

Parochial Registers
for
Lutheran Congregations in
Lancaster County,
Pennsylvania,
1729-1960

A guide to genealogical resources in the parish records of baptisms, marriages, and burials, as well as to translations and copies in print and in public institutions

Compiled by
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Lancaster, Pennsylvania
1961

Introduction

The Lutheran Church in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, has been remarkably prosperous. Recently (1952) it was the largest single religious denomination in the county, possessing approximately 24% of the county's churched population. Presently, in the Lancaster Conference, Central Pennsylvania Synod, United Lutheran Church in America, there are 48 congregations; in the East Pennsylvania Conference of the same synod, one congregation; in The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, two congregations--a total of 51 active parishes.

This prosperity is reflected in the parochial registers for the congregations in existence and of others which are no longer flourishing. The pages which follow indicate, so far as could be determined, what records exist for baptism (birth), marriage, burial (death). This material has been obtained from the respective pastors loci, primarily, and its accuracy reflects their reporting. Some additional sources are cited in the notations. Mr. and Mrs. Martin Luther Heisey, Lancaster, who have worked in translating the records for some years, have been consulted, as have Miss Elizabeth C. Kieffer, of the Historical Society of the Evangelical and Reformed Church and Pastor John Albright (Reamstown), historian of the northern area of Lancaster County, and Pastor Karl Schild of the Lutheran Theological Seminary, Krauth Library, Philadelphia, Pa.

The material has been arranged to aid genealogists: by township, borough, or village. The township(s) from which a township was created are listed after its name, as are also the township(s) which were originally a part of it, together with the respective dates. To be most beneficial these data should be used in consultation with a map of the county. The date of each congregation's founding is given in parenthesis. Although not indicated, a good many of these dates must be considered approximate.

Generally, baptismal records are the most complete. Baptism is a Sacrament, according to the Augsburg Confession (the basic statement of Lutheran confession); for this reason baptisms, at least, were recorded by the pioneer pastors. Ofttimes, records of those who received Holy Communion, the other Sacrament, have been preserved as well; because of their limited genealogical value, they were not included in the present survey. Confirmation records are also omitted; since confirmation is only a rite of the Church, such lists are not as prevalent. Burials were recorded for the practical concern of recording membership changes--the only membership roster generally being the baptismal record in many parishes! Marriages are sometimes on record, but frequently the pastor performed them as a personal matter and his own records (where existing) contain these data.

Many of the early parish registers have been translated and copies are in historical or genealogical libraries. Where this is known to be the case, an entry indicates it. Progress is being made slowly to complete the translation of the earliest records, at least. It is to be

hoped that eventually all of the materials will be translated, where necessary, the originals microfilmed, and then stored in a safe repository. This is the only wise procedure to insure their preservation. As will be noted one valuable record has already been lost.

While the vital statistics have all been recorded in Lutheran parish records, it does not necessarily follow that all the persons mentioned were of the Lutheran faith: 1) often, one party in baptism or marriage was not Lutheran; 2) often, pastors performed pastoral acts for those who did not have "the mark of faith"--i.e., church membership. Pastoral practice has varied within Lutheranism, ranging from Pastors John Jacob Strine (in his day, the "marrying parson") and Charles Elvin Haupt (who performed well over 5000 baptisms in his 40-year ministry at Grace Church, Lancaster) to men who have consistently restricted the services of the Church to committed members.

As a guide to what the searcher may expect in the way of resources among Lutheran parish records, the appended listing is made available.

