

New Jerusalem

Hickory

Organized: 1905

County: Catawba

Affiliations: Tennessee Synod, NC Synod

Status: Active

New Jerusalem Lutheran Church began through the efforts of a group of Lutherans who gathered in the Killian School House for Sunday School. In 1905 this group organized New Jerusalem Lutheran Church on the Startown Road southeast of Hickory. The congregation has made a strong Lutheran witness in its community from its beginning. Sunday School has played a large part in the life of the congregation and it has always stressed the importance of education for all its members, youth and adult. Begun as a family church, the charter members were almost all a part of the Lutz family who were and are dairy farmers in that part of Catawba County. While the congregation today retains its strong emphasis on the maintaining and strengthening of the family life of its members, it is also open to persons moving into the surrounding community and is interested in involving them in the life and ministry of this congregation.

The present church building of New Jerusalem is the third building of its history. The first building was a frame structure erected in 90 days by the members of 1906. In 1936, under the leadership of the Rev. C. E. Lutz, the frame structure was replaced by a brick-veneer building seating 300 and having a Sunday School department to two assembly rooms and seventeen classrooms. In 1948, this building was totally destroyed by fire. Only the records of the congregation which were kept in the pastor's home were not destroyed. Members met and decided to rebuild on the same site. With the work and contribution of labor and materials from members and friends, the church and Sunday School building was rebuilt and the first service held in the completed church on December 19, 1948, just eleven months from the date of the fire. Since then, the congregation has added to its facilities by building a parsonage in 1949, an educational building in 1968, an outdoor worship and picnic area in 1982, a ball field and recreation area in 1984, and a Scout Hut in 1985. Presently the congregation owns more than seventeen acres of land which also includes a cemetery.

New Jerusalem Lutheran Church has been blessed throughout its life with many firmly, committed, faithful members who have given much of themselves to the Glory of God that God's Name might be proclaimed in this place. The congregation is proud of its tradition strong response to the needs of the Church and Synod through providing of its resources and leadership. May God continue to bless its work and members in the future.

Pastors:

1905-1906 C. L. Miller, D.D

1906-1909 J. D. Mauney

1910 J. L. Cromer, Supply

1910-1915 B. L. Stroup

1915-1917 V. L. Fulmer

1917-1925 W. D. Haltiwanger
1925-1926 E. J. Sox, D.D, Supply
1926-1927 W. G. Cobb
1927-1931 G. H. L. Lingle
1931 E. J. Sox, D.D., Supply

1931 H. P. Barringer, Supply
1931-1940 C. E. Lutz
1940-1943 G. A. Phillips
1944 John Hall, D.D., Supply
1944-1958 B. J. Wessinger
1958 Student Wayne Leazer
1958-1962 L.E. Cumbee, Jr.
1962 Lester Keasey, Ph.D, Supply
1962-1979 W. Leo Smith
1980-1981 Michael McDaniel, Ph.D., Supply
J. Larry Yoder, Ph.D, Supply
1981-1990 Gilmer C. Miller, Jr.
1991- Randall A Cauble