

OPPORTUNITIES IN OUR CHURCH

Every Sunday:

^{11:45}
10:30 a.m. The Worship Hour and the Sunday Church School in a unified program.

The Children from 6 years and older will be present for part of the Church Service and will have their lessons during the time of the Sermon. The Nursery children and Kindergarten will be provided for during the entire hour of worship in a separate session.

Folks willing to help with the teaching will be needed and are heartily invited at the outset to make themselves available. Speak to the minister in charge or to some Church School teacher.



GROUP FELLOWSHIP AND ORGANIZATION

The Branch Church will from the outset have representation on the official board of the First-Bethany Church called the Consistory. Other fellowship groups will be organized as time progresses and there is a need for them. An Altar Guild is a distinctive help to the minister of the Church. A Choir will be formed on the basis of a nucleus from the mother Church. Miss Betty Ritzenheim, a competent musician and public school principle, will be available to develop the musical program in the Church. She has been with the former Bethany Church for the past 6 years as organist and choir director. It is hoped that from the children in the community a Junior Chorus can be formed.

The organization for women is "The Women's Guild." The organization for men is "the Brotherhood." There is Youth Fellowship for teen agers. There is an "All Two's Club" composed of younger couples (married and unmarried couples).

These organizations offer opportunity for friendly association and active support of the Church's program and work. Anyone may become a member of an organization, all are invited; the organizations of the Church are not limited to members of the Congregation.



REV. ARNOLD R. LAMBARTH, B.D.

First-Bethany Congregational has ^{one pastor} ~~two pastors~~ — ~~Dr. Emil N. Krafft, who was pastor of the former First Church and is now pastor in the old location on Seminole Avenue in Detroit, and Rev. Arnold R. Lambarth who was the pastor of the Former Bethany Church and has been assigned to the branch Church in St. Clair Shores, now serving both locations~~

Rev. Lambarth has been minister at Bethany for nearly six years, taking up duties there February 1, 1948. Prior to that he had served parishes in Missouri, and Illinois. He was graduated from Elmhurst College in 1936 with an A. B. degree in History and the Social Sciences and from Eden Theological, Webster Groves, Mo. in 1939 with the B. D. degree in New Testament Theology. He has taken additional summer study at the University of Wisconsin in labor relations and has studied Psychiatric Clinical Training at Elgin State Hospital, Elgin, Illinois. He has been the Chairman of Social Action and Evangelism Committees in Synods where he has been pastor.

His family consists of Constance, his wife, a college trained public school teacher, and three sons, David, ¹³ years, Douglas ¹³ years, and Daniel ¹⁰ years.

PRESENT OFFICERS OF ORGANIZATIONS

- Mr. Dana K. Badertscher Church President
- Miss Betty Ann Ritzenheim Church Organist
- Mr. Ernest Beck Sunday School Superintendent
- Mrs. Harry Numan Women's Guild President
- Mr. Ned Aeschliman Brotherhood President
- Mr. and Mrs. Orville Bethman All Two's Club
- Mr. James Neisch Youth Fellowship
- Mrs. Ned Aeschliman Choir President
- Mrs. Arthur Hartwig Altar Guild Chairman

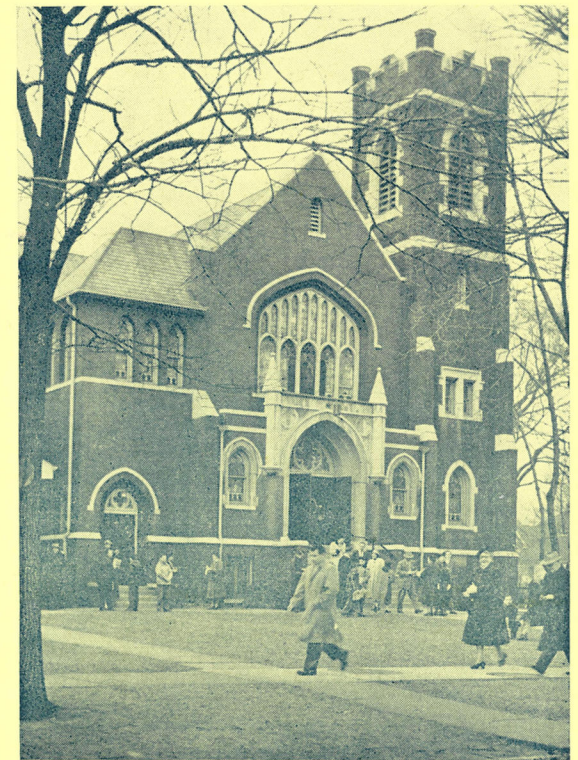
New officers elected 1955

First-Bethany Church

(Evangelical and Reformed)

Merged June 1953

Seminole Ave. and E. Vernor Hwy.
Detroit, Michigan



Above is a picture of the present location.

~~DR. EMIL N. KRAFFT~~
REV. ARNOLD R. LAMBARTH

Ministers.

INTRODUCING OURSELVES

First-Bethany Evangelical and Reformed Church came into being on June 14, 1953, when the First Evangelical and Reformed Church located on the corner of Fischer and Canfield Avenues, in Detroit, officially merged with Bethany Evangelical and Reformed Church located on the corner of Seminole Avenue and East Vernor Highway, also in Detroit, Michigan. The former First Evangelical and Reformed Congregation had a history of 103 years of Christian service in the City of Detroit. The former Bethany Evangelical and Reformed Congregation had almost completed 65 years of service on the near East side of the City. The two Church properties were located only eight blocks from one another in a rapidly changing community. Many of the members of both Congregations had already moved to East side suburbs including Harper Woods and St. Clair Shores. In our merger it was agreed to sell one of the Church properties and apply the money realized from the sale on property and buildings for a Branch Congregation which we are about to organize and bring into being on 2½ acres of land located on Harmon Street near Nine Mile Road and Harper Avenue.