Pastor Frederick S. Weiser

Grace Church, Lancaster,

April 20, 1961

Parochial Registers for Lutheran Congregations in Lancaster County

<u>Location and congregat'ion</u>	<u>Baptism</u>	<u>Marriage</u>	<u>Burial</u>
ADAMSTOWN St. Paul's (1910)	1910-1960	1910-1960	1910-1960
AKRON Zion (1891)	1891-1960	1891-1960	1891-1960
BAINBRIDGE (Conoy Twp.) St. Luke's (1839) (See also Christ Church, Elizabethtown, records)	1891-1960	1891-1960	1891-1960
BART TOWNSHIP (1744 from Sadsbury; Eden withdrawn, 1855) No congregation			
BOWMANVILLE (Brecknock Twp.) St. Paul's (1886)	1886-1921 ¹	1886-1921 ¹	1886-1921 ¹
BRECKNOCK TOWNSHIP (1729) See St. Paul's, Bowmansville			
BRICKERVILLE (Elizabeth Twp.) Emmanuel (1730)	1730-1960 ^{2,3}	1735-1745 ^{2,3} 1754 1761 1771 1810-1960	1774 ³ 1783 1810 1857-1865 1870-1960
(Microfilm copy of photostats and translation in HSP, for 1730-1894, is in HSR and LCHS.)			
St. John's (1886)	1886-1960	1886-1960	1886-1960
CAERNARVON TOWNSHIP (1729) No congregation			
CLAY TOWNSHIP (1853 from Elizabeth) No congregation			
CHRISTIANA No congregation			
COCALICO TOWNSHIP (1729: not in existence; divided 1833 into West Earl; 1838 into East Cocalico, West Cocalico, and Ephrata Townships)			
COLERAIN TOWNSHIP (1738 from Sadsbury) No congregation			

<u>Location and congregation</u>	<u>Baptism</u>	<u>Marriage</u>	<u>Burial</u>
COLUMBIA			
Salem (1805-ca. 1868) ⁴ (Originals in LCHS)	1809-1869	none ⁵	1821-1870
First English (1850)	1850-1960	1850-1960	1850-1960
St. Paul's (1862) ⁴ (Missouri Synod)	1859-1960	1859-1960	1859-1960
St. John's (1881)	1881-1960	1881-1960	1881-1960
St. James' (1920)	1920-1960	1920-1960	1920-1960
CONESTOGA TOWNSHIP (1729; Peouea withdrawn 1853)			
Conestoga Center (1815?-?) (Originals in LCHS)	1815-1869 ²	none ^{2,5}	1815-1869
CONOY TOWNSHIP (1842 from West Donegal) See St. Luke's, Bainbridge			
DENVER			
St. John's (1890)	1890-1960	1890-1960	1890-1960
DONEGAL TOWNSHIP (1729; not in existence; divided 1741 into Rapho; 1759 into Mount Joy; 1838 into East and West Donegal)			
DRUMORE TOWNSHIP (1729; Little Britain withdrawn 1738; East Drumore withdrawn 1886)			
No congregation			
EARL TOWNSHIP (1729; part of West Earl withdrawn 1833; East Earl with- drawn 1851)			
No congregation			
EAST COCALICO TOWNSHIP (1838 from Cocalico)			
Muddy Creek (1732)	1732-1960 ²	1886-1921 ^{1,2} 1921-1960	1886-1921 ¹ 1921-1960
(Microfilm in HSP)			
See Salem, Reamstown			
EAST DONEGAL TOWNSHIP (1838 from Donegal) See St. John's, Maytown			
EAST DRUMORE TOWNSHIP (1886 from Drumore) No congregation			

<u>Location and congregation</u>	<u>Baptism</u>	<u>Marriage</u>	<u>Burial</u>
EAST EARL TOWNSHIP (1851 from Earl) St. John's (Center) (1819)	1820- ⁶ 1833-1886 1886-1921 ¹ 1921-1960	1886-1921 ¹ 1921-1960	1833-1886 1886-1921 ¹ 1921-1960
EAST HEMPFIELD TOWNSHIP (1818 from Hempfield) See Zion, East Petersburg See Zion, Landisville See Trinity, Rohrerstown			
EAST LAMPETER TOWNSHIP (1841 from Lampeter) No congregation			
EAST PETERSBURG Zion (1847)	s-1847-1903 1903-1960	1903-1960	1905-1960
EDEN TOWNSHIP (1855 from Bart) Mt. Eden (1878)	1878-1960	1878-1960	1878-1960
ELIZABETH TOWNSHIP (1757 from Warwick; Clay withdrawn 1853) See Emmanuel, Brickerville See St. John's, Brickerville			
ELIZABETHTOWN Christ (1771) ⁷	1771-1960	1778-1781 1832-1960	1779-1782 1812-1866
(Microfilm, 1771-1866, in LTS-Phila; microfilm, 1771-1886, HSP; translation to 1866 being completed currently (1961).)			
EPHRATA TOWNSHIP (1838 from Cocalico) Bergstrasse (1752)	1753-1960	1886-1921 ¹ 1958-1960 ⁸	1834-1850 1886-1921 ¹ 1958-1960 ⁸
See Salem, Lincoln			
EPHRATA Trinity (1868)	1868-1960	1868-1960	1868-1960
FULTON TOWNSHIP (1844 from Little Britain) No congregation			
HEMPFIELD TOWNSHIP (1729; not in existence; divided 1759 into Manor; 1815 into East and West Hempfield)			
KISSEL HILL Salem (1823)	1824-1960	1836-1960	1847-1960

