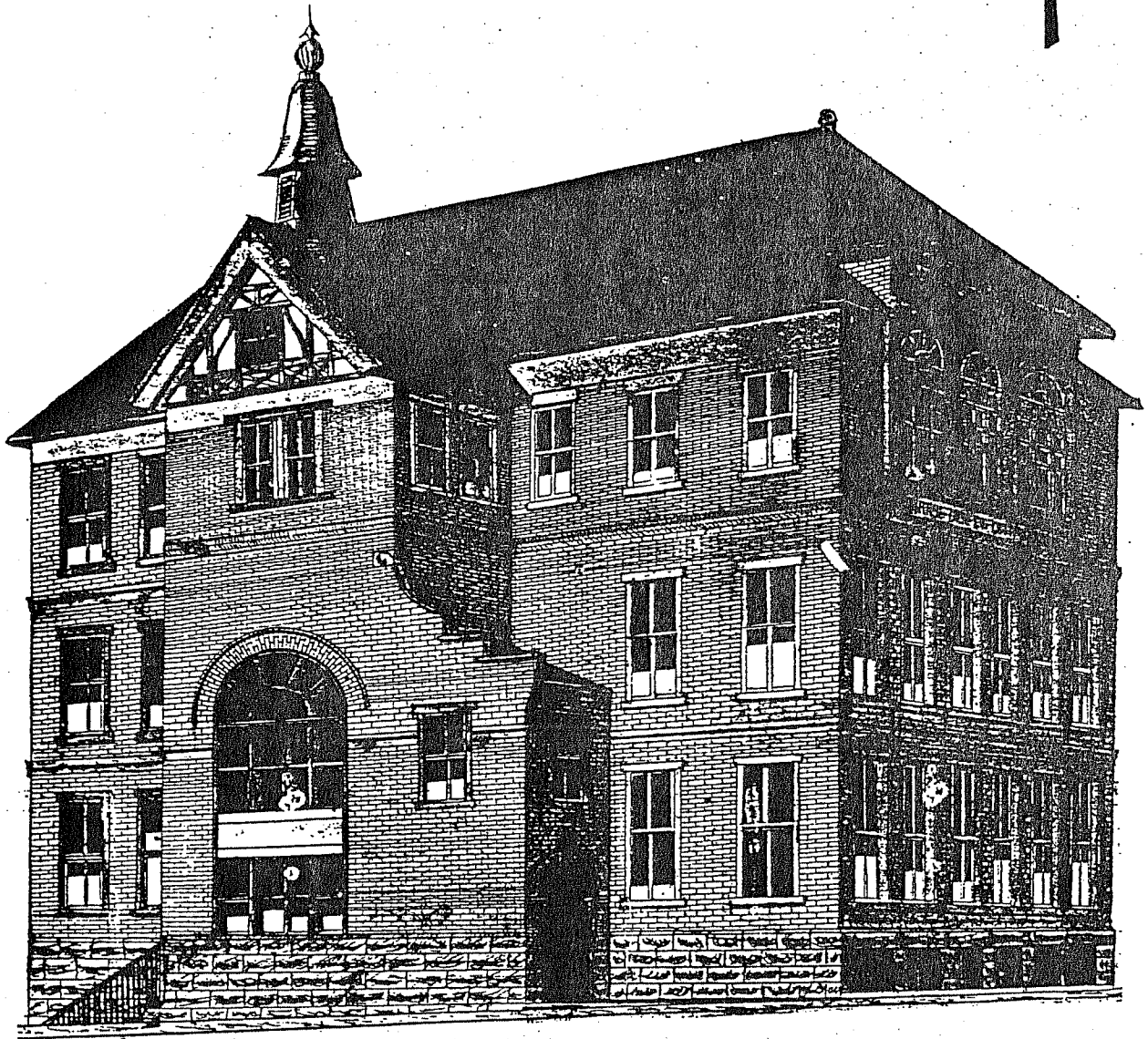


GRACE EV. LUTH. SCHOOL



"WHY WERE THE SCHOOL DOORS CLOSED?"

Compiled and written by
Duane Rodewald
Senior Church History
Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary
May 6, 1989

Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary Library
11831 N. Seminary Drive. 65W
Mequon, Wisconsin

"Why Were The School Doors Closed?"

January 11,1932: "The situation of the expense of the school was brought up and questions rose as to whether they should keep it open."

January 7,1935: "They finally decided, as no further course seemed to be open, to recommend to the congregation to discontinue the school at the end of the school year."

January 14,1935: "Since there seemed no way to continue, it was resolved to close the school at the end of the school year."

Thus the church council minutes of Grace Ev. Lutheran Church related the facts and fate of its nearly 80 year old school. A landmark and ground-breaker of parochial schools in the history of the WELS, officially closed its school doors for classes at the end of the school year in 1935. A question one might ask is: At a time when few churches had schools, or had only fledgling schools, why did Grace Ev. Lutheran Church close their school? Finding an answer to this question is the purpose and objective of this paper. But in order to discover an answer we first must flip through the pages of history to get an overview of one of the earliest schools of our Synod, that is, Schule der Ev. Luth. Gnaden.

The format of this paper will be to sketch the different periods of Grace school, its teachers, buildings, special events and other info, and then to analyze some of the possible causes or reasons that might give us an answer to "Why were the school doors closed?"

