

# 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary -- 2012

Part 1: Zion's Founders (15 pages; to view scroll down ) 😊

Part 2: History of Zion from 1987 – 2012

## +++ FOUNDERS OF ZION +++

Betzold, Andrew	Meyer, George
Betzold, John	Mueller, J.
Borck, Ernest	Philipp, Julius
Buechler, George	Schnell, John
Dietlein, John	Schuster, Fred
Engelhardt, John	Spengler, John George
Ittner, J.P.	Spengler, John Jacob
Koch, Henry	Tomke, Charles
Kohn, Henry	Tomke I, John
Kraeft, Ferdinand	Vogtmann, Adam
Kraeft, Julius	Walter, John
Mackensen, Theodore	Whiger, George

*The founders of Zion Lutheran Church of Beaver Township assembled at their church edifice and on December 12, 1887, The Zion Congregation was incorporated. Rev. Mueller was elected to preside and John P. Ittner was secretary. Trustees elected were John Betzold, John Endlein and John Schnell. Elders, or Vorstrher, elected were Ferdinand Kraeft, F. Schuster and salary collector F. Kraeft. It was resolved that one elder pass the money basket, or klingelbeutel, and the other elder care for the pastor's transportation to the Midland Mission. According to the Statistical Yearbook for the year 1887, Zion had 108 baptized members, 55 communicant members, 17 voting members and 27 pupils.*

*The Declaration of Association was signed December 12, 1887, by the following members: Andrew Betzold, John Betzold, George Buechler, John Dietlein, John Engelhardt, J.P. Ittner, Henry Koch, Ferdinand Kraeft, Julius Draeft, Theodore Mackensen, George Meyer, John Schnell, Fred Schuster, John Jacob Spengler, Charles Tomke, Adam Vogtmann and John Walter. In addition, the following founders of Zion were: Ernest Borck, Henry Kohn, J. Mueller, Julius Philipp, John George Spengler, John Tomke I and George Whiger.*

The following is a list of current Zion members who are descendants of the Founders of Zion.

*NOTE: if there are any additions or corrections, please let us know.*

**Betzold, Andrew**

None

**Betzold, John**

None

**Borck, Ernest**

None

**Buechler, George**

Greta Arndt  
Melissa Bejcek  
Gary Buechler  
Gene Buechler  
Ann Marie Casey  
Bert Casey  
George Casey  
Garth Casey  
Rachel Hardy  
Ted Kaiser  
Marjorie Noykos  
Ellen Samborn  
Heather Schember  
Lois Schember  
Sally Schember  
Sarah Schwanecke  
Audrey Smith-Carter  
Steve Wiedyk  
Carolyn Zielinski

**Dietlein, John**

Katie Wirsing-Herbolsheimer  
Terry Wirsing  
Burke, Kathy

**Engelhardt, John**

LeRoy Engelhardt

**Ittner, J.P.**

Noreen Adams  
Melissa Bejcek  
Doris Buechler  
LeRoy Engelhardt  
Ellen Samborn  
Carol Strawn  
Luanne Wegener  
Steve Wiedyk  
Arthur Ittner  
Donald Ittner

**Koch, Henry**

Kathy Wirsing Barre  
Doris Buechler  
Ardith Chapman  
Andrew Diener  
Ben Diener  
Sarah Diener  
David Fick Sr.  
David Fritz  
Randall Fritz  
Sandra Jones  
Katie Wirsing-Herbolsheimer  
Gary Koch  
Ross Koch  
Dayna Pomaville  
Vicki Simpson  
Phyllis Vogtmann  
Donna Warsin  
Gary Wirsing  
Greg Wirsing  
Terry Wirsing  
Jennifer Wooten

**Kohn, Henry**

Charley Gentle  
Bill Kohn  
John Kohn  
Roy Kohn  
Nelda Zielinski

**Kraeft, Ferdinand**

None

**Mackensen, Theodore**

Barbara Gehoski  
Joyce Potter

**Meyer, George**

None

**Moeller, J.**

None

**Philipp, Julius**

Fred Philipp

**Schnell, John**

Katherine Hillbrandt  
Angela Jammer  
Barb Schoenherr  
Beverly Jammer  
Bonnie Jammer  
Brenda Jammer  
David Jammer  
Dennis Jammer  
Fred Jammer  
Oswald Jammer

**Schuster, Fred**

None

**Spengler, John George**

None

**Spengler, John Jacob**

None

**Tomke, Charles**

Kathy Burke  
Sara Bennett  
Florence Koch  
Gary Koch  
Clark Gerstacker  
Hudson Gerstacker  
Kirk Gerstacker  
Peyton Gerstacker  
Shirley Gerstacker  
Vicki Simpson  
Nelda Zielinski

**Tomke I, John**

Kathy Burke  
Sara Bennett  
Florence Koch  
Gary Koch  
Clark Gerstacker  
Hudson Gerstacker  
Kirk Gerstacker  
Peyton Gerstacker  
Shirley Gerstacker  
Vicki Simpson  
Nelda Zielinski

**Vogtmann, Adam**

Harold Endline  
Lois Hoerlein  
Don Ittner  
Carol Strawn  
Earl Vogtmann

**Walter, John**

Roy Kohn

**Whiger, George**

None

"The love of a family is life's greatest blessing"  
"You don't choose your family. They are God's gift to you, as you are to them"

## **THE FOLLOWING PAGES WERE SUBMITTED BY MEMBERS OF ZION REGARDING THEIR ANCESTRY**

ANCESTRY OF GEORGE BUECHLER (Herb Buechler's grandparents)  
*By Beverly (Buechler) Westphal*

George and Barbara (Lang) Buechler (Herbert Buechler's grandparents) had a son, Leonard G. (dob 4/20/1892 and dod 1/20/1981) who married Lydia Zink. In addition to Herb, Leonard and Lydia had three other sons: Robert, Lee, and Roy and three daughters: Leola (Barclay), Clara (Wirsing) and Edna (Kaiser).

Diane Buechler's grandparents:

Henry and Augusta (Tomke) Kohn were both born in Germany. In Beaver Township, their son, Herman (dob 12/19/1886 and dod 12/31/1934) was born. Herman married Adelia Guenther, and one of their children was Clara Bertha Kohn (dob 9/30/1910 and dod 2/21/1997), also born in Beaver Township.

Paul and Barbara (Shinheimer) Schmidt's son, Peter Frederick (dob 3/26/1906 and dod 10/30/1993) was born in Garfield Township. Peter and Clara were married at Zion Beaver on September 27, 1931, by Rev. Rutkowsky. In addition to Diane, they had one other daughter, Donna (Szilagyl) and one son, Robert.

Herbert Buechler was born in Beaver Township on December 27, 1928. He was baptized at home on January 20, 1929, and confirmed from Zion Beaver on March 29, 1942.

Diane Adelia Schmidt was born in Bay County on March 24, 1934. She was baptized at Zion Beaver on April 15, 1934, and was confirmed there also.

On May 9, 1954, at Zion, Herb and Diane were married by Rev. Reimann, and the years brought four daughters and one son: Cynthia (Bauman), Beverly (Westphal), Peggy (Brady), Katie (Miller) and Andrew Buechler. All their children were baptized and confirmed from Zion Beaver, all their daughters were married there. Herb and Diane were married for 57 years and were life-long members at Zion. Herb passed away on July 7, 2011 and Diane passed away soon thereafter on September 21, 2011.

ANCESTRY OF JOHANN GEORGE BUECHLER (grandparents of Floyd Buechler & Loretta Buechler-Casey)

*By Lois (Buechler) Schember*

Johann George Buechler was born on July 14, 1958 in Anspach, Germany. He came to America in 1883 where he married Barbara Lang on July 1, 1883 in Frankenlust Township. Barbara Lang was born on March 26, 1858 in Anspach, Germany also. Johann and Barbara had 11 children. Barbara died on January 26, 1935 in Bay City. Johann was the Beaver Road Commissioner in 1903 and Beaver Township Treasurer from 1905-1906. He died on February 13, 1940 in Richville, MI. Johann was one of the founding fathers of Zion. Both Johann and Barbara are buried in Zion cemetery.

Johann George Buechler (better known as George) was one of the 11 children of Johann and Barbara. He was born on September 17, 1896 in Beaver Township. He was baptized on September 27, 1896 and confirmed on March 20, 1910 at Zion. On June 22, 1919 he married Kunigunda Zink in Raisinville Township in Monroe, MI. Kunigunda was born on March 3, 1895. Together they had two children: Floyd Buechler and Loretta Buechler-Casey. And they lived at 1694 Eleven Mile Road, Auburn, MI. They served as the Beaver Township Treasurer. George was a disabled veteran of WWI and died on May 24, 1966 at the age of 70. Kunigunda died on December 14, 1970 at the age of 73. Both George and Kunigunda and buried at Zion cemetery.

Floyd Buechler was born on November 17, 1928. Floyd married Ruth Kuch-Buechler on September 17, 1949. Floyd and Ruth lived at 1694 Eleven Mile Road their entire married life. They were blessed with five children who were baptized and confirmed at Zion (Joan, Sally, Lois, Lynn and Gene). Floyd died on February 24, 1995 at the age of 66. Ruth was born on May 21, 1930 and died on December 15, 2006 at the age of 76. Both Floyd and Ruth are buried at Zion cemetery.

Loretta Buechler-Casey was born on May 29, 1920. She was blessed with five children who were baptized and confirmed at Zion (Ann Marie, Dennis, Bert, George and Kathleen). She served as a PFC in the U.S. Army in WWII. Loretta died on February 22, 2000 and is buried at Zion Cemetery.

ANCESTRY OF JOHANN VITUS DIETLEIN (grandparents of Clara D. Wirsing)

*By Clara (Chet) Wirsing*

Johann Vitus Dietlein was born at 4:00 a.m. on May 30, 1857 in the family house #12 at Zailach near Ansbach in Bavaria, Germany to Johann Simon and Anna Mararetha (Wellhofer) Dietlein. He was baptized on June 1. He came to America some time before June 2, 1884, because that's the day he married Eva Margaretha Lang, daughter of Michael Georg and Anna Mara (Schultheiss) Lang who was born November 12, 1860 at Rosenberg near Ansbach in Bavaria, Germany. Her father was a shepherd and lived at House #14 in Rosenberg. She too came to America sometime before June 1884. They were married in the Willard Schoolhouse as the church wasn't built yet. John lived to be 66 years old and Eva lived to be 91 years old.

George John Dietlein (third child of Johann Vitus and Eva Margaretha (Long) Dietlein) was born on February 2, 1889, the third of nine children all born in Beaver Township on a farm two miles North of Zion Lutheran Church of Beaver on the corner of Eleven Mile and Parrish Road. After Johann Vitus Dietlein became ill, George John Dietlein purchased the farm from his Father and moved from Bay City back to the country. They built onto the log cabin that was there. On October 19, 1913 George married Martha Anna Brandt who was born in Hamburg, Germany on May 16, 1892 to Wilhelm and Caroline (Ahrens) Brandt and came to America when she was six months old in 1892. She had an older sister Emma and younger brother that came on the boat also. Later when Wilhelm died, William lived on the family farm with Carolina one mile north of Zion. On the ship while coming to the U.S.A. they ran out of diapers for Martha so William ripped his shirt to fit like a diaper for Martha. George passed away on December 19, 1964 at the age of 75 and Martha on April 30, 1965 at the age of 73.

Clara D. Wirsing, youngest child of George and Martha Dietlein, was born at home on June 2, 1931 and baptized at Zion on June 21, 1931 by Rev. Fred Rutkowsky. Clara and Chester Wirsing were both confirmed on April 2, 1944 by Rev. Eric A. Storm. On July 29, 1950 Clara married Chester Norman Wirsing at Zion. Chester was born at home on July 24, 193 and baptized at Trinity Monitor by Rev. Herman Potzger. Clara graduated from the Zion South School but they were confirmed together on April 10, 1944 at Zion.

Clara and Chet had four sons, Robert Chester (stillborn), Rev. Thomas Chester (Janice of Trinity Lutheran Church in Bloomington, IL, Terry Lynn (Peggy), and Timothy Alan (Mercedes). Rev. Tom, Terry, and Tim were all baptized at Zion. Terry is still a member there and his children Brian, Aaron, Jason and Katie were all baptized, confirmed and graduated from Zion School there. Aaron and Katie were also married at Zion.

ANCESTRY OF JOHANN FRIEDRICK (FREDERICK) DIETLEIN (grandfather of Kathy Burke)

*By Kathy (Dietlein) Burke*

Johann Friedrich (Frederick) Dietlein was born October 20, 1886 in Beaver Township, the second child of Johann Vitus and Eva Lang Dietlein. He married Josephine Zmich on March 20, 1910 by a Justice of the Peace in Bay City. She was a strict Roman Catholic and he never converted and instead left the church. He died on November 30, 1939 and is buried in the Beaver Township Cemetery (behind Zion's cemetery). Josephine died on April 14, 1945 and is buried at St. Anthony's Cemetery in Fisherville.

Fred and Josephine had nine children. My father, Raymond Casimer was the fifth child and born on May 7, 1918. (My dad had the legal name of Raymond but was baptized Russell Frederick so was known in Bay County as Russell Dietlein!). He was confirmed at Zion as an adult and married my mother, Anita Ruth Tomke on March 2, 1946 at Zion Lutheran Church, Beaver Township. Dad died on February 3, 1969. Funeral was at Trinity Lutheran, Reese and both Dad and Mom are buried in Floral Gardens.

My mother, Anita Ruth Tomke was born on December 4, 1922 to John Albert Theodore and Flora Maria Helena (Reiss) Tomke at their home on Beaver Road. She was baptized, confirmed and married at Zion. Mom died on January 13, 2003.

Russ and Anita had two children, Thomas Charles was born on October 19, 1946 and Kathleen Lois was born on January 26, 1948. Tom and Kathy were baptized at Zion and confirmed at Trinity in Reese. Tom died December 1, 2006.

Kathy married John D. Burke on April 12, 1969 at Trinity Lutheran Church, Reese, MI, moving to Beaver Township in 1973. They have four sons: Russell (February 1, 1971, Sean (January 21, 1974), Kyle (February 15, 1977) and Daniel (March 13, 1979). Russ was baptized at Faith Lutheran in Bay City and Sean, Kyle and Dan were baptized at Zion. All four sons went to Zion Lutheran School and were confirmed at Zion.



## ANCESTORY OF JOHN P. ITTNER

*By Ellen (Buechler) Sanborn*

John P. Ittner was born in 1856 in Frankenlust Township, the son of John George and Margaret (Ouerox) Ittner, who both came from Germany.

In 1883 John P. married Margaret B. Oeder of Bangor Township, who was born in Germany and came to Michigan with her parents when she was six years old. John and Margaret owned 320 acres on the corner of Beaver and 11 Mile Roads, along with a saw mill.

John P. was very involved in the community. He served as the township supervisor for three years, clerk for three years, and treasurer for six years. He also was a school officer for 12 years and he and Margaret were charter members of Zion Lutheran Church, organized in December 1887.

Together they had six children. Hannah, born February 21, 1885, who married G. Roy Snyder; Andrew, born April 13, 1887, who married Ida Koch; Christina "Teenie," born May 7, 1889, who married George Stieve; Frederick, born June 15, 1891, who married Clara Tomke; Henry, born December 1, 1894, who married Frieda Koch; and Elsie, born July 30, 1897, who married John Kloha.

All of John and Margaret's children settled in the area, but Frederick. They and their families remained members of Zion Lutheran Church.

There are four grandchildren of John P. and Margaret that are still members of Zion Lutheran Church. They are Arthur Ittner, (son of Andrew and Ida Ittner), Leona Buechler, (daughter of Elsie and John Kloha), Doris Buechler, (daughter of Henry and Frieda Ittner) and Noreen Adams, (daughter of Christina and George Stieve). There are also several of their children, grandchildren and great grandchildren that are members.

## ANCESTRY OF THE KOCH FAMILY

*By Vicki (Koch) Simpson*

Frederick Louis Charles Koch was born on February 15, 1799. He had three children: August, Caroline and Bernard. Caroline married Rev. Ferdinand Sieves Sr., a missionary pastor who served at St. Paul, Frankenlust. August was born on October 21, 1821 in Brunswick, Germany. He came to the United States in the early 1840s. He married Johanna Meier in 1854. They had four children. Their son, Henry Koch was born August 15, 1863. He married Rosalie Gruno on September 15, 1882. Henry and Rosalie cleared land in Beaver Township and farmed. They were charter members of Zion.

**Henry and Rosalie Koch** had 11 children. Eight of their children (George, Johanna, Ida, Frieda, Ernest, Henry, Arthur & Helen) remained members of Zion into adulthood.

*George* married Minnie. They had six children (Oscar, Mildred, Violet, Dorothy, Lillian and Arlene). Oscar and Arlene (Fritz) remained members here. Dave (Nancy) Fritz, Randy (Lee Ann) Fritz and Donna (Fritz) Warsin, children of Arlene, remain members at Zion. Ardith Chapman, daughter of Mildred and her daughter Sarah Diener remain members at Zion. Phyllis Vogtmann, daughter of Oscar, remains a member of Zion.

*Johanna* married Ernest Wirsing. They had eight children. Henry, Ed, Elmer, Ernest, Wilma and Norman were members of Zion. Sandy Jones, daughter of Henry, remains a member. Wayne Endline, son of Wilma, remains a member of Zion. Norman's children, Gene, Chester and Nancy, remained members. Grandchildren Terry, Greg, Gary and Kathy, remain members of Zion.

*Ida* married Andrew Ittner. They had four children. Oscar, Arthur and Vera (Kehr) remained members. Grandchildren Don Ittner and Carol Strawn remain members.

*Frieda* married Henry Ittner. They had five children. Doris (Buechler) remains a member of Zion. Her children, Mary Ann Wiedyk (deceased), Ellen Samborn and Audrey Rupp and their children remain members.

*Ernest* married Erna Riess. They remained members of Zion.

*Henry* married Laura Feinauer. They had two children. Their son, Ross (Florence), remains a member. Grandchildren, Gary Koch and Vicki Simpson and families remain members.

*Arthur* married Alvina Weber. They had children. Arthur (Mary Ann) Jr. and family remain members. Loretta (Fick) and son Dave (Becky) and family remain members.

