

7-1900
Anniversary

St. Pauls' Ev. Lutheran Church,

Grafton, W. Va.

Rev. Arthur F. Richardson, Pastor.



1859—1871—1872—1874—1907.

DECEMBER 1ST, 1907.



"Glorious things are spoken of Thee ;
Oh, city of God!"



P4908

To the Members and Friends of St. Pauls' Lutheran Church.

THIS little anniversary souvenir, will, I trust, serve to revive precious memories, rekindle the flame of love for our dear old church, bring a message of peace, and a benediction to those who have borne the burden and heat of the day ; serve as an inspiration to us who are reaping what others have sown, and cause us to appreciate more than ever the glorious heritage which is ours through the mercy and grace of Almighty God, likewise the devoted labors of those whose memories we fondly cherish, as well as of those who are still our loved and honored co-workers in the blessed fellowship of the gospel.

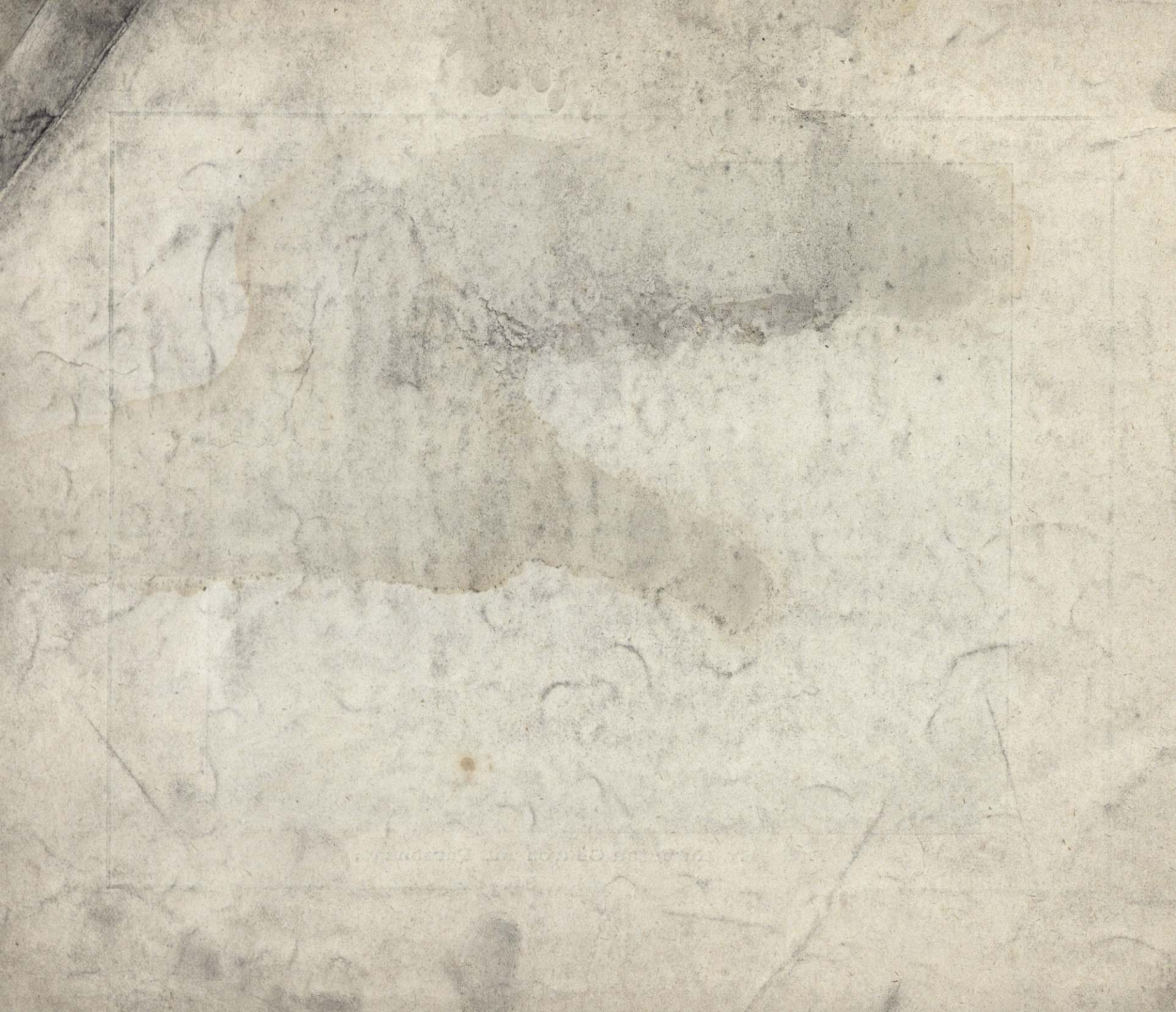
Devotedly, your pastor,

ARTHUR F. RICHARDSON.



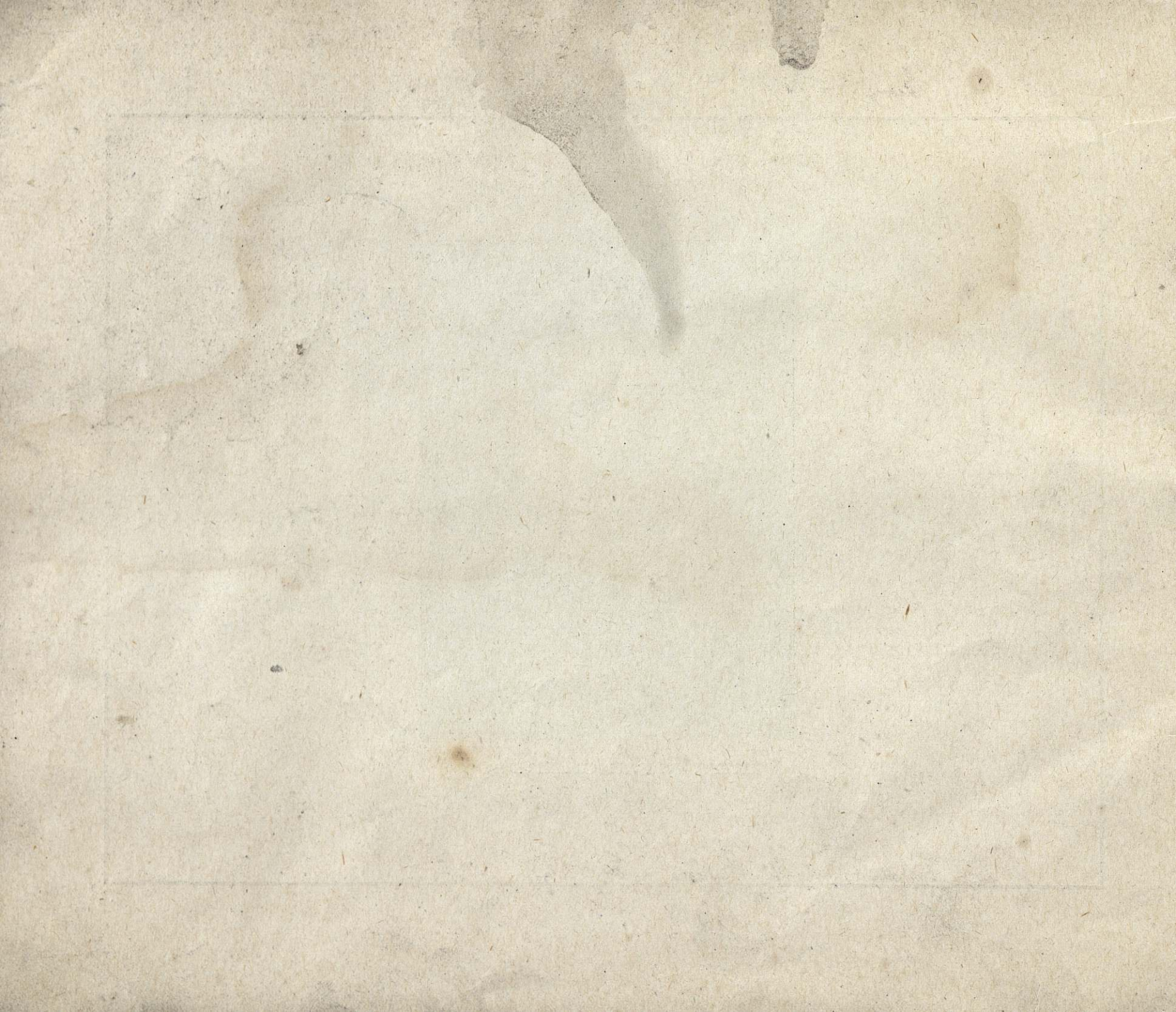


St. Pauls' Ev. Lutheran Church and Parsonage.