THE EARLY YEARS

Anyone associated with Lutheran history will undoubtedly recognize the name and many contributions on one, Johannes Muehlhaeuser. His influence and determination helped found the Wisconsin Synod, and also Grace Church on the corner of Broadway and Juneau in downtown Milwaukee. But what isn't as well known is that Pastor Muehlhaeuser, and particularly his wife, played a major role in the development and success of Grace school. Second to the establishment of a congregation for Muehlhaeuser was the establishment of a Sunday School. In 1851, two years after the congregation formed, the first church building was erected. Included in it was a school room.

Mrs. Muehlhaeuser took care of much of the Sunday school teaching but it became evident that as the number of students increased another avenue of Christian training should be started. With a Sunday school that had an enrollment of nearly 100 from early^{on}, it was highly favorable to start a Christian day school. Thus, approximately 1851 Grace School opened its doors for the first time.

1851-1859

Little is known about school functions during these years. However, it is known that Mr. Nockenamm was the first teacher of the school. He, with much assistance from Mrs. Muehlhaeuser, instructed all the pupils, and earliest estimates set enrollment around 40-50 students. From early

church records it appears no formal religious instruction class was a part of the curriculum at this time (aside from Sunday school) for in 1859 it was resolved that Pastor Muehlhaeuser "should instruct the children in religion one hour a week, (Minutes, Dec. 5, 1859)." All classes were held in the church school room and in the parsonage.

1860-1875

Great growth and teacher turnover might be a way of summarizing the first, I would like to call organized, 15 years of the school. In Oct. of 1860 Grace school hired (the term "called" was not used until several years later) a minister's son by the name of H.O.R. Siefert. Being highly educated, strong in music and literature one can readily understand why Grace hired him, and why his influence resulted in tremendous growth for the school in the next 20 years of his teaching. (A note: Siefert's special gifts and talents were also recognized in the public school system, as he was later hired as superintendent of public schools in Milwaukee.) As an example of Siefert's abilities we should take a look at the early curriculum of the school. The curriculum was not large, scarcely any text books. Therefore, Teacher Siefert personally imparted his knowledge directly to the children, (Mayer, p. 24). With such leadership it is not surprising that the one school room soon was bursting at its joints.

Enrollment in ~~1860~~ was 69 pupils, but by ~~1862~~ it had reached 169 pupils. "The feeling at this time prevailed

that education in a religious institution was ever so much better than that offered in secular schools, (Griebing, p.13)." The need for a full-time second teacher was obvious. Mr. Paul Binner was hired to teach the lower grades and assist in Sunday school. (He later started the "Binner School for the Deaf" which tells you something of his abilities.) With the influx of German immigrants to the area the school continued to flourish. By 1863 it capped the 200 student mark and so discussion to solve the over-crowding problem was underway. Possible solutions:

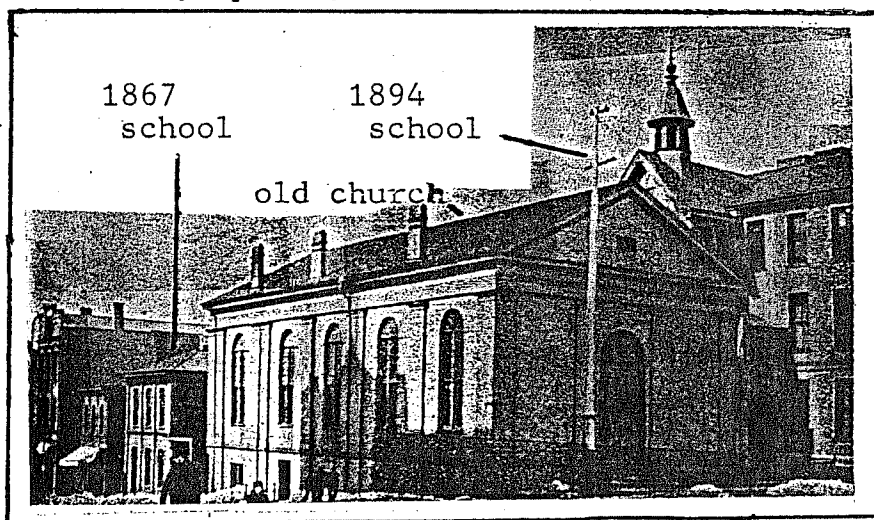
1. Combine Grace school with two other downtown church schools, St. John's and St. Matthew's, and build at a central location.
2. Expand the present facilities, add a third classroom and teacher. (This proposition was presented by Mr. Mueller from Germany, who then taught the third class for one year.)

The congregation approved #2, (Minutes, Oct. 8, 1863). An interesting note here: Also in 1863 it was resolved to build a second outhouse for the school. How nice, especially since the school had 200 pupils who had to use it!!

At this time a concern expressed by Siefert was that the school was losing many girls to other schools because there were no "work classes" offered at Grace. (Apparently these work classes resembled our modern Home Ec. classes -- cooking, stitching, sewing, etc....) Mrs. Breimann was hired to take up this training which was to include also those girls who could not attend the day school because of travel difficulties.

With the expanded facilities and faculty, as well as the work class, enrollment climbed to 292 by 1867. In the four years prior to 1867 several significant changes occurred. In 1864 Paul Binner, the second class teacher, was called into military service and was replaced by Mr. Pasch, then Mr. Huber. Also, a fourth class was started for the lower grades, taught by Mr. Carl Zimmerman. Obviously with four classes active and nearly 300 students, better facilities were required. So, on April 14, 1867 the resolution was passed to build a new school building, cost to be between \$24,000 and \$26,000, (Minutes, Apr. 14, 1867). This building

was directly behind, (west) of the church building. (check photo) It was at this time that we first heard concerns expressed about the financial situation



of the school. More on this will be discussed later in this paper.

