Salem

Deutsche Evangelische Salems-Gemeinde

1886–1898, Shreve & Margaretta

1898–1961, Shreve & Margaretta

A group of Evangelical families met with the Rev. George Toennis at the home of Mr. F. Grafemann on Nov. 16, 1885 to discuss organizing a congregation in their north-west St. Louis neighborhood. Two weeks later, on Nov. 23, 14 persons signed a constitution. Services, first conducted by Eden Seminary students, were held in a Presbyterian Church on Marcus Ave. The congregation dedicated a frame church at Shreve and Margaretta Avenues on April 4, 1886, and a parochial school building was completed the next September. The Rev. J.J. Fink was installed as the first regular pastor on Aug. 1, 1886. A larger church was dedicated on Oct. 2, 1898.

In 1955, Salem had approximately 800 members, 500 of whom lived within walking distance of the church. By about 1960, this number had declined to 40 as members moved west and northwest out of the city. After surveying the neighborhood, the congregation voted to relocate as close as possible to where its membership was moving. A site at New Halls Ferry and Pohlman Roads in Florissant was purchased in April 1960 and a new building occupied for worship services on Christmas Day 1961. The congregation's property at Shreve and Margaretta was sold to St. Peter's AME Church in 1962.

By 1912, Salem was holding English services once a month. Weekly English services were established by 1917. In 1919, the congregation voted to conduct all congregational meetings in English and women were granted suffrage that same year.

The members of Salem voted to leave the United Church of Christ in 2001, but the congregation continues to be active as a member of the Evangelical Free Church of America.

PASTORS

Eden Seminary students	1885–1886
J.J. Fink	1886–1897
Herman Walz	1897–1917
Paul Langhorst	1917–1925
John H. Overbeck	1925–1942
Robert J. Young	1942–1957
Adolf Friz	1957–1978
Adolf Friz, Sr. (visitation pastor)	1964–1968
John Schulz (visitation pastor)	1968–?

ADMITTED TO THE EVANGELICAL SYNOD

1887

PAROCHIAL SCHOOL

Est. 1886, closed 1908.

MEMBERS IN 1930

500

1885

Ebenezer

Deutsche Evangelische Ebenezer-Gemeinde

1891–present, 2921 McNair

Ebenezer's Interior as it appeared in 1926

The Home Mission Board of the Missouri District of the Evangelical Synod called the Rev. C. Fritsch in 1886 to organize a new congregation in what was then southwestern St. Louis. Services were first held in a former Methodist chapel at 2921 McNair on Pentecost with eight persons in attendance. By Sept. 20, when the congregation was formally organized, it consisted of 36 families. In spring 1887, the congregation was able to buy the chapel building, and it erected a parochial school building next to it a year later. A new church building was built on an adjoining lot and dedicated on Oct. 14, 1891.

In June 1964, St. Andrew's, located at Juniata and Shenandoah, merged with Ebenezer to form Epiphany. The United Church of Christ congregation remains active in the former Ebenezer Church at 2921 McNair.

PASTORS

Carl Fritsch	1886–1890
Samuel A. John	1890– 1894
Max Habecker	1894– 1898
John Kroehnke	1898– 1901
Arthur Fischer	1901– 1912
Louis Suedmeyer	1912– 1920
H. F. Carl Haas	1921– 1935
Arno H. Franke	1935–1943
Elmer P. Helling	1943–?

PAROCHIAL SCHOOL

Est. 1888, closed 1899

MEMBERS IN 1930

381

ADMITTED TO THE EVANGELICAL SYNOD

1886

Arthur Gereke, organist, 1926

1886

Bethlehem

Deutsche Evangelische Bethlehems-Gemeinde

1898–1918 Herford & Shaw

With support of the Home Mission Board of the Evangelical Synod's Missouri District, lay evangelist Gustav Edlich, a member of St. Pauls Church, begun canvassing new residents in the neighborhood now known as the Hill about 1888. After holding meetings in a rented hall, the congregation dedicated a frame church on Shaw Ave. between Herford and Cooper Streets in Jan. 1890. A new brick building with a 75-foot tower was built on the same site and dedicated on Judica Sunday, March 27, 1898.

By 1915, Bethlehem's members were moving out of the neighborhood and being replaced by Italian Roman Catholics, resulting in decreased attendance and financial difficulties. After considering merging with another congregation, Bethlehem moved into a new frame church at Southwest Ave. and Reber Place in 1918. A pastoral vacancy in 1927 provided the opportunity to negotiate a merger with Messiah at 6520 Arsenal. The merger was accomplished in March 1928 as Mt. Tabor.

PASTORS

Henry C. Graebedinkel	1890- 1907
Otto Waldmann	1907- 1915
Karl Nottrott	1915-1927
H. Kochheim	1927-1928

Henry C. Graebedinkel, Bethlehem's first pastor

MEMBERS IN 1927

571

ADMITTED TO THE EVANGELICAL SYNOD

1906

1918–1928, Southwest & Reber

1890

Immanuel

Deutsche Evangelische Immanuels-Gemeinde

In 1892, Martin Kleinau and another Eden Seminary student assisted the Rev. Karl Pleger in canvassing the newly developing area around Easton St. and Kingshighway Blvd. for interest in starting an Evangelical congregation. As a result, a group of eight families organized themselves as the German Evangelical Immanuel Congregation. With support of the Home Mission Board of the Missouri District, Pleger was called as the first pastor. A frame church was built at Euclid Ave. and Knight Street (now Maple Ave.) and dedicated on Feb. 5, 1893.

