

The History of
Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church
Marinette, Wisconsin
150 Years – 1875 - 2025

As God's Children, We Go Where Jesus Leads





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LOOKING FOR YOUR ANCESTORS?

Did you know that Zion's old records are on microfilm at the Stephenson Public Library in Marinette and also on Ancestry.com. Please contact the church office if you need help with baptismal, confirmation, marriage, death or burial records. We have a genealogist on site.

PREFACE

The great Swedish immigration to the United States began in the 1840's. From 1870 to 1903, a period of mass migration, approximately 700,000 citizens of Sweden, left their homeland to settle somewhere in "Amerika". During that period, times were hard in Sweden. The rural districts were overpopulated; therefore wages were low. There were not enough jobs for everyone who wanted to work. Crop failures resulted in food shortages. Some of the emigrants were unable to adjust to the religious conditions in their native country. In northern Sweden, many people were beginning to object to the rigid rules imposed by the state church (Lutheran) and the clergy; they did not feel the clergy were true spiritual leaders. There was political inequality, no freedom of speech, press, or assembly. These conditions contributed to Swedish immigration to America. The majority of the immigrants left their homeland because they were poor, and there was no opportunity for them to better themselves as long as they remained in Sweden.

When the people of Sweden learned of the advantages and opportunities in America, it is not surprising that they came by the thousands. Some of the emigrants that could not adjust to the religious conditions in their native land and others found their way in the new land to other churches and new ideals, but many of them treasured the spiritual heritage from their native land.

The beginning was modest. Many small groups of immigrants were served by laymen. Clergymen ordained in Sweden came later. Faithful to the Lutheran heritage, they gathered their young congregations around the Augsburg Confession, which gave the name Augustana to the Synod founded on June 5, 1860. This synod instituted plans to provide training for the ministry in the new country and congregations were soon provided with ministers who had their schooling in America and were familiar with its customs and language.

The early pioneers saw the church they had planted grow from community to community. Each local parish was looked upon as the growing edge of the church. As soon as possible, each congregation was expected to give aid and encouragement to settlers in the neighboring communities. (This is what Zion did for Bethel in Menominee.)

Founded in 1860, Augustana College and Theological Seminary, Rock Island, Illinois was the flagship educational institution of the Augustana Lutheran Synod. It was a national church body made up primarily of Swedish immigrants and their descendants. All of the pastors that served our congregation in the beginning (including Pastor Holmstrom), were educated at this institution.

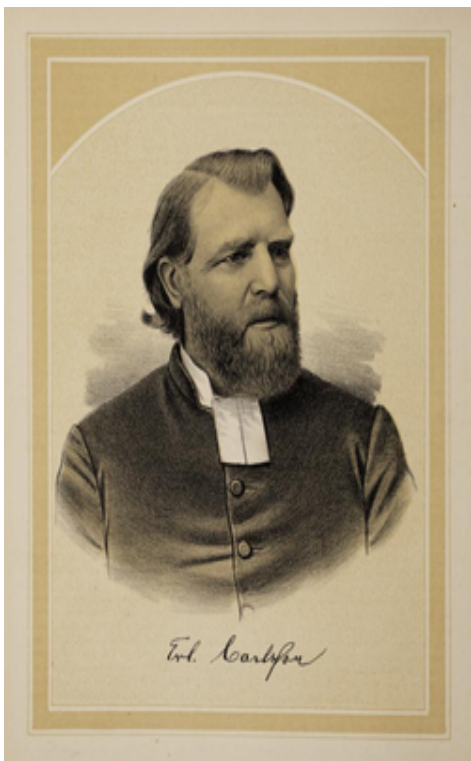
Written by George Krenos

Early History of Zion

Zion began when Pastor Erland Carlson of Chicago conducted the first service in this area by an Augustana pastor in a little schoolhouse in Menekaunee, which at that time was part of Oconto County. He made the trip to Menekaunee from Green Bay in a sailboat. On August 10, 1875, a public meeting was held at the Nils Lundquist home. According to an agreement between some Swedish Lutheran people, the following notice was publicly announced: "That we will, on the 22nd day of August 1875, at 7:30 p.m., in the Scandinavian Lutheran Church building, incorporate ourselves as a Swedish Evangelical Lutheran Church at Menekaunee, Oconto County, Wisconsin." From the record of the minutes, we learn that Pastor M.C. Ranseen from Elgin, Illinois, presided at the organizational meeting. The new congregation chose the name "Zion" and adopted the Augustana Synod's Constitution for the congregation. The first deacons were Peter Berglund, Menekaunee; P. Peterson, Marinette; and C. Peterson, Menominee. The first trustees were C.J. Ceder, Menekaunee; N.J. Nordin, Marinette; and H. Mellander, Menominee.

Rev. Erland Carlson was President of the Augustana Synod from 1881 to 1888 and the business manager of Augustana College and Seminary, Rock Island, Illinois from 1887 to 1889. He was the president of their board of directors from 1860 to 1889. He was active in organizing many congregations in the Midwest including Zion.

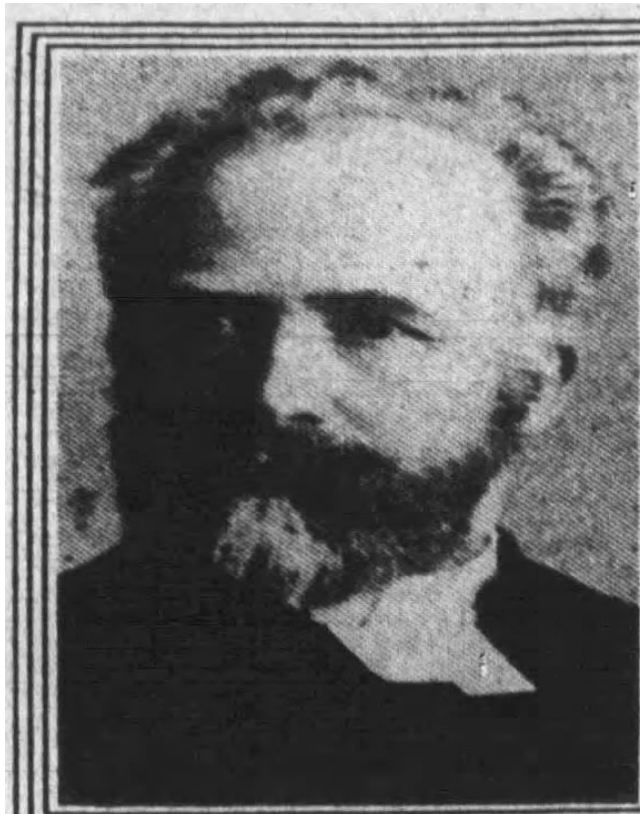
Rev. Matthew Carl Ranseen served Gethsemane Lutheran church in Chicago for 31 years. He was President of the Augustana Hospital board of directors from its beginnings in 1882.



1875

On December 6, 1875, the congregation purchased a one-half share in the Scandinavian Church building from their "Norske Broder." This was Our Savior's Lutheran Church. The total debt was \$772.11 of which Zion's share was \$386.52 to be paid by May 8, 1875.

The Rev. C.O. Olander was the first resident pastor. He was called January 2, 1876. He arrived in Menekaunee after his ordination the following June. The call was made together with Salem Lutheran congregation in Peshtigo. His salary was \$500.00. The Peshtigo congregation promised him \$100.00 and asked for his services every third Sunday.



Rev. Carl Otto Olander
Served Zion from 1876 -1878, 1892 -1896

Rev. Carl Otto Olander became a missionary in Canada and northern Minnesota. He came back for a visit in 1917 from Omaha, Nebraska to speak to the Luther League Youth Convention and to dedicate Luther Home.

1876-1877

On July 31, 1876, the Scandinavian Church building burned to the ground. A newspaper stated that "the word on the street is that it was the work of an arsonist." On August 2nd, a committee was elected to find a location for a new church building or a schoolhouse to use for at least three months for services. Subscriptions were taken for a new church building and nearly \$1,000.00 was pledged at the meeting. On August 16, Zion decided to build on a lot which was donated by the Menominee River Lumber Company. The church was to be 54' x 34' x 18'. A question arose as to whether the new church should be owned by the Swedes, Norwegians, and Danes together, or by the Swedes alone. The Swedes decided to build and own the church building by themselves. A resolution was made and passed that the building be dedicated in memory of the one hundredth anniversary of the Declaration of Independence. The building committee, elected on August 16, 1876, included Pastor Olander and the following laymen: Statin, Erickson, Ceder and Soderlind. Even though the building was not completed, the congregation gathered in the new building to hear a report of the building committee on October 11, 1876. On December 13, 1876 the building committee reported that the cost of the new church was \$1,571.46.



Zion Lutheran Church and the Parish House

1878-1891

On October 26, 1878, Rev. Olander resigned but apparently stayed on during the year 1879 as his name appears in the church minutes as the pastor. On April 9, 1880, Rev. Magnus Frykman became Zion's new pastor.



Rev. Magnus Frykman
Served Zion from 1880-1882

In May, 1882 Rev. Frykman moved to Republic, Michigan. He married Amanda Olson from Menekaunee and they had 12 children. He helped build and served the largest church in Sycamore Illinois for 23 years.

When Pastor Frykman left, Frans August Linder, a student, was called to serve the summer at \$25.00 per month and was given board. He also worked in the Peshtigo congregation. In 1883, a parsonage was built on a lot that had been given to the church. That same year, the Rev. F. A. Lindner, accepted the call as pastor. He stayed until 1886.

For several years Zion shared a Pastor with the Swedish Salem Lutheran Church in Peshtigo. The Swedish Church in Peshtigo merged with the Norwegian Church in 1972 to become Good Shepherd Lutheran Church. Pastor George Olson, who became a member of Zion at his retirement and was a brother-in-law of Pastor Holmstrom, helped organize the new congregation in Peshtigo.

Bethel Lutheran Church, Menominee, Michigan, which was founded in 1885, shared pastors with Zion from 1885-1895.



Rev. August Linder
Served Zion from 1883-1886

Rev. Linder married Alma Ahlberg from Oconto. He ended his career in 1922 as the chaplain at the Omaha Nebraska Deaconess Institute which included a hospital, nursing home, orphanage, and a school of nursing.

From 1887 to 1889, several pastors were called but did not accept. During that time, Zion was served by several different seminary students. In 1884, a parochial school was started with a teacher who was paid a salary of \$0.50 per month, per child. Pastor P.M. Lindberg was the pastor from 1889 to 1891. During this time a Young People's Society was started, and the parish house was built next to the worship center.



Rev. Peter Lindberg
Served Zion from 1889-1891

After leaving Zion, Rev. Peter Mathias Lindberg went back to teach at Augustana college. He also served at Immanuel church in Omaha, Nebraska from 1898-1906. He was married twice and had 14 children.

