

**Association of Descendants of Pioneer Andreas Killian**  
**Celebrating 77 Years Reunion**  
**September 9-11, 2011**

Our goal is to create a fun, informative event with the utmost consideration for expenses. All information and any last minute changes will be available on our website at:

**[www.Andreaskillian.com](http://www.Andreaskillian.com)**

*Where the Reunions Began...*

**Salem Lutheran Church**  
**3410 Startown Rd, Lincolnton NC 28092**

Salem Church was founded by Joseph Killian, Anthony Hallman, Henry Cressamore, Jonas Rudisill, Henry Gross, Jonas Heedrick, John Cline-(Lutheran) and John Ramsaur, Henry Ramsaur, and Daniel Carpenter-(Reformed). Dr. L.L. Lohr states that "an organization was effected in 1796." Records indicate that the original organization took place in a log structure, but an exact date as to when the structure was built has not been found. The building was a community "Meeting Place" which was common among the German pioneers in their early settlements. The original structure could have been built around 1750.



The original log structure was situated on a tract of land owned by Jacob Killian. On July 19, 1815, Mr. Killian deeded the tract to the Commissioners "for the purpose of encouraging schools and a place for public worship."

In 1835, an addition was made "to accommodate the people of color on days of public worship." In 1848, the decision was made to erect a new brick building on the Salem site. Although the Reformed had no organized congregation at the time and would not have for another 25 years, some Reformed families had buried their dead in the existing Salem cemetery. This prompted the Lutheran church leaders to make an unusual and compassionate decision to continue Salem as a union church. The new church building, completed in 1849, was dedicated in 1850 "to the use of the Lutheran and German Reformed Churches. The Lutheran congregation assumed 3/4th of the cost and the



Reformed congregation 1/4th. Note—this proportionate basis of sharing expenses for the union church arrangement has essentially continued to the present. A well was dug in 1928 to provide Salem Church with a good supply of water. Improvements were made over the years with due respect for preserving the "Country Church" atmosphere. Salem Lutheran Church was affiliated with the Evangelical Lutheran Tennessee Synod at the time of its original organization in 1796. This affiliation continued until May 2, 1921 when the Tennessee Synod was merged into the United Evangelical Lutheran Synod of North Carolina. At that time, Salem Lutheran Church became a part of the North Carolina Synod.



With due consideration and respect for the important work of pastors known and unknown at Salem Lutheran Church prior to 1855 and after 1884, a giant step forward for the spread of Lutheranism in western North Carolina took place under the able and devoted efforts of the Rev. Alfred J. Fox, M.D. The Rev. A. J. Fox was ordained into the Lutheran ministry at a session of the Tennessee Synod at Salem Lutheran Church on September 13, 1838. He undoubtedly preached at Salem on many occasions prior to his call to Grace Lutheran Church (Lincoln County) and Salem Lutheran in 1855. It was typical at the time for many Lutheran congregations to hold worship services once a month. Congregations were so small that no single church could provide a living wage for a full time pastor. At one time, Rev. Fox had responsibility for ministering to as many as eleven congregations. On top of his medical practice, this seemingly impossible task required him to cover the areas of Lincolnton, Newton, Hickory, Gastonia, Kings Mountain, and surrounding areas along with excursions into Tennessee on synod business. His travel was made on horse back – never being late for appointments regardless of the weather for twenty-eight years. Rev. Fox was elected president of the Tennessee Synod on five occasions. He was one of the first to open Sunday Schools in the Lutheran Church. He died quietly on June 10, 1884 with the words “I know that my Redeemer liveth” on his lips. Rev. Fox was buried in the Salem Lutheran Cemetery – beside the Church he loved and where he had been pastor without interval for twenty-eight years.

