

## Churches in the Shenandoah Valley

Bethel Lutheran Church  
263 Bethel Church Rd  
Edinburg, VA 22824



### A brief History

On the 9th day of January, 1781, Thomas, Lord Fairfax granted the title to 449 acres of land on the West side of Stoney Creek to John Painter, Peter Fultz and George Dellinger, all of Shenandoah County and Elders of the Zion Lutheran Church and Congregation in that County. The origin of the Bethel Church dates back to 1858 when some members of the Zion Church (part of the Tennessee Synod) withdrew from the congregation as a result of a doctrinal controversy regarding the validity of "closed communion". The separated members continued to worship in the church for two years until it was closed to them, but in 1861 the Bethel Church (part of the Virginia Synod) was deeded of 225 acres of land, by Agreement

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between the trustees of both churches, being Lot 1 of the original land grant, and Zion Church remaining on Lot 2 of that land

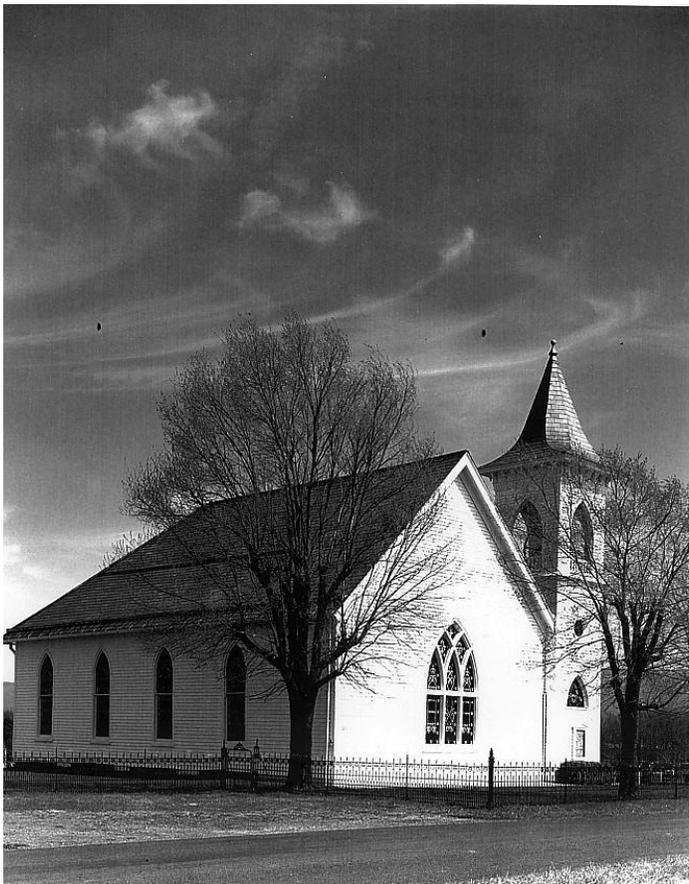
The cornerstone of the new Bethel Church was laid in 1861 but, because of the Civil War, the building was suspended and not completed until 1867. By that time, Bethel Church had been admitted to the Virginia Synod as a congregation of the Zion Parish consisting of Powder Springs, St. James and Union Forge churches.

In 1884 Bethel Church became a member of the Mt. Jackson Parish and then in 1951, part of the Edinburg Parish.

Pastor W.H. Cone was pastor from 1858 to 1865, followed by Levi Keller from 1867 -1871.

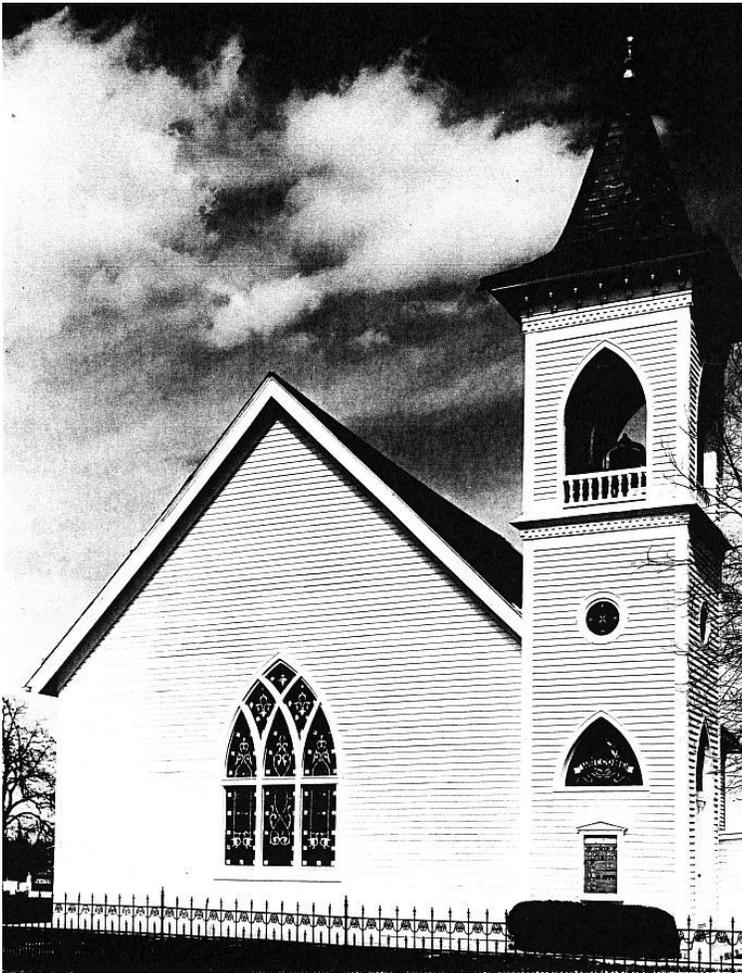
In 1909, extensive renovation of the structure was undertaken. A extension to the church was added and completed by 2006

*Written by Philip Crown from information supplied by Barry Sweitzer, February 2012*



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