



Trinity Lutheran Church

Founded 1892

Part 1

History of Trinity Lutheran Church

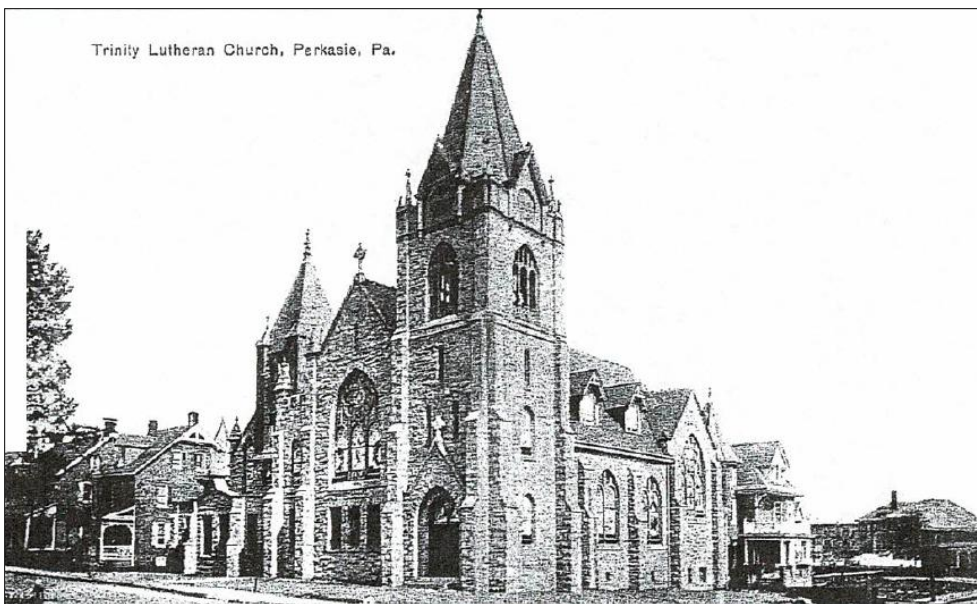
A compilation from our archives, parish registers, and notable anniversary documents

There is something alluring to sitting down, holding a parish register and records, and your fingers run over beautiful penmanship on the very page someone touched in 1895. We are fortunate to have had safe keeping of documents since the founding of the congregation. We can literally touch the pages written by our first pastor and council members. Many churches even in our immediate area, though much older, are not so fortunate.

In spite of the decades of safe-guarded records, there are still many points to stories or archives that do not completely jive. The following pages are a combination of resources left to us, but most notably the 75th Anniversary book from 1967. These photographs and captions are an attempt to put 125 years into some sense or logical order. The first page of this booklet is from the original register, containing membership and notable events 1892-1917.

The challenge of these historical journeys, at least for a church, is that so much-of our exploration begins to revolve around the church building, not the church body. First and foremost, the legacy handed to us today is through the nurture, care, not to mention blood, sweat, and tears of the generations before us. In its earliest days, Trinity Perkasio was an outreach congregation. In just fifteen years they were their own parish embarking on the first of many building expansion programs just to have space for the whole congregation to gather at once.

As we approach the year 2017 and the 325th Anniversary of this congregation, be amazed. Be amazed at a site that almost never stopped growing or renovating. Be amazed at a people and church that saw a community through two world wars, the depression, and now lead us through the drastic changes of the relationship between the church and world of today. Be amazed that despite



many odds, we continue to be deeply blessed and generously supported by many in our midst. Be amazed at how humbling it is to let our history take us out of the here and now, reminding us we are simply the stewards currently privileged with the chance to care for, build up, and celebrate Christ in this place.

RECORD

— OF —

interesting and Important Events

OCCURRING FROM TIME TO TIME

IN THE HISTORY OF

Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church.

At a meeting of the Lutheran Church Council of St. Michael's Ev. Lutheran Congregation (Sellersville), held in March, 1892, the necessity of having Lutheran services at Perkasia was fully discussed, after which a committee of two was appointed to confer with the Lutherans at Perkasia and offer them encouragement towards securing a place of worship. At Hambaald & Thos. B. Dietz constituting the above-named committee.

The Lutherans at Perkasia after some deliberations, and aided by Rev. J. H. Waidelich Pastor of "Sellersville charge," resolved to build a church. Committees on plans, and location were appointed, and the erection of the present brick building began. A committee of 1st Dist. Conference of Ev. Luth. Ministers in re, appointed to look after the interests of the Lutheran church along the North Penn. R.R. gave the work at Perkasia into the hands of Rev. J. H. Waidelich, who laid the Corner Stone of Trinity Ev. Lutheran Church

The First Seventy-five Years

The year was 1891; it was fall. A group of women had banded themselves into a Ladies Aid Society. One of their chief interests was the establishment of a Lutheran Church in Perkasio. The Rev. John H. Waidelich, pastor of St. Michael's Church in Sellersville, learned of their interest and in the Spring of 1892, appointed a committee for the purpose of furthering this objective.

How they met and solved their many problems was to a large extent left unrecorded except, perhaps, in their hearts. Nevertheless, the decision was made – all that remained was the work and dedication required to see the venture through.

On the Sunday afternoon of July 17, 1892, the cornerstone, which we see today as we enter the center door of the church, was laid with established Lutheran tradition and ceremony.

Four months and much stewardship later, on November 14, 1892, a congregation was organized, and the charter adopted.

A dream became a reality when on Sunday, March 19, 1893, the doors of the new church were swung open to welcome to the first service those dedicated men and women who faithfully had shown their loyalty to Trinity.

Pastor Waidelich conducted the first service in Trinity Church and installed our first Church Council: J. H. Daub, Levinus Maurer, Wm. Pflieger, Samuel Schuler, A. A. Baum, and Frank Weber. The dedication of the church was delayed until August 11, 1895. Why, we do not know; but, the first recorded communion took place on October 29, 1893, with 56 persons communing.

A Sunday School was organized on October 8, 1893, with Charles W. Baum as superintendent, and an attendance of 123. The venture was now assured and both Church and Sunday School began a phenomenal growth.

