

Emmanuel Lutheran Church
155 East Lee St,
New Market, VA 22844



A brief History

To understand Lutheran churches in New Market, one must speak of congregations first. One cannot speak of Emmanuel Lutheran Church without mentioning that it was founded by Lutheran missionary Rev. Paul Henkel in 1790. He served the Davidsburg Lutheran congregation, part of the union church at the north end of town, until it called Pastor Samuel S. Schmucker, a graduate of Yale University in 1820. Because of controversy involving a locked church door and Lutheran doctrine, the Lutheran congregation soon split into two groups .

St. Matthew's congregation remained at the same location, and members were known as the "the lower Lutherans." Liberal American Lutheranism developed under Pastor Schmucker. The Henkel group that separated from St. Matthew's had no church building for almost twenty-five years, and they often met for services at the New Market Academy; Solomon Henkel's German schoolhouse; Rader's, Timberville; or Armentrout's, Keezletown. This Henkel congregation became known later as "the upper Lutherans."

Then in 1848 the Henkel congregation took the name Emmanuel Lutheran Church, and they built the first brick building on the present location.

Churches in Shenandoah County

Translation of *The Book of Concord* from German and the establishment of The Tennessee Synod, with its concern for education, grew out of pastoral leadership at Emmanuel Lutheran Church in the second half of the nineteenth century.

The first Emmanuel Lutheran Church (1848), brick with a steeple above the entrance, was built on approximately the same site as the second one, now standing. A picture of the first Emmanuel suggests that its steeple became the model for the steeple at Reformation Lutheran Church, New Market. The new church building furnished to Lutherans, who valued the confessions in *The Book of Concord*, a place of worship. Emmanuel provided a sanctuary within which to confess faith according to German Lutheran doctrine.

The second Emmanuel church (1892) developed when a \$2,500 subscription list to remodel the church circulated in 1888; however, the congregation decided to rebuild in brick for a cost of \$5,664. Reflecting Byzantine influence, the architecture features repeated arches in the windows and sanctuary. Vivid, stained glass of gold, ruby, sapphire, and opal surrounds religious art in the round-arched windows and in the three part chancel window, dedicated to Rev. Paul Henkel. The stained glass windows of Christ in the Temple, talking to the priests and elders, and children, contribute sanctity to worship.

The Emmanuel Lutheran Church ceiling was originally fresco painted, but high humidity necessitated twentieth century renovation with modern paints. In 1898 The Apostles' Creed, lettered in gold leaf on black in a recess on the left of the chancel, placed the confession prominently before the congregation. The lettering of the creed and the fresco work reflect the artistry of William F. Rupp. The same year an \$850. Moller pipe organ was installed in the recess to the right of the chancel to replace a pump organ. The manual operation of bellows by young boys of the congregation supplied power for the Moller organ before it was electrified, around 1937.

A bell tower rises above the entrance to the church. A church bell from McShane bell foundry in Baltimore was placed in the belfry in memory of Gideon Koiner in 1905. Weighing 700 pounds, or 1,000 pounds with mountings, it sounded a b-flat tone. But the first bell cracked, and it was replaced in 1910. The second Emmanuel bell, moved to Reformation in 1955, now peals each Sunday to call worshipers to services.

Under leadership of the Emmanuel congregation and the Tennessee Synod, The Shenandoah Lutheran Institute (1913-1922) met parochial educational needs of grade and high school students in New Market. From 1922-1926 Emmanuel Lutheran Church continued the parochial school with its own funding, first with two teachers, finally with one, in the Polytechnic Institute building that stood to the west of and adjacent to

No longer used as an active church, but may be used for special occasions

Churches in Shenandoah County

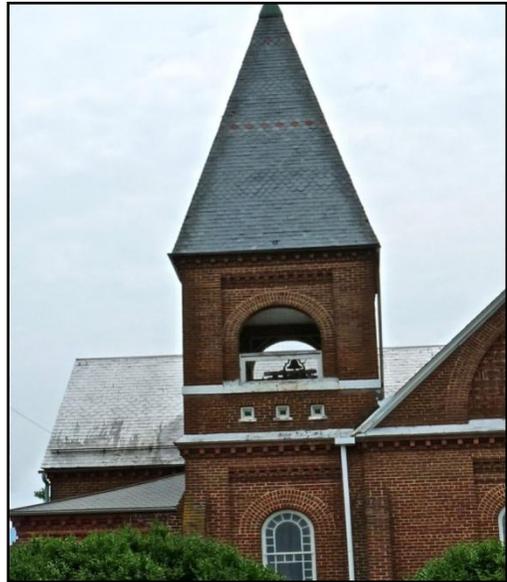
Emmanuel church.

The two Lutheran congregations reunited in 1932 with the name Emmanuel-St. Matthew's Lutheran Church, after one hundred and twelve years (1820-1932). Worship services alternated weekly between the two churches. When Reformation Lutheran Church was constructed to serve one congregation in 1955, the Emmanuel church building continued under its own trustees, who open it for special occasions and services.

Written by Nancy Branner Stewart, September, 2011



East view of Church



Steeple on second Emmanuel Church

No longer used as an active church, but may be used for special occasions