

Lutheran Tidings

Volume VII

February 20, 1941

Number 14

The Danish Church in California

by Enok Mortensen

The Danes have been in California a long time. In 1870 there were almost as many of them as in Iowa, and far more than in Nebraska and the Dakotas. If we had been supplied with a sufficient number of ministers then, our church on the west coast would have been larger and stronger than is the case today.

It is interesting to read in "Kirkelig Samler" of October 15th, 1880 of Adam Dan's journey out here. He came to Salinas about July, 1880 and organized churches in Watsonville and Salinas. He also preached in Chualar; and though transportation was difficult—many places he had to use stages, he hoped to visit San Luis Obispo, where there were many Danes, San Francisco, and Los Angeles.

There are still people who remember him from those days; and in old Mrs. Andrew Hansen's bedroom I have several times cast admiring glances at the handsome writing desk, presented to him when he left Racine, Wisconsin for the Wild West. I wonder how many of his poems flowed from his pen there! I am fairly certain that "Sejrende Kræfter" saw light there. If so, then his song "Der sejler en Kongesnække" (The ship of the King is sailing) was also written by

that desk. I wonder how he could part with it! But then—railroads charged as much as seven cents a mile; he probably couldn't afford to ship it when he left again in 1884.

California may have been "God's country" to some people; but the devil has always claimed a large share of it for his own. It was the Wild West in more ways than speaking of the scenery. Most immigrants took small interest in storing up treasures in heaven; what they wanted was bright gold nuggets in their pockets—here and now! Church work was difficult. Ministers stayed in their calls but a few years before indifference and worldliness drove them to greener pastures in the East.

Some two years ago I buried old Mrs. Madsen whose husband, Pastor S.H. Madsen pioneered in Ferndale and Hayward. Before me, as I write, is an old letter where Madsen tells of the difficulties—\$200 in salary, with house rent at \$8.50 a month, and nine mouths to feed.

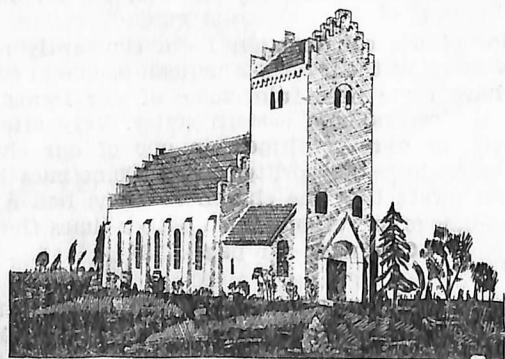
I also have a letter from Pastor C.J. Skovgaard, asking Pastor Peder Kjolhede, then synod president, to send him

(Continued on page 110)

Bethania at Solvang

Bethania Danish Lutheran Church at Solvang was started with the community. Thirty years ago there was no Solvang. St. Ynez Mission, established in 1804, reigned supremely in the valley. Land was divided up into big ranches and no less than 5000 acres could sustain a family, said the natives.

Mads Frese, Gregersen and others sought for a tract of land, suitable for a Danish settlement, all over the state.



Bethania Church, Solvang, Calif.

They found the valley here or the valley found them. Soon landseekers came in. Natives said the Danes were a little more than half crazy for assuming that they could live on 160 acres or less. The Danes, however, came not to go horseriding and wearing plumes at Fiestas. They came to do hard work, live frugally and perpetuate Danish tradition. Included in that was the church.

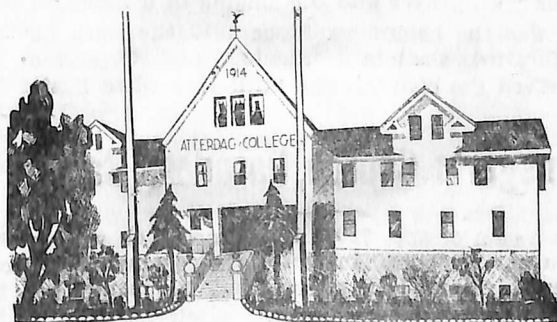
A congregation was organized. Services were held in the building, which is now called Knudsen's coffee shop. Atterdag was built on the hill and the "Foredragsal" became the place of worship. It was here the community and the folkschool inmates became as it were one family. People would walk forth and back between the school and their homes three times on the holidays. Those pioneer days were happy days, I often

hear people say. Even a feud of the typical pioneer kind could not entirely inhibit a shared life.

Twelve years ago the church edifice was erected. The site, architecture, and inside of the church do affect the emotions, and the quest for peaceful harmony. It has become a landmark in lower California. Would that acoustics corresponded to the architecture.

The cessation of Atterdag folkschool incurred a great difficulty in the church. It had so intimately been woven into the services, the festivals and the atmosphere of the community. It is always extremely difficult to survive a great loss. To some the school was more important than the church and they were quite at a loss when it no longer was there. People have diligently endeavored to keep the school with the hope that it may again be of constant use.

The relationship between first, second and third generations has here as elsewhere been precarious. Quite a few came here to find a refuge for "Danskheden". Ministers urged them to hold the fort against aggressors. The services



Atterdag College

in the church are still Danish but the relentless conditions impelling people to relinquish the resistance, and no matter how much it hurts, the common language will replace the Danish. Meanwhile some of us pray that the change shall not sever the church from a true "folkelig" conception of life so that it becomes a flagrant henchman for the rulers of this world. There is an inheritance in the church which must not

(Continued on page 110)

Emanúel Church, Los Angeles

The first attempt to bring the ministry of The Danish Lutheran Church to Danish people in Los Angeles was made by Rev. C. J. Skovgaard in 1906 when he and his wife moved here from Hampton, Iowa. His coming here was due, in part at least, to the presence of a few interested laymen who felt the need and longed for the presence, of a pastor who could minister to them in their mother tongue.