*Helen* married Herman Kube and they remained members until death.

## ANCESTRY OF HENRY KOCH FAMILY

*By Ellen (Buechler) Sanborn*

The Koch family can be traced to the Harz Mountains in Braunschweig (Brunswick) Germany. On February 15, 1799, Frederick Louis Charles Kock was born to Charles Ernestina Augustus and Jane Elizabeth (nee Helbring). Frederick married Augusta Rippard and they were blessed with three children: August, Caroline, and Bernard. August was born on October 21, 1821 in Brunswick, Germany and came to the United States in the early 1840s. He married Johanna Meier on October 2, 1854. They had four children, Augustus, Augusta, Lena and Henry.

Henry was born on August 15, 1863. He was 10 years old when his father, August, died. On September 15, 1882, Henry married Rosalie Gruna. Henry and Rosalie cleared land in Beaver Township on Townline and Carter Roads and farmed. The farm is still in the Koch family today. Henry and Rosalie were charter members of Zion Lutheran Church, organized in December 1887.

Henry and Rosalie had 11 children. The first born, Carl, died in infancy. George Carl married Minnie Wirsing; Johanna Pauline married Ernest Wirsing; Ida Minnie married Andrew Ittner; Frieda Anna Dorothy married Henry Ittner; Eleanore married the Rev. Oswald G. Riess; Ernest Emil married Erna Riess; Henry Roland married Laura Feinauer; Arthur married Alvina Weber; Elsie married the Rev. George Krach; Helen Johanna married Herman Kube. (Elsie and Helen were identical twins).

Seven of Henry and Rosalie's children settle in the area and they and their families remained member of Zion Lutheran Church. They were George and Minnie Koch, Johanna and Ernest Wirsing, Ida and Andrew Ittner, Frieda and Henry Ittner, Ernest and Erna Koch, Henry and Laura Koch and Helen and Herman Kube.

There are still five grandchildren of Henry and Rosalie Koch's that are members of Zion Lutheran Church. The five grandchildren are Loretta Fick (daughter of Arthur and Alvina Koch), Arthur Ittner (son of Ida and Andrew Ittner), Doris Buechler (daughter of Frieda and Henry Ittner), Arthur Koch (son of Arthur and Alvina Koch), and Ross Koch (son of Henry and Laura Koch), as well as several of their children, grandchildren and great grandchildren which are also members.

## ANCESTRY OF THE KOHN/WALTER FOUNDERS:

*By Roy Kohn*

**Heinrich Kohn** was born in Germany on March 15, 1852 to Karl Kohn and Luisa Sophia. He came to America on the ship Zeeland on April 10, 1879, and became a naturalized citizen in 1906. On March 20, 1880 at Salzburg (what we know as Zion Bay City) he married Augusta Tomke, a daughter that had been to John Tomke and Johanna Nemitz, on July 2, 1860. Augusta immigrated to the United States at the age of 16. Heinrich and Augusta were the parents to 10 children, Carl (Charley), Bertha, Wilhelm, Herman, Johann (John), Heinrich (Henry), Martha, Hulda, Johanna, (Hannah), and Karolina (Lena). Heinrich passed away November 22, 1935 and Augusta passed away March 23, 1947. Many of these names can be found on grave markers in Zion's cemetery.

**John Ernest Walter** was born in 1863 to John Stephen Walter and Susanna Pfundt. He married Martha Schoenbine, together they had six children, Johanna, Alma, Helen, Hulda, Henry and Harold.

**Johann (John) Kohn**, the fifth child of Heinrich Kohn and Augusta Tomke, was born February 23, 1889 in Beaver Township. He was confirmed at Zion in 1902.

**Johanna Walter** was born in 1891 to John Ernest Walter and Martha Schoenbine. She was confirmed at Zion in 1906. On April 22, 1914 Johann (John) Kohn and Johanna (Hanna) Walter were married by Rev. Fred Rutkowsky at Zion Lutheran Church. They had three children, Fred, Martin and Walter (Walter died at birth). John passed away May 27, 1971 and Johanna passed away March 6, 1984. They are both buried in Zion's Cemetery.

**Martin Kohn** married Erna Dietlein on October 9, 1943 at Zion's altar. They resided in Beaver Township and were faithful members of Zion's congregation their entire lives. They had no children. They both passed away in 2011 exactly two weeks apart and are buried in Zion's cemetery.

**Fred Kohn** took Clara Buchhage to be his bride on January 1, 1946 at Trinity Monitor. They lived their entire 54 years of married life on the Carter Road homestead. They were crop and dairy farmers and raised six strong self-sufficient children. Howard, the oldest was admittedly the prodigal son that later made amends with his father. Most people in the area and even some further away know of the book, The Last Farmer, an American Memoir, written by Howard. Many school children and even collage students have been assigned it as required reading material. The children are: Howard (Diana) Kohn, Ronald (Margo) Kohn, Sandra (Michael) Dinger, Roy (Lorie) Kohn, Dale (Katharine) Kohn, and Harvey (Carolyn) Kohn, both of whom have passed away. Fred passed away May 14, 2000 and Clara passed away October 20, 2009.

**Roy Kohn** married Lorie Frost on June 25, 1977 at Zion; they live close enough to the church to walk to service on nice days. Roy takes great pride in being the caretaker of Zion's cemetery, being sure the final resting place for our members is beautiful. They have two children, Dr. Renee (Richard) Coyer and Chad Kohn and one grandson, Andrew Coyer, all are Zion members.

ANCESTRY OF JOHN SCHELL (grandparents of Oswald and Frederick Jammer)

*By Bonnie and Barb Jammer*

John Schnell was born January 12, 1860 in Darmstadt, Hessen, Germany, to Peter Schnell and Martha Simmons. He came to America in 1882, to Michigan in 1883, and eventually to Beaver Township in 1885. On August 9, 1885 he married Anna Barbara Endlein. She had been born in Bavaria on December 9, 1856 to Paulus Wolfgang Endlein and Elizabeth Riehl (Rebl). John became a voting member of Zion on July 15, 1886 and often served as church trustee. Anna Barbara died on October 28, 1922 and John on May 17, 1943. They are buried at Zion Lutheran Cemetery.

During their life together John and Anna Barbara Endlein Schnell lived at 1262 River Road (the home place) where they were blessed with six children, only three of which lived to adulthood: John, Carl, and Anna Catharina (Katie). The three children who died in childhood (Johan, Martha, and Mary) are buried at Zion. Anna Catharina was born March 27, 1892 in Beaver Township and baptized at Zion on April 17, 1892 by Rev. Donner. Katie married Frederick Johann August Jammer (Fred) at Zion Lutheran Church on April 27, 1915. Frederick was born May 12, 1893 on Cottage Grove Road in Kawkawlin Township. Katie passed away on January 28, 1957 and Fred on November 13, 1983. Both are buried at Zion's Cemetery.

Fred (aka Fritz) and Katie lived on Eleven Mile Road until the death of Katie's mother in 1922. At that time they moved to her parent's home on River Road. Together Fritz and Katie raised their six children (Hulda, Oscar, Bertha, Clara, Oswald, and Frederick). All their children were baptized and confirmed at Zion. Oswald Herman Frederick Jammer, their second son, was born October 17, 1927 and was baptized on November 6, 1927. He was confirmed March 29, 1942. Together with his wife, Marilyn Trier Jammer, they raised four children (David, Dennis, Gary and Katherine). Oswald, Marilyn and all four children are members at Zion. Their children are: (David, and his son, Adam; Dennis, his wife Sheryl, daughter Angie, and granddaughter Anya Vallo; Gary, his wife Dee, daughter Roseanne and her children Payton and Khloe, and his son Gary; and Katherine, and her husband Don Hilbrandt.

Frederick Rudolf Wilhelm Jammer (Fritz) was born August 2, 1929 and baptized August 18, 1929. Fritz was confirmed April 2, 1944. He and his wife, Margarete Louise Seafert Jammer were blessed with four daughters who were baptized and confirmed at Zion (Barbara, Bonnie, Brenda, and Beverly). Their two grandchildren, Michael and Maria Schoenherr, were confirmed at Zion. They all continue to be members.

## ANCESTRY OF CHARLES AUGUST TOMKE

Charles August Tomke was born in Germany in the region of Pomerania in the state or province of Prussia. He was born on December 14, 1862 and baptized in the town of Stolp (now Slupsk) by Pastor Meinkof. His parents were Johann and Johanna Nemitz Tomke. He was confirmed by Paster Carl Fryderyk Jonathon Horn at St. Peter and Paul Lutheran Church in Dammen (now Danmo) on September 24, 1876. Damno is still a town of only 700 and the church of his confirmation is still in active use. The church altar is the same altar that was used in his confirmation.

He immigrated to the United States sometime between 1876 and 1878. He worked as a farm worker in Kochville for several years until he earned enough money to purchase 80 acres on Beaver Road between Carter and Eleven Mile Road in 1883.

On May 12, 1889, he married his neighbor, Anna Barbara Spengler. She was born in Frankenlust on October 18, 1867. They had nine children: Augusta Emma (1890-1890), Caroline (1891-1978), Clara (1893-1955), Alice (1896-1966), John (1898-1982), Martin (1901-1979), Edgar 1903-1916), Esther (1907-1922), and Frances (1910-1990). Three of those children: Augusta, John and Edgar are buried at Zion Cemetery. Charles August Tomke died on April 19, 1952. Anna Tomke died on August 18, 1955. At the time of their deaths, both were living in Bay City, MI.

Charles Tomke's parents followed him to the USA and to Beaver Zion and both are also interred at Zion's Cemetery. Johann Friedrich Tomke became the first sexton of the cemetery on October 24 1886 and died just two years later.

## ANCESTRY OF ADAM LEONARD VOGTMANN

*By Luanne Vogtmann*

Born: May 22, 1856 in Bartholdsdorf, German.

Died: April 1942 in Bay City, MI.

Married: Maria Blank, she was born in 1869 and died in 1918.

They had five children:

John married Mary Arnold

George married Alfrieda Krieger

Leonard married Hulda Kaiser

Mary married Fred Endline

Anna married Henry Zink

His descendents still are members of Zion:

Harold Endline

Don Ittner

Carol (Ittner) Strawn

Lois Hoerlein

Earl Vogtmann

One of the Founding Fathers of Zion Lutheran Church, Auburn, MI was Adam Leonard Vogtmann. Adam was born Johann Adam Vogtmann on May 22, 1856 to George Leonhard Vogtmann from Bertholdsdorf, Germany and Regina Margarete Hirschmann. Adam came to America in 1881 and settled in Beaver Township on River Road. He cleared 80 acres of land and farmed it, becoming a centennial farm in 1990. He married Maria Blank from Richville, MI and they lived in their newly built grainery while a new house was being built. Their children were: John (Honey) (married Mary Arnold), Anna Vogtmann Dietlein Zink, (married Henry Zink), Mary (Vogtmann) (married Fred Endline), George, (married Alfrieda Krieger), and Leonard George (married Hulda Kaiser and after her death Ester Rohn).

Mary, George, and Leonard came to Zion, while John and Anna settled in Bay City.

Mary's children: Harold, Oscar, Esther (Endline) Roggow Kraft, and Elsie (Endline) Maine.

George's children: Marvin, Lois (Vogtmann) Kube Hoerlein, Earl and Kenneth.

Leonard's children: Dorothy (Vogtmann) Ittner, Leonard John, Marlene (Vogtmann) Look Aschuetz, and Robert. All were baptized and confirmed at Zion. Adam died April 1942 and Maria was born in 1869 and died in 1918, both are buried in Zion's cemetery. Descendants that are still are members of Zion: Harold Endline (presently one of Zion's oldest members), Lois Hoerlein, Earl Vogtmann, Don Ittner and Carol (Ittner) Strawn. One of Adam's descendants is currently a Lutheran pastor. He is the great, great, great grandson of Adam, a grandson of Dorothy (Vogtmann) Ittner, and son of Carol (Ittner) Strawn, Rev. Allen Strawn.

CENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY  
1887 - 1987  
ZION EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH  
BEAVER TOWNSHIP, BAY COUNTY  
AUBURN, MICHIGAN

In gratitude to God, we humbly dedicate this centennial booklet to the founders of Zion congregation, who through labor and love and the grace of God established the foundations for future generations.

To the faithful pastors and teachers who diligently and zealously preach and teach the holy word of God.

To the Zion members, young and old, who are continuing the marvelous work of the Lord with much love and dedication.



**Rev. Ferdinand Sievers, Sr.** served The Beaver Township Zion Lutheran Church Area from 1860-1880. Filled with Christian enthusiasm and missionary zeal, he rode the circuit frequently to preach the Gospel, administer to the sick and carry on the Catechetical instruction after each service.

He was born May 18, 1816, at Lueneberg, Hannover, Germany. He studied at the Universities of Goethingen, Berlin and Halle and was ordained to the ministry in 1847. Under his untiring and strenuous work, several congregations were founded: Trinity at Monitor, St. John at Amelith, Immanuel at Bay City, Zion at Beaver. These all surrounded the Mother Congregation of St. Paul at Frankenlust.

The incessant missionary labors of the pioneer pastor were not restricted to this immediate vicinity, but extended to other parts of Michigan and Minnesota.

He had the tenacity of purpose that came from a deep faith in the Triune God and the support of those early pioneers who shared his convictions.

**Rev. Ferdinand Sievers, Jr.** served Beaver Zion of Beaver from 1880-1887. He was the son of Rev. Ferdinand Sievers, Sr. and was born March 17, 1856 in Frankenlust, Michigan. He received his education in St. Paul School, Concordia College at Fort Wayne, Indiana and then at Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, Missouri. Upon his graduation from the Seminary he was called to Trinity in Monitor Township Michigan. Besides tending to Monitor, he served Beaver Zion and the congregations in Midland and Sanford, Michigan. This required much labor and many hardships, especially in transportation.

From 1896 to the day of his death, February 7, 1918, he was pastor of a large congregation in South Chicago, Illinois. His grave is in Hammond, Indiana.

**Rev. F. Mueller** was born at Lakeridge, Michigan, in 1865. He attended his father's school until confirmation. He then enrolled in Concordia College, Fort Wayne, Indiana, whereupon he graduated in 1887.

His first charge was Beaver Zion from 1887-1890. His second was St. Peter near Hemlock, Michigan, from 1890— 1905. The third was a congregation in Port Huron, Michigan.

He died in Port Huron, October 21, 1916, having served the Lord for twenty-nine years in school and church.

**Rev. A. Donner** was born November 26, 1861, in Saxony, Germany. His education was received in Germany and in our Seminary in Springfield, Illinois. After his graduation he accepted a call to Texas in 1888, where he married Miss Mary Kretschmar.

Rev. Donner of Texas was called to Beaver Zion on December 26, 1890 and was installed Sexagesima Sunday, 1891, by Rev. F. Sievers, Jr. He served as pastor of Beaver Zion from 1891 - 1896.

From 1896 — 1902 he served the congregation of Sanilac, Michigan. From 1902 - 1916 he served the congregation of Sanilac, Michigan, as well as five mission stations. He then served St. Thomas Congregation in Freedom, Michigan, until the day of his death, October 13, 1918. His earthly remains were interred in the Freedom, Michigan cemetery.

**Rev. F. Ahner** was born July 14, 1835 in Burgstedt, Saxony, Germany.

After his confirmation, he entered Concordia at Altenburg, Missouri, our first College, and finished his studies at the St. Louis, Missouri Seminary.

His pastorates included Rock Island, Illinois; Grafton and Cederburg, Wisconsin; Frankentrost, Michigan, and Pittsburg, Pennsylvania.

He lived in retirement in Saginaw, recuperating from the strenuous, but successful, ministry in the large Pittsburg congregation. He consented to serve under the condition that they follow their advisor, Rev J. Partenfelder, who would supervise the calling of a minister.

On March 6, 1896, Rev. Ahner was called and, on Exaudi Sunday, was installed by Rev. J. Partenfelder, of Bay City, as pastor of Zion.

After a very successful ministry and tremendous growth at Zion, Pastor Ahner resigned because of poor health on April 24, 1905. He died in Amelith, January 28, 1907. The mortal remains were laid to rest in Holy Cross Cemetery, Saginaw, Michigan.

**Rev. Frederick Rutkowsky** was born in Detroit, Michigan, in 1877. He graduated from Concordia College, Fort Wayne, Indiana and Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, Missouri.

He served the congregations at West Branch and Pinconning, Michigan, before accepting the call to Beaver Zion in 1904.

His family comprised of his wife, Catherine, and the eight daughters and three sons who were reared in the Beaver area.

After ministering and counseling several generations of Zion members, he resigned in August 1941, because of ill health. He was Zion's faithful shepherd for thirty seven years

The Rev. Herman Potzger of Monitor Lutheran Church officiated at the burial rites and the sainted body of Rev. Rutkowsky was interred in the Beaver Zion Cemetery in 1942. A Stone and Bronze Plate was erected on the Rutkowsky cemetery lot in memory of Rev. Frederick Rutkowsky on October 5, 1980.

**Rev. Erich A. Storm** was a graduate of Concordia College, Fort Wayne, Indiana, in 1917, and of Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, Missouri, in 1921. He taught school one year at Humboldt, Kansas, from 1918-1919.

Pastor Storm's first charge was at Isle, Minnesota, where he served six missions at one time from 1921—1925. He then went to Parr, Indiana, until 1928, when he moved to Onekama, Michigan to serve until 1942.

In 1942 he replaced Rev. Rutkowsky and was installed as Pastor of Beaver Zion. He served faithfully until 1952.

Rev, Erich and Gertrude Storm were blessed with five children; Eugene, James, Robert, Harvey and Marilyn.

**Pastor John Kellogg** was born in Battle Creek, Michigan, in October 27, 1927. He was an Army Air Corps veteran and a 1950 graduate of Western Michigan University. He received his ministerial training at Concordia Seminary of Springfield, Illinois, from which he graduated in 1962.

After graduating from the seminary, Pastor Kellogg went to Fayette, North Carolina, where he was instrumental in organizing Our Redeemer Lutheran Church. He continued to serve this congregation as pastor until he accepted the call to Zion.