Perhaps I might interject a note on the tremendous teacher turn-over in the years from 1860-1875. If you turn to the appendix 2 you will find a list of the 19 teachers who pushed chalk and corrected papers in the classrooms of Grace school. One can't help but think this constant turn-over hindered the school to a certain degree as there

was little sense of constancy in the faculty. But let's set the record straight as to the faculty as it was in 1875.

After sifting through the pages of council minutes I have

these teachers: class 1 (6-8) = Mr. Siefert
 class 2 (3-5) = Mr. Graef
 class 3 (1-2) = Mr. Doerr

Mr. Siefert you've met already. Mr. Joseph Graef began his teaching in 1864 and retired in 1903. He was a constant in the ever changing teacher count of the years until 1875. He was often called upon to shift classes, first teaching class 1, then 2, then 3, then 2 again as teachers came and went. Mr. Doerr taught the younger children until he was asked to resign in 1875 because of ineffective teaching. As you might have noticed, the number of classes has been reduced to three instead of four. This occurred in 1872 when Teacher Tyson was released; he was never replaced. (Was the school already being crunched financially and forced to make cut-backs?) Although many teachers came and went through the doors of the school, the number of students remained high (the highest being 302 in 1873). This trend continued into the next period of the school.

1876-1895

Steady enrollment and new beginnings sums up the years of 1876-1895. If you look at the ^hart on appendix 1 you will notice the steady number of students that attended during this period. As the area around Grace church grew with businessmen and merchants, the area continued to attract people. The church and school reaped the benefits. Even

though the pupil situation remained constant, the teacher situation did not.

As I mentioned above, many teachers came and left, particularly in the third class (lower grades). Part of this can be attributed to a rash of serious illness that arose in 1884-85, claiming the life of one teacher, and forcing the resignation of several others. A major change occurred in 1879 when teacher Siefert accepted an assignment to teach in the 12th Ward School. He was released with much appreciation for his services, and Mr. Ferdinand Kneyse, another solid rock of the school, was called from Milwaukee Ev. Lutheran Emmanuel School to take over as principal and first class teacher. Mr. Kneyse became a pillar in the school for the next 34 years. The school also was blessed with the services of Mr. Gustav Gimmler in 1886. He, too, became a steady influence until he resigned around 1920. These two new faculty faces did much to shape the school during this period.

The shaping process was evident in several new beginnings that developed in the school. A negative beginning was the increasing budget deficit. In 1877 it stood at \$196.79. To combat this problem a school society was started which would, through contributions, help eliminate the deficit in the treasury. It didn't work. So, it was resolved that every member give \$2.00 per year to the school treasury, (Minutes, Jan.8,1877). In 1875, the council and teachers recognized the importance of English instruction for the school so they expanded again to four classes and in 1880

hired a full-time English instructor. This new class opened the door for more students, (check enrollment chart).

Other changes in the school included school day operations. In previous years classes were held all year round, every day except Sunday with Friday and Saturday classes running from 8:30 AM-12:30 PM. However, starting April 5, 1879 school ran five full days instead of four and two half-days. The children were also given a four week summer vacation, (Minutes, Jan.16,1879). A major event that became popular during this era was the school exams. This was not an exam as we think of today, rather it was oral and done in front of a room full of parents and other interested people. This event was a major production as parents and students adorned themselves in their Sunday best to hear the accomplishments of the school children. The event was finished off with each student receiving a baked pretzel, (the teachers even got two!).

Perhaps the most significant new beginning occurred on March 6, 1893. It was in the council meeting on that day that a committee was approved to look into building expansion of the school. The old schoolhouse was badly in need of repair and the present enrollment could easily justify a new building. On January 8, 1894 the building was approved, (Minutes, Jan.8,1894). The new school would be built north of the church where the old parsonage stood. (Check picture on page 5) Supervision of the construction was in the hands of the council. The layout of the building was as such:

57'6" high from the sidewalk on Broadway

53'8" frontage on Broadway

84'6" long, adjacent to the church

-3 levels: 2 classrooms (east/west) on first and second floor

-hall: A hall 39' X 70' on third floor

-cost: \$21,285.15

Dedication (it was called "consecration" then) of the new building was held Sunday, Nov.4,1894. Guest preacher was Prof Hoenecke, Seminary professor and long-time pulpit assistant of Grace church. As one looks back at this historic event he can see great joy and optimism for the school. New school doors would certainly open for many new students to enter in the future. However, several years later the optimism was struck a crippling blow as we focus our attention on the next period of Grace school.

1896-1915

Continuing with brief summaries of each period, we could sum up the next 20 years as decline and decisions.

Before we go on, let's set the faculty of the school as of

1896. It is:

class 1 (7-8)	= Mr. Kneyse
class 2 (5-6)	= Mr. Graef
class 3 (3-4)	= Mr. Gimmler
class 4 (1-2)	= Miss Randolph

The enrollment numbers were good for the first six years, 1896-1902, (check chart). However, the numbers were not so good in the financial department. A steady increase in school debt was seen every year from the day the new school doors were opened, and this began to wear heavy on the shoulders and minds of the congregation. Perhaps the deficit was

partly to blame for an unfortunate incident that developed in 1901. Several problems arose in the school. What were these problems? The school records do not relate the problems but state: "Changes have to be made! (Minutes, Feb. 4, 1901)." Five months later these problems erupted as accusations were flying in the direction of the teachers. The basic accusations were of inadequate teaching and problems of money.

