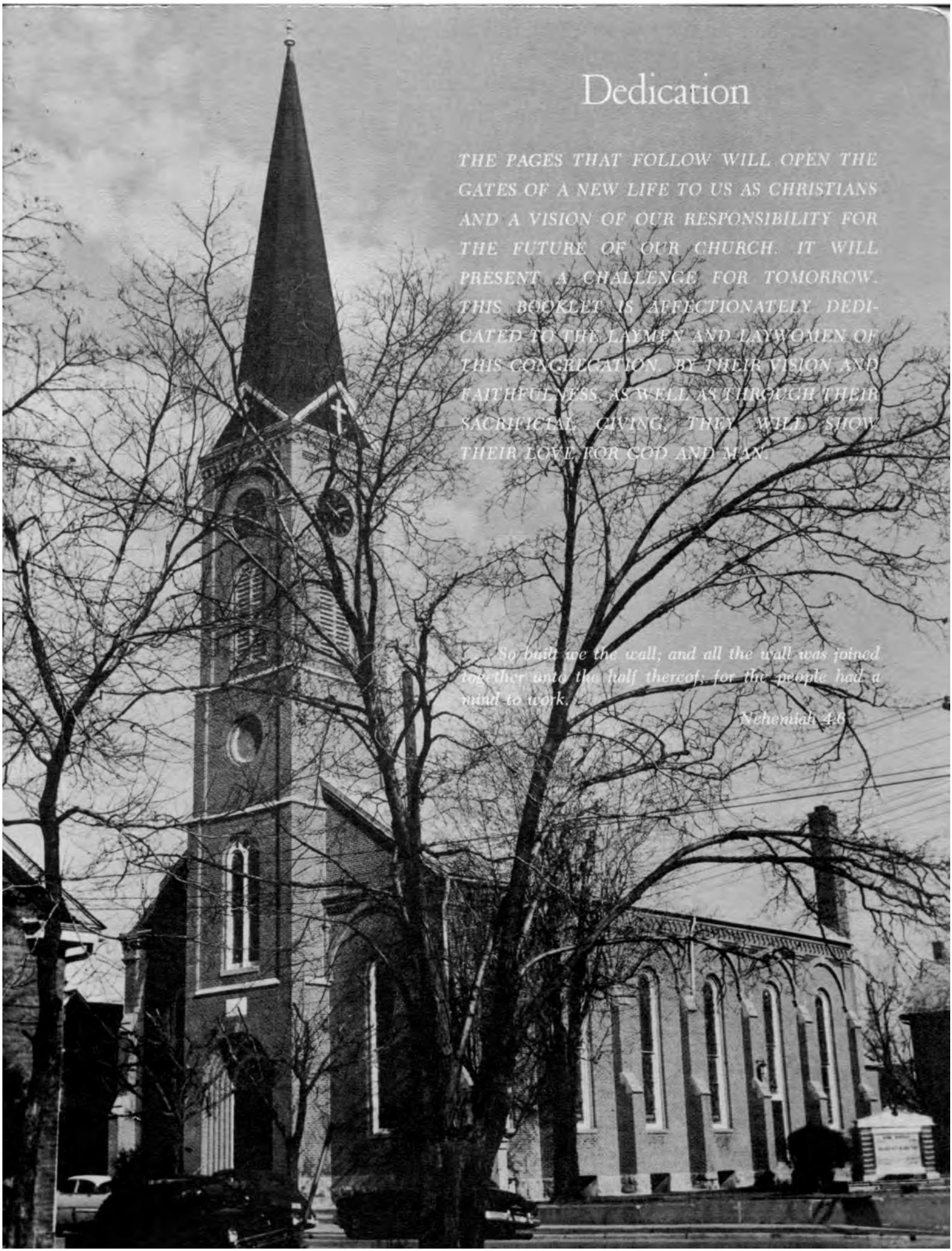
"The Lord Pays Bigger Dividends Than Any Corporation On Earth."

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

CAPE GIRARDEAU, MISSOURI



Dedication

THE PAGES THAT FOLLOW WILL OPEN THE GATES OF A NEW LIFE TO US AS CHRISTIANS AND A VISION OF OUR RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE FUTURE OF OUR CHURCH. IT WILL PRESENT A CHALLENGE FOR TOMORROW. THIS BOOKLET IS AFFECTIONATELY DEDICATED TO THE LAYMEN AND LAYWOMEN OF THIS CONGREGATION. BY THEIR VISION AND FAITHFULNESS, AS WELL AS THROUGH THEIR SACRIFICIAL GIVING, THEY WILL SHOW THEIR LOVE FOR GOD AND MAN.

