

MARKING TIME AT REDEEMER – 1936-1940, by Diana Rankin

This is the 7th in a series of articles about Redeemer's history gleaned from *The Redeemer Record* archives and placed in the context of what else was happening in the world, the nation, and Minnesota.

1936

- Hoover Dam was completed. Richard Hauptmann, convicted for the Lindbergh kidnapping and murder in 1932, was electrocuted. *Gone with the Wind* was published. Franklin D. Roosevelt was elected to a second term as President of the United States.
- July 14th was the hottest day ever in the Twin Cities with 108 degrees at the downtown Minneapolis weather office; 71 people died that day due to the extreme heat.
- ***In January Mr. Carl Blomstrand organized a Redeemer church orchestra.***
- ***A reunion of those present for the church dedication in 1911 gathered for a 25th anniversary Service of Praise and Rededication on April 5, Palm Sunday.***
- ***Easter attendance was over 1,800 with 1,300 communicants.***
- ***In May, the pastors acquired a set of burses.***

1937

- On May 6th, the dirigible "Hindenburg" exploded at Lakehurst, N.J., killing 36. Amelia Earhart and co-pilot Fred Noonan vanished over the Pacific Ocean on their round-the-world flight.
- Hormel introduced Spam. Several state parks, including Gooseberry Falls, and Pipestone National Monument were established.
- ***Redeemer organized an Intermediate Choir for 15-19-year-olds.***
- ***Compline was sung for the first time at a Sunday evening service.***
- ***Easter attendance was a record 2,408.***
- ***A club for young married couples was formed.***

1938

- President Roosevelt established the March of Dimes. The minimum wage was established by law in the U.S. Adolf Hitler took direct control of the German military and put Nazis in key positions. Oil was discovered in Saudi Arabia.
- Harold Stassen was elected governor of Minnesota. Curtis L. Carlson founded the Gold Bond Stamp Company, the first consumer loyalty program.
- ***Redeemer began the year with a membership of 1,405; 564 were enrolled in Sunday School and there were 52 teachers. Boys and girls were in separate classes.***
- ***In January the congregation began a 2-year plan for additional work in the sanctuary to be completed by the 50th Anniversary in 1940. The projects were:***
 1. ***Decoration of the walls and ceiling to remedy their "unsightly condition." Estimated cost -- \$5,000.***
 2. ***Kneelers for the pews. As noted in the Record, "To turn around and kneel 'into the seat' is a torturous proceeding, even somewhat dangerous. And one who kneels facing the altar (the proper way) finds that the top of the pew is front of him catches him in the chest, or, if he is small, in the region of his Adam's apple." Cost – at least \$500.***
 3. ***Completion of the window project, including the 2 transept windows, 1 large tower window, and 4 small tower windows. Cost -- \$250, \$75, and \$15 respectively.***
 4. ***Candlesticks – 2 tall ones for the floor. Cost – more than \$175.***

5. Bells in the tower. "We have often wished that the tower [its open sides] would quit yawning and speak to us."

- **Easter attendance was 2,374.**
- **There were now 3 confirmation classes: a preparatory class for 11-year-olds, a junior class for 12-year-olds and older, and a senior class for 13-year-olds and older who had had 1 year of previous instruction.**
- **Lois Hennig, Irene Markley's mother, was confirmed on Pentecost Sunday.**
- **In May the tower window was ordered from Gaytee Studios in Minneapolis. This company is still in business.**
- **November 13th was set aside as Stewardship Sunday by special resolution of the congregation.**
- **In December the practice of celebrating Holy Communion weekly began and midweek Advent services were introduced.**
- **Pastor Paul Lindemann died after a long illness and his funeral service was held on December 15th. He had been Redeemer's pastor since 1920.**

1939

- World War II began on September 1st with the invasion of Poland. On September 3rd, the United Kingdom, France, New Zealand, Australia and India declared war on Nazi Germany. President Roosevelt declared neutrality.
- The Fort Snelling cemetery, established in 1870, became Fort Snelling National Cemetery. MGM's *The Wizard of Oz*, starring Minnesota's Judy Garland, premiered.
- **In January, Pastor Herbert Lindemann, assistant pastor and Paul Lindemann's son, was asked to temporarily fill the vacancy left by his father's death.**
- **In honor of the 50th Anniversary, it was decided to try to liquidate the remaining \$26,681.20 of the \$85,000 debt that resulted from enlarging the church building.**
- **In March it was decided that "There will be symbols above the transept and chancel arches and above the transept windows."**
- **In May, Fred H. Lindemann, Paul Lindemann's younger brother, was called as Redeemer's pastor. He and Herbert Lindemann were installed in June. The congregation now needed 2 parsonages, so 630 Carroll Avenue was purchased.**
- **In September the congregation ordered 3 tower bells from Gillett and Johnston, Limited, Croydon, England as the congregation's memorial to Paul Lindemann. The 3 bells – A, D, and F-sharp – weighed 1,900 pounds and cost \$2,000. The two smallest were to be struck with hammers and the largest would swing. The inscription: "To the Glory of God and in Memory of Pastor Paul Lindemann, 1881-1938. 'He being dead yet speaketh.'"**

1940

- Franklin D. Roosevelt was elected to an unprecedented third term as President of the United States. Adolf Hitler and Benito Mussolini formed an alliance against the United Kingdom and France. Germany invaded Norway, Denmark, the Low Countries, Belgium, and Luxembourg. France was defeated and bombing on London began. The Soviet Union occupied Lithuania, Latvia, and Estonia. Meanwhile in the U.S., women's nylon stockings went on sale across the country, Bugs Bunny made his debut, the first Dairy Queen store opened, the *Grapes of Wrath* was published, and the government took actions, such as the Selective Service Act, to prepare the U.S. for eventual entry into the war.
- The Armistice Day Blizzard struck with 17 inches of snow in Minneapolis-St. Paul and 27 inches at Colledgeville; there were 49 deaths and 59 sailors lost on the Great Lakes.

- *Redeemer began a year-long celebration of its 50th Golden Anniversary.*
- *In February a group of women organized the Mary-Martha Guild for those who could not participate in the Ladies Aid Society. They assumed the duties of the altar flower committee and the Sunday School's Cradle Roll Department.*
- *In March it was noted that delivery of the tower bells was delayed because of the war. It was hoped that Redeemer could eventually acquire all of the notes of the G-major scale.*
- *It was decided to no longer have a public examination of the children who were to be confirmed as it seemed to serve no purpose.*
- *In September, Mr. Theodore W. Hoyer was called as Director of Education and Music, a new position.*

The January *Record* notes that, over the course of the first 50 years, Redeemer's pastors performed the following official acts: Baptisms of adults, 140; Baptisms of children, 1,426; Confirmations of Adults, 734; Confirmations of children, 1,127; Marriages, 1,025; Burials, 420. How many more hundreds of souls since 1940 have been baptized, confirmed, married, and or buried within Redeemer's walls? The official records are in the church office. Any volunteers for spending a few hours counting the entries?



THE REV. PAUL LINDEMANN



THE REV. FRED H. LINDEMANN



THE REV. HERBERT LINDEMANN