Immanuel merged with Eden Church in Oct. 1919 to create Eden-Immanuel.

PASTORS

Karl Pleger	1892–1897
Fritz Pfeiffer	1897–1899
Arthur Fischer	1899–1901
G. Bode	1901–1919

MEMBERS IN 1918

Approx. 75

ADMITTED THE EVANGELICAL SYNOD

1893

1893–1919 Euclid & Maple

1892

Trinity

Deutsche Evangelische Dreieinigkeits-Gemeinde

By the 1890s, the Mt. Pleasant neighborhood in south St. Louis was a new residential neighborhood with no easy access to existing Evangelical Churches. The Home Mission Board of the Evangelical Synod's Missouri District requested Eden Seminary to send students to organize a new congregation. In fall 1893, Herman R. Booch and Henry Neifu established a Sunday school with 40 students at the home of William Hoffmann, 2905 Neosho St. (now Mt. Pleasant St.). Six weeks later, on Nov. 16, 1893, Trinity Church was organized.

The congregation purchased a lot at Neosho St. and Michigan Ave. and dedicated a small frame church on June 17, 1894. Booch became Trinity's first pastor upon graduation from seminary. After a period of financial difficulty in which the congregation lost membership, the Rev. F.W. Esser (1900–1914) was successful in rebuilding the congregation. In 1908, a basement and school addition were added to the church, the exterior veneered in brick, a pipe organ and stained glass installed, and a parsonage built. The congregation became debt-free by July 6, 1921.

The growing congregation dedicated a new church at Grand Blvd. and Itaska St. on April 26, 1931. The Great Depression hit the congregation hard, causing a financial crisis and reducing the membership to less than 300. When the Rev. Paul R. Stock began his ministry in 1934, he emphasized a program of door-to-door evangelism and free-will giving. By 1945, the congregation became debt-free, and membership rose to a peak of about 1,700 in 1947. Average Sunday school attendance in 1948 was 900.

Services in English were added during the Rev. Henry Bahnsen's pastorate (1914–1933). By Sept. 1938, the congregation held two weekly services in English and one in German.

1894–1931, Mt. Pleasant & Michigan

1931–present, Grand & Itaska

Paul Stock, pastor, 1934–1858. His evangelistic style, which included altar calls, was unusual in the Evangelical Synod tradition.

MEMBERS IN 1930

560

ADMITTED TO THE EVANGELICAL SYNOD

1893

PASTORS

Herman R. Booch	1893–1897
Franz Bosold	1897–1900
F.W. Esser	1900–1914
Henry T. Bahnsen	1914–1933
Paul R. Stock	1934–1958
Paul Bode (associate)	1947–1954
Frank Edom (associate)	1957–1959
Earl W. Krueger	1959–1965
Edward Malzer (associate)	1961–1963
Robert E. Kasper	1966–1970
James H. Konrad	1967–1978
Elmer H. Dickbernd (assistant)	1971–1984
F. Donald Gibson	1978–1986
Roy R. Priem	1987–1992

1893

Eden

Deutsche Evangelische Eden-Gemeinde

In 1892, Eden Seminary sent student F. W. Esser to help organize a new mission congregation in northwest St. Louis. Meeting in a home on a truck farm at what is now 6300 Olive Street Rd., Eden Congregation (named after the seminary) was formally organized on Jan. 23, 1894. Esser became the congregation's first pastor in Feb. 1894 after graduation. With help from the Home Mission Board of the Evangelical Synod's Missouri District, the congregation erected a church at Hamilton and Bartmer Avenues and dedicated it on Sept. 17, 1894. The congregation became self-sustaining by 1902.

1894–1919, Hamilton & Bartmer

In 1900, English was introduced in Sunday school and evening services. Women were granted voting rights in 1913.

Eden merged with Immanuel Church in Oct. 1919 to create Eden-Immanuel Evangelical Church.

PASTORS

F.W. Esser	1894–1896
Paul Pfeiffer	1899–1904
Walter E. Uhrland	1905–1910
Carl Fritsch	1910–1912
Karl L. Schneider	1912–1917
Robert M. Hinze	1917–1919
Karl L. Schneider	1919

MEMBERS IN 1918

125

ADMITTED TO THE EVANGELICAL SYNOD

1896

1894

Jesus

Deutsche Evangelische Jesus-Gemeinde

1896–2000, Original church at 12th & Victor

Jesus Church was organized on Nov. 2, 1894 by former members of St. Marcus Church who had left upon the resignation of its pastor, the Rev. Louis Nollau. Services were first conducted by Pastor Nollau at the Soulard Market Hall. On Nov. 16, 1894, the congregation called the Rev. Carl Pirscher as its first full-time pastor. A church at 12th and Victor Streets was dedicated on March 8, 1996. St. Pauls-Friedens Church at 13th and Allen merged with Jesus Church in 1913, adding forty families to its rolls. In 1915 the congregation had 1,262 communicant members and was the largest congregation in the Missouri District.

Confirmation classes were offered in English beginning in 1905, at evening services beginning in 1905 and at morning services beginning in 1913. By the 1930s, the transition to the English language was complete.