Solutions offered by the council:

1. Reduce the number of teachers
2. Replace all the teachers with 3 new English and German teachers
3. Investigate accusations

After discussion it was announced that: 1. Most of the accusations were hearsay and unproven; 2. The money problems would be addressed at a later date.

However, reading through the minutes of that period one gets the impression that the roots of discontent and problems had not been uprooted by these two resolutions, and that they may sprout anew.

It was in Oct. 12, 1903 that the problems indeed did surface again. The financial situation still posed a threat to the school, so, due to the declining enrollment and increasing debt a decision had to be made. In the council meeting of Oct. 12, 1903 this decision was made: "After 40 years of teaching service the council will release Mr. Joseph Graef and also the English teacher, Miss Randolph. Mr Graef will be given \$25.00/month lifetime pension, Miss Randolph nothing. Then, one new teacher would be called who could also teach

English. Net saving by dropping the two teachers was \$300.00, (Minutes, Oct.12,1903)." After three unsuccessful tries, Mr. C.J. Voss accepted the call as principal and first class teacher in 1904. Mr. Kneyse dropped to second class and Mr. Gimmler taught class three.

This solution, however, did not stop the declining enrollment. By 1910 only 100 pupils attended the school. As a result the teachers stepped up their efforts to enlist more children from the community to attend to offset the problem. This project, too, suffered a blow when teacher Voss accepted a call to instruct in the Lutheran High School. Many wished he would stay, especially since Grace just got a new pastor, Carl Gausewitz, but he was released. Mr. J.M. Hel^mreich from Bay City, MI was called to take his place.

Mr. Helmreich stressed to the congregation and faculty that mission work was necessary to gain pupils. The teachers began to visit members who had children who did not attend Grace school in hopes of convincing them to enroll their children. The efforts seemed to prove fruitless as enrollment dipped to 74 in 1913 and a low of 61 in 1914. Teacher Ferdinand Kenyse retired in July of 1913 after 34 years of service. The decision then was whether the school truly needed three teachers or if two could handle the teaching. After much discussion the congregation resolved that if it had any hope of revitalization in the school it needed to have three teachers. Miss Erna Kohls from Kewaunee was called to teach class three.

Although the complexion of the school changed during this period from 1896-1915 (as did the complexion of the community around it), yet, thanks to the energetic efforts of the mission-minded teachers the school doors continued to swing open. For how long though? That was a question many people asked at that time. The answer was given in only a few years, we look at that period of Grace school next.

1916-1935

The last segment of the school might be capsulized as improvements, but realizations. 1916 enrollment was the second lowest in the history of the school when it sank to 62 students. And when Principal Helmreich asked for a release to take another position at another school where the salary was better, there was much discussion as to the life of Grace school. How long could it remain open? Basically two sides spoke out:

1. Dissolve the school and let the Sunday School train religiously.
2. Continue the school. Those in favor of retaining the school had this to say:

A comprehensive, thorough Christian education of Lutheran youth is only possible in a Christian church school. Even considering that our school has only the status of a mission school, since only such few children are being taught, we have, however, excellent teachers who are well equipped to prepare our children, not only in ways to master life, but to walk the way of our Savior.

(Minutes, July 10, 1916)

The congregaion resolved to continue the school, and furthermore to call back to teach again Mr. C.J.Voss as principal.

It appears that this discussion sparked a flame of support and encouragement for the school as many volunteers showed up for a white-washing of the school before the year began. It was also evident in the council where the wish was expressed that "a closer communication should exist between the School Board and the teachers by means of more frequent meetings of the two groups, (Minutes, Sept. 11, 1916)." However, the greatest evidence of improvements being made was in the number of students on the roster. Enrollment rose from 62 pupils in 1916 to 122 in 1919.

Improvements were also made in organization and curriculum. It appears that Mr. Voss was a highly organized man as he acquired much needed school books, maps, a globe, and set up a daily time schedule for classes. He also wished to use the public school curriculum and textbooks for many classes. This was of benefit to students and to parents as they gained confidence in the workings of the Christian day school. By 1917 70% of the enrollment was member's children, and attendance at the school exams "was much larger than in previous years, (Minutes, July 2 1917)." The fut^u_^re of Grace school was looking bright once again!

This bright light grew even more when the council, albeit cautiously, approved the hiring of a fourth teacher to help lighten the load of the other teachers, and to give the students a better education. The school had

turned around from near collapse and hopeless condition in 1915 to an expanding institution in 1917. Under the approval of the council and recommendation of Mr. Voss, Mr. Arnold Hempe was called to teach. The relationship of council to faculty to congregation was very positive and optimistic.

The teachers at this time:

class 1 (7-8) = Mr. Voss
 class 2 (5-6) = Mr. Hempe
 class 3 (3-4) = Mr. Gimmler
 class 4 (1-2) = Miss Kolath

The faculty at this time recognized that a couple of them were nearing retirement age. Mr. Voss, although he did not retire, asked for a release in 1920 and Mr. Gimmler and Miss Kollath followed close behind. Mr. J.W.C. Bischoff replaced Mr. Voss and soon the faculty had a complete face lift. By 1927 it was entirely new. It was in that year when an unfortunate series of events took place that proved detrimental to the improved conditions in the school.

