

MARKING TIME AT REDEEMER – 1920-1925, by Diana Rankin

As the City of Saint Paul prospered and grew in size, so did Redeemer. Within the space of only 35 years, the congregation had increased by almost 100-fold, outgrown 3 different church buildings, and started 3 “daughter” congregations.

1920

- The League of Nations was formed and the League of Women Voters and the American Civil Liberties Union were founded. The 18th Amendment prohibiting the sale and distribution of alcoholic beverages and the 19th Amendment giving women the right to vote were ratified.
- Three African American men were beaten and lynched by a mob in Duluth and another 13 were held in the St. Louis County Jail.

- Pastor Paul Lindemann was installed as pastor.
- Paul Hennig, Irene Markley’s grandfather, was accepted as a voting member.
- With a \$2,000 contribution from Redeemer, the English District purchased property at Prior Avenue and St. Clair Street for a new mission. A new mission chapel, which later became Pilgrim Lutheran Church, was dedicated on August 29th.
- Redeemer and St. Stephens began canvassing the area between Prior, University, and Lexington “to where the world stops in the north.”
- By the end of the year, Redeemer’s membership consisted of 1,250 souls, including 742 communicants and 168 voters.

1921

- President Warren G. Harding signed a congressional resolution declaring peace with Germany, Austria, and Hungary.
- Montgomery Ward built their retail store and warehouse at 1400 University Avenue.

- Redeemer celebrated the 10th Anniversary of the new church building at Dale & Carroll. Pastor Lindemann wrote in the April *Record*: “Congregational anniversaries never celebrate human accomplishments, but always the unmerited goodness of the Lord. ... And while we survey with grateful hearts the blessings of the past, we will pray for strength and cheerfulness to meet the obligations and opportunities of the present and the future.”
- The congregation considered moving because of the need for a larger building. Half of the Sunday School was meeting in the church nave and the other half in the basement and a third service was added. The voters decided, however, to stay at Dale & Carroll and add onto the building. They managed to get the alley to the south vacated and purchased property along Dale & Iglehart. The architects, Slifer & Abrahamson, drew up plans for seating 972 at an estimated cost of \$77,000 with \$42,000 of that to be raised from members. The congregation also formed an organ committee and it was remarked in the *Record* “What a relief it will be when our present organ will be permitted to issue its last expiring groan!”
- On October 23rd, there was a special service to celebrate the 30th Anniversary of the Ladies Aid Society.

1922

- The British Empire covered one-fourth of the world and ruled 1 in 4 people on earth. The Lincoln Memorial in Washington, D.C. was dedicated. The first issue of the *Reader's Digest* was published.
- Judy Garland was born in Grand Rapids, MN and Charles Schulz, creator of *Peanuts*, was born in Minneapolis.

- Redeemer's Sunday School had its largest attendance ever – 401 students – on February 5th.
- The organ committee recommended an organ built by Wangerin-Weickhardt Co. of Milwaukee.
- Pastor Lindemann moved to 623 Iglehart and the original parsonage built in 1911 was sold.
- Attendance at 3 services on Easter Sunday was over 1,400.
- In July the *Record* reported that "The colored drawings of the memorial window, which will be presented to the church by the Pearson girls, is [sic] now ready." The window in the east transept consisted of 3 panels depicting the birth of Jesus, the Garden of Gethsemane, and the Resurrection.
- The new addition to the church building was dedicated on December 10th, the first social event in the new basement was held on December 11th, and the new organ was dedicated by Prof. C. Rupprecht of Chicago on December 14th. The choir had new vestments and, for the convenience of congregants and visitors, there were now 5 entrances to the church – 2 on Dale, 1 on Carroll, and 2 on the west side of the building.

1923

- The first issue of *Time* magazine was published. Calvin Coolidge became President of the United States following the death of Warren G. Harding. The Walt Disney Company was founded.
- Frank C. Mars, born in Hancock, MN, introduced the Milky Way candy bar. The actor James Arness was born in Minneapolis.

- Redeemer members continued to collect clothing and funds for Europeans who were suffering from the aftermath of World War I.
- The Ladies Aid Society raised \$15,000 to pay for the new organ, carpets, and other furnishings for the expanded church building.
- Harold Dufresne and Marion Thomas – David Dufresne's parents – were confirmed on May 20th.
- It was decided to start a church library.
- In December, 483 were enrolled in Sunday School and the average attendance was 290.
- At the end of the year, Redeemer had a membership of 933 with 199 voting members.

1924

- Russian leader Vladimir Lenin died and Josef Stalin assumed control of the Soviet Union. All Native Americans were given U.S. citizenship. The first Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade was held.
- The worst mining disaster in Minnesota happened when 41 miners drowned in the Cuyuna Range Milford mine. In the smallpox epidemic of 1924-25, more than 4,000 people were stricken and 504 died. Ground was broken for Memorial Stadium at the University of Minnesota.

- Redeemer held Lenten services for the first time on Wednesday evenings.
- The *Record* notes dire conditions in Germany, especially starvation; more than one-third of the population was out of work. Members contributed funds which were sent to a pastor in Germany.

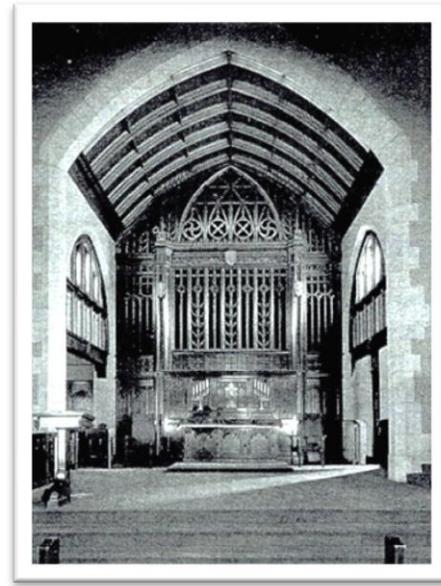
1925

- F. Scott Fitzgerald published *The Great Gatsby*. John T. Scopes was indicted for teaching Darwin's theory of evolution. An estimated 5 million Americans belonged to the Ku Klux Klan. Mount Rushmore National Memorial was dedicated and the Chrysler Corporation was founded.
- Richard G. Drew, a young 3-M lab assistant, invented masking tape. Production began at the Ford Motor Company's Twin Cities Assembly Plant.

- Redeemer began the year with a total of 1,006 people on the membership roles; this was reduced to 938 active members.
- The Sunday School used the second pocket of the offering envelope for missionary purposes, specifically the "negro missions" in the South. The November 1924 *Record* asked readers to "Come with me to the pretty city of Selma, Alabama. Do you see that little shack over there? It measures only 20x30 feet. That is the Lutheran church and school in Selma. In the one little room two Lutheran teachers are instructing over one hundred pupils."
- Redeemer established the Redeemer Church Home for Lutheran girls from "out of town." The large house was located at 307 North Dale and was dedicated on April 5th (Palm Sunday). Rent and 2 meals was \$6.50 to \$9 per week or \$1 per night for "transients." A matron was in charge of the home.
- Several of the English Lutheran churches were outgrowing their buildings. These included Mt. Olive (Redeemer's first "daughter") and Christ Church in Minneapolis and Our Savior's and Pilgrim (Redeemer's 2nd and 3rd daughters), Mt. Olive, and Jehovah in St. Paul.
- **On November 29th, Redeemer celebrated its 35th Anniversary.**



Redeemer Church Home for Lutheran Girls



Expanded Sanctuary -- 1922