

Trinity

Landis, Rowan County

Landis Evangelical Lutheran Church, the second church built in Landis, was a vital force in this town founded in 1901. Linn Mill was the economic center of the town; churches were the spiritual centers in the lives of people who came to work and to build their homes.

In starting a congregation and in erecting a house of worship, Lutherans had the guiding hand and dedicated missionary spirit of Rev. J. L. Morgan, pastor at St. Enoch Lutheran Church in Enochville. From the beginning, church members found no task too difficult to accomplish by working together. People gave according to their means. Emphasis was on giving and not on amounts given.

In 1927, ground was broken for a new brick church to replace the frame structure constructed in 1909. The building, designed in shape of a cross, influenced the style of several churches built later in the area.

Social life and activities were church oriented and Sunday was observed as a day for worship and rest. Parents instilled in their children the importance of religion in their lives and set examples for regular church attendance. The congregation grew; membership peaked in the 1950's. Thought was given to enlarging the church. Instead, for a while, two services were conducted and new facilities built for Sunday School. Several trends and forces led to dissension and decline in membership. Many young people moved out of Landis in order to find work. New Sunday School literature and a new Book of Worship were introduced. Traditional values in society were being questioned. There were some who viewed the church as a true sanctuary and a place of stability in form as well as in substance. They resisted the idea of any kind of change in form of worship and objected to replacement of old and familiar songs with new tunes and words. This unhappiness with new literature and forms of worship did not always follow age lines. Sometimes it was the young people who were the most vocal. Members who remained took the new with modifications. In the past ten to fifteen years, services have become more liturgical in emphasis.

The church continues to be a force for good in both the town and in the community through individual involvement and through support of church-related programs.

At the end of 1985, there were 516 baptized members and 441 confirmed members, but only 235 confirmed members on the active roll. There is no growth like that experienced during the first five decades, but there is alive a sense of purpose and cooperation. In worship itself, there is more lay participation.

Pastors

1907-1911	J. L. Morian
1911	M. L. Kester
1911-1912	I.E. Long
1912-1915	B.S. Brown
1916-1917	P.E. Shealy
1917-1921	C.I. Morgan

1922-1924	P.D. Risinger
1924-1930	C.O. Lippard
1930	P.G. Kinney
1930-1945	C.P. Fisher
1945-1946	P.L. Morgan
1946-1947	W.B. Aull
1947-1961	C.V. Deal
1961	B.S. Brown, Jr.
1961-1968	D.E. Hanberry
1968-1969	R.L. Troutman
1969	D. L. Safrit
1969-1973	M.R. Farris
1974-1987	J. C. Stirewalt
1988-1991	FJ DeRasmo Jr
1991-2002	RG Nahouse
2003-	JM Lanning