On August 8, 1926 Principal Bischoff resigned, he had also been the organist and choir director. The second class teacher, Miss Glatz was asked to become temporary principal since the end of the school year was so close. Third class teacher, Miss Alma Nommensen, took over organist duties. However, on Sept. 3 (ten days later) Miss Nommensen also resigned. And to make matters as bad as possible, the next day (Sept. 4, 1927) Pastor Gausewitz died suddenly in the church. With three of the most influential spiritual leaders of Grace now gone, the school, as also the church,

was left in a precarious position.

Without question the council had difficult decisions to make in the immediate future. In haste they called for a complete reorganization of the school. Miss Restle was moved to principal and upper grades, Miss Glatz to second class, Miss Heine to third and Miss Dessauer was called as the new fourth class teacher. This major upheaval in organization of a school that had become highly organized and vastly improved under Mr. Voss and Mr. Bischoff, undoubtedly showed itself in the enrollment department. The year following the traumatic year of 1927 showed a decline of 18 students. It was also reflected in the congregation support, so that in 1930 of the 103 pupils 70% were non-members. It appears Grace school was never able to recover from the events of 1927. The handwriting was on the wall--- the doors of the school were swinging shut.

In 1928 Mr. Gilbert Glaesar became the new principal as Miss Glatz resigned. Under his direction the teachers began an intense mission outreach in the area around Grace church. They realized that the only way to keep the school open would be to enroll the children of the community. This project resulted in slight increases over the next few years. The new pastor, W.F. Sauer, also spoke often on the advantages of religious education for children. Unfortunately, these appreciated efforts did not offset the hard realization that the school financially had become a heavy burden on the congregation. Would it, could it remain open?

On Jan. 6, 1933 the council resolved not to abolish

the school at this time, but to apply to AAL for a mortgage loan of \$20,000.00 to pay for the \$16,000.00 debt of the church and school. Also, they resolved to cut all salaries by 10% and to pay the salaries of the lady teachers on a ten month basis in the future, (Minutes, Jan. 6, 1933).

Six months later salaries were cut again. The growing problems and the inability to solve any of the problems led to the statements made by the council in January of 1935.

(These statements were the opening portion of this paper.) The council recommended the school doors be closed for good at the end of the school year of 1935. And the lack of response to a questionnaire sent out to the members concerning the school indicated the congregation was in favor, though many with heavy hearts, of closing the school doors for classes for the final time.

The school building remained standing until 1969 and was used for various group meetings, by various organizations and businessmen in the area. The final

faculty was:	class 1 (7-8) = Mr. Glaeser
	class 2 (5-6) = Miss. Restle
	class 3 (3-4) = Miss Dessauer
	class 4 (1-2) = Miss Ada Werner

It was this group of teachers who packed the school books, emptied the desks, and closed the school doors for the last time. As they did this a question must have been racing through their minds, a question many since then have asked and to which we now attempt to find an answer. The question: "Why were the school doors closed?"

Hopefully as you read through the sketched history

of Grace school on the previous pages perhaps you were able to draw certain conclusions as to the reason why the school ceased after nearly 80 years of operation. However, it would be impossible to single out one specific cause. Did the school close because of an unending financial burden, or was it because of a lack of congregational support and interest? Or, was the reason demographic and circumstantial in nature, or poor teaching and facilities? Maybe there is no definite answer, but by looking at these and other factors we can draw several conclusions.

"It appears that from the beginning the school was a financial problem for the congregation." This was how one member of the present Grace congregation described the situation in the school. Apparently from early on the members, though highly appreciative and thankful for the school, did not generously or actively support it financially. Therefore, already in 1867 special money raising events were necessary to maintain the school. The council minutes from Aug. 12, 1867 state: "Since there is much trouble raising money for the school it is decided to have a fair to benefit the school." Also in 1870 much discussion was held concerning the financial advantages of dropping one teacher. It was never approved, however.

Perhaps the money problems never stand out more clearly than when one compares the school situation with that of the church. On the surface it appears the school

received what we might label as the "left-overs." The festivals (picnics) held at city parks often netted \$700 - \$800, quite a sum in the 1870's! Of this money \$25.00 was given to the Sunday School and \$0.00 to the Christian Day School, even though these events were held under the title of "Children's Festivals", (Minutes, June 8, 1877). A rather startling statistic was recorded in 1875 when the report was read at the council meeting: "The church is debt free! Be it resolved to collect funds to gain a reserve." In itself not bad until one hears the school report: "School debt of \$196.79." Was there a lack of money or a lack of support?

Thankfully in the 1900's thinking changed some. The school was considered a necessary mission tool and asset to the congregation -- worthy of financial support. Still there is a hint that left-overs were good enough, even in 1929, instead of ~~a~~ new, a set of second-hand encyclopedias was purchased and 20 used desks. Also, one can't help but think the building of a new church only four years after the new school building resulted in the school treasury often receiving the loose change at the bottom of the collection plate. But it is important as one discusses finances that one does not forget perhaps the greatest cause of woes in the early 1900's, namely, the Great Depression. Without a doubt, as the nation, state and city suffered so also did the church and school of Grace. It was also during the

Depression years that major maintenance, repair and upkeep was required for the school. Mounting deficits of three to four thousand dollars a year caused considerable anxiety as to the ability to continue the school at its former level. Extensive borrowing and special money raising campaigns to tide over these times brought only temporary relief. The problem seemed insurmountable. (1949 Anniversary booklet, p.18)

No clearer picture can be drawn of the financial woes of the school than in the last three years of its existence. In 1933 teacher's salaries were cut 10%, women were paid for only 10 months, salaries were cut again shortly after the first reduction. The congregation and teachers alike were suffering.

