

Lutheran Church of the Redeemer

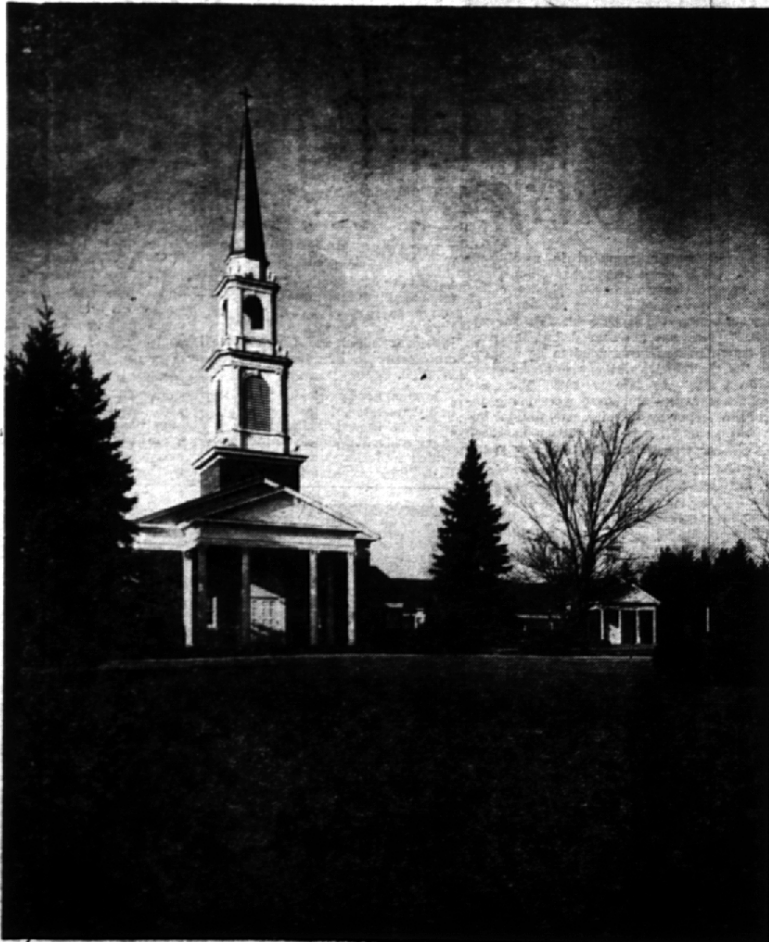


FIRST BUILDING AT THE CORNER OF LINCOLN AND ANN STREET.

Lutheran Church of the Redeemer began its work in Birmingham in the fall of 1924. The opening service was conducted in Johnston-Shaw Hall, Woodward and Maple, on November 23, 1924. The Rev. Luther Schuessler was installed as first pastor of the congregation at that service.

The congregation's first building, at the corner of Lincoln and Ann, was dedicated on May 5, 1925. It was used as a house of worship for sixteen years. The church did its principal work in a new housing development of the early 1920's known as Eco City. This was the area bounded by Lincoln, Grant, Woodward, and Fourteen Mile Roads.

Birmingham's population at that time was somewhat less than 5000. The area east of Adams, north of Oak, and west of Chesterfield had virtually no population.



PRESENT BUILDING — 1800 WEST MAPLE

In 1941 the congregation purchased its 6½ acre site on West Maple, at a cost of \$5500.00. We mention this to show the change in dollar valuation in the intervening years. The first stage of its building program was completed in 1942. Forty families, or 100 communicants, comprised its total membership. In 1952 the Youth Building was constructed to accommodate some 300 Sunday School children. The rapid growth of the next few years necessitated the enlargement of the church in 1957. The congregation presently has a communicant membership of 1400. The Rev. Theodore Wuggazer has been pastor for thirty-three years.

It has been a privilege for Lutheran Church of the Redeemer to make some contribution to the moral and spiritual life of this outstanding community for something more than a third of its hundred year history.