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Methodists of Lincoln to Dedicate New House of Worship Sunday, November 17

Scarcely two years have passed since the destruction of St. Paul's Methodist Episcopal church in one of the most disastrous fires that ever occurred in the history of Lincoln, yet a beautiful and magnificent edifice has been erected on the site once occupied by the burned building at M and Twelfth streets, and the members of the congregation will meet tomorrow for the purpose of celebrating their triumph.

It was one cloudy September morning in 1899 that Methodists in all parts of the city and in all sections of the state were shocked by the intelligence that the magnificent home of the first congregation in the city of Lincoln had been destroyed. The structure had been erected at a cost of \$45,000 and the debt had been wholly paid.

In the same conflagration the city library was also wiped out. This disaster was soon repaired by the generosity of Andrew Carnegie, who gave \$75,000 for a new building. No such benevolence was in store for the church people.

But the pastor and the leaders of the congregation did not yield to despair. Almost before the ruins had ceased burning a meeting had been called to consider the situation. From all parts of the state came messages of condolence and assurances of financial aid.

Arrangements were made to hold meetings each Sunday in the Oliver theatre. A subscription list was at once started and a committee appointed to canvass for funds. Discouraging obstacles were swept aside by the enthusiasm of the members and in an incredibly short time work was commenced on the new building.

The building as completed at a cost of \$63,000. Material worth fully \$5,000 was available from the old structure. With furniture and interior decorations the church as it will appear to the congregation and visitors tomorrow, will cost between \$85,000 and \$90,000. By many it is claimed that St. Paul's is the most magnificent church building in the state.

The main entrance is at the corner of M and Twelfth streets. From the vestibule one can get to the auditorium on the right or the primary department on the left while a corridor leads one to the Sunday school room, which is separated from the auditorium by a movable partition.

The pulpit, organ and the loft for the choir occupy the northeast corner of the church. The auditorium has a seating capacity of 750 and the Sunday school room seats 350. In all 1,200 or 1,300 people can listen to exercises in the auditorium.

In the primary room of the church, the seating capacity is 260. This room can also be used for minor meetings, socials and miscellaneous entertainments.

Quarters for the Epworth Leaguers have been provided in the northwest corner of the building. The room will

comfortably seat 125 worshipers and the minor entertainments and business meetings of the organization can also be accommodated.

There are several smaller rooms which will be utilized for the pastor's study and various other purposes.



THE NEW HOME OF ST. PAUL'S M. E. CHURCH. AT M AND TWELFTH STREETS.

The structure represents an outlay of \$65,000 and with the fixtures and furnishings added the total cost approximates \$85,000. It is easily one of the most imposing church edifices in the West.

Tomorrow, Sunday, November 17, 1901, in a special program the congregation of St. Paul's will dedicate the structure to the Christian cause.

In the summer of 1883, the authorities of the Methodist church gave their consent for the erection of a new house of worship. A Minneapolis architect furnished the plans and the building was to cost \$25,000. It was soon perceived that the structure would cost almost twice this amount, but the work was continued, the members exerting themselves to raise the deficit.

Rev. Mr. Williams was the pastor when the church was completed in 1885. It was then called the First M. E. church, but the name was afterwards changed to St. Paul's.

Rev. R. N. McKaig was the next pastor, remaining for a period of three years. It was during his pastorate that the stone church, which burned two years ago, was built. He was an especially active and popular pastor. At present Rev. Mr. McKaig is pastor of the First M. E. church, Sioux City, Ia.

Rev. C. F. Creighton of Circleville, O., was the first pastor, succeeding Rev. Mr. McKaig by appointment. In the fall of 1887 he was chosen chancellor of the Nebraska Wesleyan university. The second year of his work was highly successful, the membership roll being increased to about 1,200.

Rev. Mr. Marine of the Indiana conference, succeeded Rev. Mr. Creighton. During the first year the new pastor was sick throughout the summer, and his illness brought on an attack of brain trouble which incapacitated him for labor. He was returned for the second year, but was again attacked by brain trouble soon after he began his work. He tendered his resignation in

Marsh will lead the scripture readings. Mrs. Mark Woods will sing a solo and also appear with Miss Maud Hawk in a duet.

