

History of Holy Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church – August 2011

Looking Back at Holy Trinity

Each month we will take a look at our history leading up to our 100th Anniversary to be celebrated on June 10, 2012.

The Rev. T. W. Shealy was called to serve the Bethel Parish in 1900. As the Brinson Railroad was bringing growth to Springfield he was concerned that the town, our county seat, had no Lutheran Church. The people saw the need also and a building committee was appointed from the Bethel Congregation consisting of: Rev. Shealy, Mr. J.M. Gnann, Mr. A. B. Kieffer and Mr. C. W. Shearouse.

One quarter of an acre of land on the corner of Madison and Center Street was purchased for \$100 from Mrs. Emma Shearouse on October 1, 1907 and is recorded in the deed book at the courthouse. The transfer deed on this was not recorded until 1930 although the building debt had been paid off since 1917. Mr. Julian Shearouse persisted to get the transfer deed.

The laying of the church cornerstone was held on August 11 , 1909 with an elaborate program including several ministers and guests from as far away as the Seminary at Newberry attended. According to the Springfield Herald, several thousand people, some arriving by special coaches on the Brinson Railway attended the services which were conducted in the Oak Grove near the Methodist Church where seats had been provided for the entire crowd. The ladies from all of the Lutheran Churches served refreshments for the benefit of the church fund.

Holy Trinity was built through volunteer work and gifts of the charter members, friends and mother congregation, Bethel Church. Early on Holy Trinity was referred to in The Springfield Herald as “Salzburger Memorial Church” and also “Lutheran Memorial Church”.

Look for more in the September newsletter..... from Susan Exley