In 1888, "the young ladies" purchased a bell for the steeple of the church building. Inscribed on one side of this bell, in Swedish, is "Kommen, I af Jacob's Hus, Lat oss Vandra uti Herrans Ljus." The translation is: "Come, you of Jacob's household, let us wander out in the Lord's light." (*Isaiah 2:5*) On the opposite side of the bell, inscribed in English, is: "To the Swedish Lutheran Church by the young Ladies", and "Meneely and Co., West Troy, New York."



1891-1926

Pastor Anders Aldred Dahlberg served Zion and Bethel of Menominee during 1891-1892. Pastor C.O. Olander again served the congregation from 1893-1896. The church building was enlarged during this time. It was sawn in half to accommodate the addition. During this renovation it was decided to put in electric lights, a furnace, and water. The trustees were not satisfied with the painting, shingling, and siding so \$100.00 was deducted from the contractor for "poor workmanship." The building at the left of the church was called the Young People's Hall. Later it was known as the Parish Hall. The first statistics for Zion appear in the 1893 minutes and show there were "211 confirmed and 134 children, or 345 souls." In 1896 the church organist was paid \$50, and the organ pumper was paid \$20.



Rev. Anders Dahlberg
Served Zion from 1891-1892

Rev. Anders Alfred Dahlberg died in 1921 in New Sweden, Maine, after serving his last congregation starting in 1911. A beautiful headstone was erected and dedicated in loving memory by his many friends. New Sweden was a Swedish immigrant colony. Pastor Dahlberg served at the Gustaf Adolph Lutheran Church which was founded in 1871.

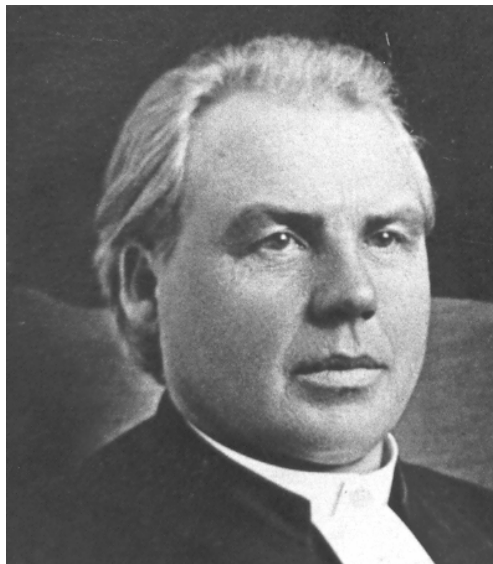
In 1897 Pastor Carl Almen succeeded Pastor Olander and served six years. A summer school was started which was held for two months. The teacher was a student, and his salary was \$2.00 for one child, \$3.00 for two or more children. He was responsible for collecting the money for his salary. While no attendance was recorded for the first year, the minutes recorded 48 children attended in 1899. In 1899 the Sunday School had 180 children and 22 teachers.

In 1902, Pastor Eric Bowman accepted the call and served until 1909. During his pastorate, a pipe organ was installed and the parsonage was rebuilt. Pastor C.J. Karl succeeded Pastor Bowman on August 1, 1909. On November 27, 1910, the 35th anniversary of Zion was celebrated. They hosted the Superior Conference in March 1912. In 1915, Pastor Karl resigned and was succeeded, by Pastor Emil Swenson who served until 1922. Pastor Karl returned in 1923 and served as Zion's pastor until 1926. In 1924, Zion had a total of 723 baptized members.



Rev. Carl Almen
Served Zion from 1897-1902

Rev. Carl Otto Theodore Almen left the ministry in 1912 after experiencing many personal challenges. He died in 1935 in Axtell, Nebraska where he was listed as a chaplain at the Bethphage Mission, a home for people with epilepsy or intellectual and developmental disabilities.



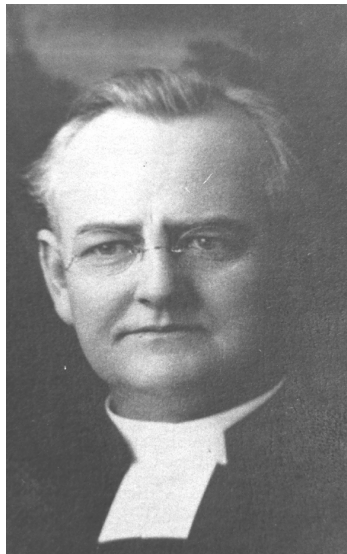
Rev. Eric Bowman
Served Zion from 1902-1909

Rev. Eric Bowman left Zion and served Swedish Lutheran churches in the New York area until his death in 1935.



Rev. Earl Swenson
Served Zion from 1915-1922

Rev. Dr. Earl Swenson served for 16 years as President of the Augustana Minnesota Conference. In 1930 he won a court case where he refused to divulge the privacy of a confession made to him as a clergyman. A man of integrity.



Rev. Carl Karl
Served Zion from 1909-1915, 1923-1926

Rev. Carl Johan Karl was one of the organizers of the Superior Conference Chaplain Home for the Aged in Marinette, Wisconsin, (Luther Home), and served as the chaplain at Bethesda Hospital from 1942-1948 in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

1926 - 1945

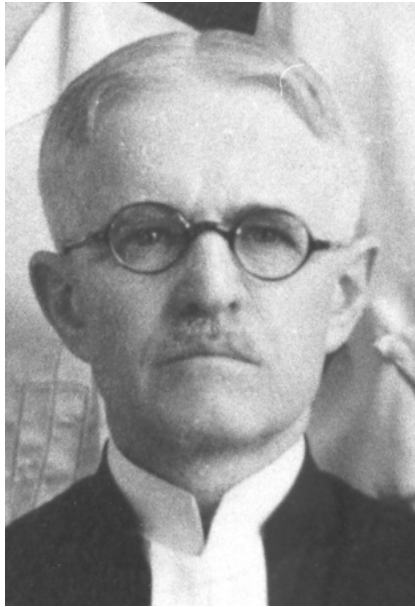
Pastor Victor Vestling was called to be Zion's pastor in 1926. His tenure was 19 years, which was the longest pastorate since Zion's beginning.

In 1929 the old church building was completely renovated so that the basement could be used for Sunday School and other meetings. In 1934 the Superior Conference was again hosted by Zion. The congregation went through trying times during the Depression years, both in numbers of members and financial condition. It wasn't until the mid-1940's that both situations started to rectify themselves. All morning services were held in English and the evening service in Swedish. The transition to all English was very slow.

The transition to English began in 1910 when the congregation offered an English service once a month at its Sunday evening service. The switch to offering English at a Sunday morning service did not occur until 1919, when one of the two services was conducted in English. Each week the service using English was rotated between the first service and the second service. During this period, Sunday School was held in English, while the confirmation ministry offered both an English option and a Swedish option. By 1928 all the morning services were held in English, while the Sunday evening services were held in Swedish. Swedish worship was still being offered on Sunday evenings in 1938 with an average of fourteen in attendance. Three different pastors served Zion while the transition from Swedish to English occurred.



Chancel and sanctuary in Terrace Ave. building



Rev. Dr. Victor Vestling
Served Zion from 1926-1945

Pastor Victor Immanuel Vestling also studied medicine and was a medical doctor from 1901-1910. His father was a Lutheran pastor. His last parish was in Crystal Lake, Illinois. He served as the statistician of the Augustana Lutheran Church from 1922-1947. He died in 1948.

1946-1961

Pastor Robert Johansson came to Zion in 1946. According to his daughter, Patsy, the parsonage was not ready, so they lived in a cottage in Pine Beach. In 1947 a new parsonage was built on Terrace Avenue. A new organ was installed in 1950, and the Superior Conference was again hosted by Zion in April of that year. In the early 1950's the parish house next to the church was sold for \$250.00 to the Order of Vasa. It was removed and this building is now known as the Labor Temple located on Hosmer Street. In 1958, Donald Boneham donated the land on which Zion's building now sits.

Zion had many groups for people to join. There were six women circles, a men's group, a group for married couples, Luther League for the youth, and a mission society. There was a senior choir, junior choir, and a men's chorus.

We have several items from the original church building that are now located in the chapel. Zion has a chair and an offering plate stand given by Reuben and Ruth Johnson in memory of their mother and father. The cross is in memory of Eric Olson by his wife and Magnhild Olson. The baptismal font is in memory of Donald Kuntz who died in Normandy France in 1944 at the age of 25.



Parsonage on Terrace Ave.

1961

On April 23, 1961, ground-breaking ceremonies were held for the construction of a parish education building at the corner of James and Paul Streets. The cornerstone was laid July 16, 1961.

1962

On January 28, 1962, services were held for the last time at the building on Terrace Avenue. The youth of the congregation presented the closing service. The first regular worship service was held in the new building on February 4, 1962. This was also the date of dedication of the parish education building. The old church on Terrace Street was then razed.

1963

Zion was host for the installation service for Pastor Mark Wickstrom as Administrator-Chaplain of the Luther Home. Zion had 138 children, 149 men, 197 women - a total of 484 members.

1964

Miss Magnhild Olson was honored at a supper on her 40th anniversary as organist of Zion. She was an excellent piano teacher. The ladies of the church made new robes for the youth choir.

1965

1965 was a memorable year for the Zion congregation. On June 6, 1965, ground was broken for the new church building on James Street. The members of the building committee were: Donald Boneham, Karl Magnuson, Forbes McDonell, George Nyman, George Traxel, and Harold Larson. On October 31, 1965, the cornerstone for the new sanctuary was laid.



From the 1965 Annual Report of Zion.

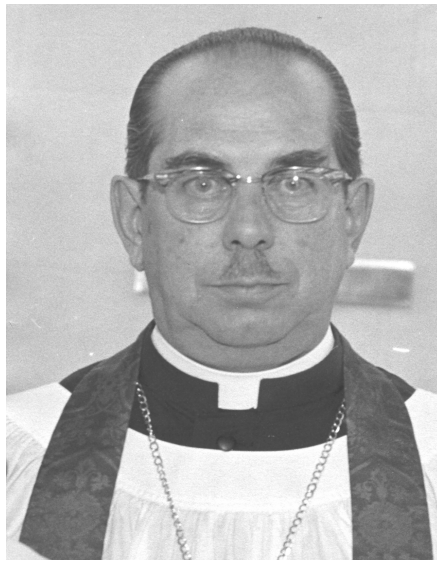
“Early in the year, one of our local insurance agents conceived the idea of having our pastor insured in the amount of \$100,000. This policy could be used as collateral for borrowing. This called for a premium of around \$7,000 per year. This agent called on Mr. Otto Nimergood and revealed his plan to him knowing that Otto was excited in having our new church built. Zion Lutheran Church was to be named beneficiary of the policy. Mr. Nimergood agreed to the plan and he himself guaranteed to pay the premium for 10 years. After 10 years, the Zion Congregation would assume the payment. On March 15th the Church Council agree to call a special meeting of the congregation which voted for the plan.”