When the Rev. J.J. Fink resigned in 1912, he was succeeded by the Rev. William F. Simon, who also became a medical doctor. Pastor Simon attended to parishioner's physical as well as spiritual health and remained in his position for 54 years until his retirement in 1966.

By 1994, the congregation had dwindled to 31 members, only two of whom lived in the city. The congregation disbanded in 2000.

Church exterior and interior after 1914 renovation

PASTORS

Carl Pirscher	1894–1897
J.J. Fink	1897–1912
Wm. F. Simon	1912–1967
Dennis P. Stock	1967–?

MEMBERS IN 1930

450

ADMITTED TO THE EVANGELICAL SYNOD

1895

Wm. F. Simon, pastor, 1912–1966

Martha Society, 1919

1894

Saint Stephen

Deutsche Evangelische St. Stephani-Gemeinde

Seventeen men met on Mar. 20, 1896 in Seaver's Hall, 8102 N. Broadway, to discuss organizing a congregation in the Baden neighborhood. With the encouragement of the Rev. C. Haas from St. James Church, the group organized the German Evangelical St. Stephen Congregation with the Rev. Carl Struckmeier as pastor. The first worship service was held on Mar. 22, 1896. The congregation dedicated a new church at Halls Ferry Rd. and Gimblin St. on Dec. 20, 1896. A brick parochial school building was constructed the following year. When the Rev. Otto Waldmann succeeded Struckmeier in Aug, 1904, a period of turmoil followed that threatened the congregation's existence and led to the pastor's resignation on Feb. 10, 1907. Harmony was restored when the Rev. Carl Weber succeeded Struckmeier.

The congregation's growth necessitated a larger church building by 1930. A lot at Halls Ferry Rd at McLaren and Church Roads was purchased, but construction was delayed by the depression. After considering a more expensive gothic structure, the congregation built a colonial-style church costing about $100,000 and dedicated it on Sept. 11, 1938. Construction of a parsonage followed, and the old church property was sold to Baden Christian Church. By 1946, the congregation had witnessed 1,226 baptisms, 986 confirmations, 653 marriages, 1,150 burials and 26,701 communions. Membership had reached more than 1,200 during the pastorate of the Rev. Otto Kienker (1918–1957).

English services were introduced by the Rev. Charles Decker (1914– 1918). Women were given full membership and granted voting rights after 1918.

1896–1938, Halls Ferry Rd. & Gimblin

Choristers, 1946

PASTORS

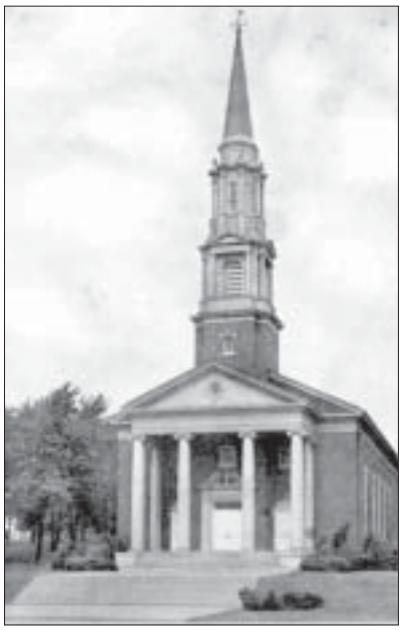
Carl Struckmeier	1896–1904
Otto Waldmann	1904–1907
Carl Warber	1907–1911
Otto Duecker	1911–1914
Charles Decke	1914–1918
Otto F. Kienker	1918–1957
Reinhard Schroedel	1957–1973
I. David Thompson	1973–?

PAROCHIAL SCHOOL

Est. 1897, closed ca. 1904.

ADMITTED TO THE EVANGELICAL SYNOD

1896



1938–present, Halls Ferry Rd. & McLaren

1896

Emmaus

Deutsche Evangelische Emmäus-Gemeinde

1897–1976, Chouteau & Tower Grove

PASTORS

Karl Pleger	1896–1937
Carl Bohnenkamper	1937–1965
Allen Fluent	1965–1971

MEMBERS IN 1930

200

ADMITTED TO THE EVANGELICAL SYNOD

1896

In 1896, the Rev. Karl Pleger began surveying residents in the newly-developing Rock Spring area for a German Evangelical congregation. Through his efforts, 22 women formed a Ladies Aid Society *(Frauenverein)* at a meeting on Nov. 18, 1896 at a store at 4214 Manchester Rd. A week later, on Nov. 25, a group of 11 men met with Pastor Pleger to formally organize the congregation. The congregation met at the Rock Spring Turner Hall until a church building on the northeast corner of Chouteau and Tower Grove Avenues was completed in 1897. After being served by various Eden students, Pastor Pleger became the permanent pastor on Pentecost Sunday 1897. Through its early years, the congregation was sustained through the substantial financial support of the Frauenverein.

In the 1930s, the construction of Highway 40 just north of the church displaced many of its members. By the time the Rev. Carl Bohnenkamper was called to replace Pastor Pleger in 1937, many of the congregation's members no longer lived in the community. By the late '60s, a changing population and continued urban decay brought new challenges to Emmaus. The Rev. Allen Fluent, who succeeded Bohnenkamper in 1965, increased the congregation's direct involvement in the neighborhood and developed a shared ministry with Gibson Heights Presbyterian Church. Ruth Durrant was called by the two congregations to serve as a parish worker in July 1969. Despite these efforts, the congregation closed in 1976.

