

## **St. Paul's**

Salisbury

St. Paul's Lutheran Church was organized March 30, 1830, by the Rev. John Lentz with 17 members.

The church was originally known as the "Holshouser Church," so named because Mr. Andrew Holshouser gave the tract of land on which to build a church. The land was given with the understanding that any denomination be allowed to worship therein, and in that year the first frame church was built.

In 1865, it was thought best by the Classis of North Carolina, and also by the Lutherans, to disband this union congregation. It was about this time the name of the church was changed from Holshouser to St. Paul's Lutheran Church.

In 1866, the Church became wholly Lutheran. Two years later, 1868, the Lutherans decided to build a new house of worship, and a large brick structure was completed in 1872.

From 1855-1882, St. Paul's and Lutheran Chapel constituted one church. The North Carolina Synod deemed it advisable to discontinue these two churches as a charge and put St. Paul's with Bethel as one charge. It remained that way until the fall of 1939 when Bethel was placed with another church and St. Paul's became self-sustaining. From July 10, 1891 to September 1916, St. Paul's and Bethel shared a parsonage in Franklin. St. Paul's having the larger congregation it was thought more convenient for the pastor to live in St. Paul's community, and so a new parsonage was completed there in September of 1917.

On May 4, 1873, the congregation organized a Sunday School. The Sunday School was small at first but gradually grew until it became one of the best in the county. The first Christmas tree, with decorations, and exercises were held in 1873. In April 1900, a Woman's Home and Foreign Mission Society was organized, with a membership of thirty-three ladies.

The first church was built in 1830; another church was built in 1868-1872; the church was rebuilt and remodeled in 1893-1894; and the present church was erected in 1924-1926.

On June 28, 1934, lightning struck the parsonage, set it on fire and totally destroyed it. Much of the churches valuable records were lost in this fire. The location of the parsonage was changed and a new parsonage was completed in 1934. An electric Connsonata Organ was purchased in 1948.

Construction of an educational building was begun on January 1, 1955 and completed in September the same year. On June 18, 1959, the building was free of all indebtedness.

In the fall of 1966, the present church nave and sanctuary were remodeled. A balcony was built for a new Zimmer Pipe Organ and choirs. A free-standing altar and a cross against the wall were added. This renovation, costing a little more than \$150,000.00, was paid for by the end of 1975.

In January of 1969, the first edition of The Epistle (monthly newsletter) of St. Paul's Church was published and mailed to all families.

St. Paul's Lutheran Church has continued to grow with total assets in the amount of \$2,111,450, as of December 31, 1995, and with a total membership of 721, confirmed membership of 591.

Many of the current members are descendants of that little band of believers who were first instrumental in organizing a church in 1830. The organizations of women, men, and youth in the church have served well as active arm of ministry of St. Paul's church on the local, district, and state levels.

St. Paul's Lutheran Church, which encompasses a large rural community, has been blessed by a loving God, and continues to sing "Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow."

#### Pastors

|           |                                      |
|-----------|--------------------------------------|
| 1830      | John Lentz                           |
| 1835-1843 | S. Rothrock, DD                      |
| 1843-1845 | Benjamin Arey                        |
| 1845-1855 | J. A. Linn, Sr.                      |
| 1855-1859 | B.C. Hall                            |
| 1859-1860 | J. L. Smithdeal                      |
| 1861-1876 | Whitson Kimball                      |
| 1878-1880 | W. H. Cone                           |
| 1881-1882 | B. S. Brown                          |
| 1882-1884 | V. R. Sticklely                      |
| 1884-1899 | C. A. Rose                           |
| 1899-1907 | V. Y. Boozer                         |
| 1907      | R. L. Brown, Supply                  |
| 1907-1911 | R. R. Sowers                         |
| 1910      | Student J. L. Smith, Supply          |
| 1911-1916 | M. L. Ridenhour                      |
| 1917      | R.L. Troutman, Supply                |
| 1917-1918 | E. A. Repass                         |
| 1919      | Student C. E. Ridenhour              |
| 1919-1928 | C. E. Ridenhour                      |
| 1929-1930 | W. H. Lefstead                       |
| 1931-1939 | G. H. L. Lingle                      |
| 1940-1952 | H. P. Barringer                      |
| 1952      | C. A. Phillips                       |
| 1952      | Michael McDaniel                     |
| 1952-1958 | L. C. Bumgarner                      |
| 1958-1963 | William J. Ridenhour                 |
| 1963-1964 | Earl McCombs, Vice Pastor            |
| 1964-1982 | Floyd W. Bost                        |
| 1979      | James Kinsler, Seminarian Intern     |
| 1980      | Charles Stroshein, Seminarian Intern |
| 1982      | Curtis Morehead, Vice Pastor         |
| 1989-1989 | Edward H. Orinson, Vice Pastor       |

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|-----------|-----------------------------------|
| 1983-1989 | Lester Roof                       |
| 1989-1989 | Karl Park, Vice Pastor            |
| 1989      | William S. Ketchie                |
| 1990-1993 | James L. Dougherty, Second Pastor |
| 1994-2001 | Marcus Hovis, Associate Pastor    |