Karl Magnuson
Vice Chairman, Church Council



East Wall of Education Wing After Explosion.

Before the cornerstone was laid, on September 25, 1965, Pastor Johansson had a heart attack at the age of 60 and died that evening. In due time the insurance agent presented the church council a check for \$50,000, another check for \$299 and assured them the other \$50,000 could be received in two weeks. On November 8, 1965, an explosion occurred at the parish education building when construction workers severed the natural gas line while digging. This explosion caused severe damage to the facility. Sunday school and worship services were temporarily held at the former Marinette County Teachers College until the sanctuary was completed and the parish education building was restored. The generosity and foresight of Otto helped this congregation through a very difficult time.



Rev. Robert Johansson
Served Zion from 1946-1965



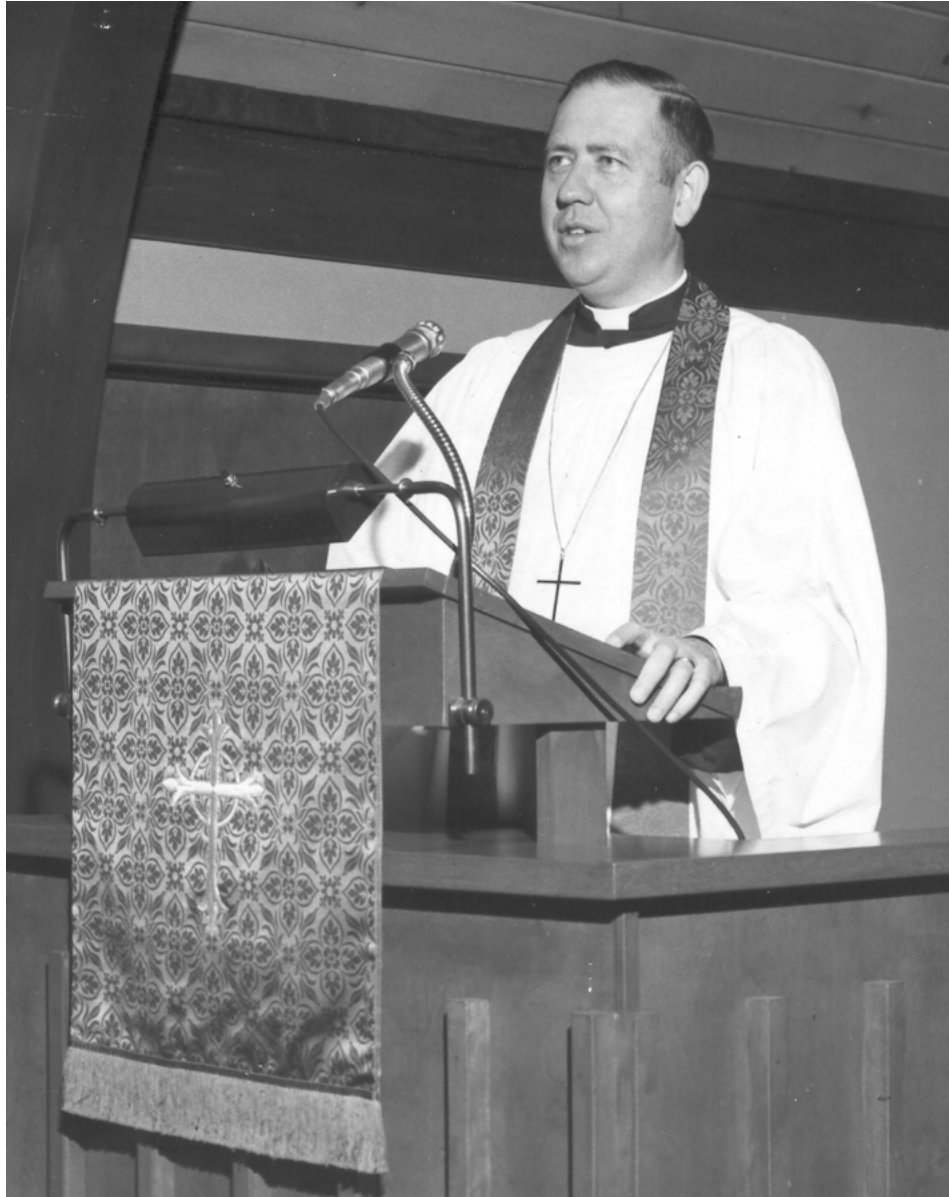
Ruth Johansson 1906-1993

Pastor Robert Yngve Johansson was a captain and chaplain in the Air Force during WWII. He was discharged on January 20, 1946 and became Zion's pastor on February 1, 1946. Pastor Johansson is buried in Forest Home Cemetery in Marinette, Wisconsin with his wife, Ruth Elizabeth (Harmon). She was a nurse at Marinette General Hospital from 1949-1978. She died in 1993. They had two daughters, Carol and Patsy. From the time of his death until the death of his wife, the congregation gave a generous stipend to Mrs. Johansson. Carol Johansson Reiter died in 2023 and was a psychiatric nurse. Patsy Johansson Mader is 90 years old and lives in St. Cloud, MN. Her husband, Robert, joined us for our Centennial Celebration in 1975.



1966

On Ash Wednesday, February 23, 1966, Pastor Paul E. Holmstrom began his pastorate at Zion.



Rev. Paul E. Holmstrom

The new sanctuary was dedicated on Easter Sunday, April 10, 1966.



Shirley Lueskow was hired as the first combination church secretary and financial secretary in March. The parish hall, which had been destroyed by an explosion, was renovated. The parsonage on Terrace Avenue was repainted inside. A public open house was held on May 22nd. In addition, a new bell tower, (using the bell from the building on Terrace Ave.), and motorized ringer system were installed and dedicated. The parking lot was expanded and paved, landscaping was done, and new furniture was purchased for the cry room, narthex, and sacristy. A new mimeograph machine was purchased for the church office. A new public address system with a phonograph was installed in the parish hall, and new paraments purchased for the pulpit and lectern.

1967

New altar brassware was purchased. The name of the congregation was placed on the front of the building in anodized aluminum lettering. Directional signs were erected at the intersection of James & Edwin and Shore Drive & Florence. Additional trees and shrubs were planted at the church and the parsonage and new carpeting installed in the living room, dining room, and office of the parsonage. The congregation prepared a colored slide and sound series entitled "All One Body" which showed the work of our church locally, nationally, and internationally. The bell tower was completed in 1967 and the bell from the old church building was hoisted into place. This bell rings every Sunday, calling people to worship. In 1968 a new stainless-steel cross was erected atop the bell tower which added the finishing touch and lights were installed to illuminate the cross and the top of the bell tower. This cross is 17 feet in height and 4 1/2 feet across its arms. This cross was a gift to the congregation in memory of Mrs. Axel Larson, given by her husband.



1968

A new two manual, 18 rank Zimmer pipe organ was ordered. A new riding mower was purchased and a new lectern was built for the chapel by Ted Sturdy. A slightly used filmstrip and slide projector were purchased by the Sunday School. A new refrigerator was purchased for the kitchen and a new floor was installed. A new garage door and fireplace doors were installed at the parsonage. A new signboard with lights was installed at the front of the congregation's property. A new folding machine was purchased for the church office along with an electric typewriter.

1969

This was the year Zion burned its mortgage. The new Zimmer pipe organ was installed and dedicated on Easter Sunday, April 6, 1969, with a special recital presented by Dr. Tom R. Harris, organ professor at Augustana College in Rock Island, Illinois. The south end of the property adjacent to the church was leveled and seeded and concrete curb and gutter and blacktop streets were installed in the vicinity of the church. A new snowblower was purchased for the church.

1970

A new parsonage was built at 908 Edwin Street. It was dedicated in November of 1970 and occupied by the pastor and his family just before Thanksgiving. The open house and dedication of the new parsonage was held on Sunday, November 1, 1970. Zion celebrated its 95th Anniversary as a congregation in August with Pastor C. Oscar Leonardson, a son of the congregation, as guest speaker. New choir robes were purchased for the Senior Choir. In April, dividers were purchased for the parish hall for additional Sunday School rooms.



Parsonage on Edwin Street

1971

The parsonage on Terrace Avenue was sold. A life size nativity set was purchased for the narthex. Roberta Krantz began assisting Shirley Lueskow with the financial duties.

The Sunday School had an enrollment of 130 pupils. The money from the sale of the parsonage on Terrace Ave. was put in a mission fund to help new and growing churches.

1972

The Children's Choir robes were purchased. An office air conditioner was purchased and installed in the pastor's office. A mimeo-machine was purchased and an addressograph machine for the church office. The storage building was constructed and exterior lighting was installed. A baby grand piano was purchased from Mr. & Mrs. James Sterett by Ernest Laabs for the church in memory of his wife, Thelma.

1973

Some additional figures were purchased for the nativity scene and a new 16mm sound movie projector. Bradley Behrendt was hired as custodian. The Marinette High School choirs, under the direction of Lucille Austin, used our sanctuary to perform the oratorio "Elijah" by Felix Mendelssohn

1974

A fireproof safe was purchased to house the church records. Shelves were installed in the work sacristy and the railing was installed in the balcony. Allard's Paint was hired to paint the overhangs on the sanctuary and chapel. Carpeting was installed in the office and family room.

1975

This was a very special year as Zion celebrated its 100th anniversary. Highlights of the centennial observance included a Memory-Night; a congregational picnic; an Anniversary Banquet; and a festive service with Holy Communion. Guest speakers who shared this event with us were Pastors Donald Berg, William Genszler, Axel Pearson, Mark Wickstrom, Robert Mader, and synod president, Robert Wilch.

The program committee chose graceful butterflies as their symbols of the resurrection, a new life in Christ, and new exciting lives as members of the 100th year old congregation. The cardboard butterflies were colored blue and yellow, favorite Swedish colors. The butterflies were hung in the west end of the sanctuary. Approximately 300 were fashioned, one for each family in the congregation, with the family name printed on each.

The theme for our centennial observance, was "Thankful for the Past, Faithful in the Present, Hopeful for The Future." Mementos in the form of historic booklets, picture postcards, and plates and tiles were made available as remembrances of this occasion.



The interior of the parish hall and the exterior trim on the parsonage were painted and new draperies were purchased for the kitchen in the church building and for some of the Sunday School rooms. New furniture was purchased for the family room and the old furniture was refurbished.

Zion was also busy making plans to help sponsor a Vietnamese refugee family along with other L.C.A. congregations in the area. Arrangements were finally completed and the Pham Chu Toan family arrived in our community in October.

