

"Declaration at the laying of a Cornerstone"

In the Name of the Triune God. Amen.

Whereas the Evangelical Lutheran Congregation, now worshipping in the Methodist Episcopal Church in this place, believes it necessary to build a house of worship of their own, and that its location in this vicinity would best subserve the interests of the congregation and religion generally, and Whereas we are desirous of perpetuating Christianity by the faithful preaching of God's word and the administration of the ordinances of religion, for our mutual benefit and improvement as well as that of our posterity -- We, therefore the members of this congregation in reliance on the Great Head of the Church, Jesus Christ, the same today, yesterday, and forever, have resolved to build upon this ground a house of worship, and do now publish to the world the object and society for which it is to be erected: Wherefore, be it known to the present and future generations, that we here, on this 19th day of May, A.D., 1844 (John Tyler being President of the United States, and D.R. Porter Governor of the State of Pennsylvania), do lay the corner-stone of this Evangelical Lutheran church; and should God prosper the work of our hands and the edifice be completed, it shall be dedicated forever to the service of the Triune God, Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, and shall be known and called by the name of Christ's Church; moreover, it shall be and remain forever an Evangelical Lutheran Church, in which the doctrines of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, as they are substantially set forth in the Augsburg Confession of Faith, shall be preached, and the sacraments shall be administered in conformity with the usages of the church, that thus it may appear to posterity what, is our religious faith. Should there, however, a generation of men arise and obtain possession of this church -- men who deny the Lord that bought them and despise God's word and ordinances, and will not submit to the wholesome doctrines and discipline of the Church, we call heaven and earth to witness that we are free of their blood, -- moreover, we call heaven and earth to witness that we love vital godliness and ardently desire its perpetuity, that we expect it from our children and children's children that they faithfully and perseveringly adhere to the doctrines of the Cross, and that it is our prayer that the young and old may be awakened, converted, comforted, edified, and prepared for the enjoyment of the sanctuary above. Prompted by such desires and having in view such objects, we trust we can confidently adopt the language of the Patriarch Jacob, and exclaim: "This stone which we have set for a pillar shall be God's house." Given at Petersburg, this 19th day of May, A.D., 1844, the sixty-seventh year of the Independence of the United States of America, and subscribed by the Elders, Deacons, Building-Committee, and the Ministers present.

George Keim, Elder; Andrew Hantz, Building Committee; Jon Michener, Sr., Deacon; Dr. Philip Ebert, Deacon and Building Committee; Edward Miller, Building Committee; Rev. Levi T. Williams, Pastor loci; and, Rev. Nicholas J. Stroh, Minister present."