

Our Pastors



Rev. John Heckel
Dec 1869 - 1875



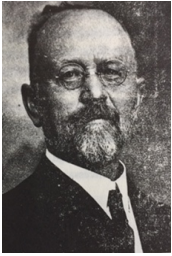
Rev. J. G. Schaid
Jul 1875 - Jul 1887



Rev. J. R. Lauritzen
Aug 1887 - Feb 1892

Ministry Milestones

- Sent by Iowa Synod and delivered sermon in Knoxville urging establishment of Lutheran congregation Oct 10, 1869
 - Constitution adopted and signed by 22 men on Oct 11, 1869
 - First German Evangelical Lutheran Church, U.A.C., of Knoxville, Tennessee, organized Oct 12, 1869
 - Newly formed congregation called Rev. Heckel Oct 19, 1869
 - Accepted call and delivered inaugural sermon December 19, 1869
 - First church building at Broad and Asylum (now Western Ave) dedicated Sep 25, 1870
 - Christian Day School teacher for five years
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- Pipe organ purchased and dedicated Aug 2, 1881
 - Ladies Society formed Jan 1882
 - First parsonage purchased at 140 Luttrell Street in 1886
 - Congregation affiliated to Holston Synod
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- English Lutheran congregation (St. John's Lutheran Church) shared church building Nov 1888 - Jun 1890
 - Luttrell Street parsonage sold Feb 1889
 - New parsonage erected behind church property Jun 1889



Rev. Julius Friedrich
Jun 1892 – Apr 1901

- Sep 6, 1892 Christian Day School reopened; Christian Day School teacher for two years
- 1894 - First principal installed
- Oct 1892 - Congregation withdrew from the Holston Synod
- Oct 1897 - Received into membership by the Western District of the Missouri Synod
- Sep 30, 1894 - 172 communicant members when congregation celebrated 25th Anniversary
- Nov 1897 - First deaf Lutheran services held
- Fall 1895 – All evening worship services conducted in English
- Jun 25-29, 1896 – Congregation hosted first East Tennessee Pastoral Conference
- October 1897 – Congregation sent its first delegate to the Western District convention



Rev. William Brand
Apr 1901 – Jun 1903

- Introduced Wednesday evening Bible Studies that continued for 25 years
- Christian Day School teacher for one year
- Dec 1902 - Congregation sold property at Broad and Asylum to Louisville and Nashville Railroad
- Jan 1903 – Property purchased at Fifth and Broadway



Rev. Ed Koehler
Oct 1903 – Jan 1909

- June 28, 1903 - Officiated at the laying of the second church building cornerstone at Fifth and Broadway
- Oct 11, 1903 – Accepted call and installed
- Mar 20, 1904 – Dedication of new church
- Jan 1909 – Left to serve as professor at the Lutheran Normal School in Addison, Illinois
- Name changed to German-English Evangelical Lutheran Church



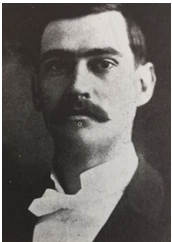
Rev. C. J. Fricke
May 1909 -

- May 1909 - Extended call to teacher for Christian Day School
- Mr. William Buck accepted call and served as teacher of the day school for two years
- Jul 1909 - Heidel property purchased at 535 West Fifth Ave for teacher's residence
- Accepted a call to his former congregation in Aurora, Illinois



Rev. C. L. Mueller
Jun 1912 -Dec 1915

- From Hemlock, Michigan, Rev. Mueller accepted call on March 31, 1912
- Installed June 2, 1912
- Accepted call to Blackjack, Missouri on November 26, 1915
- Preached farewell sermon on December 19, 1915



Rev. H. Kellerman
May 1916 - Nov 1917

- Installed May 14, 1916
- Resigned due to failing health in October 1917
- Preached last sermon on November 11, 1917
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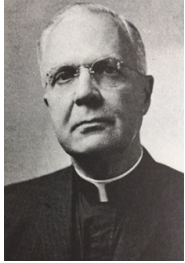
Rev. Karl Kretschmar
Apr 1918 – Jan 1924