During the months of October and November, the Stewardship Committee conducted a series of neighborhood gatherings to promote fellowship among members.

1976

A piano was purchased for the choir loft and a couple of additional ranks of pipes were added to the pipe organ. New paraments were purchased for the sanctuary altar and chapel altar. The ladies of the church served a dinner to the Luther College band and the Suomi College choir when they came to Marinette to perform concerts.



1977

Zion became involved in the “*Word and Witness*” Bible study and evangelism emphasis. Due to good stewardship, Zion was able to give money to the Luther Home, the Synod Benevolence fund, a mission church in Japan, World Hunger, a seminary, Fortune Lake Camp, Campus Crusade, and many other Mission in Christ appeals.

1978

The Lutheran Book of Worship, (the green hymnal) was purchased for congregational use. The Luther League was re-named Zion Youth Fellowship. The Sew for Mission women made 154 quilts, 40 layettes, 50 hospital gowns, 40 bibs and rolled bandages.

1979

Several major projects were accomplished including structural improvements on the platforms of the bell-tower, additional roof repair, the purchase of a new 16mm movie projector, and the expansion of the organ was begun. Unfortunately, snags occurred on some of these projects which delayed their completion. The weather and the painter's schedule made it impossible to complete the refinishing of the bell tower which was scheduled to be done this year. This was delayed until the next spring. Due to the fact that Ron Wahl, the organ builder, went bankrupt, negotiations with another builder were held to get the work completed.

All the pipes and other materials were delivered but the labor of installing these items and the fine craft of re-voicing some of our existing pipes still needed to be finished.

1980

Zion observed its 105th anniversary as a congregation and a dedication was held for the enlarged and improved pipe organ. Several major additions and improvements were made to the congregation's property this year. They included: refinishing of the bell tower, installation of ceiling fans in the nave of the sanctuary, installation of aluminum siding on the underside of the overhang on the west side of the parish hall, purchase of a new copier, lawn mower, and a ping pong table.

1981

This was an eventful year for Pastor Holmstrom as he participated in ordination services for two members of our congregation. Robert Kleinke was ordained into the ministerium of the L.C.A. at a service held at Zion on February 22nd. Eugene Wickman was ordained into the ministerium of the A.L.C. at a service held at our Savior's Lutheran Church of Chippewa Falls, WI. on August 23rd. In addition, William Bereza was ordained in the fall into the ministerium of the Baptist Church at services held in Minnesota.

During the year, a three-year commitment to Strength for Mission, an L.C.A. campaign, was completed exceeding our goal. This goal was more than double the requested amount from congregations of our size.

Zion was deeply involved in a synod-wide program called "Born Anew to Be Good Stewards." A leadership team which included George Schmidt, chairman, Don Neverman, Shirley Lueskow, Larry Nelson, and Oliver Thorpe worked hard to challenge all members to grow in sharing their talents and their means in and through the work of the congregation. In the spring, Zion cooperated with the other area L.C.A. churches to produce Lenten Devotional Booklets which were distributed to every member with a visit. This was very well received by the members of the congregation.

Major improvements included: the installation of a Personal P.A. system for the hard of hearing, purchase of a new Baldwin piano for the sanctuary, repair of masonry on the church building, repainting of exterior trim on the church building and parsonage, and rebuilding of the front sign.

1982

At the beginning of the year, Zion produced a pictorial directory which was completed and delivered to participants in early May. In mid-December, the first issues of "Zion News" were sent out to all members. "Zion News" in this new format replaced the quarterly letters to the congregation.

A number of physical improvements were made to the church building. New carpeting and new electric heaters were installed in the library, the Sunday School office, and the Sunday School rooms located on the north side of the parish hall. New cement approaches were installed at the main entrance and at the north entrance. A new word processor (typewriter) was purchased for the office and two new sets of paraments were purchased. The blue set for Advent was given in memory of Warren "Peanuts" Kleinke, and the white Christmas set was given in memory of Edward Stople.

1983

Nineteen-eighty-three will probably be remembered as the year of the new roof at Zion. The old roof on the parish hall was twenty years old and the flat part at the edges of the sanctuary roof was seventeen years old. The old roof had served us quite well with the exception of a few spots which seemed to be perpetual problem areas, notably the area around the fireplace in the family room and where the two buildings were joined in the narthex. The new roof was professionally installed by Walsdorf Roofing Company of Keil, Wisconsin

1984

Pastor Holmstrom made a trip to Israel. The congregation took a special offering to help him with the expense of the trip. Upon his return, Pastor gave a slide presentation for the congregation. A new adult Bible study group was started Sunday mornings, joining the group that met on Wednesdays. Sunday School continued to have classes during the school year. Vacation Bible School was held for one week this summer. Preparation for confirmation began in the eighth grade and continued through the ninth grade with sessions being held weekly on Wednesday afternoons after school.

1985

Zion celebrated its 110th anniversary as a congregation. An anniversary banquet was held on August 22nd with guest speakers Synod Bishop Harry Andersen and Rev. Robert Kleinke, a son of our congregation. On Sunday, August 25th, there was an evening indoor picnic with Pastor Cyrus Warmanen, director at Fortune Lake Bible Camp, leading worship and song. On Sunday, August 25th, Zion welcomed our first intern, Kris Linner, who was with us until August 1986.

1986

Shirley Lueskow resigned as church secretary and Paula Vieth was hired. Because of the projected merger of the L.C.A., the A.L.C. and the A.E.L.C., this was the year of the last meeting of the Wisconsin-Upper Michigan Synod, the last convention of the L.C.A., and the last meeting of many synodical committees and boards.

Rev. Kris Linner - Intern 1985-86

“Most of my career I spent as a hospice chaplain in La Crosse, WI. and the Twin Cities metro area. At the end of my career, I served as a Hospice Director for 2 different hospice programs. I also worked as a long- term care chaplain in St. Paul and Stillwater Mn. I recently retired. I am a volunteer chaplain for the Stillwater Fire Department and the Washington County Sheriff Department. I have two daughters, Greta and Tina. I am divorced. I live in Stillwater, Minnesota. I am enjoying retirement, spending time camping, kayaking, dabbling in nature photography, reading, weaving and traveling. I took a ten weeklong camping trip to celebrate my retirement in July of 2023 and camped in 21 national parks in the West. This past fall I went on a fantastic mission trip to Tanzania.”



Kris, Greta and Tina

1987

Because of the formation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, this was the year of the first meeting of our new synod which is comprised of the upper peninsula of Michigan and most of the bordering counties of Wisconsin. The first meeting of our new conference took place at Gethsemane in Wallace, MI. It was named, "The Menominee Valley Conference." The organizing convention of the new Northern Great Lakes Synod was held June 21-23 at Suomi College in Hancock, Michigan.

Pastor Holmstrom celebrated his 25th anniversary of ordination. A special recognition brunch was held for him following the service on Sunday, June 28th. A program entitled "This Is Your Life" was presented.



1988

This was the first year of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America. There was a new addition to our Midweek Lenten program in the form of soup suppers served by the young people of the Zion Youth Fellowship under the direction of Don Hruska.

Two new groups were formed: the 21-Plus Group and the 55-Plus Group. These two groups provide interesting fellowship opportunities for the younger adults and the more mature adults. In the spring, the big project was the installation of new carpeting in the sanctuary, narthex and cry room of the church.

Rev. Dr. Mark L. Yackel-Juleen - Intern 1987-88

Mark introduced Zion to the Chicago Folk Service which was used for many years as a liturgy in our services. Dr. Mark Yackel-Juleen is a 1989 graduate of Luther Northwestern Theological Seminary in St. Paul, MN and was ordained in October of that year. In 1992, he and his spouse, Margaret, founded Shalom Hill Farm, a rural ministry education and retreat center in southwestern Minnesota where he served as executive director until 2017. In 2004, he received a Doctor of Ministry degree from Luther Seminary, St. Paul, Minnesota. His research focused on factors that impact satisfaction and effectiveness for pastors serving in small town and rural settings. Mark came to Wartburg Theological Seminary in 2015 as Director for Small Town and Rural Ministry. He has served the church in various capacities over the years—missionary to Hong Kong, synodical rural ministry coordinator, internship supervisor for 15 interns, adjunct instructor to several seminaries—but his deepest roots are in small town and rural congregations which he served for 17 years. Mark has served as the Chair of the Rural Church Network of the United States and Canada as well as the President of the International Rural Churches Association. Mark has a passion for travel, especially international travel, and has been involved in rural development projects in Kwazulu-Natal in South Africa working with the ELCSA. Mark and Margaret, (also an ELCA pastor serving a small town and rural parish), have been married for 43 years and live in Elkader, Iowa. They have three children, one of whom is an ELCA pastor serving in southeastern Minnesota. Mark is currently serving as Assistant Professor for Small Town and Rural Ministry and the Director for the Center for Theology and Land at Wartburg Seminary in Dubuque Iowa.



Mark & Margaret

1989

This was the year the Men's Brotherhood disbanded. Pastor Holmstrom was elected to a two-year term as Menominee Valley Conference president.

German theological student, Stephan Liebner, and his wife, Sabine, came from Hermannsburg, Germany. Stephan was our intern during September 1989 - August 1990.

The congregation decided to serve as the chartering organization for the Cub Scouts Pack of Washington School.

A new riding lawn mower was purchased at this time with money given in memory of pastor's father, Harold Holmstrom.

Zion added a memory challenge for each age group in the Sunday School program. Example: Second graders were to memorize the Apostles Creed and the first 14 books of the Bible.



Pack 1048

Rev. Stephan Liebner - Intern 1989-90

Pastor Stephan is married and has three children. He went to the Mission Seminary in Hermannsburg Germany and was ordained in Matthäus-Kirche, Hildesheim, Germany. His internship was in Matthäus (or English Matthew), Hildesheim, Germany and Zion Lutheran Church, Marinette. Since leaving Zion, he has been the Pastor of Otse Lutheran Church (Botswana). He has done Mission Work in Otse/Botswana, Public Relations in Evangelical Lutheran Mission (Hermannsburg, Germany) – Mission Magazine, Editing Book on Mission History etc. and Fundraising in Evangelical Lutheran Mission (Hermannsburg, Germany) – on average about 1 million Euro are needed annually as donations. He enjoys collecting stamps, doing large puzzles and care work for his mother.



1990

In June, an AT Computer and a Panasonic Printer were purchased from Boreal Electronics. A computer desk was purchased and some software. This was a great asset to the church office. Also, intern Stephan Liebner was a great help to the secretary in learning the functions of the computer.

The 115th Anniversary celebration was held on October 7, 1990. Mr. Terry Peterson was the guest speaker for the services. The dinner was catered at a reasonable cost with members 75 years old and older as the special guests.