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### *Where the Monument is...*

### **Old St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church**

### **Sharing Christ for 250 Years**

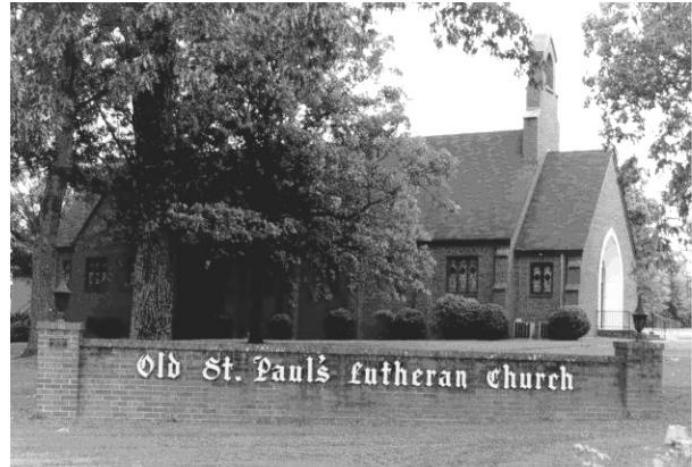
**1757 – Present**

The history of Old St. Paul's congregation must be told by a piecing together of details from meager sources of information. It is about pioneer Pennsylvania German (Deutsch) people who came down through the Shenandoah Valley to the wilderness of the Carolina colony in the 1740's and 1750's.

These farmer folk, seeking fertile land to support themselves and their families in the New World, discovered that the best land in eastern Pennsylvania was already bought. As they married and left the family farmstead they migrated south.

Encouraged by the enthusiasm of trapper/explorer Heinrich Weidner, they purchased land in this region from the agents of Lord Proprietors in England. This heavily wooded land in the Catawba Valley was obtainable for as little as fifty cents an acre!

Weidner was born a Prince in Germany but as a second son would never have ruled that principality unless his older brother had died young. He decided to face the pioneer challenges and sail for America. Having the strength of a Christian faith he was able to meet those challenges. Also since his family was wealthy he bought over 10,000 acres of land in this area. Two rivers flowed through this land; these he named for his sons, the Henry and the Jacob's Fork!



In this migration of Germans there were two significant factors different from most other settlements in America. First, they came here without a spiritual leader. The pastors in Pennsylvania had enough work just gathering the new European immigrants into congregations. Secondly, no additional Germans came from either the old country or from their first settlements in the New World.

Probably Andreas Killian was typical of those first settlers west of the Catawba River. He sailed into the port of Philadelphia in 1732 and fifteen years thereafter brought his family to a homestead on Clark's Creek.

Between Adam Sherrill's ford at the Catawba River and Weidner's place on the South Fork, the soon-after-constructed Deustch Meeting House was the center of the German settlement. This meeting house was built to serve two groups of believers, the Lutheran and the Reformed. Without a pastor, these families assembled to worship, sing, pray, and listen to a sermon read from a book. Their first log structure was erected close to the old cedar trees in the back of the cemetery. It was very narrow and probably held no more than one hundred people. It is very natural to conclude that together the two congregations did not comprise more than two hundred souls. From this small start have stemmed tens of thousands of Americans who can trace their ancestry back to these God-fearing forebears.

After several years that little log hut was struck by lightning and burned. Then they decided to build a bigger, better structure and put it up on the wagon road. The likely year was 1757, for a reliable report says a Reformed minister named Martin preached to the congregation during his travels in the year 1959.

After already using the land for burials and buildings for a goodly number of years, the church leaders went to the effort of recording the deed to the property in Rowan County in 1771. Paul and Frony Anthony conveyed the land to the Lutarin and Presbetaren Christian Churches for the payment of one pound sterling from each of the parties. The tract contained ten acres and was laid out most easily as an east-west, north-south, rectangle straight on the compass points.

John Gottfried Arndt traveled west from the Lutheran settlements near Salisbury in August 1776 and gave first communions. It would not be until 1785 that he was made missionary full-time to the region west of the Catawba River. Not until Arndt arrived here did people get rid of a sad superstition of never marking gravestones with their names. For these pioneers wrongly held that the devil would harass them until Resurrection Day if he could identify their location. Immediately after Arndt's pastorate began all graves were inscribed in German with names and personal data. Native German Arndt preached in that language and common speech among these folks remained that way until Arndt grew old and virtually blind. The assistant pastor called to accompany Arndt on his rounds of serving the eight to ten scattered flocks was young Phillip Henkel. He was born in New Market, Virginia where he grew up speaking English. The veteran circuit rider Arndt died in 1807. The immediate influence of Henkel is evidenced by the usage of the English language on the tombstones in 1808.