- Apr 1919 – Name changed to First Evangelical Lutheran Church
- Parsonage was rented and teacher's residence on West Fifth Ave was sold
- Oct 12-13, 1919 - Congregation celebrated its 50th Anniversary; 125 communicant members
- Constitution translated into English and revised
- Sunday bulletins made their appearance
- Envelopes used for collection of offerings
- Young People's Society was merged with the Walther League and the Dixie District formed
- Parent-Teacher Association formed
- Congregation flourished under the stability of Rev. Kretschmar's pastorate
- December 1923 accepted call to First Lutheran Church in Fort Smith, Arkansas
- Preached his farewell sermon in January 1924



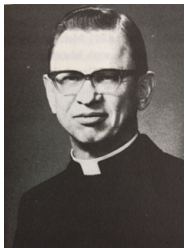
Rev. W. C. Krueger
Mar 1924 – Jan 1942

- From Gordonville, Missouri, Rev. Krueger was installed on March 23, 1924
- Congregation rented a home for Pastor Krueger at 2437 North Broadway and purchased property for parsonage
- The old parsonage at 605 North Broadway was remodeled and made into a parish house in January 1929; the apartment on the second floor was used as living quarters by custodians of the church property for next 16 years
- Property located at 510 Market Street that was bequeathed to the church in 1937 was sold in March 1939 and proceeds used to purchase the Francis House property on Broadway and Wells for \$12, 000 on May 1, 1939
- The Sunday School had a 7 piece orchestra that played for the opening of Sunday school every Sunday
- A baseball team was formed by boys in the congregation that played every Sunday at 2:30 at the Baseball Park on McCalla Avenue
- The Ladies Aid Society affiliated with the Lutheran Women's League
- Worship conducted in German in an early morning worship service on the first Sunday of the month ended
- Accepted call to Institutional Ministry in Memphis, TN, in January 1942.



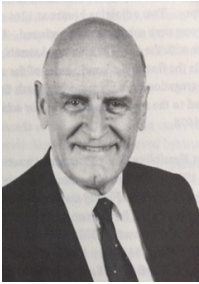
Rev. Roland Frerking
Aug 1943 - 1957

- From Joplin, Missouri, call was accepted by Rev. Frerking on June 22, 1943
- Installed by Rev. R. C. Jahn of Chattanooga on August 8, 1943
- November 1943 Mr. Harold Jagels was installed as principal of the school
- Men's Club organized in 1943, afterward affiliated with the Lutheran Laymen's League
- Pastor Frerking served German prisoners of war at Crossville
- After WWII ended, Pastor Frerking served a mission station in Morristown for several years under the auspices of the Lutheran Laymen's League, which then became Our Saviour Lutheran Church
- Evening division of the LWML began
- Building fund established for new church building; groundbreaking service held on March 28, 1954
- Hammond organ give by member of the congregation
- Fall 1944 - Congregation launched a school expansion program by adding the 8th grade and a kindergarten
- 1946 property on Fifth Avenue was sold and worship was held in the house on the Francis property until the new church building was finished in June 1947
- Congregation grew to just under 500 communicants and 210 enrolled in Sunday School
- Property acquired in Bearden that became the future home of Grace Lutheran Church
- October 1954 congregation celebrated its 75th anniversary during which time there were 813 baptized; 433 confirmed; 203 weddings; and 367 Christian burials



Rev. Dan Dautenhahn
Jun 1958 - 1963

- Congregation reduced its debts
- Morning Division of the LWML was organized
- Employment of the first full-time church secretary
- First daughter congregation organized with 43 communicants and 31 children released to Grace Lutheran Church in 1959