Today there are two Danish Lutheran churches in Los Angeles. Emanuel, begun by Skovgaard, and representing our own synod. Bethel representing our sister synod, the United Danish Luth. Church. Both congregations have recently built new churches and parish halls.

Pastor Skovgaard received no support from the Synod when he moved here and after two years of hard and conscientious work, was forced, for lack of finances, to move to another field. The little flock that he had gathered, and which assembled faithfully was unable to carry the load alone. But the seed had been sown and we read the following from the secretary's record:

"At a meeting held at 1605 So. Main St., Oct. 13, 1912, and arranged by Pastor Nordentoft (Solvang) and the Ladies Aid (which had remained faithful.—Somewhere in our synod a monument should be erected honoring the devotion of our Danish-American women to their church) the congregation was reorganized, after having dwindled away since Skovgaard's departure. The meeting began at 5 o'clock and was opened by the singing of a hymn. Under the leadership of Pastor Nordentoft, and after some discussion, during the course of which several voiced their opinion, it was unanimously decided to elect a board of directors and to retain the congregation's name—"Emanuel", as well as the original constitution. Eighteen members joined immediately and elected Hans Christensen (now Solvang) as president, Carl Faurso as secretary and Valdemar Nielsen as treasurer. The meeting closed at 6 o'clock with prayer and the singing of a hymn."

Such was the beginning. Since 1912 the work has gone steadily forward. Pastors Nordentoft and Grøgersen from Solvang served the congregation until 1915 when Pastor Mai-

land became the first residing pastor. Mailand passed away in January 1919 after nearly four years of devoted service in God's vineyard here in Los Angeles. During his pastorate the first church (46th and McKinley) was built.

Since that time the following have served here: Pastor S. Marckmann, 1919-'23; C. J. Skovgaard 1923-'24 (Temp.); A. C. Kildegaard, 1925-'27; N. P. Gravengaard, 1928-'35; C. C. Rasmussen, 1935-'39; and A. E. Farstrup from Nov. 1939.

In 1937 the present church located at 43rd St. and 3rd Ave., was dedicated and in 1939 a parish hall at the rear of the church was added. This was accomplished under C. C. Rasmussen's pastorate.



Emanuel Church, Los Angeles

and English speaking ladies organization meets once a month each and our Luther League every 2nd and 4th Sunday evenings.

As pastor of the congregation I am constantly meeting the fact that many of the Danish-American people in southern California, have come here from some of our Danish communities in the central and eastern states. Very often they were members, or were confirmed, in one of our churches, but upon coming here they drifted away. Sometimes because they were not aware that the church at home had a sister-church here anxious to welcome them. Other times the pastor

(Continued on page 112)

Ansgar's Church, Pasadena, Calif.

When a sum of app. \$2000 is assigned each year to Home Mission on our Synodical budget, do you sometimes wonder: What does it mean—just where does the money go? Here then is a story of a Home Mission project.

Many years ago, at the beginning of this century, the Danish people of the Los Angeles-Pasadena vicinity felt the need of regular church services. But the transportation problems soon proved too great a burden for most of the Danes of Pasadena, so beginning in 1907 services were held now and then in a home in Pasadena for the three or four families interested. But these few were evidently patient, loyal and imbued with some missionary spirit. Beginning now in Nov., 1915, regular services once a month were conducted in Pasadena by the resident pastor of Los Angeles. The little con-

gregation increased in membership. In 1925 they were able to rent a church, arrange two services a month, one English forenoon service and one Danish afternoon service, and to conduct a Sunday school. And in 1928 Rev. S. Marckman was installed as resident pastor; services were now conducted every Sunday.

The same year the small congregation of 47 members (now 32 children in Sunday school) bought a three room house to which was soon added a very adequate Chapel. This was dedicated as the new church on Nov. 4th, 1928. Can you imagine the joy of the pioneers of this congregation the day this edifice was dedicated, after 21 years of dreaming, of hoping, but also 21 years of faithful devotion? But the crash of 1929 and its reverberations reached Pasadena too. Here was a struggling congregation with a resident pastor to support, a \$2400 debt and now suddenly several families leaving to find work elsewhere. But the small group continued. The

(Continued on page 112)

NINTH DISTRICT

Dr. O. M. Norlie from Luther College, Decorah, Iowa, in a recent report of the Lutheran Churches west of the Rocky Mts., characterized this section of our nation as a "neglected field." (See Lutheran Tidings Jan. 5th).

It was perhaps the same thing that an old Negro had in mind, who stopped at our house to replenish his stock of darning thread and oatmeal, when I asked him how religion was with his people. He looked at me, then turned and pointed east to the mountains and said, "God never got over dat thar hump."

For those of us that live here we hardly believe it's that bad, though we will admit that we know what both the doctor and the old Negro were talking about. As far as I can determine we are all going to do something about it, and we hope God will, too. Men are being sent into the "neglected fields." Means are being expended. From one little Christian College in Eugene, Oregon some thirty young men are sent out every weekend to mission stations, to assist pastors, to teach Sunday schools and to fill vacancies. It should be a good way for young theologians to spend weekends.

As for the Ninth Dist., which includes Oregon, Washington, and at one time Vancouver, B. C., we need at least two pastors. One could be placed at Wilbur, Wash. Wilbur is in eastern Wash. on Highway No. 10, 65 miles west of Spokane and 26 miles from Coulee Dam. The climate is semi-arid, and the main crop is wheat. In Wilbur is a faithful group of Danes and a good church building. A hard working pastor could possibly find a few more Danes scattered throughout the "Inland Empire." Richard Goodhope and Ellen are at Garfield, Wash. There are Danes at Mansfield, Spokane and St. Andrews. The Northwest promises you nothing easy. Here is a challenge to a man with fortitude and faith.

