

*A History of Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church*



**100 YEARS  
OF  
GRACE**



## "100 Years of Grace"

### Background

The English Crown did little at first to encourage settlers from the Virginia coastal area to move across the Blue Ridge and into the Valley of the Shenandoah beyond. In 1716, Spottswood and his "Knights of the Golden Horseshoe" made their historic trip through Swift Run Gap and laid claim to the lands beyond the ridge for the Crown.

Many Scotch-Irish and German families came to the Valley by way of Pennsylvania. Some of these families were already firmly established here by 1736, the year Beverley and associates received a grant of 118,491 acres which extended westward from Orange County. Although records are incomplete, one source stated that Lutherans were conducting home worship services together and had established a cemetery as early as 1740.

Trinity Lutheran Church, near Crimora, eight miles north of Waynesboro was first known as "Spindle's Meeting House" and later as "Keinadt's Church". Member families also spelled their names as Keiner, Coiner, Coyner and Koiner. While Trinity celebrated its Bicentennial in 1972, however, Joseph Waddell stated that the church actually was not built until 1780. In his book, "The Lutheran Church in Virginia (1717-1962)", William Edward Eisenberg stated that the original Trinity log building was erected in 1794. But no matter what the date, it is generally accepted that Trinity was the parent of all of the Lutheran Churches in the Eastern part of Augusta County, including Zion, St. James and Bethlehem churches, which preceded Grace in the Waynesboro area.

Waynesboro had a population of 440 in 1882. By the end of the century, the town had grown to about six-hundred and fifty. This did not include Basic City, east of South River, as the two towns were not consolidated until 1923. Unless they chose to desert their Lutheran faith to affiliate with other more accessible denominations, the small group of Waynesboro Lutherans were forced to drive five or six miles to Zion, St. James or Bethlehem to worship. Some members purportedly did not have horses. Even those who did faced unpaved roads, which were often impassable during the winter months, and there was not shelter for the horses during the sometimes lengthy services. Although they heated bricks to warm the children's feet during the trip to church, by the time they departed for home, both bricks and feet were icy cold. These were but a few of the hardships facing Waynesboro Lutherans in 1893 and they sought a viable solution.



## The Church is Formed

Spurred on by the approach of another winter, a small but enthusiastic Lutheran group gathered to discuss alternatives as well as ways and means. They met at the old Baptist church building on Ohio Street, with the Rev. J. E. Schenck, pastor of Bethlehem Church at Ladd, as their spiritual advisor. On that day, November 24, 1893, Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church was organized. There were just ten charter members: Dr. A. C. Fox, Miss Emma Thomas, Mrs. John Brower, Mrs. J. B. Lobban, Mr. and Mrs. C. P. Garber, Philip Killian, Mr. & Mrs. A. G. Henkel and Mr. O. D. Henkel.

The Baptist Church offered the use of its building for services, which were held on Sunday afternoon and evening, along with a mid-week prayer service. Pastor Schenck agreed to serve the new church, while continuing his duties at Bethlehem. He was also Sunday School Superintendent for Grace. The Church Council consisted of all five male members of the Congregation. O. D. Henkel served as Secretary, and A. G. Henkel served as Treasurer. The five female charter members headed the "Ladies Aid Society", from which the various women's groups were formed in later years. The ladies were reported to be excellent fund raisers.

## The First Building Takes Shape

Growth in the Congregation soon led to thoughts of members having their own church facility in Waynesboro. Land at the Southeast corner of Wayne Avenue and Eleventh Street was purchased from R. J. Mason and his wife in mid-June of 1894; for two hundred dollars, and work on the new church building started almost immediately. There was no mention of an architect for the project, but there are reports that the interior design was adapted from the St. Paul Lutheran Church at Strasburg. Because there were no setback ordinances at that time, the new building extended to the bordering sidewalks.

Charter member, Philip Killian, was a highly-respected contractor and builder in the Waynesboro area. He agreed to supervise the construction project without compensation, and also to furnish brick from his brickyard which was located across east Main Street from the present Virginia Metalcrafters plant. Bricks were hauled to the construction site during the day by Killian's teamsters, and after hours by parishioners who had access to teams and wagons.

