

NORTHERN KENTUCKY VIEWS PRESENTS

HISTORY OF
TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH
BELLEVUE, KENTUCKY

Excerpted From

History of the Indiana-
Kentucky Synod

By

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The impetus for the establishment of Trinity Lutheran Church in Bellevue, Kentucky came from the interest expressed by a small group of persons, including J. J. Troxell and family, Mr. and Mrs. E. W. Weaver, and Mr. and Mrs. J. Martin. In January, 1892 these individuals persuaded Dr. E. K. Bell, pastor of First Lutheran Church, Cincinnati, Ohio, to begin holding Sunday afternoon preaching services in Calvary Methodist Church in Bellevue. A month later, this nucleus of Lutherans decided that, with assistance from the Board of Home Missions, they could raise enough money to call a pastor. The Rev. G. G. Clark was called and began his work on April 1, 1892. The congregation was officially organized on April 19, with fifty-one charter members.

Balke Opera House, at the corner of Berry and Fairfield streets, was used for morning and evening worship services for almost a year. In July, 1892 an option was taken on the property on the southeast intersection of Center and Taylor streets, and a loan was made from the board of Church Extension of the General Synod to purchase the land. The cornerstone for the church building was laid November 13, 1892, and it was dedicated on May 14, 1893.

The growth of the congregation was slow, but by 1902, during the pastorate of the Rev. John M. Bramkamp, the communing membership reached a total of 100. The only major property improvement during the early years was the building of the present brick parsonage in 1917.

Trinity remained a mission congregation, receiving financial aid from the synod until January, 1939, when, under the leadership of the Rev. C. Myron Danford, it became self-supporting. A long series of property improvements were begun shortly thereafter. Additional educational facilities were provided by the excavation of a basement under a portion of the church building. While a contractor was engaged for the excavating and concrete work, Pastor Masheck and some of the men of the congregation completed the ceilings, walls, and interiors of the new rooms.

In 1959 the property was expanded for the first time in sixty-seven years by the purchase of a duplex residence, ad-

jacent to the original lot at 306 Center Street. A new educational unit was built on the site of the duplex, and the church building was remodeled. All of this was made possible by the generous gifts of Colonel Harry T. Klein.

Trinity participated in two noteworthy historical events in subsequent years. In November, 1967 the congregation celebrated its 75th anniversary with a service which featured former pastor Charles Masheck as guest speaker. Then, in July, 1970 the church took part in the religious activities which marked the centennial of the City of Bellevue. On that occasion, former pastor Myron Danford delivered the sermon, and two sons of the congregation, pastors Ed Barry and Ted McGill were present.

Another son of the congregation, Ted N. Tatman, has entered the Gospel ministry.

Membership as of December 31, 1970: 258 baptized, 211 confirmed, 128 communing.

Previous synodical affiliations: Miami Synod, General Synod, 1892-1920; Ohio Synod (ULCA), 1920-1934; Kentucky-Tennessee Synod (ULCA), 1934-1962.

Pastors who served this congregation: George C. Clark (1892-1895), John Milton Bramkamp (1895-1906), Benjamin W. Ziegler (1907-1908), Edward R. Richards (1909-1912), Charles H. Falls (1912-1913), LaVerne G. Ogden (1914-1915), Edwin R. Wagner (1915-1918), Meade Augustus Rugh (1918), Harry W. Little (1918-1921), L. P. Pence (1922-1936), C. Myron Danford (1936-1944), Charles L. Masheck (1945-1957), George A. Bush (1957-1959), Roger L. Thompson (1960-1964), Theodore R. Hildebrand (1964-1968), Howard A. Alsdorf (1969-).