population changes were primarily responsible for the erection of the new church building on Clifford Avenue. The Duplex envelope system eventually displaced former methods of finance. How different is the present financial system from that which concerned a Council meeting in 1895: "Resolved: that the plan of payment now in vogue be so amended as to insure to the church's weekly income the weekly rental of 10 cents for each sitting—further resolved, that in order to carry into effect such plan that the Pew Committee be instructed to assign such seats when selected. Same to take effect on and after October 1st 1895." When the German language question came to the forefront within Lutheran ranks our people on September 7, 1902 withdrew from the New York State Synod and joined the new English synod. The present hymnals were first used Ash Wednesday of 1920, not too long after their introduction into the

national church. Do you know anything about the Knights of Wartburg? Probably not. Yet, organizationally, this group played a large part in early Grace history. The Knights of Wartburg was the young men's group whose counterpart is the Daughters of Grace. Willingness to accept measures problematical in their ultimate success, like mailing bulletins to families not in attendance at Sunday services, is indicative of the lengths to which the congregation has always been willing to go if the welfare of the congregation is served thereby. Consistently over the period of sixty years the Hand which moves our lives has helped our people not to be overcome with fear in the face of change.

**PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT . . .** Study of the programs and minutes must in some such manner account for such things, for instance, as the development of our physical resources. Physical property and its condition to no small degree mirror the attitudes of people and offer an insight into their spiritual and mental make-up. Sixty years later, without our ever knowing from whence the spirit came however, we are indebted to no small degree for our progressive motivation to the spirit of the Reverend J. E. Whitteker and the people of the Lutheran Church of the Reformation. Reverend Whitteker's "spirit became contagious" can be found in several historical documents. This reference is to his congregational watchword, "Let us be a Missionary Church." And, inspired by it, a Mission Union was organized. Its work was financed by a group of leaders who made possible a type of Home Mission work of the most approved type. Thus, eventually the title to our first church home was turned over to us as a free gift. That our people were conscious of their debt and the Christ-likeness of the method, it ought to be recalled that in years when "the going was tough" for our people, who had problems of their own, Grace Church played no small part in the establishment of Redeemer, Resurrection and Transfiguration Churches.

Only a Kingdom-minded congregation would have been able in six decades to accomplish the following things: Improve and decorate the Niagara Street church, November 15, 1891; purchase parsonage; enlarge it May 10, 1908; clear it of indebtedness by the liquidation of the mortgage, April 7, 1910; renovate the church again in August, 1910. The transition to the scene with which we are more intimately familiar began with the following chain of events: February 26, 1916, the present site for the present church building was purchased at a cost of \$2,025. February 9, 1917, plans for a new church were accepted. February 18-22, 1917, campaign for building funds netted \$35,000. in cash and pledges. April 21, 1919 present parsonage was purchased at a cost of \$5,000. Because of governmental restrictions on building during World War I the 1917 plans for a new church were restudied after the war. After laborious work on the part of an Advisory Building Committee, they agreed upon the preparation of new plans. Originally it was intended to build only a basement, and, at a later date to finish the erection of the building somewhat along the lines of our present plant. These plans were changed as building progressed. The result being our present edifice with the tower still incomplete. The tower was never completed because of the additional costs—a very good reason indeed. The room, above the floor level of the Clifford Avenue entrance, was designated as a Church Council room. It was never completed and thus the Church Council has never had a room of its own. Ground for our present edifice was broken at 4:00 P.M., September 19, 1920. Corner stone laying ceremonies took place December 12,

1920. Sunday, November 13, 1921 the church was dedicated and for a week thereafter congregation, organizations and individuals celebrated the happy event. They had hoped for less than their efforts finally brought. Some time later the Niagara Street property was sold.

Progress toward realization of the simplified plans for the new building increased in scope as the building took shape. The last service was held in the old church May 29, 1921. Ending almost thirty years of service in that structure, the congregation gave thanks to God at a last communion service. There were 173 members present. On June 5th services were begun in the new Church hall "until the Sunday School building (was) ready and the auditorium complete." \$654 was pledged toward the increased current expenses due to the enlarged plant on June 15, 1921. The bringing of our present edifice to its present state of completion was a gradual and sacrificial process. The effect of the 1929 depression upon parish activities and plans was devastating. One can see the effect even as late as in the minutes of the Congregational Meeting of 1942. The records of that meeting supply the information that the mortgage on the Church was \$31,731 and that on the Parsonage, \$2,722.50.

Our present organ left Alliance, Ohio from the Hillgreen, Lane & Co. factory weighing 12,000 pounds. It was packed in 29 boxes. The harp stop we enjoy so much was the gift of the 1924 Church Council. The organ was dedicated Sunday, October 5, 1924 in connection with the Pearl Jubilee. 60 gallons of paint were used in the decoration of the Church Hall in March of 1939, while in December of that year Concordia Church gave us the present altar in the chapel. It was in this period that the chapel came into being. The chapel, as it was before present decorations, received its coat of paint at the hands of the Young People. May 25, 1947 the Tower Sound System, dedicated to Mr. G. Elmer Fisher, was dedicated with special ceremonies which included a large chorus and the spoken voice of Mr. Fisher's brother. October, 1947 the Pre-School room in the Social Halls was remodeled and painted. Our present sanctuary, as the result of the contagious enthusiasm and giving on the part of our people plus the work of some fifty men from the congregation, was dedicated April 11, 1948. Included in the decorations was a new roof, relocation of the choir, changes such as a remodeled chancel, a new altar rail and reredos, removal of the sliding doors and supplementation of chancel and auditorium lighting. Thus sketchily have we traced the development of the physical plant during sixty years. The last item in this chain is the placing of storm windows on all of the church windows during January of 1949.

