

History of Holy Trinity

Holy Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church of Kingston, Pennsylvania was founded on December 9, 1920 when a small band of Lutherans assembled and resolved to establish a Lutheran Church. On December 28, 1920 a committee met with the Superintendent of Missions of the Ministerium of PA, and decided to send a letter to those Lutherans living in the area advising them of a meeting and beginning of Lutheran Services.

On Sunday afternoon, January 9, 1921, during a blizzard, a group of Lutherans braved the storm to meet in the Dorranceton High School (later known as Rutter Avenue Elementary School), which was the established place of worship until March 18, 1923. There were 54 people at this first meeting. It is remembered that the ushers were wearing hip boots! The first Sunday morning worship took place the following Sunday, January 16, 1921. A Sunday School was formed on this date with 35 enrolled. The first Holy Communion service was held on March 27, 1921. Holy Trinity called its first Pastor, Elwood Schwenk, in June, 1921.

The site of our current church building was purchased on July 11, 1921 for the sum of \$8,800. Ground was broken on June 18, 1922. The cornerstone was laid August 13, 1922 with the following words spoken by the former President of the Wilkes-Barre Conference, Rev. August Fisher:

"In the faith of Jesus Christ, do I now lay this Cornerstone; in the name of the Father, Son and of the Holy Ghost; that here true faith, the fear of God and brotherly love may abide; and that this place may be set apart to the teaching of the Gospel, the administration of the Holy Sacraments, and the invocation and praise of the Name of our Lord Jesus Christ, who with the Father, and the Holy Ghost liveth and reigneth, ever one God, world without end. Amen. Amen. Amen."

The parsonage, next door at 15 Church Street, began construction on February 21, 1922 by George P. Steinhauer. Upon its completion it was turned over to the congregation at cost.



The church was first renovated in 1938, when the entire sanctuary was redone. In 1971 plans were made to add a new wing to the church. These plans were delayed due to the devastation the church suffered during the Agnes Flood of 1972. The new wing was finally completed in 1979, with the addition of the bell tower to follow a few years later.