

MARKING TIME AT REDEEMER: THE THIRD DECADE (1910-1919)

Redeemer's third decade – 1910-1919 – was marked with building a new church at Dale Street and Carroll Avenue and astounding growth in membership. Here are some of the highlights of that decade in Redeemer's history and in that of the surrounding community and the larger world.

1910

- Boy Scouts of America was founded. Henry Ford sold 10,000 automobiles. Mother Teresa was born and Mark Twain died.
- Minnesota had 2,075,700 residents; about 30% of Minneapolis and St. Paul residents were immigrants – the 2nd largest immigrant population among all the states.

Redeemer broke ground for its new building on the southwest corner of Dale Street and Carroll Avenue on April 23rd and laid the cornerstone (St. Cloud polished granite) on July 10th. In the fall, the congregation built a parsonage facing Carroll and 30 feet from the church. This is roughly the location of today's courtyard and entrance to the Learning Center.

The congregation continued to worship in the old church at Lafayette and Woodward while the new church was being built. "By resolution of the congregation, and to satisfy a rather general demand, especially on the part of the young people, the Christmas service will be held at six o'clock on Christmas morning." (Redeemer Record, December 1910)

1911

- George V became King of the United Kingdom. The Triangle Shirtwaist Co. factory in New York City caught fire, killing 146 people, mostly immigrant women and girls working there. The U.S. Supreme Court ordered the Standard Oil Company to be dissolved under the Sherman Antitrust Act. Ronald Reagan was born.
- Saint Mark Lutheran Church on West 7th Street in St. Paul switched from the German language to English. A canal connected Minneapolis' Lake of the Isles to Lake Calhoun.

The new church building was dedicated on March 19th with 3 services (10:45 a.m., 3 p.m., and 7:45 p.m.). The regular worship service schedule was 11 a.m. and 7:45 p.m. on Sunday with Sunday School and Bible Class at 9:30 a.m. and Communion on the first Sunday of the month.

In March, Mr. and Mrs. Albert Bielenberg, grandparents of Bette Steglich and Susan Bielenberg, were accepted as members.

1912

- The African National Congress was founded to improve rights for black South Africans. The *RMS Titanic* sank. American Girl Guides was founded; the name was changed to Girl Scouts a year later. New Mexico became the 47th state and Arizona the 48th state; Alaska became a U.S. territory.
- St. Paul Curling Club was founded. Walter Deubner, a grocer in St. Paul, invented and patented a shopping bag that could carry up to 75 pounds; he sold them to customers for 5 cents each.

Redeemer held its first Summer School. In July and August, children came to the church 4 days a week, 9:30-11:30 a.m. Average attendance was 60 and the children studied the Catechism and Bible history and learned hymns. Forty children were enrolled in Confirmation classes.

1913

- Woodrow Wilson was inaugurated as President of the United States. The 16th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution authorizing the federal income tax and the 17th Amendment providing for direct popular election of U.S. senators were both ratified. The Federal Reserve System was authorized, reforming U.S. banking and finance.
- The first Lutheran Kindergarten and daycare was established in Minneapolis. The Great Lakes Storm of 1913 which began on November 7th was a frozen hurricane; it began on Lake Superior, created 60 mph winds in Duluth, and eventually killed at least 248 sailors, destroyed 19 ships, and stranded 19 other ships.

Former members of Redeemer who had moved to California were establishing congregations. Redeemer encouraged its members to assist financially with the organization of Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church in San Diego.

Redeemer helped establish a mission at 835 East 7th Street on Dayton's Bluff. The English District of the Missouri Synod granted a subsidy of \$50 a month so that a pastor could be called. Pastor Kreinheder encouraged Redeemer members living on Dayton's Bluff or Arlington Hills to join the mission.

1914

- The assassination of Austrian Archduke Franz Ferdinand on June 28 triggered World War I. The Ford Motor Company raised the basic wage from \$2.40 for a 9-hour day to \$5 for an 8-hour day. President Woodrow Wilson declared neutrality in the European war.
- The Toro Motor Company was founded in Bloomington, MN and the Greyhound bus line in Hibbing.

Redeemer's worship attendance in March averaged 81 at the morning service and 59 in the afternoon. As of May 10th, there were 220 children enrolled in Sunday School.

The Dayton's Bluff Mission was officially organized as the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Our Savior with 10 voting and 56 communicant members.

The Lutheran Church of the Missouri Synod had a Board for Negro Mission. On October 11th, the Rev. N. J. Bakke, director of the "mission among the Negroes of the south, preached a very eloquent and interesting sermon on this work in our church."

On October 30th, the Redeemer League had what may have been Redeemer's first annual Halloween party. It was held for the 39 confirmation students.

According to the Pastor's annual report, Redeemer had 102 voting members, 446 communicant members, and a total of 600 souls. The Pastor baptized 30, confirmed 26, married 25 couples, and held 13 burials. The Sunday School had an enrollment of 325 and 21 teachers.

