



## Local News

[Cincinnati.Com](#) » [NKY.com](#) » [Local News](#) » Lutheran church celebrates 200 years

Last Updated: 3:35 am | Friday, January 20, 2006

# Lutheran church celebrates 200 years

BY HOWARD MCEWEN | ENQUIRER CONTRIBUTOR

**FLORENCE** - On Jan. 6, the day of Epiphany, Hopeful Evangelical Lutheran Church in Florence marked its 200th anniversary. The church was the first the Lutherans established in the interior parts of the continent and is called "The Mother of Lutheranism west of the Allegheny Mountains."

At the church's founding, Florence wasn't founded yet, Covington was farmland, and Cincinnati was a village hugging the Ohio River.

"The pastor of the mother church in Madison, Va., came out here on a trip some years prior and said there was nice farming land. Six families came out here," said Pastor Blair Fields. Fields, who began preaching at Hopeful in 1996, is the 30th pastor to serve the church.

**ADVERTISEMENT** Two hundred years later, about 250 families belong to Hopeful Lutheran Church with an average attendance of 245 people each Sunday. It has long been a Florence landmark. It shares its name to one of Florence's main roads, Hopeful Church Road, that runs roughly parallel with Interstate 71/75.

The church held special services Sunday to mark the anniversary. The church has marked its bicentennial in many ways. "We released a 200th anniversary cookbook and a 200th anniversary Christmas ornament," Fields said.

There are approximately 9 million Lutherans in the United States. There are three main branches of Lutheranism in the U.S.: Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod, Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod and Hopeful's Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

"Lutherans follow the teachings of Martin Luther, who started the Reformation when he protested church practices that he thought were excessive and not based in Scripture," said Hopeful's pastor of spirituality and ministry, Rev. Tim Hungler.



**ZOOM** The Enquirer/patrick Reddy

Pastor Blair Fields and his congregation at Hopeful Lutheran Church, in Florence, have been celebrating its 200th anniversary.

[Print](#) | [Go back](#) | Copyright 2006, [NKY.com](#)