... So built we the wall; and all the wall was joined together unto the half thereof: for the people had a mind to work.

Nehemiah 4:6

A Challenge for Tomorrow

Dear Members of Trinity:

In this Centennial year we have re-called many blessings which the Almighty God has bestowed upon our Congregation. We have said our prayers of thanks and sung our praises. We have not yet had ample opportunity to give a tangible outward expression of our praise and thanks to God.

During the past weeks there has been a great deal of activity in the Church Office. Much planning and organization has been accomplished to give every member of our Church an opportunity to give thanks to God. Every member of our Congregation will be given the opportunity when each one is asked to help supply a definite need in our Church's program of Christian education.

For several years, it has been recognized that the Christian education facilities are inadequate for our growing congregation. Classroom space in our School is make-shift. Sunday School space is at a premium. There is no room for increased enrollment in either agency. This leaves us no room for Bible classes for young people and adults.

The time has come when we must either supply the need by making room for additional classes and increased enrollment or to curtail our entire program. No member of Trinity would want to do the latter. Therefore, during the next few days every member of our Church will be asked to make a pledge, to promise that with God's help they will give according to their ability a certain amount each week for the work of our Church and for additional facilities.

It is not a legal pledge but it is a pledge of faith in God's continuing love and mercy to us who have inherited so much from our forefathers. We know that the faith of the members of Trinity will supply the need.

This effort undertaken by the voters in the fear of God should draw our large congregational family closer together and by God's grace should make all of us better church members and Christians.

Very sincerely yours,

F. W. Koenig

OUR GREATEST NEED

W. D. DEEVERS
General Chairman

MANY OF US have never shared in a Christian Education Building or Expansion Canvass. Through the generosity of others we have been privileged to worship in churches which have been built through the sacrificial efforts of others. We now find ourselves placed together in a growing community and our immediate need is to build, for worship and spiritual leadership.

However, we know that OUR GREATEST NEED is not "how much our Church needs," but rather "HOW MUCH WE NEED TO GIVE."

Increased giving—as has been proved many times over—will develop greatly increased interest in our Church and in our own spiritual lives. Every family should look upon this Building Fund and Budget Canvass as the opportunity to make the greatest sacrifice of their lifetime for their faith.

Therefore, our Canvass Leaders are making every effort to set the pace with generous, sacrificial pledges to inspire all of our families to become better givers.

This is a challenge to all of us! It is a call to service and Christian Stewardship which offers each an opportunity to measure up to our Christian obligation and responsibility. On the foundation stones of Faith, Prayer, and Sacrifice we will be successful.