Many problems confronted the congregation in these formative years. For some time Pastor Waidelich brought his choir with him from Sellersville, to render the service, but by December of 1893 Trinity organized a choir of its own. The Ladies Aid Society purchased the clerical robe which Pastor Waidelich wore for the first time at the Good Friday service on April 8, 1898. This new innovation had to be approved at a special congregational meeting, and it is interesting to note that one vote was cast in opposition.

The rapid growth of Trinity, and the desire for more services, caused the congregation to vote unanimously on October 24, 1898,

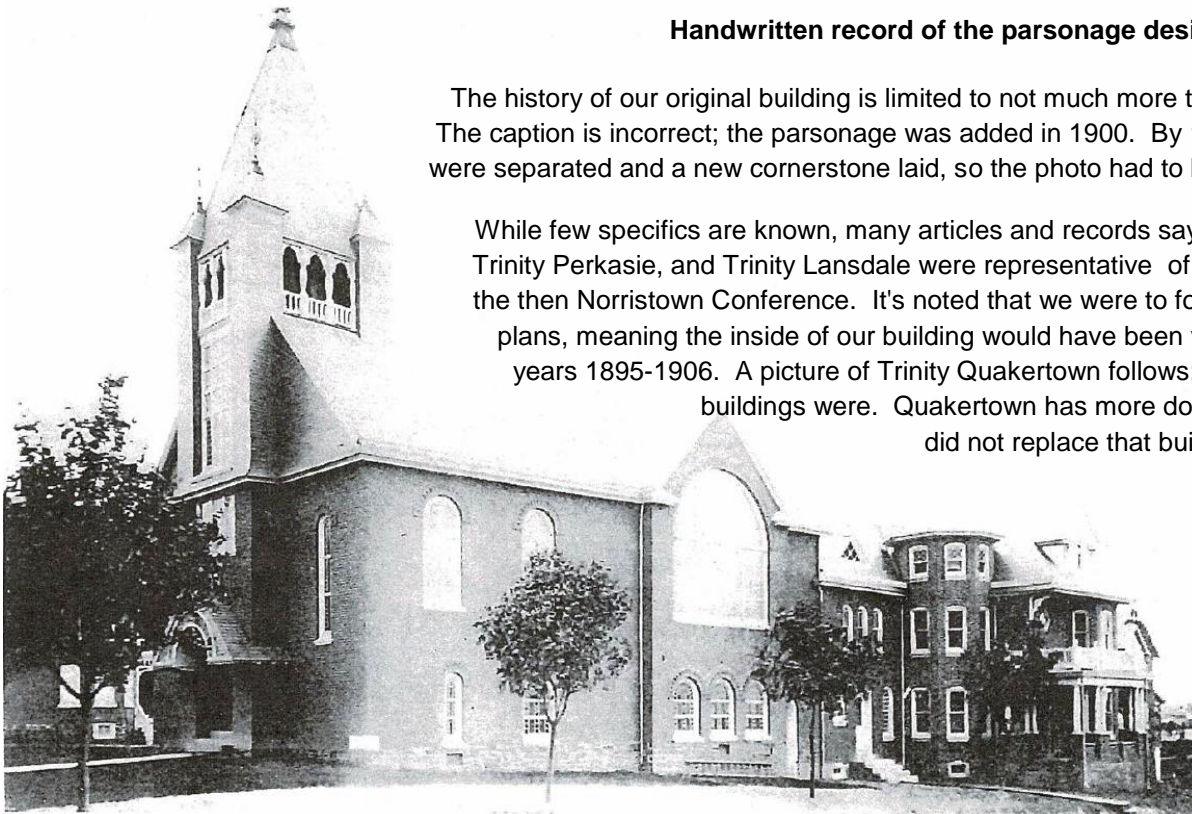
to unite with Jerusalem Church, Almont, to form a parish. The Rev. Preston A. Laury of Marietta, Pa., was called to serve this new parish and was installed on November 12, 1899.

1900 saw the rection of the parsonage, Sunday School membership exceeded 350, and, as the fifth anniversary of the consecration of the church arrived, reports indicated that since the organization of the church, contributions from the Ladies Aid

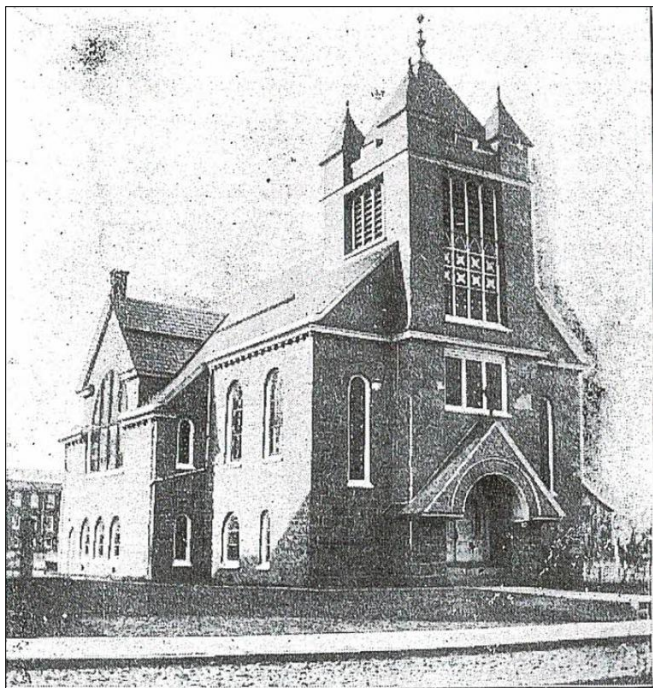
Handwritten record of the parsonage design in 1900 follows

The history of our original building is limited to not much more than this photograph. The caption is incorrect; the parsonage was added in 1900. By 1907, these building were separated and a new cornerstone laid, so the photo had to be taken 1901-1906.