<u>Location and congregation</u>	<u>Baptism</u>	<u>Marriage</u>	<u>Burial</u>
LAMPETER TOWNSHIP (1729; not in existence; divided 1841 into East and West Lampeter) No congregation			
LANCASTER TOWNSHIP (1729) No congregation; see Lancaster city.			
LANCASTER Holy Trinity (1729) (Microfilm copy, 1729-1850, at LTS, Phila. and HSP. Baptisms, without sponsors, 1747-1799, translated and published, without index, in <u>The Pennsylvania German Society Proceedings and Addresses, III (1893), 190-292; IV (1894), 189-248; V(1895), 173-200; VI (1896), 251-283.</u> ; marriages, 1729-1850, tr. and copies at DAR Library, Washington, D.C., and LCHS; burials, 1729-1820 tr. and copy at LCHS)	1729-1960 ²	1729-1960 ²	1729-1960
Zion (1827) (Everything to 1871 translated)	1827-1960	1835-1960	1827-1853 1872-1960
St. John's (1853)	1853-1960	1853-1960	1853-1960
St. Stephen's (1874)	1874-1880 1916-1960	1916-1960	1916-1960
Grace (1874)	1872-1960	1872-1960	1872-1960
Christ (1881)	1875-1960	1875-1960	1875-1960
Emmanuel (1896)	1896-1960	1896-1960	1896-1960
Advent (1899)	1899-1960	1902-1960	1899-1960
St. Mark's (1901)	1905-1960	1905-1960	1905-1960
Redeemer (1904)	1904-1960	1905-1960	1904-1960
Mount Calvary (1904) (Missouri Synod)	1904-1960	1904-1960	1904-1920 1929-1960
Ascension (1911)	1910-1914 1916-1918 1920-1960	1918 1922-1923 1926-1948 1950-1960	1911-1918 1921-1928 1930-1948 1950-1960
St. Matthew (1947)	1947-1960	1947-1960	1947-1960
Holy Spirit (1959)	1959-1960	1959-1960	1959-1960

<u>Location and congregation</u>	<u>Baptism</u>	<u>Marriage</u>	<u>Burial</u>
LANCASTER			
See also St. Peter's Neffsville; since 1960, Lancaster.			
LEACOCK TOWNSHIP (1729; Strasburg withdrawn 1759; Upper Leacock withdrawn 1843)			
See Zion, Leacock			
LEACOCK			
Zion (1817)	1817-1960	1817-1960	1817-1960
LINCOLN			
Salem (1879)	1879-1960	1879-1960	1879-1960
LITTLE BRITAIN TOWNSHIP (1738 from Dumore; Fulton withdrawn 1844)			
No congregation			
LITITZ			
St. Paul's (1885)	1885-1960	1885-1960	1885-1960
MANHEIM TOWNSHIP (1729)			
See St. Peter's, Neffsville (now Lancaster)			
MANHEIM			
Zion (1771)	1771-1960	1771 1779-1782 1807-1812 1872-1960	1771-1773 1779-1782 1803-1810 1849-1868 1896-1960
(Bap., 1771-1898; marr. to 1922; burials to 1899 in LCHS)			
MANOR TOWNSHIP (1759 from Hempfield)			
No congregation			
MARIETTA			
Zion (1855)	1855-1960	1855-1960	1855-1960
MARTIC TOWNSHIP (1729; Providence withdrawn, 1853)			
No congregation			
MAYTOWN			
St. John's (1765)	1767-1796 1802-1822 1828-1831 1880-1960	1771 1827-1832 others ⁵ 1880-1960	1772 1781 1812-1821 1880-1960
(Bap. to 1831, marr. to 1832 and burials to 1821 in LCHS and LTS-Phila)			
MILLERSVILLE			
St. Paul's (1845)	1931-1960	1931-1960	1931-1960

