

NORTHERN KENTUCKY VIEWS PRESENTS

HISTORY OF
ST. LUKE'S EVANGELICAL
LUTHERAN CHURCH

COLD SPRING, KENTUCKY

Excerpted From

History of the Indiana-
Kentucky Synod

By

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The movement which led to the organization of St. Luke's Evangelical Lutheran Church in Cold Spring, Kentucky in 1953 was primarily initiated and carried through by area residents and pastors. A number of families living in the heavily Catholic, semi-suburban community, five miles south of Newport, were canvassed in November, 1950 by area pastors Charles Masheck of Bellevue and George Derrick from Melbourne and Mr. J. M. Wood and Mrs. Louise F. Schrader. After consultation with the Kentucky-Tennessee Synod president, Gerard D. Busch, a Sunday school was scheduled for Sunday, November 26. A severe snowstorm, however, delayed the beginning until December 10, when twenty people from Cold Spring and Crestview, a neighboring veterans housing development, met in the Cold Spring School Gymnasium.

In the months that followed, the congregation was encouraged and assisted by three Lutheran pastors: Day B. Werts, chaplain at Fort Thomas Veterans Administration Hospital, George Derrick, and Charles Masheck. In addition, during the summer months, the spontaneous mission was nurtured by a succession of seminary students: Harold Figley (1951), Richard Howard (1952), and Bernard Crocker (1953).

Finally, on November 8, 1953, after nearly two and a half years of preliminary activity, the Cold Spring group was formally established as a ULCA congregation, with sixty-three confirmed and thirty-six child members on the charter role. Synod President Busch and Dr. A. M. Knudsen of the Board of American Missions officiated at the organizational service in which recognition was accorded to the church's charter members. At that point, St. Luke's began to receive financial support from the BAM.

The new church's first three years were marked by progress in some areas, uncertainty in others. During the twenty-month term of St. Luke's first pastor, the Rev. Frank L. Barcus, a parsonage at 24 Terrace Avenue, Crestview was purchased; several aspects of the congregation's ministry were inaugurated; and efforts to attract new members were undertaken. But then there was an eight-month vacancy before the congregation's second pastor, the Rev. Bernard W. Crocker, assumed his duties in June, 1956. His pastorate lasted only fifteen months, although it witnessed the acquisition of a choice \$10,000, one-and-a-third-acre church site on Alexandria Pike (U.S. 27), near Winter's Lane. For a year after Pastor Crocker resigned, the congregation was again without a spiritual leader.

St. Luke's next pastor, the Rev. John W. Kerrick, served from September, 1958 to November, 1965. During his pastorate, an additional two-thirds of an acre of land was added to the building site at a cost of \$4,500. Then a building program was developed by T. Norman Mansell of Philadelphia, and plans for a first-unit building (the present church) were approved. Ground was broken on May 15, 1960; the construction of the proposed unit by Creative Buildings, Urbana, Illinois, was soon underway; and the completed structure was entered and dedicated on February 12, 1961. The service which consecrated the edifice was conducted by Dr.

Busch and Pastor Kerrick. Hence, after meeting for almost ten years in the Cold Spring School, the congregation had a church home.

The completed multi-purpose unit had a brick exterior and was of contemporary design. It included a worship area with seating for up to 130 persons, a fellowship hall which could be divided into classrooms, a kitchen, an office area, and other smaller rooms. The total cost of the building and grounds was \$96,500.

When St. Luke's entered the Indiana-Kentucky Synod of the LCA in 1963, the congregation was self-supporting in respect to local administration and activities. However, the constant turnover of members and limited resources of the church, caused St. Luke's to re-apply for program support in 1965.

The congregation's fourth pastor, the Rev. R. William Andrews, came to Cold Spring in February, 1966. Before his arrival, the parsonage was remodeled to provide a basement family room. Under Pastor Andrews' leadership, St. Luke's served the Cold Spring community in various ways, particularly through the sponsorship of a strong scouting program. Meanwhile, Pastor Andrews was active in synodical affairs, notably as chairman of the Mulberry Home Board.

Membership as of December 31, 1970: 192 baptized, 119 confirmed, 115 communing.

Previous synodical affiliation: Kentucky-Tennessee Synod (ULCA), 1953-1962.

Pastors who served St. Luke's: Frank L. Barcus (1954-1955), Bernard W. Crocker (1956-1957), John W. Kerrick (1958-1965), R. William Andrews (1966-).