At Enumclaw, Wash. Jorgen Nielsen has resigned. Enumclaw is a town of 2,084 (1930 census). It is one of the prettiest spots in Wash.—and scenery is free. On a clear day you invariably turn your gaze toward the great white mountain peak—Rainier and recall the lines of the Psalmist, "I will lift up mine eyes unto the mountains from whence cometh my help."

The future of the Enumclaw church seems at present a little doubtful. Impressions from my visit there, and a study of names and records is—that there are enough Danes in Enumclaw to support a pastor and keep him busy. While Flensted Jensen and his boys were here they reported Enumclaw as one of their best places for their exhibitions on the west coast.

St. John's of Seattle, Wash.

When the Psalmist in the distant past uttered the sacred words: "My soul longeth for the courts of Jehovah" (Psalm 84) he gave expression to a need that also arose in the souls of Danish men and women in this far northwest of America.

Some of this spirit was born in the hearts of Mr. and Mrs. Anders Nielsen and other Danish pioneers when they conceived the idea of organizing a Danish Lutheran Congregation in Seattle. It was indeed regarded as a very venturesome undertaking. Always when the Kingdom of God is to be advanced in this materially dominated world, the first opposition voiced is: "Where shall the means come from?" This is still the primary objection until the reborn soul in faith launches into a practical work which ultimately "grows in favor with man and God".

The history of west coast Danish Lutheran Churches includes many earnest men and women who in love have labored for the "Word".

The story of St. John's cannot be written without giving due mention to the neighboring congregations, St. Paul's of Tacoma, now preparing to celebrate 50 years of congregational life and Enumclaw Danish Lutheran Church, almost as long in

Whether or not there are enough of their people who are so concerned about their church as to keep the church doors open remains to be seen. We pray there are.

The other congregations in the Ninth Dist., beside the two already mentioned are, St. John's Church at Seattle, St. Paul's Church at Tacoma, both in Wash. Then there is the Danish Luth. Church at Junction City, Oregon. The last mentioned is the only congregation in our synod in the whole



Church at Wilbur, Wash.

state. All these congregations have been asked to send articles to this number of Lutheran Tidings and will thus speak for themselves.

Twenty years ago there were 225 contributing members in the Ninth Dist. The annual report from last year shows 240. Here is no growth, but seemingly we are holding our own. Now new people are finding their way into the Northwest. We need help.

Best greetings to the readers of L. T. from friends in the Northwest

Holger O. Nielsen, Dist. Pres.

the service of the Lord. Ballard, now a section of northwest Seattle, is considered the "cradle" of St. John's.

The earnest labors of love performed by such Pastors as Rev. C. J. Skovgaard, and Larsen of St. Paul's, Tacoma, and Rev. Mylund-Jensen and Rev. Petersen of Enumclaw and Rev. Carl Jorgensen of Ballard must be regarded as the foundation upon which the present has been built. Faithful souls long since laid to rest loyally supported and carried on, that future believers might receive a heritage worthwhile.

I suppose the inspiration to form organizations of women to serve within the church dates back to the early Christian era and perhaps because of the spirit of service exemplified in "Martha of Bethany." At any rate here in the Pacific Northwest, even preceding the organization of a Christian Congregation a women's group, "Kvindeforeningen" had begun its unceasing work to provide funds for the visiting Pastors and to pay the rental of whatever localities were used for service. German and Norwegian Lutheran Churches were rented until regular services conducted by Rev. Carl Jorgensen were held in a small room in Washington Hall (owned by The Danish Brotherhood).

Inspired by regular attendance on the part of some, a special meeting was called to organize a congregation. With 40 in attendance this was deemed encouraging and one Sep-

(Continued on page 108)

Lutheran Tidings

PUBLISHED BY
THE DANISH EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN
CHURCH OF AMERICA

Office of publication, Tyler, Minnesota

Rev. Holger Strandskov, Editor
Tyler, Minnesota

Rev. Holger P. Jorgensen, Business Manager
Lock Box 358, Tyler, Minn., and
25 Merrill Ave., Muskegon, Mich.

Published semi-monthly on the 5th and 20th of each month.
Entered as second class matter at the post office, Tyler, Minn.

Subscr. price: 1 yr. \$1.00; 2 yrs. \$1.75; 3 yrs. \$2.50

All contributions to the contents of this paper should be sent to the editor.

All matters concerning subscriptions, payments of subscriptions, and requests for advertising rates should be sent to the business manager's Muskegon, Michigan, address. Notices of change of address should be sent to Lock Box 358, Tyler, Minn.

Volume VII February 20, 1941. Number 14

EDITORIAL

This issue of Lutheran Tidings is one of the "four special issues" as planned by the editor for the year. Centering our attention this time on "Our Churches on the West Coast", we hope to help the people throughout our synod to get a more comprehensive picture of this extensive field of work in which we all share. Possibly we may be helped to share in some measure with our co-workers in this area in their joy, but also in the challenge of the work of our church in all its various fields.

Many of the churches on the west coast have originated and been fostered through several years as Home Mission projects. Without such aid the work in these small church groups would not have been possible. Undoubtedly our contributions to Home Mission will be given with more satisfaction and appreciation as we become familiar with the need and also the possibilities of our many Home Mission projects.