Contributing to the money problems was the negative attitude that seemed to prevail in many members toward the school. For instance, already in 1862 the request came from Teacher Siefert for the congregation to purchase and provide school books free of charge for the poor children of the school. The request was denied, (Minutes, Dec. 8, 1862).

It was in 1875 we hear the first of what became a common occurrence, Pastor Jaekel admonished the congregation to "send your children to our school, (Minutes, Oct. 4, 1875)."

These admonitions appear periodically throughout the 80 years of the school. The teachers, too, saw the need to make house-to-house visits to members who had children but were not sending them to Grace school. In fact, in 1914 Teacher Helmreich and Gimmler visited 50 members who had

school-aged children, but still the enrollment was a dismal 61 with 25% being non-members. And in 1915 of a possible 170 students, their parents being members, only 54 attended the school. To take a closer look at the potential that existed at Grace let's look at some facts.: From 1909 to 1914 there were 448 baptisms (church records indicate this) at Grace. That means that in 1920 those 448 could have been in the school together, grades 1-5. If we consider an attrition rate of 20% that leaves us with a possible school enrollment, grades 1-5, at Grace school of 360 students. Actual enrollment in 1920 was 118. What was the problem? Perhaps that question leads us well into our discussion of another possible cause of the school closing, namely,--- lack of confidence in the teachers and teaching of the school.

On the positive side, there is recorded several incidents of the principal admonishing and even dismissing a teacher if proper teaching standards were not being met. This implies that the principal kept close communication and consultation with his fellow teachers. In fact, in 1872 Principal Siefert even sent the invitation for "members to visit the classes to find out what is being taught." It appears that in the early years the parochial system was considered far superior to the public school system. However, at the turn of the century the pendulum began to swing the other direction.

On Feb. 4, 1901 the council appointed a "committee to study the time and instruction system of the public

school, (Minutes, Feb. 4, 1901)." Does this tell us that the teaching at Grace school was lacking in several areas? When Mr. C.J. Voss became principal in 1916 he made wholesale changes in curriculum, books, basic school equipment and scheduling. He made the recommendation that the curriculum of the public schools should be used as an example, (Minutes, Sept. 27, 1916). Is it possible that the reason many members did not send their children to Grace was because they felt the public school education was better? But maybe the real cause was the force that undermined the financial woes, the people's support problems and the teaching questions. That force has been called -- demographics.

Perhaps the reason the money in the purse declined, and the enrollment and support declined, and the teaching level declined was because the neighborhood and community around the school declined. Already in 1900 the changes were evident, and by the 1930's the large and fine homes to the east of the church, what was once called Yankee Hill, were turned into tenements and rooming houses and family hotels. The number of small homes, where many members had formerly lived, became fewer and fewer, and the population of the area became more transient, the old membership more scattered. Many members moved to areas away from downtown, away from the church and school.

As a result, membership declined, financial problems increased, and the school suffered. Since many members

lived in the suburb area it was easier and more practical to send their children to a neighboring school than to attend Grace. The school then had to reach out to its own neighborhood as a mission arm. Its last years reflect this. In 1933 of the 123 enrolled only 30% were member's children. That also meant the contributions for support of the school came largely from others than the parents of the children who attended. "The transient character of the neighborhood brought on a large turnover in the enrollment of pupils in the course of every year, (1949 Anniversary booklet, p.19)." It would be safe to assume the turnover also made teaching more difficult with different faces in the desks every year. The changing community brought with it a changing school. A school that in 1935 changed forever.

Conclusion

Whenever one discusses the end, or death, of an organization, whether that be a school or a business, the discussion inevitably sounds negative. And it may be that this paper, in attempting to lay ~~out~~ the "life and death" of Grace school, the writer has appeared negative, even judgmental. But, as I read through the recorded minutes from 1949-1936, and as I have come to know personally some of the graduates of Grace school, I saw and see how through the highs and lows of the school, still God's Word was the guide, the rule and the source of all teaching and training. The Lord's will and work in the school most certainly carried over to

