

## Holy Trinity History

"And so when we are beginning a new church, we are mindful of God's blessing and His goodness to us, undeserved on our part ..." These words ended the first sermon at what would become Holy Trinity Lutheran Church. Six months later, on February 18, 1950, HTLC was officially organized with 27 charter members and 12 students enrolled in Sunday School.

Early worship services were held in the American Legion Post and, after two years, the congregation decided to purchase land and build a structure of its own. The two-acre site on Des Moines Street was purchased for \$3,500, and construction began shortly thereafter.

In December of 1953 the original "A-Frame" sanctuary was dedicated. This project required over 2,000 hours of volunteer labor to meet its budget of about \$35,000.

By 1957 HTLC's membership had grown to 396 members and 174 students in Sunday School and more space was needed. Plans were drawn to add an additional six classrooms to the North side of the A-Frame structure.

The present sanctuary was dedicated on May 8, 1966. The dedication service marked the end of a four-year process that looked at all phases of worship, parish education, and fellowship. By this time the average weekly attendance at worship was about 250, and Sunday School enrollment was approximately 175.

As HTLC's membership approached 2,000, the Fellowship Hall was dedicated in 1986; this addition provided much needed space for various groups within the congregation as well as kitchen and fellowship space.

Our education wing was dedicated October of 2001. It houses two floors of classrooms, offices, expanded narthex and gathering place. The "God is Here" funding campaign for this new building helped raise 1.6 million of a total 2.6 million price tag. God is Good!

In 2007 a neighboring house was purchased to expand our youth ministry. The LightHouse is where our high school (9-12 grades) youth meet for youth group, Bible study and fun activities. The land adjoining this property to the south was purchased in 2008 for green space for kids to have a place for outdoor fun. A home south of the church on Elm Street was also purchased and this home was moved allowing for future growth on that lot when needed.

We continue to share Christ's message with a growing community. Today's Church school enrollment is 500 and attendance at worship is over 900. With this in mind, we have built for the future so we that may continue our mission to **Welcome** all people to faith in Jesus Christ, **Equip** persons with the strength of God's Grace, and **Send** us to **Serve** in Christ's name.