

## Grace

Newton

Grace Lutheran Church is located about ten miles west of Newton. The date of organization as placed in the minutes is 1775. However, land was not purchased until 1797, as evidenced by the following record: "On January 14, 1797 a deed was made by Samuel Jarrett to John Yoder and John Heffner, Trustees, consisting of three and a half acres, for the sum of \$8.00.

The first building was a log house 25x35 ft. and was erected about the year 1797. The property was jointly owned by the Lutheran and Reformed people whom continued until December 29, 1940 at which time a mutual division of the property was agreed upon so that each could have its own Church. During the year 1858 a brick church was built and at that time cost about \$1400. Rev. A. J. Fox was pastor at that time. This building served their needs until 1942, when it was turned over to the Reformed congregation at the division of the property and serves that body to this day.

A new building was started by the Lutheran congregation in 1941 on adjoining grounds. Services for the laying of the Corner Stone were held November 23, 1941. It was dedicated on June 6, 1943. This was done during the pastorate of Rev. B. S. Brown. This was a brick church modernly equipped which cost approximately 414,000. But, unfortunately this building was destroyed by fire in March 1948. Under the leadership of Rev. Hoke H. Ritchie, the congregation set itself to the task of erecting another new building. This was dedicated in 1951.

### Pastors

1786-1897	John Gottfried Arndt
1808-1814	Phillip Henkel
1830-1831	Henry Graeber
1835-1846	Adam Miller
1847-1854	Polycarp C. Henkel
1855-1858	Alfred J. Fox
1884-1895	R. A. Yoder
1895-1896	E. J. Fox, Supply
1896-1899	M. L. Pence
1900-1906	J. P. Price
1908-1923	L. L. Lohr
1923-1925	R. M. Carpenter
1926-1939	W. H. Roof
1939-1946	B. S. Brown
1946	Dr. John Hall, Supply
1946-1951	Hoke H. Ritchie
1952-1958	Harry L Gruber
1960-1964	William M Johnson Sr
1964-1968	J Luther Mauney Jr
1969-1973	John F Taylor Jr
1974-1992	Gene W Bruce