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# MINISTRY MILESTONES

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SESQUICENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY



1869 - 2019

FIRST EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH  
KNOXVILLE, TENNESSEE



*The Rev. John Heckel*  
*December 19, 1869 - 1874*

- October 10, 1869 - Sent by Iowa Synod and delivered sermon in Knoxville urging establishment of Lutheran congregation
- October 11, 1869 - Constitution adopted and signed by 22 men
- October 12, 1869 - First German Evangelical Lutheran Church, U.A.C., of Knoxville, Tennessee, organized
- October 19, 1869 - Newly formed congregation called to The Rev. Heckel
- December 19, 1869 - The Rev. Heckel accepted call and delivered inaugural sermon
- September 25, 1870 - First church building at Broad and Asylum (now Western Ave) dedicated
- Christian Day School teacher for five years



*The Rev. J. G. Schaid*

1874 - 1887

- August 2, 1881 - Pipe organ purchased and dedicated
- January 1882 - Ladies Society formed
- 1886 - First parsonage purchased at 140 Luttrell Street
- Congregation affiliated to Holston Synod



*The Rev. Johannes R. Lauritzen*  
1887 - 1892

- November 1888 – June 1890 English Lutheran congregation (St. John's Lutheran Church) shared church building
- February 1889 - Luttrell Street parsonage sold
- June 1889 - New parsonage erected behind church property



*The Rev. Julius A. Friedrich*  
*June 12, 1892 - April 15, 1901*

- September 6, 1892 Christian Day School reopened
- Christian Day School teacher for two years
- October 1892 - Congregation withdrew from the Holston Synod
- 1894 - First Day School principal installed
- September 30, 1894 - 172 communicant members when congregation celebrated 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary
- Fall 1895 - All evening worship services conducted in English
- June 25-29, 1896 - Congregation hosted first East Tennessee Pastoral Conference
- October 1897 - Congregation sent its first delegate to the Western District convention
- October 1897 - Received into membership by the Western District of the Missouri Synod
- November 1897 - First deaf Lutheran services held
- February 3, 1901 - Accepted a call to Immanuel Congregation in St. Charles, Missouri
- Stayed until he installed his successor, The Rev. William Brand, on April 14, 1901



*The Rev. William Brand*

*April 14, 1901 - September 13, 1903*

- Installed on April 14, 1901
- Introduced Wednesday evening Bible Studies that continued for 25 years
- Christian Day School teacher for one year
- December 7, 1902 - Congregation sold property at Broad and Asylum for \$14,000 to Louisville and Nashville Railroad
- January 1903 - Property purchased at Fifth and Broadway from Mr. E. C. Camp for \$5000
- March 1903 - Services had been conducted in German and English for a number of years, and the congregation was renamed First German-English Evangelical Lutheran Church
- June 28, 1903 - Cornerstone of new church was laid at Fifth and Broadway
- September 13, 1903 - accepted a call to Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania



*The Rev. Ed. Koehler*

*October 11, 1903 - January 3, 1909*

- 1903-1904 - Taught school after his arrival and completed the term
- March 20, 1904 - New church building on Fifth and Broadway dedicated
- September 1908 - Accepted a call as Professor at the Lutheran Normal School in Addison, Illinois
- January 3, 1909 - Preached farewell sermon
- Pastoral vacancy filled by Mr. E. J. Friedrich, a ministerial student and son of former pastor



*The Rev. C. J. Fricke*

*May 2, 1909 - March 22, 1912*

- May 1909 - Extended call to teacher for Christian Day School
- May 22, 1909 - Call accepted by Professor William R. Buck, who served as teacher of the Christian Day School for two years until he resigned in August 1911
- June 29, 1909 - Young Peoples' Society organized
- July 1910- Heidel property purchased for \$3,500 at 535 West Fifth Ave for teacher's residence
- August 1911 - Mrs. O. Katthain, widow of the first teacher, taught school until June 1913
- November 26, 1911 - Accepted a call to his former congregation in Aurora, Illinois
- March 22, 1912 - Continued to serve congregation until the new pastor accepted the call





*The Rev. C. L. Mueller*

*June 2, 1912 - November 26, 1915*

- March 31, 1912 – Accepted call
- June 2, 1912 – Installed by Professor Weiss of Concordia College, Conover, NC
- August 17, 1913 – Professor F. B. Miller installed as teacher of the Day School
- September 6, 1914 – Professor F. B. Miller resigned
- September 9 1914 – Day School began new term under Pastor Mueller but was soon replaced by Mr. J. E. Moore, a State University student, who finished the term
- 1915-1916 - Day School taught by ministerial student, Mr. A. Sander
- November 26, 1915 –Accepted call to Black Jack, Missouri
- December 19, 1915 – Preached farewell sermon



