

German Evangelical Lutheran Church of Clarks Fork
Clarks Fork German Evangelical Church
Clarks Fork Trinity Lutheran Church

Clarks Fork, Missouri

Rev. Luther S. Herman, Pastor
Clarks Fork Lutheran Parsonage
20211 Ellis Davis Road
Boonville, Missouri 65233
Phone: (660) 882-6253
10:00 a.m. Sunday School
11:00 a.m. Worship Service

Township:	T-47-N	Organized:	1863
Range:	R-16-W	Disbanded:	No
Section:	9	Active:	Yes
Latitude:	38.852220	Longitude:	-92.682500
Map:		Updated:	March 8, 2020

Cemetery: There is a well-kept cemetery associated with this church.

Area: Southwest quarter of the northwest quarter of the section. However, I would expect them to be at either the church or the parsonage - call first.

Records: The location of the church records is unknown at present.

History:

German Evangelical Lutheran Church of Clarks Fork
From "History of Howard and Cooper Counties Missouri", 1883

The German Evangelical Lutheran Church - Located on section 8, of Clark's Fork Township, of Cooper County, Missouri, was organized partially in 1860 or 1861. Original members: Peter Muntzel, Albert Muntzel, Daniel Muntzel, John King, Fred Fricke, John A. Schmidt, Nicholas Schmidt, Leonard Schmidt, David Rauh, Wm. Kahle, Henry Lankop, Ferdinand Lankop, Wm. Lankop, Christian Brandis, Sr., Lewis Lebbing, Marimus Long era, Henry Kaune, Sophia Fredmeyer, Christian Fredmeyer, Henry Fredmeyer, Ferdinand Ohlendorf, Peter Norenberg, James Martinson, Jacob King, Otte Smolfield, Berhard Vieth, Charles Brandis, Peter Wehmeier. Number of present members-heads of families, fifty-two. First pastor, Rev. Henry Joengel, since which time there have been five or six others, names not given. The church was built in the spring of 1867, by the original members, at a cost of \$2,500, three acres being donated by Fred. Fricke. In September, of 1883, they will open a school headed by a competent teacher.

Clarks Fork Trinity Lutheran Church
From "History of Cooper County Missouri" by W. F. Johnson, 1919

"The German Evangelical Church, located at Clark's Fork, was erected in 1860. Its first pastor was Rev. Henry Jarngel. A building was erected in 1867 at a cost of \$2,500 on a three acre plot of ground given by Fred Fricke. Original members were" Peter Muntzel, Albert Muntzel, Daniel Muntzel, John King, Fred Fricke, John A. Schmidt, Nicholas Schmidt, Leonard Schmidt, David Rauh, William Kahle, Henry Langkop, Ferdinand Langkop, William Langkop; Christian Brandes, Sr., Lewis Lebbing, Marimus Lonjers, Ferdinand Ohlendorf, Peter Norenberg, James Martinson, Jacob King, Otto Smolfield, Berhard Vieth, Charles Brandes, and Peter Wehmeier."

Historical sketch of Clark's Fork Trinity Lutheran Church and Cemetery

As early as 1857 services were conducted in this community by pastor Henry Juengel of Pleasant Grove. At first, the people met for worship in homes, later in the Washington School. It is probable that John Koeneke, who later changed his name to King, assisted in making arrangements for such services. He encouraged a number of people, especially young men to emigrate from German and settle in this territory.

The first church was erected on a plot of ground formerly owned by Fred Fricke, and the carpenter was Louis Lebbing. The first church was dedicated on April 19, 1868, the first Sunday after Easter. Between the years 1883 and 1895, school and a teacherage were built.

On Dec 27, 1896, members of the congregation living in the vicinity of Lone Elm, were released by the mother congregation in order to organize a daughter congregation, known as Zion Lutheran Church, Lone Elm. On June 20, 1897, Pastor Schaefer, then serving Clark's Fork Trinity, was called by the Lone Elm congregation to serve as its first pastor.

A new church building was dedicated on Nov. 29, 1908. In 1917, a tornado demolished the steeple of the church. For many years, the congregation maintained a parish school for its children. With the exception of the years 1883 to 1896 when the congregation for financially able to call trained teachers, the instructors were the pastors. In January 1923, the Sunday School was organized.

A record of official acts was kept even before the congregation was organized. The first baptism on record was that of Frederick Daniel Ohlendorf, who was baptized on April 12, 1857. Mrs. Emma Schmalfeldt nee' Ohlendorf, was the first child to be baptized in the church. Since the beginning, there have been 800 baptisms, 499 confirmations, 192 weddings, and 253 burials up to 1960. Services were conducted mostly in the German language until in 1933 when they discontinued and changed to English.