On July 1, the congregation decided to cover the soffits and overhangs of the church and chapel with the aluminum siding. The work was done by Northern Home Improvement.

This was the year the Mission 90 video series was started.

Our intern for September 1990 - August 1991 was David Anderson. David and his wife, Gayle, were very active with the youth of our church. They helped organize fund raisers to take the youth of our congregation to the National Youth Gathering in Dallas Texas.

In October, the blacktop project was completed and the striping done. A microwave and new refrigerator were purchased for the kitchen.



Front: Sarah Seppi, Jody Keller.

Middle: Kirsten Grom, Gayle Anderson, Dawn Schutt, Tina Poquette Shawn Limberg.

Back: Dave Anderson, Todd Olson, Mike Tipple, Derek Sylvester

Rev. Dave Anderson Intern 1990-91

“I served my internship at Zion in Marinette in 1990-1991. My wife, Gayle, and I have such fond memories of our time with the good people of Zion!

Since having been there:

- I graduated from Luther Northwestern Theological Seminary (now Luther) with a Master of Divinity in the Spring of 1992.
- I was ordained October 24, 1992 at Holy Cross Lutheran in Menomonee Falls, WI - my home church at the time. Several of "my" former youth from Marinette were participants in that worship service.
- I was installed the very next day as Associate Pastor at West Bend, WI, where I served until March of 1997.
- Our two children were born while we lived in West Bend. Jake is now 32 years old, and Katie is 30.
- In April, 1997, I began serving as Pastor at Salem Lutheran in Deerwood, MN. I served there for 17 years.
- In April, 2014, I began serving as Sr. Pastor at St. Andrew's Lutheran, Grand Rapids, MN, and am still there.”



Son in law Ben, daughter Katie, me, Gayle, son Jake

1991

The "Agnes Bennett Memorial Christian Education Fund" was established with a gift of \$600.00 by the Bennett family. The pastor and representatives of the Bennett family drew up some guidelines for the use of this fund. They were approved by the congregation council.

An amendment to the constitution was proposed and adopted to allow the secretary and the treasurer of the congregation to be non-members of the congregation council. It was also decided to designate a seat on the council as a youth position for a one-year term.

Forbes McDonell was honored at the Easter morning breakfast and at the 2nd service on March 31, for 32 years of faithful service as Zion treasurer. Phyllis Brown was elected to replace him.

The congregation purchased the LCIS 2000 software for the computer, which was used for the membership and financial records of the congregation. WordPerfect 5.1 word processing software was also purchased.

Zion's intern for September, 1991 – August, 1992 was Victor Samelian.

Members of the congregation purchased Bibles in memory of loved ones to be placed with the hymn books in the pews. We had a very good response to this and were able to place Bibles in all pews.

In June, a representative of Concordia Pictorial Directories Olan Mills starting taking the pictures for the church pictorial directory.

In October a new Minolta copy machine was purchased for the church office with the old copier to be used in the Sunday School office.

Zion Sunday School had 14 teachers and 107 students enrolled.

New chairs and tables were purchased for Sunday School.

Drapes and carpet were replaced in several rooms of the building.

Baptized members were 623 and confirmed members were 475

A resolution was passed to raise \$20,00 for the intern fund.

Victor Samelian - Intern 1991-92

“Grace and peace to you Zion congregants and friends,

I was amazed to hear that Zion Lutheran Church is celebrating its 150th anniversary.

I am not married. I have been dating for 3 years a woman named Tonja Myers. She has 4 kids and lives in Dayton, MN.

I went to seminary at Luther Seminary. I believe it was Luther Northwestern when I first started in 1989. I completed my Master of Divinity in 1993. I was approved by my Synodical candidacy committee. I completed my Clinical Pastoral Education at Abbott Northwestern Hospital here in Minneapolis in the Summer of 1993. I was assigned to the Eastern ND Synod with Bishop Rick Foss. After a time of reflection, I chose not to pursue ministry further despite feeling an inner call. It was a good decision for me.

Thinking I might become a professor, I started a Master of Theology track at Luther. I studied Systems theory and the work of Jurgen Habermas and his Communicative Ethics. After a year into this path, I decided a professor I would not be.

I am so utterly grateful for the time I had at Zion. A true witness giving back to the church by providing internships and thereby raising the next generation of preachers and teachers.

I am currently an employment consultant at Kaposia. I work with people with intellectual and developmental disabilities to be successful day 1 and on-going in their employment. I work with a career consultant who walks through the discovery process with each person and finds out more about them by talking to those that know them, doing skills verification, and going out into the community to look and see different possible places for employment.

I am glad to hear you have been tended to in the capable hands of Pastor Kolstad and now Pastor Kossow. I remember Pastor Schoen and his wife who played organ for the first funeral I ever did at Zion. I still have the Zion plate I was given hanging up on my wall where I live now in a small house in Minneapolis, MN.

I was a beekeeper for about 10 years, do Scandinavian flat plane woodcarving, and enjoy cooking and biking.”

**Victor Samelian and his girlfriend Tonja Myers -
Christmas 2024**



.....

1992

The pictorial directory was completed and distributed to the members of the congregation.

With the help of our intern, Victor Samelian, a Mission Planning Committee was created to develop a congregational mission statement. The following was our mission statement:

1992 Mission Statement for Zion Lutheran Church

As God's children, redeemed in Christ, empowered by the Holy Spirit, nourished by God's grace through Word and Sacrament and out of gratitude to God and in obedience to God's commission, we stand united in purpose to:

- Grow in faith through worship, prayer, and praise*
- Reach out in a caring, sharing way to serve God and all people*
- Teach God's Word and deepen our own understanding of God's plan for us*
- Give freely of the gifts God has given us*

With God's help and guidance, we strive to accomplish this with respect for our traditions and a complement to our vision for the future.

Under Victor's excellent direction, the Zion Youth group also developed a Youth Ministry Mission Statement plus additional goals for the group. The Youth purchased various pieces of sports equipment and started a lending library.

In 1992, the city of Marinette Police Department, with the assistance of local clergy, organized a volunteer police chaplaincy program. Pastor Holmstrom and Intern Victor Samelian became charter members of this group. Local pastors who participate were on call for a week at a time and were usually called for emergencies involving death or other tragedies. They were on call about once every four or five weeks. They were also invited to ride with a police officer whenever time permitted and to attend police department meetings. Other interns who participated in this chaplaincy program were Dan Ankerfelt and Scott Peterson.

The Fellowship Club disbanded, with the 21-plus group and the 55-plus group still going strong.

Zion's intern for September, 1992 – August 1993 was Dan Ankerfelt who was active with the youth. Dan worked on a special evangelism emphasis program called "Care & Share." He directed a musical with the children called "God with a Capital G."



Cast of "God with a Capital G"

Rev. Dan Ankerfelt - Intern 1992-93

“I have been married to Pastor Sally Ankerfelt since 1993 - the August of my intern year at Zion. We have three children - Joniqua, age 33, a son Elias age 27, and a daughter Jordan who is 25.

I went to Luther Seminary - 1990 – 1993 and Wartburg Seminary 1994 - 1995

I was ordained on September 24th, 1995 in my home church - Christ Lutheran in Glencoe, Minnesota

I have served at:

Saint James Lutheran Church Verona, Wisconsin 1995 - 1997

First Lutheran Church, Clear Lake, Wisconsin 1998 - 2005

Minnehaha Communion Lutheran, Minneapolis, MN 2005 - 2020

Diamond Lake Lutheran, Minneapolis, MN 2018 - 2021

Both Sally and I retired from Ministry in June of 2023. I am currently working as a piano technician/ tuner through the Piano Technician's Guild, working on pianos in homes, schools, churches, and senior living facilities around the Twin Cities metro area. I am also a part time school bus driver. Sally continues running her business - Growing Intentional Families Together (GIFT) and working with life coaching clients in various life circumstances and situations. Both of us have found these new vocations (after parish ministry) to be very rewarding and life enhancing.”



Sally, Dan, Elias and Jordan

1993

Rev. Dale Skogman, Bishop of the Northern Great Lakes Synod, visited Zion on Sunday, September 19th, preaching at the worship services and was the honored guest at a congregational dinner following the service. The ladies sold cookbooks for \$6 to raise money to redecorate the family room. The youth held a fund raiser where ugly pink flamingos were planted in the front yards of various members of the congregation.

1994

The Annual Meeting discussed a significant constitutional change. Before this time, the pastor was always designated as the president of the congregation and the Congregation Council. At this meeting a proposal was brought forward which permitted either the pastor or a lay member of the Congregation Council to be elected as the president. A special meeting on this matter was held at the 9 a.m. service on June 5th, and the amendment passed.

"Now the Feast and Celebration," a new liturgical setting, was introduced at the 10:30 a.m. service on Sunday, February 20, 1994. The books were donated by Ruth Gustafson in loving memory of her late husband, the Rev. Earl Gustafson.

This year, "Kids of the Kingdom" grades 3 - 5 became a reality. The concept came from Dawn Schutt and other senior high youth who attended the Dallas Youth Gathering. Diana Royer and Jo Schutt were the first coordinators.

The Menominee Valley Conference sponsored an opportunity for discussion of the proposed social statement of the ELCA entitled: "The Church and Human Sexuality: A Lutheran Perspective." Some of our members participated in this forum.

A new 125megabyte hard drive was purchased so that the current computer could be updated. The parish hall boiler was repaired.

In April, Zion sponsored a Stewardship Fair. There were presentations and discussions on many aspects of Christian Stewardship.

A newer and larger fireproof file cabinet was purchased for the storage of many of Zion's records and software.

The Worship & Music Committee sponsored a special family service. This was held on Sunday, November 13, 1994 at both services. The purpose of this service was to encourage families to come and worship together. These services were especially geared to the children.

Rev. Scott Peterson - Intern 1994-95

Rev. Scott Peterson was the intern at Zion from September 1, 1994 to August 31, 1995. Scott was born in St. Paul and grew up in Lindstrom, MN. He attended Augsburg College in Minneapolis, MN. for his undergraduate degree. He went to Luther Seminary in Saint Paul, MN and graduated in 1996. He was ordained on March 22, 1997 at Zion Lutheran Church in Chisago City, MN. He has served at the following churches:

1997-2000 Galata Lutheran Parish (Galata Lutheran, Devon Lutheran, Trinity Lutheran) in Galata, Montana

2002-2016 Prince of Faith Lutheran Church in Calgary, Alberta, Canada

2016-2021 Lutheran Church in the Foothills in La Cañada, Flintridge, CA

2021-present Anacortes Lutheran Church in Anacortes, WA

Some interesting facts about Scott: he and Gina were married approximately one month before beginning his internship. He holds a first -degree black belt in tae kwon do and was working as a karate instructor before moving to Marinette. He was involved in the Police Chaplain Program here in Marinette and was the first chaplain to ride along with the bike patrol.

