

A Brief Historical Sketch of St. Luke 's Episcopal Church Fort Madison, Iowa

The First Episcopal service in, Lee County was held in Fort Madison on August 16, 1843, when The Rt. Rev, Jackson Kemper, the first Episcopal Missionary Bishop in the United States, preached to "a few zealous Episcopalians". We have three chalices, three patens, and two cruets from this "Bishop of the Whole Northwest" given to us before 1855.

The Rev. William A. Leach arrived in Fort Madison July 15, 1848, and wrote: "It appears that a parish under the instrumentality of a zealous layman was organized in the year 1844, but for a variety of deteriorating causes, it soon began to decay." Rev. Leach held services at the Academy Building until 1850. The Rev. Mr. Bachelor conducted services occasionally until 1854 for the congregation known as St. Peter's, using the "Presbyterian house of worship, now unoccupied." On Whitsunday, May 31, 1857, Bishop Henry Washington Lee, the first Bishop of the Diocese of Iowa, preached in the Court House twice, and in the evening at the Penitentiary. The Good Shepherd window over the altar is dedicated to Bishop Lee.

On March 25, 1854, the Episcopalians were formally chartered as Hope Church under the Rectorship of William Adderly.

- The Church Building was consecrated September 9, 1857 - "A beautiful and appropriate edifice tastefully and completely furnished with every requisite." The original cost was \$4,000.
- A Sunday School was established in 1858.
- The first Confirmation Service was held May 2, 1858.
- The Brass Altar Cross was given in 1884.
- Altar Candles and a Linen Chasuble were dedicated in 1885.
- An organ was installed in 1887, also at a cost of about \$4,000.
- Electric lights were installed in 1888.
- The fine Oak Altar dates from 1892.
- The brass jeweled Processional Cross and the Eagle Lectern date from 1893.
- Red velvet pew cushions were given in 1893 and used until about 2010.
- Harvest Festivals were introduced in 1894 and attracted many visitors.
- The Oak and Brass Altar Rail was given in 1895.
- Midnight Christmas Eucharists were established in 1895 and attracted large crowds.
- On November 11, 1903, under the Rectorship of The Rev. Dr. Edward H. Rudd the church was renamed and dedicated to St. Luke.
- In 1905 Mrs. Rachel Albright made and presented to the parish a beautiful hand-worked silk replica of the original United States flag which had been made by her grandmother, Mrs. Betsy Ross. Conserved, it may be seen in the Parish Hall.
- In 1926 the Blessed Sacrament was reserved for the first time.
- The Parish Hall was dedicated November 1, 1929.

Two ordinations took place at St. Luke's prior those of the Ministry Development Team ordinations which began in 2005:

- On October 12, 1941, the Rev. Russell J. Rauscher was ordained to the Priesthood; two decades later he became a bishop.
- On May 12, 1990, Julia K. Easley, the first parishioner to enter the ministry, was ordained to the Diaconate at St. Luke's.

The words of Fr. Dew-Brittain still ring true: "The years gone by are a challenge to carry on."

List of St. Luke's Rectors, Priests and Deacons

1848 – 2016

The Rev. William A. Leach	1848 – 1850	The Rev. Edward H. Rudd, S.T.D. (Rector Emeritus until his death)	1903 – 1917
The Rev. Mr. Bachelor	1850 – 1854	The Rev. William P. James	1919 – 1924
The Rev. William Adderly	1854 – 1863	The James H. Dew-Brittain	1925 – 1934
The Rev. R.F.G. Page	1864 – 1866	The Rev. James D. Griffith	1935 – 1941
The Rev. Jacob Rambo	1870 – 1872	The Rev. Russell J. Rauscher	1941 – 1945
The Rev. J.A. Woodward	1872 – 1875	The Rev. George C. Weiser	1945 – 1947
The Rev. F.E. Judd	1877 – 1878	The Rev. Charles T. Hawtrey	1948 – 1955
The Rev. A.J. Yealin	1878 – 1879	The Rev. William W. Swif	1956 – 1960
The Rev. Walter A. Tearne	1879 – 1881	The Rev. Charles Fletcher	1960 – 1968
The Rev. A. Q. Davis	1883 – 1885	The Rev. Michael R. Link	1968 – 1973
The Rev. M.A. Johnson, D.D.	1886 – 1888	The John W. Biggs	1973 – 1978
The Rev. J.M.D. Davidson	1889	The Rev. Jerry C. Doherty	1979 – 1985
The Rev. C.S. Witherspoon	1890 – 1892	The Rev. Thomas E. Murphy	1986 – 1988
The Rev. William K. Berry, D.D.	1893 – 1902	The Rev. Richard J. Moore	1990 – 1996
The Rev. Richard Ellerby	1903	The Rev. Jesse Bigham (Interim)	1996 – 1997
		The Rev. Willa Goodfellow	1997 – 2005

<p>Ministry Development Team Members Ordained to the Priesthood (When a parish has a MDT the Bishop of the Diocese is considered to be the Rector of the church.)</p> <p>The Rev. Lyle Brown The Rev. Barbara Easley The Rev. James Kannenberg The Rev. Shelley Dowling</p> <p>The Rev. Marilyn Wentzien</p> <p>The Rev. Bonnie Wilkerson The Rev. Kelly Shields</p> <p>Ms. Alyce Lair</p> <p>As of March 2016 all of the above MDT members are still actively serving at St. Luke's.</p>	<p>During the period 2006 – to May 2010 supply priests and lay readers conducted services while the Ministry Development Team members were studying for ordination</p> <p>Ordained to the Priesthood on May 10, 2010 Ordained to the Priesthood on May 10, 2010 Ordained to the Priesthood on May 10, 2010 Ordained to the Vocational Diaconate on May 10, 2010 Ordained to the Vocational Diaconate on May 10, 2010 Ordained to the Priesthood on February 1, 2014 Ordained to the Vocational Diaconate on February 1, 2014 Commissioned as the Parish Administrator on May 10, 2010</p>
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