

The Trinity Family Tree

Our church is called the Mother Church and for good reason. Trinity directly participated in the founding of seven Lancaster Lutheran congregations and has ties to the establishment of several others.

Trinity's first daughter, and the second Lutheran Church in Lancaster, resulted from a split over the continued use of the German language. "The New High German Evangelical Lutheran Church in Lancaster, Pennsylvania", later known as Zion Lutheran Church, was founded in 1828 and received help and support from Trinity over the years. The building we see across our parking lot was constructed in 1873. Anti-German sentiment during the Great War caused the City Fathers to rename the street in front of Zion from German Street to Church Street, and English began to creep into Zion's services about that time. The flight to the suburbs after the Second World War eventually led to the demise of this congregation in 1983. Zion's building is currently occupied by The Lord's House of Prayer.

As Lancaster's population grew, Trinity's Vestry authorized a branch Sunday School in the developing Northwest. This effort led to the formation of St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church in 1853 at Mulberry and Orange Streets where it still ministers today.

In 1855 our Vestry opened a branch Sunday School near Queen and James Street. Two years later, Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church was formed. Over the past 130 years, Grace has made many significant contributions in Lancaster and beyond.

Trinity's Vestry next established a branch Sunday School in a shoemaker shop at 412 Manor Street in 1867. This led to the formation of Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church in 1881. Christ Church has now served the "Cabbage Hill" section of town for nearly 125 years.

In the closing days of the nineteenth century Trinity was asked to take the lead in establishing a Sunday School in the eastern part of Lancaster. By 1898 the Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Advent was born. In 1900 groundbreaking in the 900 block of East Orange Street was held for the fine edifice that stands there today. The congregation merged with St. Mark's Lutheran in 1971 to form Good Shepherd Lutheran Church. Advent's original building survives as Keystone Towers Apartments.

Dauphin Terrace Sunday School was begun in 1901 through the joint support of Holy Trinity and Zion Lutheran Church. This quickly became St. Mark's Evangelical Lutheran Church. The congregation rapidly grew, but so did discord, and in 1904 one faction left to form Mount Calvary Lutheran Church. Those remaining once more needed the support of Trinity, which they received from Mr. C. A. Fondersmith and Dr. Whitteker, our Senior Pastor. Later they erected a fine structure at Ann Street and East End Avenue. Vacated after the merger with Advent, the building is now occupied by Ray's Temple.

The last daughter is the Church of the Ascension on the Hill, started as a Sunday School in a chicken coop on Union Street in 1907. A congregation was organized in 1910 and a brick chapel built at Hazel and Wabank Streets. In 1986, the congregation moved to Willow Street where they built a new church. Their original building is now the Church of the Brethren Hispanic Ministries.

For additional information, see WHERE THE SAINTS HAVE TROD in the church library.