REV. A. F. RICHARDSON.



George Greenman

Ed Cole

John McCassee

Lemuel Wagner



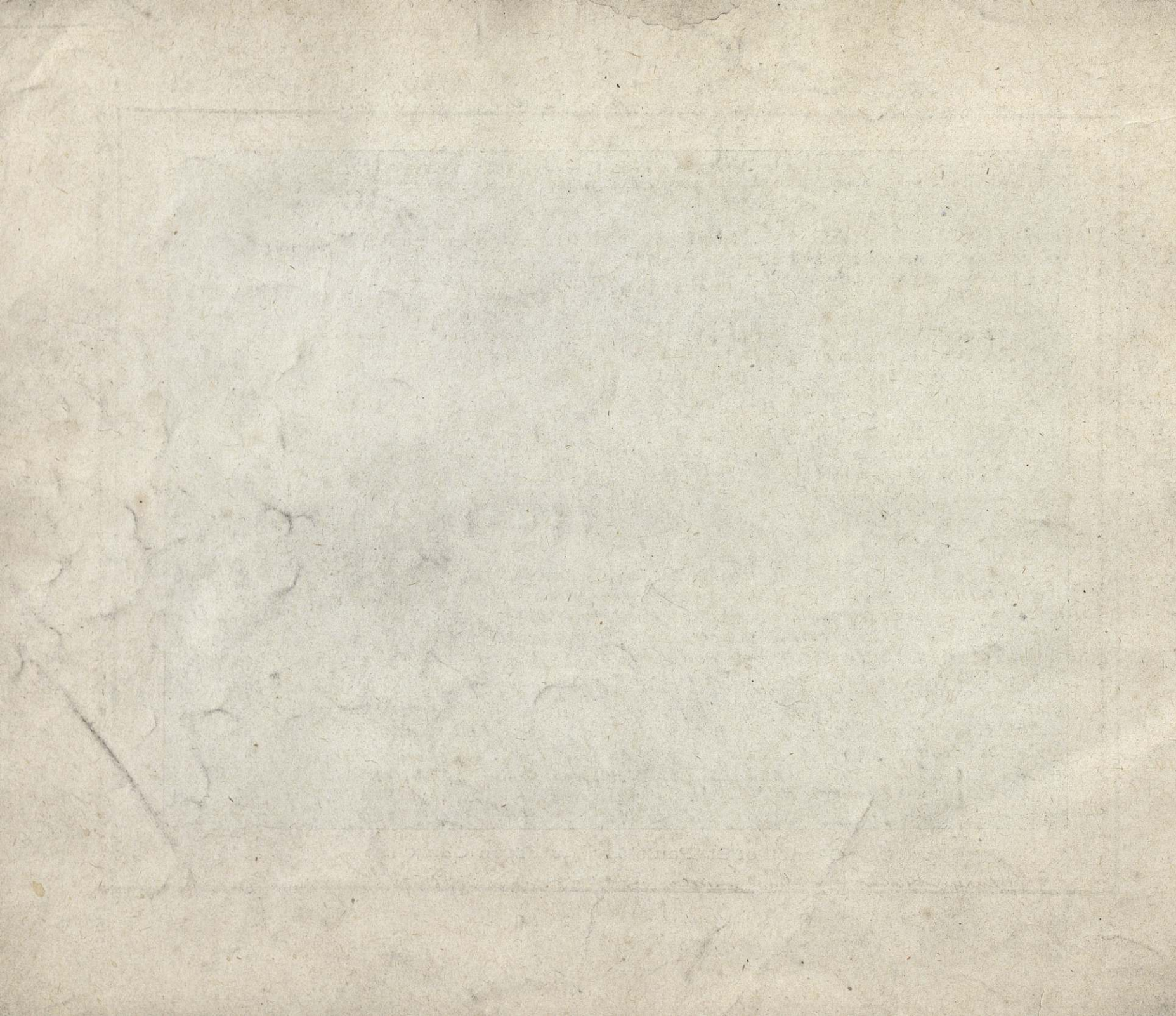
Council of St. Pauls' Ev. Lutheran Church.