Mrs. Kellogg was formerly Sandra Layley, a native of Portland, Oregon. The Kellogg's had four children.  
Rev. John Kellogg  
1967-1968

**Rev. Frederick Reimann** was born April 8, 1918, in Pinconning, Michigan. He attended local schools in Pinconning and was graduated from Pinconning High School. He then attended college at Fort Wayne, Indiana, and the seminary at Springfield, Illinois.

After graduating, he did pastoral work at Hurley, South Dakota, and Sylvan Grove, Kansas. He was graduated from Concordia Theological Seminary in Springfield, Illinois, and later did postgraduate work at the college, and earned his B. A. degree. He then served in Osman, Illinois, and from 1948-1953 he served at Bowen and Golden Illinois.

He accepted a call to Beaver Zion in 1953, and was pastor during the 75th anniversary of the church until 1967. During the years of his ministry at Zion, he was Pastoral Advisor for the Lutheran Youth Fellowship of the Saginaw Valley, and also for the Lutheran Layman's League. He was on the Michigan District Staff of Counselors served on the Board of Directors of the Lutheran Children's Friend Society and was its president for four years.

In January 1967, he accepted the call to St. John's Lutheran Church, Ludington, Michigan.

On July 11, 1943, he was married to the former Irene Neumann of Pinconning. They were blessed with five children; Eunice, Lois, Dennis, David and Kristine,

**Rev. John R. Westphal**, son of John W. and Mathilda (Krause) Westphal, was born on January 12, 1906, in Bonduel, Wisconsin.

He attended St. Paul Lutheran School, Bonduel, Wisconsin.

For his ministry training, he attended Concordia Seminary, Springfield, Illinois, graduating in 1931. His years of vicarage internship were served at Dorchester, Wisconsin, in 1928-1929, and Clayton, Illinois, 1929-1930. He was ordained as Missionary-at-large in Bath, Illinois, on August 30, 1931, for the Central Illinois District of the Lutheran Church, Missouri synod. He was married to Adelaide Schnoenig and they were blessed with five children; Rev. Leroy, Melvin, Lois, Loretta and Rhoda. He was then called as Pastor to St. Paul Lutheran, Bowen, Illinois, and later to Immanuel Lutheran, South Prairie, Golden, Illinois. He served these joint parishes until January 1948, when he accepted a call to Immanuel Lutheran Congregation, Gillett, Wisconsin.

In 1961 he accepted an additional call as Pastor of Christ Lutheran Church, Gillett, Wisconsin, and continued to serve this dual parish until his retirement in August 1973.

In September of 1973, Pastor Westphal began to serve as an Assistant Pastor at Zion Lutheran Church, Auburn, Michigan, where he continued to serve and reside until his death in 1982.

He passed away June 6, 1982, with funeral services at Zion Lutheran Church, Auburn, on Tuesday, June 8th, with committal at St. Paul's Lutheran Cemetery, Bonduel, Wisconsin, on Thursday, June 10, 1982.

**Vicar Robert Chadwick** was born in Saginaw, Michigan, on September 12, 1924. After graduation from Arthur Hill High School in 1942, he served in the U.S Navy from 1943-1946 as a naval aviator. In 1946 he entered Michigan State University, where he graduated in June 1949, with a B.A. degree in Business Administration.

On May 6, 1950, he married Doris E. Anderson. Their marriage was blessed with three children; Wayne, Carol and Susan.

During 1951-1970, he was employed by Chevrolet Division in financial positions in Saginaw, Toledo, Kansas City and Flint. From 1970-1981, he was employed as District Representative and General Agent for Lutheran Brotherhood.

Qualifying for the Colloquy Program, he entered Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, Indiana, in 1981, completed his vicarage at Zion Lutheran Church, Auburn, Michigan, in 1983, and was awarded an M.A. degree in Religion for his completion of the Colloquy Program.

Upon leaving Zion, he served Calvary Lutheran Church in Detroit as Associate Pastor. Pastor Leroy Westphal of Zion preached the installation sermon.

**Adolph R. Gallert** was born April 17, 1919, in Manitoba, Canada. At age of five, he migrated to St. Joseph, Michigan, with his parents and attended Trinity Lutheran School. He attended Michigan Lutheran Seminary in Saginaw, then Concordia Lutheran Seminary, Springfield, Illinois, graduating on January 20, 1945. He was ordained on February 11, 1945, at Trinity Lutheran Church in St. Joseph, Michigan, by his childhood pastor with whom he served as assistant for three years.

Rev. Gallert served congregations in Texas, Ohio, New Jersey, Wisconsin and Michigan. He also served as Circuit Counselor, Pastoral Advisor to the L.W.M.L and L.L.L. at various times, and on the Stewardship Committee of the South Wisconsin District.

He retired from parish ministry in June 1982, to accept a position on the staff at Samaritan Hospital, Bay City, Michigan, as a therapist in drug and alcohol abuse service. Legal changes in Medicaid and Medicare resulted in the termination of many staff positions, including his.

Rev. Gallert was installed as Assistant Pastor at Beaver Zion Lutheran Church, December 4, 1983.

He married Marjorie Moody, February 4, 1945, at Zion Lutheran Church, Farmersville, Illinois. They had five children and three grandchildren.

He served Zion well until April 1984. Although he was in failing health, he made frequent visits to shut-ins, attended meetings, and even preached sermons. His last sermon was Maundy Thursday, 1985.

Pastor Gallert was taken to his eternal rest on August 15, 1985. Funeral services were held in Zion Church, with internment at Sunset, Memorial Garden, Ionia, Michigan.

**Rev. Leroy Westphal** was born July 18, 1932, in Bowen, Illinois, to Pastor John and Adelaide (nee Shoeing) Westphal. He attended elementary school at Adams County Public School System, Golden, Illinois, and received his high school training at Concordia in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, graduating in 1951.

He graduated from Concordia Junior College in 1953 and from Concordia Seminary in 1958. He received his B.A. degree from Concordia Seminary in 1956. His vicarage training was at St. Andrew Lutheran Church, Pittsburg, Pennsylvania, in 1956-1957.

Pastor Leroy served at Redeemer Lutheran Church, Lisbon, North Dakota, from 1958-1963 and St. John Lutheran Church, Bellwood, Illinois, from 1963-1969.

He was installed at Zion Lutheran Church, Beaver Township on June 22, 1969, and has been Zion's Pastor since that time.

On June 15, 1958, he was married to the former Carol A. Manthei of Bonduel, Wisconsin. The couple has four children, Nathan, who is married to the former Beverly Buechler; Jonathan, Natalie and David. They also have one grandson, Christian John Westphal.

Under his leadership, Pastor Leroy was instrumental in promoting many successful accomplishments at Zion. The church interior was renovated, exterior painting, steeple work, new church roof and ceiling insulation. The 85<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Zion congregation was celebrated. The church basement was renovated. Parking lots were blacktopped. Zion school was partially remodeled. Final payment of Zion's indebtedness was achieved. A Board of Youth was established. Also, an Endowment Fund to provide continuous financial support to the missions of Zion congregation in proclaiming the gospel of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Construction of new additions to both church and school were begun, including a drive-up ramp for the handicapped. For a growing congregation, to assist him in his many duties, Pastor Leroy had the following assistants: His father, Rev. John R. Westphal, Vicar Robert Chadwick, and Rev. Adolph Gallert.

## PRELUDE

The history of Zion Lutheran Church, Beaver Township, Bay County, Michigan, is written in chronological order with a prelude illustrating the struggle for livelihood of the early pioneer families that was almost self-sustaining, and their deep faith in the Triune God; plus the sequence of events related in a series often decades denoting one hundred years of growth from a mission station to a great congregation.

In the centennial year of Zion Lutheran Church (1887-1987) and the sesquicentennial year of the state of Michigan (1837- 1987), it is only with an appropriate and nostalgic flashback in time to recall the actual origin of our beloved church.

When Ohio became a state in 1803, settlers poured into the Ohio Valley. Michigan was very remote from the Valley which was the route utilized by many people coming from Germany not wanting to settle in New York or Pennsylvania.

In 1837, when Michigan became a state, lands were surveyed and Ohio pioneers began to travel northward to Michigan. The Saginaw Valley was an excellent farming region and industrially located near the Saginaw River and Bay. The Valley at one time was inhabited by the Sauk Indians. Battles with other Indian tribes soon forced the Sauks out of the Valley and at the time of white settlement, the majority of Indians belonged to the Chippewa or Ottawa tribes of the Algonquin race. The name Saginaw is derived from the Indian name O-SAUK-E-NON, meaning the land of the Sauks.

The sainted Rev. Ferdinand Sievers, Sr. and German immigrants traveled by boat across the perilous Atlantic Ocean. They were sent, in part, by Rev. Loehe of Bavaria, Germany. Groups of German Lutheran people came to the Saginaw Valley as early as the 1840's to settle in Frankenmuth, Frankenlust, etc. Among the important influences favoring Saginaw Valley settlements were the Indian treaties of 1819 and 1837 which opened vast tracts of farm and timber lands to settlers for very low prices. Also, the Homestead Act of 1862, which stated that any settler might receive 160 acres of free land. To receive the land, he had to build a house, live on the land and farm it for five years. Forerunners of the farmers and businessmen in Beaver Township were the trappers and loggers. The loggers, finding nothing to become wealthy, soon moved on, as did the trappers who had exhausted the supply of beavers found in the many small winding creeks. Hence, the name Beaver Township, part of Bay County, created in 1857.

The first German Lutheran farmer to this immediate area who took advantage of the Homestead Act was John G. Spengler. Leaving relatives behind in Ohio, he ventured with a small band of people to Frankenlust where he married Margaret Goetz. Both precipitated a keen interest in the Beaver farming region, which was strongly motivated by Levi Willard, who had come to this area in the 1850's and for whom Willard was named.

The first Spengler home, constructed of logs taken from the nearby woods, was located on Beaver Road. Here, two children were born and baptized by Rev. Sievers, Sr. between 1860 and 1865. During that time, a tragic fire destroyed the house with its meager belongings. The two tiny children perished in the blaze while the parents were working in the fields. A strong faith in God and the sincere help from Rev. Sievers and the few people around prompted the building of another house. Two more children were born and baptized: John Jacob in 1865 and Anna (Tomke) in 1867. Between 1860-1872, the Spengler home was often used for prayer and Scripture readings. Later, the Willard School, built by Levi Willard, John George Spengler and volunteers, was used for services. During this time, John Endlein, who married Dorothea Betzold, was elected as lector, and Ernest Borck, who married Kunigunda Goetz, was elected as cantor to lead in singing the Lord's praises. John G. Spengler died in 1879 before the reality of a Zion Church was accomplished.

The life of the few early pioneer families was very difficult and progress was unreasonably slow — clearing land of many trees and brush, tilling the soil with crude machinery, constructing buildings with few tools, cold winters and many illnesses. Through all of the hardships and tribulations, Rev. Sievers, Sr. constantly kept in contact with the Zion families. He was their missionary pastor and spirited advisor, and the people looked to him for spiritual as well as temporal advice. He was a shepherd and counselor to the fullest. And had it not been so, the Beaver Zion Mission might not have been attracted by so many people from the neighboring areas.

In the 1870s, the following families moved into the Beaver Lutheran vicinity: BETZOLD, BORCK, ENDLEIN, ENGELHARDT, KRAEFT, PHILLIPS, SCHOENBINE and WALTER, who constructed the first heading mill where barrel staves, shingles and wooden buckets were made,

In the 1880s came: ITTNER — the young John P. Ittner started the first general store and the first saw mill on the corner of Beaver and Eleven Mile Roads, as well as being the Postmaster of the Willard Post Office. DIETLEIN, KOHN, TOMKE, BUECHLER, who constructed a sawmill on Garfield Road, SCHUSTER, KOCH, SCHROEDER, VOSS, RAHN, VOGTMANN, 1(OW, KOEHLER, GABBE, MACKEI4SEN, MEYER, SCHNELL, JAGENOW, NAESER, HELMS, LEDERER, OSWALD, MUELLER, DORING, COLCHER and SCHELLER.

From 1890-1912 came: ERLENBECK, NOACK, WEBER, WITZKE, ROWDEN, RYON, BERGMAN, ECKSTROM, BURK, EHEMANN, MALZOW, FENSICE, RUGGENSTEIN, PACHOLKE, WESTPHAL, BERNER, ULBRICHT, GERSTACKER, 1-IOENICKE, DRAVES, WIRSING, SCHALK, REICHARD, KUCH, CASSUBE, GRIEBE, RUFF, STEINKE, TIEDE, KATT, LOEHNE, WATERS, DREFS, GUNTHER, HAAG, OTT, KEHR, KLOHA., BARNIKOW, KAPANKA, SCHMIDT, SCHUHARDT, MIESKE, STIEVE, LANGUSCH, KRAUSE, NITSCHKE, PFAU, RAUSCHELBACH, HAUT, NOFFKE, PETERS, LINDENBERG, LISIUS, WEBB, DATTE, ENGERER, FRANK, HORSCHIG, LANDOSKY, SNYDER, KNIGHT, SCHLINK, RETZLOFF, RUTKOWSKY, PFANNES, JAMMER, LAATSCH, KRIEGER, RENO, BECKMAN, PFENNIGER, BRANDT, SAUER, GROKE, CLOSE, and HEARIT.

In pioneer days of our Congregation, it was difficult to keep records. Furthermore, since no pastor was in residence here at Zion during the 1860's, 1870's, and early 1880's, some of the previous statistics of official church acts had been recorded elsewhere by the missionary pastors. The first record book kept and left in the Zion Congregation was written in German and included the years 1878-1896. Rosine Betzold, daughter of John and Mary (nee Platzeder) Betzold was the first recorded baptism by Rev Sievers, Sr. in 1878.

As the number of Lutheran families increased in the Zion area, the members present at the first meeting on October 13, 1878, wished to provide their children with a Christian school education. They passed a resolution to call a teacher, but in the next meeting on January 27, 1879, they could not agree on the location for the school. The calling of a teacher was deferred and Rev Sievers, Sr. continued the catechetical instruction after each church service. His successors did not deviate from this blessed means of inculcating the Christian religion into the hearts and minds of the children.

In September 1880, Rev. Ferdinand Sievers, Jr., Pastor of Trinity Lutheran Church of Monitor Township, took charge of his father's mission stations in Beaver, Midland and Sanford.

John J. and Anna Spengler (Tomke) were the first confirmands of Zion in the Monitor Church, April 10, 1881.

On April 24, 1884, the founders of Zion bought from Benjamin Whipple and his wife, Helen, of Wayne County, Detroit, Michigan, five-eighths of a piece of land and of Molly F. Ballou of Bay City, Michigan, three-eighths of a piece of land containing about six acres. The conveyance was made on the condition that said premises should be used for church and school purposes. One dollar was paid for the land. A portion of the land is the Zion Cemetery.

John Vitus Dietlein and Eva Lang were the first Zion couple to be married in the Willard School on June 2, 1884. The first corpse interred in Zion Cemetery was Gertrand Betzold in 1884 -- followed by Johanna Rahn in 1886 and Anna D. Endlein in 1887. Leonard F. Spengler and Johanna Ittner (Snyder) were the first children baptized in the Willard School in February 1885.

The minutes of May 25, 1885, written by John P. Ittner, stated that the congregation members resolved to build a church. A committee was elected consisting of Ferdinand Kraeft, John Betzold and John Engelhardt. The cost of the building was not to exceed \$350.00. John P. Ittner was chosen as treasurer. In the next meeting, the members permitted.

Mr. Kraeft the use of the Congregational land if would clear it within two years.

On September 13, 1885, the completed small, white church on Seidler Road was dedicated to the service of the Triune God. Rev. Sievers, Jr. preached the dedicatory sermon on Genesis 28:17.

On October 24, 1886, John Tomke I was appointed sexton. He was permitted to charge \$2.00 for the grave of an adult, \$1.50 for the grave of youths under twelve years, and \$1.00 for children under five years.

## **1887-1897**

A committee from Trinity Congregation of Monitor Township suggested to the people of Zion the feasibility of calling a pastor. This would relieve their Pastor Sievers Jr. of serving the mission stations and enable him to devote more time to his own congregation. Zion accepted the suggestion and issued a call to Candidate F. Mueller as pastor and teacher, who served Zion well from 1887-1890. On the day of Rev Mueller's ordination, Johanna Koch (Wirsing), daughter of Henry and Rosalie (nee Grono) Koch, was baptized by the newly ordained pastor on August 21, 1887.

It was resolved to build a parsonage east of the church-school. During the construction of the parsonage, 1887-1888, Rev Mueller enjoyed the hospitality of Mr. and Mrs. Ferdinand Kraeft, who lived nearby. This parsonage later became a teacher's home after a new parsonage was built between it and the new red brick hunch built in 1905.

The founders of Zion Lutheran Church of Beaver Township assembled at their church edifice and on December 12, 1887, the Zion Congregation was incorporated. Rev. Mueller was elected to preside and John P Ittner was secretary. Trustees elected were John Betzold, John Endlein and John Schnell. Elders, or Vorstrher, elected were Ferdinand Kraeft, F. Schuster and salary collector F. Kraeft. It was resolved that one elder pass the money basket, or klingelbeutel, and the other elder care for the pastor's transportation to the Midland Mission. According to the Statistical Yearbook for the year 1887, Zion had 108 baptized members, 55 communicant members, 17 voting members and 27 pupils.

The Declaration of Association was signed December 12, 1887, by the following members: Andrew Betzold, John Betzold, George Buechler, John Dietlein, John Engelhardt, J.P. Ittner, Henry Koch, Ferdinand Kraeft, Julius Kraeft, Theodore Mackensen, George Meyer, John Schnell, Fred Schuster, John Jacob Spengler, Charles Tomke, Adam Vogtmann and John Walter. In addition, the following founders of Zion were: Ernest Borck, Henry Kohn, J. Mueller, Julius Philipp, John George Spengler, John Tomke I and George Whiger.