1915

- Alexander Graham Bell and Thomas A. Watson made the first transcontinental telephone call. A German submarine sank the British ship *Lusitania*, killing 1,198 passengers. Haiti became a U.S. protectorate.
- All brothels in Minneapolis were finally shut down because of the persistent efforts of temperance organizations, churches, neighborhood associations and government reformers. The first Mass was held in the Cathedral of St. Paul on Easter Sunday. Both the Minneapolis Institute of Art and the Marjorie McNeely Conservatory at Como Park were founded.

Redeemer's newest mission, Evangelical Lutheran Church of Our Savior, dedicated its new building on the corner of Earl and Minnehaha on October 3rd.

In November Redeemer finally sold the property at Lafayette and Woodward. This allowed the congregation to pay off its \$20,000 debt to the Aid Association of Lutherans.

800 attended the 6:15 a.m. Christmas Day service; a Sunday School Christmas service was held at 4:30 p.m.

1916

- General John J. Pershing entered Mexico in pursuit of Francisco (Pancho) Villa. The U.S. bought the Virgin Islands from Denmark and established a military government in the Dominican Republic.
- Eugene McCarthy, U.S. Senator from Minnesota 1959-1971, was born. Five brothers who immigrated from Russia founded the Shinders bookstores. The Iron Range Miners Strike of 1916 on the Mesabi Range was violent; Industrial Workers of the World assisted in organizing the miners.

More than 300 people were attending evening services and 405 children were enrolled in Sunday School. A majority of the children (54%) were from families who were not members of the congregation.

1917

- The Russian Revolution abolished the monarchy and the Bolsheviks under Lenin took control of the country. The U.S. entered World War I on April 6th after Germany declared unrestricted submarine warfare against neutrals. Puerto Rico became a U.S. territory and its people U.S. citizens.

- The highest maximum temperature ever recorded in Minnesota was 115 degrees F. on July 29th at Beardsley in Big Stone County. The newly created Commission on Public Safety suspended constitutional freedoms, largely out of fear of the state's immigrant population (largely German) and labor unrest.

*Redeemer purchased and placed "Lutheran Books" in the St. Paul Public Library.
By October, 9 members were serving their country in the U.S. Army or Navy.*

1918

- World War I ended with the signing of an armistice on November 11th. More than 10 million soldiers died in the war. An influenza epidemic killed an estimated 20 million people worldwide and 548,000 in the U.S.
- The Cloquet-Moose Lake Fire burned at least 1,500 square miles, killed 453 people, and destroyed 38 towns. In October the Minneapolis Department of Health closed all schools and other public places to close because of the "Spanish Flu" epidemic. More than 75,000 Minnesotans became ill and more than 7,500 died in October alone.

Redeemer became fully involved in the war effort. In January, the "ladies of our church" organized a Red Cross unit. By February, 12 members were in the military. The congregation agreed to sell Thrift and War Savings Stamps through the Sunday School. To conserve fuel, all unnecessary meetings were eliminated, some groups reduced the number of meetings, and others met in members' homes. The voting members decided to hang a Service Flag in the church on Sundays. Between May and July, Pastor Kreinheder served as a chaplain at Camp Stuart in Virginia on behalf of the Synod's Army and Navy Board. By the end of the year, 35 men from Redeemer were in the military.

In March, the congregation established a building fund for an addition to meet the Sunday School's need for more space. Later in the year, railings were installed at the main entrance to the church and the Dale Street entrance.

Pastor Kreinheder was elected president of the English District of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod.

1919

- The 18th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution prohibiting the manufacture, sale, or transportation of alcoholic beverages was ratified.
- The Minnesota Legislature granted women the right to vote for presidential electors. The second deadliest tornado in Minnesota history hit Fergus Falls on June 22, killing 57 and injuring 200. F. Scott Fitzgerald wrote *This Side of Paradise* while living at 593 Summit Avenue in St. Paul.

Redeemer conducted a canvass in August for a new mission between Snelling and the river south of Grand Avenue. In September a resolution was passed to assist the Mission Board in buying or constructing a building for a mission congregation in the Macalester Park District. This was to become Pilgrim Lutheran Church, Redeemer's third daughter congregation.

In September, the Building Committee was instructed to secure sketches for an addition to the church.

With the end of World War I, the Men's Club held a Welcome Home banquet on November 26th. The congregation also resolved to solicit clothing and money for the relief of Lutherans in Europe.

At the end of the year, the Pastor reported the following: 162 voting members, 713 communicant members, and 448 enrolled in Sunday School. Financially, the congregation was barely in the black:

<i>Cash on hand, January 1st</i>	<i>\$961.21</i>
<i>Total receipts</i>	<i>\$12,182.36</i>
<i>Total disbursements</i>	<i>\$12,684.51</i>
<i>Ending balance on December 31st</i>	<i>\$459.06.</i>

As Redeemer's third decade ended, the congregation reluctantly resolved on December 19, 1919 to allow Pastor Kreinheder to accept a call to Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church in Detroit.

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