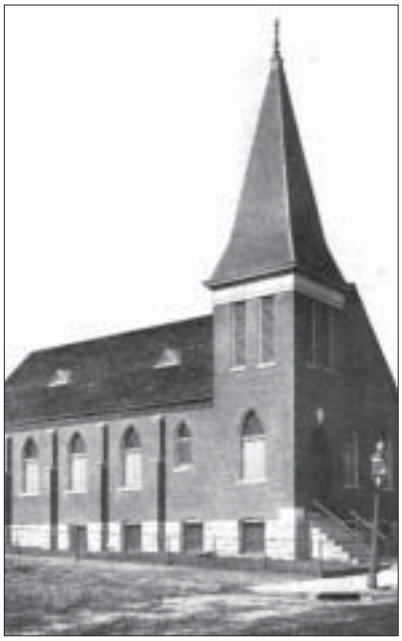
The transition to English was completed in the early years of Bohnenkamper's pastorate (1937–1965).

1896

Saint Andrew

Deutsche Evangelische St. Andreas-Gemeinde

St. Andrew's congregation, 1949



1901–1964, Juniata & California

Fifteen men and women met in a hall at Shenandoah and Compton Avenues on Dec. 3, 1899, to discuss forming a new congregation. By the end of the meeting, they had formally organized the St. Andrew congregation and called the Rev. Carl Kramer as pastor. The congregation bought an existing church building (formerly occupied by the English Lutheran Church of Our Redeemer) at the corner of Juanita St. and California Ave. in 1901. The church was renovated, equipped with an altar and bell, and dedicated on Sept. 15, 1901. In 1902, a Kilgen pipe organ was installed for $700. A parsonage was erected behind the church in 1903. By 1904, the congregation had 25 (male) voting members, 23 members in the Ladies Aid Society (*Frauenverein*), 200 children in Sunday school, and 60 students in the Saturday German school. It is notable that St. Andrew's congregation was self-sustaining from the start and required no financial assistance from the Evangelical Synod's Home Mission Board.

In June 1964, St. Andrew merged with Ebenezer to form Epiphany United Church of Christ. Epiphany remains an active United Church of Christ congregation at the former Ebenezer Church location, 2921 McNair.

PASTORS

Carl Kramer	1899–1913
G. Nussmann	1914–1919
E. Pfundt	1919–1921
H.A. Brethauer	1921–1926
F.E.J.Schenk	1926–1929
John E. Schneider	1929–1940
T.L. Boesch	1940–1949
Theodore E. Beier	1949–1959
Donald C. Grunwald	1959–?

Church interior as it appeared in 1949

MEMBERS IN 1930

200

ADMITTED TO THE EVANGELICAL SYNOD

1899

1899

Parochial school class in session, St. Marcus Church, circa 1890.

Christian Education

PAROCHIAL SCHOOL

Whenever possible, Evangelical congregations established parochial schools to educate children in religion, academic subjects and German language. Some St. Louis Evangelical congregations had large schools with teaching staffs. In smaller congregations, the pastor usually also served as the school teacher. The earliest Evangelical parochial schools in St. Louis were those of Holy Ghost Church, 1836, and St. Peter's Church, 1845. Parochial schools began closing around 1900, when German Evangelicals began taking advantage of free public education.

Confirmation Day, Salvator Church, 1920. Posing with confirmands are Pastor Paul Prell, second row on left, and former pastor, H. Richard Niebuhr, second row on right

SATURDAY GERMAN SCHOOL

In addition to parochial schools, many pastors conducted Saturday schools to provid religious instruction to children attending public school. Saturday schools often expanded to weekdays during summer vacation. Until 1887, subjects were taught in German at all levels in public schools. When the practice was discontinued, the Saturday school became an important means of teaching children to read, write and speak in German.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

The Sunday school was a practice adopted from American Protestantism and only gradually gained universal acceptance in German Evangelical congregations. Only in 1872 did the number of Sunday schools begin to exceed those of parochial schools in the denomination. Sunday schools were originally conducted in the afternoon and included instruction in the German language for those that needed it.

CONFIRMATION INSTRUCTION

After up to six years of instruction, children were confirmed at the age of 13 or 14. The last two years of classes, taught by the pastor, were intensive. Confirmands were commonly required to memorize the Evangelical Catechism, verses of scripture, and hymn texts. Confirmation usually took place on Palm Sunday, allowing the newly confirmed youth to receive Holy Communion for the first time on Good Friday or Easter Sunday.

Bethel

First English Evangelical Mission

1906–1963, Greer & Garrison

Bethel was the first of two English-speaking mission congregations in St. Louis. Called by the Home Mission Board of the Evangelical Synod, the Rev. Theophile L. Mueller began holding services on Oct. 13, 1901 at the Central Y.M.C.A. at Grand Blvd. and Franklin St. The congregation was officially organized on Nov. 10, 1901 with a provisional constitution and ten charter members. On Dec. 1, 1901 regular Sunday morning services began at Garfield Hall at 13th and Wright Streets, and a constitution was adopted on April 8, 1902. In June the congregation acquired a lot at Greer and Garrison Streets southeast of Fairgrounds Park.