He has one daughter, Sophie, who was born in 2003.

“Since leaving Zion as an intern, I have been serving in the church. While in California, I also had the opportunity to do some background acting on a number of television shows. Here in Anacortes, in addition to serving the church, I am also volunteering with the police and fire departments on the team from Fidalgo Chaplaincy to provide chaplaincy services to the departments and the community. Gina is working at Anacortes Family Center, a local social service agency, and working on her MSW. Sophie graduates from California Lutheran University in May, 2025. For fun we go for walks in our local forestlands (pretty much in our backyard). We also like to attend the many festivals that happen around the Pacific Northwest and head out to the San Juan Islands on the ferry.”



Scott, Gina and Sophie Peterson

1995

At the January 22nd Annual Meeting, the congregation was asked to consider a proposal to reduce the number of council members from eighteen to twelve. This change was accepted so that there would be 12 adult members and 1 youth. This change was implemented over the following 3 years.

On February 23rd, Pastor Holmstrom began his 30th year as the pastor of Zion.

This is the year Cy Warmanen retired after 20 years of service as camp executive director at Fortune Lake Lutheran Camp in Crystal Falls, Michigan. A celebration was held in his honor on March 5th in Iron Mountain.

On March 19th a Christian rock event for the junior and senior high youth from Zion and surrounding area ELCA churches was held at Zion. Activities included supper, games, and a DJ from WPFJ out of Sturgeon Bay, WI.

On Palm Sunday, April 9th, Zion sponsored another family service. The theme for this service was "THE CROSS." The hymns, responses, and sermon were geared for children.

Zion participated in the "Touch A Life Appeal" for the people served by Lutheran Social Services.

Stone was removed from around the bell tower and replaced with treated lumber. Members of the congregation purchased red geraniums for the celebration of Pentecost Sunday on June 4th. These geraniums were then planted at the base of the bell tower.

Two roasters were donated to the congregation by the Youth Group. They were purchased with some of the proceeds from the soup suppers.



On August 22nd Zion marked the 120th Anniversary of its founding as a congregation. The celebration included recognition that many faithful people have ministered in Christ's name and been ministered to because of the existence of Zion. On Sunday, August 27th, the congregation celebrated this happy occasion with a special service and catered dinner. The theme for the celebration was "Blessed by the Past - Challenged by the Future." Bishop Dale R. Skogman was the guest preacher for this event.



Pastor Holmstrom and Bishop Skogman

Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (WELCA) continued to meet monthly. Four circles: Claudia, Mariam, Ruth, and Sarah, met monthly for Bible study and fellowship. WELCA's duties included "Sew for Missions," which met twice a month to make quilts, layettes, and school, health, and sewing kits. They packed clothing for Lutheran World Relief overseas, served with altar care duties, served at funeral lunches, decorated the parish hall for special events and baked and delivered cookies to home-bound at Eastertime.

Zion began to support our NGLS companion synod, The Eastern and Coastal Diocese of the Lutheran Church of Tanzania, Africa.

1996

During the first eight months of the year, when we were without an intern, several lay members took on additional duties to help support Zion's current level of ministry. Ed Crary led the adult Sunday morning study group. Don Hruska taught one of the mid-week confirmation classes, and Ann Buscher led the Zion Youth Fellowship.

On September 1, Paula Knutson joined Zion as our eighth intern.

1997

After 31 years of faithful service Pastor Holmstrom retired. His last service was August 13th and a banquet honoring him and his wife Carol was held on September 14th. He had the longest tenure of all of Zion's pastors. Pastor Doug Schoen became our interim Pastor.

Bible school was a DAY CAMP run by counselors from Fortune Lake Camp

The World Day of Prayer was held at Zion

The Lutheran World Relief boxes were loaded in the boxcar with 278 quilts, 42 blankets, 84 layettes, 60 school kids, 40 health kits, and boxes of men's clothing, sweaters, and soap.

Rev. Paula Knutson - Intern 1996-97

Paula graduated from Luther Seminary in St. Paul MN. She was ordained at Our Saviors Lutheran church in Park River, North Dakota. One of Paula's gifts was bringing together small groups of multi-generational parishioners for fellowship. She has served churches in North Dakota and Wisconsin.



Pastor Paula Knutson



Confirmation class of 1997

Front row: Jodi Minzlaff

Second Row: Brooke Buelteman, Intern Paula Knutson, Angela Francour

Third Row: Andy Peterson, Laura Oleson, Lauren Eisenach

Fourth Row: Audrey Klenner, Brandon Laundree, Pastor Holmstrom, Justin Konyn, Ellen Aschim

Rev. Paul E. Holmstrom
Served Zion from 1966-1997

Rev. Paul E. Holmstrom, 85, of Green Bay went to his heavenly home on Tuesday, January 4, 2022. Paul was born June 2, 1936 in Joliet, Illinois to Harold and Ruby Holmstrom. He was baptized and confirmed at Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Joliet. In 1954 he graduated with honors from Joliet Township High School. In 1958 he graduated from Augustana College in Rock Island, Illinois. Paul served his pastoral internship at Augustana Lutheran Church in Detroit, Michigan. In 1962, he was ordained into the ministry of the Augustana Synod of the Lutheran Church which eventually became part of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. Paul served as a Lutheran pastor for over 35 years until his retirement in 1997. He continued his ministry as a visitation pastor after retirement. He served at Bethany Lutheran Church in Negaunee and Emanuel, Skandia, Michigan, and then Zion Lutheran Church in Marinette, Wisconsin. He also served on many boards and committees for the Northern Great Lakes Synod of the ELCA as well as for the Northland Lutheran Retirement Community. He served as chaplain for the Marinette Police Department for several years. He also participated in Marinette Kiwanis and was active in his community.

Paul was known for his calm, patient demeanor and his strong work ethic. He was deeply committed to his God, his wife, his family and his parishioners. He took life and his responsibilities seriously and led by example. He lived life with a song in his heart and loved to sing, hum, or whistle as he went about his day. He could also be seen with a twinkle in his eye and an upturned smirk, which gave window to his sense of humor.

On June 18, 1960, he married Carol P. Anderson at Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Joliet, Illinois. They shared 59 married years together until Carol preceded him in death on October 15, 2019. The joy of his life was his wife and his three daughters and their families. Marcia (Keith) Nowicki of Green Bay and son, Owen. Janet (John) Littig of Cincinnati, Ohio and children Matthew and Elise and daughter, Julie (Clint) Frerichs and children, Lela, Grant, Melina, Brita, Andrea, Eli and Emelia, of Stanton, Nebraska.



Pastor Paul and Carol Holmstrom

1998

And the Lord said, "Whom shall I send ..." Isaiah 6:8

Most of the members didn't remember the time back in 1965 that began a five month stretch without a pastor after Rev. Johansson's sudden death. It was a strange and unsettling time, but Zion kept "growing disciples." In May, nine young people affirmed their faith at the rite of confirmation, thanks to the strong leadership of the confirmation guides, led by Diana Royer and Kelly Pecard. All other church business continued "as usual" with the invaluable help of Paula Vieth, Zion's secretary.

At that time, the call process seemed like a very slow process. Several candidates were interviewed, two of them coming to a negative congregational vote. After interviewing with the council, Rev. Keith Kolstad and his family (and puppets) met with the congregation on July 9th. A "get acquainted" meeting followed a mid-week worship service that he led. The congregation accepted and embraced Pastor Keith's visions, values, and style. The vote to call Pastor Kolstad, held two weeks later, was overwhelmingly positive. Pastor Keith was installed on September 20, 1998.

The Eastern and Coastal Diocese of the Lutheran Church of Tanzania (our companion synod) sent a choir to tour throughout the synod which included a stop in Marinette.

An eternal light was placed on the wall near the altar, with candles sponsored monthly by various Zion families.

Holy Communion was made available at all regular worship services.

The Social Ministry had a dinner honoring our elderly members of the congregation.



Pastor Keith Kolstad

1999

1999 was Pastor Keith Kolstad's first full year at Zion.

A small paper slip was included in the weekly bulletin to record attendance, discover worship visitors and make prayer requests. This became a part of Zion's bulletins for many years.

Several outdoor services were held, one with a full band. Alternate liturgical settings were more frequently used. These include "Chicago Folk Service," "Now the Feast & Celebration," and "With One Voice." The Lutheran Book of Worship continued as our main source of hymns and liturgy. Liturgies developed from combined sources became possible, thanks to a new bulletin format that included the full service printed out.

Equal Exchange coffees and teas were used at Zion and offered for sale to members. This was a Lutheran World Relief program by which a fair market price is paid directly to the farmers.

A new yard sign was designed and constructed by Mike Royer and his small group confirmation class.

Soup suppers, introduced in 1988, continued as a mid-week Lenten tradition, serving approximately 100 people each week. Don Hruska continued to co-ordinate these with the confirmation students. This was a servant event for the confirmation classes. The students, along with their parents, helped with preparation of the soup, set-up, serving, and clean-up of the meals.

In October, 1999, a new ministry was initiated at Zion. *Zion Health Ministry*, under the direction of Zion's two newly trained Parish Nurses, was begun. Nora Plym and Diana Royer attended an intense training institute for nine days to prepare for their roles as Parish Nurses.

A new boiler system was installed and a fund-raising campaign was begun to pay for this major capital expense.

Zion welcomed 35 new members and 6 students were confirmed.



2000

The Congregation Council planned special activities and adopted a theme for use throughout the anniversary year. The theme ***Zion Lutheran Church: 125 years of growing disciples*** was chosen. The congregation was challenged to create meaningful outward expression of the many blessings God has given us over the years.

This challenge included the creation of 125 of **EACH** of the kits donated to Lutheran World Relief this year: 125 health kits, 125 layettes, 125 sewing kits, and 125 school kits, as well as at least 125 quilts. This goal was double/triple or more, than the usual number of kits Zion assembled in the past. The Social Ministry Committee worked together with the Sew for Missions group to help plan and guide this project. To accomplish the goal, a specific item for a specific kit type was requested each week (washcloths one week, soap the next, toothpaste another week, etc.). At first the goal appeared to be beyond reach but when the project was broken down into ongoing weekly collections, the goal was soon realized.

Other highlights of 2000 include creation of a new pictorial directory in April and the official installation of our parish nurses, Nora Plym and Diana Royer.

Three Zion youth attended the National ELCA Youth Gathering in St. Louis, MO, along with 18,000 other youth.

Zion hired Susan Heider to be our Director of Christian Education.

After several years of “Summer Day Camp,” Zion hosted an “old fashioned” Vacation Bible School for youth ages 3 through 5th grade. It was co-sponsored by the three Marinette ELCA churches.

