

Civil War Era Church Service to be held at the First Lutheran Church in Carlisle

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History will come alive at First Lutheran Church, 21 South Bedford Street, Carlisle on Sunday, June 30, at the 10:15 a.m. worship service as part of the commemoration of the 150th anniversary of the Civil War. The public is cordially invited to participate in the service, complete with Civil War re-enactors in attendance.

Carlisle was invaded and occupied by the Second Corps of the Confederate Army under Lieutenant General Richard S. Ewell for three days, June 27-30, 1863. From Carlisle, Ewell's unit marched south to the small town of Gettysburg where a great battle was fought, becoming a turning point in the war.

Despite the presence of the enemy in our town, First Lutheran's pastor, the Rev. Dr. Jacob Fry, made the decision to hold a worship service. Only the Second Presbyterian Church and possibly two other churches in town held services that day. Our church edifice at that time was located behind the Old Jail in the building now occupied by Bedford Street Antiques. The congregation that morning consisted of approximately sixty people, at least half of them being Confederate officers.

The service at First Lutheran will be the church's contribution to the Civil War remembrances in Carlisle during Summerfair. Although we do not have a copy of the actual service held that day, our pastor, the Rev. Charles A. Brophy, has carefully researched the service format and liturgy that was probably being used at First Lutheran during the 1860's to make the service as historically accurate as possible. A sermon that Pastor Fry preached in December 1860, in response to South Carolina's secession from the Union, will be delivered by Pastor Brophy dressed in a ministerial robe of the day. Congregational singing of hymns reflecting the time period will be accompanied on the church's recently-renovated antique pump organ.

Following the service, the Worship and Music Committee will host a time of fellowship on the lawn serving lemonade along with cakes and cookies that were popular in 1863.