By 1903, Bethel had become self-supporting and was able to begin a building program. A basement structure was constructed in 1905 and was used for worship services beginning late in the year. The parsonage was completed by 1906 and the finished church, complete with a pipe organ costing $3,500 and art glass windows, was dedicated on Nov. 15, 1908. By 1926, the congregation had witnessed 840 baptisms, 886 confirmations, 513 marriages, 633 burials and 18,608 communions. Bethel Church gained about 100 families when Second English Evangelical Church dissolved in 1919.

In 1963 the congregation voted to sell the church property at Greer and Garrison to Fairfax Baptist Church and move to a new location in Florissant. Services were held in the North Side Y.M.C.A. and later at Hazelwood Junior High School until Dec. 24, 1965 when the new building at 14710 New Halls Ferry Rd.was used for the first time. The new church was formally dedicated in March 1966. Bethel United Church of Christ remains an active congregation.

PASTORS

Theophile L. Mueller	1901–1917
J. P. Meyer	1918–1935
Richard A. Miller	1936–1949
Walter M. Grabowski	1950–1950
Oscar C. Nussmann	1951–1959
Harold A. Schulz	1960–1964
Harley A. Krieger	1964– ?

MEMBERS IN 1930

730

ADMITTED TO THE EVANGELICAL SYNOD

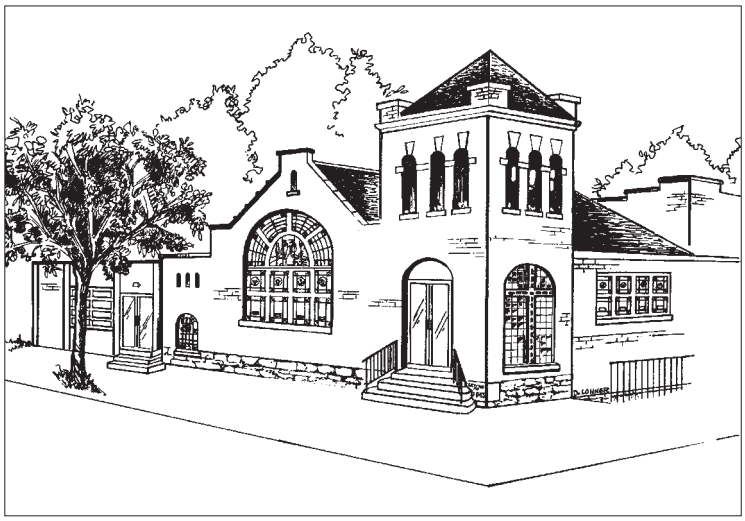
1903

1963-present 14710 New Halls Ferry Rd

1901

Nazareth

Deutsche Evangelische Nazareth-Gemeinde



1906–1994, Morganford & Tholozan

The Rev. William Schmidt, called by the Mission Board in 1903 to develop a new congregation in the Oak Hill neighborhood, met with six residents on March 18, 1903 to organize Nazareth Church. The group first met in a bungalow on the southeast corner of Morganford Rd. and Miami St. for Sunday school and worship services. The Ladies Aid *(Frauenverein)* was instrumental in raising funds to pay expenses for the new congregation. A lot on the northeast side of Morganford and Tholozan Ave. was purchased in 1905 and a new church dedicated on July 15, 1906. The congregation built a parsonage in 1908 and became self-sustaining by 1911. In 1915, a pipe organ was installed in the church and the building expanded. A fellowship hall was added in 1954.

The congregation disbanded in 1994.

PASTORS

William Schmidt	1903–1906
Gustav Hehl	1906–1908
E.R. Jaeger	1908–1911
L.C. Boeker	1911–1913
George M. Poth	1913–1935
O.P. Schroerluke	1935–1938
George M. Poth	1938–1945
George W. Knapp	1945–1948
Chester W. Gaum	1949–1974
LaVerne Sova	1974–1978

MEMBERS IN 1930

325

ADMITTED TO THE EVANGELICAL SYNOD

1903

1903

Salvator

Deutsche Evangelische Salvator-Gemeinde

1907–1925, Plover & Thekla

1925–1951, Plover & Thekla

In 1906, the Walnut Park neighborhood in north St. Louis was a newly-developing residential neighborhood. When poor roads made it difficult to commute to their own congregations farther in town, a group of residents met in the Walnut Park Presbyterian Church on Robin Ave. with the Rev. Otto Waldman, pastor of St. Stephen Church, on April 29 to discuss starting a new Evangelical congregation. Sunday school and church services were first held in the Presbyterian Church and later in Edward Heuer's barn on Wren Ave. Written histories attest to the instrumental role the Ladies Aid Society *(Frauenverein)* played in precipitating the formal organization of the congregation on Sept. 12, 1906, with the Rev. Herman Koenig as pastor.

The congregation's first church was a small frame building on Plover at Thekla Avenues built by the men of the congregation about 1907. A brick educational building that also included a larger worship space was begun in 1924 and dedicated on May 3, 1925. In 1942, the congregation started a building fund based on free-will donations and without a capital campaign. Construction on a new church began in May 1950 and the completed structure dedicated on June 3, 1951. The congregation, a member of the United Church of Christ, closed on Oct. 27, 1980.

H. Richard Niebuhr, who went on to become a Yale professor and a renowned American Protestant theologian, was pastor of the congregation in 1917–1918.

English was established in the congregation during the Niebuhr pastorate (1917–1918).