<u>Location and congregation</u>	<u>Baptism</u>	<u>Marriage</u>	<u>Burial</u>
MILLERSVILLE Bethany (1867-1953) (Originals in possession of Central Pennsylvania Synod, ULCA, stored at LTS-Gettys. Copy, LCHS)	1919-1949	1930-1949	1916-1952
MOUNT JOY TOWNSHIP (1759 from Donegal) See Trinity, Mount Joy			
MOUNT JOY Trinity (1828)	1869-1960	1868-1960	1868-1960
MOUNTVILLE No congregation; see Concordia, West Hempfield Township			
NEFFSVILLE St. Peter's (1880) (Since 1960 this congregation is listed in Lancaster)	1883-1960	1896-1960	1883-1960
NEW HOLLAND Trinity (1730)	1730-1960 ²	1730-1766 ² 1783 1790-1795 1798-1960	1798-1960
(All records to 1949 on microfilm, HSR; all records to 1924, microfilm, HSP)			
QUARRYVILLE No congregation			
PARADISE TOWNSHIP (1843 from Strasburg) No congregation			
PENN TOWNSHIP (1846 from Warwick) St. Paul's, Penryn (1752)	1754-1789 ⁹ 1771-1887 ¹⁰ 1890-1960	1890-1960	1890-1960 some earlier ¹⁰
PENRYN See St. Paul's, Penn Township			
PEQUEA TOWNSHIP (1853 from Conestoga) No congregation			
PROVIDENCE TOWNSHIP (1853 from Martic) No congregation			
RAPHO TOWNSHIP (1741 from Donegal) No congregation			
REAMSTOWN Salem (1817)	1817-1960	1886-1921 ¹ 1921-1960	1886-1921 ¹ 1921-1960

<u>Location and congregation</u>	<u>Baptism</u>	<u>Marriage</u>	<u>Burial</u>
REINHOLDS See Swamp, West Cocalico Township			
ROHRERSTOWN			
Trinity (1825-1959) (formerly Zion, then Salem)	1825-1850 1854 s-1872-1942	1891 ² 1907-1918 1931-1942	s-1828-1858 1868-1873 s-1877-1942
(Originals, Holy Spirit Church, Lancaster. Copy, LCHS)			
ROTHSVILLE			
Jerusalem (1848)	1846-1960	1848-1960	1848-1960
SADSBURY TOWNSHIP (1729; Bart withdrawn 1744; Colerain withdrawn 1738) No congregation			
SALISBURY TOWNSHIP (1729) No congregation			
SCHOENECK See Mellinger's, West Cocalico Township			
STRASBURG TOWNSHIP (1759 from Leacock; Paradise withdrawn 1843) No congregation; see Strasburg			
STRASBURG			
St. Michael's (1754)	1753-1757 1775-1869 1897-1960	1815-1869 ² 1897-1960	1816-1869 1897-1960
(Microfilm of originals, 1754-1865, LTS-Phila and HSP. Copies LCHS)			
TERRE HILL No congregation			
UPPER LEACOCK TOWNSHIP (1843 from Leacock) See Zion, Leacock			
WARWICK TOWNSHIP (1729; Elizabeth withdrawn 1757; Penn withdrawn 1846) See Salem, Kissel Hill See Jerusalem, Rothsville			
WASHINGTON BORO No congregation			
WEST COCALICO TOWNSHIP (1838 from Cocalico)			
Swamp, Reinholds (1808)	s-1808-1890 1890-1960	s-1808-1890 1890-1960	s-1808-1890 1890-1960

<u>Location and congregation</u>	<u>Baptism</u>	<u>Marriage</u>	<u>Burial</u>
WEST COCALICO TOWNSHIP (1838 from Cocalico) Mellinger's, Schoeneck (1861)	1861-1960	1861-1960	1861-1960
WEST DONEGAL TOWNSHIP (1838 from Donegal; Conoy withdrawn 1842) No congregation			
WEST EARL TOWNSHIP (1833 from Cocalico and Earl) No congregation			
WEST HEMPFIELD TOWNSHIP (1818 from Hempfield) Concordia (1859)	1918-1960	1918-1960	1918-1960
WEST LAMPETER TOWNSHIP (1841 from Lampeter) No congregation			