Clarks Fork Trinity Lutheran Church From "Memorabilia of Cooper County", 1990

As early as 1857 services were conducted in this community by Pastor Henry Juengel at Immanuel Lutheran Church of Pleasant Grove. At first the people met for worship in homes, later in the Washington School. It is probable that John Koeneke, who later changed his name to King, assisted in making arrangements for such services. He encouraged a number of people, especially young men, to emigrate from Germany and settle in this territory.

In 1860 the formal organization of a congregation was effected. The charter members were the following families: Peter, Albert, and Daniel Muntzel, David Rowe; Fred Fricke; John. Nicolaus, and Leonard Schmidt; William Kahle; Henry, Ferdinand, and William Langkop; Christian Brandes; Louis Lebbing; Marimus Lonjers; Henry Kaune; Sophia, Henry, and Christian Fredmeyer; Ferdinand Ohlendorf; Peter Norenberg; James Martinson; John and Jacob King; Otto Schmalfeldt; Bernhard Vieth; Charles Brandes; and Peter Wehmeier.

The first church was dedicated on April 19, 1868, the first Sunday after Easter. Pastor Fr. Wesemann of Pleasant Grove preached the dedicatory sermon on Acts 24:14-16. The church was erected on a plot of ground formerly owned by Fred Fricke, and the carpenter was Louis Lebbing. The cost of construction was \$2,500. At the same time a parsonage was erected.

Pastor Juengel served the congregation from its beginning until 1867, when the congregation received its first resident pastor, the Rev. J.P. Baumgart. In that year, too, the congregation became a member of The Lutheran Church, Missouri Synod, known at this time as The Evangelical Lutheran Synod of Missouri, Ohio, and Other States. The neat pastors were: M. Stuelpnagel installed in the late fall of 1872; Th. Braeuer, installed on February 13, 1876; H. Theiss, installed on August 11,

1878; and August Rehwaldt, who was installed on May 30, 1883 (Ascension Day) and served about twelve years.

Concerning this period a son of Pastor Rehwaldt has written: "During my father's time a school and a teacherage was built, not, however, next to the church, but centrally located." The first Parochial School was located on the farm where Mr. and Mrs. Ronald W. Anderson and sons now reside. "The first teacher was W.G. Bewie (1883-1886), who still taught school in the church. The second teacher was Richard Erdmann (1886-1896). During Teacher Erdmann's time the teacherage was destroyed by fire, a total loss. But immediately a new home was constructed. Around 1890 the parsonage was enlarged by two rooms with an 8-foot hall between the rooms. As there were no pantry and closets at all, the hall was used to store a goodly supply of flour. It was necessary to store flour because of the notorious impassable roads."

Pastor Rehwaldt was succeeded by Pastor H. Schaefer, who came from Cape Girardeau in March, 1896. On December 27, 1896 members of the congregation living in the vicinity of Lone Elm were released by the mother congregation in order to organize a daughter congregation, known as Zion Lutheran Church, Lone Elm. On June 20, 1897 Pastor Schaefer was called to serve as its first pastor.

Other pastors who have served the congregation were: J.H. Rupprecht, installed on August 8, 1897; J. Hoeness, installed in winter, 1902. On January 2, 1905 the matter of building a new church was discussed for the first time. After a lengthy debate in a special meeting on April 29, 1905, a committee composed of William Meyer, Henry Fricke, Sr., and Herman Schnack was chosen to look at other churches and secure information regarding erection of a new church. It was not until April 5, 1908, that a resolution was made to tear down the old church immediately after Easter. The present church building was dedicated on November 29, 1908. The members of the building committee were William Meyer, Theodore Brandes, and Chris Ohlendorf. The architect was O.E. Spruce of California, Mo. The Rev. William Richter of Jefferson City preached the dedication sermon. The lumber for the building was donated by Dietrich Alpers and the bell by Henry Fricke, Sr. Herman Schnack, a Boonville businessman and a member of the congregation before the establishment of a Lutheran Church in Boonville, donated the altar and pulpit. The Schnacks regularly attended the services, making the trip by horse and buggy. The cost of construction was about \$6,000.

K.F. Lohrmann was installed on January 7, 1912. And on April 22, 1917 John Pflantz was installed. On June 5, 1917 a tornado demolished the steeple of the church. The cross on the steeple was blown down and the walls of the building were cracked by the force of the wind. A new barn at the rear of the parsonage was completely demolished. A school building, just south of the church edifice was blown from its foundation, and a number of monuments in the cemetery were blown down.