In the afternoon at 3 o'clock Mayor H. J. Winnett, G. W. Berge and J. W. Powell will deliver addresses. Miss Grace Franks will sing a solo. Besides there will be music by the orchestra and singing by the school.

In the evening at 7 o'clock, Rev. H. T. Davis will dedicate the church. Rev. A. P. Hull will read the scripture lesson and Mrs. Mark Woods and Miss Maud Hawk will sing.

The program complete is as follows:

- 9:00—Informal greeting.
- 9:50—Orchestra—Miss Lucy Heywood, piano; Miss Ina Ensign, violin; Miss Lillian Eiche, cello.
- 10:00—"The Gloria," "The Lord's Prayer."
- Hymn No. 136.
- Prayer, Rev. Hiram Burch.
- Scripture lessons—Rev. J. F. Kemper, presiding elder; Rev. Jephtha Marsh.
- Hymn No. 6.
- Announcements.
- Duet—Mrs. Mark Woods, Miss Maud Hawk.
- Sermon, Rev. C. B. Wilcox, D. D.
- Solo, Mrs. Mark Woods.
- Offerings, J. W. Powell.
- Doxology.
- Benediction, Dr. David Marquette.
- 3:00—Sunday school and platform meeting.
- Orchestra.
- Singing—Vested choir.
- Singing—School.
- Prayer—Rev. G. H. Moulton.
- Singing—Vested choir.
- Address—Mayor H. J. Winnett.
- Singing—School.
- Address—G. W. Berge.
- Solo—Miss Grace Franks.
- Address—Mr. J. W. Powell.
- 6:15—Epworth League.
- 7:00—Orchestra, "The Gloria," "The Lord's Prayer."
- Hymn No. 724.
- Prayer—Rev. Hiram Burch.
- Scripture—Rev. A. P. Hull.
- Hymn No. 192.
- Solo—Miss Maud Hawk.
- Sermon—Rev. C. B. Wilcox, D. D.
- Solo—Mrs. Mark Woods.
- Cello Obligato—Miss Lillian Eiche.
- Offerings—Mr. J. W. Powell.
- Dedication—Rev. H. T. Davis, D. D.

Nine trustees control the affairs of the church. At present they are George A. Adams, T. F. Lasch, H. K. Burket, A. R. Talbot, J. E. Miller, George Parrish, C. W. Rieger, W. H. Hargreaves and L. A. Sherman. The board consists of business men, lawyers and educators and its members are well qualified to cope with the questions of management constantly arising.

The stewards of the church are nine in number. They are especially delegated to raise the revenues needed for church maintenance and support. The board comprises: A. M. Davis, L. C. Richards, J. S. Leonhardt, D. E. De Putron, A. H. Dorris, J. T. Mastin, E. R. Wells, E. R. Steckley, M. B. Reese, G. F. H. Schwake, H. A. Tebbetts, M. A. Warren and D. A. Risser. Philip A. Sommerlad is treasurer and William H. Hargreaves secretary.

The Epworth league is in a flourishing condition and is one of the strongest religious organizations in the city. The society is primarily for the young

1888 and Rev. F. S. Stein, of Milwaukee, Wis., succeeded him.

Following Rev. Mr. Stein was Rev. C. C. Lasby. He remained until 1896, when he was succeeded by Rev. W. R. Halstead. He was pastor until 1898.

Three years ago Rev. Fletcher L. Wharton took charge of the pastorate, and is still the minister in charge. After the loss of the church by fire he worked with tireless energy for the restoration of the building, and the work has been accomplished.

Musical numbers, addresses and the dedicatory ceremonies will be some of the interesting things at the formal opening of the church tomorrow. In the morning at 9:30 o'clock the orchestra, composed of Miss Lucy Heywood, Miss Ina Ensign and Miss Lillian Eiche, will furnish music. Rev. Hiram Burch will lead in prayer. Presiding Elder J. F. Kemper and Rev. Japtha