

Church of the Good Shepherd - Celebrating 120 years as the Heart of Oswego 1896-2016

The Church of the Good Shepherd United Methodist stands at the corner of 5 W. Washington and Madison Streets. The church was dedicated and first used for worship services on Sunday, July 12, 1896, by members of the German Evangelical Association. The Evangelicals were also called German or Albright Methodists. The new church was built on the site known as the Stone Castle, occupied first by the Presbyterians (1846-1857) and the German Evangelicals (1861-1895) before it was razed to build the Evangelical's new church. After the burning of the Congregational Church, members of the German Evangelical Church and the Congregational Church voted to form a Federated Church, using the Evangelicals' building. In 1947, the congregation voted to become an Evangelical United Brethren Church. The Federated Church changed its name to Church of the Good Shepherd, EUB in 1957. Following the merger of the Evangelical United Brethren and the Methodist churches in 1968, the congregation adopted the name The Church of the Good Shepherd United Methodist, the name it has retained to the present.

The original building was a simple sanctuary with a bell tower to alert the fire department of a fire in the area. Good Shepherd eventually purchased the neighboring building that became the education wing. The education wing now hosts Sunday school rooms, youth activities, the church office and the Little Shepherd Preschool. In 2002, the two buildings were combined, creating a new entrance, a gathering area for fellowship and a dining space for events including our adult education classes, monthly brunches, wedding receptions, baby showers, community outreach programs and monthly family nights.



We will be honoring our 120th anniversary by selling commemorative ornaments. This ornament is not only a testament to the 120 year history of Church of the Good Shepherd, but also to the focus and importance we place on the community of Oswego and the world via outreach programs such as PADS, Kendall County CROP Walk, United Methodist Men's work with the Kendall County Food Pantry, United Methodist Women's work with CASA, Stephen Ministry, Justice For Our Neighbors, Grief Share, Welcome Home Johnny and Jane Project and Kendall County Jail Women's Bible Study. The ornament reflects our beautiful dove stained glass window in our historic sanctuary. Don't miss out on your opportunity to own a piece of Oswego history. Church of the Good Shepherd and Little Shepherd Preschool will have a booth at this year's

Prairie Fest where we will be selling the ornaments for \$10. We will also have the ornaments available at all of our community events like the Ice Cream Social in August, Trunk or Treat in October, Spaghetti Dinner in November and Chili Supper, Nativity Display and Vendor Show during the downtown Christmas Walk in December.

For further information or questions, please contact our office at 630-554-3269 or check out our website www.goodshepherdoswego.org