A second purpose of the "special issue" of Lutheran Tidings is to mail a supply of sample copies to all our congregations for distribution. Lutheran Tidings is still an infant. "Dannevirke" and "Kirkelig Samler" have faithfully served members of our Danish Church through the many, many years. And we sincerely hope same will continue to serve a large group in many years to come. However, it is a reality that many of our younger group do not read our Danish publications. It must be our goal to place Lutheran Tidings in every one of these homes. Church leaders in all synods agree that membership in a church must also be nourished by the fellowship shared with the larger group. This is made possible through the information and the inspiration that a church paper regularly brings to a home.

"A Church Paper in Every Home" is thus our motto. In order to effect this as quickly as possible, we now submit a special Introductory Offer to new subscribers at the very low price of 50 cts. for the first year. This should immediately bring us at least 500 new subscribers. We invite the help of all friends of our work. The representatives of L. T. in our congregations will do their part. But we need the special help of all our pastors and of every subscriber to place L. T. in as many homes as possible. Many have children who live away from home, and possibly distant from any direct contact with their home church. Lutheran Tidings sent to them regularly will bring them a constant greeting from the home church and from the fellowship they previously have enjoyed.

"A Church Paper in Every Home" will unite us in a richer fellowship and eventually will show us how to share in the problems of our synod, but also in the joys and the accomplishments that God in His grace will grant us.

Holger Strandskov.

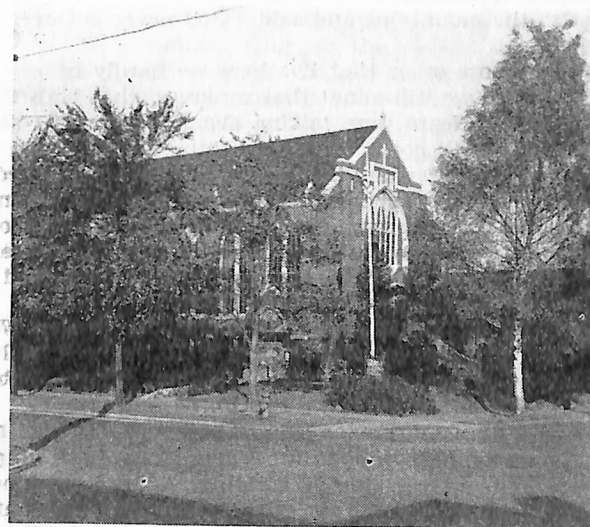
P. S. Due to an abundance of material from the West Coast, "Our Church" news and the G.V.C. column must wait.

SEATTLE CHURCH...

(Continued from page 107)

tember day 1914 a new Congregation was born in the Danish Lutheran Church of America. They elected officers who understood the objective and willingly assumed the responsibility. Rev. Carl Jorgensen continued as Pastor until the spring of 1916.

The new Congregation was faced with many difficulties but struggled on. The Danish Lutheran Church of America with Rev. N. P. Gravengaard as its president and leader soon interested itself in the young western congregation. Here was given a good demonstration of cooperative effort, and how it came to the support and encouragement of this new church.



St. John's Church, Seattle

Now a new Pastor was urged to take up the work. Rev. P. B. Ammentorp left his well established church in Omaha to work among Danish people in Seattle, Washington. Accompanying him was his faithful mate lovingly called by many "Martha." Through the very vigorous efforts of these two attendance and interest increased, a better understanding of Synod resulted. Seattle began to comprehend that the older and better established congregations had a heart for the younger and gladly shared that they might survive. This lesson is valuable for all to learn.

The one objective of the St. John's Danish Lutheran Congregation was the building of a church in which they could worship. Many had begun to sense this need. However, the shortage of homes in Seattle made it imperative that all building material available was to be conserved for more homes, hence no church building could receive the approval of the authorities. Perhaps this limitation was one of the blessings, which at the time could not be understood. It was regarded as a setback not to be able to construct a church. A solution to the intricate problem was voiced by Mr. Bonnellykke (now deceased) to build in compliance to the law but with a duplex arrangement so a chapel of adequate size might be located in the basement of the parsonage. This solved the problem. Never has a better arrangement been conceived. It still serves, without alteration, many purposes, and would be difficult to be without.

With established headquarters Rev. P. B. Ammentorp found his ministry more pleasing and his work could now proceed definitely along the missionary lines he had in mind. Many homes to this day have regarded him as their spiritual father. He led the congregation faithfully. He was called upon to be at the bedside of the sick and dying, the old and feeble. His willing service endeared him to many. To his own regret he found he was limited by national or hereditary boundaries. The newer generations should be served and taught in the language of America.

The Pastorate of Rev. Ammentorp continued until 1921.

The pioneer family of Mr. and Mrs. Anders Nielsen had now completed 50 years of wedded life. This must not go unheralded. With the worship chapel serving every need of this little congregation it was found very essential now for the festival gathering honoring these two faithful souls. Space

will not permit details. Nevertheless one of the most dramatic moments of this festival came when a gift of gold amounting to one hundred dollars was presented to the aged couple. This kind act was again climaxed when in turn the Golden Wedding couple arose and tendered this gift of love to the building fund of the future church building. Tears, emotions, expressions unrecorded came to each one present. The elders of the Church still visualized into the future though almost seven years should elapse before this hope could be realized.

Renewed efforts to this end were made. The able counsel of M. J. Lehmann (deceased) prevented hurried and thoughtless action. Funds were to be secured before the building was constructed. Today the church can operate without the worry and insecurity of debt.

During the summer of 1921 the congregation was without a regular Pastor. Upon the recommendation of Rev. P. B. Ammentorp a call was extended Rev. Alfred E. Sorensen. He began his work October, 1921.