The Congregation's size and limited funds led to the decision to complete the shell of the building, but to utilize only the basement for services until the interior of the upstairs sanctuary could be completed. The cornerstone was laid on September 24, 1894, as construction continued. A little over a year later on December 22, 1895, the first service was held in the basement. Bethlehem's Pastor, J. E. Schenk, accepted a call to Norfolk, and on April 1, 1894, Pastor E. A. Shenk was called to Bethlehem. He, like his predecessor Pastor Schenk, also served Grace Church during the early construction period. Work continued on the interior of the sanctuary upstairs. Stained glass windows in the side and rear walls were given as memorials by parishioners, and the arched stain glass over the altar was donated by the Sunday School. A small pump organ was donated; Mr. W. J. Showalter was the first organist. He was succeeded by Marshall Helms. The organ was first pumped by a lad from the congregation. Later, someone was hired to do the pumping and still later the organ was fitted with an electric motor and blower to supply the needed air. Altar furnishings were hand-carved by L. H. Helms, front doors were donated by the Zion-St. James Missionary Society, and Bethlehem gave the pulpit and benches.

Pastor Schenk moved from Bethlehem on November 1, 1898, and was succeeded by Pastor W. R. Brown, who arrived on January 1, 1899, and served until April 22, 1900. Seminarian J. O. Glenn served during the three summer months, until September of that same year.

## Synod Membership is Effected

On November 12, 1900, Grace Church (which previously had been a part of Bethlehem Parish) became a Virginia Synod Mission. On January 1, 1901, the Rev. E. C. Cronk accepted a call to become the first full-time pastor of Grace Church. On April 6, 1901, the Grace Church building was judged to be "complete" at a cost of \$6,000. April 7th was Easter Sunday and services were being held in the new sanctuary for the first time. An early (undated) photo of Grace Church shows four equally spaced chimneys protruding through the north roof. The flues probably were for individual coal stoves. These were later replaced with a single chimney which served a new hot air furnace. Two register grills are visible in a photograph showing and interior view of the center aisle.

## Trustees are Named

In addition to being Councilmen, the five charter member males also were named Trustees of Grace Church in order that the land upon which the new church was built could be properly conveyed. On February 10, 1901,



with completion of the church several months away, three new Trustees were elected. They were Dr. A. C. Fox, L. H. Helms and O. D. Henkel.

### The First Baptism

The first infant baptized in the new church was Harold K. Henkel, son of Mr. and Mrs. Oscar D. Henkel. He and his sisters Helen and Elizabeth were great-grandchildren of Philip Killian. Members Killian and Captain Schoppert both died in 1895; the latter was one of the founders of the Rife Ram & Pump Works and father-in-law of William Alexander Rife.

### The Pastors and the People

Due to poor health, Pastor Cronk resigned in October of 1903 after serving about 21 months. He was succeeded by Pastor Y. Von A. Riser. After three years Riser asked for retirement, and was succeeded by Rev. J. G. Graichen, who served until his death on June 10, 1911.

On April 15, 1906, the final payment was made on the church debt, some 13 years after the original land purchase was made. On January 1, 1907, the lots adjoining the Church to the south were purchased for the parsonage, although the building was not completed and made ready for occupancy until 1912. Again money was scarce, and the Ladies of the Church responded nobly. Small cardboard tickets printed "Benefit Lutheran Parsonage Fund" (some are still in existence) indicated that the bearer was entitled to "One Meal, .25"; "Cake and Candy, .05"; or "Ice Cream, .10". Food was a time-honored solution, then as it still is today.

After Pastor Graichen died in June of 1911, Rev. J. F. Bruch arrived on November 1, 1911. The Bruch family was to be the first occupants of the new Parsonage. Pastor Bruch was a talented musician and "worship through music" was intensified during his pastorate. He directed the Church Choir, which met for rehearsals in members' homes. Andrew Carnegie, the steel baron, primarily noted for his liberal gifts to localities seeking libraries, also made donations for church organs. He once jokingly made the comment that he preferred the noise coming from the organ to some of that coming from the pulpit! Despite Carnegie's wit, when Pastor Bruch and Basic City organ maker Carl Barckhoff applied for a grant for a church organ in 1913, the grant was approved. This was reported to be the first pipe organ in Waynesboro. Pastor Bruch retired in 1915, and was succeeded by Rev. E. L. Ritchie, who served almost six years (1916-1922).

