

St. John's

Asheboro

Organized: 1939

County: Randolph

Affiliation: NC Synod

Status: Active

In 1938 five Pastors from the then Eastern Conference made a survey of Asheboro and reported to the North Carolina Synod that there was fertile ground for a church in the Asheboro area. The Reverend Roscoe Fisher was called to serve as the mission church's first Pastor. Twenty-six persons were present on Reformation Sunday, 1938 at the first Lutheran service held in Asheboro at the Park Street School (now Donna Lee Loflin School) adjacent to the present church location. Regular worship services were held thereafter for more than a year in the school; the Carolina Theatre; the Asheboro Presbyterian Church; Pugh Funeral Home; and the Agricultural Building. On June 18, 1939, St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church was organized. Fifty members signed the charter together with Dr. J.L. Morgan, President of the NC Synod. Pastor Roscoe Fisher and the first Church Council were installed at that time. Members of St. John's first Council were: I.C. Moser, Jacob L. Fritz, Howard N. Cline, Henry R. Bunch, Hal J. Phillips, and William A. Elbers.

Within a month after organizing, the present church property was purchased from Miss Nannie Bulla for a price of \$3,400. Almost a year later on April 30, 1940 Dr. Morgan and Secretary of the Synod, the Rev. F.L. Conrad held a groundbreaking service. The building was completed in October at a cost of \$16,080. In that year the Parsonage lot was purchased from Miss Grace Frazier for \$26. Building began on the parsonage in 1941 at a cost of \$6,599. Rev. and Mrs. Fisher moved into the parsonage early in 1942. In 1947 a fund was established for an Educational Building. In 1952 the Parsonage was dedicated and declared free from debt. Construction of an Educational Building was approved in 1958, begun in 1960, and completed in 1961 with a laying of the cornerstone ceremony. In 1961 the lots to the East and South of the Parsonage were purchased from Dr. B.B. Dalton, adding a \$5,000 asset to the church property. The mortgage on the Educational Building was paid in 1975 and observed with a note burning ceremony on Reformation Sunday. The parking lot was completed in 1978 at a cost of \$7,000. Since that time, the entire church and parsonage have received extensive improvements, remodeling, repairs and painting.

St. John's has had an extensive ministry to Displaced Persons and Refugees throughout the years, ministering to Latvians, Estonians, Germans and Cambodians. St. John's has been instrumental in helping to meet the spiritual need of individuals settling in the Asheboro Area, both foreign and native.

The ministry of the church has reached out into the community:

- Through a Day School Kindergarten for the public, established in 1966;
- The Asheboro Day Care Center started in 1969 and which is still serving our community;
- Sponsored and supported numerous Boy Scout and Girl Scout troops during the years;
- Had a food pantry (now under the auspices of Christians United Outreach Center

- community assistance center);
- A clothing closet (which was turned over to the Salvation Army);
- Opened our doors to Mental Health self help groups (Alcoholics Anonymous, Narcotics Anonymous, Al-Anon, etc.)

In 1939 Rev. Roscoe Fisher had to go to Washington and Ernest Misenheimer (at that time a Seminarian who eventually became Bishop of the NC Synod) came here to look after the new Lutherans in Asheboro. I remember this so well as my father was sick and the later to be Bishop Misenheimer walked six miles to come see my father. The ministry of the Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America has been rich and varied, contributing tremendously to the spiritual life of the Church.

The Prime-Timers is an organization of those who are fifty years of age and over with meetings and activities centered around fellowship, learning, fun and caring—giving to each a strong sense of being a vital and on-going strength of the congregation. The Lutheran Adult Fellowship (LAF)—[formally the Young Adult Group and then Pairs and Spares]—helps our young adults to feel the church as an active part of our lives. Activities range from fun to adventurous to learning.

The Youth Group provides opportunities for our young people to grow into mature Christians and experience the fun and joy of being a committed person to Jesus Christ. Altar Guild members give loving care for the Altar, seeing that everything is in array to the Glory of God for each worship service. Chancel Choir members give glory to God through song. What a joy to listen to the contributions.

God has given us Pastors we have needed at the time we needed them.

Pastors

1938-1942	Roscoe B. Fisher
1942-1951	Walter N. Yount
1951-1953	Charles E. Bernhardt
1954-1961	David W. Wise
1961-1967	Donald E. Woolly
1968-1970	David M. Rhoads
1971-1977	Gary R. Lyerly
1977-1989	William S. Ketchie
1990	Mark Ellingsen
1994-2000	Kenneth C. Gillikin
2001-	O Ralph Kraft Jr