

HISTORY leading up to the 1822 founding of Christ Evangelical Church –Shrewsbury, PA

1700

Prior to 1725 few white settlers crossed the Susquehanna River and settled in York County.

1732

The Rev. Mr. Stoner collected a Lutheran Congregation near Lebanon

1733

The first Lutheran Congregation west of the Susquehanna River was founded (name?)

1739

Shrewsbury Township was formed which included the present township of Shrewsbury, Springfield and Hopewell

1742

First German settlers began to arrive in the township

1744

Lutheran Congregation church was built in the city of York

1767

Mason-Dixon Line formed

Latter part of the century Steltz's, Fissel's and Saddler's churches were built. These parent churches gave birth to our church.

Point of interest: some of our early members walked to Saddler's for catechetical instruction and worship.

1800

1820-1831

Rev. Henry G. Stecker began his work – the charge was made up of Fissel's, Steltz's, Saddler's, Shuster's, Shrewsbury, Stabley, Blymeyer's and Freysville.

**Documented HISTORY of the founding of
Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church
Shrewsbury, PA**

DECEMBER 12TH, 1822

Dec 12, 1822 a gift of land from John Kline and his wife Elizabeth (land where first church was located in our present day cemetery)

Sept 1824 School House and Union church were built on gifted land. The church was completed during the winter of 1825-1826, believed to cost in excess of \$3,000.00 location northwestern portion of our cemetery . (approx. area of the granite cemetery name sign)

1826

Theological Seminary at Gettysbury, Pa started.

1833

Reorganization of Shrewsbury Parish—Fissels, Steltz, Sadlers, Shrewsbury, Shusters and Stableys was organized.

The Rev. John Kaempher came to Shrewsbury to serve for 10 years. During this time the parsonage was built in Shrewsbury by the churches of the charge at a cost of \$1200.00. A church bell was purchased and mounted on a wooden frame near the church.

1843

The Rev. Mr. Andrew Berg became our pastor and stayed for 30 years.

1847

Brick school house replaced log school house. Belfry was placed on the church at a cost of \$600.00. Old melodeon was replaced by a pipe organ.

1854

Every third service the sermon should be delivered in English instead of German

1856

Public schools were introduced in the area.

1858

Ground for present church was purchased from the estate of Rachael Hamm for \$265.00

1859

Formation of the Cemetery Association
(cost of single lot \$6.00, double \$10.00)

1860

Brick school house was destroyed by fire and not rebuilt.

1867

July 20th In the best interest of the congregation Rev. Berg served by separation from the German Reformed congregation.

1868

April 13th resolved to build a new church in Shrewsbury.
August 7th decided to build on the lot to the west of the old church.
Another adjustment of the charge—Shusters and Steltz withdraw and the new congregation (started by Rev. Berg united with Fissels and Shrewsbury.

1874

August 15th Rev. John H. Menges was called.
September 13th, the present day church corner stone was laid.

1875

September 19th the church was completed and dedicated.

1878

January – The Rev. John H. Menges resigned, preached fare well service on February 25th and the Rev. E. Manges was called to serve.

1879

Chapel built on lot of ground purchased from Mrs. Elizabeth Henage.

1880

January 18th, -frame building seating 250 -300 persons was dedicated. Construction cost \$2,500.00 (Present day Parish Hall) May 17th, envelope system for securing benevolent contributions was inaugurated.

1881

October 1st. – The Rev. Ephrain Miller, DD was called.

1882

May 16th - Woman's Home and Foreign Missionary Society was organized.

1885

March 2nd – Mrs Rebecca Hall became a life member of the Society.

1888

Senior Luther League organized as Young People's Christian Endeavor.

1894

The Rev. A. Heilman was called to our ministry.

1895

February 23rd. – old parsonage (location not documented) sold at public sale for \$1,475.00. The new parsonage (present day office annex) was built for the sum of \$2,300.00.

1896

Formation of the Evangelical Lutheran Cemetery committee.

1897

The church was refreshed – all woodwork and pews were revarnished, steam heating was installed.

1900

1903

Preaching Point at Railroad- was part of our Congregation until 1912- then Railroad became Messiah Lutheran Church and became a part of the New Freedom charge.

1904

A pipe organ was placed in the church at a cost of \$1,700.00.

1907

The Rev. Norman S. Wolf D.D. was called as pastor of Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church.

1908

October –second branch of the Missionary Organization was formed – known as Young People's Missionary Society –later known as the Katherine Fahs Missionary Society.

1912

The Rev. C. F. V. Hesse was called as pastor of the church. Chapel constructed in 1879-1880 was moved to its present day location.
(Parish Hall)

Choir was reorganized –by Mrs Eli Storms and Mr. Harry S. Seiling.
Orchestra formed under direction of Charles Stover.

1914

June 28th – dedication of present day Sunday School building –
Total cost of new building and converting Chapel into a Social Center \$10,000.00. Electric lights were installed in the parsonage and church buildings.

1916

Home Department was formed- Missionary Society

1918

The Rev. George E. Bowersox D.D. was called to serve our Congregation.

1919

Members of the Woman's Society helped meet financial obligation by each one paying 6 cents interest on a gold dollar that was mailed to Mrs. Thomas Birchall in 1869 by "a little girl who LOVED JESUS" (coin is still in our archives)

1922

Junior Luther League organized as Light Brigade.

November 19-26th the Congregation "Centenary Celebration"

History was compiled and made into a booklet called "ONE HUNDRED YEARS Lutheranism Shrewsbury, PA. 1822 -1922 by the Rev. George E. Bowersox D.D. pastor of Congregation during this time.

Dedication of this event was—To the memory of those who by service and sacrifice have made possible this first century of our congregational life. Rev.14:13