In the fall of 1922, Dr. Charles F. Steck accepted a call to Grace Church. During his pastorate changes were made to enhance the beauty of the nave and to provide a more worshipful atmosphere. Along with candlesticks and a cross new brass vessels, including offering plates, receiving basin, and altar vases were given as memorials. A set of seasonal paraments was also donated.

Dr. Steck was first to introduce the use of a minister's robe, and soon thereafter the choir also adopted robes. The first Vacation Bible School was held during his pastorate. Dr. Steck became ill during the latter part of his stay at Grace, and on May 1, 1934, Rev. Charles F. Steck, Jr. and his family arrived to provide care for his father. Charles, Jr. assumed the pastorate of Grace Church until May 20, 1936, when he resigned to become an Army chaplain at Harvard University. Dr. Steck was designated Pastor Emeritus until his death, October 4, 1938. Charles Steck, Jr. placed the beautiful wood paneling in the chancel as a memorial to his father.

Rev. Alfred R. Shumate accepted a call to Grace Church on February 1, 1937. During the summer of 1937 the steeple of the Church was struck by lightning and damaged extensively. There was some debate about repairing the damage, but someone pointed out that another tall steeple might be struck again, so it was prudently decided to replace it with a simple copper cross instead.

A son of Grace Church, Virgil A. Moyer, Jr. began preparation for the ministry in 1939.

Pastor Shumate resigned April 1, 1943, to become an Army chaplain. After his resignation, Grace Church was without a pastor for eight months. During that time, seminarian K. Y. Huddle conducted services. After his brother, Lt. Paul Huddle received his discharge as Army chaplain, he also served as interim supply pastor for the Grace Congregation.

Although 1943 was a war year, Grace Church celebrated its Golden Anniversary. On the evening of November 25, the Rev. John R. Brokhoff, Pastor of Virginia Heights Church of Roanoke, preached the Anniversary sermon to an overflow crowd. During these fifty years, the membership of Grace Church had increased from "a mere handful" to 240 confirmed members. There were forty young men from the Congregation serving in the Armed Forces at this time, including Chaplains Charles Steck, Jr.; Alfred R. Shumate and B. Paul Huddle. Following the service, it was announced that Rev. Robert J. Schenck had accepted a call to Grace Church and would assume the pastorate January 1, 1944. Also following that service, it was



announced that there would be an informal reception in the Sunday School Assembly Room. Those wishing to attend the reception were urged to "go outside and around the corner to the Sunday School entrance on Eleventh Street." This was not an easy walk, even in the daylight. The Assembly Room served as a meeting place for six Sunday School classes each Sabbath morning. As time passed, it became more evident that the Congregation had outgrown its available space. Sunday School classes were overflowing their quarters and the nave often was filled to capacity. At one point in time, the Parsonage was converted for Sunday School use. Members soon began to think about larger quarters. Perhaps a bit prematurely, a triangular shaped lot in the western part of the City became available and was purchased. Predictions were that the city growth would be toward the West.

During WWII, German prisoners were interned at the former Civilian Conservation Corps facility at Sand Spring, located between Lyndhurst and Sherando. Due to wartime manpower shortages, the prisoners were "loaned out" to orchardists and farmers during their stay. They constructed a chapel during their leisure time. Pastor Schenck was invited to serve as Chaplain for their largely Lutheran group. The chapel windows were painted to resemble stained glass, and the wooden altar was painted to match the windows. When the Camp was disbanded, the altar was given to Grace Church in appreciation for Pastor Schenck's ministry. Joe Moyer now has custody of this altar and the windows are displayed in the Local History Room of the Waynesboro Public Library.

Pastor Schenck resigned to accept a call to Illinois on January 10, 1949. On February 1, 1949, Rev. Charles T. Sardeson accepted a call to Grace Church. At this point the new building question was stalled. Some favored moving to the new lot, while others wanted to demolish the old Church and Parsonage and rebuild on the Wayne at Eleventh site. Still others said there was no money, so why bother to make a decision at all? After Pastor Sardeson's arrival, an impartial committee was appointed to discuss the pros and cons of the two sites and to make a recommendation. The committee decided that it would be better to rebuild on the Wayne at Eleventh site if and when funds were available.

