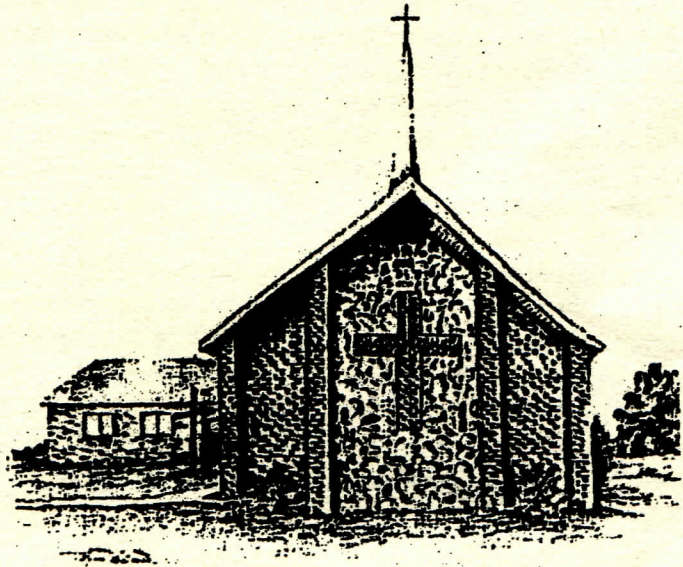


# TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH



**Debt Retirement Celebration  
September 29, 2013**

***Sharing in God's Love . . .  
Serving in His Name***

A Brief History of  
TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH  
Fort Scott, Kansas

Lutherans in and near Fort Scott in the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries had no established church and were served by pastors of churches in neighboring towns. With no permanent house of worship, the people met in various locations to receive God's Word and Sacrament. The earliest known historical record of Trinity in Fort Scott is a Sunday School certificate dated 1928.

The first resident pastor was installed in 1929 and served until 1933, at which time there were 16 active communicant members. Between 1933 and 1944 Fort Scott Lutherans were served by seminary vicars and area pastors. Church members started the first building fund in 1944 and began organization of the Trinity congregation in 1946. The Charter Constitution was adopted June 22, 1947, and the first officers were installed.

In June of 1949, the congregation purchased the property at 9<sup>th</sup> and National. With grants and loans from the Kansas District Mission Board and with much labor donated by members and friends, a church was erected and dedicated on September 30, 1951. By 1953 membership had grown to 42 communicant members. Trinity celebrated its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary in October, 1972. A special fund-raising effort was made to retire the debt on this "old" church and a mortgage-burning was held in April of 1979.

During the residency of the Rev. Stephan A. Lange (1986-1989), the decision was made to build a new house of worship to accommodate a growing membership. On December 18, 1987, with assistance from the Kansas District-LCMS and after much prayerful consideration, the congregation purchased 4.9 acres of land at the intersection of Horton Street and Rock Creek Road (now Jayhawk Road).

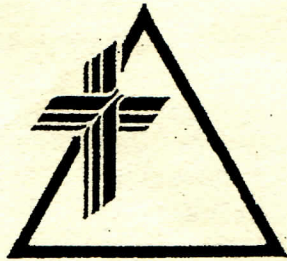
Laborers for Christ, a volunteer organization, was chosen to construct the building, with local contractors and volunteers completing exterior and interior finishes. The dedication took place February 19, 1989, and the cornerstone was laid April 19, 1989. Precious Lambs Preschool was initiated in the fall of that same year.

The Rev. Tom Kershaw served our congregation from 1990-91, at which time there were 109 communicant members. While the Rev. Earl Zimmerman was serving as interim pastor (1992-1996), planning began for a memorial bell tower, which was later completed and was dedicated on October 11, 1998.

Trinity celebrated its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 1997 during the Rev. Larry Block's pastorate (1996-2000). In 2001 the congregation purchased a new Allen organ, which was dedicated on February 3, 2002, while The Rev. John Stubenrouch, (then at Immanuel, Hepler) was serving as vacancy pastor. Pastor Stephen Sweyko accepted our call and was installed at Trinity on February 24, 2002. The congregation presently numbers 143 baptized, 113 confirmed, and 103 active members.

With the goal of retiring the church's mortgage, thereby enabling us to expand the church's mission, an aggressive debt-retirement program was launched in October of 2011. With God's help, through the generosity of individual members and various organizations within the congregation, the debt was retired in April, 2013, reducing the life of the loan by more than five years.

God has truly blessed us in this endeavor. Today's mortgage-burning ceremony marks an important milestone in the life of Trinity. We have much to celebrate as, with joyful hearts, we give thanks to God for His many blessings to us both individually and collectively. We trust in His abiding love and grace as Trinity moves forward, continuing to serve its members and giving witness to the whole of our community.



Trinity Lutheran Church  
2824 South Horton  
Fort Scott, KS 66701

The Rev. Stephen C. Sweyko, Pastor