

Our History

The Lutheran Church of the Holy Trinity came into being on May 15, 1994 through a consolidation of two congregations, Trinity Lutheran Church, Leesport and St. Timothy Lutheran Church, Mohrsville.

Trinity began on February 15, 1867 when citizens of Leesport and the surrounding area met in the Leesport school house and made plans to build a church that would be shared by a Reformed congregation and a Lutheran congregation. The Lutheran congregation was a part of numerous multi-church parishes for many years. In 1968 because of a steady growth in membership, it initiated weekly services and called the Reverend David H. Pflieger as its first full-time pastor. Eventually, he was followed by the Reverend Edgar Reed, who began his ministry on December 1, 1984. In November of 1991, he was also appointed to serve St. Timothy Lutheran Church as its interim pastor.

St. Timothy Union Church was founded in 1864 by some area residents who had been worshipping at a church in Shoemakersville and then met for a short time at the Birch Hill School. They banded together with other individuals from area churches and constructed a building at the cost of \$6,000. It was dedicated on May 7, 1865. St. Timothy ceased to be a union church in 1929 when the Lutheran congregation purchased the full rights to the property for \$25.00. Like Trinity, St. Timothy was a part of numerous multi-church parishes over the years. In 1991 when the Reverend Richard Boyer resigned, because of dwindling membership, the congregation was forced to consider other options.

Under Pastor Reeds leadership, the two congregations quickly adopted the goal of consolidating into one congregation. A Future Dreams committee was formed and several subcommittees were created to work out a plan for such an eventuality. The Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod assisted with the process. After many meetings and hard work, a final, joint service was held at St. Timothy prior to the sale of the building. A copy of the new charter was signed by members of both congregations and the Lutheran Church of the Holy Trinity was born. A festive, consolidation dinner was held on May 15, 1994 at the Leesport Market banquet hall.

The Future Dreams committee continued to meet because it was felt that the new congregation needed to be housed in its own building. A long search for a suitable building site reached its fruition on December 9, 1996 when the congregation purchased a tract just off Route 61 for a sum of \$240,000. The tract included a stone house which was used for numerous early gatherings. Eventually, it was sold for \$220,000.

In the spring of 1997, the Pastor Reed resigned after having accepted a call to another congregation in Dover, PA. The Reverend Richard Wolfe became the congregation's interim pastor. Under his leadership plans for the dissolution of the union church and the building of a new church moved forward. On September 1, 1998 the Reverend John Houck began his tenure as LCHT's next pastor.

On a cold and windy April 18, 1999, ground breaking ceremonies were held on the spot where the altar is located. An antique plow and children with their toy shovels turned the soil. Lunch was served in the stone house. The new building was possible because of the funds that were received from the sale of the stone house, the equity payment of \$382,500 paid by the UCC congregation that shared the 17 N. Centre Ave. building with LCHT, a capital campaign that raised \$272,000 from among the members of the congregation and financing through VIST Bank. Triple H Construction Company of Ephrata was engaged to construct the new facility at a total cost of \$1,250,000. After some delays, construction began on October 4, 1999. A joint service was held in May of 2000 with the UCC congregation. The laying of the cornerstone occurred on June 4, 2000 and the congregation held its first worship on June 18, 2000.

Since occupying its current home the congregation has sought to serve the Leesport area and beyond through a variety of ministries. Primary among these efforts has been the Rocking Horse Preschool which was begun under the auspices of one of its members while the congregation still shared the facilities on Centre Ave. with Trinity UCC. It is a ministry that provides early childhood education to 3 and 4 years old. Currently it is staffed by Aliasha Woods, lead teacher; and Adrienne Leshner, assistant. In addition, the congregation schedules an annual mission trip to areas where disasters have occurred and help rebuilding is needed or where poverty is pervasive and help is needed to rehab homes and keep them livable. The congregation is also the home for a monthly food distribution ministry that is sponsored by the Schuylkill Valley Pastoral Association. It is also home to Boy Scout Troop #160, Cub Scout Pack #160 and a Junior Girl Scout Troop.

With the retirement of Pastor Houck at the end of June in 2017, the congregation finds itself in a time of transition. The Reverend Dr. Dennis S. Ritter began serving the congregation as its part-time, transitional pastor in August of 2017 to assist it in its prayerful discernment of God's plans for its future.

In many and varied ways the Lutheran Church of the Holy Trinity is a vital thread in the fabric of the Leesport area. It is the congregation's faith and hope that God will continue to bless its ministries of worship, learning and service well into the future. Come and be a part of this faithful community of Christ's disciples!