The roster of pupils attending Zion School in 1887 and taught by Student Inglehardt for several weeks and then by Rev, F. Mueller, were A. Betzold, Anna Betzold, G. Betzold, J. Betzold, Lizzie Betzold, John Buechler, Andrew Endlein, Anna Endlein, Auguste Gabbe, O. Gabbe, Charles Kohn, M. Kraelt, Barbara Lederer, M. Lederer, Lizzie Melms, George Meyer, Katie Meyer, John Meyer, Bertha Schultz, F. Schuster, Marie Schuster, Peter Schuster, Lena Streu, Martha Streu, A. Walter, John Walter and L. Walter. Tuition for children of Zion members was \$1.50 and for non-members \$2.50. Each member was obliged to furnish two cords of wood for the parsonage.

On April 23, 1889, John Endlein and Katherine Konrad were married. On May 12, 1889, Charles Tomke and Anna Spengler were married by Rev. F. Mueller in Zion church-school. The first child born in the parsonage was Hedwig Mueller, daughter of Rev, and Mrs. Mueller, on October 3, 1889, and baptized on October 6. After Rev, Mueller accepted his call to Hemlock, Michigan, Rev. F, Sievers, Jr. of Monitor filled in during the short vacancy in 1890. Zion experienced a healthy growth during Rev. Mueller's stay at Zion.

Rev. A. Donner was installed in 1891. During his pastoral ministry, Zion Congregation resolved to affiliate with Synod. The Congregation was admitted to membership in the Evangelical Lutheran Synod of Missouri, Ohio and other states at a session of the Michigan District Convention, May 20-26, 1891. Only good can result from affiliation with a Synod who's noble and high objectives are:

1. The conservation and promotion of the unity of the true faith.
2. The joint extension of the Kingdom of God.
3. The training of ministers and teachers for service in the Evangelical Lutheran Church.
4. The publication and distribution of Bibles, church-books, school-books and religious periodicals.
5. The endeavor to bring about the largest possible uniformity in church-practice, church customs, and in congregational affairs.
6. The furtherance of Christian parochial schools, and of thorough instruction for Confirmation.
7. The supervision of the ministers and teachers of the Synod with regard to the performance of their official duties.



8. The protection of pastors, teachers, and congregation in the performance of their duties, and the maintenance of their rights.

On September 9, 1893, Rev. F. Sievers, Sr. died, having served his mission congregations and St Paul, Frankenlust, for forty-five years.

In 1894, a large bell was purchased with the aid of the ladies of Zion. It was mounted on a large scaffold adjacent to the church-school. The members resolved to build a barn 18 by 30 by 14 feet in April 1894. Its purpose was to house the pastors and teacher's horses, cows and chickens, besides giving shelter to the horses of members when they came to worship services and instruction classes. John Stephen Walter was the carpenter of the barn.

During the leadership of Rev. Donner, 1890-1896, the congregation had grown to 365 souls, 200 communicants, 58 voting members and 48 pupils. Due to ill health, Rev. Donner resigned from Zion on February 16, 1896. Rev. F. Ahner, who was living in retirement in Saginaw, was requested to fill the vacancy. He was installed on Exaudi Sunday, 1896, by Rev. J. P. Partenfelder, Pastor of Zion Congregation in Bay City.

Also in 1896, it was resolved to enlarge the parsonage and to build an annex, 20 by 24 feet, on the eastern side of the church-school.

### **1897-1907**

Rev. F. Ahner guided the work and interest of the church and school, and soon it became apparent that the combined church and school work was too large a responsibility to be considered a one-man task. Accordingly, a call was sent to Teacher's Seminary at Addison, Illinois, for one of its candidates, and on August 28, 1898, Mr. A. G. Rauschelbach was installed as teacher of Zion School,

In 1900, G. R. Snyder, a young businessman, later married to Johanna Ittner, bought the general store at Willard from J. P. Ittner who had constructed and operated the first store in the Beaver area.

Teacher Rauschelbach, having entered the state of holy matrimony, now needed a home, which was erected in 1901. This first teacherage was the house which at the present time serves as the parsonage for vicars or assistants.

In 1903, the congregation numbered 535 souls. Considering the growth of the congregation, it was resolved to build a new church and convert the old church-school into two classrooms. The committee consisted of Carl Doering, John Endlein, T. Frank, J. P. Ittner, Henry Koch, Theodore Mackensen, August Pacholke, Charles Tomke and T. Wirsing. The site for the new church was an acre of land east of the parsonage, purchased from Ferdinand Kraeft for \$100.00 and presented by the ladies of Zion. The architectural firm of Pratt and Koeppel was employed to draw the blueprints. The Gothic style architecture was accepted by Zion members. Measuring 95 by 40 feet, the new church was to be solid red brick. On the tenth Sunday after Trinity, August 7, 1904, the cornerstone for the new church was laid, with Rev. R. Bohn of Zion in Salzburg, Michigan, delivering the sermon.

The organization of the Ladies' Aid Society dates from the pastorate of Rev. Ahner. The first officials were: President, Rosalia Koch; Secretary, Barbara Wirsing and Treasurer, Margaretha Ittner. As Christian women, they willingly showed their love to Christ in service. For special occasions in the church, at anniversaries or receptions of new pastors or teacher, they were ever willing workers. The society was also interested in missions and charities and contributed from its funds for those purposes.

On April 24, 1905, Rev. Ahner resigned because of poor health. The marriage of Mr. John Pfannes and Miss Hedwig Ahner, daughter of Rev. and Mrs. Ahner, on July 6, 1905, was the second happy event that occurred in the parsonage. During his pastorate, there was a considerable increase in membership to 535 souls, 324 communicants, 110 voting members, 85 pupils, 37 baptisms, 17 confirmands and 10 couples were married.

Rev. Frederick Rutkowsky of Pinconning, Michigan, was called as successor to Rev. Ahner and was installed July 29, 1905, by Rev. L. Wismueller. On August 5, 1905, Rev. Rutkowsky preached his introductory sermon in the old church-school.

During 1905, the Scaffold Bell near the old church-school was removed and transferred to the new red brick church belfry and is used to this present date.

On September 24, 1905, the new church was dedicated to the Glory of the Triune God with appropriate services. The first pastor of Beaver Zion, Rev. F. Mueller of Hemlock, Michigan, preached the dedicatory sermon in the German morning service and Rev. W. Bruegmann in the English afternoon service.

The estimated figure, \$12,000, did not represent the real cost of the church because members donated so much time and labor during the construction period. The debt remained at \$6,000.00.

In appreciation for his faithful ministry, Zion members honored its retired and venerable Rev. Ahner by celebrating the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his ministry, August 29, 1906. Rev. J. Schinnerer preached on Luke 12:42-44. THE BEAVER ZION BAND, led by Teacher Rauschelbach, accompanied the singing in church, and after the service, rendered musical entertainment.

Stalls or sheds with overhead were constructed on the north and east sides of the church as a protection for the horses and carriages. Later, the sheds were used for cars and then gradually torn down to give way to a parking lot for autos.

The English language service was introduced in 1906 as a second language to German. German services were held on Sunday mornings and English services in the afternoon or evening.

The confessional service, one Sunday morning per month, was one-half hour before the regular service in which all communicants participated. The service included the order of Holy Communion and a short sermon by the pastor. The communicants sat in the very front pews of the church. Men and boys sat on the left side and the women and girls on the right. During the regular service, men participated of Holy Communion first and the women last. Persons wishing to partake of communion on Sunday visited the pastor on the previous Saturday to announce their intention to do so. One member of the family, or the whole family, could announce. If the communicant did not make the previous announcement, he announced to the pastor in the sacristy on Sunday morning.

## **1907-1917**

A custom diligently followed for many years was the celebration of Kirchweih the last Sunday in September. This was the anniversary of the 1<sup>st</sup> service at which Pastor Sievers preached the dedicatory sermon. This custom continued thereafter until sometime between World War I and World War II.

November 1, 1908, a new pipe organ, purchased from Kilgen and Son of St. Louis, Missouri, at the cost of \$1,750.00, was dedicated. Rev. F. Wilkening of Unionville, Michigan, preached the dedicatory sermon and Professor M. G. Graebner, of Bay City, officiated as festive organist.

Teacher Rauschelbach was released from Zion to accept another call on February 25, 1910. Rev. Rutkowsky then taught school, during the absence of a teacher, from February 10, 1910, to May 8, 1910. Mr. A. Zimmer was installed as teacher May 8, 1910. He introduced the eighth grade from which Eleanora Koch (Riess) and John Tomke II, were the first graduates.

August 12, 1912, Teacher Zimmer terminated his services, leaving Rev. Rutkowsky for the second time to take over the teaching duties, in the absence of a teacher, from September, 1912, to October 12, 1912. On September 12, 1912, Zion Congregation celebrated its 25<sup>th</sup> or silver anniversary. The first pastor, Rev. F. Mueller, was the festival speaker. Charles Riess of Sebewaing, Michigan, was installed as teacher October 12, 1912. Teacher Riess was responsible for the calling of a second teacher so that Rev. Rutkowsky, who had been teaching, would be relieved and could devote full time to his ministerial duties. A call was extended to Mr. Alfred Kummer, a graduate of Addison Teacher's Seminary, Addison Illinois, who accepted and was installed August 10, 1913. Teacher Kummer served his connection with Zion August 8, 1915, by accepting a call to Holy Cross, Saginaw Michigan. During those two years, the school enrollment increased from 80 to 109 pupils. During the vacancy, Oswald Riess, a student of Concordia College, Fort Wayne, and Miss Adela Riess did supply work in the school in the absence of a second teacher. In 1915, the Adam Vogtmann house on River Road was burned.

In 1915, it was resolved to extend the annex on the east side of the church-school and to enlarge the sacristy to be used as a classroom for confirmands. The large room was used for young people's meetings, for an auditorium for plays and Willard School graduation programs in the spring, and in 1947 for Sunday school classes. Also, on October 10, 1915, the park east of the new church was purchased from Ed Kraeft. The "school money" or so-called tuition fee was abolished. Not only parents with children attending Zion School, but all members were to contribute their share of the expense of maintaining the school.

To accommodate the pupils residing four to six miles south of Zion Church, the Congregation resolved to build another school. It was to be on an acre of land purchased from Mr. C. Haut for \$100.00 in Williams Township on the southwest corner of Townline and Eleven Mile Roads. The building committee for the second school consisted of Henry Koch, Ernest Wirsing, C. Weber L. Ehmann, three trustees and Rev. Rutkowsky. The new red brick school, or South Zion School, was dedicated August 13, 1916. Rev. C. Wuggazer of Monitor and Rev. John Schinnerer of Amelith addressed the Congregation. Rev. Rutkowsky addressed the people outside who could not enter the full building.

In the autumn of 1916, Rev. F. Sievers, Jr. appeared at Zion for the last time, lecturing on the first Indian Mission of Synod. The next day he bade farewell to his former schoolmate, John P. Ittner. August, 1916 to June, 1917, George Krach, a theological student at St. Louis, Missouri, taught in the South Zion School.

Red and tan striped burlap-like carpet runners were installed in the main aisles of the church. The noise was softened considerably.

## **1917 - 1927**

The United States entered World War I on April 6, 1917. Zion was truly loyal, truly patriotic, not only in word, but in deed. The pupils became active members of the Junior Red Cross. Teacher Riess solicited purchasers of Liberty Bonds and our members bought to their limit. Twenty-eight young men, once pupils of Zion, were in the army, of which none lost their lives or were seriously wounded. In 1917, Zion celebrated the Quadricentennial of the Reformation. To commemorate the event, the members were requested to plant trees in the park east of the church. W. Brackensiek taught in the South Zion School from August 1917, to June 1981.

August 1918 to 1920, Teacher Eilers taught in the South Zion School. November 11, 1918, marked the end of World War I. Between 1919 and 1924, Rev. Rutkowsky and faculty counseled the Zion members during the time the Synod campaigned against the "Wayne County Civic Association" which sought to eliminate the parochial school system. Through the efforts of Synod and the Congregation, the anti-parochial campaign was defeated by a two-to-one margin. No congregation could have waged the campaign alone. God bless our Synod.

In February of 1919, the Lutheran Layman's league petitioned the Zion members to help them reach their goal for the support of the superannuated and sick pastors, teachers, and their dependents. Zion responded generously. On March 7, 1919, little Arthur Riess died.

August 8, 1920, Teacher Charles Riess' Silver Anniversary was celebrated with a special service. Teacher W. Lohrmann congratulated in the name of the Saginaw Valley Conference. On August 21, 1920, Mrs. Anna Katherine Riess, nee Grueber, departed this life, causing an irreparable loss to Teacher Riess and his family. June 6, 1920, to August 9, 1925, Mr. Arnold Hufnagel taught at the South Zion School. In 1921, the four-hundredth anniversary of the Diet of Worms was celebrated when Dr. Martin Luther refused to recant the Doctrine of Salvation alone by Grace through Faith in Christ Jesus.

In 1922, an acre of land and a house, diagonally northeast from the South Zion School in Beaver Township, were purchased from Mr. John Haag. The house was salvaged.

Reincorporation of Zion Lutheran Church of Beaver Township took place in 1924. Zion members recognized Rev. Rutkowsky's 25th anniversary in the ministry August 6, 1924. The Rev. J. G. Nuechtertein of Frankenmuth, Michigan, delivered the sermon and president J. Schinnerer and visitor F. Brunn rendered congratulations. During the 1920's, Fourth of July picnics were held in the church park, including a chicken dinner served in the old church-school. The dinner was potluck, with members bringing the prepared chicken.

Oscar Kerkow served as teacher at South Zion School from August 30, 1925 to November 17, 1925. After Teacher Kerkow left, Rev. Rutkowsky resumed teaching duties for the third time until August 1926.

Before electricity was installed in the church about 1925, lamps with kerosene were used. Two large kerosene chandeliers or lamp clusters hung from the church ceiling. Short, thin candles with clamp-ons were used on the Christmas trees. Buckets of water were set nearby in case of a fire.

On July 11, 1926, Zion celebrated Rev. Rutkowsky's silver wedding anniversary. Rev. E. A. Mayer of Frankenmuth, who twenty-five years before had solemnized the marriage, was the preacher Oscar Blankschien of Larium, Michigan, was installed as new teacher of South Zion School on August 22, 1926.

## **1927 - 1937**

After salvaging the lumber from the South Zion Teacherage, a new bungalow was erected on the site in 1928, for occupancy by Mr. and Mrs. Oscar Blankschien. On March 17, 1928, little Earl Rutkowsky died, the youngest son of Rev. and Mrs. Rutkowsky.

In 1929, the four-hundredth anniversary of Dr. Martin Luther's Small Catechism was celebrated with song and music in Central High School Auditorium, Bay City, Michigan, by area Lutheran Congregations.

Rev. Rutkowsky's twenty-five years of faithful service to Zion was honored on July 30, 1930. Rev. L Wismueller of Mt. Clemens, Michigan, who 25 years before had installed Rev. Rutkowsky, was invited to preach at the occasion with Rev. C. Linsemann and Rev. H. Potzger as guest speakers. 1930 marked the Quadricentennial celebration of the Augsburg Confession — the chief Symbolum of the Lutheran Church, which was presented to Emperor Charles V at the Diet of Augsburg, June 25, 1530, in 28 articles. The fourth article submits chief Christian Doctrine, by which the Christian Church distinguishes itself from false doctrine, and gives all the glory to God alone, and affords enduring comfort to poor sinners.

Fourth of July picnics continued to be held in the church park. Veal and pork roast were now the meats served. Paul Schroeder (married to Alice Tomke) of Bay City instructed how to bone the meat to make rolled roast. Martin Pfannes continued the practice. Candy, pop and ice cream were sold. The items were purchased through the G. R. Snyder General Store on Beaver and Eleven Mile Roads and later alternated with the Martin Pfannes Grocery Store. Several years later, ham and potato salad were the main meal served in the dining hall in the park by the Ladies' Aid. The Young People took charge of the candy stand, red hots and ice cream.

Mr. Oscar Blankschien resigned in 1932. Mr. Norman Weber was installed as teacher of South Zion School on August 21, 1932. During the early 1930's, the Zion members who preferred English over German gradually increased. It was resolved to have the German service on Sundays from 9:30-11:00 a.m. and English service from 11:00-12:00 a.m. The English language from then on to the present is used as the means of catechetical instruction in school, confirmation and Bible classes.

In 1933, Martin and Clara Pfannes became owners of the general store on the corner of Garfield and Seidler Road.

In 1934, Zion honored the four hundredth anniversary of Luther's Bible Translation. Luther's Translation has been a basis and a model for other translations and has brought and still brings to us life and salvation.

During the late 1920's and early 1930's, a number of improvements were made at Zion, such as the first electric lights, redecorating the church, re-shingling the church roof, installing an organ-blower, and furnaces for the parsonage and teacherage.

The eighth grades were added to South and North Zion Schools in 1935. November 1935, the barn built in 1894 was dismantled. New carpet runners were installed in the main aisles plus the chancel of the church. Also a wallpaper screen border was used to decorate the lower part of the chancel walls.

During the Depression years, there was no additional annexation of congregational property.

## 1937 - 1947

1937 marked the fiftieth or golden anniversary of Zion Lutheran Church, Beaver Township, with the Rev. Frederick Rutkowsky as Pastor, and Charles Riess as teacher of North Zion and Norman Weber as teacher of South Zion. In 1937, according to church records from 1887-1937, holy baptism was bestowed upon 1176 persons. By confirmation, 892 were received into membership, 282 marriages were solemnized and 331 received Christian burial. The statistics also showed 733 souls, 526 communicants, 150 voters, 73 pupils attending two day schools and 9 attending Saturday classes. Of the communicant membership of 1887, the venerable members present at the Golden Anniversary were: George Buechler, Eva Dietlein, Henry Kohn, Augusta Kohn, Mrs. Ferdinand Kraeft, Theodore Mackensen, Barbara Meyer, John Schnell, Anna Spengler Tomke, Charles Tomke and Adam Vogtmann. Also, of the members baptized by Rev. Sievers, Jr. that were still present for the anniversary were Ernest Betzold, John Betzold, Barbara Dietlein Knight, John Endlein, Andrew Ittner, Johanna Ittner Snyder, and Leonard F. Spengler. The youngest member present was Kenneth Pfannes, son of Oscar and Esther (nee Kolb) Pfannes and the oldest member present was Frederick Beck. During the Golden Anniversary Year, Zion mourned the death of two of its founder members; John P. Ittner, who died January 16, and John Jacob Spengler, who died March 21. In the same year, Henry Koch was elected delegate to the Synodical Meeting at Detroit, Michigan. A 50th Anniversary Booklet was compiled by Zion members contributing memorable history of bygone days.

