TARTU ÜLIKOOLI
RAAMATUKOGU

Evangelical church building

in

Esthonia.

26995

Est. A-17247

As the result of the glorious Esthonian war for asserting liberty in the year 1919 arose the young Esthonian Republic on the beach of the Baltic Sea, the population of it being to 9/10 protestant. In the south — eastern part of the country, near the Russian frontier, lies the little town of Petseri, whose inhabitants are mixed by nation and confession. An Evangelical-Lutheran congregation was erected there in the year 1921, which scarcely encompasses 400 souls and to which belong the poorer classes of the population mostly. This new congregation lacks a proper home — a church! The services and prayer meetings have to be held in a very small and not suitable private room or in the open air. Therefore it is the greatest wish of the congregation to build a suitable church of its own. In the year 1923 by great efforts they succeeded to get ready the foundation and on Nevember 11th of the same year his Eminence the bishop J. Kukk laid the foundationstone. Through lack of money however the work had to be interrupted through all the follwing year. But as we recently have got reliefs done but once, from the Esthonian Government and from other congregations of our country, and as the parish itself sacrifices as much as possible, we at present have $ 2504 in cash. The congregation has firmly resolved to begin with the erecting of the walls this year (1925). If the work is to be done without stagnation and answer the most elementary demands (for the present even without a steeple) we shall want $ 26.000. Where to get this sum from we do not know. Or should we stop the work and confess ashamed that it is beyond our pover?

Though a great distance divides us from each other, yet you and we share in one and the same Gospel and are one in Christ. If once an Evangelical church should be towering to the sky in Petseri our joy is sure to be yours too.

Therefore we trustfully apply to your bounty and ask you: do come over and help us! Act. 16, 9. We humbly ask you to intercede in behalf of our great and difficult enterprise and assist us. We hope to God that it be His marvellous Will that you, too, should sacrifice a stone for building the walls of the church, we so long for.

We are quite willing to report the progress of the building and we should be very grateful if you would intercede for us with your friends of the Kingdom of the Lord, or send us their addresses.

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God bless you! May He reward your work of charity!

All is done to His Glory!

Ministerial trustee:

Rev. Pastor N. Aunwerdt.

The board of the Evangelical-Lutheran congregation in Petseri:

B. Peterhoff.
P. Karlson.
K. Horn.

Recommendations.

After the cruel losses caused by war and revolution the work of the reconsolidisation of all branches of culture has begun in Esthonia. Here the church dare not be an idle onlooker but has to be in the foremost rank, for the devastation in spiritual life has of late been greater than that in outward life.

The founding of a Lutheran parish in Petseri must be considered the fruit of the spiritual work in Esthonia. The Petseri community has the task to gather the Esthonians, scattered among the heterodox Setukese and Russians, and to be in the Esthonian Border-land a Beacon of the Gospel.

For the newly created parish the fulfilment of this sacred task is connected with great difficulties. One of the chief difficulties to be overcome is to provide the parish with a church. The community has indeed exerted itself to the utmost. In spite of its great poverty the foundation walls are alredy erected and timber and bricks procured. But the community lacks the means to erect and complete the building. The church of Esthonia herself has to fight with great postwar difficulties and cannot give the Petseri parish any help to speak of.

On the strength of this the community believes to be entitled to appeal to the brotherly love of the fellow Christians saying with the man of Macedonia.

This appeal of the Petseri community is indeed justified as the community has really exerted itself to the utmost. May God

Himself bless this appeal that His House in Petseri might be completed and bear witness of the Christian Communion.

Jakob Kukk,

Bishop of the Lutheran Church in Esthonia.

Reval, May 8th, 1925.

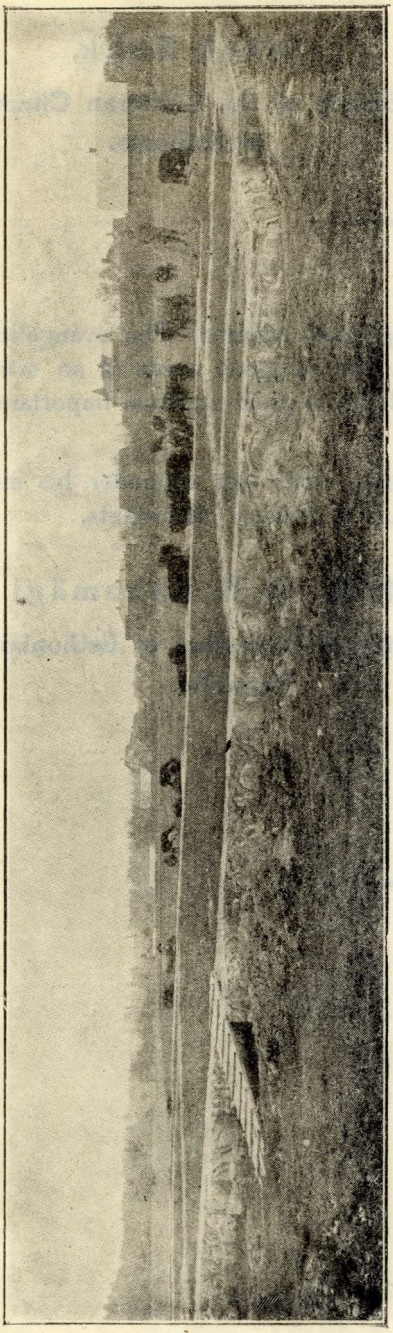
I whish the useful undertaking good success. The evangelical church of Petseri will not only satisfy the religious wants of so many people, but with its solid home it will be of great spiritual importance in that remote place.

