

**GRACE EVANGELICAL
LUTHERAN CHURCH**



HISTORY

BY BEULAH EAST

FEBRUARY 1966

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By: Beulah East – February 1967

Near the close of the nineteenth century, the little town of Waynesboro had a population of approximately six hundred fifty (650). At that time East Waynesboro was Basic City and not a part of Waynesboro.

Included in that number were a few devout Lutherans. They drove their horse drawn vehicles to nearby Lutheran churches; namely, Zion, St. James and Bethlehem. Each church was some five or six miles distant, but with mud roads and slow methods of transportation, attending services at these churches was very inconvenient. After worshiping with the neighboring congregations for several years, these Lutherans decided to start a church of their own in town.

Sunday, November 24, 1893, a small, but enthusiastic, group met with the Reverend J. L. Schenck, pastor of Bethlehem, as their spiritual leader and Grace Church was organized. Ten members, five men and five women, were charter members. The congregation of a small Baptist Church located on Ohio Street offered their building as a meeting place for this newly organized church.

Services were held on Sunday afternoons with the Reverend Schenck of Bethlehem officiating. He also served as Sunday School Superintendent.

Waynesboro, being an industrial location, rapidly developed into a prosperous town and when people moved in from other localities, Lutherans were among them and the small congregation began to grow. Soon the members were talking in terms of having a church of their own. A building lot was purchased at the corner of Eleventh Street and Wayne Avenue. The cost was \$200.00.

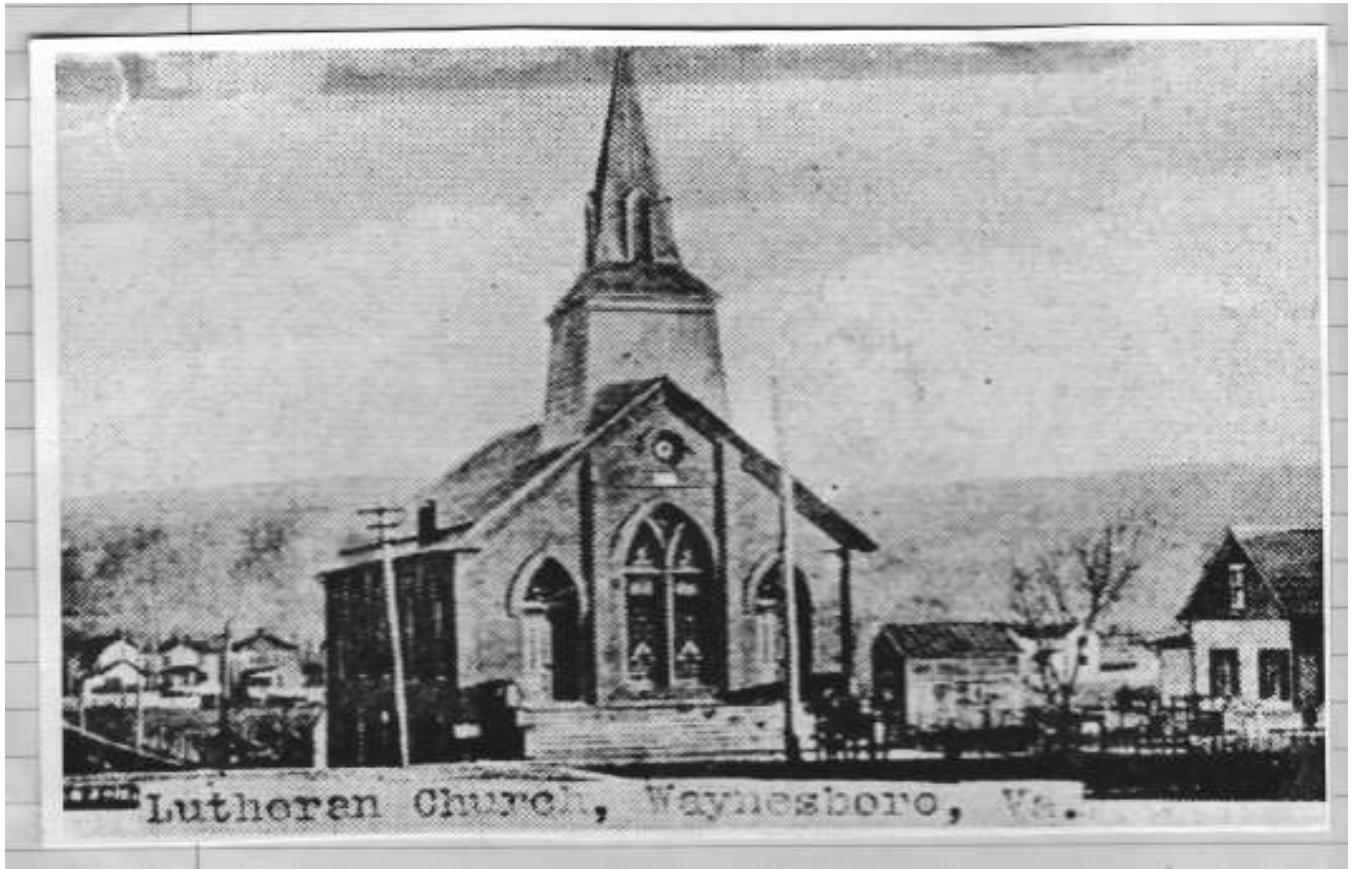
Phillip Killian, a trustee and charter member of Grace Church was a contractor and builder and superintended the building of the church free of charge. Bricks were made from clay on his property and were hauled in wagons to the building site by members of the congregation after completion of their days' work. The cornerstone for the new church was placed September 24, 1894.

A Ladies' Aid Society, to which all the ladies in the church belonged, worked faithfully and through their efforts, a substantial sum was contributed to the building fund. From this "aid society", the various women's organizations of the church have evolved through the years.

A little more than a year after the cornerstone was laid, the basement of the church was completed and services were held here until the completion of the church. Bethlehem, which served as sponsor of Grace Church, gave a pulpit and benches and a member of the congregation contributed a small organ. It was with joy that the members could at last hold services in their own building even though their "chapel" was the basement.

April 7, 1901 was a day long to be remembered by Grace Church. This was Easter and services were being held for the first time in the newly completed church. Also the first full time minister, the Reverend E. C. Cronk, was conducting his first service as pastor of the church. The church building had been completed at a cost of \$6,000. Twelve years later the debt was completely paid off. The interior of the church was simple but very beautiful. The chancel furnishings, also the pews, were carved by hand by a member of the congregation, Mr. T. H. Helms. Twelve beautiful stained glass windows were given by members or friends of the church as memorials. A small bellows type organ

was pumped by a youth of the church and later by a colored man. In time, a motor was installed which furnished the volume formerly supplied by hand. Marshall Helms, son of T. H. Helms, was the church organist.



The completed church April 6, 1901





(Interior of church at its completion with exception of pipe organ.)

A hot air furnace heated the nave through two registers in the aisle. The chandelier given by Mr. Joseph T. Carr was replaced later with a more modern lighting arrangement.

The first infant baptized in the new church was Harold K. Henkle, son of Mr. and Mrs. Oscar D. Henkle. He and his sisters, Helen and Elizabeth, are members of this church at present. They are the great grandchildren of Phillip Killian mentioned previously.

A lot adjoining the church property was purchased in 1907 for a parsonage but the building was not ready to be occupied until 1912. The Reverend J. F. Bruch and family were the first occupants. Reverend Bruch had accepted a call to Grace Church in 1911. He was a talented musician and worship through music was intensified during his pastorate. He directed the church choir which met in different homes for rehearsals. It was through his effort and the cooperation of Mr. Carl Barckhoff, an organ maker who had recently located in Waynesboro, that a pipe organ was installed in Grace Church. They were able to obtain a contribution from Andrew Carnegie, a generous millionaire, which made it possible for Grace to purchase the organ. This was the first pipe organ in Waynesboro. Pastor Bruch retired in 1915 and moved to Numedia, PA.



Several months after the resignation of Pastor Bruch, the Reverend E. L. Ritchie accepted the pastorate of Grace Church and served almost six years, then offered his resignation to accept work elsewhere.



Pastor E.L. Ritchie served Grace 1916-1922

In the fall of 1922, Dr. C. F. Steck accepted a call to Grace Church. During his pastorate, changes and additions designed to make the church more beautiful and to create a more worshipful atmosphere were made. The wooden offering plates were replaced with four brass plates. A receiving basin, two candlesticks, altar vases, and a cross (all brass) were given as memorials. A set of seasonal paraments were given either as gifts or memorials.



Dr. Steck introduced the use of the minister's robe and a year or two later, the choir wore vestments for the first time. During the last several years of his residence in Waynesboro, Dr. Steck was ill. His son, Reverend Charles F. Steck, Jr., and family came to help care for his father. He assumed the pastorate of Grace Church for a period of two years during his father's illness.

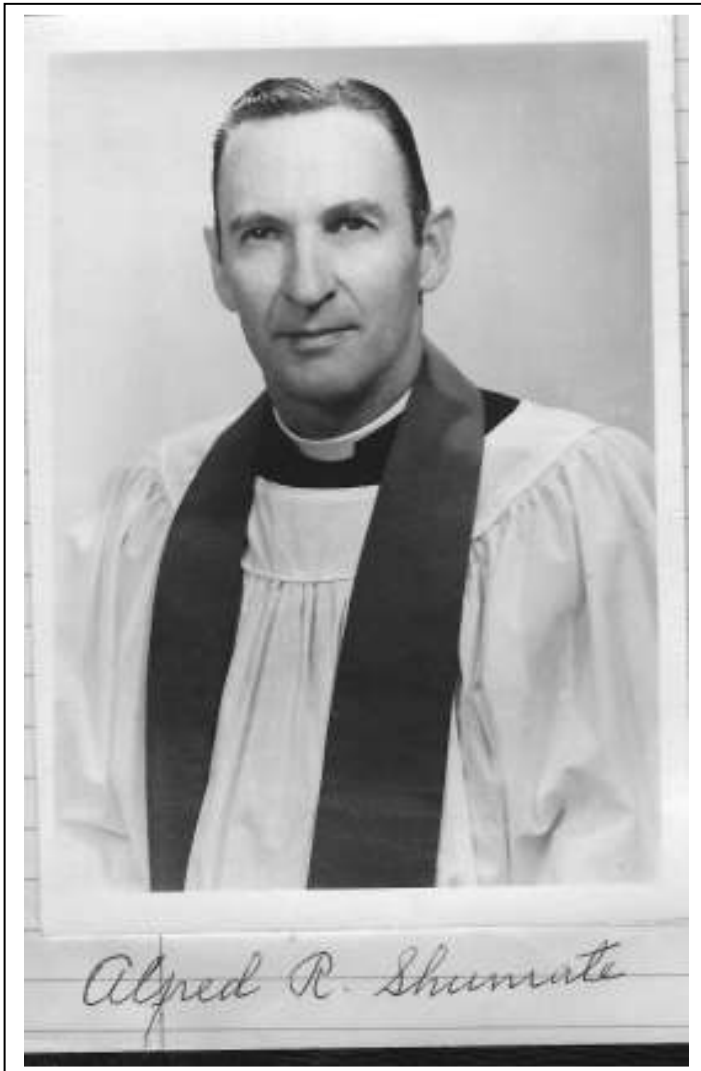
Charles F. Steck, Jr. placed the lovely paneling in the chancel as a memorial gift to his father. This added greatly to the beauty of the church. In 1936, he left Waynesboro to become Army Chaplain at Harvard University.

The first Vacation Bible School was held at Grace Church during Dr. Steck's pastorate.



The Reverend Alfred R. Shumate became pastor of Grace Church February 1, 1937. During the summer of 1937, the church steeple was struck by lightning and damaged to such an extent, it had to be removed. It was replaced with a copper cross.

A son of this parish, Virgil A. Moyer, Jr. began preparation for the ministry in 1939.





The church with the copper cross

After Pastor Shumate's resignation in 1943, Grace Church was without a regular pastor for a period of eight months. For a while, Seminarian K. Y. Huddle conducted services on Sunday morning. Later, his brother, Lieutenant Paul Huddle, received his discharge from the army having served as Chaplain in that branch of service, and served as supply pastor of Grace Church until a regular minister was called.

In the evening of November 25, 1943, Grace Church celebrated its golden anniversary. The Reverend John R. Brokhoff, pastor of Virginia Heights Church, Roanoke, preached the anniversary sermon to a congregation which filled the church. The membership of Grace Church had increased from a mere handful to 240 confirmed members during the fifty year period. At this time, forty young members from the congregation were serving in the armed forces (World War II).

Announcement was made at this service that the Reverend Robert J. Schenck had accepted a call to Grace Church and would assume his duties January 1, 1944.

Following the service, an informal reception was held in the Sunday School assembly room. (This room also served as the meeting place for five or six Sunday School classes each Sunday morning.)

Realizing that the children – and adults as well – could not receive proper religious instruction in such inadequate quarters as were available and too, at times, the nave of the church was filled to capacity, the members began thinking in terms of a new church building. The first step in this direction was the purchasing of a triangular lot in West Waynesboro.

The Reverend Robert J. Schenck became pastor of Grace Church January 1, 1944. Soon afterwards, the congregation began to consider ways and means by which a new church might be built. No definite plans could be decided on and the members felt that they were not financially able to build at this time, so little or no progress was made until several years later.

While in Waynesboro, Pastor Schenck served as Chaplain at a nearby German prisoner of war camp. The prisoners built a very attractive altar bearing symbols representative of the churches in Germany, this they used in their chapel. When the camp disbanded the altar was given to Grace Church and used in the Sunday School assembly room.



Pastor Schenck served Grace Church five years then accepted a call to a church in Elgin, Illinois.



February 1, 1944, Reverend Charles T. Sardeson came to Waynesboro as pastor of Grace Church. Building plans were again discussed but no action taken.