It was certainly a year of grateful rejoicing because four centuries ago the Smalcad Articles, written by Dr. Martin Luther, had been subscribed by the Wittenberg Theologians. In the course of time, these articles, by their clear and logical exposition of the truth over error, won a place of honor and the status of confession in the Lutheran Church. Nothing could be more fruitful than a reading of the Smalcad Articles: their truth is tested and corroborated by four hundred years of uninterrupted scrutiny. Our founding fathers rallied around this and the other standards contained in the Book of Concord of 1580 as a true and sound exhibition of Christian doctrine taken from and in full agreement with the Holy Scriptures, and they declared that in their congregation no doctrine should be taught or tolerated which is at variance with the Symbols of the Evangelical Lutheran Church, viz: 1. The three Ecumenical Creeds; The Apostolic, The Nicene, and The Athanasian. 2. The Unaltered Augsburg Confession. 3. The Apology of the same. 4. The Smalcad Articles. 5. Luther's Small Catechism. 6. Luther's Large Catechism. 7. The Formula of Concord.

In 1937, The Young People's Society, existing for several decades, affiliated with the Walther League, an international organization of the church's youth. The League exists for church and home. The local society meets for the purpose of discussing a timely topic, business, and for Christian fellowship. It has provided fellowship gatherings and sponsored projects for the welfare of the congregation. The Leaguers lend their voices by singing in the choir, teaching Sunday school classes, and serving as ushers.

December 1940, Teacher Riess became seriously ill and was unable to return to the classroom. He resigned July 13, 1941. A service, honoring him for his long years of untiring and devoted labor in the Vineyard of the Lord, was given by members.

For Pentecost Sunday, the interior of the church was graced with green-leafed boughs of the white birch and poplar trees to symbolize the renewal of life.

In August 1941, Mr. H. C. Schmitzer accepted the call and was installed August 24, 1941, until September 1946, when he accepted a call to Immanuel, Frankentrost, Michigan. In the spring of 1941, ill health began to manifest itself in the life of Rev. Rutkowsky. In August he requested to be relieved of his pastoral duties. The marriage rites of Marvin C. Stieve and Dorothy Spengler, both baptized and confirmed by Rev. Rutkowsky, were the last to be performed by him in church. He became so ill that his physical strength did not permit him to preach his farewell sermon. His friend and colleague, Rev. Herman Potzger, delivered the sermon to Zion Congregation September 14, 1941. During his vacancy, Rev. Potzger ministered to the spiritual needs of the congregation and guided them in calling Rev. Erich A. Storm of Onkama, Michigan, who was installed as pastor of Zion on October 25, 1941.

World War II began December 7, 1941, when the Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, on a quiet Sunday morning. Again, Zion was loyal and patriotic to the cause. Many young men served in the Armed Services at home and abroad some giving their lives for the cause. Rationing stamps for such articles as coffee, shoes, gasoline, tires, etc., were issued

at the Willard School. U.S. Savings Bonds were also purchased by Zion members. Also, women began working in factories manufacturing war products. Our church did much to provide for the spiritual needs of youths in service, such as sending prayer books, new Testaments, the ministry of service pastors and especially the service of Lutheran Chaplains. This entire program was under the direction of the Army and Navy Commission of the Lutheran Church, Missouri Synod. The congregations, in turn, provided the funds for the Commission that this work could be expedited successfully.

On March 4, 1942, Rev. Rutkowsky entered that rest prepared for the people of God. His mortal remains were interred in Beaver Zion Lutheran Cemetery March 8, 1942. Rev. E. A. Storm and Rev. Herman Potzger of Trinity, Monitor, officiated at the funeral service.

In 1943, the Zion members felt it would be wise to separate the grades at the two Zion Schools. Mr. Weber taught grades one through four at South Zion and Mr. Schmitzer grades five through eight at North Zion. Mr. Weber transported the children from one school to the other. However, in September 1944, the parents were asked to transport the children to their respective schools because of high enrollment. A few months later, January 14, 1945, the Zion members voted to buy a school bus, and also elected a school building committee to study the possibility of acquiring property for the construction of a consolidated school. Also, in 1944 the Bay City Public School System, for the first time, supplied buses for high school students living in the rural areas.

World War II ended with Germany in May, 1945, and with Japan in August, 1945. A big changing trend in lifestyles occurred after this time. Also, in the post-war era, a new stewardship program was introduced, the every Sunday Bulletin service was begun and the new English Hymnals were provided.

On August 26, 1945, the trustees were empowered to purchase property south of the church from Mr. Frank Kube. The architectural firm of Brysselbout and Starke was employed to draw the blueprints for the new school. The contract was awarded to Camp Realty Company of Midland, Michigan.

In 1946, Mr. Schmitzer left and Mr. A. C. Stoppenhagen of Ft. Wayne, Indiana, was installed as teacher in November 1946.

## **1947 - 1957**

September 1947, Sunday School was begun for the first time in the old church—school under the pastoral leadership of Pastor Storm with a very dedicated staff. Through the Sunday School, the congregation seeks to reach those children who do not attend the Christian Day School as well as those children in the community who are not affiliated with any church. The Sunday school seeks to impart to the children a sound Christian training which includes a graded course for the Nursery, Beginner, Primary, Junior, Intermediate, and Senior children. Also, the Cradle Roll is maintained for the well-being of the pre-Sunday School children. The Sunday School Teachers meet regularly for lesson preparation. All the children in both Day School and Sunday school are taught to be mission minded, inasmuch as many activities are carried on to promote foreign and home mission work. The newly confirmed, high school-age children and adult Bible classes are a carefully prepared lesson program of the Bible, with practical and doctrinal applications. It is a great opportunity to review and to deepen our understanding of the eternal truths of Holy Scripture, which builds a strong church.

In 1948, the cornerstone of the new consolidated school was laid. After time, labor and cooperation of members and contractors, the new school was dedicated to the Glory of God and the feeding of His lambs on April 17, 1949. This structure included classrooms, auditorium, bathrooms, kitchen and office. The approximate cost was \$80,000.

On June 19, 1949, the old church-school was sold. Mr. Stoppenhagen was released and Mr. Arthur Petrowsky was called as principal and teacher.

The last annual financial report was published, listing the contributions of Zion members. New carpet runners replaced the old.

In 1951, German services were conducted at 9:00 am. and English services at 10:00 a.m. every Sunday, and the half-hour confessional service held before each communion service was discontinued.

March 1952, Mr. Norman Weber, a long-time teacher, retired. Mrs. Dorothy Stieve taught the remainder of the year. Mr. Richard Bliese was called as a third teacher and a third classroom was equipped. The Zion members then purchased the house on the southeast corner of Eleven and Seidlers Road with an acre of land for the new teacher. Rev. Frederick Reimann became the new pastor of Zion, April, 1953. German services were cut to one Sunday a month. In May, the South Zion School was sold for \$1,800.00. One Sunday each month was designated for families to sit together to attend Holy Communion. Young men were to serve as ushers to usher members out of church. Pastor was to have an Elder assist him during baptisms. A full-time janitor was hired. Cemetery Endowment Fund was set up. Water was piped into church. Bi-monthly church service for school children was begun during the week. Voluntary Zion members constructed a new house for the Pfau Family, whose residence had burned. Church services on December 26 and on January 2 were discontinued. The Korean Conflict in the 1950's showed the loyal and patriotic feelings of Zion members. Zion youths participated at home and abroad to serve their country.

In 1954, the Ladies' Aid affiliated with the Lutheran Missionary League of the Lutheran Church, Missouri Synod. It also holds membership in the Associated Lutheran Ladies' Aid of the Lutheran Children's Friend Society. Ladies' Aid meetings are held on the second Wednesday of each month. Besides the business session, a topic study is conducted at each meeting. As Christian women, they willingly show their love to Christ in service. The ladies have made many material improvements in the Congregation by providing the carpeting in the church, altar parchments, redecorating the church, and numerous other appointments for the church. With special occasions arise; the Ladies stand by to provide refreshments and fellowship. For such occasions, they have also provided much of the equipment in the school kitchen. They also have contributed clothing and packages for overseas relief, assisted seminary and college students, institutions of charity and sent gifts to servicemen and women and to missions. The Altar Guild was started. Designated ladies serving on this committee arrange the floral offerings every Sunday and supervise the care of the sacred vessels. Easter Service was held at Sunset Drive-In Theater. The area in front of the church was cemented.

In 1955, the first Sunrise Service was conducted at Zion Church. It was resolved to permit the Pastor to wear the white gown surplus. Previously, the Pastor wore a black gown. The 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the construction of Zion Church was observed dating back to 1905. The children's service was to be conducted in church once a week.

February 13, 1956, it was resolved to hold the regular Voter's Assembly on Monday evening following the first Sunday of the month instead of the former traditional Sunday afternoon meetings. On April 2, it was recommended to have two Sunday services in English all year round. On May 7<sup>th</sup>, the first Field's Day was begun. The number of Elders was increased from six to twelve. In May, the lightning rod was placed on the church steeple. The men's Club was organized. The purpose of the club is to foster Christian fellowship, discuss certain projects and problems in the work of the church, and sociability. As members, the Club supports the International Lutheran Hour of bringing Christ to the nations and many more valuable services to the congregation.

## **1957-1967**

In 1957, ground was broken to begin construction for two additional classrooms to meet an ever-increasing enrollment. The planning, blueprints and engineering, to meet specifications demanded by the state school building codes, and the construction work was done by Zion members. The annexation of the two classrooms was ready for partial occupancy in September 1957, and was completed by the end of the same year. In the autumn of 1957, the enrollment numbered approximately 154 pupils and the fourth teacher was contracted.

Two new school buses were purchased by Zion in 1958 to transport the children to school.

In 1959, the Men's Club affiliated with the Lutheran Layman's League, a national organization of the church. The Parent-Teacher League (P.T.L.) was organized to bring about a sound parent-teacher-pupil relationship by caring and working together. The Athletic Associated, a branch of the P.T.L., works in conjunction to further interest in children's sports. Together they plan and sponsor candy sales, athletic shirt sales, roller skating parties, school children's pictures, book fairs, spring smelt dinner and many other excellent projects. On February 2, 1959, communion cards were instituted. On



March 2<sup>nd</sup> the janitor discontinued ringing the church bell on Saturday evening at six o'clock. Also discontinued was the ringing of the church bell at nine o'clock on the morning following the death of an individual. Three sets of intermittent tolls were rung for an adult; two sets for a school-age child; and one set for a pre-school child.

German afternoon communion services were discontinued May 1960.

In the spring of 1961, Zion Congregation resolved to renovate the exterior of the church. All the old bricks of the exterior course of the bricks were removed and replaced with the present cherry-red bricks. Also, an entrance to the church was built which included space for restroom facilities, adequate entrance to the church basement and cloak room space. By mid-summer, the contractors of Engelhardt and Sons of Bay City had completed the renovation of the exterior for a sum of \$37,634.00. In May 1961, Howard Kohn, a Zion eighth grader, son of Frederick and Clara Kohn, won the annual Luther Spelling Bee Contest. Sarah Chapman, daughter of LaVerne and Ardith, is the 1987 champion. The present Zion school bell, taken from the South Zion School was installed September 5, 1961. The Ladies' Aid had chosen to underwrite the redecorating of the interior of the church at a cost of \$3,000.00. the congregation installed new light fixtures and an amplifying system.

By April 22, 1962, Easter Sunday, the redecorating was completed. Some changes had been made in the chancel. A large, neon-lighted cross graced the chancel, focusing the attention of the worshipper on Jesus Christ, the only Savior, The new altar, lectern and baptismal font replaced the old. The chancel furniture, as well as other church appointments, such as vases, flags. Hymnals, service books, pulpit, lights, palms, and sacristy desk, were largely furnished by special gifts from Zion members. During 1962, Zion celebrated its 75th or Diamond anniversary. A beautiful Diamond Jubilee Booklet was compiled by Zion members who made it a year of reconsecration to the Savior and His Kingdom work. For these expressions of gratitude to God for His abounding faithfulness through the years, we express our appreciation and joyous thanks.

As of August 1, 1962, 507 persons had been interred in Zion Cemetery. A part of the first purchase of land was designated for the cemetery. The plot consisted of about two acres. It is located west of the church. The administration and maintenance of the cemetery are supervised by a cemetery committee of the congregation. Since a number of the early graves were untended, a system of perpetual care was provided. A watering system was installed and a new section of the cemetery proper was improved to provide lots for the members who wished to have only ground markers. Up to 1962, the statistical records showed 1038 baptisms, 1546 confirmands, 528 marriages and 538 Christian burials.

In 1963, the Student Aid Fund was set up. Walther League started serving the first annual Easter breakfast. The Fourth of July picnics in the church park were discontinued. The farm of Calvin and Doris Spengler was designated as the first centennial farm in the Beaver Zion area, originating in 1863. In the autumn, the new Concordia College at Ann Arbor opened its doors to the first class of young people who would prepare themselves for professional work in the Lutheran Church. In September 1963, six Beaver Township public schools, Oxbow, Cherry, Duel, McKeith, Willard and Seidler, had consolidated to form the new John Adams Elementary School on Garfield Road. Zion no longer needed its own buses because transportation was provided by the Bay City Public School System. During the 1960's, the Vietnam conflict again drew the loyalty and patriotic spirit of Zion members. Gradually, during this decade, women donned more styled hairdos in lieu of the traditional hats or head coverings.

In 1964, the familiar chicken and pork sausage dinners served in the fall of the year became known as the October Smorgasbord, served the first Sunday in October. In conjunction, The Country Store specializes in many wonderful and unique items to sell.

## **1967 - 1977**

Rev. Frederick Reimann, who had begun his ministry at Zion in April 1953, continued his work through the seventy-fifth church anniversary of 1962, and accepted a call to Ludington, Michigan, in January 1967.

Rev. J. P. Kellogg was installed as pastor on August 6, 1967. The South Zion teacherage was sold for \$11,000 in 1967.

Rev. J. P. Kellogg resigned his ministry at Zion on July 8, 1968. The North Zion teacherage was sold for \$11,000. The blacktop in the school parking lot was done. The door was put in between the kitchen and Kindergarten room.

Rev. Leroy Westphal was installed as pastor of Zion on June 22, 1969. He is at present our pastor during the Zion Centennial celebration. The monthly *Messenger*, a review of Zion's activities, was begun and is still sent to each family home.

In 1971, the church interior was redecorated and renovated at a cost of \$35,000. Exterior painting, steeple work, new roof and ceiling insulation were done with a renovation project total of about \$41,000. An additional cost of \$7,000 from the Ladies' Aid for gold carpeting, sweepers and seasonal wall banners. The family mail boxes were removed from the church narthex.

In 1972, Zion Members celebrated the 85th anniversary of the congregation. Renovation of the church basement was done. A birthday and anniversary calendar was compiled. The Senior Citizen Group donated the gift of the Eternal Light. The Youth Group began the Good Friday Chancel Dramas. Summer church services were set at eight and nine-thirty for Sunday mornings. Vacation Bible School was begun. The awning was installed outside the front entrance of the church. Housing allowance was established for Pastor Westphal on the completion of his new house on Beaver Road.

In 1973, Rev. John Westphal, father of Pastor Leroy, was called to become Assistant Pastor to render services in an ever-growing congregation.

January 1974, student teacher Ruth Block did student teaching in Zion's classrooms during a five-week program. Communion cards were placed on the entrance door to the nave and the balcony. The carpeting in the church basement was financed by the Ladies' Aid. Pastor Leroy Westphal declined a call to Trinity Lutheran, West Chicago, Illinois. August 25, 1974, by resolution of the Congregation, all students from the Zion area, grades five through eight, who do not receive religious instruction at Zion Lutheran Day School, must receive that instruction at Monday evening weekday Religion classes. One hundred seventy-five new Lutheran hymnals were added.

In 1975, Pastor Leroy and Carol Westphal joined the Michigan Delegation for participation in the Synod's 51<sup>st</sup> Convention at Anaheim, California.

1976 the Ladies' Aid contributed \$2,000 for the blacktop on the church parking lots. They also purchased new tables and chairs, and the new stove in the school kitchen. A new flower chart was supplied on the large bulletin board in the church narthex. Assistant Pastor John and Adelaide Westphal received honor and recognition by Zion members in observance of their 45th wedding anniversary. On July 4, 1976, Zion, with patriotic spirit, celebrated with a special outdoor service in the church park, the bicentennial of the United States of America.

The Jerry Kabat Family became members of Zion. Jerry, chairman of the Centennial Committee, is presently teaching at the Bay-Arenac Skill Center, Bay City, Michigan.

On November 7, 1976, a special worship service, a dinner, gifts and a vacation trip to sunny Acapulco, Mexico, were compliments of Zion members in an appreciation observance day for the faithful and zealous work of Pastor Leroy and Carol Westphal. With gracious thanks, they expressed their heartfelt and deepest gratitude and their simple, humble, sincere prayer, "Lord, we thank Thee for people such as these through whom You have revealed a marvelous demonstration of genuine Christian love. Keep them in Your loving care, and bless us as we glorify Your name."

The new Saginaw Valley Lutheran High School was under construction.

The 1970's brought on a new trend in women's attire. Fashions gradually changed from a mixed style of dresses, skirts and blouses to pantsuits, or slacks, blouses and sweaters.

## **1977 - 1987**

In 1977 the women's suffrage vote was defeated. Women could attend meetings but not have voting and office privileges. Membership is open to all male members, twenty-one years and over. Ladies are always most cordially

welcome to attend. Forward in Remembrance, a mission program was begun. The well was repaired, shrubbery was added around the church, new blacktop behind the school and sidewalks around the church were put in. The school kitchen was remodeled at a cost of \$8,000.00.

The interior walls of the church were improved in 1978. On April 3, 1978, it was voted to begin the first Kindergarten class in September. Mrs. Diane Horning was the first Kindergarten teacher in September 1978.

