

NORTHERN KENTUCKY VIEWS PRESENTS

HISTORY OF
FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH
ERLANGER, KENTUCKY

Excerpted From

History of the Indiana-
Kentucky Synod

by

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Faith Lutheran Church of Erlanger, Kentucky evolved from a small group of individuals who worshipped together in various homes in the mid-1940's. They were encouraged and assisted in their activities by the Rev. Lorin L. Spenny, who was both president of the Kentucky-Tennessee Synod (ULCA) and pastor of Zion Lutheran Church, Park Hills, and by the Rev. J. Paul Rimmer, pastor of Hopeful Lutheran Church, Florence. In October, 1946 they began to worship in Taliaferro's Funeral Home in Erlanger. At first the group expected to meet at that location only until the end of the year, but they continued to worship there for a while in 1947.

There were some inconveniences at Taliaferro's. For instance, all the congregation's equipment had to be stored in the basement of the funeral home after each service. At times, all of the more suitable rooms were occupied for wakes, making it difficult to find a space in which to conduct services. Often an accordian had to be used instead of a piano because of the limited amount of room. In the spring of 1947, however, the congregation moved to larger and more convenient quarters in the Locust Street School auditorium.

The ULCA's Board of American Missions sent representatives into the Erlanger community in 1947 to determine the feasibility of establishing a mission there. On the basis of the BAM's positive report, the Lutheran group moved their meetings to a house on Dixie Highway (where the Shepherd Construction Company later stood) and began to look for a church site in that neighborhood.

The Rev. John Glenn Boliek came to Erlanger to begin his work as mission developer on February 8, 1948. Later that year, Faith Evangelical Lutheran Church was organized. In the early months of Pastor Boliek's brief pastorate, too, the congregation purchased a church site at 3804 Dixie High-

way. The property which was chosen included a large, two-story, brick house. That building was utilized as a house-chapel, and, for a time, as a residence for Faith's pastors.

The house-chapel was to serve as the congregation's headquarters for about fourteen years. Financial restrictions, tied to the smallness of the church's membership, delayed the implementation of plans for a first unit in Faith's building program. In 1953, however, the congregation erected a brick parsonage at 49 Price Avenue. That project was completed during the pastorate of the Rev. Douglas Larson, who came to Erlanger in 1950.

Finally, in 1961, while the Rev. Virgil L. Yohe was leading Faith Church, steps were taken to begin construction of a house of worship. Sketches and specifications were approved, financing was arranged, and preparations were made to remove the old house-chapel so that the proposed unit could be built on the land that it had occupied. The completion of the \$95,000 brick edifice, in 1962, gave the congregation a fine facility in which to develop their ministry. That same year, a new Allen organ was purchased and installed in the church.

Pastor Yohe resigned in July, 1964 and was succeeded a few months later by the Rev. John V. Roth. During Pastor Roth's extended ministry, Faith established a successful kindergarten for the Erlanger community and remodeled the church's Sunday school rooms. Furthermore, in 1968, the congregation marked their 20th anniversary.

Membership as of December 31, 1970: 144 baptized, 99 confirmed, 87 communing.

Previous synodical affiliation: Kentucky-Tennessee Synod (ULCA), 1948-1962.

Pastors who served Faith Church: John Glenn Bolick (1948-1949), Douglas Larson (1950-1956), Virgil L. Yohe (1957-1964), John V. Roth (1964-1971).