During his stay, changes were made in the women's organizations. There were at this time two functioning groups, the Women's Missionary Society and the Jessie Cronk group. These two organizations were consolidated into the Women of the Church to which all the women in the church automatically belonged. The activities of the new group were broadened and the women were serving in the church more efficiently.

Pastor Sardeson resigned in July 1952 to study for a year in Scotland. The Reverend James A. Rickard of Salem conducted Sunday service until Pastor Miller came.



The Women's Missionary Society 1945 or 46



The Reverend Richard A. Miller came to this parish as pastor April 13, 1953. After discussing the structure of a new church over a period of several years, plans were at last under way for the actual building. The lot purchased some years earlier was not now considered a suitable location and a more desirable lot was found on Wayne Avenue and Thirteenth Street. The West Waynesboro property was exchanged for the Wayne Avenue site and an additional \$6,000 was paid for it.

On October 31, 1954 following the morning worship service, the congregation went to the new building location and conducted a special service, "The *Office* of Blessing a Church site". (see picture below)



The Wells Organization came to Waynesboro in January 1955 and conducted a fundraising campaign for the new building. Plans for the church were drawn by Milton L. Grigg and R. E. Lee and Son were contractors.

Service of Consecration Held by Grace Lutherans

With an eye to the future of the church and the place to be filled in the communal life of Waynesboro, members of Grace Evangelical Lutheran church yesterday conducted a special service, "The Office of Blessing a Church-site" on their newly acquired lots located at S. Wayne Ave. and Thirteenth St. The area which was surveyed by William Gallaher Jr., civil engineer, measures 200 by 305 feet.

The entire congregation participated in this special service which followed the singing of the third hymn of the worship service which began at the present church location, Eleventh and S. Wayne. At this point in the service, a processional was formed in front of the church and marched the two blocks to the new building-site. Principles of the processional included: Rev. Richard A. Miller, Pastor of the Grace congregation, his father, Rev. J. A. Miller, D. D., of Davenport, Iowa, Warren Shiflet, Jerry Gum, Humes Franklin Jr., Lester Jay, Richard Henkel, and Terrance Golladay, who were flag bearers. The Trustees E. M. East Sr., John R. Heintzel Sr., C. A. Marks and W. D. Shumate followed next and then the committeemen of the congregation: G. A. Beahn, R. C. Blunte, George Armstrong, W. W. McAllister, C. S. Steppe, E. R. Swandby, Joseph Moyer, Elwood Shiflet, and the Congregational Secretary, Ralph J. Golladay. All three robbed Choirs were in the processional, the Senior Choir headed by their Choirmaster Mrs. J. F. Boward,

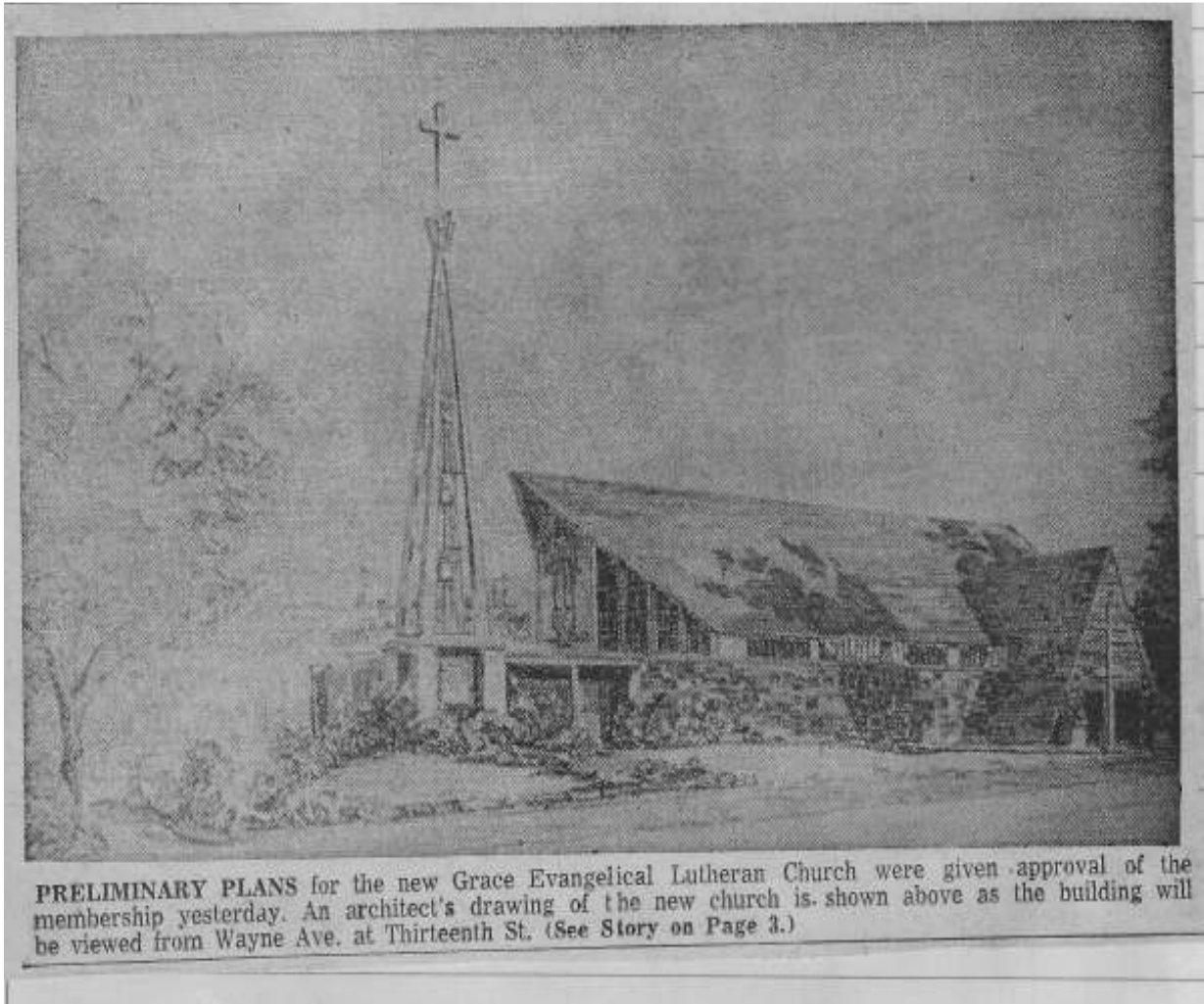
and the Youth and Cherub Choirs headed by their Choirmaster, Mrs. Humes Franklin.

At the pastor's instruction, four of the flag bearers were dispatched to march out on the site to the four corners thus marking the boundaries of the property. As they marched, a brass quartet consisting of Miss Doris Jean Brumfield, Louis Bagby, Rayburn Griffith and John W. East played the stirring hymn "Onward Christian Soldiers".

At the conclusion of the consecratory service, the congregation sang Martin Luther's well-known Reformation Hymn "A Mighty Fortress is our God".

During the past year, six study groups of the congregation have completed a survey of needs required for a new church plant. A report of this study has been presented to the congregation along with recommendations for the next action. The congregation will vote on these recommendations at the next Sunday's special congregational meeting.

Preliminary plans for the new church were presented to the congregation by the architect, Milton A. Grigg on September 12, 1955 and were adopted.



PRELIMINARY PLANS for the new Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church were given approval of the membership yesterday. An architect's drawing of the new church is shown above as the building will be viewed from Wayne Ave. at Thirteenth St. (See Story on Page 3.)

Grace Lutherans Approve Preliminary Church Plans

(Picture Is On Page 1)

Preliminary plans for the new Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church were adopted Sunday by members of the church. Milton L. Grigg, Charlottesville architect, presented the preliminary plans to the congregation July 10 and members yesterday adopted them for their new church plant.

The church building site is located at Wayne Ave. and Thirteenth St. The architect's estimate of costs for the completed building is \$190,000.

The congregation also authorized the Church Council to take the next immediate steps to have construction prints made and secure contractors' bids for the new structure. Bidding is expected to begin about Jan. 1, 1956.

Tentative Schedule

According to the pastor, the Rev. Richard A. Miller, "ground breaking" for the new church plant will follow the awarding of the construction contract and the congregation's approval of the plan of finance. A tentative schedule of events sets April 1, 1956, as the beginning of construction activity.

The planning commission which worked with the architect was composed of R. C. Blume, chairman; C. S. Steppe, J. C. Whitesel, Paul E. Wheatley and James Binns.

The general floor plan of the new building resembles the letter "D" with the semi-circular portion of the building housing the educational facilities. The front view of the building would parallel Wayne Ave.

245,000 Cubic Feet

The total cubage in the new edifice is slightly more than 245,000 cubic feet of space. Seating for 340 in the Nave and balcony is arranged with center and side aisles. Expandible seating which provides for a total seating capacity of 436 people is readily available by using the chapel and Narthex areas as the occasion may demand.

The contemporary design makes liberal use of field stone interiorly and exteriorly in the worship center. The semi-circular portion of the building is planned in pre-fabricated steel panels, allowing a maximum usage of glass in the classroom areas. The floor plan produces a natural enclosed courtyard large enough for out-of-doors worship services, Church School programs and other functions. One striking feature of the exterior will be at the Chancel end of the Nave. Here a white "in-size" statue of Christ, approximately 16-feet in height, will provide a dominating focal point.

Two Club Rooms

Two club rooms are included in the plans. One is dedicated to the use of teen-agers with 364 square feet of floor area. It is equipped with its own kitchenette and "service bar." The larger room which comprises 437 square feet of floor area, will be used by adult groups. It will be provided with a direct connection to the main church kitchen. The ground floor social auditorium will have 2,000 square feet of area. In this room social dinners for the congregation may be served. A stage is also included.

Twenty individual classrooms have been included in the plan. The Church School operates on a graded system beginning at age 2½. No classes are anticipated in the large assembly auditorium. Adult women will use the adult clubroom and the adult men will use the Chapel as their meeting places each Sunday. Teen-agers will find themselves at home in their lounge room which will be kept in use during the weekdays.

Pastor Miller resigned February 1957 to take up work elsewhere.

In March 1957 a religious census was conducted.



CAPTAINS FOR the Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church religious census to be held March 17 were given a review of the city area last night. W. D. Shumate discussed the layout of the various streets and avenues by use of a city map while Richard Sheaffer (right) chairman of the Evangelism Mission looks on. Captains shown include (front row, left to right) W. R. Ely, F. A. Jones, Mrs. L. P. Foster, J. L. Jordan, Mrs. Ernest East Sr., Mrs. James Binns, and Mrs. H. J. Franklin. Second row: E. C. Snider, Capt. E. L. Henson, G. F. Armentrout, H. J. Franklin, Dr. John Stirewait and O. C. Landes.

(News-Virginian Photo)

Census Team Is Appointed By Lutherans

In preparation for the religious census to be held March 17, Captains have been chosen to head the census teams of Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church.

Those serving in this capacity will be: Mr. and Mrs. Hum'e s Franklin, Mrs. L. P. Foster, Mrs. E. M. East Sr., Mrs. James Binns, O. C. Landes, Curt Snider, Fred Jones, George Armentrout, Wesley Ely and James L. Jordan. They will be assisted by approximately 60 members of the congregation who will serve as census takers.

In an orientation meeting on Sunday evening, Richard Sheaffer, chairman of the Evangelism Mission, conducted a program outlining the duties of those who will participate in the census.

The initial calls will be made between the hours of 1 and 3 p.m. with approximately a quarter of the city being covered at that time.

Lutheran churches in Augusta County also are taking part in the census.

The Reverend James A. Rikard, Professor of Theology at Roanoke College, again served Grace Church, driving each Sunday from Salem to conduct worship services. During this period, several ministerial students from Southern Seminary also supplied.

The last of May, Seminarian Robert L. Hock came with his family to serve as student supply during the summer months.

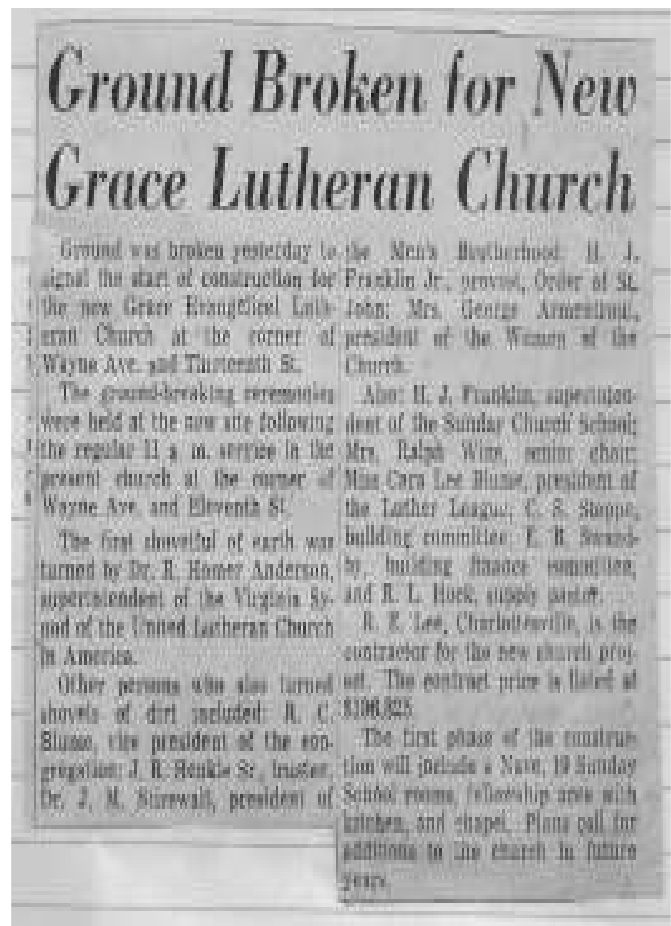
The first visual evidence that dreams of a new Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church were becoming a reality was the ground-breaking on May 26, 1957. The ground-breaking ceremony was conducted by Dr. R. Homer Anderson.