The increased use of the English language was noted in Sunday School and worship, though Danish Services were continued undisturbed. In the matter of Confirmation it was deemed best to instruct using English. To many this was a definite cause for grief and sorrow, though conditions natural and universal were responsible for the change. The youth should have an inheritance of the cultural Danish not yet at the sacrifice of a full understanding of the eternal word of the living God. A new period was beginning. It was hoped it should unite the family in worship. The parent sacrificing language for the sake of youth. Could it have been otherwise?

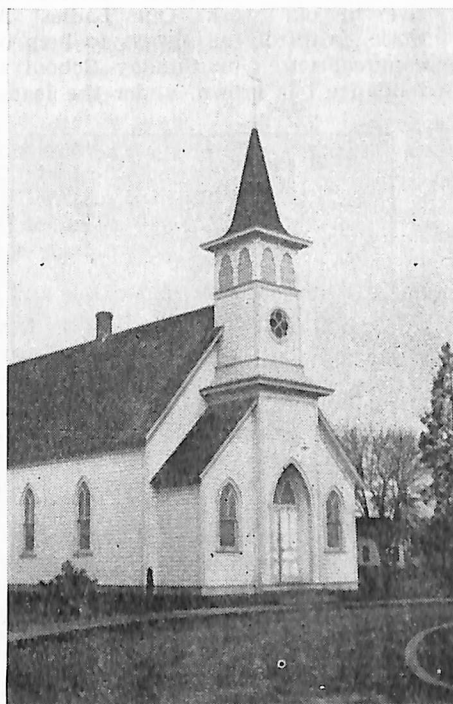
It is always a joy if the problem of a congregation is one of providing for growth in membership. Such was the case in 1922 when the Sunday School taxed the capacity of the Chapel and Parsonage. This was quickly solved by acquiring a lot adjoining the present property and building a temporary "Forsamlingshus", Community House.

In 1925 the Annual meeting voted to build a church edifice. Plans had been made and soon committees were busily engaged with many duties. In August all was in readiness for the "ground breaking ceremony" where Anders Nielsen spoke words worthy of remembrance. As he was about to take the first spade of dirt he said, "Here will be built a Danish Lutheran Church in which I hope all the Danish people will gather each Sunday". Work proceeded day by day. One Sunday in January those in attendance at worship remained for the raising of the crown wreath to the summit of the church. September 5th, 1926, Rev. Adam Dan traveled from Chicago to assist Rev. Haakon Jorgensen, President of the

Junction City, Ore.

The Danish Church was established in Junction City in 1902. The first year services were held in the other churches of the town. In 1903 the Danish hall was built and in 1908 the present church was built. It was dedicated Feb. 7, 1909.

One unique feature about the found-



Junction City Church

ing of the colony was the method of financing the building of the church. A. C. Nielsen, the founder of the colo-

Synod, in dedicating the new St. John's Danish Lutheran Church of Seattle, Washington. It was a day of great festivity. A few improvements have been made since, painting and decorating. A new Moller pipe organ with full set of chimes was installed and dedicated in 1940.

The history of St. John's Danish Lutheran Church may appear from the above presentation to have been mainly a building project. This is not the case. There has been a continuous effort to bring the message of Christ to old and young in home and church and associated organizations. Our duty has been to make known and witness of the Christ.

The cultural work has been ably carried on by the Danish Literary Society "Maagen".

St. John's Danish Lutheran Church of today is the only Danish church in Seattle which carries on a program of Danish and English services, and is located in the central district of the city.

Alfred E. Sorensen

ny, took option on 1600 acres of land and subdivided it into small farms of 20 to 40 acres each. 80 acres were set aside for church property, when these farms were sold this so-called church land was free of debt. This land was then sold and the money used to build the church buildings.

The Danish Cemetery was originally on the church land but was later moved to a hill west of town.

When the Danes first started coming to Junction City they were not too well received by the native Oregonians. They said it was impossible to make a living on so small a farm. But the Danes, mostly from the mid-west, were thrifty people and were not long in getting established in the community.

From 1908 to 1913 a large group of families moved from Brush, Colo. to Junction City. This brought the congregation up to about 60 families. In the twenties another migration took place, chiefly from Askov, Minn., although other families joined from time to time.

The first pastor of the congregation was Rev. Mylund from Salinas, Calif.

The old location in town served the Danes for many years. This was the center of the whole Danish community. Children were baptized, went to Sunday-School, were confirmed, joined the young people's work. Some fell by the wayside, others moved away, but many joined the congregation. Many of the older members have died, but the work of the Lord goes on.

During the early thirties the congregation had hard sledding for a few years. The old question, whether to use the Danish or the American language came up again. Many of our younger members had married American speaking men or women and were joining other churches. English services are held twice a month now, and these people are gradually re-entering our church.

As the years went by objection grew to the old location because highway 99 passed between our buildings. In 1940 the congregation sold part of their property and bought two acres directly west of town. The church and hall were moved during the year. New foundations were put under the buildings and an addition built to the hall. Curbs and sidewalks were laid and some trees and shrubs planted.

November 3, 1940, the new grounds were dedicated. Speakers for the occasion were Rev. A. E. Sorensen from Seattle, Rev. Jorgen Nielsen from Enumclaw, Wash. And our local pastor Rev. H. O. Nielsen.

Sometime in the future we will sell the balance of our property and build a new parsonage on the church grounds according to plan.

We can truthfully say that we as a Christian Lutheran congregation are making slow but a steady growth in Junction City.

Winther Bodtker

Wilbur, Washington

The Danish and Norwegian Lutherans of Wilbur, Wash. decided in 1897 to combine their efforts, and be served by the same pastor. Their pastor's name was Lauritz Nissen. The first chairman of this combined congregation was Julius Lyse. In 1899 William Lauritzen "willed" the lots upon which the parsonage was built.