While few specifics are known, many articles and records say Trinity Quakertown, Trinity Perkasio, and Trinity Lansdale were representative of The Three-in-One of the then Norristown Conference. It's noted that we were to follow the Quakertown plans, meaning the inside of our building would have been very similar in its first years 1895-1906. A picture of Trinity Quakertown follows; look how similar the buildings were. Quakertown has more documentation, as they did not replace that building until the 1950s.



CONGREGATIONAL HISTORIES



TRINITY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN
Quakertown, Pa.

Even prior to August, 1881, when the Rev. Daniel H. Reiter became pastor of the Richlandtown parish, many people had already felt the need of a Lutheran church, in the section of Quakertown, east of the railroad, which had become rather thickly settled. After Christ's, Trumbauersville, many of whose members lived in this section of Quakertown, had joined the Richlandtown parish, the movement to provide a church for the spiritual welfare of these people received new impetus. Between 1883-1890, various unsuccessful attempts were made.

It was during the season of Lent, 1890, that Pastor Reiter, with the support of the members of the Church Councils, of both Richlandtown and Trumbauersville, arranged to hold a number of Lenten services, in what was then known as Richland Center or the Station, where a number of the members of the above mentioned congregation lived. The first of these services was held in Shive's Hall, March 16th, 1890, in the German language in

the afternoon, and in the English language in the evening. There were 219 in attendance, at the evening service. Before the third Sunday, arrangements were made to hold the services in the Citizen's Hall. The interest, in the services, was so great and the desire to have them continued was so evident, that the Joint Councils of the parish, at its meeting at Franconia, on April 4th, 1890, took definite steps looking toward the formation of a new congregation (2). The Pastor, William Loux of St. John's and Mahlon Detweiler of Christ's were appointed a committee with authority to act. This committee, in accordance with the action, added the following persons to their committee: Messrs. A. B. Walp and Jacob L. Home, of St. John's and, Messrs. Aaron C. Detweiler and Henry Hoffman of Christ's. The committee then organized by electing Pastor Reiter, chairman; Mr. Walp, secretary; and Mr. Loux, treasurer. It was decided to erect a building suitable for Sunday School and Church purposes, so a lot, with 100 feet frontage on North Hellertown Avenue, was purchased from Mr. A. Y. Nicholas for the sum of \$900.

Mr. M. B. Bean, Lansdale, was employed as the architect, and building operations were begun. The cornerstone was laid on Sunday afternoon, June 21st, 1891, when there was a large attendance. Addresses were delivered by Pastors Berkemeyer, Becker and Waidelidh. The Rev. Oswin F. Waage preached in the evening. At the fall meeting of the First District Conference, in 1891, the people of Richland Center petitioned Conference to organize a congregation, Which petition was endorsed by the Councils of St. John's and Christ's congregations. The request was granted and on Reformation Day, October 31, 1891, a meeting was held in the lecture room of the new church for the purpose of organizing a congregation. A charter, as recommended by Synod, and the constitution, in force in St. John's, were adopted.



Interior View of Trinity



LANDMARK TO LEAVE SCENE: Trinity Lutheran Church's former parsonage will be razed shortly as part of a building program that will cost in excess of \$200,000. The work was approved at a congregational meeting recently. The church will be enlarged over the site of the dwelling. The organ will be rebuilt in another phase of the work. The former parsonage

is connected to the church and for many years was a familiar sight and integral part of the church activity. Demolition will start Thursday. Services will be held in the Fellowship Hall during the estimated nine month construction and renovation period.

News-Herald Photo

✓ cemetery,

May the congregation remain faithful in little that it may be counted worthy to rule over much in the Church Triumphant.

→ In April, 1900, the pastor, P. A. Lamy, threw ^{out} the first shovel full of earth in rear of church ^{as} a beginning of the work on the parsonage. ^{Spills money} The parsonage with modern improvements electric light, hot water, bath, drain etc, erected at a cost of \$4000. was ^{first} occupied by the pastor & family during the last week of September 1900. Resolution to build parsonage ^{congregational meeting} ^{adoption of plan} P. A. Lamy, Pastor. The first general effort at liquidation was made in the early part of 1901 & ^{free will} the offering brought together one Easter day 1901, and amounted to \$700.50

in the afternoon and evening -

J.H. Waidelich, pastor.

Bell Consecration

On Christmas 1895 the S. School scholars received their Christmas gifts in small tin square boxes. When empty these boxes were to be used by the children to gather funds, to be appropriated for a church bell. These contributions were called for on the Sunday before Christmas 1896. Out of the 200 boxes given out, 110 boxes and 38 envelopes came in - The amount thus brought by the children was \$230.63. The bell had been ordered previously by the Church Council from McShane & Co., Baltimore Md., at 15 1/2 cents per lb, and to weigh 1500 lbs.

It was put in the tower on Wednesday, Dec. 30, '96 and rung for trial the first time at 3.25 P.M. on the same day. On New Year's Day coming (Jan. 1, '97) the bell was formally consecrated by the pastor J.H. Waidelich - The German sermon was preached by Rev. J. L. Becker, from Lonsdale, on the text Eccel. 5:1 and the English address, based on Romans 10:18, was delivered by Rev. D.H. Reiter, President of the Horristown Conference. Hymns 138 & 350, Eng. Ch. Book

(Clerical Robe)

On March 16, 1898 the Church Council received a communication from the "Ladies Aid Society" through which they offered to donate a clerical

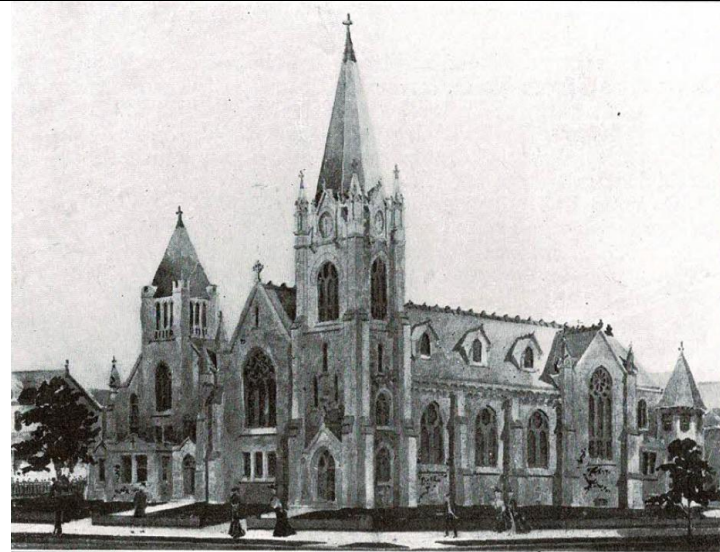
Documentation is no more clear and abundant beginning with the dedication of the new church in 1908.

