

June 4, 1936

# ANNIVERSARY

## Hold Jubilee Week at Calvary Baptist

### Former Pastors to Take Part in Special Services

Calvary Baptist church, Elmwood avenue and Lake street, will celebrate the 50th anniversary of its founding by holding eight days of special services beginning Sunday. The week has been designated as "jubilee week," and several former pastors of the church will take part in the various services.

The Rev. Eric Scherstram, 1125 Davis street, Calvary minister from 1919 to 1928, will be the speaker at the opening service Sunday night. It was during the Rev. Mr. Scherstram's ministry that extensive remodeling was done to the church edifice and parsonage.

Pastors of neighboring churches in Evanston will be invited to give brief talks at the Monday night "Neighbor Church Night" service.

#### *Pioneer Night Tuesday*

Pioneer night will be observed Tuesday (June 9), since that date is the anniversary of the organization of Calvary church, then known as the Swedish Baptist church of Evanston, in 1886. The Rev. Charles Palm, a gospel minister for more than 50 years, who served the church from 1889 to 1896, will give the principal address. The Rev. Mr. Palm, who is retired, lives at Sister Bay, Wis. The Rev. F. V. Hedeem, also a former pastor at Calvary, will take part in the service. The Echo choir, composed of members who sang many years ago, will sing.

Wednesday night will be observed as denominational mission night, when the Rev. Ragnar Arlander, Calvary pastor from 1905 to 1909 and now mission secretary of the Swedish Baptist general conference, will be the speaker. The Calvary Brotherhood will have charge of this service.

#### *Organizations Conduct Services*

Other organizations will conduct the services later in the week, the Ladies' Aid society Thursday night, the young people Friday night and the choir Saturday night. The morning service of Sunday, June 14, has been assigned to the Sunday school, while the afternoon program at 4 will be a memorial service for former members of the church who have

The history of Calvary church dates back to 1885, when a few families who were members of the First Swedish Baptist church of Chicago but who lived in north Evanston organized a mission. Authority was given the group to function as a branch of the Chicago church, and the Rev. N. E. Nelson was invited to come to Evanston to direct the work of the mission. Services were held regularly at Union hall on Davis street.

#### *Church Had 31 Charter Members*

Because of the mission's growth it was decided the following year to organize a local church. This was done June 9, when 31 charter members, including the Rev. John Olander, who had just arrived from the East to take up the work, were united as the Swedish Baptist church

of Evanston. (The church retained this name until about six years ago.)

Only two or three of the charter members are still alive and none of them lives in Evanston, although the church today includes in its membership many relatives of these charter members. Mrs. Charles Erickson (the former Miss Lina Norr), one of the original 31 members, has come from her home in Silver Hill, Ala., to take part in the 50th anniversary celebration. Mrs. Erickson is the mother of Mrs. Charles Knapp and Mrs. Victor Lundberg, both Calvary members.

For several years after the organization of the local church the congregation continued to hold services at Union hall. In 1892 a frame structure, which was used both as a church and parsonage, was built at 820 Lake street. The first story was the church and the second story the parsonage.

#### *Brick Edifice Built in 1894*

The congregation outgrew this new church home, and the construction of a brick edifice to replace it was begun in 1894 at Lake street and Elmwood avenue, the church's present location. This brick structure was remodeled and additional rooms were built in 1920 under the supervision of N. P. Scerim. The first church building was made into a home for the sexton, and in 1907 the present parsonage at 1431 Elmwood avenue was purchased and later remodeled.

For many years the Swedish language was used entirely in the church services, as well as in departmental meetings. This policy was discontinued about 15 years ago, when people of various nationalities began to unite with the church. Since then the English language has been used almost entirely. Several nationalities are now represented in the church, which has a membership of more than 200.

The present pastor, the Rev. William Turnwall, is beginning his sixth year of service.