W. D. Deevers

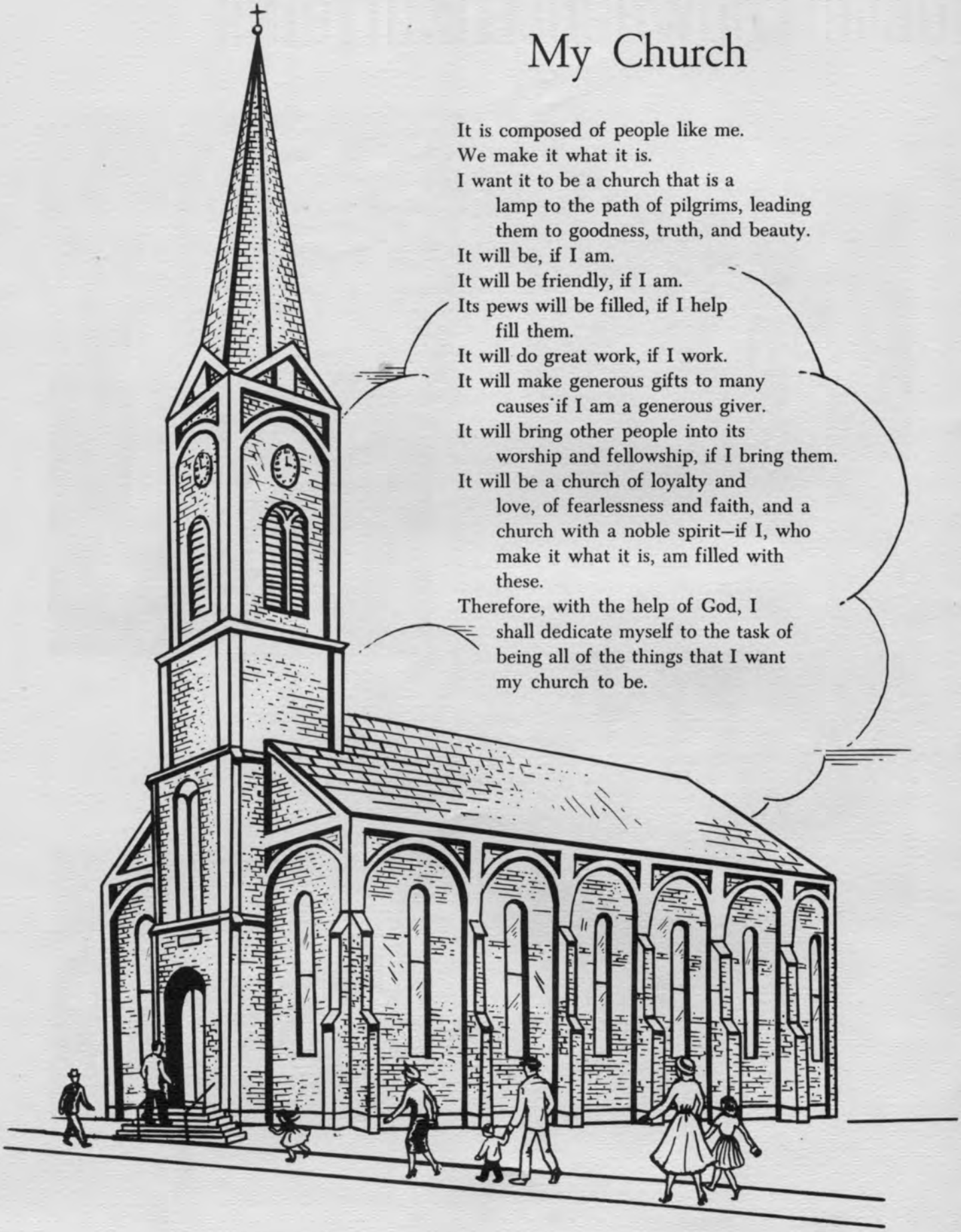
GENERAL CHAIRMAN

WE MUST SACRIFICE TO IMPROVE

THESE CROWDED CONDITIONS . . .

My Church

It is composed of people like me.
We make it what it is.
I want it to be a church that is a
lamp to the path of pilgrims, leading
them to goodness, truth, and beauty.
It will be, if I am.
It will be friendly, if I am.
Its pews will be filled, if I help
fill them.
It will do great work, if I work.
It will make generous gifts to many
causes if I am a generous giver.
It will bring other people into its
worship and fellowship, if I bring them.
It will be a church of loyalty and
love, of fearlessness and faith, and a
church with a noble spirit—if I, who
make it what it is, am filled with
these.
Therefore, with the help of God, I
shall dedicate myself to the task of
being all of the things that I want
my church to be.



Trinity's Churches

On October 31, 1855, eighteen months following the organization of the congregation, the first church was dedicated to the service of God. The building, which measured 40x24x18 feet, was erected at 512 William Street and served Trinity for twenty-four years.

As the congregation continued to grow, a larger church became a necessity. On November 2, 1879, the present building, described as the largest and most beautiful in the city, was dedicated as the house of worship for this congregation. During its three-quarters of a century of service several changes were made. In 1885 the tower clock, long since a familiar landmark, was placed in the belfry. A new organ was installed in 1905, replaced in 1935 by a Hammond organ, and in 1940 the present Moeller pipe organ was dedicated. In 1905 it was resolved to install electric lights and in 1910 a resolution was passed to replace the stoves with a hot air furnace.