In 1903 they separated and the Danes chose Rev. Mylund as their pastor, though Mylund was never a resident pastor but must be considered more in the light of a visiting pastor who stayed long enough to organize the congregation. The other ministers who served us as pastors in those early years were Jens Lund and Henrick Plambeck.

The Danish Young People's Society bought the "Odin Hall" in 1904. From this date to 1916 this hall was used for church services and all other church activities. But in 1916, through the initiative of Rev. Johannes Jensen, we built our church at Wilbur. Rev. Jensen was also instrumental in having a church built at St. Andrews. The St. Andrews church, however, was destroyed by fire several years ago and has never been rebuilt; there are but a few scattered Danish families living there today.

Rev. Andrew Iversen accepted a call from the Wilbur and St. Andrews congregations in 1901 but stayed only one year. For a year we were without a pastor. Our next pastor, 1908-11 was C. J. Skovgaard. From 1912 to 21 the pastors Johannes Jensen and J. P. Madsen were at Wilbur. Rev. J. Jessen accepted our call in 1921. At this time the congregation bought a house near the church and this served as parsonage. The two congregations each paid 500 dollars in support of their pastor. Jessen left us in 1922. Since this year Wilbur and St. Andrews have been without resident pastor. We have been served monthly by the pastors from the Ninth Dist. Many other itinerant preachers and speakers have visited Wilbur.

The pastors of the Ninth Dist. who have served us faithfully are: Alfred E. Sorensen of Seattle, Jorgen Nielsen of Enumclaw, Johannes Mortensen and John Enslemann. Rev. Isacksen, now in Denmark, and Rev. H. O. Nielsen.

The Danish Ladies' Aid in Wilbur has been a great moral and financial help to the church. They support the church annually with at least 50 dollars.

This winter the young people were organized into a Luther League with Mrs. V. Jurgensen as their "advisor". We old members wish the young folks as long and as happy a future as we have enjoyed.

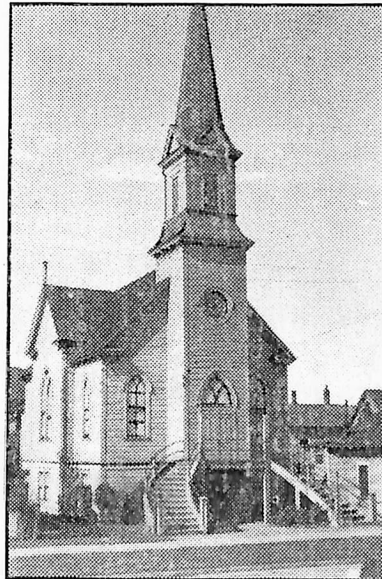
Jens Petersen,
Wilbur, Washington.

Tacoma, Washington

Our little Danish church will celebrate its 50th anniversary **August 28 to September 1st, 1941**. Our District meeting will be held here at the same time.

Practically all our work is in English. We have only one or two Danish services a year.

One of the most encouraging things has been our Men's Club, which started in April; and they have been very active in our work. Our Ladies' Aid works faithfully as always to help our congregation. Our Sunday School attendance has grown, under the leader-



St. Paul's Church, Tacoma

ship of Ernest Olsen. Our fine choir leader, Miss Ellen Olsen, has started a Junior Choir, that we heard at our Christmas program. Our Senior Choir gives grace and beauty to our church services.

The Board has just decided to have the church re-decorated inside and painted outside, so everything will be in fine shape for our jubilee. The church has been filled with members and friends at several special meetings.

We have all felt the joy of Christian fellowship and everybody has shown a fine spirit of co-operation. The church bulletin brought out by our Men's Club has reached everyone interested in our work.

Our courage has been strengthened and we have once again felt that we have a hope and a future in this great town.

If you have a son in any of the three great army camps outside Tacoma, drop the pastor a card, and he will try to get in touch with him. Address: 1310 South L. Street, Tacoma, Wash.

We are already planning great things for our Jubilee; and we are confident, that by the grace of God, through earnest prayer and hard work, many will meet with us and rejoice over the work in years past.

And our thoughts and thanks go to

the pastors and old, faithful members, who helped to keep our work going year by year.

John Enslemann
Pastor.

BETHANIA, SOLVANG . . .

(Continued from front page)

be sold just for the sake of "keeping things going." The inheritance is more than young California's native optimism. Only to the extent that it is imbibed in the old generation can it be transmuted to coming generations. It is a subtle task to proclaim the Christ gospel in the church, impossible except for the force and ingenuity of the Holy Spirit.

Aage Möller.

CHURCH IN CALIF. . . .

(Continued from front page)

elsewhere, since he is unable to breathe in godless Salinas with its 42 saloons, 6 of which were Danish. This was in 1897.

But these glimpses reveal only one side of the picture. I like to think also of old Rasmus Jensen who died a few years ago in Santa Cruz. So deeply rooted was he in Danish church life that he used to rise with the stars, harness a horse, and drive twenty miles to the church in Watsonville. There have been, and are, others like him.

A quarter of a century slipped by before another church was organized. This was in Easton, followed by Parlier two years later. In 1912 churches were organized in Los Angeles and in Solvang. Atterdag College was built, and Solvang with Nordentoft and Gregeresen and Hornsyld became the center of our work on the coast.

Now we have congregations also in Pasadena, in San Diego, and in Oakland. And if we were to follow our countrymen, as we ought, we should have a lot more churches. I haven't the exact figures, but I am sure that there are more Danes in California than in any other state, possibly with the exception of Illinois. Of the "92% unchurched Lutherans on the west coast" a goodly number must be our compatriots.

California is something by itself—so much that there are those who speak wistfully of seceding from the Union. Our churches, also, are different. People who visit here from other parts are conscious of it without being able to point out anything definite.

