

Our day school is truly a glorious monument in the history of Saint Stephanus congregation giving witness to the fact that our members have ever been mindful of God's injunction: "Train up your children in the nurture and admonition of the Lord."

## OUR CHRISTIAN DAY SCHOOL

*"The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom: A good understanding have all they that do His commandments."*

Psalm 111:10

*"The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge."*

Proverbs 1:7

*"Feed my lambs."*

John 21:15

Our school was organized in the year 1888, two years before the congregation was founded, as a branch school of Trinity. Those members of Trinity who lived in this area and found the distance to Trinity school too great, purchased the two lots on which our church today stands and erected a two-story frame building. Services were conducted on the second floor and the lower floor was used as a school room. At this time the school was at the north end of the lot facing Grotto Street. Some years later, it was moved directly east of the church facing Lafond Avenue.



Mr. B. Oestreich was teaching in the school at the time our congregation was organized and was extended a Call by Saint Stephanus to be its first permanent teacher. Because of ill health, he declined the Call but continued to teach until a successor had been secured. However, the enrollment grew so rapidly that it became necessary to call two teachers, C. Laufer for the upper grades and H. Abele for the lower. They were inducted into office on August 10, 1890. When

Teacher Abele resigned several months later, and Mr. Oestreich's health showed a marked improvement, he was prevailed upon to accept the Call as second teacher and was installed on October 19 and served the congregation until 1912.

The enrollment fluctuated from 92 pupils in 1892 to 144 in 1902 and back to 119 the following year. Teacher Laufer remained here until 1894 when he accepted a Call to Good Thunder, Minnesota. He was succeeded by Miss Anna Horst who taught until her resignation in 1907. The vacancy was filled by W. J. Joseph, a graduate of Concordia Teachers College, Seward, Nebraska. He was inducted into office on the 14th Sunday after Trinity in the year 1907 by Pastor Kuntz. These two teachers collaborated to raise the standard of our school, to divide it into grades and to secure its accreditation with the City of Saint Paul. When it became evident that the school was in need of more room, better ventilation, more playgrounds, and the addition of a third teacher, the purchase of the adjoining lots was effected,

the school building was moved from its former location facing Grotto Street to the east side of the church.

It was at this time that a third teacher was called, F. v. Niebelschuetz. In the year 1914 the school had its first graduation exercises for those of the eighth grade and was permitted to issue diplomas admitting them to our city high schools without examination.

In 1912 Teacher Oestreich accepted a Call to a sister congregation near Gibbon, Minnesota, whereupon Teacher Adolph C. Rosenwinkel, a graduate of our Teachers College at Addison, Illinois, was called and installed on the 16th Sunday after Trinity, 1913. We are confident that he is known and loved by all the members of Saint Stephanus



fourth teacher. When Mr. Jacobsen resigned in 1918, the vacancy was filled by calling Teacher W. T. Dreyer, from Fort Smith, Arkansas, where he had taught for two years. Mr. Dreyer, too, has taught our school and Central Lutheran ever since, retiring in June of this year. However, it is also hoped that he can continue on a part time basis.



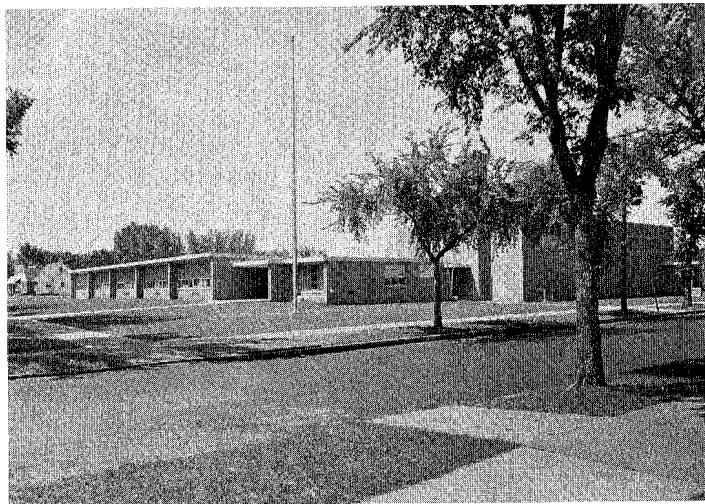
congregation and are especially grateful to our Almighty God that He has granted him the health and the strength so that he is still teaching in our Central Lutheran School, although it has become necessary to do so in a limited capacity. When Teacher F. v. Niebelschuetz resigned in 1914, his place was filled by Teacher E. A. Jacobsen. In this period our school reached its peak enrollment of 169 pupils making it necessary to engage a student as the

When in 1937 Teacher W. J. Joseph, who had taught our school so faithfully for 30 years resigned, the vacancy was temporarily filled by Candidate Walton Doering. Miss June Voehl was also engaged for the lower grades. In the course of time, Geneva Knutson (Mrs. Herbert Wunderlich), Mrs. Jabs, and Betty Schmidt also taught in our school.

As time progressed, space for schoolrooms was at a premium. Pastor Seltz suggested that the congregations in sufficient close proximity establish a Central Lutheran School. In 1948, it was decided that Saint Stephanus, Redeemer, Jehovah, Bethel, and Trinity churches pool the space in the existing schools of the churches interested in the central school and then place all the children that were in the same grades under



as many teachers as there were grades. It was not long before the congregations reached the decision that a central school be established as soon as a suitable site could be found and purchased. In 1950, a plot of ground covering an entire block on North Lexington Avenue, between Seminary and Englewood, was purchased at a cost of approximately \$6,000. The contract to build the school was let July 27, 1950. Albert Plagens served as the architect. The cornerstone was laid in the same year and the school was dedicated in September, 1951. The cost of the building was \$283,804.00. By the year 1952 it became evident that the Association would be compelled to expand the school. A contract was therefore let to add two rooms to the school at a cost of \$27,000. This project was completed in 1954. In 1957 our present school was completed when four additional rooms were added to the west wing.



In 1959 Mr. Paul Koschmann accepted the Call to be the new principal of our Central Lutheran School and has served in this capacity ever since.

In 1964, Mr. Verle Paul and Mr. Roy Eberle accepted Calls to serve on our faculty. During the past year Mr. Waldo Tagatz accepted a Call and has joined our teaching staff.

The Lord has richly blessed our Central Lutheran School with spiritual and physical growth. Our enrollment during the past school year totalled 530 pupils. The highest enrollment in the history of the school was 575 pupils in 1960-61.

At present the school is staffed by 19 teachers, a full-time principal, and a secretary, Mrs. Alfred Pelzl. Our budget for the year 1965 is \$150,700.00. Value of the property and equipment approaches the \$500,000 figure.



CHRISTIAN DAY SCHOOL STAFF—Left to right: Mr. Paul H. Koschmann, Verle E. Paul, Waldo E. Tagatz, Roy W. Eberle, Miss Alice Chelmo, Miss Roberta Werner, Mrs. Harold Waller, Mr. Christian T. Affeldt, Mr. Henry F. Wenzel, Mr. Adolph C. Rosenwinkel, Miss Linda Bauck, Mrs. Walter Engelhardt, Miss Esther Podewils, Miss Arlene Geistfeld, Miss Barbara Uffman, Mrs. Sylvester Lubben, Miss Joan Knippenberg. Absent—Miss Sylvia Bode.