This article is from the 1907 cornerstone laying. The picture included was an artist rendering. We no longer have this rendering, but seem to have the opposite angle. We think they were water colored sketches.

TRINITY LAYS NEW CORNER STONE

Large Audience to Witness Impressive Service – And Hears Great Truths.

A thousand or more persons on Sunday afternoon assembled on and around the site of Trinity Lutheran church, Perkasio, to witness the corner stone laying. The ceremony was performed by Rev. P. A. Laury, according to the prescribed service. Rev. F. A. Urich, of Quakertown, led the responses, and Rev. A. C. Schenck, of North Wales, read the Scripture lesson. Rev. J. L. Becker, of Lansdale, spoke briefly, taking for his text, Ex. 25: 1-8. He referred to the labors of 20 years, or more, ago, when his members were scattered through this section, and of his difficulties in personally ministering to them. He was especially glad, therefore, that the Lord had established this sanctuary that He might dwell among His people.



Rev. J. H. Waidelich, of Sellersville, the former pastor, made the address on the church history. Fifteen years ago he laid the original coner-stone on the 23rd of June. "Eighteen years ago today," said he, "I was installed as pastor of this parish—serving Perkasio from 1892 to 1900. Part of the history of this church is recorded in the secretary's book. But the tears, prayers, anxiety, worriment, and hours of toil! These are written only in heaven's book. Formerly the watchword of the Fathers was: 'A church in every town along the North Penn.' It was glorious when they saw, at Perkasio, their wish fulfilled. It was glorious when on the first Sunday a Bible school of 133 was organized. It was glorious when the grand old hymns were adopted. It was glorious when the congregation adopted the full service, and

the strict tenents of our faith. It was glorious when the congregation expanded so that it was exceptional when chairs were not placed in the aisles. It was glorious when—but give God all the Glory—and your bodies and souls. Trinity at Perkasio was named in honor of Trinity at Lansdale, and Trinity at Quakertown—and they three in honor of Trinity above.

Rev. D. H. Reiter, of Quakertown "Why is this God's house? The stone is from the same quarries as supplied other buildings. The wood from the same forests. The metals from the same mines. Is it because of the architect or corner-stone laying? Dedication, giving to God—makes the difference. Never use this house for a restaurant, department store, or amusement hall. It is better to preach to one's soul and save it than to 1,000 and merely amuse them. Watch this new building—see that it is always a hous of prayer. Weave around it the heart ones and sentiment suggested by 'My church, my church, me dear old church—with Christ the corner-stone—my fathers' and mine own'."

Rev. George A. Kercher, of Grace Lutheran church, Norristown, mad an appeal for a contribution—which was liberally responded to. The choir then sang an anthem, followed by Lord's Prayer, led by Rev. P. A. Behler—who also pronounced the benediction. A particularly pleasing feature of the occasion was a solo by Miss Addie Fulmer.

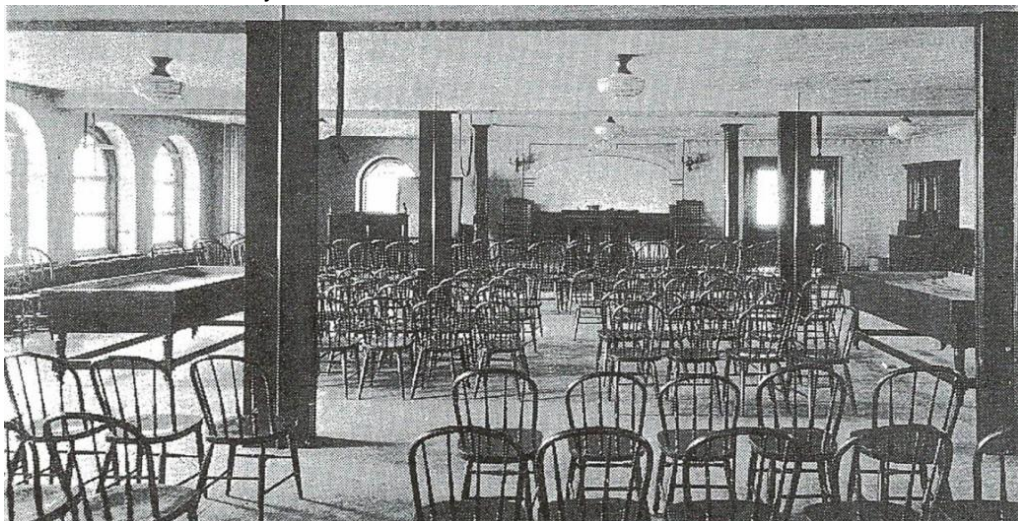
The following are the contents of the corner-stone: Bible, Church Book, Catechism, *The Lutheran*, *The Lutheran Standard*, *The Lutheran Pioneer*, *Young Folks*, *The Young Lutheran*, *Luther League Review*, *Mission Worker*, *The Home Missionary*, *The Lutheran Mission Herald*, *Silouh*, *Missionsbote*, *Diakonissen Fround*. Constitution, Names of members of the Building Committee, Names of members of Church Council, Officers of Sunday school, Officers of Ladies Aid Society, Officers of Luther League, Officers of Phoebe Guild, Minutes of 1906 Synod, Dime of 1907, Central...