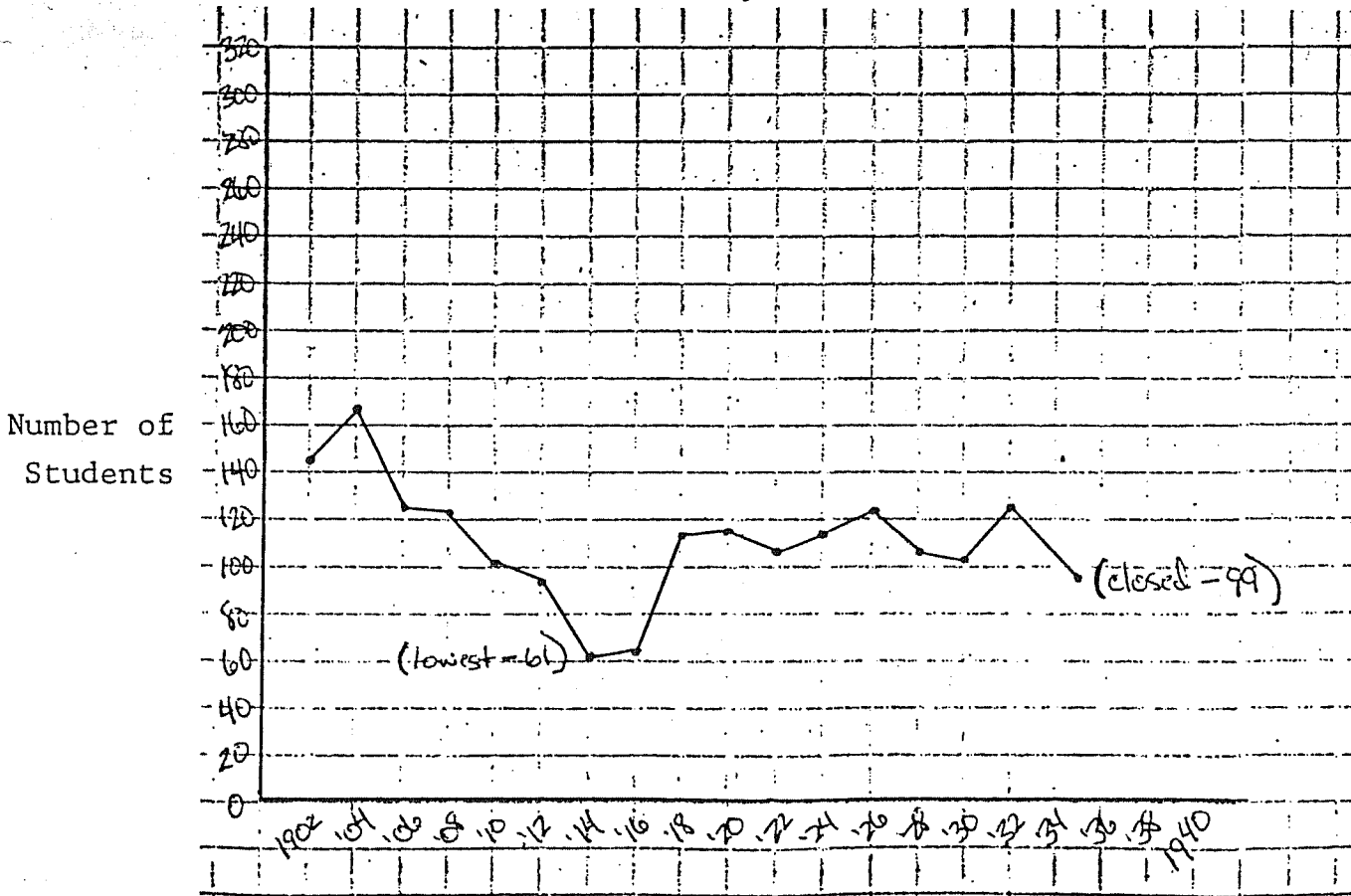
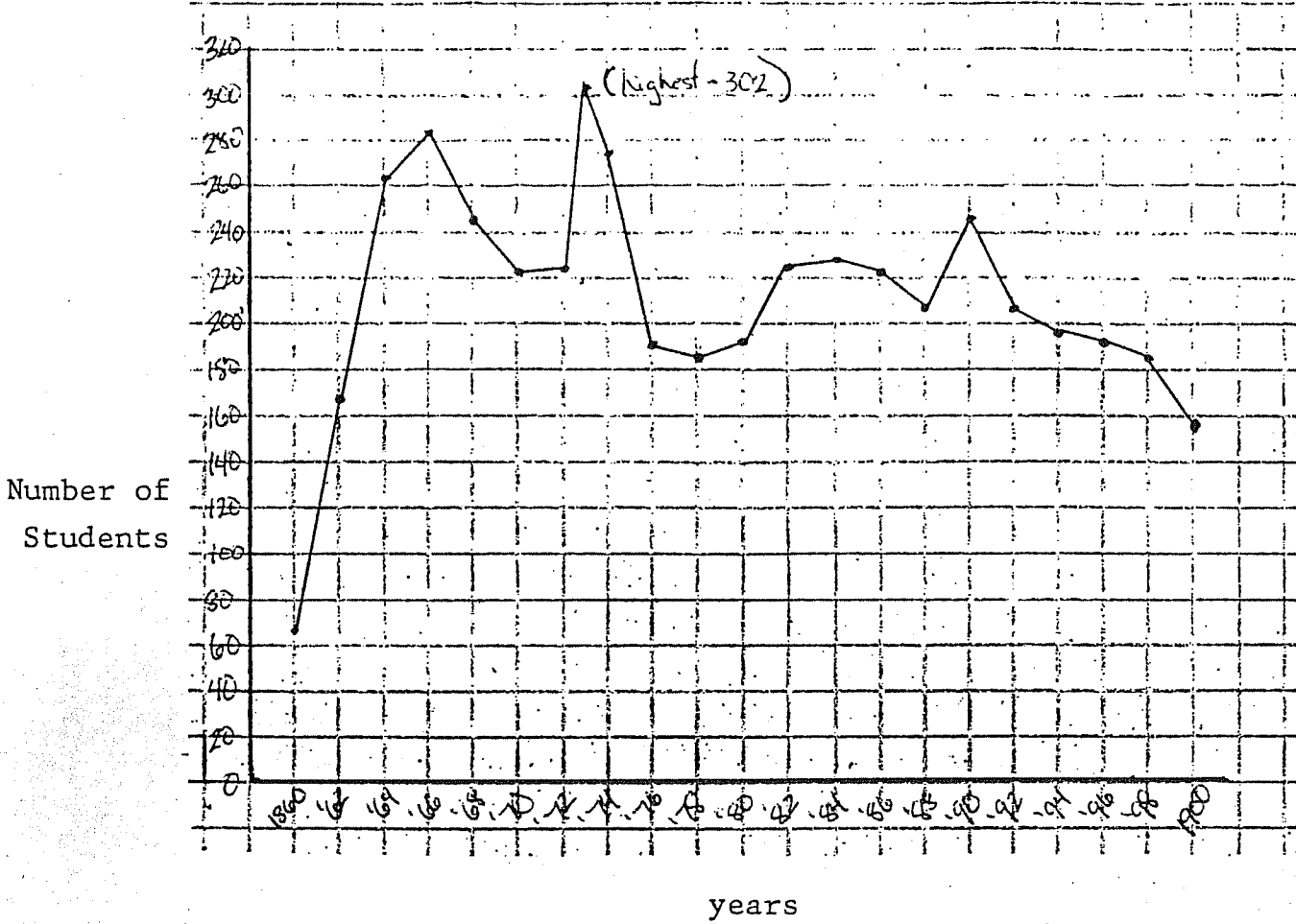
the church where, until the present, Christian education has remained and will remain a high priority.