During Rev. Sardeson's pastorate the two women's groups were consolidated. The women's Missionary Society and the Jessie Cronk group were combined to form the Women of the Church.

Rev. Sardeson resigned in July of 1952 to study for a year in Scotland. During the next eight months, Rev. James A. Rikard, Professor of Theology at Roanoke College, served as supply pastor.

Rev. Richard A. Miller answered a call to Grace Church on April 13, 1953. During his pastorate the old Brunswick Inn property on South Wayne became available. This site seemed to offer a compromise for those favoring either of the other two proposed sites and the 200 x 305-foot property was purchased as a facility site. The West Waynesboro property was traded for the South Wayne site with an additional \$6,000 payment by the congregation.

On October 31, 1954, a Processional, including a brass quartet, was formed in front of the old Church and marched south on Wayne to the new site. Flag bearers marked the corners of the new property, and a special service, "The Office of Blessing a New Church Site", was held.

Professional fund raisers, the Wells Organization, came to Waynesboro in October of 1955. Their campaign to raise funds for construction of a new church was successful. Six study groups had been active for years, and had completed a survey of needs to be incorporated in the proposed structure. Milton L. Grigg, a highly respected Charlottesville church architect, was selected to design the new building. His plans were approved on September 12, 1955. The planning commission from the church included R. C. Blume, (chairman), C. S. Steppe, J. C. Whitesel, Paul E. Wheatley and James Binns. Cost of the new structure was estimated to be \$190,000, however, this did not include an already-planned, compatible, Sunday School addition to be added later. R. E. Lee & Son of Charlottesville was selected as contractor for the project.

Pastor Miller resigned February 1, 1957. After his departure, Grace again was supplied by Rev. Rikard of Roanoke College. When he left for the summer, he suggested Seminarian Robert L. Hock as a replacement. On May 26, 1957, a groundbreaking ceremony for the new church was conducted by Dr. R. Homer Anderson, Superintendent of the Virginia Synod, (ULCA), assisted by Supply Pastor Hock. At last there was tangible evidence that the long-awaited church building was under way.

On March 17, 1957, eleven captains assisted by some sixty members of Grace congregation began a city-wide religious census. Lutheran churches in the County also participated in this activity.

For two weeks in June, 1957, Grace Church held evangelistic services. Rev. John W. Pfahler, a polio victim from St. Luke's Lutheran Church in Pittsburgh, conducted the services, assisted by Seminarian Hock. The mission was successful. More than fifty new members were received during the summer, before Supply Pastor Hock returned to Southern



Seminary for his final year.

When Seminarian Hock returned to school in the fall, Rev. Rikard again served as supply pastor, driving from Roanoke to conduct services each week. A pulpit committee had been active and several candidates had come for trial sermons. No action was taken until February 1958, when it was voted to extend a call to pastor-to-be Hock as soon as he became available. After a year's vacancy, Grace Church finally had a full-time minister when newly-ordained Rev. Robert L. Hock accepted the call on June 15, 1958. After much hard usage, the old church hymnals were becoming badly worn. A committee decided that they should be replaced with the new, red revised hymnal. An early color photograph shows the new red-bound books arranged in stacks in the Chancel, with a small number turned so that the white edges of the pages formed a cross. The new hymnals were dedicated May 4, 1958 by interim Pastor Rikard.

When the cornerstone of the old Church was opened, many of the items entrusted to the poorly-sealed metal box had disintegrated or were illegible due to moisture. A cornerstone for the new Church was laid on June 29, 1958, following the morning service. Selected items were sealed into a metal box which was placed inside of the cornerstone when it was installed by Trustees C. A. Marks and E. M. East, as J. R. Henkel, Dr. Homer Anderson, Pastor Hock and members of Grace Congregation looked on.

Plans and published drawings indicated that the new Grace Church structure was unique in design, and parishioners and others frequently dropped by to observe construction methods and the progress.

Many were dismayed when several of the newly-installed (but not permanently anchored) laminated wood roof arches blew down in a high wind. They were soon replaced and everyone was reassured. Use of pre-stressed, pre-formed concrete floor members amazed some, but their use eliminated the need for vertical supports in the large Fellowship Hall below the nave. A ten-rank, two-manual pipe organ was being fabricated by Klann Organ Supply Co., to be ready for installation when the building was ready for occupancy.