Seventy-five Years of Brick and Mortar

The official minutes and parochial reports which have been passed down to us over the past 75 years provide us with a rather complete account of Trinity's organizational and corporate history. However, the records with respect to the physical development of the church facilities are somewhat cryptic and vague. Where can we find in the church records, for example, that the church once had two spires instead of one, or that the floor of the present church parlor was once depressed several feet below its present level, or that the folding doors presently dividing the nave from the church parlor were once located up the side of the wall some eight or ten feet above their Present location?

Of course, one can hardly expect written minutes to contain any detailed accounts of structural changes, first, because such matters do not particularly lend themselves to verbal description, and, second, because it hardly seems necessary, at the time of writing, to describe verbally that which the eye can so readily see. Therefore, we learn relatively little of the physical development of the church from the church records.

There are no longer very many members whose memories reach back to the changes and renovations which took place in the early part of this century. Therefore, since the church records with respect to these matters are so incomplete, it is our purpose here, while recollection still remains, to record and thus preserve the history of Trinity's physical development for future generations. The task must be undertaken now; the data will no longer be available for the 100th Anniversary.



William Unfried's lot." This is the present location of Trinity. However, according to old maps, Chestnut Street (then Main Street) ended at Fifth Street (then Sellersville Road) instead of crossing over as it now does. Therefore, the church property did not actually constitute a corner lot at the time.

The minutes of the March 9, 1892 meeting did not record any discussion of plans or specifications for the first building, but there was discussion relative to the securing of a temporary meeting place for the conducting of services pending completion of the building. It was reported that the Reformed Church had offered the 'use of its facilities for a charge of \$5.00 per service but that the Lutherans would be required to furnish their own light, fuel

The congregation was conceived, we are told, at a meeting of the church council of St. Michael's, Sellersville, in 1892, at which time the necessity of holding services in Perkasio was discussed. A committee of six men was appointed by the Rev. John H. Waidelich, pastor of the Sellersville charge, for the purpose of furthering this objective. This committee held its first recorded meeting on February 24, 1892. At the very next meeting, held on March 9, 1892, it was "agreed to build on Charles Bissey's lot opposite

The "primary department," today the parlor or former library, is undocumented until early 1905. This would have been where the original congregation worshipped 1893-1895, when the upstairs auditorium or sanctuary was completed and dedicated.

In this picture, the windows on the left are now the windows of the pastor's study. I believe this has to be one of the earliest pictures of this space, the window front left and double door front right are full of outside light.

Of specific interest in the article included, is the reminder that Trinity was not, at first, "on the corner!"

The article is continued on the following page, documenting the first building's dedication and plans made for its moving to make way for the new building in 1907.

**Excerpt from Trinity Lutheran Church's
Seventy-fifth Anniversary Publication**

"and janitor. The Evangelicals were more generous and offered their facilities at a cost of \$2.50 per service plus an additional 50c when heat would be required. However, at the next meeting it was decided that no services would be conducted until the Lutherans had a church of their own.

At various meetings held during March and April of 1892, it was agreed that the new structure should be built of brick and that it should have dimensions of 40 feet by 60 feet. The minutes further indicate that the "trustees were instructed to follow the plan of [the Trinity] Quakertown building and changes or improvements if thought advisable." It was also decided "to contract the building piece meal."

For some reason there are no minutes between April 11, 1892 and February 15, 1893. However, we learn from other sources that the cornerstone was laid on July 17, 1892 and that a charter was secured on November 14, 1892. When the minutes resumed on February 15, 1893, the congregation was referred to for the first time as "Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church." Several weeks later, as the building neared completion, a member of council was authorized to buy an organ from Jacob Bissey "not to exceed \$15.00 or \$20.00." As it turned out, the organ cost \$30.00. At the same meeting, it was determined that the first service should be held on the evening of March 19, 18913, and one of the members of council was asked to buy four lamps and to borrow two more from Daub's Store.

The cost of the building was \$7,000.00, but this did not include furniture and equipment. Therefore, the committee found it necessary to urge each of the church members to "buy his own chair." Many people bought several chairs, and Tobias Bissey, although not then a member, contributed two dozen chairs. Incidentally, although the first service was held on March 19, 1893, formal consecration did not take place until August 11, 1895. The reason for the delay is unknown.

The church building as originally constructed constituted that part of the present edifice which contains the church parlor and choir rehearsal room. However, it was built initially not in its present location but instead closer to the present Chestnut Street where the church proper now stands. As stated previously, it was a 40 feet by 60 feet brick building. In the front was a square bell tower. The interior consisted of a basement, a main floor and a balcony. On June 27, 1893 the "secretary was instructed to notify the 'building committee to construct a double water closet." One of our members still recalls that this humble structure was located at the present site of the garage behind the old parsonage.

The bell was a later acquisition. At Christmas time in 1895, the Sunday School children were given their Christmas candy in tin boxes. When the boxes were empty, they were to be used for contributions toward the purchase of a bell. By Christmas of 1896, the children had collected \$230.63. The bell was to cost 151,4c per pound, and it was to weigh 1500 pounds. From this we gather that the actual cost was \$232.50. We have no idea who made up the difference between the \$230.63 and the \$232.50, but we do know that the bell arrived on December 30, 1896 and that it was consecrated on New Year's Day 1897. To this day, the bell bears an inscription acknowledging the gifts of the children.

By 1900, the congregation had grown substantially, and more Sunday School space was needed. Also, Trinity had called its own pastor the year previous, and a parsonage was required. Plans for a parsonage were submitted by two architects, Messrs. Martin and Neff, and the plan prepared by the latter was selected. On April 4, 1900, the construction of a parsonage and "annex" was authorized. This annex was a two story addition extending the full width of the church and 15 feet in depth, built on the end of the church nearest to Fourth Street. The parsonage was erected next to the annex. The approximate cost of this improvement was \$5,000.00. The annex, though much altered, is now that part of the present edifice containing the rest rooms and ladies' choir room on the first floor, and the "quilting room" on the second floor. Of course, the parsonage still remains at its original location.

