

Faith

Faith

Organized: 1899

County: Rowan

Affiliation: NC Synod

Status: Active

Faith Evangelical Lutheran Church was formally organized on March 26, 1899 when fourteen men and women, with much faith and high hopes, met in Faith Alliance Hall with mission developer, the Rev. R. L. Brown. The record states, "the same day of organization, a building committee was chosen." A lot for the church building was given by Mr. and Mrs. D. A. Wiley. Mr. Wiley also made the altar, lectern, and pulpit for the church. They are still used in assembly room. Services were held in a brush arbor on the lot during the summer of 1899. Services were held in the new frame building during the winter months of 1899-1900. The cornerstone was laid February 17, 1900 by Rev. C. B. Miller, President of Synod, assisted by Rev. V. Y. Boozer and Pastor-elect, Clifford P. Fisher. The church was formally dedicated "to the worship of the Triune God" October 5, 1902. The church grew steadily and in 1900 reported a membership of seventy-one.

In its early years Faith was in a parish with Emmanuel, Rockwell. It became self-supporting in 1923. Faith Church took its proper position along with larger churches in the synod in support of synodical causes. In 1909, Synod convened at Faith Church. Transepts were added to the frame building in 1909 and classroom space was added in 1923. The building served the congregation's needs until December 28, 1947. At the end of regular worship service that day, a service for razing a church was held. A new church was to be built where the old church stood. The first services were held in the auditorium on the first floor of the new church July 16, 1950 while awaiting the completion of the church. The cornerstone was laid on the day first services were held in the nave of the church, February 11, 1951, with Dr. F. L. Conrad, President of the Synod, Dr. J. L. Morgan, and Pastor C. N. Yount officiating. This church is a beautiful gothic structure of brick, with native stone trim, and was recognized as "one of the best and most churchly buildings in the Synod". (History of the Lutheran Church in NC, 1953) It has a full basement and a large educational building annex at the back of the main church.

Eight regular pastors, besides a number of supply pastors have served the congregation with distinction. The original fourteen organizers have grown to seven hundred and fifty-four baptized members. Thirteen sons of the congregation have entered the full-time ministry, and several daughters have married ministers. The auxiliary organizations for men, women, and children have been active throughout the life of the church and have contributed to its life and achievements. Faith Lutheran Church has had a good relationship, from its beginning, with other community churches, observing Union Thanksgiving services, Easter Sunrise Services, World Day of Prayer services, and a yearly community picnic.

May our congregation continue to stand fast in the faith, be quickened by the Spirit, and abound in good works

that the gospel message be spread throughout the world!

Pastors:

1899-1901 R. L. Brown

1902 C. P. Fisher, Student

1902-1903 V.Y. Boozer, Supply

1903-1918 C. P. Fisher

1918-1926 G. O. Ritchie

1927-1933 L. E. Blackwelder

1934-1936 John L. Morgan

1936-1953 C. N. Yount

1953 William J. Ridenhour, Student

1953-1954 Edward Fulenwider, Supply

1954-1958 Michael C. D. McDaniel

1958 William H. Jennings, Student

1958-1965 R. Earl McCombs

1965-1988 Alfred D. Rhyne

1989-1997 John F Merck

1998-2000 Judith L Copeland

1998-2001 Keith T Copeland

2003- Loyd A Ginn