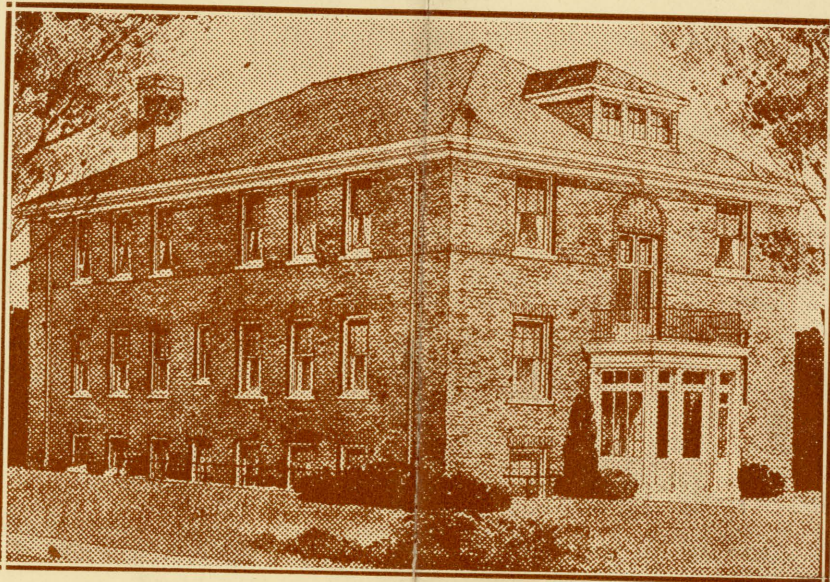


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Grand Opening and Donation Day
Lutheran Girls' Home

Friday, November 16, 1923



All the Lutherans in the Twin Cities and all friends of our church and our Christian activities will kindly bear in mind that our Lutheran Girls' Home will have its grand opening and donation day Friday, November 16th. We desire to impress upon the minds and hearts of all that this year God has specially blessed us, and for this reason we must all try to bring some thank offering to the home on this day. Money, clothes or food, whatever you feel that you can give, will be accepted with hearty gratitude. A new institution needs many new things, and that is the case with our new home. May the Lord open the hearts of all, that you may give cheerfully and generously.

The home will be open all day to visitors and donors. Devotional exercises will be conducted at 3 p. m. by Rev. H. B. Grimsby of Bethel Lutheran Church.

Devotional exercises in the evening by Rev. C. S. Thorpe of Hope Lutheran Church. There will be vocal and instrumental music at both these services.

Board of Directors, Lutheran Girls' Home

A. O. AASEN, President
O. J. NESHEIM, Vice Pres.
G. T. RYGH
S. C. THORPE

OLIN FJELDSTAD, Secretary
OLAF GREFTHEN, Treasurer
PROF. STOLEE
T. A. HOFF

Dedication Exercises

The Official Dedication of our Lutheran Girls' Home
Sunday, Nov. 18th, 1923, 3 P. M.

Invocation by Presiding Officer, H. B. Kildahl

Solo by Mdme. Annette Yde Lake

Hymn, "Rescue the Perishing"

Rescue the perishing, care for the dying,
Snatch them in pity from sin and the grave;
Weep o'er the erring one, lift up the fallen,
Tell them of Jesus the mighty to save.

Chorus—

Rescue the perishing, care for the dying;
Jesus is merciful, Jesus will save.

Though they are slighting Him, still He is waiting,
Waiting the penitent child to receive:
Plead with them earnestly, plead with them gently;
He will forgive if they only believe.

Down in the human heart, crushed by the tempter,
Feelings lie buried that grace can restore;
Touched by a loving hand, wakened by kindness,
Chords that were broken will vibrate once more.

Rescue the perishing, duty demands it;
Strength for thy labor the Lord will provide;
Back to the narrow way patiently win them;
Tell the poor wand'rer a Savior has died.

Dedicatory Address, President H. B. Stub, D.D.

Hymn No. 5, Verses 1 and 5

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation,
O my soul, praise Him, for He is thy Health and salvation.
All ye who hear,
Now to His temple draw near,
Join me in glad adoration.

Praise to the Lord, O let all that is in me adore Him,
All that hath life and breath, come now with praises before Him.
Let the Amen
Sound from His people again,
Gladly for aye we adore Him.

Offertory

Benediction

Lord's Prayer

Doxology

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History of the Lutheran Girls' Home

Formerly the Norwegian Lutheran Rescue Home

By O. L. GREFFTHEN

Today we dedicate our new Lutheran Girls' Home. This is indeed a great day for all of us who love our Savior Jesus Christ and our unfortunate fellow men. We are thankful to our Heavenly Father that he has found us worthy to be his instruments in erecting this "City of Refuge" for those who are subject to social ostracisation. Jesus says, "Be ye merciful even as your Father, which is in Heaven, is merciful." We are very happy today that we in a small way have complied with this command.

Our Rescue Home has a humble but in many ways a remarkable history. It does not bear so much the mark of human ingenuity, but it is in almost every sense a living testimony to the providence and blessing of God.