We are a member of the Evangelical and Reformed Denomination with a membership of 1,000,000 in the United States and 26 Congregations in the Detroit Area. We are not a large denomination numerically, nor are we spoken of as a wealthy Fellowship of Christians but we are a Church ministering to the needs of the common people. We are not narrow in theology nor exclusive in policy but a Church which is often spoken of by leaders of other denominations as "the most ecumenical (co-operative) Church" of them all.

We are a member in the Detroit Council of Churches, also in the State Council of Churches and in the National Council of the Churches of Christ in America. We are also represented in the World Council of Churches. These stated facts indicate the true character of the denomination; devoutly interested in saving souls and also greatly concerned for the unity and welfare of the Universal Christian Church. People of every Denominational background find themselves at home in our Congregations.

We are a Christian group interested in furthering the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ among all men that all might have life and have it abundantly; the Cross of Christ is our Banner, the Bible is the book from which we preach and teach, and the Holy Sacraments together with prayer and worship are the source of power whereby we seek to do God's work and will.

OUR CARDINAL BELIEFS

First-Bethany adheres to the doctrinal position of the Evangelical and Reformed Church as set forth in the Catechisms which doctrinal principles are upheld by the major portion of Christendom today. We accept the scriptures both of the Old and the New Testament as the Word of God, granting liberty of conscience in differences of interpretation, the Bible remains as the Standard of Faith and Practice. The Church obliges all members to observe faithfully the two Holy Sacraments, Baptism (both infant and adult) and Holy Communion. We believe that God is the source of all life, Creator of Heaven and Earth, the Father of all mankind. We believe that Jesus of Nazareth is God's true and only son, man's only Saviour from sin and death. We believe that the Holy Spirit (Spirit of Holiness) is the power among us and all Christians from on high working towards the ultimate Kingdom of Christ. We believe that the Universal Christian Church is the Body of Christ established to deliver the message of Salvation and to perpetuate Christ's redemptive ministry in the world. We believe that in Prayer each believer can approach God in Christ without priest or king; and that the Eternal life is God's free gift to all persons who repent and believe in the Lord Jesus Christ.

HOW ONE BECOMES A MEMBER

Anyone whosoever has accepted the Lord Jesus Christ as his or her personal Saviour and is Baptized in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, believes in the Almighty God and receives the Holy Bible as His revealed word, who seeks devoutly to live a Christian life, and declares his willingness to work and pray for the realizing of Christ's Kingdom on earth, may unite with First-Bethany Evangelical and Reformed Church in St. Clair Shores, Michigan, in one of the following ways:

1. By public Profession of Faith and/or Baptism with instruction and counsel by the pastor.
2. By the Rite of Confirmation—after due instruction in Faith and the Christian Way of Life.
3. By letter of transfer—from any church in which the applicant is already a member.

Application for membership can be made through the minister or any member of the Congregation. Members will be received publicly at every Sunday Service when there are such to be received.

HOW OUR CHURCH IS SUPPORTED MATERIALLY

Financially the Church is supported by the free-will and sacrificial giving of the members and friends. (Weekly offering envelopes for current and benevolent support are provided for all.) The practice of Christian Stewardship is taught and followed. The Apostle Paul's teaching on giving cheerfully, proportionately, regularly and lovingly is recommended for everyone. The total budget needed to operate the Church is submitted for the people's approval at the annual meeting of the Congregation, every member is thus challenged to contribute to the very best of his or her ability that the work of Christ might be fully supported.

For the building program on the new location, a special financial campaign will be undertaken among the present First-Bethany Membership and among all who are interested and will help in the Branch Church in St. Clair Shores.

It is the experienced faith of your pastor that wherever the work of Christ is sincerely entered into and devoutly carried on, there will be an adequate response and wholehearted support by all the people so that the Lord's work may not suffer in any way. All who share similar faith will find giving to their Church a joy and never a burden. God will bless everyone for the spirit of liberality.

WHY WE HAVE CALLED ON YOU NOW!

As members and representatives from First-Bethany Congregation, previously described, we are interested in serving this community with a new Church. We come to give a helping hand to families in the Christian upbringing of their children, to make life a little brighter and stronger for all, the kiddies, newly-married folks, middle-aged and older people.

We have called, for we would like also to know who you are and what interest you may have in joining with us in this venture of Faith here in your community. If you are not now a member of any Christian Church, this may be the time in which the Lord calls you to be His follower by uniting with His people. If you are already a Church member but now find it more difficult to be an active member as you would like to be because your Church is not near by, then we would appeal to you in a friendly way to join with us and continue your service in the Lord's Kingdom.

If results from this visit to you and others in the community justify forward steps, we shall start building the first unit of a beautifully modern Church on our property located at Harmon Street near Nine Mile Road. If you desire further information regarding our plans and progress, feel free to contact **either of the ministers, Rev. A. R. Lambarth, 2243 Seminole Avenue, or Rev. E. N. Kraft, D.D., 4247 Fischer Avenue.**