PASTORS

Herman Koenig	1906–1909
H. Richard Niebuhr	1917–1918
J. Reichert	1909–1917
Samuel Albrecht	1918–1919
Carl Fritsch	1920–1926
Paul Prell	1926–1964
Jesse Pollmann	1964–?

MEMBER IN 1930

315

ADMITTED TO THE EVANGELICAL SYNOD

1906

1951–1980, Plover & Thekla

1906

Redeemer

Deutsche Evangelische Erlöser-Gemeinde

1912–1921, 6450 S. Kingshighway

1921–1930, 6450 S. Kingshighway

In 1908, the land around Kingshighway Blvd. and Gravois Ave. was an area of truck farms that was quickly being transformed into residential subdivisions. Many residents moving into the area were already members of existing Evangelical churches in the city. Several residents, including Charles Braden, Dora Peters, Laura Peters, and Mr. And Mrs. W. Illert, met to discuss the need for a church in their neighborhood.

The group rented a room next to a tavern at 6003 Gravois Ave. and began holding an ecumenical Sunday school on June 8, 1908. In response to the demand for worship services, W. E. Illert began holding weekly services in German, while Charles Brandon conducted services in English. The fledgling congregation adopted the name Rosa Park Mission. Contact was made with the Missouri District Home Mission Board, which provided a larger meeting space in a feed store at Gravois Ave. and Hapsburger St. (now Cecil Pl.). Three lots were acquired at 6450 S. Kighshighway Blvd. in 1912, and a modest brick building erected for worship and Sunday school. A small frame Sunday school hall was later constructed next to the brick chapel building. The congregation occupied a basement for a new church beginning in 1921 and dedicated the completed building in 1930, despite the onset of the depression.

When the congregation faced a pastoral vacancy in 1918, the Home Mission Board appointed the Rev. Helmut R. Friz to make Redeemer self-supporting or close it. Fritz accomplished the former within two years and remained pastor of the congregation until his retirement in 1968.

By 1930, the use of German had diminished to one monthly service.

Evangelical Church of the Redeemer left the United Church of Christ in 2003 but continues as an independent congregation.

PASTORS

E.R. Jaeger	1910–1912
Charles Decker	1912–1914
Theo. Baur,	1914
George Duval	1914–1916
S. D. Press	1916–1917
W. Marion Jeschke	1917–1918
Helmut R. Friz	1918–1972
Frank Edom (assistant)	1960–1966
Wills M. Alspach	1969–1993
Kevin and Maureen Duffy–Guy	1993–1998
George E. Dohm, Jr.	1999–2003

MEMBERS IN 1930

484

ADMITTED TO THE EVANGELICAL SYNOD

1910

Completed church, dedicated Dec. 7, 1930

1910

Second English

Although very little information exists about this congregation, records indicate that it may have been founded about 1911. In 1913, the Rev. J.J. Meyer resigned from St. Pauls-Friedens to take a call at Second English. The *Evangelischer Kalendar* indicates that the congregation was admitted to the Evangelical Synod in 1915 and was located at Alice Ave. and Grant St. in the Baden neighborhood in north St. Louis. The congregation was absorbed by Bethel Church on Sept. 28, 1919, at which time Second English consisted of about 100 families.

PASTORS

Names of pastors unknown before 1913

J.J. Meyer	1913–1915
W.H. Schlinkmann	1915–1919

ADMITTED TO THE EVANGELICAL SYNOD

1915

J.J. Meyer, pastor,
1913–1915

1911

Caroline Mission

Good Shepherd Center

Mission chapel, 1936

By 1913, the Lafayette Park neighborhood was becoming a densely-populated tenement slum. Eden Seminary students and faculty responded to the spiritual and social needs of the area by establishing the Good Shepherd Center in a rented house at Dillon and Hickory Streets. In 1918, brothers Herman E. and Ernst H. Schultz donated a house at 1821 Hickory for use by the center, which was renamed the Caroline Mission after the Schultz's mother. The mission's facilities were expanded in 1924 to add an auditorium, gymnasium and kitchen. The Caroline Mission broadened its scope when it merged with the Federation of Evangelical Churches' City Mission in 1929. By 1936, the center's facilities were used by as many as 2000 people per week. In 1962, the boards of the Caroline Mission and the Fellowship Center, established by the Evangelical and Reformed Church in 1943, were combined to form the Board for Inner-City Missions of the United Church of Christ in Metropolitan St. Louis.

Caroline Mission Sunday School, 1938

When highway construction forced many residents out of the neighborhood, Caroline Mission relocated to permanent quarters at 2828 Caroline St. in 1983. The mission continues to serve the community as part of Neighborhood Houses, a joint ministry of the United Church of Christ and Christian Church-Disciples of Christ.

In 1923, 26 persons formed an Evangelical congregation at the mission with the director as its pastor. In 1952, the congregation became independent of the mission.

PASTORS / DIRECTORS

Eden Seminary Students	1913–1915
Harold Auler	1915–1918
George Sunkel	1918
August E. Binder	1918–1927
William E. Scholze	1927–1929
Henry J. Damm	1929–1942
Carl C. Rasche	1943–1948
Paul Schnake	1945–1948
Carl Siegenthaler	1948–1950
Rudolph Raber	1950–1952
William H. Daniels	1952–?