In the Faith of Jesus of Christ this work is begun and this ground is broken, In the Name and to the glory of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: That true faith may flourish here and the fear of God and love of the brethren; and that this may be a place destined for prayer and the invocation and adoration of the Name of our Lord Jesus Christ, Who with the Father, and the Holy Ghost, liveth and reigneth, One God, world without end. Amen.

(Excerpt from order of blessing of ground-breaking.)



GROUND-BREAKING CEREMONIES were held yesterday for the Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church, Wayne Ave. and Thirteenth St. Dr. R. Homer Anderson, superintendent of the Virginia Synod of the United Lutheran Church in America, turned the first shovel of earth. (News-Virginian Photo)



In June 1957, an Evangelistic mission was held in Grace Church with the Reverend John W Pfahler, pastor of St. Luke's Lutheran Church, Pittsburgh conducting the services. As the result of polio, Pastor Pfahler was a paralytic from the waist down and was confined to a wheel chair. He with the assistance of Mr. Hock conducted an interesting and successful mission.



More than fifty new members were received into the membership of Grace parish by Mr. Hock during the summer months before he returned to Southern Seminary for his final year.

Professor Rikard was asked again to conduct services while this parish was without a resident minister. Although the weather was extremely bad and driving was hazardous at times during the winter months, Pastor Rikard was present each Sunday morning to conduct worship services.

The pulpit committee made every effort possible during this interim to find a resident minister but was unsuccessful. At a congregational meeting held in February 1958, the decision was made to extend a call to Robert L. Hock who would be graduating from the Southern Seminary in June. He had served this parish well during the previous summer and had endeared himself to many of the members of Grace Church. He accepted the call. Since there had been no regular minister here for more than a year, it was gratifying to know that in a few months Grace Church would again have a resident pastor.

The well worn hymnals which had been used many years were replaced with the new revised Service Book and Hymnal. The bright red books were arranged very effectively in the chancel so that the white edges formed a cross. In this manner, they were dedicated May 4, 1958



The service for the blessing of the Service Book and Hymnal was conducted by interim pastor, the Reverend James A. Rickard.

BLEST and dedicate be these Service Books and Hymnals to the praise of Almighty God, to His honor and glory, and to the uplifting of our hearts and minds in the services of His house, in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. Amen.

(Excerpt from the service of dedication.)

Many of the books were given by individuals of the parish as gifts or memorials. A complete list of those who gave may be found in the church's Gift and Memorial Book.

After his ordination, the Reverend Robert L. Hock moved to Waynesboro June 15, 1958 and became pastor of Grace Church. This was his first pastoral assignment.

Soon after Pastor Hock arrived in Waynesboro, the cornerstone of the church was opened and the box and its contents were removed.





CONTENTS OF THE CORNERSTONE at Grace Lutheran Church here were removed yesterday by members of the congregation. Looking over the tattered newspapers and books are, from left, the Rev. R. L. Hock, pastor of the church, and Trustees J. R. Henkle and E. M. East. Because air-tight boxes were not used in 1894, when the cornerstone was placed, many of the items could not be read. —(News-Virginian Photo)

Lovers of history had a field day here yesterday as the congregation of Grace Lutheran Church opened a box in the cornerstone of its old building at the corner of Wayne Ave. and Eleventh St.

Much of the sheet metal box had rotted away and most of the contents were in an extreme state of disintegration, but there were enough legible morsels to satisfy the hungriest of historians. In the cornerstone box they found:

1.) An 1894 issue of the weekly Waynesboro Sentinel.

2.) A Sept. 18, 1894, issue of the Augusta County Argus and Staunton Siftings, a weekly newspaper published in Staunton.

3.) A Common Service Book and Hymnal, revised versions of which still are used in the church.

4.) An 1894 catalog of Roanoke College, a Lutheran institution.

5.) An 1894 catalog of Staunton Female Seminary, now Stuart Hall.

6.) A Luther Small Catechism, versions of which still are in use.

7.) An unidentified mass believed to have been a bag of grain, probably wheat. Some observers suggested that it might be a potato or ear of corn, but the wheat theory seems most logical.

8.) An 1894 issue of the Lutheran Visitor, a magazine now known as The Lutheran.

9.) An old Bible.

The rusted metal box was removed from the cornerstone yesterday morning by Trustees Ernest M. East and J. R. Henkle as a number of the congregation looked on.

The cornerstone objects will be put on display in the church Sunday. No plans have been made for their disposition after that.

The Grace Lutheran congregation will move into its new sanctuary two blocks south of the present church on Wayne Ave. late in August. Cornerstone-laying ceremonies will be held at 12 noon this coming Sunday.

Following the morning service June 29, 1958, the congregation of Grace Church went to the building site of the new church for the service of laying the cornerstone.

Cornerstone Laid by Lutherans In Ceremonies at New Structure

The congregation of Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church passed another milestone in its growth Sunday with cornerstone-laying ceremonies at the site of its new sanctuary, Wayne Ave. and Thirteenth St.

C. A. Marks, a church trustee, placed the stone in the \$200,000 building as members of the congregation looked on following the morning worship service. Occupancy of the modern new structure is expected late in August.

Also taking part in the ceremonies were Dr. Homer Anderson, superintendent of the Lutheran Synod of Virginia; the Rev. Robert L. Hock, church pastor, and Trustees E. M. East and J. R. Henkle.

Among the items sealed in the new cornerstone are a Catechism, old and new hymnal, minutes of the Lutheran Synod of Virginia, 1958 United Lutheran Church of America Yearbook, bulletins, church constitution and roll, the annual report, a list of present church officers and copies of the NEWS-VIRGINIAN and Richmond Times-Dispatch.

Church records show that the Grace Lutheran congregation was organized here on Nov. 24, 1883, by the Rev. J. E. Shenck. The building at Wayne Ave. and Eleventh St. was started on April 12, 1894, and the cornerstone was placed on Sept. 23 of the same year.

A box in the cornerstone was removed last week, revealing a number of interesting publications, most of which have been

made unreadable by age. When the church was organized, records show, there were 15 adult Lutherans living in Waynesboro and Basic City. From this small nucleus the church has grown to a membership of 450 baptized, 228 confirmed and 131 child members. There have been 14 pastors in the history of Grace

Lutheran. Among those present for the first cornerstone laying in 1894 were the Rev. E. A. Shenck, then pastor; the Rev. D. P. T. Crickenberger of Zion-St. James Parish; the Rev. H. T. Sheally of Christ's Church, Staunton, and the Rev. Peter Miller of Churchville.



GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH cornerstone was placed during ceremonies yesterday at the site of the congregation's new \$200,000 building on the corner of Wayne Ave. and Thirteenth St. Taking part in the rites above are, from left, C. A. Marks and E. M. East, trustees; Dr. Homer Anderson, superintendent of the Lutheran Synod of Virginia; the Rev. Robert L. Hock, pastor, and J. R. Henkle, trustee. —(News-Virginian Photo)

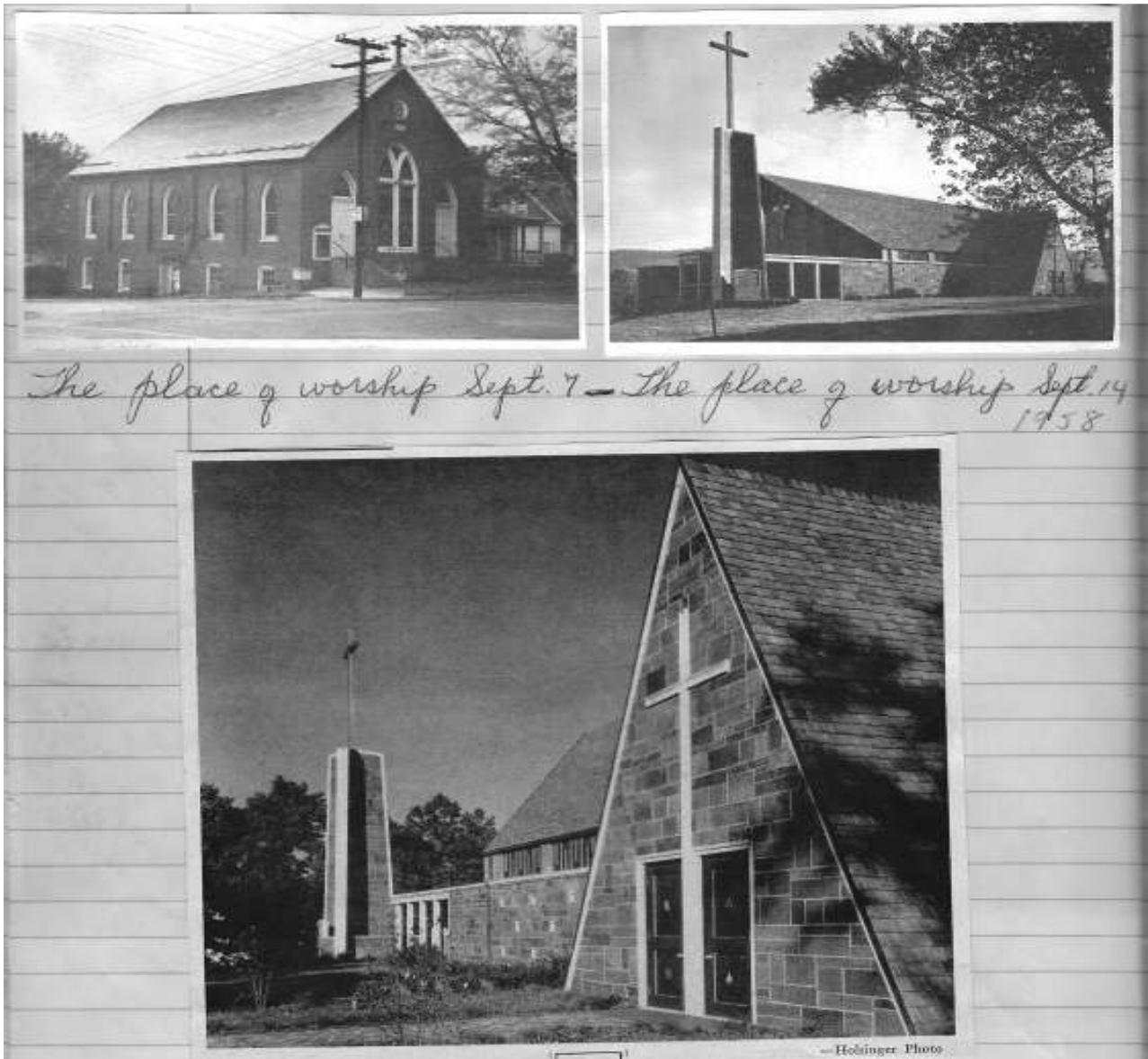


The children as well as the grown-ups were interested in the laying of the cornerstone.

During the next several months, there was much activity in and around the new church being erected at the corner of Wayne Avenue and Thirteenth Street. Not only were the workmen busy adding the finishing touches, but members of the church were going in and out in eager anticipation of the completion of the church building and acquainting themselves with the new structure so different from the place of worship currently in use. Originally this unusual building was somewhat of a shock to many of the residents of Waynesboro, but when it was completed and the grounds landscaped, its striking appearance became a source of local pride.

September 7th, 1958, the last service was held in the old church at the corner of Wayne Avenue and Eleventh Street. The doors to a place of worship, which had been in use for almost sixty years, were closed, but many cherished memories associated with this church were carried into the new building.

One week later, on the 14th, the first service was held in the newly completed church. Many of the furnishings in the church were given as memorials or gifts. A complete list of these gifts may be found in the church's Gift and Memorial Book.



Grace Lutherans Will Dedicate New Church

The Rev. Robert L. Hock, pastor of Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church, has announced that his congregation will dedicate its new church building on Sunday, at 11 a.m. Guest preacher for this important service in the history of the congregation will be the Rev. Edward S. Frey, of New York, executive director of the Board of Church Architecture of the United Lutheran Church in America and Chairman of the Department of Church Architecture of the National Council of Churches of Christ in the U. S. A. The Rev. J. Luther Mauney, D.D., of Roanoke, president of the Lutheran Synod of Va., will officiate for the actual dedication ceremony.

Also attending will be three of the former pastors of the congregation and several former supply pastors.

The new Church is designed by Milton L. Grigg, architect of Charlottesville, and has been constructed by R. E. Lee and Son, contractor, also of Charlottesville, and will cost \$200,000.

Using contemporary design, the building at the same time has been so constructed as not to disregard many of the traditional aspects of church architecture. The interior, in which wood paneling has been used, has a definite Gothic flavor. All lighting is indirect, focusing upon the chancel area, and there are no open windows in the nave. Inserted in the walls are 28 stained glass squares from France that give off varying colors as the sun shines through them.

The church includes a chapel, which can be converted into overflow seating room for the nave, bringing the capacity of the main auditorium to 450 people. There are also offices, rob-

ing rooms, a large choir loft and a full basement, which includes a large fellowship hall and stage, a kitchen, a teenage room, and a lounge for the meetings of the women of the church.

A 60-foot tower stands independent of the main building and is topped by a huge wooden cross. On the North end of the church hangs a sculptured

(Turn to Page 2, Column 1)

Christus Rex, made of lead and aluminum. A \$70,000 educational addition is planned by the congregation to be built in the near future.

Following the dedication service there will be a fellowship meal in the basement of the new church, beginning at 1 p.m.

The congregation has invited all its friends in the Waynesboro area to visit the new church for worship as well as for full inspection of the new facilities.

After Sunday, the chapel will be open at all hours for private prayer and meditation.



THE UNUSUAL LINES of Grace Lutheran Church provides many interesting angles for photographers, as indicated above. The new sanctuary will be formally dedicated tomorrow at 11 a. m. The church is located at Wayne Ave. and Thirteenth St. —(News-Virginian Photo)

Although service was held in the new church a week earlier, the real joy of worshiping in the new sanctuary was experienced on September 21st when the church was dedicated to the Glory of God. Hearts were filled with praise and thanksgiving as the congregation worshiped in the beautiful new church, so long a dream, now a reality. A complete account of the dedication is given in the clipping from the local newspaper.

