



St John's Evangelical Lutheran Church of Warrenton, Texas

Evangelisch Lutherisch St. Johannes Gemeinde found its beginning from a congregation located about three miles east of Warrenton, next to what is now called Drawe Cemetery. In the early 1870's a group of members left this group to begin a congregation in Warrenton. It seems the reason for

relocating was that Warrenton was viewed as a more convenient place for a church. In addition to the interest in a congregation from Drawe, there already was organizational activity by Lutherans at Warrenton. This Warrenton group, apparently in conjunction with the work of Pastor Rudolph Jaeggli, drafted a church constitution dated December 17, 1865.

On February 2, 1873, a group of men held a meeting at Warrenton and passed a resolution to build a new church and schoolhouse on a four acre tract of land at Warrenton. The dedication of the church is thought to have occurred in December of 1873. The church was remodeled, refurbished, and rededicated on Palm Sunday of 1897, and the name was revised from the German designation to simply St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church of Warrenton.

In 1948 the new (and present) parsonage was completed. The last service in the old (and original) sanctuary was conducted on February 11, 1959. The new (and present) church building was dedicated of August 16, 1959. The bell that presently calls the congregation to worship is the same bell that was in the original sanctuary.

Over the years the congregation has served in formal parish alignment with neighboring congregations – Fayetteville, Willow Springs, Haw Creek, Shelby and Waldeck. For several years, St. John's shared pastoral services with St. Peter's Lutheran Church of Prairie Valley. Most recently St. John's joined with three neighboring congregations (Ellinger, Fayetteville, and Rutersville) to form the Shared Lutheran Ministry of Fayette County.

As one might expect in a church rich in its own tradition and in the families of its membership, it is not unusual at a St. John's worship service to have in attendance three and four generations of the same family.