Extensive interior changes were made in 1929. The basement was finished in 1941 to provide assembly rooms, rest rooms, vault and cedar wardrobe. From 1947 to 1949 the interior was again extensively remodeled — new lighting and heating, replastering, new floor and carpet, altar raised, pulpit lowered, balcony seats elevated and new pews installed, ceiling celotexed and church redecorated. The repair of steeple and clock in 1951 was followed in 1953 by tuckpointing of the walls and installation on the belfry of neon crosses. Thus, after seventy-five years of service Trinity's church presents a splendid appearance.

Our First Church
1855

OUR PLAN TO MEET OUR NEEDS

Trinity Lutheran Canvass Organization

General Chairman
W. D. DEEVERS

Canvass Committee Chairman - - - - - - - - Walter Moeller
Initial Gifts Chairman - - - - - - - - - - - - Walter Roth
Special Gifts Committee Chairman - - - - - - - - - A. E. Birk
Publications Committee Chairman - - - - - - - Elmer C. Stehr
Arrangements Committee Chairman - - - Mrs. Ben Northdurft
Hostess Committee Chairman - - - - - - - Mrs. Wm. Lehne
Teams Committee Chairman - - - - - - - - L. H. Landgraf

Division Leaders

E. E. Vogel — E. H. Haertling — A. E. Landgraf
J. L. Siemers — Walter A. Bohnsack

Canvass Plan

An Organized Intensive Plan for Pledges

IN ORDER to raise the Church Canvass Goal of $225,000, it has been agreed that we will conduct between now and October 9, 1954.

An Organized
Intensive
Face-to-Face
Solicitation in the Homes
For Building Fund Pledges
Over 150-Week Period.
Pledge Payments Begin
(Nov. 1, 1954)

Solicitations will be limited to member families, prospective Church members, parents of Sunday School children, and any other persons and families who consider themselves affiliated with our Church, but who are not technically members.

Individual face-to-face solicitations means that there will be no group—no meetings—nor will any solicitations be conducted by mail. Instead, a sufficient number of our Churchmen have been enlisted, qualified and organized as canvassers to visit and solicit each family of the Church individually and privately. The intensive aspect of this Canvass means that we will concentrate our efforts to obtain pledges from every member family during an intensive two-week solicitation period, which will avoid the necessity for a long drawn out follow-up program.

This will be primarily a Canvass for 150 week pledges. Families pledging more than $1,500 may consider semi-annual or annual payments, but all families pledging $1,500 or less will be encouraged to use the 150 week payment method. Contributions and even initial cash payments on pledges will be discouraged during the Canvass period.

The use of pledges over a 150-week period is a basic requirement of this Canvass, because it has been proven many times that the only manner in which the members and friends of a Church of this size can provide $225,000 for the budget and development program is not by cash contributions, but by subscription to the payment of sacrificial amounts weekly over a three-year period.

Our Responsibility

THERE IS NOTHING complicated or high pressure about our financial plan. We are simply asking that every member and friend of the Church set aside a generous and sacrificial portion of their income each week for a period of 150 weeks and that they give the Church a true priority on their contributions during that period of time.

These gifts must be OVER AND ABOVE OUR PRESENT CONTRIBUTIONS to the regular operating budget. The program of the Church must go on, and a curtailment in the budget giving would be short-sighted churchmanship.

Beginning about the time you receive this booklet, every family in any way affiliated with our Church will be visited and given an opportunity to invest in this great program.

Payments may be planned according to the wishes of each individual subscriber. Since the total needed for our expansion program is a large sum if thought of in terms of cash gifts, we would jeopardize the probability of attaining our goal by attempting to make the total gifts in cash. Total gifts can be much larger if weekly payments are kept in mind; for just as it is easier to make large purchases on the installment plan, so it is easier to make gifts in the amounts needed on a weekly basis.

Pledge cards will be presented to members of our Church. It should be remembered that making a pledge in this canvass is not like signing a note for the amount subscribed. We are simply asking that you indicate on the pledge card how much you feel you will be able to give during the three year period.

IF YOUR FINANCIAL CIRCUMSTANCES CHANGE, or if you should suffer any misfortune which would make the continuation of payments an undue hardship on you, your pledge may be decreased or discontinued simply by notifying the Church Office. If your financial circumstances change for the better, we hope you will want to increase your pledge. It is our hope to provide for the future generations in proportion to our giving ability.

This is the Once-in-a-Lifetime Opportunity for most of our members to have a part in a Church development enterprise. This is OUR DAY of Christian Responsibility.