An ordination service was conducted on July 3, 1979, for Thomas Wirsing, son of Chester and Clara Wirsing. Pastor Wirsing is currently serving St. Michael's Congregation in Wayne, Michigan. The tennis courts were constructed in 1979. In September the Saginaw Lutheran High School, built in 1976, was dedicated to the Glory of God. A birthday and anniversary calendar was compiled.

In February 1980 the Ladies' Aid resolved to contract weekly flower services through the Johnson Green house in Midland. The Hand-bell choir was begun under the direction of Mrs. Ethel Hoenicke and then continued by Mr. John Olson. Zion has always been deeply interested in having its services beautified with special music. The purpose is to extol the Lord, especially on high festivals. During the past decades, Zion has had many fine choirs. Choir work is difficult work and requires many hours of service. People who have contributed such joyous service are: Norman Weber, Leonard Weber, Arnold Stoppenhagen, Richard Zwick, Leroy Engelhardt, James Balzer, Ethel Hoenicke, John Olson, Luanne Wegener, Diane Olson and Carol Westphal.

On September 28, 1980, Zion celebrated PAST TRADITION SUNDAY. Ladies sat in the east pews of the nave and men sat in the west pews. For communion distribution, the men communed first and the ladies followed last in similar manner. October 5, 1980, Rev. Walter Rutkowsky served as special speaker for the 75th church structure anniversary in which Zion Church was dedicated as a place of worship in 1905. Also, a stone and bronze plate was erected on the Rutkowsky cemetery lot in memory of Rev. Frederick Rutkowsky.

Compliments of Martin and Clara Pfannes were the religious calendars issued to Zion members for four decades. Calvin and Doris Spengler had provided beautiful, decorative wreaths for many Christmas seasons.

August 9, 1981, a service of praise and thanksgiving was held at Zion Church in honor of Rev. John Westphal's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary in the ministry and the 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary of Pastor John and Adelaide (nee Schoeing) Westphal. The reception was hosted by their children and Zion members in grateful appreciation of their many years of faithful service and devotion.

The church bell tower was repaired after being struck by lightning on August 28, 1981.

In September, a first-time Remedial Reading Position was filled by Dorothy Stieve. The program, with textbooks and activity books, aims to help pupils having minor reading problems and to promote a greater interest in reading.

May 1982, the Ladies' Aid hosted the Confirmation Reunion with over 300 confirmands in attendance.

On June 6, 1982, Rev. John Westphal entered that rest prepared for the people of God. The funeral rites were conducted at Zion Church on June 8th by Pastor Louis Koke of St. John, Midland, and liturgist Pastor David Hakes of Grace, Auburn. His mortal remains were interred at St. Paul's Lutheran Cemetery, Bonduel, Wisconsin, on June 10th. During his ministry, Pastor John served his church and Synod in a variety of capacities, including that of circuit counselor in Central Illinois and North Wisconsin districts.

Ceiling fans were installed in the church. In June, the Future Building Program funds were established. Natalie Westphal, daughter of Pastor Leroy and Carol Westphal, submitted the building theme to be used for the project: FOUNDATIONS FOR THE FUTURE. On November 8, 1982, Robert Chadwick was called as Vicar for one year to assist Pastor Leroy with his many tasks and responsibilities.

June 19, 1983, Pastor Leroy Westphal, in grateful thanksgiving, celebrated his 25th anniversary of his ordination into the ministry at a dinner in Zion Auditorium, planned in his honor by the Zion members. Guest toastmaster for the program was Rev. James Wilk of Standish, Michigan, a former classmate of Pastor Leroy. Also, the 25th wedding anniversary of Pastor Leroy and Carol (nee Manthei) was celebrated with honor and devotion on the same day. July 11, 1983, Rev. Adolph Gallert, a retired pastor, was called to assist Pastor Westphal. The John Tomke family were recipients of a centennial farm plaque. In November, Vicar Robert Chadwick left Zion to become Associate Pastor of Mt. Calvary Lutheran Church, Detroit, Michigan. Rev. Adolph Gallert was installed as Assistant Pastor on December 8, 1983.

In 1984, an Endowment Fund was established to provide continuous support to missions in proclaiming the Gospel of our Lord and Savior. The parking lot received a new sealcoat top. A male teacher was to assist Pastor Westphal with liturgy and with Bible Readings. The newly formed Planning Committee completed its task of setting up building and funding committees for Zion's future building project. It engaged the services of The Leroy Austin Architectural Firm. Preliminary plans for church and school buildings were submitted for evaluation. The final payment was made on Zion's indebtedness. The Stewardship Drive was conducted with two-thirds of the Zion membership participating. The pledges totaled **\$226,855.**

In 1985, a birthday and anniversary calendar was compiled by the Youth Group. In February, Pastor and Marjorie Gallert, in grateful thanksgiving, observed their 40<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary and Pastor Gallert's 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his pastoral ordination. On March 3, 1985, the Planning Committee presented a master building plan to Zion Congregation, after which discussion meetings were held. In May, a resolution was passed that Zion proceed with a building program. A gift of individual cups for communion was received. For Communion services, the individual cups are used every second Sunday of each month. The Chalice is used every fourth Sunday of each month. A new athletic field was developed and was named the EUGENE BEHMLANDER MEMORIAL FIELD in honor of Eugene, who had giving many fine, dedicated years to youths and their sports.

Mr. John Olson submitted the centennial theme: A CENTURY OF GRACE, A FUTURE OF HOPE.

In 1985, Mrs. Luella Ittner was elected State President of the Lutheran Child and Family Auxiliary.

June 1985, the Planning Committee dissolved and two committees were formed. The Funding Committee with Theodore Datte III, as chairman and The Building Committee with Leonard Leavens and Richard Young as co-chairmen. At a special Congregation meeting on June 20, 1985, it was resolved that 25% of any construction cost would be required to be on hand before construction could proceed, with the remainder of the cost to be paid with a three-year pledge program. In summarized form, the resolutions of the support of the recommendations of both committees were adopted in modification. The resolutions support a \$928,000 building program for church and school additions and renovations, with one-fourth total estimated cost to be raised through cash contributions by October 15, 1985, approximately \$400 per family. An additional \$125,000 investment in the District's Church Extension Fund, earmarked for Zion by the same date. At another meeting in October, it was resolved to follow through with a portion of the program at a final cost estimated at \$385,000. July 21, 1985 was KICK-OFF SUNDAY for the Foundations for the Future Building project.

Thursday, August 15, 1985, Adolph Gallert departed this earthly life at the age of 66 years. The funeral service took place on Sunday, August 18, with Dr. Richard Schlect, President of the Michigan District, as speaker and Rev. David Hakes of Grace, Auburn, as officiant. Committal was at Sunset Memorial Garden, Ionia, Michigan, on August 19. Rev. and Carol Westphal were in Gillett, Wisconsin, where Pastor Leroy preached at Immanuel Lutheran Anniversary. Pastor John Westphal had served Immanuel for 25 years, prior to his retirement in 1973.

In 1985, the Ross Koch family were the recipients of a centennial farm plaque in their honor. September 10, 1985, Rev. Frederick Reimann served as guest speaker as members and guests observed the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Senior Citizens' Organization. A potluck meal was served. During the year, a cookbook was compiled by a committee to be sold at \$5. Other fund-raising projects included dessert sales, soup supper before each Lenten service, rummage sales and many more projects.

A Centennial Committee was selected February 1986, to make plans for Zion's Centennial Anniversary in 1987, with Jerry Kabat as chairman.

Marilyn Leavens and her committee were responsible for the beautiful banners gracing the interior church walls. Ted Datte II spend many hours overseeing the Zion building project.

May 18, 1986 was designated as ground-breaking Sunday for the renovation project. Pastor Leroy Westphal, Oscar Pfannes and Theodore Datte III, participated in the ceremony on the east side of the church. The Cherub Choir, under the direction of Luanne Wegener, sang. Pastor Westphal, Henry Wittig, principal; Luanne Wegener, Kindergarten teacher; Jeffrey Samborn and Nathan Heine, students, participated on the west side of the school. Many colorful balloons were released.

The projected building goals included a northeast addition and carport, north addition stairs and pulpit rearrangement, south and west addition with new bathrooms and new cement across the front walk. Also, at school there were to be minor renovations in bathrooms and heating, plus one classroom and several smaller rooms for offices.

The statistics for the 1985 years were: 1259 baptized members, 963 communicants, 132 pupils, 6 teachers, 132 Sunday School Pupils and 21 Sunday School Teachers.

*DUE CREDIT AND MANY THANKS ARE HEREBY GIVEN TO ALL INDIVIDUALS AND GROUPS WITHIN THE ZION CONGREGATION WHO HAVE GIVEN SO GENEROUSLY OF THEIR KNOWLEDGE, TIME AND TALENTS AND CONTRIBUTIONS.*

#### CENTENNIAL YEAR MONTHLY EMPHASIS

##### **JANUARY**

OUR FAMILY: YOURS, OURS, HIS!

Guest Pastor Chadwick (Jan. 11)

Senior Members Potluck

##### **FEBRUARY**

OUR CHARITABLE ORGANIZATIONS: Bethesda, LCFS; LSD, LAMP, etc.

PTL Pork Sausage/Pancake Breakfast

Guest Pastor Melinat (Feb. 15)

##### **MARCH**

OUR YOUTH: Jr. Youth; Sr. Youth; "Tomorrow's Church Today"

Guest Pastor Reimann (Mar. 15)/Potluck by Zion's Elders

Service by Sr. Youth Group (Mar. 29)

##### **APRIL**

VOCATIONS IN THE CHURCH; Pastors, Teachers; Journeymen; (Student Aid); Farmers, etc.

Guest Pastor, Pres. Hems (fist,) (Apr. 5)

Confirmation April 26

First Confirmation Reunion Sunday

**MAY** OUR CHURCH IN MISSION (Evangelism; In-reach; Out-reach Guest Pastor E. Kolb (Synod); (May 24)

Second Confirmation Reunion Sunday

**JUNE** OUR EDUCATIONAL AGENCIES (School, Sunday School, Vacation Bible School, Weeknight Class; Bible Classes, etc.)

Guest Pastor Dr. Schlecht (June 14)

Third Confirmation Reunion Sunday K & 8th Graduations

**JULY** OUR NATION: OUR FREEDOMS: OUR STATE

Guest Pastor Wirsing (July 12)

Fourth Confirmation Reunion Sunday

**AUGUST** OUR SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS (LLL; LWML; Seniors; AAL; LB)

Pastor Wallace Schulz (Aug. 9)

Pastor Erich Storm (Aug. 23)

Fifth Confirmation Reunion Sunday

**SEPTEMBER** OUR STEWARDSHIP (Time, Talent, Dollar)

Pastor Foust (Sept. 3)

Sixth Confirmation Reunion Sunday

**OCTOBER OUR LUTHERAN HERITAGE** (Reformation, History, etc.)

Pastor H. Krach (Oct. 4)

Ladies' Aid Smorgasbord and Country Store

Seventh Confirmation Reunion Sunday

**NOVEMBER OUR COUNTLESS SERVICE PEOPLE** (Volunteers; those who have and are serving on boards, committees, council, etc.)

Pastor J. Kolb (Nov. 15)

**DECEMBER OUR HERITAGE IN MUSIC** (Special music . . . Guest organists, choral; instrumental, etc.)

Pastor Kohn (Dec. 13)

#### **PASTORS OF ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH FROM 1860-1987**

Rev. Ferdinand Sievers, Sr: 1860 - September 12, 1880

Rev. Ferdinand Sievers, Jr: September 12, 1880 - August 1887

Rev. F. Mueller: August 21, 1887-1890

Rev. A. Dormer: December 1890-February 16, 1896

Rev. F. Ahner: March 1896-April 24, 1905

Rev. Frederick Rutkowsky: July 29, 1905-August 1941

Rev. Erich Storm: October 25, 1941-December 1952

Rev. Frederick Reimann: April 1953-January 1967

Rev. John Kellogg: August 6, 1967-July 8, 1968

Rev. Leroy Westphal: June 22, 1969-Present

#### **ASSISTANTS**

Rev. John Westphal: September 1, 1973—June 1982

Vicar Robert Chadwick: November 8, 1982-November 1983

Rev. Adolph Gallert: July 11, 1983-August 15, 1985

#### **NOTE: ASSISTED IN CONFIRMATION INSTRUCTION**

1953 — Rev. Frederick Bickel before Rev. Frederick Reimann came

1967 — Mr. James Balzer, principal, before Rev. John Kellogg came

1969 — Rev. Carl Nelson before Rev. Leroy Westphal came

## TEACHERS OF ZION LUTHERAN SCHOOL

FROM 1860-1987

Rev. Ferdinand Sievers, Sr. — 1860-1880  
Rev, Ferdinand Sievers, Jr. — 1880-1887  
Student Inglehardt --- for several weeks in 1887  
Rev. F. Mueller -- 1887-1890  
Rev. A. Donner — 1891- 1896  
Rev. F. Fthner — 1896 - 1898  
Mr. AG. Rauschelbach — Aug. 28, 1898-Feb. 25, 1910  
Rev. F. Rutkowsky — Feb. 25, 1910—May 8, 1910  
Mr. A. Zimmer — May. 1910-Aug. II, 1912  
Rev. F. Rutkowsky — Sept. 19 12-Oct. 12, 1912  
Mr. Charles Riess — Oct. 12. 1912-Dec. 1940  
Mr. Alfred Kummer — 1913 - 1915  
Student Oswald Riess — 1915  
Student Adela Riess — 1915  
Mr. George Krach, Sr. — 1916- 1917  
Mr. W. Bradensiek -- 1917-1918  
Mr. A. Eilers — 1918-1920  
Mr. A.H. Hulnagel — 1920-1925  
Mr. O. Kerkow — Aug. 30. 1925—Nov. 17, 1925  
Rev. F. Rutkowsky — Nov. 1925-Aug. 1926  
Mr. Oscar Blankschien — 1926- 1932  
Mr. Norman Weber — Aug.21, 1932-Mar. 1952  
Mt. Herman Schmitzer — 1941-1946  
Mr. Arnold Stoppenhagen — Nov. 1946-1949  
Mr. Arthur Petrowsky — 1949- 1954  
Mrs. Dorothy Spengler Stieve — Mar. 1952-June 1952  
Mr. Richard Bliese — 1952- 1957  
Mrs. Richard Bliese — 1952- 1957  
Mrs. Florence Koib Piegols — 1953-1954  
Mr. Veitengruber — 1953-1964  
Mr. Paul Eggers — Aug. 1954-Jan. 1956  
Mr. Donald Beness — Apr. 1954-June 1954  
Mr. Walter Timm — Nov. 1954-1962  
Miss Grace Stevenson — Feb. 1956—June 1956  
Mr. Richard Zwick — 1956-1958

## COOKS AT ZION SCHOOL

Mrs. Erich Storm 1948—1951  
Mrs. Arthur Petrowsky — 1951 —1952  
Mrs. Dorothy Mieske September 1952-November 1962  
Mrs. Marlene Hielmireich -- December 1986  
Mrs. Margaret Ott — 1970—1971

Mr. Thomas Lossing — 1957-1959  
Miss Janet Taglauer -- 1958-1959  
Mrs. Stella Schmidt Peoples — Sept. 1958-Nov. 1958  
Mr. Gillert --- Nov. 1958-1959  
Miss Carolyn Heppner -- 1958-1959  
Mr. Leonard Weber — 1959-1962  
Mrs. Leonard Weber — 1959 - 1962  
Mr. Kenneth Buuck — 1959-1962  
Miss Bellhorn -- 1962-1963  
Mr. Darwin Dubke -- 1962-1974  
Mr. Roger Mailand — 1963 - 1967  
Mrs. Roger Mailand — 1963-1967  
Mr. James Balzer — 1966-1976  
Mrs. Mary Wood -- 1966-1971  
Mr. Gerald Undsay -- 1967-1968  
Mr. John Olson -- 1971 -Present  
Mrs. Judy Buckelheide Kraenzlein — 1971-1974  
Mrs. Mary Wood — 1972-1976  
Mrs. Diane Pacholke Horning — 1974-1975  
Mr. David Bremer — 1975- 1980  
Mr. James Wanagat — 1976-1984  
Mrs. Diane Pacholke Horning — 1976-Dec 1977  
Miss Karen Wirsing — Jan. 1978-June 1978  
Miss Barbara Jammer --- 1978-1981  
Mrs. Diane Pacholke Horning — 1978-1979  
Mr. Martin Rabe — 1979 - 1986  
Miss Luanne Wegener — 1980-Present  
Mrs. Dorothy Spengler Stieve — 1981 -Present  
Mrs. Ellen Schemer Rabe -- 1981-Dec. 1983  
Mrs. Carolyn Wanagat --Jan. 1983-June 1983  
Mrs. Marjorie LaBreck — 1983” 1984  
Mrs. Ericka Brown — 1984-Dec. 1986  
Mr. Henry Wittig — 1984-Present Principal  
Mr. Ralph Riske — 1986-Present  
Mrs. Diane Pacholke Homing — Jan. 1987-Present

Mrs. Lydia Kloha 1971—1979  
Mrs. Evelyn Barnes 1979—June 1986  
Mrs. Dana Heekrnm — September -- December 1986  
Mrs. Lydia Kloha — November 1962—1970  
Mrs. Katherine Von Eitzen —January 5, 1987—Present

**CUSTODIANS:**

Mr. Charles Riess  
 Mr. Herman Draves  
 George and Frieda Vogtmann  
 Mr. Fred Kuch  
 Oscar and Esther Plannes  
 Mr. William Schultz  
 Fred and Clara Kohn  
 Johnny Kloha, Jr.  
 Jimmy Kloha

Earl and Della Landosky  
 Elmer and Viola Walter  
 Nathan Westphal  
 Jonathan Westphal  
 Natalie Westphal  
 George Sharp  
 Douglas Koch  
 Richard Ittner

**SECRETARIES:**

Mrs. Phyllis Koch Vogtmann: Summer 1967 – Present  
 Mrs. Marilyn Witte Leavens: 1981 – November 1986  
 Mrs. Diane Schmidt Buecher: November 1986 – Present

**THE THREE OLDEST MEMBERS OF ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH ARE:**

Mary Vogtmann Endline: 1892  
 Frieda Koch Ittner: 1896  
 George Rosenbrock: 1897

**ZION CHRISTIAN DAY SCHOOL HAS GIVEN TO THE  
 LUTHERAN CHURCH THE FOLLOWING WORKERS:**

Rev. Ernest Noack	Teacher Harvey Storm	Teacher Phyllis Kolb
Rev. Carl Wirsing	Teacher Robert Storm	Layman Carl Roth
Rev. Theodore Schroeder	Principal Ronald Koch	Rev. David Reimann
Rev. Phillip Schroeder	Principal Dale Koch	Teacher Renee Gehoski
Rev. Oswald Riess	Principal Alan Koch	Teacher Pam Mieske
Rev. Richard Riess	Rev John R. Kolb	Teacher David Sharp
Rev. Walter Rutkowsky	Teacher Janet Miller Buuck	Teacher Michael Miller
Rev. Frederick Rutkowsky, Jr.	Teacher Agnes Miller Steinbach	Teacher Karen Wirsing Rauschenberger
Rev. Rudolph Mossner	Teacher Elaine Kapanka	Teacher Wendy Martin
Dr. Samuel Schroder	Teacher Barbara Jammer	Rev. Thomas Wirsing
Teacher Rudolph Kassner	Teacher Bonnie Jammer	Rev. Glenn Kohn
Rev. Kenneth Rutledge	Teacher Florence Piegols	
Dr. Ervin Kolb	Teacher Diane Pacholke Horning	
Rev. Eugene Storm	Deaconess Eunice Reimann	



A hundred years and more have elapsed since those first pioneers to the Beaver Township Lutheran area gathered around word and sacrament for spiritual nourishment and growth. To sainted Pastor Sievers, we the descendents of this ministry in this community a century later, are deeply indebted, may God be praised and thanked for the shepherding provided through his ministry to our ancestors.

