



1925 - 1950

Unless the Lord builds the house, its builders labor in vain.

Psalm 127:1

In the beginning of our churches' second quarter of a century Rev. Henry Herman Kumnick was serving as our pastor. Land for the church site at Higgins and Daly Avenues was purchased with money donated by the Ladies' Aid Society and a parsonage at 808 Chestnut Street was acquired with a loan from the Church Extension Fund. Between 1925 and 1927 the second church building was completed. The contractor in charge of the building operations was John H. Hightower. To reduce the building debt, regular monthly potluck dinners and occasional card parties were held with freewill offerings.

In 1927, Rev. Kumnick accepted a call as Dean of Men at Valparaiso University, Valparaiso, Indiana. Rev. Lewis Hugo Lang became the next pastor - being installed in September of 1927. Rev. Lang had previously held a pastorate at Bridger, Montana.

During his ministry, the church structure at Daly and Higgins was completed. On December 31, 1939, Rev. Lang resigned from the ministry and moved to Spokane, Washington.



The church at Daly and Higgins.



Ladies Aid Society of the First English Lutheran Church (circa 1939)

Pictured: left to right, sitting, Mrs. C. Jacky, Mrs. Max Kranich (at the time they were the two remaining charter members of the organization). First row, standing, Mrs. W. Stempke, Mrs. H. C. Sonntag, Mrs. M. Carstens, Mrs. M. Jones, Mrs. G. Heinrich, Mrs. J. J. Alsteens, Mrs. R.H. Kath. Second row, Mrs. W. F. Swant, Mrs. H. J. Swanke, Mrs. C. Batt, Mrs. L. H. Lang, Mrs. J. Gerike, Mrs. F.C. Follman, president, Mrs. W. Coombs, Mrs. W. Zittle, and Mrs. B. Zemke.

During the interim period after Rev. Lang left and before another pastor was installed, the congregation dwindled. Due to internal and external problems, a number of persons took membership with other Lutheran congregations in the community.

In June 1940, Rev. Walter Frederick Wolbrecht was ordained and installed as pastor of First Lutheran Church. In that same year, Rev. Kumnick returned to deliver a sermon in honor of the 40th anniversary of the church. Rev. Wolbrecht's first task was to restore the congregation to a unified body, an endeavor he successfully accomplished. Also, during his pastorate, the parsonage was renovated and a much needed furnace stoker was installed in the church. On July 8, 1942 the Ladies Aid, which was instrumental in the purchase of the church property, became a member of the general body of the Lutheran Women's Missionary League (L.W.M.L.) In October of 1943 the Montana District of L.W.M.L. was organized.

Rev. Wolbrecht received a call to become a professor at Concordia Teacher's College at Seward, Nebraska, and left Missoula January 9, 1945.



Rev. Mackenson and confirmands.

Robert Mackensen, a new graduate from the Springfield Seminary, was ordained and installed as pastor in February 1945. During Rev. Mackensen's pastorate, the church was able to move from its status as a missionary congregation to a self-sustaining congregation.

At the same time, a Gamma Delta chapter was organized. On Sunday evenings, during the school year, university students, post-high school and post-college youth gathered at 5:30 pm at the church for

fun and fellowship. These meetings were a usual Sunday evening occurrence from March 2, 1947, when the Beta Theta chapter of Gamma Delta Society was installed at First Lutheran Church. Comprised then of about 20 Lutheran University students, the chapter was the 56th to join the International Association of Lutheran Students, Gamma Delta. Dedicated to Christian knowledge and Christian Service the group enthusiastically held regular dinner meetings and topic discussions. Delegates were sent to the Gamma Delta national conventions.

The Walther League also reorganized at this time and was renamed the Trinity Lutheran Young People's Society. Some time after, the name of this organization was changed to the Youth Group. Missoula has hosted the Montana District Convention for the youth three times since they were organized: in 1923, 1928 and 1936. The group purchased a piano for the assembly room of the church in 1924.

Also, a Hammond church organ was purchased during this time with the help of a \$1,000.00 donation from Mrs. Martha Jones and other donations which had accumulated over the years for the purpose. In 1950 Rev. Mackensen accepted a call to Delavan, Wisconsin, as missionary among the deaf.

Shown below are a few interesting clips - and advertising - taken from the "The Missoula Lutheran" of November 1925 which was subtitled the "First English Lutheran Church Bulletin."

SANITARY GROCERY
 STAPLE AND FANCY
 GROCERIES
 Grain and Feed
 513 S. Higgins Phone 129
 MISSOULA, MONT.

GOING UP

Look at the Lot Fund-o-meter. It is going up. And going up fast. The warm wave of enthusiasm for a new location struck it during Silver Anniversary week and sent it to its present mark. Reliable predictions are that it will reach the boiling point at \$1,000.00 and burst. Let it burst, it will have served its purpose.

The pastor and vestry have been much encouraged by the fine spirit of giving shown by the members these past two weeks. The Men's club and Trinity Y. P. S. voted their surplus moneys into the Lot Fund. God willing, we shall reach the \$1,000.00 mark we set for ourselves as a thank-offering to God for the blessings that we are bending our efforts for a new church for ourselves and our children and children's children.

First English Lutheran Church, near corner S. Sixth and Hazel streets, H. H. Kumnick, pastor; residence 808 Chestnut St. Missoula, Mont.

CHURCH CALENDAR

Services every Sunday morning at 11 o'clock.

Bible study hour every Sunday evening at 8 o'clock.

Thanksgiving day services with special offering for our Home Treasury at 10 o'clock, Thursday morning November 26.

Holy communion will be celebrated on the first Sunday in the new church year, November 29th; confessional services begin at 10:30 o'clock. Announcement for Holy Communion Friday evening from 7:30 to 9:00 o'clock.

THANKSGIVING DAY

The proclamation of a national Thanksgiving day, issued by our president, has left the press. Every inhabitant of our great and prosperous country will be urged to assemble in his respective house of worship to return thanks and sing praises to God for the benefits received the past year.

FOR

**LABOR-SAVING,
 ECONOMY,
 COMFORT,
 SATISFACTION**

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Missoula Public Service Co.

The Western Montana National Bank
 Missoula, Montana
 Total Resources:
 \$3,000,000.00
 4 Per Cent on Savings and Time Deposits



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QUALITY

The Biggest Factor in Economy

THE COACH

\$695 f. o. b. Flint, Minch

Missoula Tire & Auto Co.