Many family names had been altered by British record keepers aboard ships that brought our forefathers to America. Hence when they were administered the oath of allegiance to the British crown they came out with Anglicized or even translated surnames. Those that did not get changed then did so on property deeds or marriage bonds. Hardly any Carolina Germans escaped with the original spelling of their names. Even Weidner and Wolfgang became Whitener and Wilfong.



Under the Lord's blessing these families multiplied and occupied more land. They grew numerous enough by the 1790's to mother some new congregations in the area such as Grace, Zion, and St. John's Lutheran. After the turn of the nineteenth century the Deustch Meeting House became known as "South Fork Church."

Additionally as individuals they acquired more acreage and therefore began buying slaves to share in the booming cotton economy. So these people decided to tear down the one-story church and build a two-story church having a slave gallery on the second floor. The usable logs were retained from the one-story church and used in the two-story building.

Probably in 1818 Henry Cline was given the job of constructing a very plain but practical log church. This building, sealed by boards, is still standing solidly against the sky in our midst. As a carpenter, Cline was a genius, realizing a seating capacity in the small structure of 250 people. He used steep narrow stairwells and high steps to the tiers of the balcony achieving a space-saving specialty.

For a reminder of the old country a canopy, or sounding board, was placed over the head of the preacher in the pulpit. The seats downstairs were designed to have an opening for the hoop skirts or bustles which were the ladies fashion at that time. Only the pews in the center had solid backs to seat the church board.

Cline was sure that there could never be a woman on the church council, but that day has come to Old St. Paul's congregation. Thankfully we can now rejoice that the talents of all God's people can be recognized and utilized.

For some unexplained reason a second deed was drawn for the historic church in 1818 as the third edifice was constructed. It is signed by John Smyre and made out to trustees John Propst and John Wilfong for the two congregations.

After the civil war slaves no longer occupied the balcony so the young men and boys were shifted to that section. They were as bad to carve names in school desks and church pews as youngsters today. In the soft wood of the upstairs seating, initials and even a few names abound!

Pastor Arndt and his congregations helped form the North Carolina Synod in 1803. In 1820 the influence of the Henkels for confessional Lutheranism caused most of the western North Carolina flocks to shift to the Tennessee Synod. But in 1846 Adam Miller Jr., an uncompromising opponent of innovation in doctrine or discipline, was convinced that the Tennessee Synod had also become too liberal and formed the Tennessee Synod (Reorganized). The new grouping of Lutherans applied after the Civil War for admission into the Joint Synod of Ohio. In 1884 they were received into that church body with Ohio headquarters and in the 90's convinced said assemblage to start a seminary in Hickory. This school, known as St. Paul Practical Seminary, served as ministerial training base for Carolina pastors until it closed in 1910.

The church building was shared by the two Lutheran and Reformed denominations until 1901 when the Reformed congregation built their own house of worship three miles south at Startown. A few years later in 1905 the Lutheran congregation split over synodical affiliation differences and one group moved several miles south and became known as St. Paul's Lutheran Church at Startown in the Tennessee Synod. Since both St. Paul's were on the same mailing route ours came to be distinguished as Old St. Paul's congregation.

Perhaps the most prominent pastor in service of Old St. Paul people was George Luther Hunt. Tutored by Adam Miller Jr., he arrived here after the War Between the States. He bought a sizeable portion of land and remained for the rest of his lifetime. He stemmed from eastern Tennessee stock and often rode his little black mule, "Coaly", that far in his circuit riding ministry.

A church history book in German form 1901 says St. Paul's Church near Newton had 100 communing members. That must have dropped substantially in 1905 when St. Paul's at Startown was formed. Membership in 1952, when the present brick building was built across the road, was about 150 communicants.

A significant step was taken in 1956 when after a dozen years of sharing Pastor Schillinger with St. Paul Lutheran Church in Hickory, a parsonage was built and Calvert Love was called to become our first full-time pastor.

The years have taken their toll on our old church building and in 1994 a "Friends of Old St. Paul's" committee was formed to completely restore the structure.

