

Descriptive Summary

Creator: St. Luke's Evangelical Lutheran Church Records

Title: St. Luke's Evangelical Lutheran Church Records

Dates: 1850-1976

Size: 2.3 cubic feet

Location: New York Genealogical and Biographical Society onsite archival storage room, cabinet 3

Administrative Information

Restrictions on Access: The original records are not available for patron use because of their fragile condition. Baptisms under 72 years old and marriages less than 50 years old are restricted.

Additional physical form available: Bound books consisting of copies of the original records (baptisms 1850-1871 and 1890-1925, confirmations 1851-1871, marriages 1850-1866, deaths/funerals 1853-1901) are located at the New York Genealogical and Biographical Society.

Acquisition information: Donated to the New York Genealogical and Biographical Society in 2003 by St. Luke's Lutheran Church, 308 West 46th Street, N.Y.

Citation note: St. Luke's Evangelical Lutheran Church Records, New York Genealogical and Biographical Society, New York, New York

Collection Description

Biographical/Historical note

St. Luke's Church was started in 1850 by Rev. William Drees and a small group of his Dutch Reformed congregation. The first services were held at West 35th Street and Ninth Avenue. St. Luke's was transformed into a Lutheran church in 1853 upon joining the New York Ministerium, and took the name The German Evangelical Lutheran Congregation of St. Luke's in 1859. In 1861, the church moved to West 46th/47th Street and Eighth Avenue. The church bought its own building in 1863 at West 43rd Street and Eighth Avenue. In 1875, the church moved into a larger building at 233-239 West 42nd Street near Eighth Avenue to accommodate a growing congregation. Until St. Luke's joined the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), the church was independent of any synodical affiliation. St. Luke's church moved to 308-316 West 46th Street near Ninth Ave in 1923, where it remains today. Reflecting the ethnic makeup of its congregation, church services were conducted in German until 1937. Some of the pastors associated with St. Luke's are: William Drees (1850-1870), Wilhelm H. Buettner (1871-1874), Wilhelm Busse (1874-1899), Wilhelm F. Koepchen (1900-1936), Albert Neibacher (1935-1974), Dale Hansen (1974-2000), and Paul Schmiede (2000-present). Saint Luke's Lutheran Church remains open for worship (see <http://stlukesnyc.org>). For more information about St. Luke's see the church's website as well as "Church Records Given to the Society," *The NYG&B Newsletter*, Spring 2003, p. 3, and *St. Luke's Lutheran Church in the City of New York 1850-1940*, available at New York Public Library (<http://www.nypl.org>)

Scope and Content note

The collection consists of 13 (thirteen) register books. Most registers are in German until about 1920, after which they are in English. Church services were in German until 1937. The registers consist of baptisms 1850 to 1976, confirmations 1851 to 1871, marriages 1850 to 1976 (missing 1866 to 1871), deaths/funerals 1853 to 1940, and church minutes 1856 to 1900. The registers of events are a rich source of information about the participating parties. For example, marriages frequently provide the specific places of birth for bride and groom; baptisms frequently provide birthplaces of the child's parents; confirmations provide the birth date of the confirmer; deaths frequently provide the birth place of the deceased.

Collection Inventory

Box A

Book 1: register of baptisms, August 28, 1850 to August 27, 1865; marriages September 5, 1850 to April 10, 1866; and confirmations, 18 April 1851 to April 23, 1871; n.p., dimensions 10.75 x 9 x 1 inches

Book 2: printed on front cover "Verzeichniss der Kindtaufen," labeled on loose endpaper "Register of Baptisms, Aug. 27, 1865 to Aug. 17, 1871." 142 pages, dimensions 11.5 x 9.5 x 0.5 inches

Book 3: register of baptisms, August 20, 1871 to July 1, 1877, and two baptisms recorded out of sequence from April 14th and 21st of 1874. The book contains a supplement following page 432, consisting of 53 baptisms performed between August

20, 1871 and March 25, 1873 by pastor G.W. Drees. The book is 432 pages, with dimensions of 14 x 9 x 2 inches

Book 4: register of baptisms, July 1, 1877 to February 18, 1883, 433 pages, dimensions 13.5 x 9 x 1.5 inches

Book 5: register of baptisms, February 18, 1883 to April 13, 1890, 480 pages, dimensions 14.25 x 9.25 x 2 inches

Book 6: labeled on spine "Baptism [*sic*] Apr. 13, 1890 to Dec. 27, 1925." Book is 576 pages, dimensions 14 x 8.5 x 2 inches

Box B

Book 7: labeled on spine "Pastoral Acts Weddings 1904 -, Baptisms 1926 -"; register includes marriages, April 16, 1904 to October 23, 1976 (pages [0]-223), baptisms, January 3, 1926 to October 30, 1976 (pages 300-395). Also includes miscellaneous inserts placed at front endpapers, including a Philadelphia, PA orphans' court marriage license for George H. Lange and Dorothea L. Neebe(?) dated March 3, 1921. Book is 472 pages, dimensions 14 x 9 x 1.75 inches

Book 8: register of marriages, August 27, 1871 to March 19, 1885; 432 pages, dimensions 14 x 9 x 2 inches

Book 9: register of marriages March 19, 1885 to April 13, 1904; n.p.; dimensions 14 x 9 x 1.5 inches

Book 10: register of deaths/funerals August 11, 1853 to December 1879; 216 pages, dimensions 9 x 7.25 x 0.5 inches

Book 11: register of deaths/funerals March 30, 1879 to October 6, 1901; 216 pages, dimensions 10.5 x 8 x 0.75 inches

Book 12: register of deaths/funerals October 8, 1901 to February 22, 1940; 316 pages, dimensions 11.5 x 9.25 x 0.75 inches

Book 13: labeled on spine "Kirchenraths-Protocoll der Deutschen Ev. Luth. St. Lucas Gemeinde." The church protocol book, kept by church secretaries; entries date from January 1859 through December 1900; 436 pages, dimensions 13.5 x 8.5 x 1.5 inches