The congregation assembled in front of the church and entered in a body singing, "Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty".



Modern New Structure Dedicated By Grace Lutherans on Sunday

More than 400 persons gathered before Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church on Wayne Ave. yesterday at the striking new center of worship was dedicated to "the Glory of God and service to mankind."

Following the invocation, reading of the 24th Psalm and the Gloria Patri, the keys of the new building were presented to the minister, the Rev. Robert L. Hock. Then the pastor, choir and congregation entered the building, designed by Milton L. Grigg of Charlottesville.

Construction of the modern facility, which was erected at a cost of \$200,000, was by the R. E. Lee and Son Co. of Charlottesville.

Old, New Architecture
The large contemporary struc-

ture, which combines elements of both old and new architecture, includes a large sanctuary, fellowship area, kitchen, administrative offices and other facilities. Rooms throughout the structure will house the Sunday School classes until an educational building is constructed.

One of the church's most striking features is a free-standing tower at the top of which stands a 20-foot hand-hewn wooden cross. Laminated arches and pre-cast concrete beams were used extensively in the construction of the building. A new 10-rank, two-manual organ has been installed. The instrument was built by Waynesboro's Klann Organ Supply Co. The exterior of the building is

of course of stone quarried in Virginia.

The Epistle and Gospel for the day were read by the Rev. Richard A. Miller, who served as pastor of the church from 1905 to 1957.

Guest speaker was the Rev. Edward S. Frey, executive secretary of the board of church architecture, United Lutheran Church in America, and chairman of the board of managers of the Department of Church Buildings of the National Council of Churches of Christ in the U. S. A.

Mr. Frey highly commended the congregation on their wonderful efforts which made the new plant possible.

Grace Evangelical Lutheran
(Turn to Page 3, Column 8)

Church was organized in Waynesboro on Nov. 24, 1893 with 15 charter members. Lots for the old church, which was abandoned on Sept. 7, were purchased on April 5, 1894 at a cost of \$200 each and the cornerstone for the old building was laid in September of the same year.

Old Structure Cost \$6,000

The old building was completed at a total cost of \$6,000 in 1901. In 1955 a building fund campaign was started for erection of the new church and groundbreaking ceremonies for the building were held on May 26, 1957.

First services were held in the new building last Sunday although actual occupancy did not start until yesterday.

The church building committee is composed of Joseph Whitesel, chairman; Paul Wheatley, Joseph Moyer, Claude Steppe and Harold Via. Trustees of the church are Ernest East Sr., John R. Henkel Sr., and C. A. Marks Jr.

Special guests at yesterday's dedicatory services were Mr. Grigg and Mr. Lee, Dr. J. Luther Mauney, president of the Lutheran Synod, and the Rev. Charles P. Steck Jr., the Rev. Charles T. Sardeson and the Rev. Richard A. Miller, former pastors of the church.

Following the morning services, a fellowship dinner was held at the church.



CHURCHMEN participating in dedicatory services at Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church on Wayne Ave. are shown above. From left in photo are the Rev. Edward S. Frey, guest speaker and executive secretary of the United Lutheran Church's Department of Church Architecture and chairman of the board of managers of the Department of Church Buildings of the National Council of Churches; the Rev. Robert L. Hock, pastor of Grace Lutheran Church, the Rev. Richard A. Miller, a former pastor; the Rev. Charles F. Steck Jr., former pastor; the Rev. Charles T. Sardeson, a former pastor, and Dr. J. Luther Mauney, president of Roanoke's St. Mark's Lutheran Church.
(News-Virginian Photo)

CONCLUSION

September 21, 1958

On this glorious day in the history of our beloved Grace Lutheran Church, we come with praise and thanksgiving to God for this new building which He has provided and which we now dedicate to His Service and Glory.

This new Church is now completed, but our task has only begun. As we look forward to the day when we will be able to complete the Educational Building and then satisfy all debts on the total plant, let us rededicate ourselves to the task and to the service of God in countless other ways.

Our work on this building has been one of love and sacrifice. We fully realize, however, that we have only been the instruments through which God has worked in the erection of His Church, for "except the Lord build the House, they who build it labor in vain."

We acknowledge our obligation to the 16 faithful servants of God who have served as pastors and supply pastors of this congregation during the 65 years of its history. We acknowledge also our obligation to the far greater host of faithful Christians into whose labors we have entered and whose foresight made possible the Church of today.

We would express our gratitude to the many members and friends whose prayers, words of encouragement, material aid, and labors of their hands have helped in this great endeavor. Our praise, thanks, and appreciation to the architect, who has so brilliantly designed this building and untiringly directed its construction. To the contractor and to each and every man who has worked on this Church we simply say thank you for a job well done.

And now we pray God's richest blessing on those who will find this a sacred place of worship in the years to come. If they find that we, by the help of God, have planned wisely and built well, our labors will be amply rewarded.

Excerpt from Service of Dedication



On April 17, 1960, the organ chimes, a memorial to the late Wesley R. Ely, who had met with a fatal airplane accident on October 30, 1959 were dedicated. Many people from other denominations were present for this service.



Wesley R. Ely

Lutherans To Dedicate New Chimes

Organ chimes given in memory of the late Wesley R. Ely will be dedicated tomorrow during the 11 a.m. service at Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church here.

Funds for the Maas-Rowe Vibrachimes were provided by friends of Mr. Ely, a long-time member of the church who died last October in the crash of a commercial airliner seven miles east of Waynesboro.

The chimes, which will be played tomorrow for the first time, are operated through the organ manual. They may later be used as carillonic bells. Installation was made by Clarence Roggmann, a member of the church choir and an employe of Klann Organ Supply Co.

Said the Rev. Robert L. Hock, pastor of the church: "Few men have ever served Grace Lutheran Church, as did Wesley Ely. The list of committee appointments he held is long and exemplifies the devotion of a real Christian steward. He was a member of the Church Council and for more than 20 years sang in the choir.

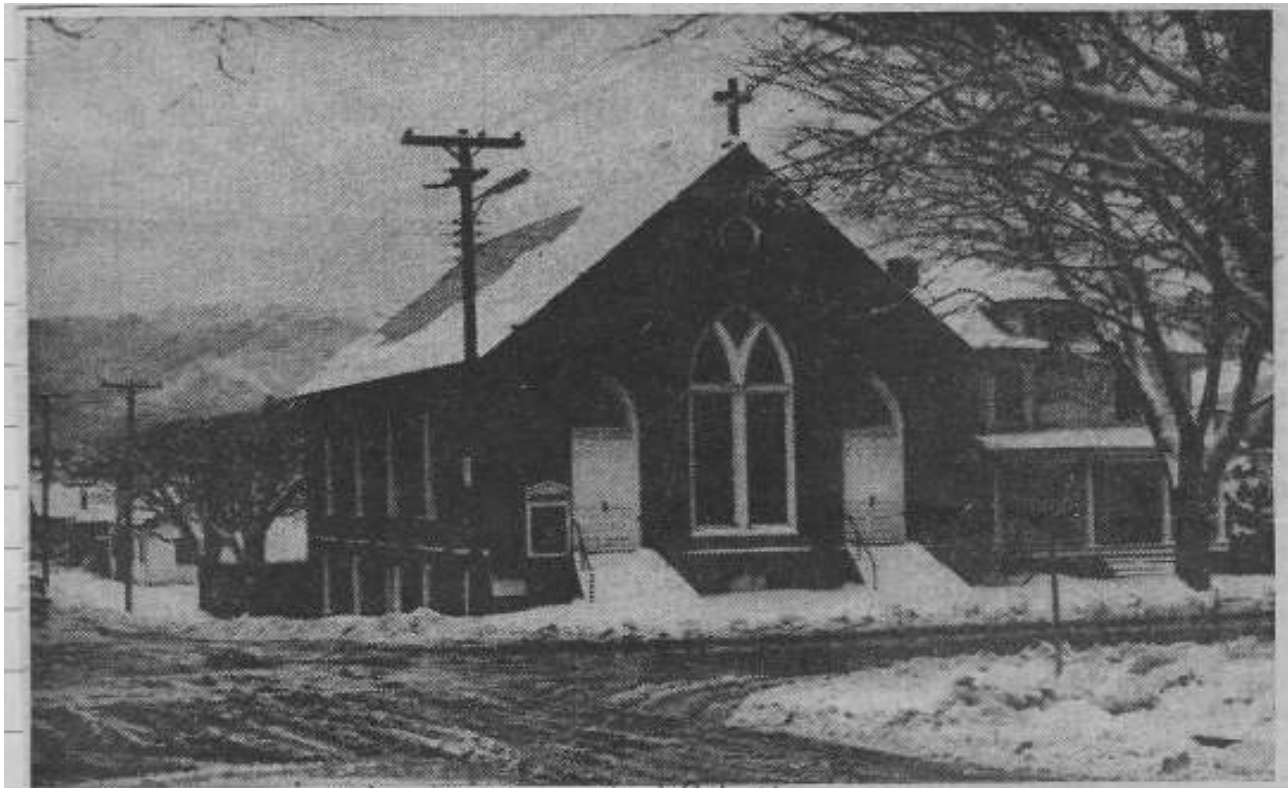
"These new organ chimes were given as a token of the love and devotion of his many friends to the glory of God as a lasting memorial to one of His most faithful disciples."

All persons who helped make the memorial possible have been invited to attend the dedicatory services.

The new church had been built in such a way than an educational unit could be added when needed and funds were available.

With the expansion of local plants and new industries moving in, many new people were coming to Waynesboro to live. As a result, the membership of Grace Church was steadily growing. Already crowded facilities for Sunday School instruction were presenting a problem. Classes were meeting in the choir loft, the church kitchen, the storage closet, two in the nave, six in the fellowship hall and wherever space was found for a few chairs. Knowing that proper instruction was impossible under such conditions, plans for the educational building were discussed with the hope of adding the new unit in the near future.

The old church property had been in the hands of real estate agents for several years and was finally sold March 12, 1962 for the sum of \$4,000. The sale paved the way for the construction of the sorely needed educational building. Plans and estimates were presented to the congregation, and at a called meeting May 12, 1962 an almost unanimous vote was passed in favor of immediate construction of the new unit.



The old church at the time of the sale.

On May 20th, 1962 a special ground breaking ceremony for the educational unit was conducted by Pastor Hock. J. B. Wine and Son, contractors, started work on the new structure a few days later.



GROUNDBREAKING for a new educational building for the Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church was held yesterday with the Rev. Robert L. Hock, pastor, conducting the service.

Shown above with Mr. Hock are Mrs. John W. Brown, left, and Mrs. W. E. Thieroff, two senior members of the congregation who participated in the ceremony. —(News-Virginian Photo)

Lutherans Break Ground For Education Building

Groundbreaking services were held at Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church yesterday at noon for the construction of an educational building.

Participating in the special service of blessing and dedication of the site were the pastor, the Rev. Robert L. Hock, and a number of members of the congregation. Mrs. John W. Brown and Mrs. W. E. Thieroff, two of the church's senior members were the first to break ground, followed by the church trustees, Ernest M. East Sr., Dr. Samuel F. Grove, Charles T. Houff, and Charles A. Marks. Richard Sheaffer, vice chairman of the council and Sunday School superintendent, and Harold G. Via, chairman of the building committee also used the spade.

Representatives of the various Sunday School departments that will use the new building upon

its completion also participated. They were Mrs. Ernest M. East, Adult Department; Miss Gail Johnson, Senior; Miss Beckie Parmer, Intermediate; Randy Gregory, Junior; Miss Douglas Gum, Primary; Mrs. Richard Gerlitz, Kindergarten, instructor; and Mrs. Harold Via, Nursery.

After the various representatives and officers broke the ground, all the members of the Nursery Department gathered at the site to "spade" the earth. All members of the congregation participated in the service by pulling a blow across the site.

The new Building will be erected by J. B. Wine and Son, Contractors and Milton Grigg, Architect and construction will begin this week.

Consisting of two floors, built on the east side of the present church, which was completed in 1958, the new semi-circular Parish Building will contain 36 rooms,

including 26 classrooms for Nursery through Adult Sunday School Departments, as well as a large assembly room, a separate church nursery, a crib room, a Sunday School staff room, four lavatories for children and two additional adult lavatories.

This will be the second major building endeavor for the congregation in the last five years, with the total church plant upon completion estimated at over \$330,000 in value.

A number of changes will also be made in the present building, including air-conditioning for the sanctuary and choir loft, Fellowship Hall expansion by one-third, floor tiling, and the creation of a church library-conference room.



UNIQUE CIRCULAR DESIGN of the new Grace Lutheran educational building complements the contemporary design of the church itself, a portion of which can be seen in background. By doing much of the construction themselves, members expect

to save up to \$10,000 on the cost of the 32-room addition. Further work on the exterior remains to be completed.

(News-Virginian Photo)



DO-IT-YOURSELVERS at Grace Lutheran Church are finding fellowship as well as economy in the construction of their new educational building. Church volunteers have labored for weeks painting, laying tile, making cabinets and doing other work in the new unit. Above in front row, from left, are C. A. Marks Jr., Richard W. Sheaffer, James Owens, John Starr, Floyd Drap-

er, Warren Parmer, George Armentraut, Paul Korneke, Winston Martin, Rufus Robertson and William Hulvey; second row, from left, Richard Toney, Dr. John Stirrwall, Robert Johnson, Alvin Johnson, Robert Hall, Fred Weber, the Rev. Robert L. Hock, Richard White, Curtis Snider and Frank Hiserman.

