

HISTORY NOTES

As early as 1837, German Lutherans had settled in southeastern Livingston County. By 1842, they began meeting for public worship services, under the leadership of the pioneer Lutheran missionary in eastern Michigan, the Rev. Frederick Schmidt (born, Sept. 6, 1807, in Wuertemburg, Germany; died, August 30, 1883, at Ann Arbor). Pastor Schmidt was serving other groups of German Lutheran settlers, so was able to be present only every sixth or eighth Sunday. Services were held in cabins or barns, or at times out-doors. On St. George's Day, April 23, 1845, the settlers formally organized as a Christian congregation, choosing the name "The Evengelical Lutheran St. George's Congregation of Genoa, Michigan."

One of the charter members, Dr. A. E. Buek, had gone to Hamburg, Germany, (from which area the major portion of charter members had come) to solicit funds for the congregation's first church building. Lutherans in Hamburg, Germany, regarded St. George's of Genoa, Michigan, as their mission responsibility and contributed nearly \$600. plus a baptismal font and communion set. Richard Behrens, another charter member, donated a two acre site for the proposed building. Situated on the site of the present parish cemetery, this first house of worship was dedicated in April, 1849. The instruction and worship conducted in the new building (25 x 36 x 16) were entirely in the German language.

By 1861, land had been purchased at the intersection of Bauer and Crooked Lake Roads. (present Hubert and Herbst Roads) A new building (\$2,800 - 32 x 50) was dedicated April 20, 1884. In the spring of 1922, this building was disassembled, moved and re-erected at the corner of Fourth and Main St. in Brighton. This congregation is still ministering to the community.

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