



IPSWICH LUTHERAN PARISH

Living Christ Together

History of Ipswich Lutheran Parish

Pastor Schirmeister who was ordained as a pastor of the State Church of Prussia, came to Moreton Bay in 1857 and established congregations at North Brisbane, South Brisbane, Ipswich and Toowoomba.

The Ipswich Congregation was organised in 1860 with the first services being conducted in a Church of England Sunday School. The congregation prospered and a brick church was erected in 1864. Pastor Schirmeister officiated at the dedication on the 26th June that year.

The congregation then appealed to the Councillor of the Consistory at Marburg (Germany) for a pastor with the result that Pastor Ernst Christian Friedrich Theodor Heiner arrived in Ipswich, with his family in 1866 where he remained in 1885. During this time residing in Ipswich he helped establish congregations at Engelsburg, Milbong, Mutdapilly, Stone Quarry, Walloon, and Lowood.

From 1869 Pastor Heiner was assisted by Pastor C Gaustad from India who then accepted the call to Walloon in 1873.

In 1886 the Ipswich and Stone Quarry congregations joined the United German and Scandinavian Synod to secure the services of a pastor. Pastor J Koehnke from Towoomba was installed on 7th November 1886, but due to insufficient funds, he moved to Logan in 1889.

Other pastors to serve the Ipswich district were:

Pastor J Holtermann (1890-1897)

Pastor E Becker (1898-1901)

Pastor W Fuhlbohm (1901-1905)

Pastor H Wallatt (1905-1908)

Pastor W Poland (1909)

Pastor I Egen (1910-1923)

In 1902, the Ipswich congregation joined the Evangelical Synod of Queensland, and in 1911, accepted the proposal to name the church the "Deutsche Evangelical Lutheran St. Johannes Kirche".

Around this time, the church had only 30 members, but new life came when Pastor Ludwig Doehler took over the Ipswich and Stone Quarry congregations in 1922

In 1929, Ipswich again received a resident pastor when Ludwig's brother Pastor Gerhard Dohler, accepted the call to the newly formed parish consisting of Ipswich, Stone Quarry, Rosewood and Rosevale, where he served until 1959. The Stone Quarry church closed in 1940, and relocated to Esk in 1941.

Following the completion of the building of St. John's Church in Ipswich in 1961, there was a period of growth in the church and in membership, which established new congregations at Brassall, Raceview, Riverview and Goodna.

Pastors to oversee this expansion and growth were:

Pastor R Gerhardy (1960-1967)

Pastor A Reuther (1963-1969)

Pastor A Kohler (1967-1973)

Pastor I Roennfeldt (1967-1986)

Pastor G Dahlenburg (1971-1973)

Pastor B Haebich (1974-1978)

With the union of the two synods to form one synod (Lutheran Church of Australia) during this time, a proclamation of fellowship between all Lutheran churches took place at the Ritz Theatre, Ipswich on 28th November 1965.

Ipswich's many congregations were served faithfully for a number of years, until the opportunity to pool resources and work together as One Parish was taken by the Raceview, Riverview and Ipswich congregations (St John's & St. Luke's) in 2000, with One Ipswich Lutheran Parish being formed in 2001.

Pastors of Ipswich Lutheran Parish have been:

Pastor K Stiller (2001-2003)

Pastor A Preibennow (2001-2004)

Pastor J O'Keefe (2004-2012)

Pastor T Jarick (2005-2011)

Currently the Parish comprises Bethany Lutheran Church, Raceview; Grace Lutheran Church, Riverview; and St. John's Lutheran Church, Ipswich. It also oversees Bethany Lutheran Primary School and Bethany Lutheran Kindergarten, and is currently served by the following pastors:

Pastor M Fritsch (2012-Current)

Pastor B Hentschke (2013-Current)