—(News-Virginian Photo)

Saves Money, Too:

Grace Lutherans Find Fellowship Greatest Benefit in Work Project

Members of Grace Lutheran Church are tackling the task of finishing their new 32-room educational building with a "do-it-yourself" plan on a grand scale. Approximately 50 different men have been burning the midnight oil for weeks laying tile, mak-

ing cabinets, rubbing blocks and painting the entire building on a volunteer basis. Ladies of the church have been busy planning colors, making drapes and feeding their fellow members to keep the paint brushes moving. Even the youth of the church

have been involved, giving their Saturdays for such projects as cleaning windows, scrubbing floors and pushing brooms.

"It's really been a thrill," reports the pastor, the Rev. Robert L. Hock. "It's almost unbelievably wonderful! Imagine getting truly busy people like these, many of whom always have their painting at home done professionally, to come out night after night and meet such a challenge. Sure, we've saved money," he continued, "between \$3,000 and \$10,000. And it has enabled us to equip the new section better than we had thought at the beginning.

"But for all of us, the really important accomplishment hasn't been monetary at all. We've really learned to know one another, we've experienced a fellowship together as we labored to accomplish something truly worthwhile. It's almost been like having a training school for Christian stewardship in its greatest sense.

"We've had professional men, engineers, businessmen, plant workers, you name it, and what's more amazing is that the number has increased every night. I think everyone's really enjoying it!"

Heading up some of the projects have been: Harold G. Via, Building Committee chairman; Curtis Snider, Property Committee chairman; Curtis Bowman, heading the painting project; Clarence Roggmann, cabinet work; Paul Korneke, paneling; Mrs. Harold Via, Mr. and Mrs. Richard Sheaffer and Mrs. Richard White, decorating; Mrs. Fred Jones and Mrs. Clarence Roggmann, refreshments and lunches, and a host of others.

Not only were the draperies in the class rooms made by the ladies but those in the fellowship hall as well. They also made and embroidered the dossal back of the altar.

It would not be possible to mention by name all those who have given - and are still giving - their time, their talents and their means to make this parish the strong and active church that it is.

Classes met for instruction in the new Educational Building May 26, 1963 and each class having its own spacious and well equipped room for the first time since the organization of the church.

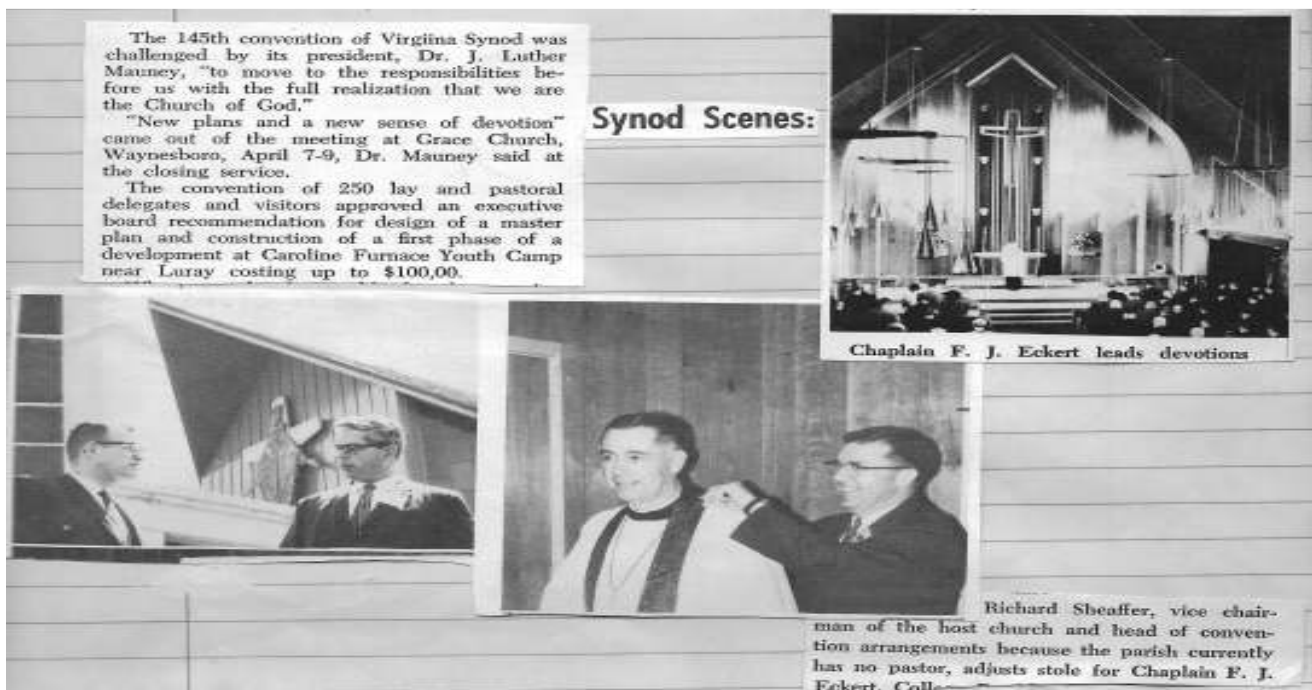
Work on the new unit was not completed until November and on the 24th of that month the new building was dedicated by Pastor Hock. Sermon was preached by the Reverend V. A. Moyer.



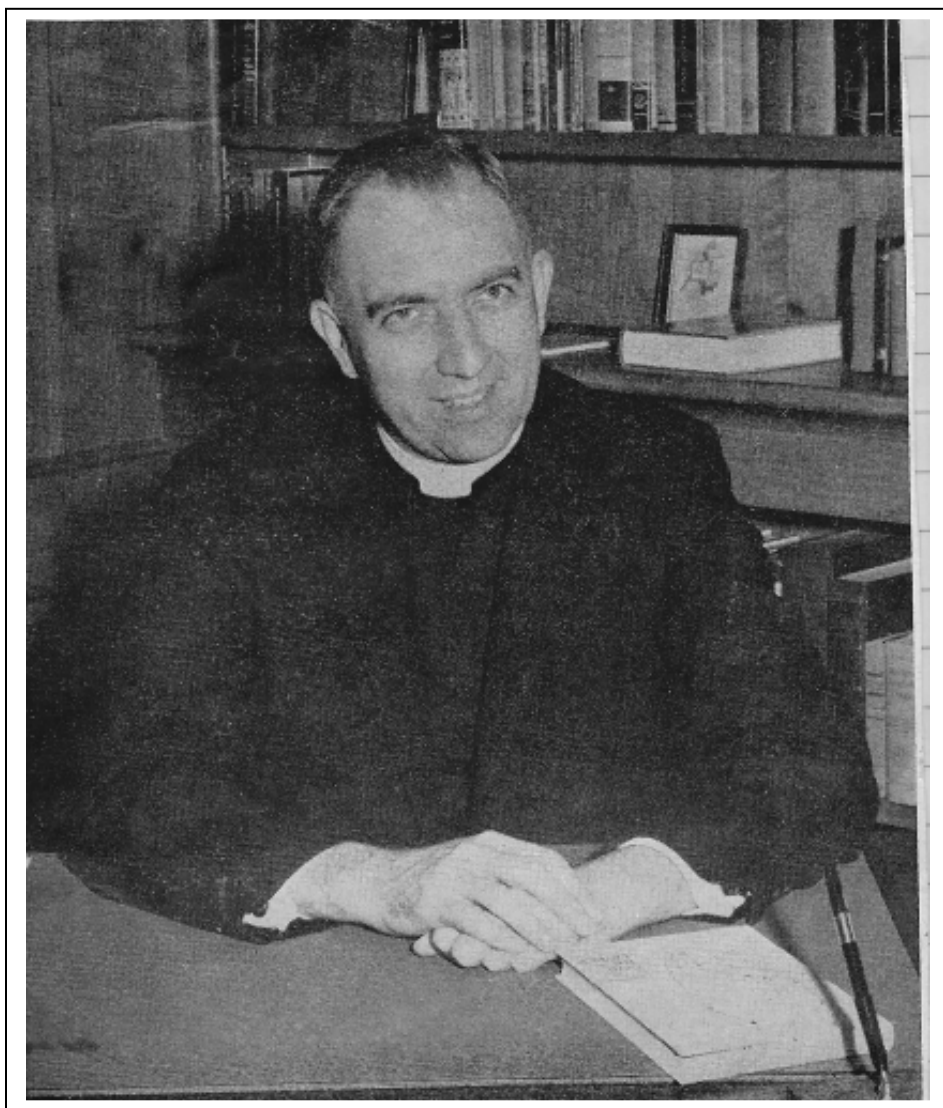
After five and a half busy and fruitful years as Pastor of Grace Church, Pastor Hock resigned, effective January 7, 1964. He accepted a call to Ebenezer Church in Columbia, SC.

Until September, services were conducted in Grace Church by ministers who happened to be available or by laymen of this church. The Reverend Max Huddle, pastor of Zion-St. James parishes, was most cooperative during this period offering his services when needed.

In April 1964, the Virginia Synod met in Grace Church. This was the first time this body had met in Waynesboro. Although currently without a minister, plans were well made and carried through.



On September 13, 1964, the Reverend George E. Handley who had been serving as Associate Pastor in Christ Church, York, PA, came to Waynesboro and assumed pastorate of Grace Church.





God builds no churches; by His plan
That labor has been left to man;
No spires miraculously arise,
No little mission from the skies
Falls on this bleak and barren place
To be a source of strength and grace;
The humblest Church demands its price
In human love and sacrifice.

Man calls the Church the house of God,
Toward which the toil-stained pilgrims trod
In search of strength and rest and hope,
As blindly through life's mist they grope
And there God dwells; but it is man
Who builds the house and draws the plan,
Pays for the mortar and the stone,
That none need seek for God, alone.

The humblest spire in mortal ken,
Where God abides, was built by men;
And if the Church is still to grow
Is still the light of hope to throw
Across the valley of despair,
Men still must build God's house of prayer
God sends no churches from the skies
Out of men's hearts they must arise.

- Edgar Guest

Faint sun strikes cross at Grace Lutheran

*Following the "blizzard of 1966"
(January 30)*

HOLY WEEK

at



GRACE CHURCH

(Evangelical Lutheran)

South Wayne Avenue and Thirteenth Street

"BEHOLD, we go up to Jerusalem . . ."
...and you are invited to join a band
of modern day disciples:

PALM SUNDAY (April 3) 1966

8:30 and 11:00 A.M. — THE SERVICE

* Pastor Handley's sermon: "GOD'S PEOPLE: Co-builders and Watchmen in the City."

6:30 P.M. — Vespers

MONDAY IN HOLY WEEK —

9:00 A.M. — Matins

9:00 P.M. — Vespers

TUESDAY IN HOLY WEEK —

7:00 A.M. — Matins

5:00 P.M. — Vespers

WEDNESDAY IN HOLY WEEK —

9:00 A.M. — Matins

7:30 P.M. — ORDER FOR PUBLIC
CONFESSION

* Pastor C. Max Huddle's sermon: "Our Greatest
Need"

MAUNDY THURSDAY —

6:30 A.M. — THE HOLY COMMUNION

* Said, in the Chapel.

10:00 A.M. — THE HOLY COMMUNION

Sung, in the Chapel.

7:30 P.M. — THE HOLY COMMUNION

* Pastor Handley's meditation at all three services:
"The Two Trees."

GOOD FRIDAY —

10:00 A.M. — A CHILDREN'S SERVICE

* Pastor Handley's sermon: "When God Said,
'I Love You!'"

12:00 Noon — COMMUNITY THREE HOUR
SERVICE

* (Noon, 12:25, 12:50, 1:15, 1:40, 2:05, 2:30)
Sponsored by the Waynesboro Ministerial Association
Seven ministers of the community preaching

7:30 P.M. — SOLEMN VESPERS and
THE LITANY

* Pastor Walter Sigmund's sermon: "Fierce"

SATURDAY IN HOLY WEEK —

10:00 A.M. — Matins

5:00 P.M. — Vespers

* Services in lower case type are said, 15-20 minute services.
The Wednesday, Thursday and Friday evening services are
in cooperation with Bethlehem, St. James and Zion Churches.

To be continued . . .

Three newly installed memorial windows in the chapel were dedicated Sunday, June 11, 1967. One of these was given by Mrs. Charles T. Houff and friends in memory of her husband. The second was given by Pastor Robert L. Hock and family in memory of his mother, Mrs. Josephine Long. The third was a memorial to members of Grace Church, given through the Thanksgiving and Memorial Fund.



NEW STAINED GLASS WINDOWS and chapel furnishings were dedicated Sunday at Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church. At left is the Rev. George E. Handley, pastor, who is pointing out a detail to the Rev. Robert L. Hock, former pastor of Grace Church. Mr. Hock is now pastor of Ebenezer Lutheran Church in Columbia, S. C., and came to Waynesboro to take part in the

dedication. Each of the three windows, in an appropriate dominant color, symbolizes an aspect of the Trinity — the grace of Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit (blue, red, and green, respectively.) The community is invited to view and discuss the windows at an open house to be held Sunday from 2 to 4 p.m.

June 11, 1967 (News-Virginian Photo)

The year 1968 marked the 75th anniversary of Grace Church. During the year, five former pastors of the church were guest speakers at Sunday morning worship services. A newspaper account of each follows.

Rev. Shumate Is Grace Lutheran Guest Speaker

A former pastor, the Rev. Alfred R. Shumate, will be guest speaker at the Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church at the 8:30 and 11 a.m. worships this Sunday. This will be the second of the 75th anniversary services honoring former pastors.

Mr. Shumate retired from the active ministry in 1967, from his pastorate in Wytheville. He is a native of Augusta County. He graduated from Roanoke College with the AB degree and the Lutheran Theological Seminary in Columbia, S.C. with the BD degree.

Following his ordination in 1929 he served briefly as pastor at Middlebrook and six years at Tom's Brook Lutheran Parish in Shenandoah County prior to coming to Waynesboro. He served the local church six years before volunteering for chaplain duty in World War II and during the 36 months he served in the Army Air Force he spent 18 months overseas.