George F. Mueller was installed on September 2, 1923. In later years the Mueller family presented a set of organ chimes to the congregation.

A.A. Falke was installed on October 12, 1930. Although the German language was not taught after 1915, it was used in some services until April 2, 1933, at which time it was discontinued. The church had grown with the vicinity which has changed from one of German immigrants to one of American citizens who used the English language in preference to that of their ancestors. Dr. F.A. Baepler was installed on February 9, 1941 and remained until the fall of 1955. In 1952 a new parsonage was erected, with a full basement for use by church organizations and gatherings.

Rev. Harold C. Moeller served as pastor from 1956 to Easter Sunday of 1960. In 1956 Clarks Fork Trinity Lutheran Congregation became a dual parish with Pleasant Grove Immanuel Lutheran Congregation. The Rev. Moeller was the first pastor to serve this dual parish. The Trinity congregation celebrated their Centennial on June 12, 1960.

Other pastors to serve the dual parish were: Rev. Lloyd Weiland 1962-1954; Rev. Daniel Canion 1966-1970; Rev. David Fechner 1972-1974; Rev. George Marg 1976-1878.

A Parish Hall was erected in 1977. Rev. Arnold Payne 1978-1980.

Rev. E.M. Priess began his Pastorate in March, 1981 and continues to serve at this time. In 1987 an addition was built to the parsonage. Pastor Priess observed his 40th anniversary in the ministry in July, 1989.

Throughout the years the congregation has received the services of many dedicated Interim Pastors whose names are not included in this story.

At present the congregation numbers 135 baptized members and 100 communicant members.

The present officers are: Elders: Jeffrey Huth, Richard Dick, and Donald Lohse; Trustees: Robert E. Mersey and Lashley Martin; Synodical Treasurer; Eric Brickner; Secretary; Kenneth Huth; Ushers: Richard Vogel and Donald Simmons; Organist; Marcella Brickner.

In the Sunday School department 25 children are enrolled. Eddie Brickner is serving as Superintendent and also teaches the Senior Class. Other teachers are: Karen Brickner, Patty Dick, Mary Huth, Carla Vogel, Cheryl McClelland, and Barbara King.

Mike and Cheryl McClelland are serving as Youth Counselors.

The Young People's Society was organized in 1921 as the Walther League and became a member of the International Walther League on July 31, 1924. In later years the name was changed and is now known as Lutheran Youth Fellowship. About 15 members are involved in youth activities.

The Ladies Aid officially organized in 1909 and are observing their 80th anniversary this year. In 1959 they joined the Lutheran Women's Missionary League. At the present time there are 18 active members and 2 honorary members. The meetings were held in the members homes until after the new parsonage was constructed, which provided a meeting room in the basement. The present officers are: Marcella Brickner, President; Karen Brickner, Vice-President; Barbara King, S; Patty Dick, Christian Growth; JoAnn Mersey and Jane Priess, Altar Guild.

A Men's Club was organized by Rev. Baepler during his pastorate and has remained active throughout the years. Present officers are: President, Everett Kuester; Vice-President, Richard Dick; Secretary/Treasurer, Robert Earl Mersey.

Trinity Lutheran Church organized their 125th anniversary in 1985 with special events throughout the year. In preparation for the June "Homecoming" new concrete steps and a large ramp and sidewalks were poured.

With the Lord's blessing, the congregation of Clarks Fork Lutheran Church will continue to reach out both spiritually and socially.

by Marcella Brickner

Brief Historical Sketch, 1860 – 1941

By F. A. Baepler, Pastor

As early as 1857 preaching services were conducted in this community of Lutheran pioneering families by Rev. Henry Juengel of Pleasant Grove. At first the people met for divine worship in private homes, later in the Old Washington School, on the site of the present building. It is very probable that a certain John Koeneke, who later changed his name to King because of the difficulty of pronunciation, was instrumental in arranging for church services in this neighborhood.

He had a number of people, especially young men, emigrants from Germany and settle in this territory. In 1860, the formal organization of a congregation was effected. The families which were the charter members are those of Peter, Albert, and Daniel Muntzel; Fred Fricke; John, Nicholas, and Leonard Schmidt; David Rowe; William Kahle; Henry, Ferdinand, and William Langkop, Christian Brandes, Louis Lebing; Marimus Lonjers; Henry Kaune; Sophia, Henry, and Christian Fredmeyer; Ferdinand Ohlendorf; Peter Norenberg; James martinson; John and Jacob King; Otter Schmalfeldt; Bernard Vieth; Charles Brandes; and Peter Wehmeier.