1918–1975, 1821 Hickory

CONGREGATION MEMBERS IN 1930

160

ADMITTED TO THE EVANGELICAL SYNOD

1913

1913

Pilgrim

Deutsche Evangelische Pilgrim-Gemeinde

Six women, Mesdames Bach, Betzold, Hlava, Leibrock, Memhard, Reitz and Tueteberg, met with the Rev. Carl Kramer in 1914, urging him to organize a church and offering their support. A congregation began worshipping at at Kleekamp's Hall, 3121 S. Grand Blvd., on March 29, 1914. In June, the congregation formally organized itself taking the name Pilgrim and calling Kramer as its pastor. Mrs. Bach began canvassing the neighborhood for additional members and donations.

In Dec. 1914, a lot at Arsenal and Louisiana Streets was rented and a portable frame chapel erected in March 1915. The congregation purchased the lot in 1918. The ground floor of a future church replaced the chapel in 1922, although the second-story sanctuary was never completed. An assembly hall and parsonage were built in 1927.

Pilgrim Church's proposed building. The ground floor was completed in 1922 and used until the congregation closed in 1983

1915–1922, Arsenal & Louisiana

Worship services in English were first introduced once a month in May 1915. By 1922 weekly English services and Sunday school were conducted alongside German. English replaced German entirely by 1933.

Although Pilgrim Church was served by pastors of the Evangelical Synod, the congregation never joined the denomination. It became a member of the Evangelical and Reformed Church in 1935. The congregation closed in July 1983 and the building sold to Gethsemane General Baptist Church.

PASTORS

Carl Kramer	1914–1933
William Brandon	1933–1939
Alfred F. Braun	1939–1950
E.J. Westerbeck	1950–1953
Don Thayer	1959–?

1914

Eden-Immanuel

The Chancel as it appeared in 1926 when the chuch was completed.

Eden-Immanuel was formed on October 10, 1919 as a merger of Eden Church, founded in 1894 at Bartmer and Hamilton Avenues, and Immanuel Church, founded in 1892 at Euclid Ave. and Knight St. (now Maple Ave.). Although a lot at Page and Temple Avenues was purchased shortly after the merger, worship services continued at both Immanuel and Eden church buildings until services were moved to the Plaza Theater at Clara and Etzel Avenues in 1920. The congregation was able to complete the ground floor of the church at Page and Temple and occupy it for worship beginning in October 1921. The completed church building was dedicated on March 7, 1926.

After investigating the possibility of relocating the church in the late 1950s, the congregation remained in its original location until it disbanded in 1971.

1921–1971, Page & Temple

PASTORS

Karl L. Schneider	1919–1935
Paul L. Schmidt	1936–?

MEMBERS IN 1930

815

ADMITTED TO THE EVANGELICAL SYNOD

1919

Karl L. Schneider, pastor, 1919–1935

1919

Messiah

1924–1927, 6520 Arsenal

August Rueker, petitioned the Home Mission Board to establish Messiah congregation

In 1924, the Rev. August Rueker, an editor at Eden Publishing House, petitioned the Missouri District's Home Mission Board for help in establishing a congregation in the Clifton Heights neighborhood where he lived. In response, the board lent $5,000 to purchase a lot at 6520 Arsenal and St. and erect a small frame chapel. The first services were held on Christmas morning, 1924.

Rueker served as part-time pastor until the Rev. Helmut Crusius began serving in April 1926. Crusius was succeeded in 1927 by the Rev. Askan Stueler, who proved to be too controversial for the congregation and served only briefly. Since Bethlehem and Messiah both shared the same neighborhood, had pastoral vacancies, and were in similar financial situations, the two congregations voted to merge in 1928 and take the name Mt. Tabor.

PASTORS

August Rueker	1924–1926
Helmut Crusius	1926–1927
Askan Stueler	1927

MEMBERS IN 1927

225

ADMITTED TO THE EVANGELICAL SYNOD

1925

1924

Mount Tabor

PASTORS

Hans Kochheim	1928–1931
Richard Miller	1932–1935
John L. Schmidt	1936–1945
Paul Rahmeier	1945–1956
Robert O. Laaser	1956–1964
Theophil H. Twente (assistant)	1961–1972
Walter A. Hotz	1964–1968
Richard E. Crusius	1969–?
Louis H. Lammert (associate)	1970–1972

1928–present, 6520 Arsenal, as it appeared in 1947

Church interior after completion,1951

By March 1928, Bethlehem, founded in 1889 and located at Reber Pl. and Southwest Blvd, and Messiah, founded in 1924 and located at 6520 Arsenal St., had voted to merge. The merged congregation first met on May 28, 1928, with official incorporation occurring on April 21, 1928 as Mount Tabor Evangelical Church. The Rev. Hans Kochheim, who had been called by Bethlehem to accomplish the merger, was appointed pastor. Bethlehem's property was sold and the congregation worshipped in a basement structure constructed in 1928 on the former Messiah property. A new sanctuary was completed in 1951.

Mt. Tabor continues to be an active United Church of Christ congregation.

