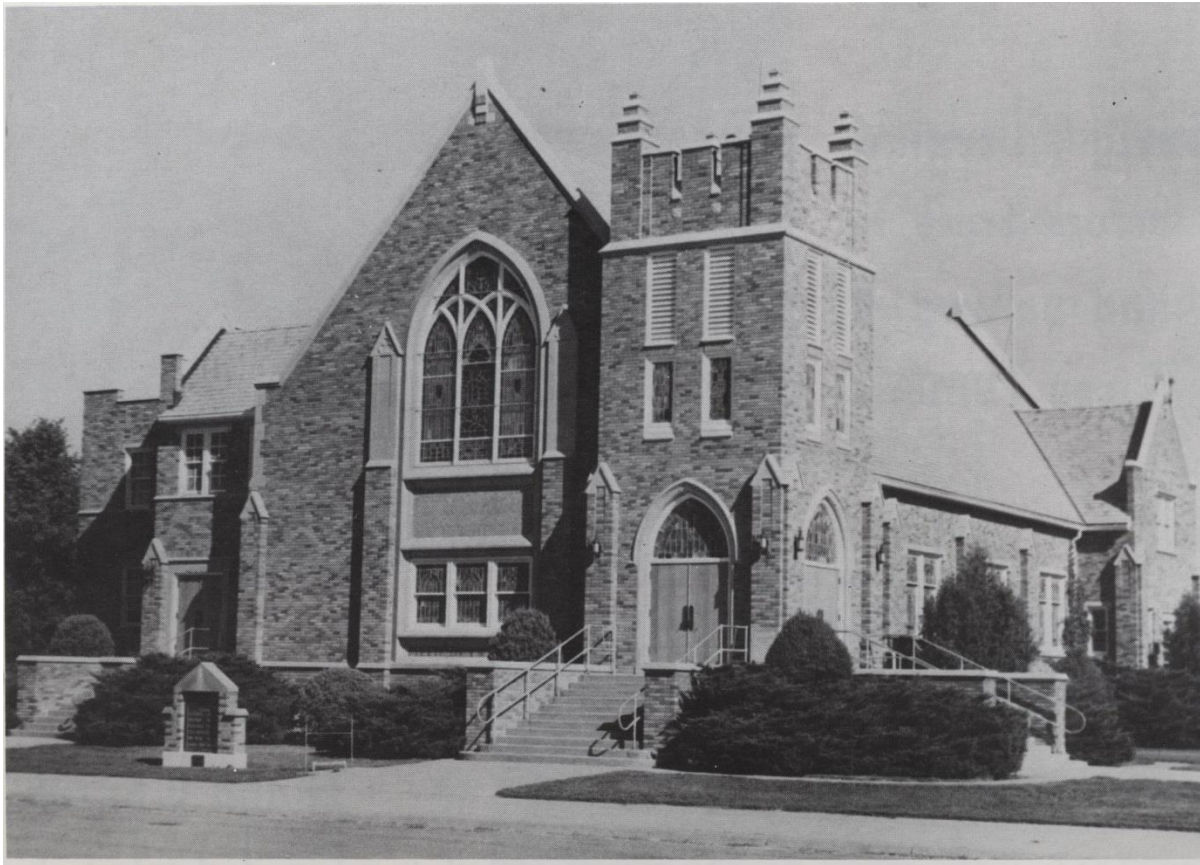


Church Histories



Present building erected 1937 (100th anniversary book)

First Baptist Church, Lorraine, Kansas

Twenty-seven men and women of German background and speech gathered to form a church in Lorraine, Kansas, in June of 1878. Their first meetings were held in their homes or in a schoolhouse. The following year, a church building was constructed of native stone which had been quarried by the members. The church rapidly increased in members, necessitating the erection of the second edifice, a frame building, fourteen years later.

During the early years of the church, both a Women's Missionary Society (WMS) and an organization for the youth, the BYPU, were formed. Later the King's Daughters' Society was organized. A pipe organ was installed in 1902. In 1926, a new parsonage was built. A brick building was erected in 1937, and the following year a new Moller pipe organ was dedicated. The church has sponsored several radio services. A number of missionaries and pastors have gone out from this church. In 1953, the total membership had grown to 357. 1387 members had been added to the original 27. Losses totaled 1057. The church celebrated its centennial in 1978. Eighteen pastors had served during that span of time. In October of 2003, the First Baptist Church of Lorraine observed their 125th anniversary.

1878

The history of this church, as well as that of most of the early church beginnings, is fascinating in that the early settlers came to this Baptist colony not so much for the betterment of their temporal affairs, but were devout Christian men and women who sought more for the spiritual welfare of their children and community.

Written by Phyllis Harms, NAB Heritage Commission [June, 2015]

Bibliographical sources: [Published articles – Baptist Herald & Other]

1929. Constitution of First Baptist Church, Lorraine, Kansas.

Wessler, Thelea: “Faith of Our Fathers...Still Living through Us.” *Baptist Herald* (November 1978).

“First Baptist Church at Lorraine Dedicated.” *Ellsworth Reporter*: Dec. 2, 1937.

“Cornerstone Yields Bible.” *Ellsworth News/Gazette*: March 1, 1978.

Dedication Program of the First Baptist Church of Lorraine, Kansas

1953 Seventy-fifth Anniversary booklet

1978 Centennial Celebration Booklet

2003 125th Anniversary Booklet

Archival sources in North American Baptist Heritage Center

Church Directories

Church Bulletins

Personal Correspondence

Assorted other documents



Stone building – native stone 1879-1893



White frame building used 1893-1937