He who supports this enterprise does not squander his money, but sows good seed into the souls of Petseri inhabitants.

Prof. Dr. H. B. Rahamägi

Minister of Education of Esthonian Republic.

Reval, May 1925.



The fundament of the church in Petseri in the year 1924.

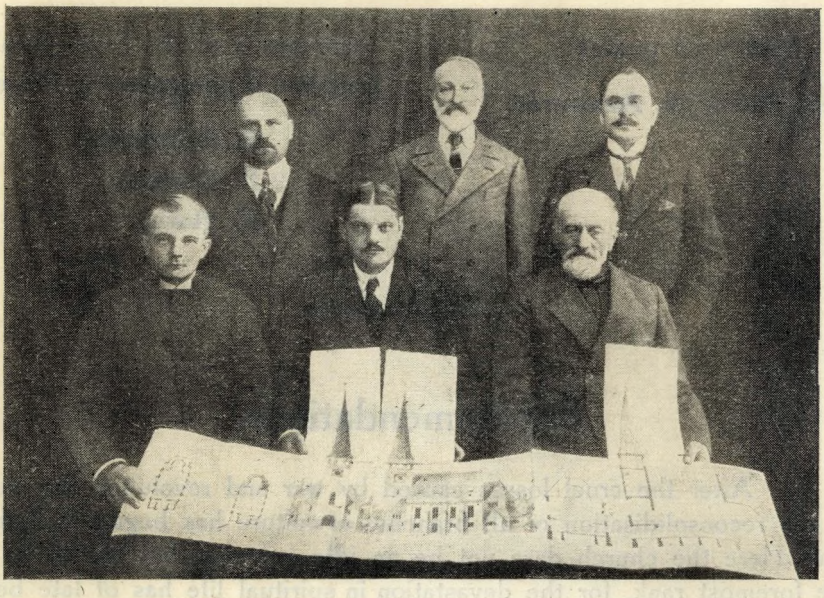
Gifts

for the benefit of the Evangelical - Lutheran church that is to be built in Petseri, we entread to send to the Lutheran Consistory in Tallinn (Reval) in Esthonia to the account for Petseri;

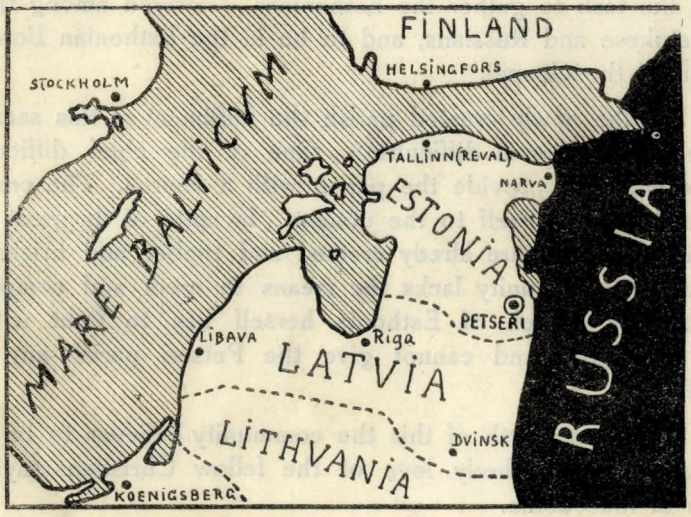
or

to the directory of the Evangelical-Lutheran parish in Petseri, Esthonia, itself.

The board of the Evangelical-Lutheran congregation in Petseri.



P. Karlson. A. Kiiswek. G. Tamm.
Pastor N. Aunwerdt. B. Peterhoff. K. Horn.



Where is Petseri situated?

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