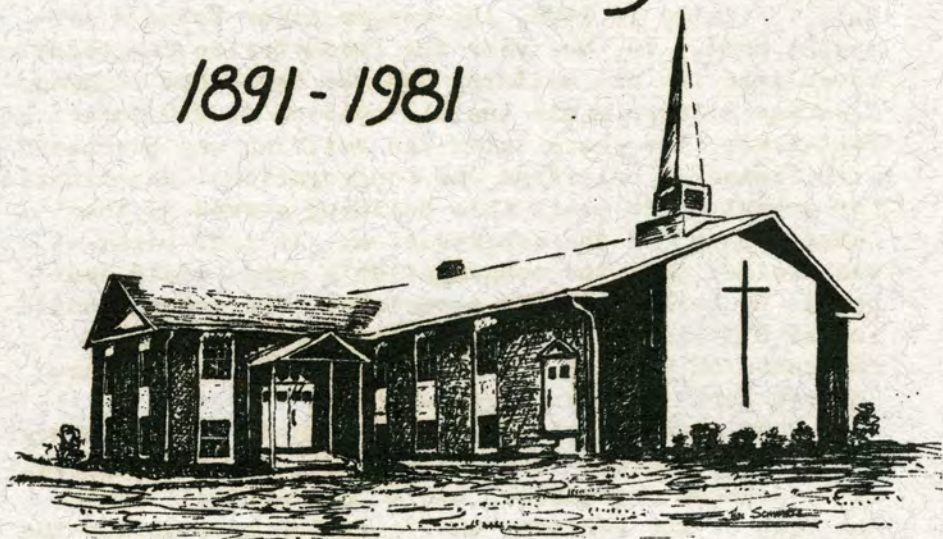


100<sup>th</sup>  
Anniversary  
May 17, 1981

1891 - 1981



"TO KNOW CHRIST AND TO MAKE HIM KNOWN"

**Bethlehem Covenant Church**

673 Pleasant Drive  
WARREN, PENNSYLVANIA 16365

The latter half of the 19th Century saw great numbers of Swedish emigrants arriving in the United States. Spurred by a desire to worship God in freedom, they banded together with those of similar convictions. A summer evening, June 23, 1891, witnessed the birth of the Bethlehem Covenant Church at the Swan Pearson home on Water Street. Those who signed that first charter were: William Lindell, Amanda Lindell, Carl Boberg, Christina Boberg, Swan Pearson, Ida Pearson, N. B. Hoagvall, and Ebba Carlson.

These warm-hearted Scandinavians threw open their homes for worship services until their number made it necessary to secure a public meeting place. As one reads the early history of the church, one is impressed with the fact that "they went from place to place"- from a hall on Liberty Street to one on Second Avenue; from there to the Good Templar Hall and on to a hall in the Waters Block on Liberty and on again to P.H.C. Hall. Finally in 1898, the congregation found a permanent home. In that year the Presbyterian congregation moved into its new building and the Bethlehem congregation was allowed to use the old edifice at 210 Market St. rent-free. Two years later the building was purchased with financial help from the Congregational denomination. For seventy-five years this building served as the "church home" of the congregation. At that point it was decided that the congregation's needs would best be met by building a new structure. The present building at 673 Pleasant Drive in Pleasant Township was dedicated on October 28, 1973 and has become the new "church home" of the congregation.

Many servants of God led the church in its younger days. They included Pastors Dillner, Staff, Dahlgren, B. O. Johnson, Marcellus, and A. C. Carlson. Since the turn of the century, the following have guided the congregation: Frank Nelson, 1901-06, J. A. Isaacson, 1906-12; N. J. Wessel, 1912-18; A. G. Eklund, 1918-21; J. H. Lundgren, 1921-28; C. H. Peterson, 1928-34; J. C. Bengtson, 1935-42; Erik Dahlhielm, 1942-43 (Interim); P. E. Landerdahl, 1943-46; David A. E. Carlson, 1947-53; P. J. Peterson, 1953-61; C. J. Fredeen, 1961 (Interim); Franklin Hagberg, 1961-65; J. Theodore Johnson, 1966 (Interim); Alan F. Hearl, 1966-69; Paul J. Webster,

1969-77; Ron Zerbe, 1978 (Interim); Ernest Wilbur, 1978-79; Clarence Baldwin, 1980 (Interim); Randall Surey has been the pastor of the church since July 1, 1980.