According to the "Lutheraner" of May 15, 1868, the first church of the congregation was dedicated on the Sunday after Easter, April 19, 1868. Pastor Fr. Wessmann of Pleasant Grove preached the dedicatory sermon on Acts 24: 14-16. It was erected on a plot of ground formerly owned by Fred Fricke, Louis Lebbing being the carpenter. The cost of construction was \$2,500; no costs were spared, and both as to its exterior and interior, it was a distinct credit to the community. At the same time a part of the present parsonage was erected.

Pastor Juengel continued serving the congregation from its founding until 1867, when the congregation received its first resident pastor in the person of J. P. Baumgart. In that year, too, the congregation became affiliated with the Evangelical Lutheran Synod of Missouri, Ohio, and Other States, commonly known as the Missouri Synod. The first pastor remained at his charge for four years. The next pastors were: M. Stuelpnagel, installed on the 26, Sunday after Trinity, 1872, by Pastor Lange of Pleasant Grove; Th. Braeuer and H. Theiss, who were inducted into office February 13, 1876, and August 11, 1878 respectively, by Rev. Hunziker of Pleasant Grove.

Then came he who remained at his post longer than any pastor: Rev. August Rehwaldt, installed by Pastor Claus of Pleasant Grove on Ascension Day (May 30), 1883. He was privileged to serve about twelve years. Writes his son: "During my father's time a school and teacherage were built, not, however, next to the church, but centrally located. The first teacher was W. G. Bewie (1883 – 1886), who still taught school in the church. The second teacher was Richard Erdmann (1886 – 1896). During Teacher Erdmann's time the teacherage was destroyed by fire – total loss. But immediately a new home was constructed. Around 1890 the parsonage was enlarged by two rooms with an 8-ft. hall between the rooms. As there were no pantry and closets at all, the hall was used to store a goodly supply of flour. It was necessary to store flour because of the notorious impassable roads."

Pastor Rehwaldt was succeeded by Pastor H. Schaefer, who came from Cape Girardeau in March 1896. On December 1896, members of the congregation living in the vicinity of Lone Elm branched off from the mother congregation and organized Zion Church. On June 20, 1897 Rev. Schaefer was called as its first pastor.

The next ministers, in their order, were J. H. Rupprecht, installed August 6, 1897, by Rev. P. D. Mueller of California, serving four years. Rev J. Hoeness was installed on Sunday Reminiscere, 1902, by Rev. A. H. T. Meyer. Rev. K. F. Lohrmann was installed January 7, 1912, by Rev. J. W. Mueller of Lone Elm, assisted by Pastor Mueller of California and Rev. C. Lohrmann. His ministry at Clarks Fork ended in February, 1917. Rev. John G. Pfantz's ministry began on April 22, 1917, and terminated in January, 1924. he was installed by Pastgor Mueller of Lone Elm, assisted by pastor Bahr. During his time, in 1917, a tornado demolished the steeple of the church. The Sunday school was also begun towards the end of his pastorate. Rev. G. F. Mueller was installed on September 2, 1923, by Pastor Schpech and was pastor for 6 ½ years. During his tnrue of office the congregation undertook to raise an amount of money to place the cemetery under a perpetual care Endowment Fund. George Meyer and Chris Hein were the main workers who succeeded in putting this plan into operation. Astor A. A. Falke was installed by Pastor G. A. Fleiss of Boonville on October 12, 1930, and remained until September, 1939. The present pastor was inducted on February 9 of this year.

The present church building was dedicated November 29, 1908. The building committee was composed of William Meyer, Theo. Brandes, and Chris Ohlendorf. The architect was O. E.

Sprouce of California. The altar and pulpit were donated by Mr. and Mrs. John Schnack of Boonville, members who regularly and faithfully traversed the distance by horse and buggy to the house of worship.

From earliest times the congregation maintained a parish school for its children. With the exception of the years 1883-1896, when the congregation was in financial position to call trained teachers, the school was in charge of the clergy.

Records of official acts were kept even before the congregation became organized. The first baptism on record is that of Frederick Daniel Ohlendorf, baptized April 12, 1857. Mrs. Emma Schmalfeldt, née Ohlendorf, still as esteemed member of our congregation, has the distinction of having been first one to be baptized in the first church. Altogether, the records show 746 baptisms, 453 confirmations, 167 weddings, and 226 burials.