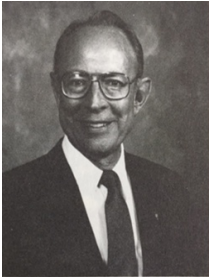
Rev. Harry Smith
May 1963 – Mar 1979

- Installed on May 5, 1963
- Served Lutheran children from the School for the Deaf by bringing them to church for Sunday School and church services in compliance with legislation affecting the separation of Church and State
- Instrumental in beginning The Lutheran Center at the University of Tennessee in 1965, incorporated in 1968
- The second daughter congregation, Christus Victor, formally organized in April 1967 with 43 communicant and 36 baptized members
- Air conditioning installed in the sanctuary in 1968 and extensive repairs and renovations of the facilities and reshaping of the property
- Two new preaching stations established at Lincoln Memorial University in Harrogate in 1974, which then became Christ of the Cumberland Lutheran Church, and in Seymour, which was officially organized as Holy Trinity Lutheran Church in 1976
- May 20, 1973, the Voters Assembly decided to purchase the home located at 1218 Armstrong Ave., with two adjoining homes subsequently purchased
- July 1973 Voters Assembly decided to divide the first and second grades of the school; this decision eventually led to a major expansion of the school facilities in 1978
- September 29, 1974 tracker organ built by Herr von Beckerath dedicated in a special concert
- Groundbreaking ceremony held on April 2, 1978, construction began on April 17, 1978 for school addition and special added room for the LWML
- Heins Memorial Addition to the school was dedicated on January 28, 1979
- Accepted a call to Concordia Lutheran Church in Cincinnati, Ohio and preached his farewell sermon in March 1979



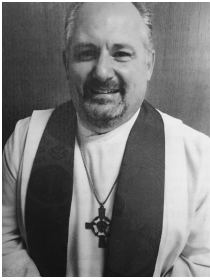
Rev. Robert Nerger
Mar 1979 – Jan 1981

- Instrumental with Pastor Andrew Kuring in serving and developing the mission church in Seymour that became Holy Trinity Lutheran Church
- Faithfully served congregation as interim pastor for 22 months



Rev. John P. Schulz
Jan 1981 - 1997

- Feb 14, 1982 - Lutheran Worship hymnals dedicated
- 1982 - Four adjacent lots north of the church purchased
- 1984 - Stained glass windows restored and protective Plexiglas glazing applied
Windows re-cemented, braced, and ventilators sealed shut
- 1985 - Heating system converted from oil to gas and new air conditioners installed
- 1986 - Stairwell enclosed and fire retardant doors added to meet fire code standards
Former Pairs 'n Spares reorganized as Lutheran Adult Fellowship
Butterflies (now 55 Alive) formed for senior members
- May 25, 1986 - Dedication of handbells for church and school
- 1987 - Central air added to old section of school
Front entrance doors to the church replaced with Cyprus wood doors



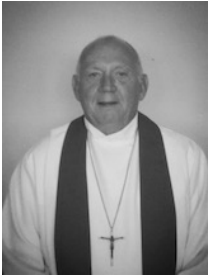
Rev. Paul Bushur
1998 - Mar 2017

- Lutheran Service Book hymnal acquired and dedicated in 2006
- 2006 - First assistant pastor called and ordained at First Lutheran Church, Knoxville
- 2009 - Evening Bible Studies
- 2015 - Parking lot on Wells Street and Broadway purchased by resolution of Voters Meeting
- Started Wednesday worship service for parents of school children and Hospice worship services
- Preached farewell sermon on March 5, 2017



Rev. Derek Roberts
2006 - Feb 2012

- 2006 Ordained at First Lutheran Church as Assistant Pastor
- 2006 Lutheran Campus Ministry resumed under FLC
- 2007 Promoted to Associate Pastor
- 2009 New processional crucifix dedicated
- Initiated email communication with members



Rev. Floyd Smithey
Mar 2017 -

- Faithfully serving congregation as vacancy pastor since mid-March 2017 after Pastor Bushur accepted call to First Lutheran Church, Chattanooga
- Serves as ex-officio member of the current Pastoral Call Committee