

## **Antioch**

Dallas

Lutheran settlers, firm in their faith, began moving into this area before the American Revolution. They could attend services at the "Meeting House" located at the gap of Pasour Mountain or at Philadelphia Lutheran Church, Dallas.

As more Lutherans came into the community, the need became greater for a local meeting place. Services began being held in the old Rhyne Schoolhouse. Rhyne Church (now Antioch) was in existence as early as 1849 with 41 confirmed members. These were tumultuous times for the new church. Controversy surrounded Rev. Adam Miller, Jr., the church's first pastor. A civil suit was brought against Rev. Miller, followed by a lengthy church debate and court battle. Maintaining his innocence and dissatisfied with the way the Tennessee Synod had handled the charges, Rev. Miller withdrew from the synod in 1846. On October 6, 1849, Rev. Adam Miller, Jr., and the seven churches he served, including Rhyne Church, petitioned for membership in the new Evangelical Lutheran Tennessee Synod Reorganized. Rhyne Church continued to meet in the Rhyne Schoolhouse until it burned.

In 1853, the congregation moved to its present location, changing its name to Antioch. A thirty or forty feet square log building, with a high pulpit and no means of heat, was erected.

In 1881, the congregation joined the Tennessee Synod and built a new church. Thanks to members and friends of the congregation, the church was built with very little cash outlay. Bricks for the church were made on site. The first service was held in the new church on August 16, 1883.

The year 1896 began another turbulent period in Antioch's history. Rev. B. L. Westenbarger of the Ohio Synod was called as supply pastor. He recommended that the congregation transfer to the Ohio Synod. He introduced clerical vestments and individual communion cup. This proved to be too much change for many members with strong conviction. The congregation split, with the group led by Rev. Westenbarger building St. Peter's Lutheran Church across the road from Antioch. Deeply wounded by the split, Antioch became part of the Dallas Parish.

Between 1932 and 1947, Antioch continued to grow. Sunday school rooms were added. A tower, a front entrance, and art windows added to the beauty and usefulness of Antioch.

In 1947, the Philadelphia and Antioch congregations built a parsonage at Antioch, and called a pastor. Worship services were held at the two churches on alternating Sundays. Antioch was privileged to have weekly services for the first time during 1954 when the congregation's pulpit was served by supply ministers. During this time an Educational Building was built. This was a venture in faith for the congregation without the leadership and guidance of a full time pastor. Sunday School was held in the new building for the first time on November 28, 1954.

In 1955, a new schedule for worship was adopted. Antioch had services the first and third Sundays at 11:00 am, and the second and fourth Sundays at 9:45 am. Antioch continued to grow and change. The congregation dreamed of building a new church connected to the Educational Building. Again, the building began and steadily progressed as many of the congregation's members worked nights to complete the project. The first service in

the New Church was held August 16, 1959. The Old Church was converted to a Fellowship Hall to be used by Boy Scouts, church and community organizations. Antioch got its first full time pastor in 1965. Additional land was purchased to enlarge the cemetery. Hundreds of trees and shrubs were planted by Rev. Valdis mezezers, and an outdoor worship area was built.

In the last thirty years, Antioch's loyal and faithful members have continued to worship, witness, and serve God. New ministries have begun. Needs within and outside the congregation have been addressed. Through faith, the members of Antioch will continue to look to God for guidance as they meet the challenges of the future.

#### Pastors

1850-1859	Adam Miller, Jr.
1853-1874	George L. Hunt
1875-1881	George S. Pasour
1881-1891	M. L. Little
1892-1893	L. L. Lohr
1893-1894	S. S. Rahn
1894-1895	J. A. Rudisill
1898-1906	W. A. Deaton
1907-1911	P. D. Risinger
1912-1916	A. R. Beck
1917-1919	C. E. Fritz
1919-1922	C. N. Yount
1922-1928	C. K. Rhodes
1928-1932	B. E. Petrea
1932-1947	F. M. Speagle
1947-1953	W. H. Dutton
1955-1964	C. E. Lutz
1965-1975	Valdis Mezezers, STM
1975-1978	James R. Youngblood
1979-1993	Edwin A. Cook
1994-1998	Lewis Murdock
2000-2001	Michael D O'Grady
2002-	George L Rhyne