

# ST. MARK EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

## A Brief History

St. Mark's Mission Statement states: *By the grace of God in and through Jesus Christ, the mission of the people of St. Mark Evangelical Lutheran Church, Hanover, PA is to hear and share the Good News of Jesus Christ through Word and Sacrament ministry. Since our founding in 1864 it has been the mission of the people of St. Mark Church to testify in word and deed that no one is outside God's mercy in Jesus Christ.*

Born during the Civil War:

1863: December 12<sup>th</sup> - St. Matthew's Lutheran church council voted to establish a new "English" speaking congregation in Hanover.

Dec. 19<sup>th</sup> – With amazing speed the first organization of St. Mark Lutheran was formed and planning began for the construction of the new church.

1864: January 1<sup>st</sup> - A Carlisle Street site was selected for the establishment of the new church. The lot was purchased from William Beard.

20<sup>th</sup> of July - The cornerstone was laid with a day of worship and preaching.

1865: Between March 17 and April 17 a constitution of St. Mark Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Borough of Hanover was officially entered into record.

July 2<sup>nd</sup> – Rev. Monroe J. Alleman was installed as the first called pastor of St. Mark with a salary of \$800 a year to be paid quarterly.

August 12<sup>th</sup> - The first town clock was installed in the church tower.

September 24<sup>th</sup> - The dedication of the new church took place as a day dedicated to the service of God.

1866: February 17, 1866, the building was paid off at a total cost of \$10,763.49.

1883: March - the church was enlarged by 20 feet and the congregation purchased a "Hook & Hastings" pipe Organ and a 2,028 pound bell was hoisted into place.

1914: June 7<sup>th</sup> - Due to growth of the church membership, a third building program began with the laying of the cornerstone for an "Akron" type chapel and Sunday School building.

1915: May 16<sup>th</sup> – The new building was dedicated and the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of St. Mark was celebrated.

1936: The J.S. Young Memorial Fund was established with \$25,000 dollar for the purpose of one day building a new church building.

1954: Finally after the 1929 stock market crash, the great depression and World War II, the church was ready to move ahead on a new building.

1956: September 23<sup>rd</sup>, the congregation had the groundbreaking for the new church at 129 Charles Street.

1965: September 26<sup>th</sup> the congregation celebrated its centennial anniversary of the first church building.

1987: Confirmation Camp classes began to be held for all students in 7<sup>th</sup> or 9<sup>th</sup> grade.

1990-1991: St. Mark and sister congregation, Viby Church in the province of Narke, Sweden exchange flags and pulpits for one month each year.

1997: The first Robert and Ann (Sell) Slagle scholarship was awarded. The scholarship is offered to any student of Hanover or Southwest High school that is planning a career in ministry or nursing or other vocational schooling.

2000: In the Fall, Lutheran Social Services opened counseling offices here at St. Mark to the community of Hanover and surrounding areas.

2003: St. Mark Preschool began offering classes

2005: The congregation began to support the Fair Market program of the ELCA World Hunger

2005: September 24<sup>th</sup> the congregation celebrated its 140<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the church building.

Between 1863 and 2008 nineteen pastors have been called to serve St. Mark Evangelical Lutheran Church:

Monroe J. Alleman, D.D.,	1865-1868;	B. John Hagedorn, PhD,	1969-1972;
George Parson, D.D.,	1868-1875;	John F. Lehr,	1975-1976;
Daniel Schindler, D.D.,	1876-1883;	Gerald A. Krum,	1977-1980;
George Scholl, D.D.,	1884-1887;	William H. Beck, D. Min.,	1980-1984;
Charles M. Stock, D.D.,	1887-1912;	Rondald E. Peirson,	1985-1988;
George W. Nicely, D.D.,	1912-1925;	Glenn D. Miller,	1986-1988;
John S. Tome, D.D.,	1925-1953;	Eric B. Stenman,	1989-2006;
Edger D. Ziegler, D.D.,	1953-1967;	Joanne P. Stenman,	1989-2006
William C. Sowers,	1964-1967;	Kirk A. Griffin	2008-Present
Ray E. Blanset,	1968-1976;		