

St. Michael's Church

Saint Michael's Uniate Greek Catholic Parish was organized in 1916. The cornerstone laying was held on November 19, 1916 at 1 p.m. with a priest from St. Louis having charge of the celebration. The best Slavish musicians were engaged to play for the occasion with a social dance held after the services.

A priest from St. Louis served this parish first, but the congregation soon realized that there were not enough members to keep the parish in existence. They called a meeting of all the Slavic people in town, most of who were of the Orthodox faith. The people decided to change the name to St. Michael's Russian Orthodox Greek – Catholic Church. Father Kingskof of the Madison parish was the first Orthodox priest to serve the parish.

The first resident priest was Father Okaly. With his hard work and the help of Bishop Steven Julie, the parish was turned over to the Orthodox faith in 1917. Father Okaly organized

a Russian lodge on November 3, 1919. the charter for the lodge was issued as St. Nicholas Lodge Number 140 of the Russian Orthodox Catholic Aid Society of the United States of America. At one time there were 50 members each provided with an insurance policy. As people moved away, they took their membership with them. Members that remained in Livingston transferred membership to the Benld Lodge.

Father Katchmarsky came to serve this parish in late 1919. He was followed by Father Ramzam of the Witt parish, who was followed by Father Brosisov and later Father Karaform served the parish.

When Father Barna was at Benld, he would hold services on the fourth Sunday of each month in Livingston.

The church was closed when members left Livingston to find better employment elsewhere. The few people of the parish remaining transferred to either the Madison or Benld churches.

In 1934 the Lutheran Church, Missouri Synod, rented the building for three dollars a month. On October 8, 1944, the Lutheran Church purchased the building for \$750.00. With the consent of His Grace the Most Reverend Leonty, Bishop of Chicago, the money was divided three ways. The following groups each received \$250.00: the Orthodox parish of Benld, the Orthodox parish of Madison and the Orthodox cemetery at Livingston for its upkeep.

Some of the families that belonged to the church were: Smerk, Polk, Fech and Sawchak.



Holy Cross Lutheran Church

Dear Fellow Citizens of Livingston,

Holy Cross Lutheran Church (LCMS) of Livingston is joyous to be celebrating the centennial of our community in year 2005.

We have a rich history together as Holy Cross celebrated its 70th anniversary this past year. Our past, our present and certainly our future as a church has, and will be Blessed, in our One God-Father-Son (Jesus Christ) and Holy Spirit.

The following is some of our history:

In May 1934, Lutherans in Livingston committed to the Bible Word, Baptism, The Lord's Supper and Law and Gospel began to gather for Sunday School and worship in individual homes.

In 1936, there were too few Greek Orthodox people in Livingston to support the church, so they rented their building to the Lutherans. Holy Cross began under the direction of seminary student Lothar Kleinhans, son of the Reverend J.G.F. Kleinhans of Zion Lutheran Church in Staunton.

In 1937, Lothar Kleinhans was ordained and installed as pastor of Holy Cross. He served very faithfully until he was led by the Lord to take a call to another church in 1941.



Charter members include the following present members: Mary Cheslak, Emma (Cheslak) Jacobs, and Dorothy (Evans) Kabat.

Under the direction of Reverend K.C. Weinrich, who was called in 1941, Holy Cross began a shared dual parish with Immanuel, South Staunton (Braunschweig). This relationship was blessed by God until 1980 when Immanuel disbanded.

In 1946, an old army barracks became available in St. Louis, was razed, and then reassembled by church members on the Lutheran



Church property. This structure became the parish hall.

On January 17, 1948, disaster struck, when a fire gutted the church, destroying the church interior and most of the roof. Townspeople of the Livingston community, our fire and rescue volunteers, together with surrounding communities assisted Holy Cross in a most supporting manner. The church met for almost two years for worship in the parish hall while the sanctuary was rebuilt.

Other pastors who served Holy Cross were: Fred Rutkowski, A. Ulkus, Edwin Schury, Bachanz, Beck, Gaiser, James Schrader, and Schedler.

In 1983 another shared ministry was begun, this time with the Southern Illinois District of The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod, as Pastor James Schroeder was called to serve as pastor of Holy Cross in conjunction with serving in the Mission of Prison Ministry. This shared ministry continues as Pastor Maurice H. Alms accepted the call to Holy Cross in June of 1987 and continues to serve the church as pastor.

Holy Cross Church, made up of many Livingston people, gives thanks for our past and prays God's richest blessings for our community in our present and in our future under God's direction. We seek to continue to be of Christian service to our community in our future – together.

A Blessed Centennial in Christ Jesus,
Holy Cross Lutheran (LCMS) Church



Photo at left shows Holy Cross Lutheran Church in 1948 after a fire devastated the parish.

First Baptist Church

The First Baptist Church of Livingston began in 1941 as a mission under Smith Grove Baptist Church, Greenville, Illinois, by Gideon Oscar Foulon. The original church building, which was located where the present church stands, was completed in approximately two months at the cost of \$400.00 for building and property. In early 1941, eleven people attended the first service. G.O. Foulon served the church for seven years, commuting from Greenville for bi-monthly services.

The church was organized April 30, 1944 with thirty-five charter members. In 1955 the original building was remodeled and a vestibule added. The auditorium was remodeled in 1959.

The church sponsored a mission in Williamson and one at the Tuberculosis Sanitarium in Edwardsville in 1961. Soon after, a mission was started in Staunton which is now Bethel Southern Baptist Church.



In 1969 a steeple and cross were erected. A second story addition was built in 1970 to increase classroom space. An enlargement of the auditorium and three additional classrooms came in 1987.

Landscaping and a new cross were added in 1991, the year the church celebrated its 50th Anniversary Jubilee. In 50 years the membership grew from eleven to one hundred ninety-nine.

The pastors who served the congregation are: Gideon Foulon, Luther Shelby, Lee Scaggs, Glen Moore, Robert Woods, Vivian Bently, Elbert Oberto, Arnold Epps, Wana Archer, James Young, Jerry Thomason, Ollie Phillips, Robert Leigh, James McGuire, Donald Brown, Ernest Atwood, Paul Davis, Paul Epps, Jeff McDonald, Don Schnipper, John Oswald, Tom Douglas, and Henry Martin.

