

Old And New Cornerstone To Be Laid By St. John's

Worn Documents Placed in Box at Time of Dedication in 1874 To Be Stored Away With Modern Records by Lutheran Church at Celebration of New Front

Two cornerstones—one of the original church and a new one—are to be laid tomorrow afternoon at 3 o'clock at ceremonies commemorating the new front built upon St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church on Hudson Street.

In the old one are contained all the time-aged documents that were placed in it when it was laid Aug. 23, 1874, by the Rev. Leo Koenig, at that time the pastor of the church. The new cornerstone will contain modern documents and will be laid by the Rev. Alexander F. von Schlichten, pastor of the church.

An announcement from the church concerning the plans for tomorrow follows:

The old cornerstone was laid Aug. 23, 1874, by the Rev. Leo Koenig, at that time pastor of the church. Rev. Berkemeier delivered on that occasion the German sermon and Rev. Richards an address in English. The initials of these clergymen could not be ascertained. Tradition has it—the early records of the church have all disappeared—that the English speaking citizens of Yonkers contributed about \$5,000 towards the building of a church in Yonkers in which their German speaking friends could worship the Lord in their native tongue.

"On opening and temporarily removing the old cornerstone the contents, unprotected, were found in a very poor condition. The contents were: A German Bible, a German hymn book, a German prayer book, a synodical report of the New York Lutheran Ministerium of June, 1874, The Yonkers Statesman of Aug. 21, 1874, the Yonkers Gazette of Aug. 22, 1874, the "Lutherische Zeitschrift" of Aug. 22, 1874, and one or two more German Church periodicals.

"These contents of 56 years ago, though in poor condition, will be put into a copper box which will be sealed and placed back into the original stone, whose surface has been refinished and its original inscription re-chiseled.

"On top of this old cornerstone a new stone will be placed. The contents will speak of the change of time: An English Bible, an English catechism of Dr. Martin Luther, an English prayer and hymn book, local papers, church periodicals and a short history of the church compiled by the pastor, the Rev. Alexander F. von Schlichten. The story of the church was partly culled from the official minutes of the local church and is based partly

on the reminiscences of founders and early members as imparted to the pastor 25 and 30 years ago and verified by subsequent investigations.

"Appended to the history of the church are the names of the seven pastors who have served the congregation from 1869 to 1930, since its organization to the present day, and the names of the six superintendents of the Sunday School since 1869. Then are added the names of the members of the Church Council of 1930, the elders, deacons and trustees; the officers of the Ladies' Aid Society, of the Women's Club, the Junior Walther League and the names of the Sunday School staff. Finally a list of honor is inserted giving the name of every one of the members who has aided the present undertaking by loaning their congregation money on church bonds without interest. This history is to be inclosed in a copper tube, placed in a copper box, and then inserted into the new cornerstone.

"The reason for entombing this information is the keen disappointment felt at opening the old cornerstone which yielded no historical data of a more intimate nature. Of course, the names of the President of the United States, the Governor of New York, and the Mayor of Yonkers will not be overlooked.

"The members of Bethany, St. Mark's and Holy Trinity Lutheran Churches of Yonkers, St. Matthew's of Hastings, Messiah of Inwood, N. Y., Immanuel of Mount Vernon and Concordia Lutheran Church of Bronxville have been invited to participate. All of these churches are affiliated with the Evangelical Lutheran Synod of Missouri, Ohio and other states."

The new church front was designed by Charles J. Hehn, an architect who is a member of the church. The builder was Alexander Bruce and Son.

BETHANY GOSPEL

57 NORTH BROADWAY

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

SUNDAY, 6:45 P. M.—Young People's Meeting.
THURSDAY, 8 P. M.—Prayer Meeting in church.
FRIDAY, 7:45 P. M.—Singing Class, followed by 9:15 P. M.

ALL OTHER MEETINGS REMAIN

We Preach Christ Crucified, Buried, Raised and Ascending into Heaven. Coming Again.

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