Several years ago a Martha and Mary Home was founded in St. Paul by some of our St. Paul pastors. It existed for some time and did good work as long as it lasted, but lacking in support and organization, this institution died. But the idea that our church must do rescue work among our unfortunate girls did not die in the hearts of some of our pastors and lay members in the Twin Cities. Rev. A. O. Aasen of the Immanuel Lutheran Church, Northeast Minneapolis, is the real founder and promoter of our Rescue Home. In the fall of 1912, with \$25.00 in his pocket and an invincible faith that "God wills it," Rev. Aasen set out to establish the Rescue Home. He secured a house on Spring and Pierce Streets, Northeast Minneapolis, and work was begun with Sister Johanson as matron, who shortly after was succeeded by Marie Bremseth. He was fully aware that an institution of this kind was not a one-man task. He organized the Lutheran Rescue Home corporation in January, 1913. The corporation consisted of pastors and professors of the Norwegian Lutheran Synod in the Twin Cities. The first officers of the Home were: Rev. A. O. Aasen, President; Rev. C. S. Thorpe, Vice-president; Rev. Chr. Anderson, Secretary; Rev. J. Hendricks, Treasurer; and Rev. S. T. Norman, Pastor. Rev. Aasen has been president of the institution ever since. He also knew that the women of our church must back this work, spiritually, morally, and financially, to make it a real success. The various Ladies' Aids in the Twin Cities, headed by the Hope Lutheran Church, rose to the occasion and founded the Lutheran Rescue Home Auxiliary with Mrs. Dr. J. R. Peterson as president. This organization has several branches in towns outside of the Twin Cities. The interest and the devotion that this organization has put forth is commendable in the highest degree. We know by their labor and sacrifice that their hearts have been touched by God.

In the fall of 1916, Matron Bremseth resigned and Mrs. Lina Formoe was called to take her place. Mrs. Formoe has proved equal to the great task and responsibility laid upon her. She is firm, sympathetic and kind, with a mania for good order and hard work. Under her care the Rescue Home developed into an institution that demanded larger quarters than they had. The amalgamation of our Norwegian Lutheran Churches was pending, and the Rescue Home Corporation was enlarged to include the pastors of the three conferring church bodies. This enlarged the field as well as the support of our Rescue Home. In the fall of 1917, a beautiful residence was purchased at 64 Bedford Street Southeast, Minneapolis, to be the future home for our rescue work, and the property on Spring and Pierce Streets was disposed of. It did not take long, however, before these new quarters proved too small. Our rescue work was constantly growing, and besides this our home took over the convalescent activities

that had been carried on by the former United Church. Two neighboring residences were rented to supply the necessary quarters. We were now equipped to do a splendid work on a large scale. On the average we have had 155 girls, 160 children, and 42 convalescents annually the last five years. But owing to the fact that we could not get a license from the city and state for the future operation of our institution at 64 Bedford Street, our work had to be abandoned or a new location had to be procured. The Rescue Home Corporation met in January, 1923, and gave full power to the officers in charge to secure a suitable location and quarters for our Rescue Home. A great deal of time was spent in examining locations and quarters, and the committee decided upon the corner of Nineteenth Avenue and Arthur Street Northeast, Minneapolis, as being the most suitable location in the Twin Cities for our work. Eight lots of ground were secured on this beautiful bluff overlooking the city of Minneapolis for \$4,350, and plans were laid for the building of our new Home. Many of our friends shook their heads in dismay and said it could not be done. "A building project in these hard times is impossible." But the proposition was to do or die, and this fine new home is God's answer to our prayers and endeavors. It has not been altogether easy to do what has been done this year, but our Rescue Home has seen many dark hours and weathered many storms before. In the darkest hours of the World War, the president and treasurer were in almost daily consultation about what to do to save the institution. They constantly begged and borrowed money, and with the Apostles that Jesus sent out without purse and without money, they must confess they never lacked anything. Our Home has always had enough for daily use.

Our new Home has cost \$26,964 to erect, and it is the opinion of all that we have received a great deal for the money invested. It is possibly the best arranged and best equipped institution of its kind in the Twin Cities, but not one dollar has been spent for ornament or luxury. It is gratifying to see how the people have responded to the appeals for this institution. A great deal of the money has been borrowed and must be paid. But we know that God who has begun the good work will also perfect it. And right here we must speak a word of recognition and gratitude to the Women's Missionary Federation for coming to our rescue in our hour of need. At their annual convention in St. Paul last summer, 1923, they answered our S. O. S. by electing the following committee: Miss Anna Warren of Central Lutheran Church, Mrs. C. G. Hoigaard of Zion Lutheran Church, and Mrs. E. E. Ellertson of Hope Lutheran Church, and commissioned them to organize every local federation in our church body, to give moral strength and financial aid to the building of our new Rescue Home. And the work that they have done and the funds they have secured for our new Home is a touching demonstration of the Christian women's love for their unfortunate and erring sisters.

Up to January, 1922, this Home has cared for 1,248 girls, 1,267 children, and 360 convalescents. We look with pride at the record that most of our inmates have made since they left our institution. We believe that the great majority of them have been redeemed for society and for God. And the many children that our institution has cared for and given good homes will in the future make splendid citizens of our Church and State.

On this day we hold in grateful remembrance all those who have directly and indirectly promoted our Home. We extend to you our gratitude and we know that God in his season will extend to you his blessing and benediction.

*Thy kindness shall bring to thee many sweet hours,
And blessings thy pathway shall crown;
Affections shall weave thee garlands of flowers,
More precious than wealth or renown.*