Now, as we enter our second century, the church moves on, still committed to the same mission of ministering to those who already belong to the Kingdom, and continuing to reach out to those yet lost in sin and darkness. And God, in His marvelous grace, continues to provide His faithful servants, pastors and teachers, through whom 'His Kingdom comes and His will is done.' To them we look for guidance and direction, and pray God to grant them and us, His blessings.

**BIBLIOGRAPHY:**

**HISTORY:**

Historical files, Sunday bulletins, and monthly messengers of Beaver Zion Lutheran church. History text books.

**HYMN:**

Text, tune and setting by John Olson.

**POEM:**

Loving Promises by Helen Steiner Rice.

**COVER:**

A Michigan outline map to commemorate the sesquicentennial of the state, Sesquicentennial of the state, superimposed with the Beaver Zion Lutheran church and School to commemorate Zion's centennial. Cover Photo by Ken Richardson.

This booklet was compiled and written by Dorothy Stieve and assisted by Luanne Vogtmann.

Printed by Bastian Brothers & company

## **SEQUEL FOLLOWING THE CENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY HISTORY BOOKLET 1987 -- 1997**

*(Omitted from previous 10 years)*

In 1983 new Bell-Tower Carillons were installed with monies from the estate of Leonard and Hulda Vogtmann by their children and from undesignated memorials following the death of Leonard G. Vogtmann. Bells are heard each day at noon and 6 P.M. as well as on Sundays prior to and following our worship services. In 1986 Ralph Riske joined Zion's staff as fifth and sixth grade teacher and Athletic Director and his wife, Cheryl taught grades one and two from 1987-1989. May 13, 1987, Pastor Frederick Reimann, who had served our congregation for many years passed away. Funeral services were held at St. Johns Lutheran Church, Ludington, MI. In 1987 work was completed on the renovation project to the Church additional classroom and office space. Lutheran Brotherhood and AAL were commended for their "Matching Funds" contributions.

In 1989 the Risen Christ figure was donated by Dorothy Stieve, was mounted on the cross in the Church chancel. Work was begun on refinishing the stage in the auditorium and completed in 1990 along with painting the walls and adding new blue stage curtains. Classrooms were repainted in 1991. Members of Zion once again rallied to our nations call in the Gulf Conflict-Desert Storm.

In 1990 the Willard School bell, re-donated by Dorothy Stieve, was installed in the belfry of the Church. The bell was the first to call Zion people to worship while the School was used for 15 years by Zion worshippers (1872-1887). We now have all three former Zion bells in use: The Willard- Zion Bell of 1870, the large Bell of Zion Church and School of 1887 in the Church belfry, and the South Zion School bell installed on top of our present School. Vicar Edward Callahan served our congregation from 1990-1991. Also Bonnie Jammer began teaching at Zion in September 1990. She teaches first and second grades.

In 1991 Dennis Schmidt was installed as Zion's new principal and seventh and eighth grade teacher, Dennis and Sandra and their two sons live on Eleven Mile Road, Auburn.

In 1992 a new well was dug at a cost of approximately \$5,000 along with volunteer help.

In 1993 landscaping around the new East entrance of the Church was added. The new Behmlander Ball Field was installed.

In 1994 School lighting was replaced with energy-efficient fixtures. Church and School parking lots were resurfaced and an accelerated reading program was introduced in the School. Children read books and then take a test on what they've read, thereby promoting reading among the children. Computerization of office membership records was begun. New cooks, Margaret Tomczak and Brenda Colbeck, replaced Ruth Emerson and Pam Krause. Nutritional standards constantly change but nevertheless Zion's health inspections have always been rated as excellent. Repainting of School halls, some classrooms, and auditorium with decorative stripping was finished in the summer of 1994. Pastor Gregory Schlicker was called to be our Associate Pastor. He was installed on September 18, 1994 and a reception to welcome him and his wife Sarah and son Nicholas was held at Beaver Community Hall. They since have had another son, Eric.

New carpeting was added to several classrooms in 1995, and it was found feasible to use the Zion bandstand and grove for Church services on some Sundays during the summer months. A neighborhood canvass of surrounding twelve square miles was undertaken. New adjustable photo frames were installed in the East wing of the Church for displaying pictures of former and present Zion Pastors.

New carpeting and curtains were added in 1996 to brighten the Church undercroft. Former Zion Principal Henry Wittig was called to his eternal home. Funeral service was March 28, 1996, in Saginaw, MI. Mr. Wittig was installed as seventh and eighth grade teacher of Zion in 1984 and continued in that capacity until September 1990. (He replaced James Wanagat who moved to Quincy, IL. Diane Horning resumed the position vacated by Henry Wittig until January 1991 when student teacher, Kent L. Kern became the new seventh and eighth grade teacher. John Olson assumed the temporary principal ship during the 1990-1991 season.) A new audio system was installed in the School gymnasium. A

Young Mothers Bible Study group was begun by Sarah Schlicker. The Senior Youth Group attended San Antonio, Texas, convention and took part in a servant event to New York. Zion's Church widows were refurbished and screens added. Also symbols were inserted into the round circles in each window. The beautiful Rose window behind the organ was re-done with new woodwork and lighted to illuminate. Our Church organ received new ivories and a level keyboard. A Pre-School committee was started in preparation for a Pre-School class in 1997. A retirement service and reception was held for Pastor Leroy Westphal in appreciation and recognition of the many years of service to our congregation. Pastor Tom Wirsing delivered the sermon and Pastor Greg Schlicker the liturgy. A dinner reception was held following for Pastor, Carol and family at the Armory on Wilder Road in Bay City. Lynn Leinberger and Pam Kohn at present are very diligently working on a computerized listing of all Zion's Church membership and will have spent many hours when finished.

In 1997 a Bay City water line was installed to the Church and School. A dinner and reception was held at the School sponsored by A.A.L honoring Phyllis Vogtmann for the 30 years of service she rendered to the Church and School as Secretary. Installation and a welcome was held for Pastor Douglas Stowe, our new Associate Pastor. Stowe comes to us as a graduate of Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, MO. He was born, baptized and confirmed in Oshkosh, WI. He is married to Sue and has one son, Joshua. Our Pre-School opened with Barb Schoenherr joining the staff as Pre-School Director and Cheryl Riske as Teacher's Aide.

Each Spring grades K-4 and 5-8 alternate in performing operettas. A few of these performances include: Pied Piper, Tom Sawyer, Inn of the Golden Cheese, Cowboy on the Moon, Moses and the Freedom Fanatics, Tall Tales and Heroes and many more.

Several more farms of members have become Centennial Farms: Henry Ittner farm— 1982; George Buechler farm— 1987; John Horschig farm— 1989; Leonard Vogtmann farm — 1990; and Earl Gerstacker farm --- 1992.

#### **EXTRAS**

Zion Members ninety years old, older than ninety or not quite ninety:

Clara Datte

Otto Engerer

Hulda Gerstacker

Laura Koch

Oscar Koch

Elmer Kuch

Clara Pfannes

Carl Schalk

Martha Zimmermann

#### **Cooks:**

Ruth Emerson 1990-94

Pearl Ruediger, Helper 1990-94

Margaret Tomczak 1994-Present

Brenda Colbeck Helper 1994-Present

#### **Custodians:**

Alice Kohn 1988-89 School

Keith Koch 1989-91 School

George & Carol Sharp 1991-94 School

Gene Buechler 1991-92 Church

Debra Shufeft 1989-93 Church

Gail Sypchalski 1993-Present Church/School

#### **Secretaries:**

Phyllis Vogtmann 1967-97 (retired)

Pam Kohn 1990-Present

#### **Lawnmowing:**

Sarah Chapman

## **Update on History of Zion – 1997 – 2012**

*By Luanne Vogtmann*

The first 100 years of Zion Congregation was so eloquently written by our dear departed sister, Dorothy Stieve. A sequel page of 10 years history was added to the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary History Booklet after it was written. Now these past several years recently passed, have fallen to me, Luanne Vogtmann, to try and capture. It won't be easy to follow in her footsteps, but with God's help I will try.

Let me begin by saying the Lord has blessed Zion and our country over the years. As in the past He guided our forefathers and present generations, thru scarce times, times of war, vandalism, etc. In 1991 our troops were involved in the Persian Gulf War, many from Zion's congregation being involved, then again in 2001 terrorists attacked our shores. We have to be constantly on alert for dangers, but the Lord is with us as long as we put our trust in Him. We continue to pray for our service men and women, that God would keep them safe and that they will be able to return to their homes soon.

In 1998 Pathway Ministries was chosen as the agency to manage the "Celebrating God's Love Together" campaign with Jerry Kabat acting as chairman of the committee.

In 1999 Construction of a gym, pre-school and kindergarten classroom was started and completed. A retirement-appreciation dinner was given for Dorothy Stieve who had volunteered as a remedial teacher for 20 years.

In 2000 the first class of Stephen Ministries was installed. Stephen ministry provides care and comfort to millions of people. They are especially trained people. Stephens Leaders are: John Burke and Carolyn Zielinski. In 2001 a new roof was put on the church and a new boiler installed in the church. Diane Horning completed many years at Zion as Assistant to Principal Dennis Schmidt in the 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> classroom.

In 2002 John Olson accepted a call as Parish Assistant for Zion and Pastor Stowe accepted a call to St. Stephen's in Waterford, MI. Allen Strawn, son of Don and Carol, another of Zion's sons, was ordained in the ministry at Zion with a reception and meal. Allen and his wife Sarah then went on to serve his first congregation, Zion in Bridgeport, Nebraska.

In 2004, a building project began in two phases was dedicated. A new improved kitchen, two new classrooms, a gym to accommodate home games and a complete rearrangement of different areas of Zion School. Also a new parking area was planned. Zion called Pastor Steve Stolarczyk to be Zion's associate Pastor. Andy Diehl made crosses out of wood from the stage floor. Many "small groups" home Bible studies were begun being lead by members of the congregation.

In 2005 the Santa Store, a group of hard-working dedicated people headed by Bonnie Engelhardt, Joy Casey and Joyce Krieger do crafts and contribute money to various causes in the church, joined the Country Store in the cafeteria of the school at Smorgasbord.

Artificial Christmas wreaths for outside church were donated in memory of Leonard J. Vogtmann. Also a new church seal and road signs directing people to Zion church.

The Acorn team (Paul & Joann Satkowiak and Sheryl Jammer) along with members of Zion were involved in Thrivent/Habitat for Humanity in building houses for underprivileged people in the area. Acorn also works with supplying eye glasses to needy people

In 2006 the pavilion was completed, which was planned for and decided to build with the understanding that the congregation first raise a portion of the cost from gifts and contributions before construction

would begin. The pavilion is a welcome addition to Zion and thanks to Roy Kohn for his many hours of work in its construction. Pastor Greg Schlicker accepted a call to Owatonna, Minnesota. Zion congregation contracted the services of Rev. Robert Koeppen as Intentional Interim Pastor. Mrs. Briana Hauser was installed as new Kindergarten teacher and Mrs. Mary Ann Woods commissioned as a 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> grade instructor for a half day 3 days a week. Through efforts of Pastor Koeppen, Zion congregation took advantage of Thrivent giving. A new wall-mounted folding unit of District Maps was installed in the church basement to be used by the Elders to keep track of where members live.

E. J. Hoenicke began developing a Music program at Zion forming a Mens Choir, Ladies Choir and coordinator of all the music. Her objectives were to involve more soloists (vocal and instrumental) in special music for worship. To continue to communicate with joy and enthusiasm the gospel of our Lord so that it touches the soul and is uplifting to the listener and performer.

In 2007 Dorothy Stieve donated a new sliding picture frame constructed by Dave Fritz, for pastors' pictures, located in the East Wing of the church. She also purchased new upholstery for the pew cushions. Dave can be found most everywhere doing all kinds of jobs needing attention. Connect Program was begun at Zion, headed by Bill Kohn and Rob Krause, which focuses on the process of turning members skills and abilities into tools for loving and serving others within, through, and outside the congregation trying to help identify the unique talents and abilities of its members. In light of her stewardship to the Lord, Luanne Vogtmann was nominated for the 2007 John E. Herrmann Stewardship Award.

In 2007 Zion School was officially accredited by three different organizations: The National Lutheran School Accreditation, the Michigan District Accreditation and the Michigan Association of Non-Public Schools Accreditation. The process took 3 years to complete. Zion Lutheran Church has continued a long tradition in bringing children to their Savior. At the present time there around 130 students enrolled at Zion. The 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> grade classroom was converted into a 1<sup>st</sup> grade classroom and the Senior Member room became the 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> grade classroom.

Zion now holds Contemporary Worship Services once a month in the 10:30a.m. Service. Leaders are: Chris List, Sarah Diener, and Bill Kohn. Zion adopted the new Lutheran Service Book (LSB). Pastor Michael Buchhorn was installed as Senior Administrative Pastor of Zion on September 30, 2007.

Greta Arndt replaced Kim Egeler as Church and School Secretary. A sincere thank you to The Dow Chemical Co. for their generous donation of new office furniture in the Church/School Office. A big thank you also to Gary Koch and Bill Arndt for their investigation into finding a resource for getting the furniture. Many thanks to Gary, Bill, Andy Diehl, Dave Fritz, Bert Casey & Russ Buechler for their help. And to Greta for repainting the office.

2008 – Ms. Anna Bierce was installed as Kindergarten teacher at Zion.

Pastor Leroy and Carol Westphal celebrated 50 years in the ministry in addition to their golden wedding anniversary. We are very fortunate and thankful to Carol for continuing leading our Wednesday morning Bible Studies and also leading us in our World Relief Quilting. Pastor Leroy continues his pastoral work by assisting at Immanuel Lutheran Church in Bay City

On November 4, 2008 Michigan voters were asked to vote on "Proposal 2" in regard to embryonic stem cell research. This proposal to oppose the stem cell research was approved.

New front church doors were installed.

Feb. 9, 2008 Zion congratulated two of its daughters: Amy Raetz, 17 daughter of Rick & Tammy, was awarded the title of "Miss Auburn-Midland Outstanding Teen 2008". Amy is a Junior at Midland High and teaches Sunday School at Zion. Carly Piel 12, daughter of Brett & Laura, was awarded the title of Auburn-Midland Jr. Miss 2008. Carly is a 7<sup>th</sup> grader at Zion.

Due to Zion's financial difficulties and friction among members over the Associate Pastor it was decided to seek the services of the Michigan District of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod for their assistance in facilitating a discussion of concerns on the part of some relating to the effectiveness of Pastor Stolarczyk's ministry at Zion and reconciliation of those presently alienated from one another as a result of this matter. And that Pastor Stolarczyk seek the counsel of the Michigan District of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod as he evaluates his gifts for ministry and the context in which they might best be utilized and that a report concerning the results of this consultation be delivered to Zion's Board of Elders.

Action was taken by the Elders in solving some of the problems facing our congregation: cutting expenses: the paid music director position not be filled, the Parish Assistant position's hours be cut, and school operating expenses paid out of general fund, be paid out of the school account, and that the congregation will no longer pay the cost of the employee Accident Insurance plan effective Sept.1.

After five years of service here at Zion, Pastor Stolarczyi accepted a call to Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Caseville, Michigan. and a farewell dinner was held on April 5, 2009. Pastor Pohanka, retired pastor from St. John's, Midland, was welcomed to the position of Interim Visitation Pastor for Zion. He works between 10-12hrs/month. Stephen Ministers were asked to assist with non-communion hospital visitation. Others were asked to assist in other areas. Pastor and John Burke attended the Michigan District convention June 28-July 1.

Special thanks to LeRoy Engelhardt for his handling the tape ministry. Also thanks to JoAnn and Paul Satkowiak for fixing the wallpaper in the church. LeRoy Engelhardt and Amanda Koch have been offering their services as organists.

Painting of the church steeple was completed. The pavilion is very much used during the summer month for picnics, for concessions, reunions etc.

The Elders Zones have changed to alphabetical now so the folding panels in the basement of the church are now being used for Confirmation pictures from the beginning of our congregation to the present.

Sunday School averaging about 15 students weekly. Devotional materials are being made available to preteens and preschoolers weekly. VBS is being held in the summer between 6pm to 8:30pm beginning with a meal in the Pavilion. Kevin Rash, chairman of the Sunday School. Cheri Whalen the VBS with LeRoy & Bonnie Engelhardt having a big part of the set preparations. The summer worship schedule is Saturday evening at 7pm and Sunday morning at 9am.