*The Rev. H. Kellermann*

*May 14, 1916 - November 11, 1917*

- May 14, 1916 - Installation
- July 1916 - Professor C. Michel accepted call as teacher of the Day School
- October 1917 - Both pastor and teacher resigned, the former due to failing health and the latter due to failing eyesight
- October 1917 - Ms. Ida Trotter taught the remainder of the term
- November 11, 1917 - Preached farewell sermon



*The Rev. K. Kretzschmar*  
*April 14, 1918 - January 1924*

- March 1918 - Accepted pastoral call
- April 14, 1918 - Installed by Reverend O. Graebner of Chattanooga
- Old parsonage rented and rental money turned over to Pastor Kretzschmar who used it to buy a home of his own on Wells Avenue
- February 1919 - Name of congregation changed for the second time to First Evangelical Lutheran Church
- September 1919 - Professor W. W. Rittamel installed as principal of the Day School
- Parsonage was rented and teacher's residence on West Fifth Ave was sold
- October 12-13, 1919 - Congregation, composed of 125 communicant members, celebrated its 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary; two former pastors, Professor Ed. Koehler and Reverend Julius Friedrich, delivered the sermons
- February 1920 - new heating plant purchased for the church building for \$2,500
- January 1921 - The few remaining members of Zion Lutheran Church in East Knoxville turned over their church property as a gift, but dispute over title to the land developed and the congregation decided to accept the building only, which was sold for \$300 and torn down; furnishings donated to congregation in Oakdale, Tennessee
- Constitution translated into English and revised
- Sunday bulletins made their appearance
- Envelopes used for collection of offerings
- Young People's Society united with Walther League and the League's Dixie District formed
- Parent-Teacher Association formed
- Congregation flourished under the stability of Rev. Kretzschmar's pastorate after years of frequent pastoral changes
- December 1923 - Accepted call to First Lutheran Church in Fort Smith, Arkansas
- January 1924 - Preached farewell sermon



*The Rev. W. C. Krueger*

*March 23, 1924 - January 11, 1943*

- March 23, 1924 - Installation service
- June 2, 1924 - Property located at 2437 North Broadway rented then purchased for \$5,500 for parsonage
- January 1929 - Old parsonage at 605 North Broadway was remodeled and made into a parish house and the second-floor apartment used as living quarters by custodians of the church property for 16 years
- March 1939 - Property located at 510 Market Street bequeathed to the church in 1937 sold
- May 1, 1939 - Proceeds from sale of Market Street property used to purchase the Francis House property on Broadway and Wells for \$12,000
- Seven-piece orchestra played for the opening of Sunday school each week
- A boys' baseball team was formed that played every Sunday at 2:30 at the McCalla Avenue Baseball Park
- The Ladies Aid Society affiliated with the Lutheran Women's League
- End of early morning German worship services held on the first Sunday of the month
- January 1942 - Accepted call to Institutional Ministry, Memphis



*The Rev. R. Frerking*  
*August 8, 1943 - 1958*

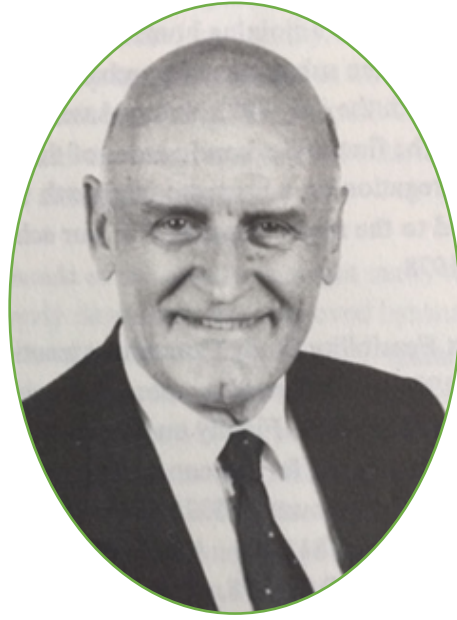
- June 22, 1943 - Accepted call
- August 8, 1943 - Installed by the Rev. R. C. Jahn of Chattanooga
- November 1943 - Mr. Harold Jagels installed as school principal
- 1943 - Men's Club organized later affiliated with the Lutheran Laymen's League
- Pastor Frerking served German prisoners of war at Crossville
- After WWII ended, Pastor Frerking served a mission station in Morristown for several years under the auspices of the Lutheran Laymen's League, which then became Our Saviour Lutheran Church
- Evening division of the LWML began
- Building fund established for new church building
- March 28, 1954 - Groundbreaking service
- Hammond organ given by member of the congregation
- Fall 1944 - Congregation launched a school expansion program adding the 8<sup>th</sup> grade and kindergarten
- 1946 - Property on Fifth Avenue was sold and worship was held in the house on the Francis property until the new church building was finished in June 1947
- Congregation grew to just under 500 communicants and 210 enrolled in Sunday School
- Property acquired in Bearden that became the future home of Grace Lutheran Church
- October 1954 - Congregation celebrated its 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary during which time there were 813 baptized; 433 confirmed; 203 weddings; and 367 Christian burials



