

Following is part of the message given at the 40th anniversary of the congregation in 1935. Text Deuteronomy 8. There is some repetition. Information written by C.J. Goering in February 1940.

Eden

"This congregation was organized 40 years ago on February 12. There were about 80 members and several that remained on the border line, however, most of them came later. The services were held interchangeably with the "Twin Brother" in the old church until June 1898 when our new church building was dedicated to the Triune God and where our worship services were then regularly held.

Already in May 1895 two brethren were elected to serve with the Word and one was elected as "Diakon." All of the brethren, except one, have for some years already been transplanted ("Versetzt") from the church of struggle and strife into the Triumphant Church above.

After 29 years of work and growth the church building became too small and after repeated attempts to reunite with the Hoffnungsfeld-Salem congregation failed, it was agreed (voted upon) to tear down the building and build a new one two miles north where it would be more centrally located.

The new church building, with a seating capacity of 1,000, was dedicated in the fall of 1924 and again we are in need of more room.

The congregation is now 40 years old. More than 3,000 sermons have been preached here by 150 ministers. There are now 578 members, 260 men and 318 women. About 87 members have taken out their membership and about as many have passed away. In these 40 years we had 17 catechism classes and one instance of only one person. In all there were 485 persons baptized, 226 boys and 259 girls. Of these 22 men and 15 women have been called home by the Lord.

Quite regularly Holy Communion was celebrated twice a year with about 75% taking part. 267 members were joined in marriage. Of these there were 82 marriages where both were members of this church and 103 that found their better half in other congregations. Of all these there are two marriages where both man and wife have passed away and 7 where either man or wife have died. In the 40 years about 160 were taken in by church letter and 73 by letter joined somewhere else, 23 men and 50 women. 76 members have passed away in the 40 years, 39 men and 37 women and more than 100 children.