Maybe we've just hinted at the definitive cause, or reason why Grace school closed its doors. It was God's will. For nearly 80 years the Lord saw fit to bless Grace church with a school that offered practical training in math, science, writing, et al. But more importantly, Grace school offered spiritual training to all of its students. From its years of plenty to its lean years, God's Word stood as the constant source of life and love flowing through the hallways and classrooms, from teacher to pupil and from pupil to teacher. For nearly 80 years God's Word was taught as Grace school served God's plan and purpose. Why were the school doors closed? The answer: God's plan and purpose for the school was complete. So, in 1935 it was the Lord who closed the doors for the final time. His will be done!

Pupils
Enrolled:

Appendix-1

Enrollment graph



TEACHERS OF GRACE SCHOOL, 1850-1935

1850-1854	-Mr. Nockemann
1850-1859	-Mrs. Muehlhaeuser
1854-1859	-Mr. Waigle
1859-1879	-Mr. H.O.R. Siefert
1860-1861	-Mrs. Streisgut
1861-1864, '67	-Mr. Paul Binner
1863- ?	-Mrs. Breimann
1863-1864	-Mr. Mueller
1864.	-Mr. John Pasch
1864-1865	-Mr. Huber
1864-1903	-Mr. Joseph Graef
1865-1867	-Mr. Carl Zimmerman
1865-1866	-Mr. Pieper
1866-1867	-Mr. Juergens
1867-1868	-Mr. Heinserling
1867-1868	-Mr. Froemke
1868	-Dr. Diemling
1868-1875	-Mr. Doerr
1868-1869	-Mr. Gamm
1869-1872	-Mr. Wilhelm Tyson
1875-1878	-Mr. C. Wagner
1878	-Miss. Maria Kinsel
1878-1882	-Mrs. Schadegg
1879-1913	-Mr. Ferdinand Kneyse
1880-1881	-Mr. Dismond
1881-1884	-Miss. Lemenes
1884-1885	-Miss. Lemenes (sister of above)
1882-1885	-Miss. Gosch
1885-1888	-Miss. Minnie Sercomb
1885-1886	-Mr. Herman Sievert
1886-1920 (?)	-Mr. Gustav Gimmler
1888-1904	-Miss. Jennie Randolph
1904-1906,	
1916-1920	-Mr. C.J. Voss
1906-1907	-Miss. Heiser
1907-1916	-Mr. J.M. Helmreich
1913-1914	-Miss. Clara Albrecht
1914-1916	-Miss. Erna Kohls
1916-1921	-Miss. Erna Kollath
1918-1925	-Mr. Hempe
1920-1927	-Mr. J.W.C. Bischoff
1921-1927	-Miss. Alma Nommensen
1925-1928	-Miss. Glatz
1928-1935	-Mr. Gilbert Glaeser
1921-1933	-Miss. Heine
1933-1935	-Miss. Ada Werner
1927-1935	-Miss. Dessauer
1925(?) - 1935	-Miss. Restle

PRINCIPALS AND SOME OF THE TEACHERS



MR. GRAFF MRS. SCHADEGG
REV. JAEKEL MR. SIEFFERT



TEACHER GIMMLER



TEACHER KNEYSE



MR. HELMREICH



J. W. C. BISCHOFF



MR. VOSS



G. G. GLAESER

BIBLIOGRAPHY

- 1949 Anniversary Booklet of Grace Ev. Lutheran Church,
Grace Church, Milwaukee, WI.

- The biography of Oscar Griebing, written by his three sons.
Grace Archives

- Church Council Minutes of Grace Church, 1959-36.
Grace Archives

- Various personal reports of Grace members who graduated
from Grace School

- Mayer; Eina, Our Church, Personal historical account of the
early years of Grace Church

- Seventy-Five Years of Grace. Anniversary Booklet
Grace Archives