Research by Rev. Luther Knuaff: The historic building is opened to the public for Sunday afternoon tours during the months of April through October.

**Tax deductible contributions for restoration and upkeep of this structure may be sent to: Friends of Old St. Paul's Church, 2035 Old Conover-Startown Road Newton, N.C. 28658**

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### *Where the Reunion is today...*

**Mt. Zion Lutheran Church  
4420 County Home Road, Conover, NC 28613  
(828) 256-2123**

In 1892, area families who had moved to North Carolina voiced a desire to have a church of their own. They had been traveling eight to ten miles on horseback, on foot, by buggy or wagon, to worship at other Lutheran churches.



Out of pastoral concern for these families, the Reverend J.H. Rexrode, who was serving St. Stephens and other neighboring congregations, started holding services in the fall of 1892. The first services were held in the old Charity School House on the County Home Road. In 1893, the church was erected on a half acre parcel of land given by H. Adolphus Herman, located where the Mt Zion bus garage stands today. The wood frame building was a mere 30 by 50

feet, and much of the labor and materials were donated by the members. On July 1st, 1894, the congregation of Mt Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church was formally organized with thirteen families that made up the charter membership of the church.

There was no organ or piano available to start with- hymns were started with a pitch pipe. The men sat on the right side of the church and the women and children were placed on the left.

Since these initial days, the congregation of Mount Zion Lutheran has continued to be truly blessed. Over the course of more than a century, we have stayed the course of God's word even while continuously building, razing, rebuilding, remodeling, and altering the facilities as required by the times and people. As a June 23, 1894 article from The Lutheran Standard reported, "... a Mt. Zion for themselves and their children and all true believers."



*Humble beginnings for the church, as seen in this 1893 photograph. Courtesy of James Yount.*

# On the Map!

1714 St Pauls Church Rd, Newton, NC 28658 to 4420 County Home Rd, Conover, NC 28613 - Google Maps      8/3/09 4:30 PM

## Google maps

**Directions to 4420 County Home Rd, Conover, NC 28613**  
10.9 mi – about 26 mins  
From (A) Old St. Pauls Church to (B) St. Stephens ELCA Church BBQ to (C) Andy Killians AutoSports Car Collection to (D) Killian's Hardware Private Museum to (E) Mt. Zion Lutheran Church

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[http://maps.google.com/maps?f=d&source=s\\_d&addr=1714+St.+Pauls...&l=35.732718,-81.284323&spn=0.025361,0.055017&z=14&layer=c&pw=2](http://maps.google.com/maps?f=d&source=s_d&addr=1714+St.+Pauls...&l=35.732718,-81.284323&spn=0.025361,0.055017&z=14&layer=c&pw=2)      Page 1 of 3

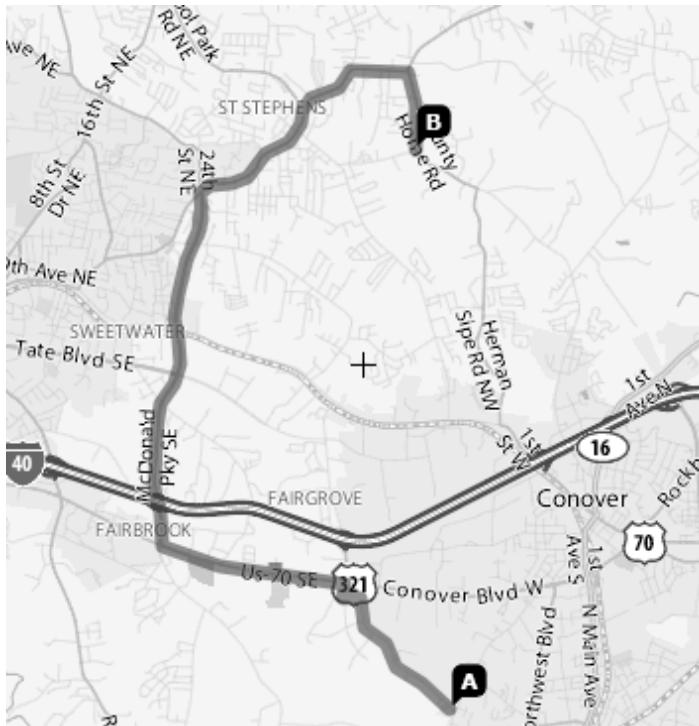
This map shows where the Churches are located in relation to each other.