He married the former Ellen Hanger Burkholder of Staunton and they have three children: The Rev. Thomas Joseph is now pastor of First Lutheran Church, Portsmouth; Mrs. James H. (Kathleen Allen)



The Rev. Alfred R. Shumate

Tucker lives in Winston-Salem, N.C.; and Robert Hanger is with General Electric in Lynchburg. The congregation will have a post luck dinner following the last service Sunday with families taking a main dish and salad or dessert.



The Rev. H. J. Schenck

Rev. Schenck Grace Lutheran Guest Speaker

A former pastor of Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church will be guest speaker at the 8:30 and 11 a.m. worship services Sunday. Former pastors of the church are being invited to return during the 75th anniversary celebration this year.

Mr. Schenck served at Grace from 1944 until 1949 and since that time has been pastor of Holy Trinity Lutheran Church in Elgin, Ill.

While in this area he also taught at Fishburne Military School and Fairfax Hall and was student pastor at the University of Virginia.

He graduated from Muhlenberg College, Allentown, Pa., Philadelphia Lutheran Seminary, and did graduate work at Philadelphia, Gettysburg, and Chicago Lutheran Seminaries and the University of Pennsylvania. Prior to coming to Grace, he also held pastorates in Lancaster, Pa. and Tom's Brook.

Mr. Schenck served as a lecturer in functional theology at Chicago Lutheran Seminary, in marriage and family living in Elgin High Schools, on Lutheran history at St. Edward Roman Catholic High School in Elgin, and also participated in Lutheran one-day seminars throughout the midwest.

He and his wife, the former Dorothy Berry, have a son, Robert J. Schenck Jr. who is a Sergeant in the U. S. Air Force in Seville, Spain, a daughter, Kathryn, a college freshman, and a son, Arthur, at home.



The Rev. Charles T. Sardeson

Grace Lutheran Former Pastor Speaks Sunday

A former pastor of Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church will be guest speaker at the 8:30 and 11 a.m. services this Sunday at the church. The Rev. Charles T. Sardeson served the local church from 1949 to 1952.

Pastor Sardeson is a graduate of Washington and Lee University, Lutheran Theological Seminary, and New College, Edinburgh, Scotland. He also served as pastor at Holy Trinity, Buffalo, N.Y., and is now pastor of First Lutheran, Carlisle, Pa. He is also a member of the board of social ministry of the Central Pennsylvania Synod.

He is the author of two books, "Rediscovering the Words of Faith" and "A Faith for Complicated Lives."

He will use the topic "Having a Sense of What Is Vital" at both services.

Following the two services, Pastor and Mrs. Sardeson will be guests at a covered dish dinner in the church Fellowship Hall.

A baby sitter will be provided.



The Rev. R. A. Miller

Rev. Miller Grace Lutheran Guest Speaker

The Rev. Richard A. Miller will be guest speaker at Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church Sunday in a continuation of a program in observance of the 75th anniversary of the church, with former pastors being invited to return. Mr. Miller was pastor of the church from 1954 to 1957.

Mr. Miller will preach at the 8:30 and 11 a.m. services and a covered dish congregational supper will be held following the latter service.

He is a native of Davenport, Iowa and was ordained by the Iowa Synod of the United Lutheran Church in 1945. He attended Augustana College, Rock Island, Ill. and Western Seminary, Fremont, Nebr.

Prior to coming to Waynesboro he held pastorates in Jackson, Mich. and Detroit, Mich. and is presently pastor of Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church in Harrisburg, Pa.

He also served as secretary of the Synodical Committee on Stewardship for six years.



The Rev. Robert L. Hock

Grace Lutheran Anniversary Speaker Named

Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church will celebrate the 10th anniversary of its present church building Sunday. Speaker for the 8:45 and 11 a.m. services will be the pastor when the building was erected, the Rev. Robert L. Hock.

Pastor Hock came to Waynesboro following his ordination in 1938 and in the five and a half years he served as pastor both the sanctuary and educational building were erected. During that time he also served as a founder and staff member of the Family Counseling Service and was awarded the Waynesboro Jaycees "Distinguished Service Award" in 1961.

He is a graduate of Rosnoke College and the Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary and received special training in pastoral counseling at the University of Virginia. He is presently pastor of Ebenezer Lutheran Church in Columbia, S. C.

Pastor Hock serves as chairman of the Church Vocations Committee of the Synod and Church Conference Center and Youth Camp Committee, and is a member of the board of trustees of the South Carolina Mental Health Board.

He has been active in television work, serving as a devotional leader for two years, and is president of the Lutheran Minister's Association of Col.



Dr. J. Luther Mauney



Dr. Richard T. Sutcliffe

Anniversary Services To Conclude at Grace

Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church will close its celebration of the 75th anniversary of the founding of the church at special services this weekend.

An anniversary dinner will be held at 6 p.m. Saturday and a festival service at 11 a.m. on Sunday.

The dinner program will feature Dr. Richard T. Sutcliffe, associate director of the Lutheran Church in America's Commission on Press, Radio and Television.

Since 1951 he has been newscaster for an inter-faith religious program "Church World News," produced by the Lutheran Church in America and heard on more than 300 stations.

Currently, he is engaged in the production of a new series of 13 episodes in the prize-winning "Davey and Goliath" children's television program.

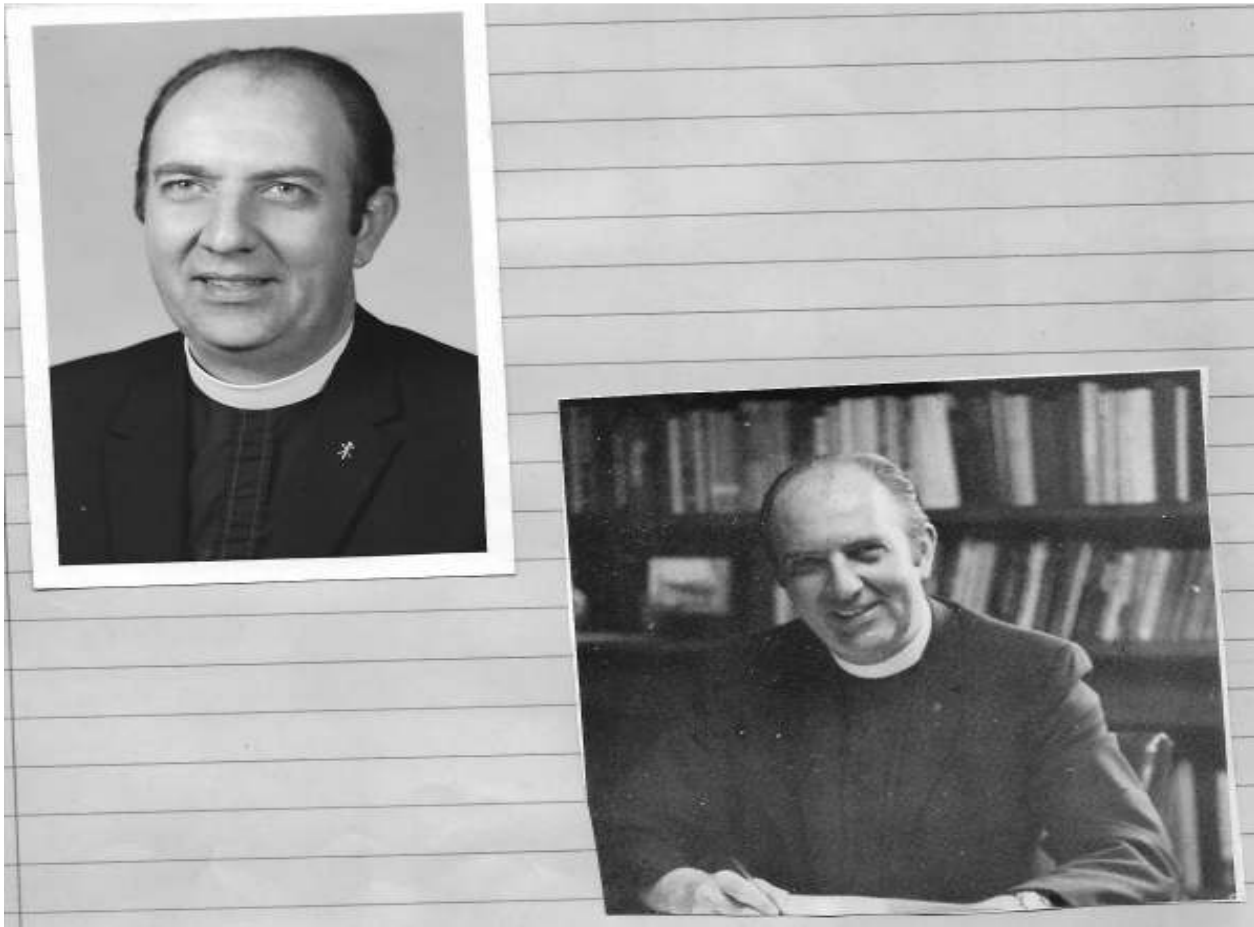
Bringing greetings at the dinner will be Dr. J. L. Mauney, president of the Synod; Mayor Benjamin Cooper; Dr. E. B. Braucher, vice president of the Waynesboro Ministers Association; and the Rev. James A. Rikard, supply pastor during interims will also be present.

Following the pot-luck dinner, the congregation will move to the nave of the church for the 8 p.m. program.

A nursery will be provided.

The festival service will be held on the actual anniversary day of the founding of the church. Included on the program will be special music, a procession, and Dr. Mauney as guest speaker. He will use the topic "God's Distinctive People."

After serving Grace Church for almost ten years, Pastor Handley resigned in February 1974 to become an assistant to the president of Virginia Synod. Much was accomplished at Grace Church during the pastorate of Pastor Handley and it was with reluctance that the congregation accepted his resignation. He preached his final sermon April 21, 1974 and shortly thereafter moved with his family to Roanoke.



The News-Virginian Waynesboro, Va. Thursday, April 15, 1993

Rev. Handley Honored at Grace Lutheran

The Rev. George E. Handley, pastor of Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church from 1964 to 1974, will be the honored guest at the church Sunday.

This service is the continuing celebration of Grace's 100th anniversary. Handley will be the preacher at the 11 a.m. service. His wife, Miriam, and children, will share in the celebration of this reunion.

Handley held the longest tenure at Grace Church, and his pastorate was marked with many significant accomplishments, highlighted by the establishment of United Church Nursery in the educational wing. Miriam was much involved in the musical aspect of the church's ministry.

Educated in the Lutheran Theological Seminary in Phil-

adelphia, Handley was ordained in 1956 and served in churches in the Virgin Islands, New York and Pennsylvania before coming to Waynesboro. He left Grace Church to become assistant to the president, Virginia Synod, and then secretary to the synod and administrative coordinator, Northeast Region, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, located in Philadelphia. He remains active in synodical and churchwide activities and has written books on Christian Parenting and Virginia Lutheran history.

Friends of Handley and his family are invited to worship with the congregation of Grace Lutheran and stay for a covered-dish meal following the service.



Rev. George E. Handley



August 15, 1974, Robert J. Richards began his pastorate at Grace Church. Prior to coming to Waynesboro, he had completed a year of training in Pastoral Care and Counseling at the Menninger Foundation in Topeka, Kansas. He had also completed the Master of Sacred Theology degree counseling at Dubuque Seminary in Iowa.

September 25, 1976, the Reverend V. A. Moyer, a former member of Grace Church who entered the ministry in 1939, was installed as President of the Virginia Synod. Services for this occasion were held in the Baptist Church since the seating capacity of the sanctuary of that church was greater than that of Grace Church. Dr. Robert J. Marshall, president of LCA, presided at this beautiful and impressive service. A reception followed in the fellowship hall of Grace Church.



September 17, 1978 an appropriate service was held commemorating twenty years in the present church. At this service, a new dossal was dedicated as a memorial to Ray Seachrist who had met a tragic death some months previous.

November 19, 1978 a thankful congregation celebrated the burning of the building mortgage during the morning worship service. Pastor Richards conducted the service offering prayers of dedication and thanksgiving.

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At this service a new doxal was dedicated as a memorial to Ray Seachrist who had met a tragic death some months previous.

Mortgage Note Burned By Church

Nov 19, 1978

A "burning of the mortgage" ceremony was celebrated yesterday during worship service by the congregation of Grace Lutheran Church.

William G. Lucas, president of the congregation, read the terms of the mortgage while C. A. Marks Jr., the only surviving signatory of the contract, lit the match. The Rev. Robert J. Richards, pastor of the church, gave the prayers of dedication and thanksgiving. The congregation responded to the event with vigorous applause.

Grace Lutheran Church was organized by the Rev. J. E. Shenk on Nov. 24, 1893, in the Old Baptist Church. Work was started on the first church building at Wayne Ave. and Eleventh St. on April 10, 1894, and completed in September of the same year.

The present building at Wayne Ave. and Thirteenth St. was dedicated on Sept. 21, 1958, with an educational area completed in 1962. The 20th anniversary of the present church was celebrated on Sept. 17 of this year.

"Grace Church recognizes that the Lord has blessed them and has now opened the door for an expanded ministry to the community," Mr. Richards said. "Towards the realization of this opportunity, the congregation has pledged an all-time record budget of \$90,000 for 1979."

November 19, 1978 a thankful congregation celebrated the burning of the building mortgage during the morning worship service. Pastor Richards conducted the service offering prayers of dedication and thanksgiving.

(Details may be found in the clipping.)



The burning of the mortgage

After serving as pastor of Grace Church ten years, the Reverend Robert J. Richards resigned September 6th, 1984.

Although Grace Church was without a resident pastor for almost a year following Pastor Richards' resignation, services were held each Sunday. The president of the Virginia Synod appointed a supply minister for each Sunday. During the interim, the Reverend Robert Humphrey, pastor of Zion parish served as Vice Pastor.

Having accepted a call to become pastor of Grace Church, The Reverend Glenn L. London, Jr. and family moved to Waynesboro June 15, 1958. Previous to coming to Waynesboro, Pastor London had served several parishes in the Virginia Synod.