Finally, on September 7, 1958, the last service was held in the old Church. Many had feelings of guilt about deserting an "old friend" when they attended the first service in the new facility on south Wayne at 14th Street. The dedication was one week later. Guest preacher for the dedication service was Rev. Edward S. Frey of New York City. Rev. Frey was

Executive Director of the Board of Church Architecture of the ULCA, and also Chairman of the Department of Church Architecture of the National Council of Churches of Christ in the USA. Dr. J. Luther Mauney, President of the Virginia Synod, conducted the Dedication Ceremony. The congregation assembled outside on the walk leading into the nave, and entered in a body, singing "Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty". Other former Grace church pastors attending were Charles Steck, Jr., Charles Sardeson and Richard Miller. Architect Grigg and Contractor Lee were also present.

The new Church had been so designed that an Educational Building could be added at a later date without unduly disrupting services. Membership and attendance were growing, and it was noted that Sunday School classes were meeting in every available space, including two classes in the nave, six classes in the fellowship hall, the kitchen, the chapel, and even one in a storage closet. It was time to discuss plans for the educational unit.

Maas-Rowe Vibrachimes were installed to be operated through the organ manual, with possible future use as carillon bells. Installation was made by Clarence Roggmann, of Klann, Inc., and dedication was April 7, 1960. Chimes were given as a memorial to Wesley R. Ely, who had died in a plane crash about six months earlier.

The old church property at the corner of Wayne and Eleventh was sold on March 12, 1962, for a sum of \$40,000. With seed money in hand, plans and estimates for the Educational Building were presented to the Congregation. On May 12, 1962, a special groundbreaking ceremony was conducted by Pastor Hock. Senior members, Mrs. John W. Brown and Mrs. W. E. Thieroff, were first to break ground, followed by Trustees, E. M. East, Sr.; Dr. Samuel Grove; Charles Houff and C. A. Marks. Richard Sheaffer, Vice-chairman of the council, and Harold G. Via, Chairman of the Building Committee, also assisted with the spade work. Charlottesville Architect, Milton Grigg, who designed the original Wayne at 13th church structure, continued with the expansion project, and J. B. Wine & Son were contractors for this phase of the building. Air conditioning of the sanctuary and choir loft, previously postponed, were included in the new project, as was completion of the library.

As the new structure began to take shape, members of the congregation began looking for ways to cut construction costs, much as the original members of Grace had done in 1894. Painting, cabinet work, paneling and decorating costs were estimated to have been reduced by as much as \$10,000 through donations of time and talent by parishioners. It was a time for work, but it also was a time for fellowship. On some



occasions the ladies provided refreshments. At other times these were purchased at a nearby convenience store. Someone said from this experience, "we learned to know each other better and emerged a stronger and more vibrant congregation."

After having carried us through our building program for a period of five and one-half years, Pastor Hock resigned on January 7, 1964, to accept a call to Ebenezer Lutheran Church in Columbia, S.C.

During the pulpit vacancy services were conducted by laypersons of the Congregation with assistance from area Lutheran pastors. Rev. Max Huddle, Pastor of Zion-St. James, served as Vice-Pastor when needed.

On April 7-9, 1964, the 145th Convention of the Virginia Synod was held at Grace Church. This was the first time the body had met at Waynesboro. Although Grace Church was without a minister, members of the congregation joined together to host the 240 lay and pastoral delegates. Synod President, Mauney, stated that the meeting resulted in "new plans and a new sense of devotion." Plans were also approved for development work at Caroline Furnace Youth Camp near Luray.

On September 13, 1964, Rev. George E. Handley accepted a call to Grace Church. Pastor Handley had been serving as Associate Pastor of Christ Church in York, Pennsylvania.

The Waynesboro Church Women United announced the opening, on September 20, 1966, of a Day Nursery providing care for the children of working parents at Grace Lutheran Church, 500 S. Wayne Avenue. Twelve children three to six years old were accepted for care during the hours of 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. Mrs. Lewis Judy was the first Director.

