St. Paul Lutheran Church

2624 Burgundy Street

After it was established in 1840, St. Paul Church served all German Protestants in its vicinity and offered a school for their offspring. Schisms occurred fairly soon, however, and only German-speaking Evangelical Lutherans came to worship there.

The first church, dating to 1843, was clad in unfinished flat boards. Though the building had a modest footprint, the steeple stood a proud 75 feet high. In 1860 the first church was destroyed by fire, but it was rebuilt later that year, looking much as it does today. A second fire, in 1889, necessitated another reconstruction, which was completed in only seven months. When the terrible hurricane of 1915 blew the steeple off the roof, a somewhat shorter version replaced it.

English began to replace German as the liturgical language around 1885, and shortly thereafter those who worshiped solely in English formedat the request of the German speakersthe First English Evangelical-Lutheran Church of New Orleans. (After more than a century in the Marigny, First English moved to Cleary Avenue, Metairie, in 2007.) By the late nineteenth century, with immigration laws restricting the number of arriving Germans, the German-speaking congregation was in decline, and gradually German was phased out. Today, the German heritage is honored with German-style celebrations such as Oktoberfest.

The Victorian stained glass windows were replaced in 1926, and damage from Hurricane Betsy in 1965 led to the installation of a third set. The last were designed by Reverend A. R. Kretzmann of Chicago and were manufactured by Giannini and Hildebrand of that city. Accompanied by their appropriate symbols, Old Testament figures are depicted on the left (as one faces the altar), and New Testament figures and prominent Lutherans appear on the right. The somewhat austere interior of St. Pauls is indeed enhanced by these glowing windows.

**Windows**

Altar

Daniel St. Matthew

St. John the Baptist St. Mark

Isaiah St. Luke

Jeremiah St. John

David St. Peter

Solomon St. Andrew

Moses St. James

Aaron St. John

Isaac St. Paul

Jacob St. Athanasius

Adam Martin Luther

Abraham C. F. W. Walther \*

Balcony

Law Word

Gospel Sacrament

\* German-American Lutheran theologian (1811-1887)

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