Until a present generation family has made at least one sacrificial gift to the development of some Church, every time a member of that family uses a Church, he is increasing his indebtedness to an earlier generation and has not met his full obligation to build for the needs of his day.

Entrusted with a great tradition, enjoying a great fellowship, we face our Christian Responsibility for Today.

Walter Moeller

President Trinity Lutheran Church

What Is My Part?

THE CHRISTIAN Standard of Giving begins with $2.00 per week for each $1,000.00 of annual income or the tithe, using this Biblical principle as a guide for giving. Many with capital resources feel that they want to give 5% to the Trinity Lutheran Building Fund. This kind of giving calls for strength of will and courage to sacrifice.

Sacrificial Giving results in a pledge for a larger amount than we thought would be possible for us. In our Church Building Fund Canvass our pledge should be for the largest amount we have ever given.

To complete this Christian Education Expansion Fund Canvass, the Church needs YOU—

even as you need the CHURCH. It needs your prayers, your assistance, your energies, and your financial aid. Our pledges can and will complete our objectives and reveal our gratitude of God's blessings, our appreciation and our concern for the work of His Church.

How Much Shall I Give?

WE KNOW that you will want to consider seriously and prayerfully just what the measure of your support will be. If our Church is to raise $225,000, . . in fund pledges it will depend entirely upon the size of the pledges.

There will be no high pressure solicitation, but instinctively we will not pledge more than a fraction of the amount to be raised unless we recognize that:

(1) "Giving" is a habit, usually a weak token-giving habit.

(2) "Pocketbook-protection" is an instinct, usually a strong one.

(3) Our interests follow our dollars; better-than-token giving will help increase our interest in our Church and even more important, in our spiritual lives.

(4) It is easy to criticize, but it takes courage to give sacrificially.

(5) Until a Christian family has made at least one sacrificial gift to the building of some Church, they are impoverishing their Christianity every time they use any Church building because they are content to live by what others have done without accepting responsibility themselves.

(6) Each of us must ask the Lord in prayer for the answer to, "How much can I give?"

No one will deny the needs of Trinity Lutheran Church. Whether or not we can fulfill this need depends upon whether or not you and I have given sacrificially for its construction.

It is our hope to provide for our Church as we have been provided for. In proportion to our giving ability let us give.

C. E. Burk

SPECIAL GIFTS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN

How To Make Your Gift

In the careful – and prayerful – consideration of "How much shall I give?" we should think of several points, for the size of our pledges will depend upon:

1. Our Christianity
2. Our interest in the Church program
3. Our recognition of the need
4. Our financial ability
5. Our method of paying the pledges
6. Our willingness to sacrifice
7. Our desire to encourage others to sacrifice
8. Our willingness to trust God and believe His promise

One of the greatest experiences in the life of a Christian is that of helping to build a church. To extend the services of his church in the community is to widen his own horizons of Christian living and fellowship. Until we have made an investment in the building of a church, we are more or less accepting the far-sighted charity of others every time we or our children use a church.

Remember that the greatest effect of sacrificial pledging is upon the donors themselves. The spiritual value of sacrifice has been known to man since before Christianity. There would be no Christians today if it were not for the great sacrifices of our early Christian leaders. You and your family are requested to begin now giving serious, prayerful consideration to the amount you will endeavor to contribute for our church.

A fellow member, who has made his pledge will call at your home between September 27 and October 6th with a card for your pledge.

Your Church does not challenge your ability to give – It challenges your willingness to give!

Our Giving Can Be of Two Kinds:

A TOKEN GIFT is one which is so small that it has only a NEGATIVE IMPACT upon the Giver. . . . . . .

A SACRIFICIAL GIFT is one which is large enough to have a POSITIVE SPIRITUAL IMPACT upon the Giver and cannot be paid at one time. . . . . . .

It Is Easy to Give Weekly!

Weekly, regular contributions are inducive of a great effort and a more active interest. This chart will help you to decide your contributions:

Weekly (based on 150 weeks)	Total Pledge
$66.67	$10,000
50.00	7,500
40.00	6,000
33.33	5,000
25.00	3,750
20.00	3,000
15.00	2,250
10.00	1,500
8.00	1,200
5.00	750
3.00	450
2.00	300

Tax Advantages

The Income Tax Act provides individuals an allowance for charitable donations up to 30% of net income. The tax consequence of your giving will vary, depending upon the rate applicable to the highest bracket of your taxable income.