Certainly, we are far away from the center of the synod. We are not sunning ourselves in the rays of mid-western homogeneity. Grand View College has no practical value for us; indeed, most people have never even heard of it. And it is difficult for most of us to participate in the conventions

and other large gatherings usually held in the middle west. Climate and sundry local conditions may also have played a part in making us different. Yet we are bound inseparably by language, traditions, and spirit, to the Danish Church.

May we be worthy of our calling!

EASTON-PARLIER

In the past year we have had both churches re-decorated entirely and the parsonage re-modelled and re-decorated and the grounds somewhat landscaped. Our dream is to make the Easton church "Dansk Landsbykirke-stil". The west coast already has three churches of Danish architecture, Los Angeles, Salinas and Solvang. The style is not only Danish but blends easily with California architecture.

The Easton-Parlier churches are 14 miles apart and each church has services twice monthly, alternating with the Danish and English language. As the distance between the churches is so short in this age of motor cars it is common practice for people to attend services at both places.

There are probably very few places in this country where Danes are so thickly populated, as in this vicinity. We have eight Danish churches within a radius of about 15 miles; six of them belong to the United Danish Synod. There are also innumerable Lodges in and around Fresno to which countless Danes belong.

Both congregations take great pride and joy in the upkeep of their church and willingly sacrifice both time and money for anything that will make the buildings more beautiful. Not often has the writer seen such happiness in people when an improvement has been made in the church. It is not that they want to "show off" or make a drive for larger membership but simply that they love their church as part of themselves and wish to see it beautified.

Within the last year we have organized a Young People's Society. We started with 65 members which, naturally, have "boiled down" somewhat, but there are about 50 young people holding meetings twice monthly. They have recently joined the National League of Young People. They are working toward building a "forsamlinghus" of their own. Their meetings and all the church festivities are now held in rented halls.

The Sunday schools have an attendance of about 45 children in both congregations, being taught by women who faithfully give their time to this cause, helping to build a future congregation.

We have also a Ladies Aid in each church, a great help to any church. It is untiring in its efforts to help and happy in helping.

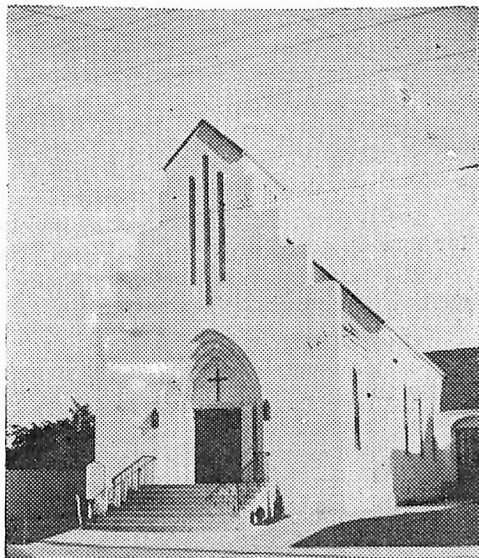
A Young Woman's League is being organized at present.

Niels Nielsen

Salinas and Watsonville

As mentioned elsewhere, our churches in Watsonville and Salinas were founded in July, 1880 by Pastor Adam Dan. Mads Freese, now living near Solvang, was instrumental in bringing him here. His wife and Mrs. Adam Dan had become acquainted at Testrup Højskole in Denmark, and, urged by his wife, Mads Freese persuaded Dan to move from Racine to Salinas.

The first church in California, however, was built in 1891 in Chualar, a farm community in the Salinas valley. But in 1911 when most of the land



Salinas, Calif., Church

there was rented by a large company, the farmers moved away, the church was sold, and the congregation was dissolved.

It took twenty years before a church was built in Salinas. This was during the pastorate of G. J. Sick. The congregation had then also been served by Pastors L. M. Gydesen, N. V. Holm, and C. J. Skovgaard. Sick was followed in 1901 by Pastor J. J. Mylund.

In 1903 Pastor J. C. Petersen, who died recently, attempted to introduce the English language with the result, that a large portion of the church members withdrew and built an English Lutheran church. Many of the members have since returned to the mother church and the building has been sold. The Missouri synod has been trying for several years to establish a church, but as yet this has not been very successful.

Since 1906 Salinas and Watsonville have been served by the following pastors: K. Knudsen, Fr. Mailand, Rasmus Jensen, S. Marckman, Ejnar B. Dixon, Marius Krog, Carl C. Rasmussen, and Enok Mortensen (since 1936).

Watsonville has usually been an annex to Salinas, but for some years prior to 1892 the church there was served by pastors from the United church. Pastor N. C. Nielsen was its minister from 1901 to about 1910. The congregation there has always been

rather small; but there is still a small group, faithfully attending services in Danish and English. It has an active Ladies Aid (1900), and a large young people's group, now consisting mainly of married couples who are not Danish, either by birth or background. Last year the church was renovated inside and out, and the people are justly proud of their church property.

The church in Salinas was totally rebuilt last year. The building was lowered about five feet, eliminating a dark and damp basement. The front was rebuilt so that the church now resembles partly the old Spanish missions, partly the village churches in Denmark. In addition, a large social hall was added. The hall has a kitchen, a stage (also used as a class room), and modern rest rooms. All in all, it is one of the most beautiful churches in the city.

Besides regular church services, we have a Sunday school, a young people's group, a Ladies Aid (1892), and a Lutheran Guild of younger women (1937).

Our churches here—as so many other places—have suffered from pathetically brief pastorates. Some ministers have remained here only a year or two. It takes "a heap o' living", not only to make a house a home, but also to make a building and the people gathered there, a church.