The Rev. Glenn L. London Jr.

***The Rev. London
Will Speak
At Grace Lutheran***

Grace Lutheran Church will continue its celebration of its 100th anniversary year by having a former pastor, the Rev. Glenn L. London Jr. as guest minister Sunday.

Pastor London served Grace Church from 1985 until 1989. He is currently the pastor of the Lutheran Church of the Redeemer in Bristol.

Pastor London received his bachelor's degree at Lenoir Rhyne College in Hickory, N.C., and his Master of Divinity at the Lutheran Southern Seminary in Columbia, S.C.

He has served parishes at Wytheville and Blacksburg. He is married to Anne McDonald London and they have two sons.

Grace Church will continue its practice of giving a birthday gift to \$100 to local service organizations.

This month, the Waynesboro Senior Center and the Adult Day Care Center will be honored.

There will be a covered-dish lunch after the single service at 11 a.m. and all members and friends of the Londons are invited to attend.

November 6th was a memorable date in the history of Grace Church. This marked the ninetieth anniversary of this church. Former pastors were invited to attend this celebration. Three were present, two others had commitments elsewhere and could not attend. Former members, no longer living in Waynesboro were also invited, a number returned for this special occasion.

Saturday evening, November 5th, a banquet was held in the fellowship hall. A bountiful dinner was served after which a most enjoyable evening was spent with Grace members and guests greeting one another and recalling past memories. A special feature of the evening was a severe “roasting” of the pastors present by the masters of ceremonies, James Lunger and Fred Meier.

Sunday evening, November 6th, Bishop V. A. Moyer, a ministerial son of Grace Church, was guest speaker. Former pastors participated in some way in the service. Following the service a reception honoring the pastors and guests was held in the fellowship hall.

THE NEWS-VIRGINIAN, Wayne

Grace Evangelical Lutheran Honors Two Ministerial ‘Sons’

The Revs. Virgil A. Moyer Jr. and Roger S. Kluttz, ministerial “sons” of Grace Lutheran Church, will be the honored guests leading the church during Sunday’s services. A reception will be held in their honor. Friends are invited to welcome and honor “Buck,” now retired in Roanoke, and Roger, pastor of Holy Trinity Lutheran Church in Wytheville.



Rev. Roger S. Kluttz



Rev. Virgil A. Moyer Jr.

SHON
WEEKEND
ONLY \$12.99 * SEAF

September 7, 1986 was known as the “Reverend Roger S. Kluttz day” at Grace Church. Roger was a member of Grace Church when he entered the ministry in 1957. During his more than 25 years of ministerial service, he has been pastor of several parishes and has served in various capacities in the Virginia Synod. On “his day” at Grace Church he was guest preacher at the 11:00 a.m. service. Following the service, lunch and a fellowship period were enjoyed in the social hall.

At present he is serving the Wytheville, VA parish.

September 1, 1988 was a very special day at Grace Lutheran Church. This day was known as “The Reverend V. A. Moyer Appreciation Day”. V. A. was a son of Grace Church and was ordained October 7, 1945 in Grace Church.

Two young men from Grace Church have entered into full time Christian service. The Reverend V. A. Moyer, at the time of this writing, is assistant to J. Luther Mauney, President of Virginia Synod. Roger S. Klutz is pastor of Abingdon Lutheran Church.

A complete record of his service in the Virginia Synod, from his ordination until his retirement in 1988, of the events of V. A. Moyer Day may be found in the back of this book.

In 1981, Janice Marie Ely, a daughter of Grace Church, entered the Lutheran Seminary in Gettysburg; and received her Masters in Divinity in June of 1986. She was ordained in Grace Church March 6, 1988.

At present (1988), she is Pastor of The Church of the Living Word, Columbus, MD.

May 17, 1990 was the date Linda S. Mitchell, daughter of Norah and Jesse Mitchell of Grace Church, was ordained at St. Andrews Roman Catholic Church, Roanoke, VA. She entered the Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary, Columbia, SC in June 1986 and received her Masters Degree in May 1990. She is at present (1992) Associate Pastor of Christ Lutheran Church, Roanoke, VA.



The Rev. Janice M. Lowden The Rev. Linda Mitchell

'Daughters' of Grace Lutheran To Return for Special Service

As a significant part of the 100th anniversary celebration at Grace Lutheran Church, the two women pastors who were "daughters" of the church will be honored at a special service to be held Sunday at 11 a.m.

The Rev. Janice M. Lowden and the Rev. Linda Mitchell will preside at this service.

The Rev. Lowden is the daughter of Mary E. Ely and the late Wesley R. Ely of Waynesboro. She is married to the Rev. Robert W. Lowden, interim pastor of St. Andrews Lutheran Church in Baltimore, Md.

She graduated from Waynesboro High School in 1974.

She received her bachelor's degree from James Madison University and her master of divinity degree from the Lutheran Theological Seminary in Gettysburg, Penn.

She is currently pursuing an advanced degree at the College of Notre Dame of Maryland in Baltimore.

She has served as pastor of the Lutheran Church of the Living Word in Columbia, Md. and is currently the campus pastor at Lutheran University Ministry at the University of Maryland in Baltimore County, Md.

The Rev. Mitchell is the daughter of Norah A. Mitchell and the late Jesse O. Mitchell of Waynesboro. She graduated from Waynesboro High School in 1974.

She received her bachelor's degree from Virginia Tech and her master's degree from James Madison University. She received her master of divinity degree from the Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary in Columbia, S.C.

She has served as associate pastor of Christ Lutheran Church in Roanoke and has recently accepted a call to be the Lutheran campus pastor at the University of South Carolina in Columbia, S.C.

A reception and covered-dish dinner will be held after the service and all members and friends of the two pastors are invited to attend the service and the dinner.

Continuing its celebration practice of giving a \$100 gift to local service organizations, Grace Church will honor Big Brothers/Big Sisters and Parents for At-Risk Children.

May 23 1965

37



ROGATE SUNDAY was observed by Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church Sunday when the congregation moved outdoors to the

adjoining field for a blessing of the fields by the Rev. George E. Handley, pastor.
—(News-Virginian Photo)

December 1970

Mrs. Boward Serves 46 Years



Mrs. J. F. Boward (left) accepts a citation from Mrs. W. K. Martin, worship and music chairman at Grace, Waynesboro.

Mrs. J. Francis Boward, the former Ruby East, has been honored on her retirement as organist-choirmaster of Grace Church, Waynesboro, after more than 46 years of service.

A diamond wrist watch and a framed citation recognizing "faithful service" were presented at the annual congregation meeting in January.

Her successor as organist and director of the adult choir is Dr. R. J. Lawton, superintendent of the Miller School in nearby Albemarle County. He previously was assistant superintendent of a boys' school in New Jersey and organist at a Methodist church for 12 years.

Church Break-in, Vandalism Probed

Waynesboro police are investigating a break-in and acts of vandalism at the Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church, 500 S. Wayne Ave.

According to police, intruders forced entry through a window sometime between 10:30 p.m. Saturday and 8 a.m. Sunday. Vandals broke a tape player, threw furniture, put green paint in a fish tank and damaged the altar. Also, two hamsters were stolen.

Physical evidence was recovered at the scene by police and may lead to identification of the vandals.

6-4-89



Historical Marker

Mrs. E. M. East Sr. (left) and Mrs. Sylvester E. Hankey, long-time members of Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church, stop by the marker dedicated yesterday in the church anniversary observances. The identification stone is from the church that once stood at the corner of Eleventh St. and Wayne Ave. Brick and slate used in the marker were from the building as well. The marker, located south of the main entrance to the church, was given to honor and memorialize members of the East and Hankey families by those families.

(N-V Photo by Nichols)

THE HISTORICAL MARKER, constructed of brick and stone from the original Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church, located at the southeast corner of Wayne Avenue and Eleventh Street from 1891 until 1976, is dedicated at this service to the glory of God in memory of Sylvester E. Hankey by Mrs. Hankey, family and friends.

THE PLAQUE to be placed on the above marker is given by Nancy E. Etter and E. M. East, Jr., in honor of their mother and in memory of their father, Mr. and Mrs. E. M. East, Sr.

Grace Lutheran 75th Anniversary Is Sunday

November 24 - 1968

Sunday will mark the 75th anniversary of Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church. It was on Nov. 24, 1893 that a little group of Lutherans living in Waynesboro, but having their membership in the county, met for a first service. They used a small building that had previously been used for organizational purposes by Baptists, Presbyterians, and Methodists.

The present congregation will celebrate the event at a festival service at 11 a.m. Sunday.

The 10 charter members of the church were Dr. A. C. Fox, Miss Emma Thomas, Mrs. John Brower, Mrs. J. W. Lobban, Mr. and Mrs. O. P. Garber, Philip Killian, Mr. and Mrs. A. G. Henkel, and O. L. Henkel. The Rev. J. E. Schenck was first pastor.

A year after the organization of the church, the congregation decided to build a new building and a cornerstone was laid on Sept. 25, 1894. This building was located at the corner of Eleventh St. and Wayne Ave.

Soon after the cornerstone was laid, the Rev. J. E. Schenck accepted a call to Norfolk and his cousin, the Rev. E. A. Shenk served Grace four years while he was pastor at Bethelheim. All of the male members belonged to the council; A. G. Henkel was treasurer and O. D. Henkel was secretary of both the Sunday School and church.

The Ladies Aid was organized Feb. 28, 1894 and helped to raise funds for payment of the new building. The women's group is now known as the Lutheran Church Women.

The basement of the church was first used for services Dec. 22, 1895 and on April 7, 1901, Easter Sunday, the first service was held in the completed church. The service was conducted by the first full-time pastor, the Rev. E. C. Cronk.

The church was not dedicated until May 31, 1913 when the indebtedness was paid in full. The building was constructed at a cost of \$6,000.

Many of the fixtures in the church were donated and in 1913 Grace church became the first church in the town to install a pipe organ.

Due to ill health, Mr. Cronk resigned in 1903 after serving only one year and he was succeeded by the Rev. Y. Von A. Riser, who served until his retirement three years later. The Rev. J. G. Gratchen served from 1907 to 1911 and the Rev. J. F. Bruch also served four years. The Rev. E. L. Ritchie served from 1916 to 1922 when Dr. Charles F. Steck became pastor until his death in 1958. His son, the Rev. Charles F. Steck Jr., served the church during his father's two-year ill-

ness. A copper cross was used to replace it.

During the 50th anniversary year the church purchased a new lot with the idea of building a new church and it was during this time that L. R. Paul Huddle served as supply pastor.

The Rev. Robert J. Schenck served from 1944 to 1949 and during this time much consideration was given to building a new church but no real progress was made. The pastor who succeeded him, the Rev. Charles T. Sardeson, served until 1952 and it was during this time that the church decided to build on its original lot.

However, during the pastorate of the Rev. Richard A. Miller, 1953 to 1957, the church purchased a lot at the corner of Thirteenth St. and Wayne Ave., bids were taken and R. E. Lee and Son from Charlottesville was hired as contractor.

The church was without a full-time pastor until 1958 when the Rev. Robert L. Hock accepted a call following his graduation from seminary. Pastor Hock served during the summer while still a student and groundbreaking ceremonies for the new church were held during this time on May 26, 1957. A short time after he assumed the pastorate of the church the cornerstone was laid, in June 29, 1958 and the first service was held in the new church on Sept. 14, 1958. It was dedicated a week later.

The building is a large contemporary structure which will seat 450 people. One of the most striking features is the free-standing 60-foot tower at the top of which stands a 20-foot hand-hewn wooden cross.

The exterior is of stone quarried in Virginia and the interior, in which wood paneling has been used, has a definite Gothic flavor. It was constructed at a cost of \$200,000.

The present pastor is the Rev. George E. Handley.

November 25, 1968



EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN ANNIVERSARY personnel who participated in the 75th anniversary celebration at Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church this weekend were, first row, (from left) Dr. J. Luther Mauney, president of the Virginia Synod, Lutheran Church of America; Mrs. J. F. Boward, chairman of the 75th anniversary committee; Dr. Richard T.

Sutcliffe, featured speaker and associate director, LCA commission of press, radio and tv; and Mayor Benjamin Cooper. Second row (from left) are the Rev. George E. Handley, pastor of the church; Dr. E. B. Bratcher, vice president of the Waynesboro Ministers Association; and Richard W. Sheaffer, vice president of the congregation.

(News-Virginian Photo)

Colorful Procession Marks Grace Service

A colorful procession was a part of the festival worship at Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church Sunday as the church celebrated the 75th anniversary of its organization.

The procession was led by the crucifer carrying a processional cross followed by torchbearers carrying altar candles. A deacon carried the altar service book

and the lector carried the lectern Bible. The festival banners were made by the youth of the church during the summer as an anniversary year project and carried such symbols as "Faith can move mountains," "Help Me, O Lord," and "Alleluia."

Dr. J. Luther Mauney, president of the Virginia Synod, was speaker for the morning worship using as his topic "God's Distinctive People."

Posters containing memorabilia of the 75 years the congregation has been working were on display in the church also. This was a project of the Senior High Luther League.

Grace church started with a congregation of 10 charter members on Nov. 24, 1893 in a small building that had been used by other denominations as a beginning. The first building of the church was located at Eleventh St. and Wayne Ave. with the first service being held on April 7, 1901.

The first service in the present building at Thirteenth St. and Wayne Ave. was held Sept. 14, 1958.

During the service Sunday a litany of Thanksgiving and rededication was made by the congregation.



SPOONFUL BY SPOONFUL, youngsters from St. John's Episcopal Church and Grace Lutheran Church joined together to plant a dogwood tree on each of the church lawns. The tree planting was part of a closing day

June 18, 1971

ceremony for the joint vacation Bible school of the two churches. Observing are the Rev. Louis Fracher (left), rector of St. John's, and the Rev. George E. Handley, pastor of Grace Lutheran.

