

Life of Our Saviour Evangelical Lutheran Church

A Synopsis of Significant Events



1956 Students from the Lutheran Theological Seminary surveyed the Saluda Gardens area. The Reverend Virgil A. Cameron was called as Mission Developer. Land was purchased for the new church. A house-chapel was constructed. The mission congregation had its first worship service on December 2, 1956, in the education building of Northside Baptist Church. The first worship in the house-chapel occurred weeks later on December 23.



1957 The following auxiliaries were formed: Sunday Church School, Lutheran Church Women and Men and the Luther League. The congregation chose as its name Our Saviour Evangelical Lutheran Church. The congregation was officially organized on March 24, 1957.

1961 Ground was broken for the church's first unit in July 1960. This unit, completed in January 22, 1961, contained a worship area, Pastor's Study, ten classrooms, and kitchen and restrooms.



1962 Pastor Cameron resigned to become Pastor of St. Paul Lutheran Church, Mobile, Alabama. The Reverend Earl H. Loadholdt was called to Pastor. The church under his leadership grew and became self-supporting.

The house-chapel became the church's parsonage.

1969 Pastor Loadholdt resigned to become the Pastor of Advent Lutheran Church, Charleston Heights. The Reverend Dr. H. George Anderson served the congregation until the Reverend John Satterwhite was called.

1970 - Pastor John Satterwhite began his service to the congregation on January 18, 1970.

1971 The congregation accepted the plans of the Tarlton-Tankersly Architectural Firm (Greenville) for a new sanctuary.



1973 J. A. Meetze & Son Construction was chosen to build the sanctuary. The Groundbreaking Ceremony for the new sanctuary was held on February 11, 1973.

1974 The new sanctuary was dedicated on April 7, 1974. The Reverend Herman Cauble, D.D., Bishop of the SC Lutheran Synod presided. A Zimmer Pipe Organ was dedicated on May 26, 1974.

1979 The Willett-Stained Glass Studios of Philadelphia installed faceted glass windows in the Sanctuary. These were dedicated on June 3, 1979.

The LBW was introduced for worship in August.

1982 Amaretta Onstad, called and ordained to serve as assistant pastor, remained in this position until her resignation in July, 1983.

1986 In June Pastor John Satterwhite announced his retirement. Dr. John L. Yost, Jr., served as interim pastor until January, 1987.

1987 The Reverend Gerald P. Wallace was called as Pastor and began his pastoral duties March 15, 1987.

1989 On November 11, a Burning of the Mortgage ceremony took place.

1992 The congregation saw the need to up-grade its educational, kitchen, and fellowship facilities.

1993 The firm Architects BC, Inc. of Lexington was selected to submit plans for the needed new construction and restoration.

A preaching mission in October included the young pastors Mark Graham, Stephen Gragg, "Chip" Austin, and Wayne Kannaday.

1997 The bid of the Frank D. Hall Construction Company of Batesburg was approved by the congregation on May 18, 1997. The project cost was \$1,015,623.00. A Groundbreaking Service for this project was held June 1, 1997. Memorial gifts enabled the addition of a new sound system, new brass metalware, and refurbished woodwork in the sanctuary.

- 1998 The completed construction and renovation project was turned over to the congregation in April 1998. A joyous Service of Dedication was held on May 24, 1998.
- 2004 The twenty-first century has brought about change especially in our Outreach Ministry. On April 6, 2002 the congregation sponsored a yard sale to benefit Habitat for Humanity. Two more such sales were held in 2003 and 2006 with all of the proceeds going toward Outreach Ministries. (The three combined yard sales brought in well over \$10,000.) This church continues to put back into the Saluda Gardens area through various ministries including school supplies, God's Helping Hands, and a monthly community free lunch. Several spiritual renewal events have been presented including a Preaching Mission with Joey Bailey and Rick Carter followed in another year with Ed Kilbourne in Concert.
- In February 2003 Julie Corbett, a recent graduate of the Lutheran Seminary with a Master of Arts in Religion degree, was called to serve as an Associate in Ministry.
- 2006 The new Evangelical Lutheran Worship Book was ordered by the congregation. It will be introduced in 2007.
- 2007 A Commemorative 50th Anniversary Service was held March 25, 2007.
- 2007 Pastor Gerald P. Wallace retired and the search for a new pastor began. Pastor Osborne Herlong served as interim through December 31, 2008. During this period Bishop Herman Yoos was elected and installed in the South Carolina Synod.
- 2009 Pastor Lance M. Henderson was ordained and installed as pastor.
- 2017 We celebrated our 60th Diamond Anniversary, October 22, 2017.
- 2018 Melodie Capole succeeded Meredith Jones as handbell choir director in 2018 and added leadership of Young Adult/Youth Ministry to her duties in 2022.
- 2020 Due to the Covid19 pandemic there were major in-person worship interruptions between March 2020 and March 2021. Congregational life--fellowship meals, meetings of teams, men's and women's groups and choirs, visits to shut-ins and hospital patients, and so much more--suffered a major impact.
- 2023 Pastor Lance M. Henderson resigned to become the Pastor of Union Lutheran Church, Leesville, South Carolina. Pastor Christine Parham served as interim through December 31, 2024.
- 2024 Pastor Joanna Gragg was called as pastor and began her duties on January 2, 2025. Her installation service took place on January 19, 2025.
- 2025 Choirmaster and Organist Brent Holcomb retired after 50 years of faithful service. A retirement celebration was held in his honor September 14, 2025.