

Emanuel Lutheran Church has had a strong heritage since 1858 after beginning the first two years with “considerable strife.” Established by German immigrants, they found their new religious freedom “difficult to regulate themselves to please everyone involved” unlike their homeland State Church of Germany where they had no say. Never-the-less, on November 7, 1858 the church was organized and the constitution adopted. A call was extended to the Reverend F.A. Hezberger who accept to be the pastor and in 1859 the first church (and later used as a school) was built that lasted until 1915.

In 1859 the congregation joined the Ohio Synod for one year before withdrawing its membership. In 1867 the congregation applied and received membership in the Missouri Synod and resolved to call its own pastor.

In her 155 years the following pastors have been called to lead and serve the congregation:

- Rev. F.A. Hezberger (1859-1860)
- Pastor Conrad E. Bode (1861-1867)
- Rector Schick (temporary pastor in 1867)
- Rev. Joseph Lehner (first resident pastor 1868-1880)
- Rev. Franz Kleist (1881-1907)
- Rev. Herman B. Kohlmeler (1908-1932)
- Rev. Hebert L. Wiese (1932-1948)
- Rev. Harld M. Luecke (1949-1962)
- Rev. Dennis Hartman (1961-1964)
- Rev. Stratford Eynon (1963-1974)
- Rev. Timothy Sims (1968-1987)
- Rev. James Haugen (1975-1981)
- Rev. T. Krupski (1985-1989)
- Rev. J. Huesman (1988)
- Rev. Paul Shoemaker (1989-present)
- Rev. E. Keinath (1990)
- Rev. Scott Zeckzer (1996-present)
- Rev. David Stecker (1998-present)

The first church was built in 1859. The congregation built the second church in 1881 which lasted for 79 years until 1960 when the current church building was constructed on Green Street. In 1996 and 2006 remodeling took place which provided better facilities for greeting and fellowship times in the narthex and expanded ministry programming in the Fellowship Hall. In 2015 the new church office and Pastors’ studies and the Family Life Room were added.

A significant event occurred in 1880 when fourteen members were released to organize the Lutheran Church at Gar Creek. This church would later become St. Paul and along

with Martini Lutheran Church and Emanuel would begin in 1949 to plan for the formation of a consolidated school. Then on December 4, 1952 those plans would lead to the dedication of Central Lutheran School. That merger over 60 years ago would establish CLS today as a vital and thriving school for the New Haven community in the midst of on-going uncertainties in the public education arena.

In 2015 Emanuel adopted this as their mission statement:

*Emanuel Lutheran Church furthers God's Kingdom by
connecting people,
strengthening families and
proclaiming God's Word.*

Emanuel also established the following Core values:

Faithfulness – Emanuel Lutheran Church is faithful to the Scriptures and the Lutheran Confessions.

Deuteronomy 28:1-6; Proverbs 3:3-4; John 14:15; Acts 17:11; Romans 15:4; II Timothy 3:14-17

Worship – Emanuel Lutheran Church gathers for worship to receive God's gifts; forgiveness, life and salvation through His Word and Sacraments.

Exodus 15:2; I Chronicles 16:23-24; Psalm 13:4-6; Acts 4:12; Titus 2:11; Revelation 7:9-11

Discipleship – Emanuel Lutheran Church is dedicated to life-long learning as devoted followers of Jesus Christ to conform to His character.

Matthew 5:1-16; Luke 9:23-24; John 13:1-20; Acts 2:42; Ephesians 4:11-17

Outreach -- Emanuel Lutheran Church reaches out boldly with the Gospel through proclamation and service.

Jeremiah 1:7; Matthew 9:35-38; 28:18-20; Acts 1:8; Romans 10:14

Generosity – Emanuel Lutheran Church shares God's gifts; time, talents, and treasures with our community.

Proverbs 19:17; Matthew 6:21; 10:42; 25:34-40; II Corinthians 8:1-15; 9:5-12

Quality – Emanuel Lutheran Church honors God by striving to make the best use of His gifts.

Exodus 35:4-29; Matthew 25:14-23; Ephesians 6:7-8; Colossians 3:23

History has shown that ELC has served her community well. With a rich heritage, strong leadership, and a committed membership there remains a bright future.

Emanuel's history of ministry has laid a solid foundation for a future that will continue to let her "light shine" in New Haven and beyond.