(N-V Photo by Dozier)

The following letter contains Pastor Humphrey's acceptance of the call from Grace Church. He read the letter during the service on March 4th.

00000000000000000000000000000000

The Members of Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church
c/o Mr. Richard D. Tomey, President
500 South Wayne Avenue
Waynesboro, Virginia 22980

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,


It was with a tremendous sense of humility that I received news of your vote on Sunday February 18, 1990. By your action a "call" has been issued to me. You have said, in essence, that after much prayer and deliberation it is your belief and desire that I should serve as pastor to this congregation. What a deep honor to bestow on one of your own members!

What a wonderful and awesome invitation you issued. It is truly wonderful in that God is at work and the potential for dynamic and exciting ministry together is very real. It is awesome in the awareness that I bring only my limited personal and professional gifts. Like Luther, I confess that left to myself, I will surely fail. But I am not alone. I have a strong personal faith in the power of God and the combined faith and talents you offer, as partners with me in this ministry. Surely, great things can and will happen!

It is with great joy and anticipation, therefore, that I accept and agree with your sense of "call". By the grace of God, and with your support in stewardship and prayer, I will serve as pastor to Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church.

I plan to begin my service to you in this capacity on Easter Sunday, April 15, 1990. I can think of no better time than the Resurrection of our Lord to begin this journey together. I give thanks to God for you and implore your prayers for our mutual ministry.

In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, I am sincerely yours,


Pastor Robert F. Humphrey, M.Div.
1 March 1990

cc: Bishop Richard F. Bansemer, D.D.
Joan Rufe

Rev. R.F. Humphrey Accepts Call From Grace Lutheran

The Rev. Robert F. Humphrey of Waynesboro recently accepted a call to ministry from Grace Lutheran Church, 500 S. Wayne Ave., Waynesboro.

Humphrey is currently a member of Grace Church who has been a counselor at the Valley Pastoral Counseling Center in Waynesboro while pursuing a master's degree in counseling at the University of Virginia.

He was born in Winston-Salem, N.C.

He graduated from the University of Richmond with a degree in history and political science, and later graduated from the Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary in Columbia, S.C. He was ordained by the Virginia Synod of the Lutheran Church of America in 1981.

He began parish ministry at Zion Lutheran Church in Waynes-

boro where he served until he took a leave from call to pursue his counseling activities.

He has served as leader or chairperson on several Synod commissions and committees.

He will begin his ministry at Grace Church on Easter Sunday.

Rev. R.F. Humphrey Preaches Sunday

Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church, 500 S. Wayne Ave., Waynesboro, welcomes the Rev. Robert F. Humphrey as he begins his ministry at Grace Church with Easter services Sunday at 8:30 and 11 a.m.

Both the Chancel Choir, under the direction of Mrs. Debbie Keefer, and the Handbell Choir, under the direction of Ms. Rachel Shook, will provide special Easter music.

The sacrament of Holy Communion will be celebrated.

All members and visitors are welcome.

Before Humphrey's call from Grace Church, he was staff counselor at the Valley Pastoral Counseling Center in Waynesboro, while pursuing a master's degree in counseling at the University of Virginia.

Born in Winston-Salem, N.C.,

he graduated from the University of Richmond with degrees in history and political science and later graduated from the Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary in Columbia, S.C. He was ordained by the Virginia Synod of the Lutheran Church in America.

He began his parish ministry at Zion Lutheran Church in Waynesboro where he served until he took a leave from call to pursue his counseling and educational activities.



R.F. Humphrey



Pastor Installed

The Rev. Robert F. Humphrey was recently installed as pastor of Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church at a special service. Presiding at the ceremony (from left) are Bishop Richard F. Bansemmer of Virginia Synod Evangelical Lutheran Church of America; Pastor John Derrick, dean of Southern

Valley Conference of the Virginia Synod; Robert F. Humphrey, new pastor of Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church; Richard D. Tomey, president of the Congregation Council, Waynesboro Del. A.R. "Pete" Giesen (right) was present at the installation. (N-V Photo by Moses)

Church Installs Rev. R.F. Humphrey

The Rev. Robert F. Humphrey was recently installed as the pastor of Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church at a special service.

The service was presided over by the Rev. Richard F. Bansemmer, D.D., bishop of the Virginia Synod Evangelical Lutheran Church of America; and the Rev. John Derrick, dean of the Southern Valley Conference of the Virginia

Synod.

Assisting in the installation were Richard D. Tomey, president of the Congregation Council and Joan Rufe, chairperson of the Call committee.

Worship assistants for the lessons and the symbols of the office were the Rev. Richard E.T. Jorgensen Jr., pastor of Zion Lutheran Church; the Rev. Steven

N. Scoggin of Valley Pastoral Counseling Center; Barbra T. Humphrey, member of Grace Lutheran Church; Robin Crowder, vice president of council; Peggy Johnson, council member; Margaret Langer, youth council member; Gail Johnson, superintendent of Sunday church school; Joan Shook, Mutual Ministry committee and Donna Gum, Worship and Music committee.

Representatives from area churches, other organizations and friends joined the congregation in welcoming Humphrey.

The service of Holy Communion was celebrated after the installation service with Bansemmer and Humphrey presiding.

A reception sponsored by the Women of ELCA was held in the fellowship hall following the service.

By JEAN NICHOLS
A-V Family Fore Editor

Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church is observing a double celebration this year: 80 years as a Wamego congregation and 25 years of its present location on S. Wayne Ave.

The congregation marks its beginnings as Nov. 24, 1883, when a mission of Bethlehem Lutheran Church of Leola was formed with 20 charter members. A history compiled for this celebration by Mrs. Ernest M. East and E. M. East Jr. takes the congregation from those mission days through its first services in a log church on Ohio St., to its building at the corner of S. Wayne Ave. and Eleventh St. in early 1893 and to its present location, Wayne Ave. and Thirteenth St.

The mission began under the leadership of the Bethlehem pastor, the Rev. J. E. Schwarz. Services of the first two years were held on Sunday afternoons in a Baptist Church on Ohio St.

In 1884, the Lutherans purchased a plot of property on the southeast corner of Wayne Ave. and Eleventh St. for \$300 and began construction of a church building.

The cornerstone was laid on Sept. 24, 1884. Only the basement was built, and for six years was the meeting place of Grace church as it continued to be served by the pastors of Bethlehem congregation, the church history notes.

Bethlehem gave the first pulpit and benches to the new church, and there was also a small organ.

1891 was a memorable year: the church building was completed, and the first full-time resident pastor, the Rev. E. C. Cross, arrived. The building was dedicated on Easter Sunday, April 7, 1891.

From its earliest days as a mission, music played an important part in Grace church services. History notes that the church had

the first pipe organ in Wamego made available by the interest and gifts of Andrew Carnegie, the noted American philanthropist, through the cooperation of Carl Berckhoff, an organ maker resident in Wamego.

During its pastorate in 1911-12, the Rev. J. P. Bruch directed a choir and organized an orchestra, which was also a popular youth activity of the day.

The Bruch family was the first to live in the parsonage built next to the church. The lot had been purchased in 1897, and the house was ready for occupancy in 1912.

The longest pastorate in the church records was served by Dr. Charles E. Steck Sr., 1928-34. Length of service at Grace church and his years of experience are credited with bringing a certain stability to the congregation.

During this time, the church building was remodeled and several traditions of worship were introduced: wearing of a pulpit robe by the minister, vestments worn by the choir and use of varied colored paraments.

Also, Vacation Church School was begun. The congregation already had a strong tradition of Christian education, it was noted.

With urbanization and decentralization of Wamego, increasing, Grace church grew with it.

In addition to attention to growth of the congregation, the history records the changes in the church building. In the summer of 1937, the church steeple was struck by lightning. The damage was so severe that it could be replaced only by a simple copper cross.

When the Grace church pastor left for army chaplaincy in 1943, the congregation was without a regular pastor for eight months. However, the year was the one for celebration of its golden anniversary. On Nov. 26, 1943, with the Rev. J. R. Imhoff of Houtsko as

1893-1958-1983

Church Celebrates Double Anniversary



Grace Lutheran Churches

Mrs. Margaret Barker shows the history of Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church to the Rev. Robert J. Houtsko, pastor of the church, and Pastor Emeritus and former building of the congregation, Grace church in celebrating its 80th anniversary this year. The church was built for its present location in 1893.

The pastor of Grace church, the Rev. Robert J. Houtsko, and Pastor Emeritus and former building of the congregation, Grace church in celebrating its 80th anniversary this year. The church was built for its present location in 1893.

pastor was elected, his tenure there as pastor, the history records.

The new building served the congregation for several years. In 1928, the old one was torn down. The new building, Church of the Holy Spirit, was dedicated in 1928.

The current pastor, the Rev. Robert J. Houtsko, was elected in 1958.

The church records the history of the congregation from its beginnings in 1883 to the present.

The new building was dedicated in 1928. The church records the history of the congregation from its beginnings in 1883 to the present.

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The church records the history of the congregation from its beginnings in 1883 to the present.



In the photo above, is the special banner that decorated the chancel during the 100th anniversary celebration. In the photo below are the Rev. Richard F. Bansemmer, bishop of the Virginia Lutheran Synod, and the Rev. Robert F. Humphrey, pastor of Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church.



Lutheran Church Celebrates 100 Years Of Grace

Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church completed a year-long celebration of its 100th Anniversary Sunday, Nov. 21 with a special worship service led by Pastor Robert F. Humphrey and Dr. Robert E. Walck, Jr., President of the congregation.

The guest minister was the bishop of the Virginia Synod, the Rev. Richard F. Bansemmer, D.D., special representatives from LARC (Lutheran, Anglican and Roman Catholic Conference), the Southern Valley Conference of the Virginia Synod and the Lutheran Council of East Augusta County extended greetings to Grace Church on their anniversary.

Special music, written by members of Grace church, was performed by the Adult Choir, directed by Dr. James Lawton, organist and choir director. The Adult Handbell Choir, led by Joseph Bucher, provided additional selections.

The chancel of the Church was decorated with a special eight-foot tall banner designed by Marge Bucher and made by Sandy Johnson and with 100 white, wooden doves provided by Peggy and Bill Lucas.

Special flower arrangements were displayed in the narthex honoring the oldest chronological member, Ruth Brower, who is 100 years old and the oldest member in service, Helen Henkel, who is the daughter of one of the founders.

Etta

M

- Mrs. A. G. Henkel gave a window in memory of her brother, George Hottel and one in memory of Nannie Henkel.
- The lovely window above the altar was given by the Sunday School.

The following group of ten personal charter members of Grace Church (1893) were:

- Dr. A. C. Fox, a practicing physician
- Miss Emma Thomas
- Mrs. John Brower
- Mrs. J. W. Lobban
- Phillip Killian
- O. D. Henkel
- Mr. and Mrs. A. G. Henkel
- Mr. and Mr. C. P Garber

Ministers who have served Grace Church since her organization in 1893 were:

- Rev. J. D. Schenck	Nov. 24, 1893	April 1, 1894
- Rev. E. A. Shenk	April 1, 1894*	November 1, 1898
- Rev. W. R. Brown	January 1, 1899	April 22, 1900
- Rev. J. O. Glenn	June 1, 1900	September 1, 1900
- Rev. E. C. Cronk	January 1, 1901	October 5, 1903*
- Rev. Y Von A. Riser	March 1, 1903	May 2, 1906
- Rev. J. G. Graichen	January 1, 1907	June 10, 1911
- Rev. J. F. Bruch	November 1, 1911	1915
- Rev. E. L. Ritchie	1916	1922
- Rev. Chas. F. Steck DD	October 15, 1923	April 1, 1934*
- Rev. Alfred R. Shumate	February 1, 1937	April 1, 1943
- Rev. Robert J. Schenck	January 1, 1944	January 10, 1949
- Rev. Charles L. Sardeson	February 1, 1944	August 30, 1952
- Rev. Richard A. Miller	April 13, 1953	February 1, 1957
- Rev. Robert L. Hock	June 15, 1958	January 7, 1964*
- Rev. George E. Handley	September 13, 1964	April 21, 1974
- Rev. Robert J. Richards	August 15, 1974	September 5, 1984
- Rev. Glenn L. London, Jr.	June 15, 1985	1989
- Rev. Robert F. Humphrey	April 15, 1990	2010
- Rev. James E. Koepke	Director of Youth	

*** Correction to dates per plaques**

EA Shenk – 1895–1898
 EC Cronk – 1901-1902
 JF Bruch - 1912-1915
 CF Steck - 1923-1933
 RL Hock - 1958-1963

Ministers who have served Grace Church since her organization in 1893 were:

- Rev. J. D. Schenck	11/24/1893	04/01/1894
- Rev. E. A. Shenk	04/01/1894	11/01/1898
- Rev. W. R. Brown	01/01/1899	04/22/1900
- Rev. J. O. Glenn	06/01/1900	09/01/1900
- Rev. E. C. Cronk	01/01/1901	10/05/1903
- Rev. Y Von A. Riser	03/01/1903	05/02/1906

- Rev. J. G. Graichen	01/01/1907	06/10/1911
- Rev. J. F. Bruch	11/01/1911	1915
- Rev. E. L. Ritchie	1916	1922
- Rev. Chas. F. Steck D.D.	10/15/1923	04/01/1934
- Rev. Alfred R. Shumate	02/01/1937	04/01/1943
- Rev. Robert J. Schenck	01/01/1944	01/10/1949
- Rev. Charles L. Sardeson	02/01/1944	08/30/1952
- Rev. Richard A. Miller	04/13/1953	01/01/1957
- Rev. Robert L. Hock	06/15/1958	01/07/1964
- Rev. George E. Handley	09/13/1964	04/21/1974
- Rev. Robert J. Richards	08/15/1974	09/05/1984
- Rev. Glenn L. London, Jr.	06/15/1986	1989
- Rev. Robert F. Humphrey	04/15/1990	04/04/2010
- Rev. James E. Koepke	Director of Youth	