

Churches in the Shenandoah Valley

Mount Calvary Lutheran Church
5983 Main St
Mt. Jackson. VA 22842



A brief History

It is from 1844 that Mount Calvary dates its organization. The date is based upon an old record, which states that one Daniel Gray, a member of the Lutheran Church in Mt. Jackson, was buried in the old cemetery in Mt. Jackson with honors of war. The record states that he died January 19, 1845.

In 1846, the Lutherans did not have their own church building and the congregation held services in the "old brick church" (Union), a community landmark, which stands in the middle of the old cemetery in the center of Mt. Jackson. As was the case so often, this building was used by the Lutherans and Reformed.

Church website: www.mountcalvaryva.org
Telephone: 540-477-2421

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The property is deeded "To any religious organization wishing to hold services here."

In the mid-1800s, a movement within the Lutheran church was started which resulted in the erection of a church building owned exclusively by the Lutherans. A church was built just across the street from the church's present location on South Main Street. The cornerstone was laid April 21, 1860, and the church (a frame structure) was dedicated on December 16, 1860.

This first building burned on December 18, 1882, and the church was rebuilt in 1884, the second also being a frame structure. It was during this time (1884) that Mount Calvary Church first appears on the Register of Churches, being served in a Parish with Zion Church (west of Edinburg), Solomon's Church (near Forestville), and St. James Church (Hudson Cross Roads). This second church building was also destroyed by fire on October 10, 1885. The present brick structure was begun at once and completed that same year.

Sometime between 1878 and 1883, the congregation built its first parsonage on Gospel Hill (Gospel Street).

In 1883, the Mt. Jackson Parish was formed, composed of Mount Calvary Church in Mt. Jackson, Bethel Church at Hamburg, and St. James Church at Hudson Cross Roads. Prior to 1883, the histories of the three churches are separate and distinct, but beginning with this date and thereafter until 1949, the history of the three churches is somewhat parallel. Sometime between 1947 and 1950, Mount Calvary Lutheran Church became an independent parish.

In 1951, the church sold its parsonage on Gospel Street and purchased a new parsonage on Shannon Avenue.

On November 22, 1964, the congregation broke ground for a parish house which was added to the south side of the sanctuary building. Built at a cost of \$65,000, the addition was dedicated on September 12, 1965.

In October 1989, the congregation sold the parsonage on the north side of Shannon Avenue and bought the Jim Shannon house on the south side of Shannon Avenue. Purchase of the house and subsequent remodeling totaled \$130,000.

Early Pastors:

Samuel Simon Schmucker	- 1844	Joseph Allen Synder Jr.	1866-1878
Anders Rudolph Rude	1844-1846	Jacob Schaeffer Moser	1878-1883
John Philip Cline	1846-1866	William Elias Stahler	1884-1887

Submitted by Roger Rudy, Secretary, July, 2013

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