*The Rev. Daniel D. Dautenhahn*

*June 1958 - 1963*

- Congregation reduced its debts
- Morning Division of the LWML was organized
- Employment of the first full-time church secretary
- 1959 - First daughter congregation organized with 43 communicants and 31 children released to Grace Lutheran Church



*The Rev. Harry D. Smith*  
*May 5, 1963 - March 1979*

- Installed on May 5, 1963
- Served Lutheran children from the School for the Deaf by bringing them to church for Sunday School and church services in compliance with legislation affecting the separation of Church and State
- Instrumental in beginning The Lutheran Center at the University of Tennessee in 1965, incorporated in 1968
- The second daughter congregation, Christus Victor, formally organized in April 1967 with 43 communicant and 36 baptized members
- Air conditioning installed in the sanctuary in 1968 and extensive repairs and renovations of the facilities and reshaping of the property
- Two new preaching stations established at Lincoln Memorial University in Harrogate in 1974, which then became Christ of the Cumberland Lutheran Church, and in Seymour, which was officially organized as Holy Trinity Lutheran Church in 1976
- May 20, 1973, the Voters Assembly decided to purchase the home located at 1218 Armstrong Ave., with two adjoining homes subsequently purchased
- July 1973 Voters Assembly decided to divide the first and second grades of the school; this decision eventually led to a major expansion of the school facilities in 1978
- Tracker organ built by Herr von Beckerath dedicated in a special concert September 29, 1974
- Groundbreaking ceremony held on April 2, 1978, construction began on April 17, 1978 for school addition and special added room for the LWML
- Heins Memorial Addition to the school was dedicated on January 28, 1979
- Accepted a call to Concordia Lutheran Church in Cincinnati, Ohio and preached his farewell sermon in March 1979



*The Rev. Robert Nerger*

1979 - 1981

- Instrumental with Pastor Andrew Kuring in serving and developing the mission church in Seymour that became Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, now Celebration Lutheran Church
- Faithfully served congregation as interim pastor for 22 months





*The Rev. John P. Schulz*  
*July 11, 1981 - December 28, 1997*

- Feb 14, 1982 - Lutheran Worship hymnals dedicated
- 1982 - Four adjacent lots north of the church purchased
- 1984 - Restored stained glass windows and protective Plexiglas glazing applied
- Windows re-cemented, braced, and ventilators sealed shut
- 1985 - Heating system converted from oil to gas and new air conditioners installed
- 1986 - Enclosed stairwell and fire-retardant doors added to meet fire code standards
- Former Pairs 'n Spares reorganized as Lutheran Adult Fellowship
- Butterflies (now 55 Alive) formed for senior members
- May 25, 1986 - Dedication of handbells for church and school
- 1987 - Central air added to old section of school
- Front entrance doors to the church replaced with Cyprus wood doors



*The Rev. Paul J. Bushur*

*August 9, 1998 - March 5, 2017*

- Installed August 9, 1998 by The Rev. David Callies, President of the Mid-South District, Memphis
- 2006 - First assistant pastor called and ordained at First Lutheran Church, Knoxville
- 2006 - Lutheran Service Book hymnal acquired and dedicated
- 2009 – 2017 - Evening and daytime Bible study groups
- 2015 - Parking lot on Wells Street and Broadway purchased from Farmers Insurance by resolution of Voters Meeting
- 2012 -2017 Held Wednesday afternoon worship service for parents of school children and Hospice worship services
- March 5, 2017 - Preached farewell sermon



*The Rev. Derek Roberts*  
*Ordained at First Lutheran Church, Knoxville*

*Assistant Pastor*  
*January 29, 2006 - April 2007*

*Associate Pastor*  
*April 2007 - February 7, 2012*

- 2006 - Ordained at First Lutheran Church as Assistant Pastor
- 2006 to 2012 - Served as pastor to the University of Tennessee Lutheran Campus Ministry when resumed under First Lutheran Church
- Promoted to Associate Pastor in 2007
- 2009 – Dedication of new processional crucifix
- Transitioned the congregation to electronic communication via email and supported expansion of our web presence
- Supported growth of the youth group
- February 2012 - Accepted call to Praise Lutheran Church, Maryville, Tennessee



*The Rev. Floyd P. Smithey*

*Vacancy Pastor*

*March 20, 2017 - November 6, 2018*

*Associate Pastor*

*March 18, 2018 - January 24, 2019*



*The Rev. Edward Schmidt*

*Installed November 12, 2017*

*Resigned June 2018 due to health issues*



*The Rev. Larry Rockemann*

*Faithfully serving as  
Vacancy Pastor  
January 27, 2019 -*

Updated 11-Dec-2019