The minutes contain several interesting entries at about this time. In 1900 council authorized the purchase of electric lights for the church. In the early days, the electric bills averaged less than \$1.00 per month. In 1901 an iron fence and gate were erected between the rear of the church and the alley, hitching posts were installed on Fifth Street, and an umbrella stand was purchased. It is believed that this is the same umbrella stand which was rebuilt several years ago and which now stands in the lobby of the new education building. A privet hedge was planted around the parsonage in 1903, and council authorized the installation of a telephone in the parsonage in 1905. The minutes of December 12, 1905 indicate receipt of an insurance check in the sum of \$3.28 for lightning damage, but the nature of the damage is not revealed.

The congregation soon outgrew its facilities again, and at the annual meeting held on January 9, 1906, council was instructed to study expansion possibilities. Surprisingly enough, serious consideration was given to abandoning the present site and starting anew elsewhere. On May 3, 1906, the building committee reported that it had taken a 60 day option on the purchase of the Joseph Detweiler property at Fifth and Market Streets and recommended that the church, bell and organ be offered for sale at \$13,500.00. Whether the parsonage was to be included in this bargain is not clear. We are not certain which of the four corners at Fifth and Market Streets was the subject of the above option, but from an old Perkasio map, it appears that only the east corner was vacant at that time, so it is assumed that this was the property in question. The matter of relocation was reconsidered, however, and on June 26, 1906 Mr. Detweiler was released of the option, and on October 8, 1906, a bid was accepted for the construction of a..."

Synod decided to hold its 1909 convention in the Church of the Reformation, Rochester, N. Y., the Rev. F. F. Fry, pastor.-----S. G. TRELER.

CHURCH CONSECRATION AT PERKASIE.

Very appropriately on Trinity Sunday, the beautiful and commodious new Trinity Church, Perkasia, Pa., was consecrated by the pastor, Rev. Preston A. Laury. The consecration sermon was preached by Rev. I. B. Kurtz, President of the Norristown Conference, at 10.30 A.M. The afternoon service was given over to addresses by Revs. F. M. Ulrich, C. C. Snyder, W. L. Hunton, Ph.D., and P. G. Hoh. In the evening, the Rev. J. G. Waidelich, the founder of the congregation, and: Rev. Dr. Schmauk, President of the General Council, preached the sermons. The day was ideal, and the church and chapel, together seating 1,500, were crowded at all the services. Special post dedicatory services were held during the week with the following speakers: Revs. A. C. Shenck, W. A. Lambert, C. W. Jefferis, P. A. Behler, D. H. Riter, Warren Nichols, concluding with a special musical service under the direction of Prof. C. A. Marks, of Muhlenberg College. It is specially worthy of note to call attention to the general interest and spirit of co-operation on the part of the neighboring churches which sent their choirs to participate in the festival services, St. John's, Quakertown, Richlandtown, North Wales, and Sellersville choirs having participated.

Trinity congregation was organized in 1892, through the missionary zeal of Rev. J. H. Waidelich of Sellersville, who erected the original church and then had the congregation call as its first resident pastor, the Rev. P. A. Laury, under whose ministry the congregation rapidly outgrew its very comfortable chapel, and, to meet its growing needs, has now erected and consecrated a large and modern stone church. The original chapel was moved to the side of the lot and converted into a complete up-to-date graded Sunday-school building, which is equipped to use effectively every grade of the Lutheran Sunday-school Graded system. The church proper is finished in natural wood and has beautiful art glass windows made by J & R. Lamb, with Tiffany artist's designs. The pews and pulpit and altar furniture are of superior workmanship and harmonize well with the general appointments of the sanctuary. With concrete and tile in the aisles and chancel floor, and, with every detail of equipment carefully and thought out and executed, Trinity Church stands a credit to the congregation, the finest church in the community, a monument to the zeal and liberality of a large and flourishing congregation.

In plan the church is simple and consists of nave and chancel. A large gallery extends across the rear. The main entrance is through the tower on the corner which

contains the stairway to the gallery. The style of architecture is known as "Gothic."

Trinity church is a granite structure (Port Deposit), and with its buttressed walls and sturdy tower can be seen from quite a distance. A feature of the left wall is the opening into the Sunday-school building, which is unusual in that it is considerably above the floor line, opening as it does into the upper story, thus leaving the lower wall undisturbed, and serves its purpose admirably in giving the additional room when necessary.

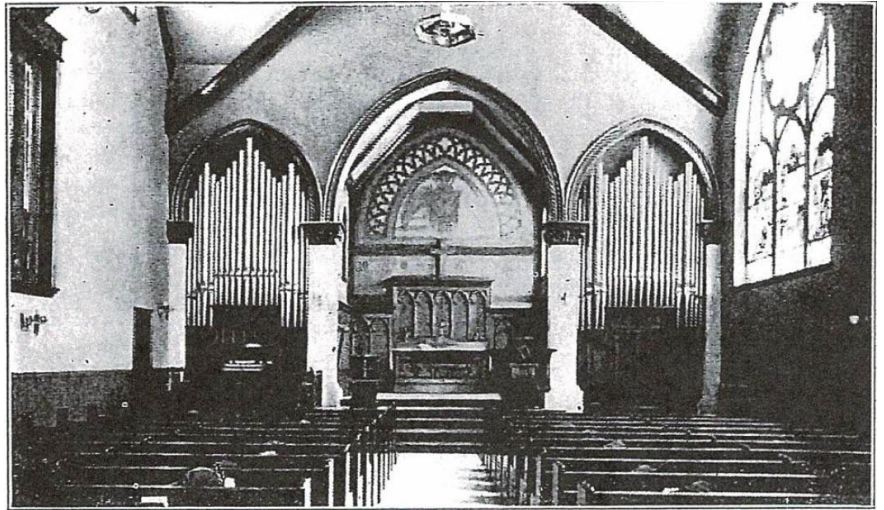
The large figure windows in drapery opalescent and painted glass contain considerable variety of color, so the wall surfaces were kept plain in a soft greenish tone. A base of darker greenish and brownish tones, delicately blended, runs all around the room to the height of window sills. The ceiling panels between the wood trusses and beams are painted a plain color, lighter and creamier than the walls.

The reredos and altar are of oak with tracery panels. The windows contain pictorial illustrations of incidents in the life of Christ. The large one near the chancel wall is the Boy Jesus in the Temple; then in order toward the rear are, Jesus at the House of Mary and Martha; Christ the Good Shepherd; Jesus and Nicodemus. In the rear wall above the gallery is the Ascension Window. The ascending Christ in the center panel, and an adoring angel in each side panel. The features are very natural and expressive.

The electric lighting fixtures display the same good taste and appropriateness in design; the architectural forms of the dull brass toning well with the whole scheme. From each cross beam in the ceiling hangs on a heavy chain a dome light of dull brass and opalescent glass. The whole interior shows a good control of the various materials producing an effect churchly and pleasing.

The new building was strikingly described in a submission to The Lutheran magazine in 1908. Many of the features we still know today are in the write up.

THESE PHOTOS SHOW THE CHURCH IN ITS EARLIEST DAYS



Chancel before 1930.

Above

The photo has to be from 1908-1922. The leaded glass doors were still floating in the middle of the wall, opening to the original church on the floor above.

Below

In 1923, a substantial renovation moved the leaded glass doors to the main level, the original building floor brought in level with the church, and the original square tower removed. All this made way for a large, new Sunday School auditorium upstairs, shown on the following page.

Final note should be made of the terrazzo floor you can see in the lower photo. It's still there today, laid in a concrete trough-under the center aisle. The stencil work around every beam and ceiling panel is striking, too!



This article and picture is another included from the 75th Anniversary compilation. The renovation in 1923 is when the windows shown in this picture were installed. This was to "unify the architecture along 5th street." The staircases in the center of the picture are still there - the parlor stairs now leading to outside the church nursery, and the landing pictured is still how we access the side door to the church balcony and attic.

Seventy-fifth Anniversary

surprising when it is borne in mind that this floor had been used as a basement at the old location.

The second floor of the old building, in addition to providing Sunday School facilities, also served as a sort of balcony to the nave. There was an opening in the wall between the upper part of the nave and the second floor of the old building, and when the nave was filled to capacity, chairs were drawn up on the old second floor to the opening in this wall. When not thus used, folding doors with stained glass lites were used to close this aperture. It should be noted that the second floor of the old building also had a balcony of its own.

Meanwhile, in 1906 the church council agreed to provide space for a pipe organ if the choir members would raise the funds for the purchase of the organ itself. The choir accepted the challenge, and in 1908 a Moller organ was installed. At that time the steps in front of the pulpit extended the entire width of the nave, and the choir was seated near its present location but on these steps facing the congregation. The console of the organ was installed against the wall behind the choir, and the organist sat with her back to the congregation.

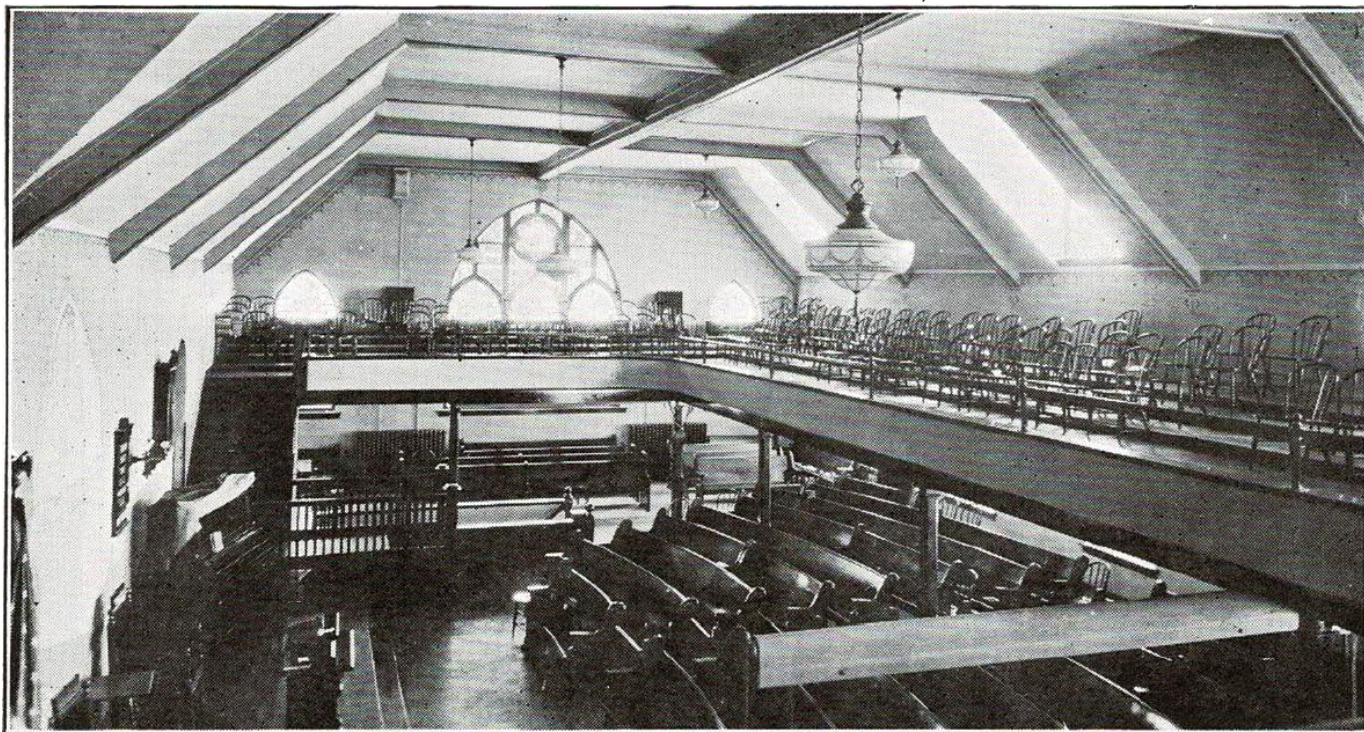
In 1912 community funds were combined with those of the congregation to purchase a Seth Thomas clock at a cost of \$693.00. This clock, with four faces, was installed in the bell tower and was known as the community clock.

It had, and still has, an eight day movement, and it is wound once a week by the sexton.

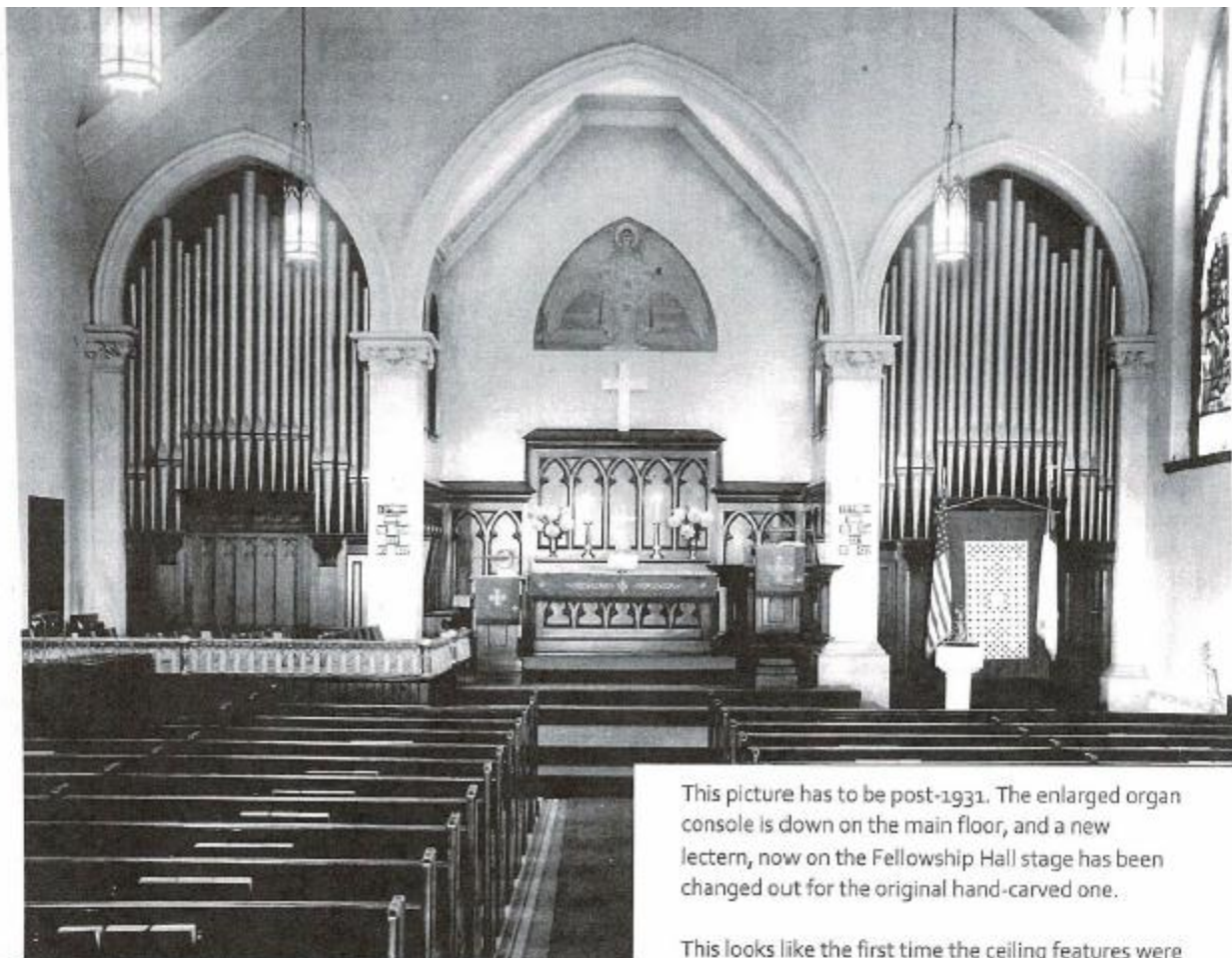
Extensive renovations costing \$23,000.00 took place in 1923. The depressed first floor of the original building was raised to the level of the church nave. This made it possible to use the first floor of the original building for overflow crowds instead of the second, and, accordingly, the opening in the upper wall was closed and a new opening was made in the lower wall between the nave and the present church parlor. The very same folding doors which were used above were moved down and placed in this new opening. We still see them there today, although the opening was somewhat reduced in size in 1960.

Further, the 1923 renovations saw the addition of a second floor and large stained glass window over the cloak room or "porch" which had been added to the front of the old building in 1907. This substantially increased the capacity of the Sunday School room on the second floor of the old building. As a part of this project, the old steeple was removed and the facade of the old building took on the appearance which it still bears today. Painstaking care was taken to match the granite so that no scars of the alteration would be apparent, and today a visual inspection from outside will not reveal any indication of the change.

Finally, the 1923 renovations saw the construction of the present choir loft, and thereafter, the choir faced Chestnut Street instead of the congregation. However, it was not until 1930,



Second Floor Sunday School Auditorium, 1923-1960



This picture has to be post-1931. The enlarged organ console is down on the main floor, and a new lectern, now on the Fellowship Hall stage has been changed out for the original hand-carved one.

This looks like the first time the ceiling features were "white-washed."



This picture from an Easter celebration is incorrectly labeled in our parlor. Circa 1900 puts it in the original building - it's the "new church," post 1908. The elaborate painting and side windows can be seen.



The 1930s also saw the acquisition of The Parish House, still across Chestnut Street today. It was originally owned by an undertaker. We purchased it for \$2500 and renovated it for another \$10,000. It provided meeting space, many Sunday School departments, not to mention lots of memories for those who remember the pool/billiard tables in there.

We sold this building in 1960 after dedicating the new "Education building" added to the upper side of the original church building.



Renovations in 1952 lead to refinishing the Altar, Pulpit, and lectern, stained to a lighter color. The Pulpit was also moved.

The organ façade pipes were removed, and the original wooden reredos was replaced by a silk dossal curtain.

The two windows that were originally on either side of the Altar (total of four) were also removed.