Henry Elvohn

Jos Connel

Ew Kozly

apdvah



Historical Sketch of St. Pauls' Ev. Lutheran Church,

In the year of our Lord, 1859, Rev T. W. Dosh, a traveling missionary for the Virginia Synod, visited Grafton, W. Va., to look after and gather together the Lutheran element of the town and vicinity. No permanent organization was effected, however, but his visits and labors were productive of much good. On the 14th of September, 1859, the members of the Lutheran church bought and obtained a deed for two lots in Grafton, Nos. 137 and 138.

Providence having now called Rev. Dosh into a new field of labor and usefulness, the members of the church of the Reformation were again without a shepherd, and so continued, ever looking hopefully and prayerfully for a better day, until the summer of 1870.

To go back a little, we find that a clear and trustworthy deed for the above mentioned lots was not obtained till December 1st, 1869. This deed was made out in favor of Thomas Smouse, Charles F. W. Kunst, Geo. H. Schaeffer, and Geo. H. A. Kunst—trustees of the Evangelical Lutheran congregation of Grafton. These lots were identical with those which Sarah B. Fetterman had conveyed to the trustees of the congregation by her deed dated September 30, 1859, which deed was never recorded because of error therein in the recital of the wrong numbers of said lots.

On the 25th day of September, 1870, at a congregational meeting held in the Presbyterian church, the congregation adopted a constitution, elected the following officers, L. W. Wolfe, elder, and J. C. Texter and H. E. Wehn, deacons, with George H. Schaeffer as secretary and treasurer, and perferred a request to the Maryland Synod, to be received into its connection and to have W. C. Schaeffer sent them as their missionary pastor.

The Maryland Synod granted the request and Rev. Schaeffer took charge regularly on the 6th day of November, 1870. God blessed and prospered the mission and put it into the hearts of the people to begin the erection of a new church edifice to be devoted to His honor and glory and to the salvation of men.

With this end in view, at a regular meeting of the church council on the 2nd of June, 1870, the following gentlement were appointed a building committee, viz.: J. C. Texter, H. E. Wehn, C. H. Brendel, L. W. Wolfe, George W. Chambers, George H. Schaeffer and C. F. W. Kunst.

CHURCH HISTORICAL SKETCH—CONTINUED.

Great earnestness characterized the undertaking, and by September 10, 1871, the foundation had been built and the arrangements completed for the laying of the cornerstone. On this occasion the sermon was delivered in the Presbyterian church by Rev. Dr. Dosh, the pioneer of English Lutheranism in the community of Grafton.

In the spring of 1872 a Lutheran Sabbath School, consisting of 27 members, was organized in the public school building, where it continued to hold its sessions, until the completion of the basements of the church. The brick work of the church was completed May 9, 1872, and the last shingle of the roof was laid on the 28th day of the same month.

On the 21st day of July, 1872, the basement was formally dedicated to the worship of the Triune God. Rev. Dr. Conrad, editor of the Lutheran Observer, preached the sermon. In this apartment the congregation continued to worship until November 29, 1874, at which time the audience room was ready for dedication, and accordingly on the aforesaid date set apart in harmony with the Lutheran custom as holy unto the Lord. The sermon was delivered by Rev. J. H. Menges, of Philadelphia, assisted by Rev. Dr. McCron, of Hagerstown, Maryland, and the pastors of the other denominations in Grafton.

In October, 1875, the Maryland Synod, with which the Grafton congregation sustained its ecclesiastical connection, held its annual convention in the new church edifice now known as St. Paul's Lutheran church. During the session Rev. Shaeffer, the successful home missionary, made the following report, which conveys a fair idea of the growth of his mission. The mission was started September 26, 1870, with thirteen members in the church and 27 in the Sabbath School. At this time there were 97 members in the church and 231 in the Sabbath School. The church building cost \$8,300, of which \$6,700 had been paid. For all purposes \$10,000 had been raised since the mission was started.