The mural hanging in the cafeteria was painted and donated by Crystal Bauer from Valley Lutheran High School. An anonymous gift of \$2000 was given to use toward meeting room furnishings. The Health Dept. has given our school a good report, zero violations. Our cooks offer delicious meals.

A Mission Statement for Zion, following the adoption of our Core Values Statement. A Core value statement was adopted at the June, 2009 Voters meeting of Zion Lutheran Church. A Core value statement is designed to help articulate why we do what we do.

We are now having only one worship service on Sunday mornings at 9 A.M.

Imposition of ashes have been adopted for Ash Wednesday services. In the Bible following his sin Adam was told "for dust you are and to dust you will return" Dust or ashes became a symbol of mortality and death.

Pastor Seth Hemme accepted our call for a pastor of discipleship. Installation was held on Aug. 29, 2010. Pastor Hemme and Patty have purchased a home in Midland.

The LCMS triannual convention was held on July 11-17 in Houston, Texas. Matthew Harrison was elected as our new President . Pastor Buchhorn attended Stephens Leaders training in Dallas in July and looks forward to working with our present Stephen Leaders team on revitalizing this program

A washer and drier was donated to our school and is very useful for our cook. Playground equipment was delivered and installed Aug. 15. Many thanks to Janet Schoenbine for the money donated from the Bazaar she organized.

Wireless microphones were purchased for the church due to recent FCC rule changes. A donation of \$2,000 was made by a member towards the purchase of Furniture/changes to microphones.

The Board of Christian Day School hired a part-time music teacher, Lauren Moeller and a part-time Art teacher, Julie List for the 2010-2011 school year with the position to be paid for from school registration fees. We will re-look at options for a Spanish teacher.

With schools in the area loosing students and we have been blessed by the Lord in still surviving but looking what we should be prepared to do. We have engaged Paul Brandt to provide a Strategic Plan in Power point form for us to look at. We do have 8 different action plans. It's like the accreditation report. We have some challenges, no major upsets, but the outcome of a good positive outlook on the plan. We should not look at our school to survive these next 3 years but to thrive.

A renewal and reception for married couples was held on Feb 14, 2009 at 6pm with a chance to renew vows, cake and punch was served in the cafeteria.

A Retirement party for Mr. Olson's service here at Zion was held on Feb 22, 2009 following the 10:30 service.

The Dorothy Stieve Student Aid Fund was set up a number of years ago for members who have financial challenges in sending their children to Zion Lutheran School. Each year the fund is used to offset tuition for members who qualify for assistance. Dorothy celebrated her 90<sup>th</sup> birthday and 70<sup>th</sup> year as a teacher in Bay County. Twenty years of teaching also done at Zion serving children with special needs. Today she still finds time to volunteer her services to children at a school near her home in Bay City.

Bay Music Foundation Scholarship Competition on Feb 14<sup>th</sup> awarded Carly Peil 1<sup>st</sup> place Intermediate Vocal and Madison Diehl 1<sup>st</sup> place Intermediate Instrumental with her oboe.

Mrs. Moeller took Zion to Music Festival 2009 at Faith Bay City and 3-6 grade choir received Excellent rating and 7&8 Zion Ringers received Superior. Solo & Ensembles Jazlyn and Madison, Jalen, Megan, Elliot, Allie & Carly all received either #1 or # 2 ratings.

Pastor Buchhorn was liturgist for the Good Friday service at the Horizon Center in Saginaw on April 12, 2009. Dr. Kenneth Klaus, Lutheran Hour Speaker, was speaker for the Good Friday Service.

An Update of Rules and Regulations of Zion Lutheran Cemetery were adopted at the June 22, 2009 Voters Assembly.

Elden Kohn begins his seminary studies at Concordia Seminary in St. Louis, MO. On our Christian Education Emphasis weekend Sept 12 & 13<sup>th</sup> a door offering was received for the Pastor/Teacher College Fund to assist Elden with his seminary expenses.

Zion Lutheran School has once again been favored with a wonderful year of learning and experience. They completed a journey with the theme "Children of Eternity" and began a new year in Sept under the theme "Life of Service" The Board of Christian Day School and Faculty have continued to work at

school improvement suggested in the accreditation process. The children continue to improve their athletic skills and always show the “Beaver” spirit.

Anna Bierce, Kindergarten teacher received and accepted a divine call to teach 1<sup>st</sup> grade at Anchor Lutheran in Anchorage, Alaska. Ms Wegener returned to the Kindergarten class for the beginning of the 2009-2010 school year. Ms Jammer now teaching 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> grades for the entire day. 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> grade classroom moved into Ms Wegener’s vacated 1<sup>st</sup> grade classroom on the west side of the building. Zion graduated 8 Kindergartners and 8 eighth graders in June. The congregation has remained dedicated to the standards set by the founders of Zion to maintain a Lutheran school in Beaver Twp. for so many years.

Zion students attending Valley Lutheran High School: Kristy Brandt, Devon Roth, Nicole Egeler, Julie Behmlander, Madison Diehl, Carly Piel, Elizabeth Wegener, Emily Brandt. All are doing very well, receiving high academic achievement awards.

In Oct. 2010 Zion added a Wednesday evening service at 7pm. The message being the same as that of the previous weekend but the order of service more informal. Every second Wed will include celebration of the Lord’s Supper. Each third Wed SOAR Contemporary music group will be conducting music for the service.

ZAP- Zion Action Plan – Board of Christian Day School’s Strategic plan includes an initiative to hire an Admissions Counselor for Zion Lutheran School. A job description and timeline for implementation for the project was approved. The Board of Christian Day School began the call process for a new principal.

In March Zion hosted a dinner for all parents and children of Zion Lutheran School. The dinner was held in the gymnasium beginning at 6pm. The purpose of the dinner was to celebrate our school’s excellence and uniqueness. The dinner was prepared by Mrs. Norma Jean Koch, our school cook. The children then led families on a tour of the building.

Something new at Zion this summer was called “Childrens Church” being held during the 9am Sunday Worship Service. The goal is to provide an age appropriate lesson for small children while parents listen to the sermon. Children under age 10 who would like to attend children’s church are dismissed just prior to the sermon hymn to go to the church basement where they will have an appropriate lesson. Around time for the offering they return to their parents.

Congrats to Kaysie Morand : Her last collegiate soccer game she played for SVSU, she scored the winning goal! Julia Behmlander, Nicole Egeler and Sarah Treiber are mission candidates to Puerto Rico next Spring.

After reviewing our congregations Core values statement and other input, the following mission statement was developed: The mission of Zion Lutheran Church is to better know and show Christ’s love.

The Youth of the congregation have not been performing a Good Friday Chancel drama for the past few years, but have begun to make growing in knowledge of the Lord and following His way in life a stronger emphasis in our Youth program through the reintroduction of a Sunday morning Bible Study for youth. A Pancake/Sausage/Scrambled Eggs Breakfast was served for Easter Mar. 6, 2011. Proceeds given to Zion’s General Fund.

Ladies of Zion have been serving a Smorgasbord Dinner and Country Store for many many years, however with new guidelines from the Health Dept it is becoming more difficult to follow, plus our ladies are growing older and in need of some younger workers. We are still doing it, with hopes of younger workers taking over. A new cookbook has been published with recipes from ladies of Zion



congregation. We are still working on making quilts and layettes for World Relief. In the year 2011-354 Quilts and 235 Layettes were made. They are taken to Saginaw where they are then repacked and shipped out to needy people all over the world.

A "Cooking for Crowds" guide for safe handling of food presentation was given by Lisa Treibor, from the MSU Extension. Our ladies attended here at Zion to learn to prevent the condition during planning, purchasing, storage, preparation & service that may lead to a foodborne illness outbreak at a food event.

Ladies are now supporting the Pablo mission, after supporting Lamp for many years. Pablo Mission deals with the ministry to the Muslim people in the Detroit area. Altar flowers are now being ordered thru KJ&A (Arlene Kernstock) .

After 40 year of service and 20 years here at Zion, Mr. Dennis Schmidt announced his retirement. A retirement luncheon was held on May22, 2011 at the school gymnasium to thank him for his many years of service to Zion.

A call was extended to Mr. Kevin Meyer to be principal/teacher of 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> grade to which he accepted. Installation and welcome was held on July 10, 2011 during the 9am service.

In the absence of a permanent choir director, special thanks were given to Sarah Diehner for her leadership in directing a choir for our Thanksgiving and Christmas services this year. Also thanks to Heather Schember for her leadership of the handbell choir.

Additional thanks to Ed Etelemaki for making beautiful banners for the Advent and Lenten seasons and other banners. Lynn Leinberger also makes several banners and does a terrific job taking care of the Altar needs, cabinets for banners, organizing, scheduling and ordering things needed for the altar. Herb and Lynn are credited with making our church look especially beautiful at Christmas. Pew candles made by Pastor Leroy years ago are beautifully used at Christmas and weddings and special occasions.

A Lasagna Benefit Dinner was held for a local family in need. The Murphy family lost their home in a fire on Feb 10, 2011. Another fire also destroyed the former teacherage re-located on Carter Road owned by a Feinauer family.

Santa Store continues to supply many needs for our congregation. Grants for 2011 totaled \$4,760.00

An Old-Time Afternoon on June 12, 2011 was held at the Pavilion with a Potluck lunch and ballgame enjoyed by all. On Sunday, Spt. 18 members of Zion's 1970 and 1971 classes held a reunion at Zion's pavilion. They celebrated with a meal, tour of the school, and time to reminisce and catch-up on each others lives.

Poinsettias and Easter Lilies continue to adorn Zion's sanctuary for these holidays.

Trustees attended to repairs on our buildings etc. among them Gary Koch and Bill Arndt obtained and installed a new desk for Principal Kevin Meyer (donated by Dow Chemical Co.) painting of the narthex completed thanks to Julie List, Steve Wiedyk and Troy McKee. Brian Fowler Organ Company inspected and tuned the pipe organ in church.

Bay County Chapter of Thrivent for Lutherans Leadership Board approved 50cents on each dollar raised up to \$800 to be held for Elden Kohn on Jan 8 & 9<sup>th</sup>. Elden is in his vicarage in Minnesota this year. He has one more year at the seminary in St. Louis before he will be assigned to a congregation of his own.

At the Circuit Forum held on January 22, 2012, Chris List and Pastor Buchhorn represented Zion. At the meeting Pastor Buchhorn was elected to serve as Circuit Counselor for the next triennium.

Several members of Zion attended the Apologetics Conference held at Valley Lutheran High School on Feb 18, 2012. The presenters were: Rev. Doc. Paul Maier, Third Vice President of The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, Dr. Adam S. Francisco, a leading authority on Islam from a Christian perspective, and Rev. Dr. Robert D. Newton, President of the LCMS California-Nevada-Hawaii District. Rev. David P.E. Maier, President of the Michigan District, LCMS was welcoming pastor and gave the Morning Worship Service.

April 20 the Kindergarten thru second grade presented "Science Skits" and the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> grades presented a skit "Paul Bunyan". Zion's Preschool demonstrated songs, finger plays and routines they enjoy during classtime.

Michigan District Convention was held at Ann Arbor on June 24 –June 27. Pastor Buchhorn attended along with Leroy Engelhardt.

Clair Gerstacker built a beautiful oak cabinet for memorabilia of Zion Lutheran Church. It will be used to store formerly used communion ware, altar cloths, pictures etc. Clair has also built several racks, stands, etc for the church and show cases in the school. Herschel Williamson has also made and donated benches for use in the hall by the gymnasium. Zion is blessed with many talented people.

Sheryl Jammer went on a Most Mission Trip to Costa Rica. This is the second time she has gone there. She and her husband went two years ago. May the Lord bless and give success to the group going. In addition to overseas opportunities, mission trips are also being planned for Alaska, Louisiana, Michigan and Texas in 2012. Sheryl said it was a wonderful experience teaching sewing projects and knitting to women. Pastor Edmundo held a devotion each day before and after classes so women were able to hear God's word.

125<sup>th</sup> church anniversary Christmas ornaments were made available for purchase by the anniversary committee. Ardith Chapman took charge of ordering and selling them. Plans for the celebrating of our 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Zion (Theme: O God our help in ages past) are moving along at this time. Plans to place the old bell from the South School at the location of Zion's original church/school building, videos by Julie List of happenings throughout the years at Zion, Julie is also re-doing the entry of the church, a pictorial directory by Lifetouch, a float in the Auburn Corn Festival Parade, and finally a celebration service with Rev. David Maier, District President, followed by a congregation-wide meal following the service on Sunday, Oct 28. (No Church service on Saturday, Oct. 27). A booklet of memorials honoring former pastors, teachers, and members is also being prepared. Bill Kohn is coordinating a video/speaker system for that day for overflow at the school.

The 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration Year began on Dec---2011---- with the showing of the first video before service with Luella (Kuch)Strohpaal reminiscing about Children's Christmas eve services long ago and little Ginger List reminiscing about today. Pastor Buchhorn then led us in service commemorating our beginnings with the Lord 125 years ago. Another video on Past Easter celebrations and confirmation at Zion was shown on April 28 & 29. A third video was shown on July 21 & 22 on "Pastors" along with the dedication of the South School Bell at the site of the original church/school building, Pastor Leroy Westphal being the guest preacher for the event.

Zion made a float for the Auburn Cornfest. LeRoy Engelhardt did reconstruction on the model of our church for the parade. Many of the young people rode or walked with it along with one of our oldest members, Harold Endline. The float commemorated our 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Zion along with VBS which began sessions that evening at 6p.m with a meal for those attending.

(Note)The church on the float was originally made by Henry Kloha, who was married to Edna (Pfannes) Kloha, who was the sister of John Pfannes) The church had been used as a Christmas decoration for many years on the front lawn of Martin Pfannes. It is now stored in the grainery at the Leonard Vogtmann farm.

Elden Kohn will be back in St Louis, MO in the Fall of 2012 to finish his fourth and final year at the Seminary. He is looking forward to becoming a fulltime pastor.

A gift of \$100,000 was received from Ernie Wirsing estate to Zion and placed in the major maintenance fund. The gift was received with the condition that the gift be used for sanctuary improvements: replacing two pews in the east annex with new seating, repainting and re-wallpapering the sanctuary, chancel and narthex using the color scheme presented by the trustees, replacing all carpet on the main level of the sanctuary and the balcony, rewiring the suspended lighting in the sanctuary. The trustees will explore options for the best use of this gift in accordance with the wishes and the needs of the congregation. We thank God for Ernie's generosity and for moving Ernie to consider the needs of the church in his estate planning. Plans have been made and started with work on redecorating, repainting, carpeting, and wallpapering the interior of the church in preparation of the 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Zion.

July 27, 2012 was the last day of service for our Principal, Kevin Meyer who accepted the call of St. Stephen Lutheran Church of Horicon, WI to serve as their principal.

The Board of Christian Day School formulated an interim ministry plan for the 2012-13 School Year as follows: Mr. Schmidt returned to temporarily fill the position of principal, filling the teaching position by adding Patty Hemme and increasing Julie List's time in the classroom. Mrs. Hemme teaching Science and Mrs. List Math, Art and Social Studies. Mrs. Woods still teaching Language Arts, Mr. Schmidt teaching Algebra and computer class, Mr. Riske physical education and Mrs. Moeller music. The pastors teach confirmation. The class is set up in a modified departmentalized format.

Zion Lutheran School also needed to be looking for a Hot Lunch Cook and Helper. Norma Jean Koch and Elaine Klepser both retired from those positions. The BCDS studied the hot lunch program. With a decreased student population, the cost effectiveness of continuing with the hot lunch program as in the past would have increased the cost per meal. In addition, new regulations by the government for meals and the bureaucracy associated with keeping up with them were evaluated. During the orientation /registration parent meeting, input was gathered from parents on how they felt about the different options presented. As a result, the BCDS has contracted with St. Brigid's of Midland to deliver a hot meal to the school each day. The service began September 4. Two people were hired to help set up, warm, serve and clean in the kitchen. Mrs. Dorothy Britton and Mrs. Amy Brandt will alternate and also be available as substitutes for one another.

Beginning in the Fall the congregation will be reading "The Story" in Bible Classes, Pastor's Sunday Morning Class and Small Groups. It is the Bible as one continuing story of God and His people.

In conjunction with the 125 anniversary of Zion, brief histories of the Founders of Zion can be read on Zion's website. Interesting information can be learned about these families. Please look for this and enjoy reading.

We congratulate one of our own students of Zion Lezley Koch, daughter of Lee and Karen Koch, being fortunate to be nominated by her teacher, Mr. Ralph Riske when she was in the fifth grade, to take part in the Junior National Youth Leadership Council. She experienced many exciting things.

Church services, including two funerals, one for Viola Walter and one for Lloyd Atton were held in Zion's gym while renovations were being done in the church. The elders, trustees, along with many helpers turned the gym into a beautiful place to hold services. Some of the pieces from the old altar and stained glass windows that were removed during the last renovation had been saved and stored in Harold Endline's barn. The first wedding service to be performed in the newly renovated church was that of Katie Wirsing and Joel Herbelsheimer on Sept 28, 2012.

The fellowship team is making "Welcome to the Community" baskets to welcome and invite new people into our community and to our church.

The 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration of Zion Lutheran Church was held on October 28 with services held in the newly renovated sanctuary. The weather was cool, but sunny. About 500+ people attended the worship service and catered meal. The Rev. Dr. David Maier, President of MI District Lutheran Church serviced as guest pastor, Rev. Michael Buchhorn as liturgist, and LeRoy Engelhardt as organist. Sarah Diener directed the adult choir and Lauren Moeller, children choir, and Laura Diehl bell choir. Dr. Maier's message was "What God Began, He will Complete". Congratulative letters were read from those not present along with greetings from those present: Rev. Chadwick, Rev. Leroy Westphal, Rev. Jodi Rinas, and Rev. Greg Schlicker. Slides were shown of Confirmation Classes of By-Gone Years, along with history of Zion.

The Statistics for Zion at the 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary: Membership as of 12/31/12: 1,150. In 2012 there were: 12 Baptisms: 12 Children Confirmed and 1 Adult, 3 Children Transferred in and 6 Adults Transferred in, 2 Adults by Affirmations of faith, Losses resulting from deaths: 1 child and 17 adults. Transfers out were: 13 children and 11 adults and 6 by self exclusions.