# Directions

## From Old St. Paul's Church to Mt. Zion Lutheran Church

- |   |                                 |   |
|---|---------------------------------|---|
| 1. Start at 1714 SAINT PAULS CHURCH RD, NEWTON<br>going toward SHIRLEY LN | <a href="#">Show Detail Map</a> | • |
| 2. Turn <b>L</b> on 20TH AVE SE   | go <b>0.16</b> mi               | • |
| 3. Turn <b>R</b> on FAIRGROVE CHURCH RD SE                                | go <b>0.15</b> mi               | • |
| 4. Turn <b>L</b> on US-70 SE  | go <b>1.22</b> mi               | • |
| 5. Continue on AMERICAN EX-PRISONERS OF WAR HWY(US-70)                    | go <b>0.6</b> mi                | • |
| 6. Turn <b>R</b> on MCDONALD PKY SE                                       | go <b>2.09</b> mi               | • |
| 7. Continue on MCDONALD PKWY NE   | go <b>1.46</b> mi               | • |
| 8. Bear <b>R</b> on SPRINGS RD NE   | go <b>2.53</b> mi               | • |
| 9. Continue on COUNTY HOME RD   | go <b>0.79</b> mi               | • |
| 10. Arrive at 4420 COUNTY HOME RD, CONOVER, on the <b>L</b>               |                                 | • |

Time: 21 mins, Distance: 10.48 mi



## **Grave site Flowers**

Our Vice president, Eddie Killian, has taken on the honorable task of placing a single flower on Killian graves among several local area Churches. With some help, Eddie will place flowers on Killian graves in the following Church Cemeteries:

### **Mays Chapel Methodist**

1707 Mays Chapel Church Rd., Maiden, NC 28650

### **Millers Lutheran**

2280 12<sup>th</sup> Ave. NE, Hickory, NC 28601

### **Mountain View Mennonite**

5252 Hwy 10 W, Hickory, NC 28602

### **Mt. Zion Lutheran**

4420 County Home Rd., Conover, NC 28613

### **Old St. Paul's Lutheran**

1714 St. Paul's Church Rd., Newton, NC 28658

### **Salem Lutheran & Reformed**

3410 Startown Rd., Lincolnton, NC 28092

### **St. John's Lutheran**

2126 Saint Johns Church Rd., Conover, NC 28613

### **St. Peter's Lutheran**

6175 St. Peters Church Rd., Conover. NC 28613

### **St. Stephens Lutheran Missouri Synod**

2304 Springs Rd. NE, Hickory, NC 28601

### **St. Stephens Lutheran ELCA**

2259 12<sup>th</sup> Ave. NE, Hickory, NC 28601

### **Wesley's Chapel UMC**

2613 Wesley Chapel Rd., Newton, NC 28658

### **Zion Lutheran**

1911 Zion Church Rd., Hickory, NC 28602

## Street Addresses and Phone Numbers

- Best Western Hotel  
1520 13<sup>th</sup> Ave. Dr. SE  
Hickory, NC 28602  
(828) 323-1150
- Catawba County Museum of History  
(Saturday morning)  
30 N. College Ave.  
Newton, NC 28658  
(828) 465-0383
- Old St. Paul's Church  
(Church Service Sunday)  
1714 St. Paul's Church Rd.  
Newton, NC 28658
- St. Stephens Lutheran Church ELCA  
(Boy Scout Barbecue Saturday)  
2259 12<sup>th</sup> Ave. NE  
Hickory, NC 28601
- Mt. Zion Lutheran Church  
4420 County Home Rd.  
Conover, NC 28613  
(828) 256-2123
- Murray's Mill  
1489 Murrays Mill Rd.,  
Catawba, NC 28609  
(828) 241-4299
- Bunker Hill Covered Bridge  
Off US Hwy 70  
14 miles east of Claremont, NC 28610