**JOYOUS OCCASIONS . . .** With the exception of a few years our records from 1920 until the present are very complete. Limited space precludes anything like a complete report of the many joyous occasions whose records reflect growing enthusiasm and vitality. Throughout the years anniversaries were appropriately celebrated. With each celebration came breaths of new life and new effort within the congregation. Attractive printed programs are in the archives for the Dedication of the Church building, the Pearl Jubilee, the 50th Anniversary and others. Perhaps at some future anniversary a history that will do justice to the service rendered to individuals, to their community and to their God will be published.

**CONSECRATED WORKERS . . .** Most interesting perhaps of all the impressions one has in peeping into yesterday's life centers around how year after year the

same family names and some individual names find their way into the record. Furthermore, one can see continuity in the work and interests of the organizations. In the "Record and Directory" of 1894 we read not only the names of individuals and families still in the Church, but organizational names are still in use whose origins have probably been forgotten. In 1894 the Luther League had ninety members and was composed of a separate group for the boys and another for the girls. The girls were called "The Daughters of Grace" and the boys, originally called "The Young Men's Lutheran Association" following the social pattern of the day, were called the "Knights of Wartburg." These groups were especially important in their activities, contributions, and financial support of the Niagara Street congregation.

Thus, starting with the Sunday School, the Choir Club, the children's and young people's groups, the men's and the women's organizations, there is a continuous record of devotion and sound accomplishment without which it is unlikely that conditions which were trying could have been met. Not all of their work was of a serious nature. Picnics, chowder suppers, sauerkraut dinners, minstrels, plays, pageants and special services furnished opportunities for fellowship throughout the years. More suppers are probably remembered than sermons. Ingenuity in methods for raising funds as suggested by individuals and successfully used by groups and church body alike, without violating Scriptural rules for giving, is a tribute to the loyalty of Grace Lutheran members. Projects have had an important part in gathering what we now enjoy. The Altar Vases, for instance, dedicated on January 29, 1922 were the gift of the C T S Class of the Bible School. Mr. G. Elmer Fisher, church organist and teacher of the Class, of whom something special is rightly said, through the courtesy of his brother, secured them from Damascus where they were made by hand. Other typical indications of the consecrated workers we have been so fortunate to have in our church, can be seen from such items as: "First Sunday after Easter—Dedication of Altar Fair Linen, Gift of Daughters of Grace. 22 yards of hem-stitching was done by hand." July 27, 1941—"Red Superfrontal given by the Passavant Missionary Society in memory of Mrs. Anna Betty Krumwiede." December 1, 1939—"130 gathered to pay tribute to Mr. Fisher and to mark the 30th anniversary of our choirmaster and organist." No task has been too small and no job too big to challenge either hands, hearts or pocketbooks. Fortunate is the leader who has men and women with such an attitude with whom to work. While dollars are important, the value of work done and the spirit generated by it is of incalculable worth.

A special paragraph ought to be reserved for those who, throughout the years, contributed of time and effort to reduce the mortgages to their present insignificant size, to all of those who have served as teachers and officers of the Church Council, the Bible School, the Choir, the Youth Organizations and to the Men and Women's groups. Committees have played an important role in institutional functions. Particularly has Grace Church been known for its large and effective men's work over the period of the years. There was a time when the Brotherhood, by its sheer size and influence, commanded the best by way of program in the city of Rochester.

**PASTORAL INFLUENCE . . .** The Church is a family. Its binding tie is God's love. Its saving grace is the consciousness of weakness as well as strength in all

God's children. Its goal is the Kingdom and the reward for work within the family is the inner satisfaction of having served, trusted and uplifted the lives of others. Whether we use such common words or speak of "salvation", it is a Higher Hand than ours which weighs the worth of years and the work of men. Who can evaluate in the truest sense what members and Pastors have contributed to the Kingdom by virtue of their membership or their call to Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church? Too often we see one another only "in part" and miss the joy of seeing the movement within the life of all churches as an advance over other generations. In this "movement" throughout the years each pastorate has seen some advancement.

The following ministers have served Grace Church: the Reverend D. W. Sarver, January 8, 1890–July 26, 1891; the Reverend William L. Hunton, October 4, 1891–September 30, 1894; the Reverend Waldo Emerson Murray, February 14, 1895–November 26, 1905; the Reverend C. P. Weiskotten, January 19, 1906–September 23, 1907; the Reverend Frederick C. Martin, December 1907–August 31, 1919; the Reverend Walter Krumwiede, November 1, 1919–September 26, 1943; the Reverend Edward J. Simpson, December 5, 1943–September 16, 1946; and the Reverend Paul R. Hoover, from November 19, 1946 to the present.

**TOMORROW BECKONS . . .** The purpose of the foregoing, incomplete account of yesterday's life is to mirror the movement and to glean from the highlights some estimate of the spirit beneath the growth of creeping years, to call to remembrance the challenges faced in the past, and to indicate the debt we owe to others. Tomorrow beckons! To one in whose heart there dwells a loyalty and even a slight approximation of understanding and love for the ever living Jesus, Tomorrow calls and such a person is ready to answer, the "best is yet to be."