A special anniversary service was held on August 20, 2000. The day started with a parade from our church building site on Terrace Ave. to our present site at James & Paul Streets. This was followed by a festive worship service with wonderful special music by our senior choir and a professional brass quintet. A banquet capped off the day. Special guests at the banquet included Pastor Paul & Carol Holmstrom, Bishop Tom & Luanne Skrenes and Pastor Dave & Gayle Anderson (former intern).



EagleHerald/Rick Gebhard

The Rev. Keith Kolstad, Jay Nelson, and Zack Nelson march in the front of a parade to celebrate Zion Lutheran Church's 125th anniversary. The parishioners marched

from the site of their old church on Terrace Avenue to their new church on James Street in Marinette Sunday. Bishop Tom Skrenes led the service at 10 am.

Zion Lutheran celebrates 125th anniversary

MARINETTE — Zion Lutheran Church, 2714 James St., Marinette, celebrated its 125th anniversary Sunday. The earliest roots of Zion began when the Rev. Erland Carlson, a pastor with the Augustana Synod, came by sailboat across the waters of Green Bay to a little school house in Menekaunee to conduct services. On Aug. 22, 1875, a group of Swedish Lutheran immigrants incorporated the Swedish Evangelical Lutheran Church at Menekaunee. The new congregation adopted the Augustana Synod's constitution and chose the name Zion.

In December 1875 the congregation purchased a share in the Scandinavian Church building. The Rev. C.O. Orlander was the first resident pastor. In July of 1876 this building burned to the ground. In August of 1876 Zion decided to build its own building on a lot which was donated by the Menominee River Lumber

Company. The church was built on the corner of Eighth Street and Terrace Avenue and the cost was \$1,571.46. The last service in this building was held Jan. 28, 1962.

Ground-breaking ceremonies were held for the construction of a parish education building at the corner of James and Paul Streets April 23, 1961. On June 6, 1965, ground was broken for a sanctuary on the same site. On Nov. 8, 1965, an explosion occurred at the parish education building when a natural gas line was severed. Sunday school and worship services were temporarily held at the former Marinette County Teachers College until the church building was completed and the parish education building was restored. The new sanctuary was dedicated Easter Sunday 1966. The Rev. Paul Holmstrom had just began his 31 years of service to the congregation that February. A new parsonage was built for his

family at 908 Edwin St., Marinette, in 1970.

In 1998, the Rev. Keith Kolstad was called to Zion. He has brought people many unique talents including his children sermons with puppets.

The theme chosen to celebrate the anniversary is 125 Years of Growing Disciples.

Looking back people have many memories:

- The bell tower which was built in 1967 with the original bell hoisted in to place in the tower. At night, people can see the 17-foot cross illuminated on top.

- The pipe organ and choir that helps make music an integral part of Zion's variety of services and musical settings.

- Their intern program where Zion has seminarian students for a year of training and service. They have had eight students since 1986.

- The fellowship of their Lenten soup suppers, coffee hours and meals shared together.

- The Sunday school, confirmation and youth groups of Zion.

- The grounds and additions to their church, such as the renovated adult and children libraries.

- The congregations mission project of making 125 school kits, health kits, sewing kits, layettes and many quilts to celebrate this year.

- The installation of their two parish nurses Nora Plym and Diana Royer.

- The people of Zion, who, over the years, have served their church.

If anyone would like a complete history of Zion, they may stop by and visit the church. Copies are available. The church office is open every morning or people may call 735-7898.

Services are held every Thursday at 7 p.m. and Sunday at 9 a.m. until Labor Day. The fall schedule has services every Sunday at 8 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. with Sunday School at 9:10 a.m. People are welcome to join.

2001

Bill Tipple retired as our choir director after 30 years of service. Yulia Barstow was hired as the new choir director.

Phyllis Brown retired as Zion's treasurer. John Radloff began serving as the treasurer.

In September, Nate Loer along with his wife, Audrey, began a year-long internship at Zion. Nate helped develop Zion's webpage.

A new ADA bathroom was installed in Zion's lobby, using what had been a custodial closet.

A \$50,000 project of installing new piping for our heating system took place because the heating pipes originally installed under the floor were leaking.

A storage building for lawn mowers, etc. was built.

A new sound system was installed in the worship area. This project included a mobile pod system for contemporary worship which also began once a month in the fall of this year under the direction of Bill Tipple.

The parsonage was sold to Pastor Keith and Karen Kolstad.

Zion began holding the Thursday evening worship service year-round.

2002

It was discovered that the wooden posts of the bell tower in contact with the ground were rotting and in need of repair. Special "shoes" were made for the posts to keep them dry. A special fundraiser was held to cover the costs of the repair.

The DNR stated that the culvert which contained the stream that runs through Zion's property was not legal and needed to be dug up. That project occurred during 2002.

Kindergarten screening for the Marinette Public Schools was held at Zion.

A junior choir was started.

32 new titles were added to our church library.

Zion's local Thrivent branch, (formerly Zion's AAL Branch #11495), held a spaghetti supper for a needy Zion family.

The Fall Stewardship drive was held entitled "Try one Thing." It used a "Pony Express" format to get the information to Zion's members.

Pastor Keith began his D.Min. studies in Congregational Mission and Leadership at Luther Sem.

Rev. Nathan (Nate) Loer - Intern 2001-02

“I am married to Audrey Brandt Loer.

We have four children:

**Bereket Loer (Age 23)

**Eshetu Loer (Age 20)

**Teshome Loer (Age 19)

**Amsale Loer (Age 18)

I went to seminary at Luther in St. Paul, MN, graduating in 2003.

I was ordained July of 2023 in the congregation where I grew up, Our Savior’s Lutheran Church in East Grand Forks, Minnesota. Pastor Keith Kolstad preached at the service.

I served Zion Lutheran Church in Browerville, Minnesota from 2003 - 2012 (a solo call). I have served as Lead Pastor at Immanuel Lutheran Church in Wadena, Minnesota since 2012.

I sing in the church choir and I enjoy running, biking, swimming, and golf.

In 2018 (age 42) I had open-heart surgery to replace my aortic valve. I am grateful for every day.” (Nate also uses puppets in his ministry.)



Eshetu, Nate, Audrey, Teshome, Bereket, Amsale

2003

The Council met for over four hours to discuss Zion's financial situation. Difficult decisions were made as to what to cut out of the budget and what would stay.

Eleven of Zion's high school youth and three adults went to Atlanta for the ELCA Youth Gathering.

The youth went Christmas caroling to Zion's home-bound, and local nursing homes.

The Sew for Mission ladies made bags for creating a "children's corner." The bags contained quiet books and activities that can be used during the worship service.

2004

Soup suppers continued to be very popular. In 2004, they averaged 175 people from three congregations with 40 gallons of soup produced and enjoyed. The confirmation students and parents continued to help every year.

The Harvest Dinner, sponsored by the Social Ministry Committee, continued to honor people in the congregation who were 75 or older. This year there were 23 honorees.

Two youth were sent to Youth Leadership School at Finlandia University. A significant fundraiser this year was held by the youth. It included an auction of crafts, food and gifts representing all generations of Zion.

The Stewardship Committee gathered people together at Zion in eight different evening meetings for a presentation and discussion called Pie and Prayer. All the pies were donated by Thrivent.

2005

Our confirmation classes were combined with Our Saviors and St James Lutheran churches. The three congregations met regularly to discuss ways we can combine our efforts to reach out to more people.

Limited finances continued to trouble Zion. At the Annual Meeting, \$20,000 was cut from the budget.

The ELCA published a new hymnal.

Zion's Missional Planning Group, AKA "The Blueberry Club," was formed. Their purpose was to discern what God would like Zion to be doing in the community using the unique gifts that God has entrusted to Zion.

Over 50 children attended Vacation Bible School. The theme was called Serengeti Trek.

2006

At its Annual meeting, Zion approved a budget with a \$25,000 deficit as our offerings were not showing growth, and our worship attendance was not growing. After a lengthy discernment and discussion, part of which took place during a Lenten Prayer Journey, a special congregational meeting was held on September 24th of this year. At this meeting, Zion stepped way out of its comfort zone and decided to hire a stewardship consulting firm for \$32,000 to help Zion engage in a capital campaign. We needed to raise money for our roof and ministries within and outside of our congregation. Pledges and contributions of over \$260,000 was raised by this effort.

Faith Fest, a new joint effort between Zion, Our Savior's and St. James Lutheran Churches, along with St. Paul's Episcopal Church, offered a worship service and educational opportunities for everyone from 3 years old to adults.

2007

With money raised in the capital campaign, Zion began to replace the roof, windows and doors, as well as the offering of a tithe of what was raised to the work of the larger church through our Synod. Zion also developed plans for new programming in the life of our congregation.

Lutheran Social Services used our building during 2007 for a program called Project Youth that focused on troubled and homeless teenagers.

Pastor Keith finished his studies, wrote his thesis and graduated with a Doctor of Ministry degree from the Luther Seminary. The title of his thesis was: "Discerning God's Dreams - Clarifying a Congregation's Missional Vision Through the Art of Discernment." A celebration was held recognizing Pastor Keith's accomplishment.

Susan Varius was hired as the coordinator of Faith Fest, an education program held on Wednesday evenings involving local congregations.

2008

Sarah Rabideau was hired as our volunteer coordinator.

Zion changed from two Sunday worship services to only one held at 9:30.

The narthex was given a fresh coat of paint, new furniture, light fixtures, pictures, and updated decorating. A stained-glass window was placed in the narthex. Kotecki Glass built the stained-glass panels incorporating the windows from the old building on Terrace Ave.

Volunteers were commissioned and trained to bring Holy Communion to the homebound.

Zion purchased guitar books to go with the new ELCA hymnal and several percussion instruments for contemporary worship.

2009

The Thursday evening service started to be held year-round at Northland Village. Our Savior's and St. James also participated in the leadership of this service.

The family room was remodeled, and decorations were updated.

Two adults and six youth attended the National Youth Gathering In New Orleans.

Zion continued to hold outdoor service on an occasional basis during the summer.

Zion began including the DAR Boys and Girls Club in a special campaign. The goal was to support after school programming in our community. This support was an outgrowth of the 2006 capital campaign.

A new vision statement was adopted.

Bill Retza, a Luther Seminary student, began his contextual education studies at Zion.



Outdoor Service



DAR Boys and Girls Club

VISION STATEMENT
Approved January 25, 2009

“Where there is no vision, the people perish.” (Proverbs 29:18) At Zion Lutheran Church, Marinette, Wisconsin, we believe vision is about God's dreams, desires, and aspirations of what can be. Our congregation envisions becoming a thriving, vibrant model of Lutheran ministry both within our community and the world. We envision organizing and executing God's mission through our congregation in such a way that growing numbers of the unbaptized, particularly adults, will connect with Jesus through our congregation and inactive members will return to active participation within the church community.