Five men of the church have answered the call to preach the Gospel. Raymond Swanson was summoned to higher service in the midst of preparing for the ministry. Sheldon Anderson serves the Richland, Michigan, Covenant Church; Daniel Anderson serves the Bethany Covenant Church in N. Miami, Florida, Harry Swanson is Superintendent of the Great Lakes Conference of the Covenant; and Russell Johnson is a Reform Church pastor in Clifton, New Jersey.

We would like to thank Rev. Harry Swanson, Rev. Sheldon Anderson, Rev. Franklin Hagberg, and the members and friends of the church choir for their participation in the anniversary services. A special thanks goes to all who worked "behind the scenes" to make these celebrations possible.

The Rev. Harry V. Swanson, the speaker at our Anniversary Banquet, is Superintendent of the Great Lakes Conference of the Evangelical Covenant Church of America. He is the son of the late Mr. and Mrs. Victor Swanson of Warren,

The Rev. Sheldon Anderson, the speaker of the morning, is pastor of the Richland, Michigan, Covenant Church. He is the son of Mrs. Esther Anderson, now of Wilmington, Delaware, and the late Luther Anderson of Scandia.

The Rev. Franklin Hagberg, who brought us a ministry in song at our anniversary banquet, was pastor of the church from 1961-65 and is presently pastor of the Scandia Covenant Church and owner of Hagberg's Bookstore.

A special welcome is extended to Mrs. Esther Anderson of Wilmington, Delaware, who is the oldest member of our congregation.

BETHLEHEM COVENANT CHURCH  
Randall A. Surey, Pastor

726-2157 Home      673 Pleasant Drive      723-7730 Church  

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Fifth Sunday of Easter      May 17, 1981

90th Anniversary Worship Service 11:00 A.M.

- Organ Prelude  
Choral Introit  
\*Call to Worship      Reading #696      Psalm 118  
\*Hymn #383      "Great Is Thy Faithfulness"  
\*Invocation and the Lord's Prayer  
Welcome and Announcements  
Choir Anthem      "Let Mount Zion Rejoice"  
Mrs. Ruth Nelson, directing  
Epistle Lesson      Acts 2:29-42      (page 91)  
Gospel Lesson      Matthew 16:13-20      (page 13)  
Prayer Introit and Silent Prayer  
Prayer of the Morning  
Prayer Response  
Choir Anthem      "Eternal Life"  
Presentation of Tithes and Gifts  
Offertory  
\*Doxology  
\*Hymn #482      "The Church's One Foundation"  
Sermon      "THE GREAT PROCESSION"      Matthew 16:18  
Rev. Sheldon M. Anderson  
\*Hymn #353      "I With Thee Would Begin"  
\*Charge and Benediction  
\*Singing of the Chorus Alleluia  
\*Congregation please stand.

We extend a hearty welcome to each of you who worship with us today as we celebrate the 90th Anniversary of our Congregation. We pray that the Spirit of the Risen Christ will be upon each of us as we fondly recall the past and look forward with great expectation to the future ministry of our Church.

GREETERS TODAY: Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Johnson

Organist Mr. Jon Erickson  
Pianist Mrs. Linnea Check

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TODAY

Following our service this morning you are invited downstairs for a coffee hour and time of fellowship. There will also be a display of old pictures and other historical memorabilia of the Church which you may enjoy looking through.

3:00 P.M. The Hi-League will meet at Church to go miniture golfing and have supper at McDonald's. Bring money for supper.

THIS WEEK

Tues. 7:00 P.M. V.B.S. Craft planning night at Church. Please bring any ideas you have with you.

Wed. 7:00 P.M. Bible Study and Prayer at Church.

Sat. 11:00 A.M. Confirmation Class. Chapters 27 and 28 are to be read for class.

Sat. 5:00 P.M. Softball at Beaty Field.

NEXT SUNDAY

9:45 A.M. Sunday School Hour  
11:00 A.M. Morning Worship Service  
7:00 P.M. Evening Service

LOOKING AHEAD

May 26th Covenant Women - Kitchen Shower.  
June 8-12 Vacation Bible School. Volunteers are needed to help staff the program.  
June 14th C.F.G. picnic at Camp Kirkwood 3:00 P.M.  
Eat at 5:00 P.M.  
June 28th Church Picnic at Mission Meadows.

Those who are interested in going to Columbus, Ohio on Thursday, June 25 for the Ordination Service at the Covenant Annual Meeting are urged to check the bulletin board downstairs for a list of motels that will have reduced rates for the Conference. Reservations must be made in advance. The Service of Ordination will be at 7:30 P.M.

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A Special Thanks to all who helped in the choir today!