



A Brief History of Tree of Life

Plans for Tree of Life Lutheran Church in Conroe began over ten years before dedication services were held on January 29, 1989. That was when the Texas Louisiana Synod of the Lutheran Church in America exercised its option for the future congregation. In June, 1984, the Division for Mission in North America recommended Pastor Jerry Kline to the Texas-Louisiana Synod as Pastor/Developer. The Synod issued a call and the pastor arrived in August to begin work. Over 3,000 people were contacted in the community through home or workplace visitation. On February 17, 1985 the first service of worship was celebrated in the West Fork M.U.D. Building, 206 Scarborough, Conroe. There were 60 people present with about 50 from the local community. The congregation was organized on June 6, 1986 with 88 baptized members. 31 men and 30 women comprised the confirmed roll with 27 children. Considerable effort was made to find suitable quarters for the congregation on a main street or prominent site, but all proved cost prohibitive. The Division for Mission suggested an early building for the new congregation. A site was purchased on the southwest quadrant of Loop 336 bypass. The Division for Mission approved the early start. With the merger of the Lutheran bodies in Texas to form the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, Martin Yonts, mission director of the synod, was elected the first Bishop of the South-eastern Texas-Southern Louisiana Synod.

The Building Committee of Tree of Life worked hard to bring the proposed structure into being. A large committee was selected from a cross section of the congregation to provide a sense of ownership among the members. General consensus among the members led to the finalization of the plans in March, 1988. Ground was broken for the new facility on April 10, 1988. The first service was held in the new facility, December 18, 1988. A Texas Bar-B-Q followed the celebration of Holy Communion with a large number of persons present.

By 2003 we had outgrown our first building and we decided to build a new worship facility. This new Sanctuary with room for up to 300 members and guests was dedicated in 2004. The original building was converted into a fellowship hall. This transition to a new sanctuary coincided with the retirement of Pastor Kline and the calling of Pastor Luke Bouman who led us from 2004 until 2007. In 2008 the church called Pastor Christopher Lake and he has been leading us since September, 2008.

Tree of Life is a congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA). The ELCA is a Church of over 5 million members in over 10,000 congregations in the United States with missionaries and partner churches around the world. The ELCA bases its teaching in the Bible. In response to God's love in Christ, the ELCA teaches that all people are to live lives of loving service in the world. The ELCA teaches that people become Christians by Baptism, either as children or adults, followed by lifelong study of God's word and serving discipleship.