

Mt. Calvary

Claremont

Mt. Calvary Lutheran Church of Claremont, NC, was organized April 20, 1902 in the Wike School House located in the community, by the Rev. R. A. Yoder, DD, who became the first pastor. This congregation became a member of the Evangelical Lutheran Tennessee Synod.

Mr. George Yount donated the lot for the church site. The construction of the church began in July 1902. It was completed in January 1903. The first service was held in the new Church on January 18, 1903. The first communion service was held May 31, 1903.

The church was painted, two Sunday school rooms were built, the Church chancel and aisles were carpeted

On June 11, 1921 Mt. Calvary congregation participated in the merger of the Tennessee and North Carolina Synods, forming the United Lutheran of NC. A ladies aid society was organized, the church re-covered, and the parsonage completed.

In 1930 an Intermediate Luther League was organized. In 1931 a Church Record book was purchased and the church records were systematized and entered therein. In September 1931 the Sunday School was departmentalized and the new Christian Life Course introduced. In 1931 a new Teacher Training class was organized and in 1932 the parsonage was repainted.

The 30th Anniversary of the Congregation was celebrated on May 22, 1932. In 1933 the Sunday School began carrying ten shares of Building and Loan Stock for a new church building fund. In 1934 the congregation purchased an acre lot from Mrs. Winnie Arndt for a church cemetery. Mr. R. L. Smyre became Secretary-Treasurer of the Cemetery.

The Luther League purchased the individual communion set in 1935. In 1936 the congregation adopted the Treasure Chest Bank Program as a means of raising funds for a new church building. This Thank-Offering was made each year in November, usually at Homecoming. The water system was installed in the parsonage in 1937.

On Sunday June 25, 1939, Mt. Calvary congregation voted unanimously to begin a Church building program. The men of the congregation under the leadership of G. Z. Boggs removed the trees, did the excavating for the building and graded the Church yard. The opening services were held in the New Church on Sunday March 31, 1940. The Sunday School met at 10 am with a record attendance. The Corner Stone Laying Service was held at 10:50 am. The chief service for the day was held at 11:00 am. In that year also the old church building was sold at auction and the parsonage was re-covered. The Boy Scout troop was organized with Bennett Gilbert serving as Scout master. The Scout Hut was built by the Brotherhood in 1947.

The new parsonage was dedicated Homecoming Sunday, November 13, 1949. The Scout Hut was enlarged and a large kitchen fully equipped was added. The interior of the Church and Sunday School rooms were painted, new front doors hung, and other improvements added in 1952 all to the glory and praise and service of God. After much planning, the congregation broke ground for an Educational Annex. The Cornerstone laying was held November 8, 1959. The note burning ceremony and Service of Dedication took place on November 22, 1964.

Under the leadership of Pastor Richie, much progress was made. Calvary's Caller was published monthly. Improvements were made in the Scout Hut, Open Air Services were conducted in the evenings during the summer months at Carpenter Park, the new Service Book and Hymnal came into use, and each confirmed was presented a copy at his confirmation as a gift from the congregation. In 1958 a public address system was installed and an Altar Guild organized.

In 1971, the interior of the Church was redecorated with new lights and carpet installed. The pews were refinished and cushions were placed on the pews. More land, which was purchased for the cemetery, was paved, grassed, and laid off into lots. A Trust Fund for the cemetery was also started.

Contributions are made to the Lenoir Rhyne appeals and to the Southern Seminary. We have helped support missionaries on the foreign fields and contributed to Home Mission Churches. Hymnals, altar hangings, and chairs were given to mission churches.

Mt. Calvary has always met their appointments to Synod. Mt. Calvary cooperates with the other Claremont Churches in the community Thanksgiving Services, Reformation Services, and World Day of Prayer. Also, all churches join in the Empty Stocking Fund and the Blood Bank.

Mt. Calvary was organized with 29 charter members.

Pastors

1902-1905	R. A. Yoder, DD
1906-1908	J. Allen Arndt
1908-1911	W. D. Wise
1911	J. C. Moser
1912-1918	W. D. Wise
1918-1920	J. J. Bickley, DD
1921-1924	S. L. Nease
1925-1927	J. C. Dietz
1928-1943	R. B. Sigmon
1944-1947	George Phillips
1947-1956	L. O. Dasher
1957-1960	Carl Ritchie
1961-1977	W. David Wise
1977-1990	Wm. C. Wood
1991-2001	James H Cone