Abbreviations

s	sketchy or incomplete
LCHS	Lancaster County Historical Society, 230 North President Avenue, Lancaster, Pennsylvania
HSP	Historical Society of Pennsylvania, 1300 Locust Street, Philadelphia 7, Pennsylvania
HSR	Historical Society of the Evangelical and Reformed Church, Fackenthal Library, Franklin and Marshall College, Lancaster, Pennsylvania
LTS-Phila	Lutheran Theological Seminary, Krauth Memorial Library, Germantown Avenue at Allen's Lane, Philadelphia 19, Pennsylvania
LTS-Gettys	Lutheran Theological Seminary, Gettysburg, Pennsylvania
ULCA	United Lutheran Church in America

Notations

- ¹Recorded in personal records of Pastor Benjamin G. Welder, in the possession of Salem Church, Reamstown
- ²See also personal records of Pastor John Casper Stoever, tr. by Pastor F.J.F.Schantz: Records of John Casper Stoever Baptismal and Marriage, 1730-1796 (Harrisburg, Pa., 1896). Stoever's Lancaster County entries are for Warwick (Brickerville), Earl Town (New Holland), Gogallico (Muddy Creek), Canestacken (Conestoga), Hempfield, and Lancaster (Holy Trinity). Generally his private entries are also recorded in the parochial registers for the congregations.
- ³See also the records of Pastor F.J.F.Schantz, Actus Ministeriales, 6 v. mss., LTS-Phila., for Brickerville, Emmanuel, 1876-1879.
- ⁴Salem Church, Columbia, poses a unique set of circumstances in church history: it was organized as a Lutheran congregation of a union church in 1805. The Reformed element withdrew in 1857 to form Trinity Reformed Church. In 1849 an English-speaking, Lutheran element withdrew to form First English Lutheran Church. Between 1859 and 1862 trouble fomented which culminated in the establishment of St. Paul's Church in 1862. Eventually the parent congregation (Salem) drifted away from the Lutheran Church altogether and found its way into the Evangelical Synod (which in 1934 merged with the Reformed Church--and has since become the United Church of Christ). In 1901 St. Paul's Church joined the Missouri Synod. It is doubtful if we may call Salem congregation Lutheran after 1868.
- ⁵Recorded in the personal records of Pastor John Jacob Strine, in possession of LCHS.
- ⁶This record is not currently located, although it was in existence in 1942; cf. The History of the Lancaster Conference of the Evangelical Lutheran Ministerium of Pennsylvania and the Adjacent States, together with the Histories of its Congregations (Lebanon, Pa., 1942), 115.
- ⁷See also, although incompletely, Register of Marriages and Baptisms kept by the Rev. Traugott Frederick Illig in connection with The Churches of St. Peter's, (Lutheran) Middletown, and Caenarvon, (Episcopal) Lancaster County, Penna. (Harrisburg, Pa., 1891). Illig became an Episcopalian, although he served some Lutheran congregations as well. This record covers the period 1780-1798 and may include some Lancaster County Lutheran families.
- ⁸Cf. records of Muddy Creek Church for 1921-1958.

⁹Recorded in the so-called Tempelman record: "Baptismal register of the Evangelical Lutheran and Reformed congregations in Warwick Lancaster County, compiled by the blessed Pastors Conrad Tempelman, Reformed preacher and Joann Theophile Engelland, Evangelical Lutheran preacher. With a complete index compiled by Heinrich Keiser, Schoolmaster, in the year 1821." Published, in translation, in Pennsylvania Archives, Series 6, v. 6, pp. 153-263. Original, HSR.

¹⁰This book is lost, but notations of some of its entries are in the Zacharias collection, HSR, e.g., baptisms, 1771-1805; burials, 1771, 1774, 1803, 1809. Evidently it was begun by Pastor F.A.C. Muhlenberg, superceding the record cited in note 8. Cf. The History of the Lancaster Conference..., 63-70, for discussion of the Penryn records.

Basic Bibliography for Lancaster County
Lutheran Congregations

(In addition to the following general works, see the congregational histories published to commemorate anniversaries)

History of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod of East Pennsylvania, with brief sketches of its congregations. Published by the synod in commemoration of its semi-centennial anniversary. 1842-1892. (Philadelphia: 1892)

The History of the Lancaster Conference of the Evangelical Lutheran Ministerium of Pennsylvania and the Adjacent States, together with the Histories of its Congregations (Lebanon, Pa., 1942)