Three newly installed stained-glass Chapel Memorial Windows were dedicated June 11, 1967. One window was donated in memory of Charles T. Houff by his wife and friends. A second window was donated as a memorial to former Pastor Hock's mother, Mrs. Josephine Long, by Pastor Hock and his family. A third window was donated through the Thanksgiving and Memorial Fund.

During 1968 Grace Church celebrated its 75th Anniversary. Former pastors were invited to return and speak during the year. Five were able to accept. Rev. Alfred R. Shumate, Rev. R. J. Schenck, Rev. Charles Sardeson, Rev. R. A. Miller, and Rev. Robert Hock were guest speakers.

Most of these former pastors were fairly young when they served at Grace Church. It was both interesting and inspiring to note the directions taken by their careers after they left Grace Church.

In February of 1974, Pastor Handley resigned to become Assistant to the President of the Virginia Synod. Much was accomplished at Grace Church during his ten-year pastorate, and the congregation reluctantly accepted his resignation. He preached his last sermon April 21, 1974, and then moved with his family to Roanoke.

On August 15, 1974, Rev. Robert J. Richards became Pastor of Grace Church. Prior to coming he had completed the Master of Sacred Theology-Counseling degree at Dubuque Seminary in Iowa and had completed a year of training in Pastoral Care and Counseling at the Menninger Foundation in Topeka, Kansas.

On September 25, 1976, Rev. V. A. Moyer, a son of Grace Church, was installed as President of the Virginia Synod. Rev. Moyer had begun his ministerial training in 1939, and it was deemed fitting that the installation should be shared here among family and friends. Because of the limited seating capacity of the Grace Church nave, the ceremony was moved to the First Baptist Church.

Dr. Robert J. Marshall, President of the LCA conducted the beautiful and impressive Installation Service. A well-attended reception afterwards was held in the fellowship hall at Grace Church.

September 17, 1978, marked the Twentieth Anniversary of the present Grace church building. An appropriate commemorative service was held. A new dorsal cloth was dedicated as a memorial to parishioner Ray Seachrist at the same time.

Grace Church celebrated the occasion of the burning of the mortgage on November 19, 1978. William G. Lucas, President of the Congregation read the terms of the mortgage, while C. A. Marks, the only surviving signer of the contract, lit the match. Pastor Richards noted that the church budget for the coming year was \$90,000. Old records show that the proposed budget for 1953 was a little more than \$9,000! Growth was obvious.

November of 1983, marked the celebration of the 90th Anniversary of Grace Church. Former pastors were invited to attend. Three were present but two had prior commitments. A banquet was held Saturday night in the Fellowship Hall. The Sunday service was conducted by Bishop V. A.



Moyer, assisted by the guest ministers. A reception honoring guests was held in the Fellowship Hall following the morning service.

Pastor Robert J. Richards submitted his resignation on September 6, 1984, after serving Grace church for almost ten years. Bishop Moyer appointed supply ministers for each Sunday and, in the interim, Pastor Robert F. Humphrey of Zion served as Vice-Pastor. Rev. Glen L. London, Jr., accepted a call to Grace Church and moved to Waynesboro on June 15, 1985. He was a graduate of Lenoir-Rhyne College and Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary.

September 7, 1986, was observed as "Rev. Roger S. Klutz Day" at Grace Church. Roger was a member of Grace when he entered the ministry in 1957. During his more than 25 years of ministerial service he had been pastor for several parishes in the Virginia Synod, including Wytheville. He was guest speaker at Grace Church for the 11:00 o'clock service. A lunch and fellowship followed.

September 11, 1988, was designated "Reverend V. A. Moyer Appreciation Day". Rev. Moyer, also was a son of Grace Church, and was ordained here on October 7, 1948.

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

Linda S. Mitchell, daughter of Jesse and Norah Mitchell of Grace Church, received her Master of Divinity Degree in May of 1990, and that same month, was ordained in Roanoke.

A historical marker constructed of brick and stone from the old Grace Church at Wayne and 11th was dedicated to the glory of God in memory of Sylvester E. Hankey by his wife, family and friends. A plaque on the marker was given by Nancy E. Etter and E. M. East, Jr. in memory of their father and in honor of their mother, Mr. and Mrs. E. M. East, Sr. The marker is located near the Wayne Avenue entrance to the nave.