For example: If the highest tax rate applicable to the family man's income is 25 percent, the actual cost of a gift is reduced to three-quarters of the total amount paid. If the highest applicable tax rate is 50 percent, then the actual cost of a gift to the Church is reduced to one-half of the total amount given.

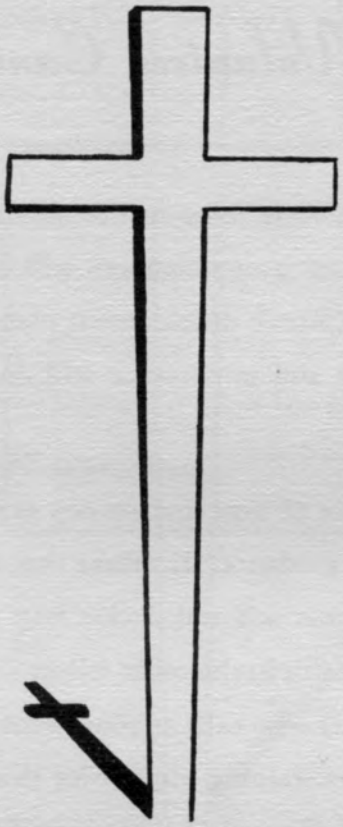
If you study this feature as it applies in your own income tax circumstance, you will be surprised to find how much more you can give because of this income tax allowance feature.

The Volunteer Canvasser

A LONG-AWAITED DAY has come to the members of our Church. Very soon now, one of your neighbors will be calling on you to talk about our new Church development plans. We all know that a project of this size and importance will demand our very best efforts

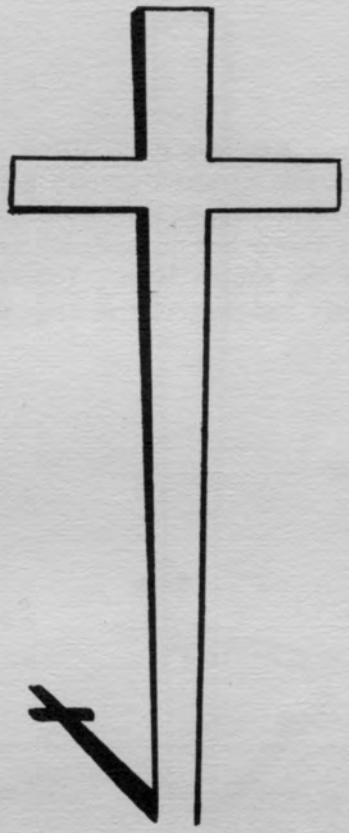
It means sacrifice of time and money as well as consecration. It means prayer for guidance. It means that each one of us must look into his own inner self and decide how much he can do for the cause. It means faith in the other fellow and faith in ourselves. The volunteer worker who calls at your home is one of many. He has spent many hours training himself for this task. He has given generously of his own money. He has pledged himself to give more in the future. He believes in the worthwhileness of our Church and its work, and is proving his faith by calling on others. His is not an easy job. But YOU can help him by extending your welcome when he comes, and by listening to his story.

The responsibility of our Church and the opportunity to sacrifice for it are ours. Let us face the challenge with determination and give our best.



Our Canvass Prayer

OUR GRACIOUS GOD IN HEAVEN, we thank Thee for Thy continued love toward us, for the abundant life and salvation through Jesus Christ, for the necessities we need for our life, for our home and family knit together in Thy love, and for our Church that is showing us and others Thy way of life. Touch our hearts with a new sense of gratitude to Thee that we may be willing to sacrifice in our giving. We give all the glory to Thee, and Thy Son, Jesus Christ, Who loved us and sacrificed His life that we through Him might be saved. AMEN.



WHAT
will be
MY
Sacrifice?

IN memory of the Reverend F. H. Melzer, who served Trinity as pastor for 32 years, this attractive outdoor bulletin was dedicated on March 30, 1952. The electric bulletin, constructed of stainless steel, is centered in a flower bed of sandstone and is located at the southwest corner of the church lawn. Trinity Guild began the flower planting project and continues to keep the bed in trim.

"Where Your Treasure Is . . .

There Will Your Heart Be Also"