Enok Mortensen

From Emaus Congregation Oakland, Calif.

Emaus Congregation in Oakland was founded on March 16, 1919. After 22 years of struggle it is still in existence.

We are not enough members to call a minister. We have no church building of our own. Through the years we have had pastoral service mainly by ministers of the Danish church in Salinas, at present by Rev. Enok Mortensen.

Rev. Evald Kristensen, while he was in San Francisco, was our pastor for about a year, and Harald Ibsen served us for two years as a student pastor.

We have at present service once a month: we meet in an English Lutheran church.

We have no other church work but the monthly church service, which is in Danish. It can easily be understood that without a Sunday school or other religious work, without a church building and without a minister in our midst, it is hardly to be expected that the congregation should find many new members.

Parents naturally prefer to attend where there also is Sunday school for their children.

The people who founded Emaus Congregation and those who through the years have kept it alive, have done so because they feel best at home in the Danish Lutheran Church.

We do not wish to say that we are

content with the present arrangement here in Oakland; but we can say that we are glad for what we have, even if it is only a service a month.

V. P.

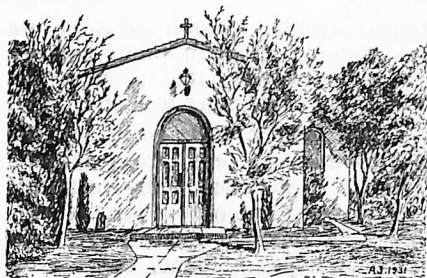
To this should be added that church services are usually followed by a supper served in a Danish hall. After the meal, the society "Bavnen" holds its meeting, at which there is a lecture in Danish or English.

E. M.

PASADENA CHURCH . . .

(Continued from page 106)

funds from the Home Mission helped. In 1932 the Ladies Aid that had been so faithful from the very beginning now took over the church debt, which by this time had been reduced to \$1600. In July, 1938, Rev. Marckman moved



Ansgar Church, Pasadena

to Bronx, N. Y. Rev. N. P. Graven-gaard, who had retired from active service and was living in Los Angeles, served the congregation as often as his strength would permit until one festive day, Dec. 3rd, 1939, when Jens Kr. Jensen, theological candidate, was ordained as resident Pastor of Pasadena.

The 9th day of February, 1941, the men of the church gave a dinner party in honor of the ladies of the Aid Society, for the ladies had cleared the debt, a fine accomplishment.

Thus Karl J. Møller, the president of the congregation, has related his story to the editor. And he adds: Children have been baptized, young people confirmed, people married, communion administered, the sick visited, by the ministers who all worked faithfully in the service of the Lord. Thanks to them all! Much could be told of our struggles, our sorrows, our disappointments, but more can be told of our joys!

Indeed a worthwhile Home Mission project in the history of our Synod.

Rev. Alfred Jensen's Itinerary in California

March 21 --Arcata
March 23 --Easton-Parlier
March 24 --Oakland
March 25 --Watsonville
March 26 --Salinas
March 27 --Solvang
March 28-30--Pasadena
March 31 --Los Angeles
Enok Mortensen
District President

District Meeting in California Pasadena March 28-30

Ansgar congregation in Pasadena invited all members and friends of our work to a district meeting to be held in the church there March 28-30, inclusive.

We begin Friday night at 8:00 with a service of worship. The president of our synod, Rev. Alfred Jensen, will participate in the meeting, as well as the pastors of the district.

Please register with Rev. J. K. Jensen, 199 So. Sierra Madre Blvd., as soon as possible.

Jens Kr. Jensen
Local Minister

Enok Mortensen
District President

LOS ANGELES CHURCH...

(Continued from page 106)

here was not notified that a member from another congregation had moved to the city. Pastors and Presidents of congregations, as well as parents, of young people moving to the cities, should be very zealous about keeping us informed and in the issuance of letters of transfer. Los Angeles offers much to youth—to all ages for that matter—and it is very necessary that "the church of our Fathers" is pointed out to all as they come here. For it is here, and it is still "calling the young and the old" to enter in and partake of the bread of life.

A. Ejnar Farstrup

SPECIAL INTRODUCTORY OFFER

In order to accomplish our goal of "A Church Paper in Every Home" we are now starting a spring drive for new subscriptions to Lutheran Tidings.

From now until May 10 we are making this unusually low offer for one year for new subscriptions.

We urge every subscriber to help us in reaching our goal of placing a church paper in every home.

Only 50 cts. for the first year, or send \$1.50 for two years. Give your subscription to your Lutheran Tidings representative or your pastor, or send it directly to

Holger P. Jorgensen,
25 Merrill Ave., Muskegon, Michigan.

Don't Tell Your Wife This...

UNLESS YOU DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT!

... then if your wife becomes a widow, she won't look back and remember the time you "almost bought life insurance for her and the children."

\$5,000.00 PROTECTION for \$55.75

Annual Rates for a \$5,000 W. L. Economic Life Insurance Contract:
(The following rates are for the first 5 years only)

Age 25 — \$53.05	Age 35 — \$59.80	Age 45 — \$77.85
Age 30 — \$55.75	Age 40 — \$66.40	Age 50 — \$99.75

Write today for complete information on this low-cost protection policy. It is issued in amounts of \$2,000 to \$10,000.

LUTHERAN BROTHERHOOD

Legal Reserve Life Insurance for Lutherans

HERMAN L. EKERN, President

608 Second Avenue South

Minneapolis, Minnesota

LUTHERAN BROTHERHOOD, Legal Reserve Life Insurance

Minneapolis, Minnesota

Send complete information on your W. L. Economic Contract.

NAME: AGE:

ADDRESS:

CITY: STATE: