

W. C. Krueger

Knox's 1st Lutheran Church To Celebrate 90 Years

Ninety years ago First Lutheran Church was organized by a group of 22 meeting in Peter Kern's hall at 7 Market Square. They were German and Swiss Lutherans who had been brought to Wartburg by a land development company, but had left the Morgan County project because of "lack of land and opportunity."

The Rev. John Heckel, who had been sent from Illinois to look after the spiritual interests of scattered Lutherans in East Tennessee, was called as the first pastor. Records show that 13 pastors served the congregation before the arrival of the Rev. Daniel D. Dautenhahn in 1958.



Mr. Krueger
of the Rev. Daniel D. Dautenhahn

The Rev. W. C. Krueger, pastor of the church from 1924-43 and now an institutional missionary in Memphis, will deliver the anniversary sermon at 10:45 a. m. Sunday.

Reformation Recalled

"His sermon subject is 'Our Blessed Heritage' and he will take cognizance of the fact that the church anniversary falls on the 442nd anniversary of the Lutheran Reformation," Mr. Dautenhahn said.

The two Lutheran Women's Missionary Leagues are sponsoring a covered dish luncheon to follow the morning service. Early historical pictures collected by Mrs. A. J. Rittamel and Mrs. Elizabeth Fruewald will be shown.

Motion pictures of the last service in the former church at Broadway and W. Fifth Ave. will be shown by Emil Sienknecht and color slides of the present church by Roscoe Barringer.

The congregation has worshiped in three churches in its 90-year history. Originally called the First German Evangelical Lutheran Church, it bought a lot for \$900 at the corner of Broadway and Asylum Ave., now Western Ave. The property was later sold to the L&N Railroad for the erection of its depot.

Name Modified

The second lot, church and parsonage at Broadway at Fifth Ave. (now the site of the North Knoxville Branch of Hamilton National Bank) cost \$16,843. The present church and school plant at the corner of N. Broadway and Wells Ave. is valued at more than \$327,000.

English services were introduced in 1895 and the name of the church modified to the German-English Evangelical Lutheran Church. By 1919 the German language was practically discontinued and the present name, First Evangelical Lutheran Church, became official. The parish school was organized by the pastor in 1869 with the first church. It now has more than 150 pupils.

Mr. Dautenhahn said the church has inaugurated a 10-year planning program which will consider completion of the church tower, air conditioning of the church, a new organ, and the addition of four new classrooms. Louis Mehlhorn is chairman of the Future Planning Council.

CHURCH NEWS



OBSERVES ANNIVERSARY—The Rev. Roland Frerking, pastor of First Lutheran Church, quietly celebrated the twenty-fifth anniversary of his ordination into the ministry Thursday. A native of Missouri, Pastor Frerking was called to First Church in July, 1943. He is pictured in the chapel of the church's school at Broadway and Wells Avenue, being used for services pending construction of a new \$175,000 church edifice.

*Pastor Celebrates***Gospel Still
Big Wonder
To Frerking**

*Thankful Lord Led
Him To Ministry,
Lutheran Declares*

A Knoxville Lutheran minister quietly noted the twenty-fifth anniversary of his ordination Thursday with the comment, "I am humbly thankful that the Lord led me into the Christian ministry."

The Rev. Roland Frerking, pastor of First Lutheran Church, added: "As I look back over these 25 years, the most amazing thing to me is still the Gospel of Jesus Christ. It is always a source of wonderment."

Born in Corder, Mo., July 14, 1903, Pastor Frerking came to the Knoxville church nine years ago and fell in love with East Tennessee, "its fine people, its beautiful scenery and wonderful climate," he said.

Knoxville's original Lutheran body, First Church, numbers some 300 communicants. But Pastor Frerking says there are approximately 200 other Knoxville Germans who count him as their pastor. These he ministers to in the hope of attaining the church's ultimate goal, to win them to its faith.

SERVES GERMANS

Mr. Frerking has recently found himself undertaking what he calls the "arduous task" of brushing up on his college German. About 35 German-speaking new residents of Knoxville, ousted from small European countries swallowed by Communist tyranny, have sought him for their minister. He now preaches in German and conducts German services the first Sunday of each month at 7:30 p. m.

This brings up an interesting page of First Church's history. Founded in 1896, its original members were entirely German-speaking and would not allow English services, even in the basement. Finally they were won over by newcomers in 1900, and thus was formed the nucleus of the present-day church.

SON OF A MISSOURI grain dealer, Roland Frerking in youth was torn between adherence to the Methodist faith of his mother and his Lutheran father. Pondering and studying, finally he and his two brother became Lutherans and Lutheran ministers.

BROTHERS PASTORS

The brothers are the Rev. Horace Frerking, pastor of a church in Wichita Falls, Tex., and the Rev. Leslie Frerking, pastor of Ascension Church, Charlotte, N. C. The parents, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Frerking, live in Palmyra, Missouri.

It was in that town that Roland Frerking was ordained at St. Paul's Lutheran Church Aug. 21, 1927. He had completed his education at St. Paul's College, Concordia, Mo., and Concordia Seminary, St. Louis. He subsequently held pastorates in Shelbyville and Joplin, Mo., before his call to Knoxville.

Pastor Frerking says his Knoxville congregation is "the finest I've ever had."

And then in his backward look he paid tribute to his wife, the former Miss Clara Kienzle of St. Louis. "The day she married me was the greatest of my life, for she has been my best assistant, my friendliest critic, and my constant shock-absorber."

First Church used to be on the corner of Broadway and Fifth Avenue but sold its property to make way for commercial expansion of the city.

PLAN NEW CHURCH

Now with a new, modern school building at Broadway and Wells Avenue, the members have completed plans for a new Gothic church, to cost an estimated \$175,000. "We have \$50,000 on hand and hope to get started very soon," their pastor said.

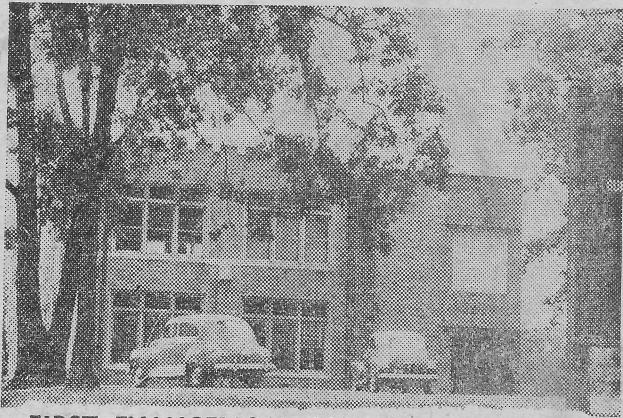
The Frerking family moved into the new parsonage, 1607 North Hills Boulevard, two years ago. In the family are six children, Robert, Elgin Air Force Base, Fla.; Mary Louise, University of Tennessee student; Paul, 14, who will enter St. Paul's College as a ministerial student; Joanne, 12; Roland Jr., 8, and Martha Jean, 6, First Lutheran school pupils.



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FIRST EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

1869: First Lutheran Church was organized under the leadership of the first pastor, the Rev. John Heckel. Services were conducted in the old Hampden-Sydney Academy, Commerce and State Streets, for a year when the first building was completed on the site of the L&N Depot, Broadway and Western Avenue.

1892: First Lutheran opened its Christian Day School in the basement of the church.

1904: A new building, combining church and school, was erected on the corner of Broadway and Fifth Avenue, where the Hamilton National Branch Bank now stands.

1947: The present school building with accommodations for a chapel on the second floor was dedicated. The site is Broadway and Wells Avenue.

1951: The congregation initiated a campaign for the erection of a new church building. The plans have already been completed and construction will begin as soon as possible.

The present pastor is the Rev. Roland Frerking, who took charge in 1943.

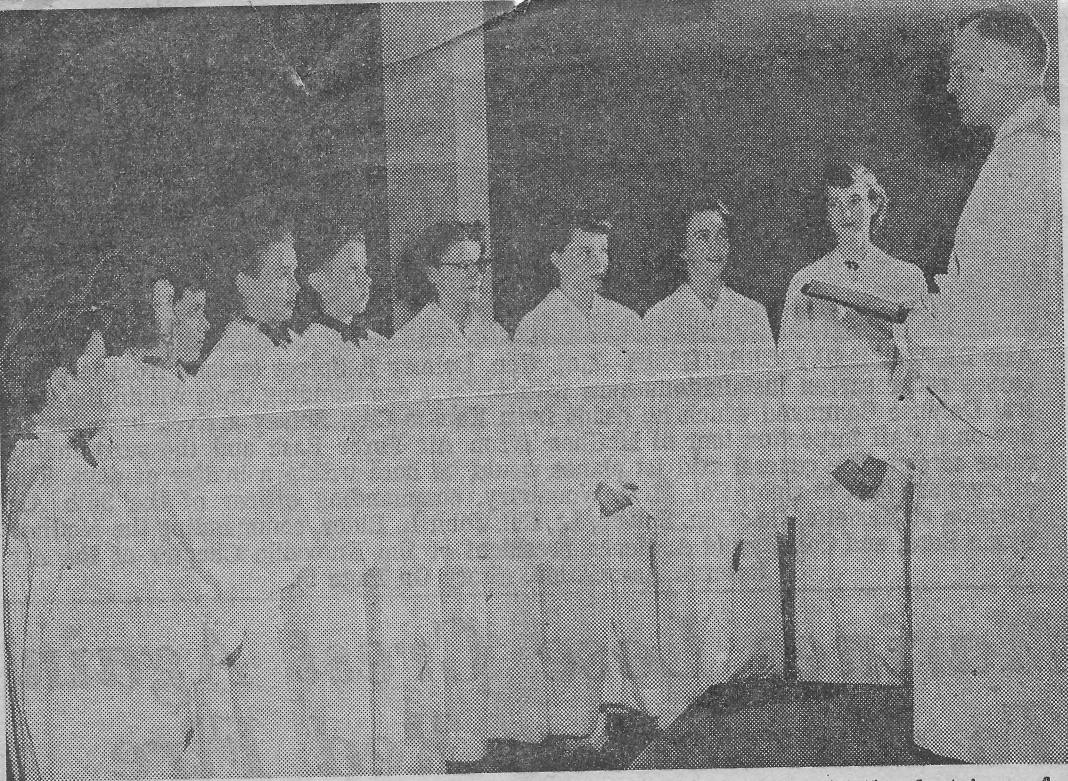
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CONFIRMATION SERVICE—After two to three years instruction in the doctrines of the Christian religion, these young people will be received into the communicant membership of the church by the confirmation rite. Receiving instruction the Rev. Roland Frerking, pastor of the First Lutheran Church, (left to right) are Jerry Krahwinkel, Judy Krawinkel, Joanne Frerking, Lowell Hohman, Ronald Sienknecht, Rebecca D-
3-28-53 mina, Carol Asquith, Lou Wallace Brooks, and Carolyn Hohman.

Texan Takes Pastorate In Knoxville

Rev. D. D. Dautenhahn of Temple, Tex., has accepted a call to First Lutheran Church here and will arrive in Knoxville with his family in the second week of June.

The board of elders at Immanuel Lutheran Church in Temple, where Mr. Dautenhahn is now pastor, last night called on that congregation for approval of the pastor's resignation and asked that he be granted a vacation beginning May 26. Both requests were granted.

Mr. Dautenhahn said he and his wife and daughters, Elaine, 15, and Karen, 12, will go to visit his mother in Oklahoma and Mrs. Dautenhahn's parents in Kansas, before coming to Knoxville.

Mr. Dautenhahn, 42, has been pastor of the Temple Church for almost five years.

Mrs. Dautenhahn is a teacher in the parish school at Immanuel Church and it is expected she will be an addition to the school staff at First Church.

Journal 5-14-58

Friday, May 16, 1958



FIRST LUTHERAN FAMILY—Rev. D. D. Dautenhahn of Temple, Texas, studies a map of Tennessee—giving particular attention to the area around Knoxville—with Mrs. Dautenhahn and daughters Elaine (left), 15, and Karen, 12. The family is expected to arrive here June 11 or 12, and Mr. Dautenhahn will be installed June 15 as pastor of First Lutheran Church. The pulpit has been vacant since February, when Rev. Roland Frerking resigned to accept a pastorate in Gainesville, Fla.