After an eminently successful pastorate of something over five years, Rev. Shaeffer resigned in Grafton October 31, 1875. He was succeeded by the Rev. P. H. Miller, whose ministry extended over a period of only eight months. Owing to ill health Rev. Miller was compelled to be absent from his work during the last month of his stay in Grafton. Rev. W. L. Remsbur was then secured to supply his pulpit and continued to serve the congregation temporarily during the months of August and September, 1876.

1880
1929
19

CHURCH HISTORICAL SKETCH—CONTINUED.

Rev. F. H. Weaver was next called as the regular pastor and his labors were likewise of short duration extending over a period of but six months. Rev. J. W. Lake became Rev. Weaver's successor; his ministry dated from October 28, 1877, to November 1, 1879. Rev. W. A. Shipman followed in regular pastoral order, whose labors commenced in this community April 4, 1880, and terminated by his resignation September 30, 1883.

Rev. George S. Bowers followed Rev. Shipman the succeeding year, taking pastoral charge January 1, 1884. Rev. Bowers served the congregation a little over one year, closing his labors on November 30, 1885.

On May 1, 1886, Rev. M. G. G. Scherer was called to the pastorate, his installation taking place May 22, 1886. Rev. J. W. Finkbiner, of Cumberland, Md., gave the charge to the pastor and Rev. R. C. Holland, of Martinsburg, the charge to the congregation. On September 29, 1890, Rev. Scherer resigned and was succeeded by Rev. J. W. Smith, who served the congregation from March 29, 1891, till October 16, 1892.

On December 4, 1892, Rev. A. F. Richardson was called to the pastorate. Rev. S. W. Owen, D. D., of Hagerstown, Md., delivered the charges both to the pastor and congregation. On December 9, 1899, Rev. Richardson tendered his resignation which his official body refused to accept. Believing, however, a change was necessary for the physical welfare of himself and family, the pastoral relation was dissolved.

June 3, 1900, Rev. E. J. Hopkins was called to succeed Rev. Richardson, serving the congregation until March, 1906.

On Sunday, April 8, 1906, Rev. Richardson was called the second time to become the pastor of St. Paul's church. The history of St. Paul's Lutheran church, of Grafton, has been one of struggle and self-denial, but by the grace of God she has triumphed and is today one of the most influential and progressive congregations of the city.

ADDITIONAL DATA.

The improvements and additions to church property deserve special notice. April 6, 1887, a committee consisting of Alex Zeck, Peter Dinkle, Taylor E. Cole, and J. W. Holt were appointed to secure a parsonage property. On October 15, 1888, Brother Taylor E. Cole, acting for the congregation, purchased the lots known as

CHURCH HISTORICAL SKETCH—CONTINUED.

the Jefferys property adjoining the church, for the sum of \$1,545.00. This was a wise move, as this property today is worth five times its original cost.

Later, in February, 1890, a building committee, consisting of O. P. Stroh, Alex Zeck and Peter Dinkle was appointed. The contract for moving the old building to the rear and erecting four additional rooms, was given to C. G. Blatchley for the sum of \$1,250. The results of these efforts is the beautiful and commodious parsonage with all modern conveniences, which together with the church, makes the property perhaps the most attractive and desirable in the city.

December 19, 1905, the council lost by death in the person of Theodore L. Bush, a wise counsellor, the church a faithful, consistent and generous member, the community a valued and public-spirited citizen. Intensely interested in all that pertained to the church's growth, and development, his loss is keenly felt.

The year 1906 saw a decided improvement in the interior of the church. A steel ceiling was placed, walls frescoed, electric lights installed, the entire interior and furnishings renovated.

The year 1907 saw the old wooden steps give way to a beautiful cut stone, double entrance, making an attractive and imposing appearance. The committee in charge of this improvement consisted of C. F. W. Kunst, Taylor E. Cole, John M. Cassell, George C. Grenneman and A. F. Richardson. This improvement, when fully completed, will cost about \$500, the cost being met by about fifteen members of the church, and several non-members, thus relieving the congregation as a whole of this expense. Other improvements to the lecture room are contemplated and when completed, the church will be one of the most attractive places of worship in our city.