After Pastor London resigned to accept another call, the Rev. Robert F. Humphrey began his ministry to the Grace congregation on April 15, 1990. After ordination by the Virginia Synod, Pastor Humphrey had begun his ministry at Zion Church, but took a leave from call to pursue a master's

degree in counseling at the University of Virginia. He had served as a Counselor at the Valley Pastoral Counseling Center in Waynesboro while pursuing his master's degree. Rev. Richard E. Bansemer, Bishop of the Virginia Synod ELCA, assisted by the Rev. John Derrick, Dean of the Southern Valley Conference of the Virginia Synod, presided at the installation service.

On the eve of the 100th Anniversary of this congregation's ministry, over 500 members strive to define the next century of service. Increased emphasis on youth and children's ministries, small groups for special interest and support projects, and congregational study and experimentation with alternate forms of worship and religious education form the current "growing edges". Wherever God leads, our goals will remain constant: to be faithful evangelists, true to our name - **GRACE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH.**

Source Material:

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Dedication Service Bulletin.....	Mrs. O. D. Henkel
The Lutheran Church in Virginia.....	W. E. Eisenberg

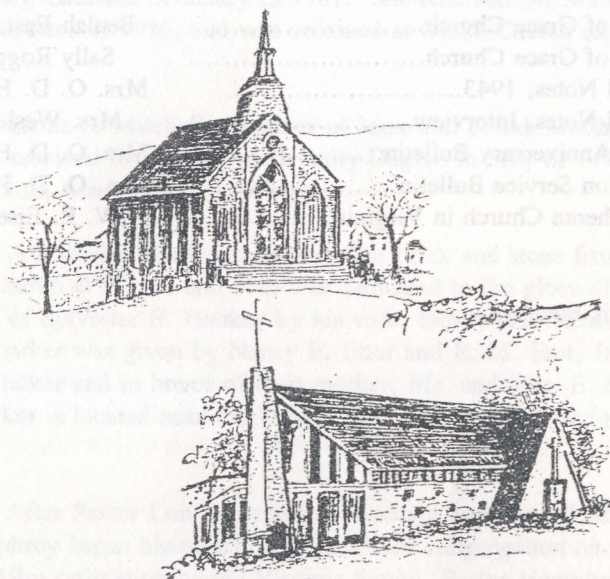
Written by: Curtis Bowman  
October 1992





Pastors of Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church

Rev. J. E. Schenck	1893-1894
Rev. E. A. Shenk	1895-1898
Rev. W. R. Brown	1899-1900
Rev. E. C. Cronk	1901-1902
Rev. Y. Von Riser	1905-1906
Rev. J. G. Graichen	1907-1911
Rev. J. F. Bruch	1912-1915
Rev. E. L. Ritchie	1916-1922
Rev. C. F. Steck, D.D.	1923-1933
Rev. C. F. Steck, Jr.	1934-1936
Rev. A. R. Shumate	1937-1943
Rev. R. J. Schenck	1944-1949
Rev. C. T. Sardeson	1949-1952
Rev. R. A. Miller	1953-1957
Rev. R. L. Hock	1958-1963
Rev. G. E. Handley	1964-1974
Rev. R. J. Richards	1974-1984
Rev. G. L. London, Jr.	1985-1989
Rev. R. F. Humphrey	1990 -



*A* logo on banners and notecards  
 proclaiming our theme for the year;  
 "Cooking with Grace", and bookmarks,  
 A lawn sign with doves flying near;

*Original music for worship --  
 Hymns written by members of Grace --  
 Artworks in fabric and woodwork  
 Were soon found taking their place.*

*Commemorative plates and direct'ry;  
 Publicity; hist'ry displays;  
 With dinners; a birthday party,  
 And picnic with "Mom" (that's Bethlehem)  
 to give praise.*

*Reunions with former pastors;  
 Special guests from associates in need;  
 Our sons and daughters returning  
 In joyful worship to lead.*

*In summer, a coming-together  
 of Lutherans, historically blessed,  
 Shared in the Shenandoah Valley  
 God's grace, at the "Lutherfest."*

*The "Love Fair" evolved in September,  
 And talents sprang from us all,  
 With so many gifts of our members  
 Displayed in the fellowship hall.*

*Now we have come to the apex;  
 Our Bishop has led us at last  
 In the grateful celebration  
 Of God's blessings in the past.*