

Rev. Adolph Conradi

June 10, 1849 - August 10, 1849

On June 10, 1849 a band of German Protestant Christians of St. Marys organized the "German Evangelical Protestant Congregation of St. Marys, Ohio" under the leadership of the Reverend Adolph Conradi who was then pastor of the St. Peter's Congregation in New Bremen, Ohio. According to a report made by Rev. Mr. Conradi to the Joint Synod of Ohio (now a part of the American Lutheran Church) the congregation consisted in the beginning of about thirty families. This congregation was destined to become the mother of the two fine, strong, congregations now known as "The Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church" and "St. Paul's Evangelical and Reformed Church", respectively. By an act of the State Legislature this congregation was incorporated in 1850 and the certificate of charter was granted.

Apparently the purpose for the founding of this congregation was twofold: (1) to provide a means of worship for German-speaking people and (2) to provide the type of religious liberty that the founders sought in coming to America from Germany. Fearful of ecclesiastical tyranny the Congregation was organized independently of any denominational affiliation.

However, the first constitution provided for the preaching of the Word of God according to the interpretation of the Augsburg Confession (the doctrinal basis of the Lutheran Church) and the first three pastors to serve the congregation from 1849 to 1852 were affiliated with the Lutheran Church. After the death of Rev. Adolph Conradi on August 10, 1849,