Mount Tabor Church after completion of tower and education wing, 1960

MEMBERS IN 1930

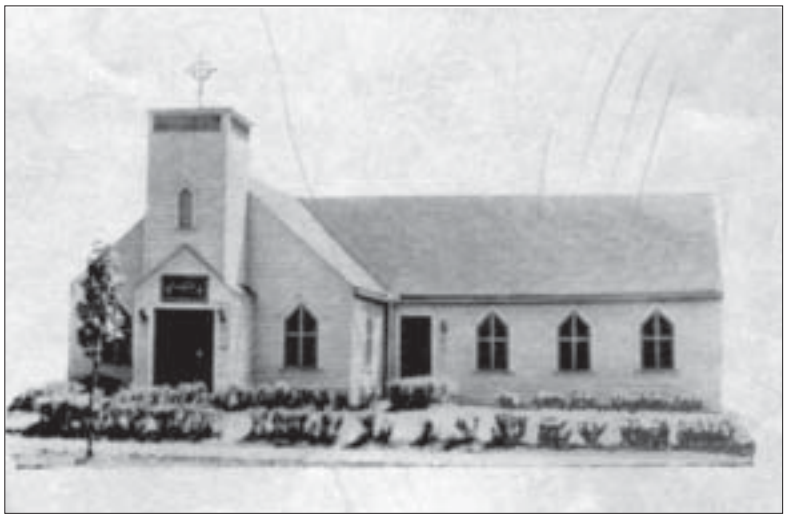
283

ADMITTED TO THE EVANGELICAL SYNOD

1928

1928

Grace



1928-1940, 5700 Leona

By the 1920s, the truck farms around Carondelet park were being turned into residential developments. When the Home Mission Board of the Evangelical Synod's Missouri District sent the Rev. Ewin Bueneman to survey the area for a new congregation in 1927, he discovered that many new residents already had Evangelical Church backgrounds. Pastor Buenemann and a group of residents met in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Breidecker on Thanksgiving Eve 1927 to discuss formal organization. Beginning Dec. 18, Sunday school was held at the America Masonic Temple at Bates St. and Gravois Ave. A provisional constitution was adopted and signed by 55 members on Dec. 4, 1927, and the congregation was formally organized on Jan. 5, 1928 with Buenemann as pastor. Worship services continued at the Masonic Temple until a frame chapel was dedicated at 5700 Leona St. on June 24, 1928. The congregation became self-supporting in 1938. A more permanent and spacious brick building was built in 1940. Grace continues to be an active United Church of Christ congregation.

1940- present, 5700 Leona

Vacation Bible School, 1928

PASTORS

Erwin Buenemann	1928–1938
William Brandon,	1938–1958
Lorenz Eichenlaub	1959–1964
Walter Grueninger	1965–1970
Robert McNamara	1971–1989

MEMBERS IN 1930

104

ADMITTED TO THE EVANGELICAL SYNOD

1928

1928

Other German Evangelicals

Independent Evangelical Protestant:
top— 13th & Tyler, 1856–1917;
bottom—Fair & Margaretta, 1917–1960.

INDEPENDENT GERMAN PROTESTANTS

German Evangelicals of a more rationalistic and theologically liberal character rejected denominational organization and founded independent congregations. Besides Holy Ghost Church, whose clergy were members of the Evangelical Synod after 1914, two other independent German Evangelical Churches existed in St. Louis. Both became part of the National Council of Congregational Churches in 1926, although only one existed by the time the United Church of Christ was formed in 1957.

■ Independent Evangelical Protestant Congregation (Unabhängige Evangelische-Protestantische Gemeinde), 1856

Organized in 1856 in the Baden neighborhood by former Holy Ghost pastor Frederick Picker, Independent Evangelical occupied churches at 8th and Mound Streets (1856), 13th and Webster (now Tyler) Streets (1869), and Fair and Margaretta Avenues (1917). The congregation relocated to its present building at 11370 Old Halls Ferry in 1960. The congregation adopted the name Christ the King United Church of Christ in 1998.

■ First Free German Evangelical Congregation, 1885

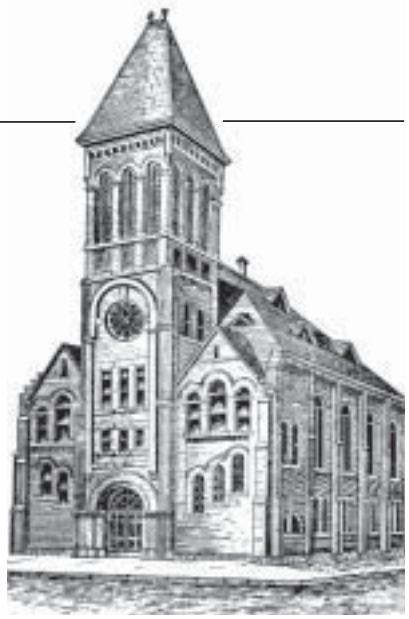
This congregation was later known as Garfield Congregational Church at Garfield and Spring Avenues before either disbanding or merging with another congregation in 1927.

GERMAN REFORMED

When the Evangelical Synod and the Reformed Church merged in 1934, the latter claimed only one congregation in St. Louis.

Salem Reformed (Reformierte Salems-Gemeinde), 1888

At the request of German Reformed citizens living in St. Louis, the Reformed Church Home Mission Board sent the Rev. Wm. F. Horstmeier to the city where he organized Salem Church in March 1888. The congregation constructed a church at 14th St. and Sullivan Ave. that same year. Salem merged in 1949 with Faith Church, a mission congregation established in 1943 by the Evangelical and Reformed Church at 7348 Florissant Ave. The merged congregation, called Faith-Salem, constructed a new building on the former Faith property in 1955. Faith-Salem was a United Church of Christ congregation when it closed in 2000.



Salem Reformed, 14th & Sullivan, 1888–1949