

Historical Sketch of
First Evangelical Reformed Church
Detroit, Michigan

First
Church
Building

The First Evangelical Reformed Church of Detroit, Mich. was organized by Rev. A. Berky Dec. 2, 1849 and was then known as Zion's Reformed Church. About the same time a brick church costing \$3,000 was erected on Monroe Avenue. In this church the following ministers served the congregation:

Rev. A. Berky 1849-1851
Rev. Karl Becker 1851-1853
Rev. W. Spies 1853-1857
Rev. W. Schroeder 1857-1860

Second
Church
Building

About this time the church property on Monroe Avenue was sold, and a new church with parsonage and school building was erected on Russell Street. In this second church the following pastors ministered unto the congregation:

Rev. C. Cast 1860-1866
Rev. P. Greding 1866-1871
Rev. Baumgartner 1871-1873
Rev. J. Niehoff 1873-1875
Rev. W. Hansen 1875-1885
Rev. C. F. W. Hustedt 1888-1895

Third
Church
Building

During the pastorate of the Rev. Hustedt, in the year 1890, the third church edifice on Chene Street at Jay was built on a building lot then costing \$2,100. The buildings erected on this ground cost \$7,000.

Rev. C. Baum 1898-1910

A number of valuable improvements on the church property were made during Rev. Baum's pastorate. Three bells and a pipe organ were purchased at a total cost of \$1,500.

Rev. F. H. Rupnow 1910-1913
Rev. E. L. Worthmann 1913-1916

During Rev. Worthmann's service the desirability of a new location made itself strongly felt. The increased immigration from southern Europe had given an entirely new complexion to that part of Detroit. An opportunity presented itself for the sale of the church property and after mature and thorough deliberations the venture of selling the old and buying a new property was embarked upon. It was sold for \$13,500 to the First Christian Reformed (Holland) Church. To relocate was the proper thing to do, and later events proved the wis-

dom of this move. The new building lots, located on Fisher Avenue at Canfield, were purchased Aug. 24, 1916 from Mr. Hugo Koehler and wife for \$4,500. It measures 120 X 102 feet.

Rev. Carl F. Heyl 1917-1920

Fourth
Church
Building

Ground was broken on the new site for the new church June 1917, and the corner stone laid with appropriate services July 8, 1917. The pastor with his family moved into the new parsonage Nov. 20, 1917, and on Christmas morning, 1917 the first service was held in the new church. It was dedicated June 8, 1918 with the former pastors, C. F. W. Hustedt, C. Baum, F. H. Rupnow and E. L. Worthmann assisting in the dedicatory services. The outside measurements of the church are length 65 feet, width 63 feet, with a low-roofed tower 45 feet high. The seating capacity is 400, and the cost, including building ground, is \$46,000.

Rev. L. D. Benner 1921-....

This pastorate started Jan. 13, 1921 and the good Lord has continued to bless the congregation. The membership has been more than doubled. The debt on the church property has been reduced from \$23,265 to \$11,200. A new pipe organ at an outlay of \$5,725 was installed. ^{paid for} Our New Reformed Church Hymnal with 200 copies has been introduced. A handsome garage for the pastor has been erected. And at this writing preparations are under way for the Diamond Anniversary of the Congregation to be celebrated Dec. 7, 1924. This will involve the frescoing of the church auditorium with a beautiful Oil Painting, "Christ knocking at the door."

---Soli Deo Gloria---

Detroit, Mich.

Apr. 23, 1924.

L. D. Benner, Pastor.