This, in brief, is the history of St. Paul's Lutheran church, mainly from a temporal standpoint. To have written of the individual toil, and sacrifice, would have required volumes. The church's spiritual life has ever been in advance of her temporal progress. May she, under the guidance of God's Holy Spirit fulfill her mission until she shall be "presented unto Him a glorious church, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing."

"I love thy church, O God;
Her walls before Thee stand,
Dear as the apple of Thine eye
And graven on Thy hand.

"For her my tears shall fall;
For her my prayers ascend;
To her my cares and toils be given,
Till toils and cares shall end."

Pastors Who Have Served St. Pauls' Ev. Lutheran Church.

| Pastors. | Years of Service. | Residence. |
|----------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| REV. W. C. SCHAEFFER..... | 1870—1875..... | Savannah, Ga. |
| REV. P. H. MILLER..... | 1875—1876..... | Westminster, Md. |
| REV. F. H. WEAVER..... | 1876—1877..... | Newry, Pa. |
| REV. J. W. LAKE..... | 1877—1879..... | Deceased. |
| REV. W. A. SHIPMAN..... | 1880—1883..... | Johnstown, Pa. |
| REV. GEO. S. BOWERS..... | 1884—1885..... | Winchester, Va. |
| REV. M. G. G. SCHERER..... | 1886—1890..... | Charleston, S. C. |
| REV. J. W. SMITH..... | 1891—1892..... | Euphrata, Pa. |
| REV. A. F. RICHARDSON..... | 1892—1899..... | Grafton, W. Va. |
| REV. E. J. HOPKINS..... | 1900—1906..... | Bridgeton, N. J. |
| REV. A. F. RICHARDSON..... | 1906—..... | Grafton, W. Va. |

“How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him that bringeth good tidings, that publisheth peace; that bringeth good tidings of good, that publisheth salvation; that saveth unto Zion. ‘Thy God reigneth.’”

Official Body and Other Societies.

THE CHURCH COUNCIL.

ELDERS:

O. P. Stroh, Secretary.
H. E. Wehn,
John J. Cassell,
E. W. Koelz, Treasurer.

DEACONS:

John M. Cassell,
S. L. Wagner,
George Grenneman,
Clyde S. Cole.

THE MEN'S GUILD.

OFFICERS:

President, George Grenneman. Vice President, Warder Tutt.
Secretary, Willie Cassell. Treasurer, S. L. Wagner.

LADIES AID SOCIETY.

OFFICERS:

President, Mrs. M. J. Kinney. Vice President, Mrs. John Pracht.
Secretary, Mrs. Edward Ware. Treasurer, Mrs. Henrietta Gigley.

CHRISTIAN ENDEAVOR SOCIETY.

OFFICERS:

President, Grace Cassell. Vice President, Enola Wagner.
Corresponding Secretary, Nettie Watkins. Recording Secretary, Mrs. Mary Stemple Jefferys
Treasurer, Lulu Lanham.

OFFICIAL BODY AND OTHER SOCIETIES—CONTINUED.

JUNIOR C. E. SOCIETY.

OFFICERS:

Superintendent, Mrs. Warder Tutt.

Assistant, Helen Cline.

SUNDAY SCHOOL.

OFFICERS:

Superintendent, O. P. Stroh.

Assistant, Rev. A. F. Richardson.

Secretary, E. W. Koelz.

Treasurer, Mrs. O. P. Stroh.



Resident Lutherans Prior to the Organization.

JOS. C. TEXTER.

MR. and MRS. HENRY WEHN.

LOUIS WITTMAN.

HENRY SHAFFERMAN.

J. GEO. PRIESS.

FRED BLOOM.

CHAS. BOWMASTER.

JOHN CASSELL, Sr.

PETER CASSELL.

LOUIS WOLF.

MRS. CAROLINE CHAMBERS.

MR. LOUIS COLE.

MRS. EVALINE COLE.

MRS. MARY GRIFFITH.

G. H. A. KUNST, Sr.

GEORGE BRINKMAN.

LOUIS MILLER.

MR. and MRS. E. W. KOELZ.

MRS. ELIZABETH RENDLE.

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