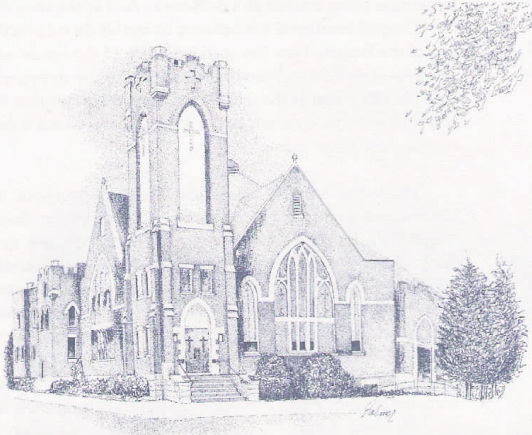


Holy Trinity Church



Holy Trinity Lutheran Church began in 1902 out of a need for the people of Elgin to worship in a Lutheran church. It all started when a Watch Factory employee, Miss Ada Beck, came to Elgin and did not find a Lutheran Church with an English service. She wrote to Mrs. A.C. Anda, the wife of the pastor of her former church in Goshen, Indiana to inform her of this, and suggest Elgin as a possible site for them to investigate.

Reverend Anda came to Elgin to canvas the city. A meeting was called in Unity Hall on October 12, 1902. From this meeting was born the organized Holy Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church, which met weekly but had no permanent home.

In 1904, the building site at the south east corner of Division and Chapel streets was voted upon and purchased for \$4,200. It was a beautiful residential area and considered to be one of the best building lots in the city. On June 10, 1906, the cornerstone for the new church was laid. In it was placed a box which contained a Lutheran hymnbook, catechism, Augsburg confession, the creed, constitution of the congregation, a list of the charter members, a list of the first and present councils, the building committee, contractors, architects, superintendents of building, and a list of officers and teachers in the Sunday School.

The first pastor of Holy Trinity was Pastor Paul Roth, and his salary was \$800 per year. The church hired a choir

director later that year and paid him \$4 per week.

The church had 240 members, prominent businessmen among them, and a Sunday School enrollment of 227. In January of 1907, with the building completed, Andrew Carnegie donated money, with the agreement that the sum be matched by the church, for a pipe organ. Pledges flowed in and two years later, the new pipe organ was consecrated. It was manufactured by Henry Pilcher and Sons, and installed in February, 1909. That Christmas, the choir wore vestments for the first time, and sang from the new choir stall to the accompaniment of the organ.

Even through the years of the Great Depression, Holy Trinity Church maintained its membership and held together. In fact, it was during these years that enough money was raised to fund the new educational and church addition which made possible the balcony, the new heating plant, insulation, redecorating and other improvements. In the 1940s, the Church Sunday School Building was completed at a cost of \$150,000. There was also extensive remodeling and redecorating work done, a new organ was installed, and a new sacristy was built. The 1940s were bountiful times for Holy Trinity.

In 1968, the congregation at Holy Trinity Church numbered 2,600 souls, according to the church history, which has only been completed through that year. This year, the church celebrates its 90th anniversary with special services to attend and notes from the archives written up for visitors to read.

The architects for the building were Turnbull & Jones. The exterior is of pressed brick with Bedford stone trimmings. The interior pews, altar, pulpit, and lectern are oak and of Gothic design.

The current Pastor, Curt Gerald, has been at Holy Trinity for one year and will be conducting the Feast of Dedication, an anniversary service held at 10:15 a.m., which is the same service that was performed on January 27, 1907, when the building was completed.