God has gathered and richly gifted Zion for this mission. God's greatest gift is that through the waters of Holy Baptism we become part of our Lord Jesus and, as such, become his disciples, participating in what Jesus is doing in the world today. God has also given us the precious gift of one another in order that we support and help each other grow in our discipleship.

In light of the many unique gifts that God has graciously entrusted to Zion, we envision a congregation that:

- | | |
|--------------------------|--|
| <i>PRAYS</i> | regularly and embraces prayer as being central to all that it does and habitually listens for God's call and guidance, not only in all areas of congregational ministry, but in our personal lives as well. |
| <i>WORSHIPS</i> | enthusiastically and is so hungry to praise and worship God that at least half of its baptized members are present for worship on a weekly basis. |
| <i>STUDIES</i> | the Holy Scriptures and the principles of Christian faith in order to fulfill its great desire to learn more about its calling as disciples of Jesus and the gifts that God so graciously provides. Families will regularly use materials provided for Bible study at home, and groups within the congregation will regularly gather to study the Scriptures and these principles. |
| <i>INVITES</i> | others to participate in the life of the congregation by training its members to actively encourage those who are not connected with a congregation to participate in what Jesus is doing through Zion, warmly welcoming them and enthusiastically involving them in the mission work we do together as God's children. |
| <i>ENCOURAGES</i> | and supports its members and others in the community on their faith journeys by regularly organizing groups that will foster Christian fellowship. Zion will also continually grow in the types of caring ministries offered within the congregation. |
| <i>GIVES</i> | generously of time, talents, and treasures for the work of Jesus in our community and around the world, and encourages others to be generous with their gifts as well. |
| <i>SERVES</i> | by employing innovative ways to assist children and their families in our community as well as around the world. |

This is God's vision for Zion's mission- God's dream of what “going where Jesus leads” will look like within our congregation. “And I heard the voice of the Lord saying, ‘Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?’ Then I said, ‘Here I am! Send me.’” (*Isaiah 6:8*)

William Retza Contextual Education Student 2009-2012

Bill went to the Luther Seminary in St. Paul, Minnesota and was ordained at First Evangelical Lutheran church in Iron Mountain, MI. He has 4 children; Billy 27, Michael 25, Rebekah 17, and, Karl 13. His wife Julie is a teacher.

Bill is currently the pastor of the Living Waters Lutheran Church in Pound, WI. He is a partner in Circle-R-Accounting with his son Billy and a partner in Circle -R-Farms with his son Michael. Bill was best known for his full-throated, "Alleluia!! Christ is Risen!"



2010

The council meetings begin with Dwelling in the Word where a text is read and discussed.

Zion celebrated the 25th Anniversary of his ordination.

A pictorial directory was completed and distributed.

Zion's building continued to be used by Troup 4168 of the Boy Scouts.

While Pastor Keith was on sabbatical, the offices of the pastor and the secretary were remodeled.

Zion began making recordings of the worship services using new recording equipment installed during this year. Zion also began using projection in the worship services. Bill Tipple made a beautiful desk to house the new AV equipment.



Pastor Keith spent a three-month sabbatical in Tanzania. It was an opportunity to learn about another culture while ceasing, resting, embracing and feasting; objectives of Sabbath experiences. The sabbatical renewed him in many ways. At the end of his three months his wife, Karen, joined him and they traveled the area.





2011

Thanks to the local Knights Templar, Pastor Keith was able to tour Israel and Palestine.

The SPARK Bible program was started with our elementary youth on Wednesday evenings.

Zion had a float in the Fourth of July parade and passed out leaflets for Vacation Bible School.

Zion held a Biggest Loser Community Challenge for people trying to lose weight.

Zion changed to only one Christmas Eve Service held at 8:00 p.m.

After Pastor Keith's trip to Tanzania, we learned about the effects of malaria in the daily lives of people living in Africa. The Social Ministry group hung two thousand mosquitoes from the ceiling in the sanctuary for our World Hunger drive. That effort raised \$17,326.25 for the purchase of netting to help prevent malaria.

A portable Yamaha piano was purchased in memory of Jack Anderson to use with outdoor and contemporary worship, choir and special occasions. Pastor Rick DeBenedetto built a new case for the choir folders.

New carpet was laid in the balcony and new chairs were purchased in memory of Clifford (Kip) and Agnes Larson.

A new floor was laid in the kitchen.



Pastor Keith in the Holy Land



Float in Marinette Parade

Harvest of Hope Community Garden

The Harvest of Hope Community Garden began in 2011. The first year they planted a variety of tomatoes and canned 208 pounds. Thanks to a grant from the M&M Foundation, the garden was expanded to 80 x 80 and a fence with gates was installed. Over the years, the garden was made larger, a shed was built and beautiful perennials planted around the outside perimeter. Each spring new beds are built, repairs made and vegetables, flowers, and fruits are planted. The Garden has several purposes: providing space for those wanting to raise vegetables or flowers for their own use, growing produce for local food pantries and providing educational opportunities as the gardeners share their knowledge and experiences. Water is available. Pesticides and herbicides are not allowed. Compost material is obtained each year to improve the soil.



2012

The Menominee Valley Conference Lay School for Mission was started and held at Emmanuel Lutheran in Menominee. These classes were attended by lay people from the local area.

Linda Forray began her year-long internship this year.

Pam Lund finished the task of reviewing and organizing Zion's Memorial Fund.

The Relay for Life team raised \$2,671.49 for cancer prevention and research.

Zion purchased 180 of the ELW hymnals and 36 SPARK Children's Bibles to be placed in the pews.

Linda Forray created and executed a proposal for children to take Holy Communion starting in the Second grade. For many years this opportunity for Holy Communion was offered in Fifth grade.

Eight youth and two adults attend the ELCA National Youth Gathering In New Orleans.



Baptism of Presley Schroeder. For many years, each child received a small banner to take home. These were made by Rosalie Settersten.

Rev. Linda L. Forray - Intern 2012-13

Linda went to Wartburg Theological Seminary in Dubuque, Iowa. She was ordained at Gethsemane Lutheran Church in Wallace MI. She has served at: Gethsemane Lutheran Church, Bethany Lutheran Church in Norway, MI, and Calvary Lutheran Church in Quinnesec, MI. She was the last pastor to serve at St James Lutheran Church Marinette, WI. She has been the pastor for the past eight years at Peace United Church of Christ UCC in Marinette, WI, and is also working part time at Northland Lutheran Retirement Community as a Chaplain. She married Andy Forray in 1999 and has three children: Trisha, Gina and Ted. Andy retired from farming and they like to travel in their newly purchased motor home. When she was at Zion, she conducted a series of Bible study classes that focused on the parables. She was instrumental in changing our First Communion from fifth grade to second grade.



Linda & Andy

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2013

Custodian Fran Lebeck retired after 16 years of service. A new group of men called the Git R Done group was formed to help with property needs.

A new service called “The Sunday Evening Service of Reflection Service,” based upon Dwelling in the Word, was started.

Another Lenten Prayer Journey, originally held in 2006, was held during the season. It was based upon dwelling in the Word.

The office administrator and financial secretary had their hours cut back, and the position of communications coordinator was eliminated.

The Dave Ramsey Financial Peace University course began to be offered.

The council purged over 90 inactive people from the rolls.

Zion once again participated in the Relay for Life raising money for cancer research.

We had another Biggest Loser Challenge, and the group lost a total of over 100 pounds.

A well was dug for watering the community garden.

The Evangelism Committee redecorated and resupplied the cry room.

Round tables were purchased for the fellowship hall.

Zion raised \$4,660 for ELCA World Hunger.

The Stewardship Committee created binders with pictures and personal testimonies from Zion members to use in their Stewardship drive.

The Diane Tipple Memorial Fund purchased supplies needed to go with our new hymnals and equipment for the contemporary band.

Zion began to serve gluten-free wafers during communion.



Pastor Ralph Bachman celebrated his 60th anniversary of his ordination.
Pictured is Pastor George Olson, Pastor Keith Kolstad, Bishop Tom Skrenes
surrounding Pastor Ralph Bachman

2014

Don and Julie Otto led a worship service at the Renaissance Assisted Living Facility once a month.

The Evangelism committee created a Hospitality Video.

Zion paid off its \$175,000 debt for roofing and windows in only 7 years.

Zion youth held a Penny Carnival with the proceeds given to the Relay for Life for Cancer. Zion Youth raised \$2,500 at the Waterfront Festival and donated 10 percent profits to the Harbors Charity at Marinette Middle School.

Children ministry information cards were put in the children's bible in the pews.

The group, Sanctuary Arts, began in 2014. Its goals were to consider how the worship experience could be enhanced through color, decorating and design. They removed the greenery by the altar, sorted through all the banners, labeled the paraments and they decorate the sanctuary throughout the year.



Christmas Eve Worship



2015

Zion hosted one of the Menominee Valley Conference Educational Events.

Thanks to a large inheritance given to Zion by Rodger and Mildred Utke, our Mission Endowment Fund began and a new committee was formed. A considerable amount of time and effort was spent working on how to increase awareness and understanding of the fund to the church and community. The monies were invested in the ELCA Pooled Trust fund. Each year the fund distributions are divided among the ELCA, projects for our congregation and projects for nonprofit groups in the community.

The Five Wishes Workshop was offered twice by Chaplain Pastor Craig Mansur.

Zion's lighting fixtures were updated throughout the building as well as a few areas outside.

Hooks and Needles began making projects for Warmth for Warriors.

Zion's youth once again attended the ELCA National Youth Gathering in Detroit.

Pastor Keith celebrated the 30th anniversary of his ordination.

A new worship service began in September on Wednesday evenings before the educational programs started. It was designed for families but was open to all.

Zion's Jolly Times game group began meeting twice each month.

Chairs were purchased for the fellowship hall.

A Fellowship Committee was formed and helped guide the celebrations of Zion's 140th anniversary with a picnic.

A new light was installed and a mural was painted in the main entryway.

The narthex was painted and received new furniture.

Pastor Rick DeBenedetto built a kiosk for posting ministry information.

New wreaths were purchased.

Zion provided 5 full and 3 partial summer camp scholarships to Fortune Lake and we raised money for the camp's new tree houses.

The Evangelism Committee organized name tags.

2016

The Sunday evening Service of Reflection was dropped. Attendance at church is again down from the previous year.

Our building was used by the Ecumenical Bible Study for Adults with Special Needs, Boy and Girl Scouts, Kiwanis Club, Salvation Army and the Marinette School District.

Pastor Keith took a sabbatical in April, May, and June. The theme was “How Much is Enough? A Spiritual Journey Exploring the Parameters of Materialism.”

Zion’s constitution was updated and approved by the congregation with the changes mandated by the ELCA.

The seven bathrooms in the church were renovated. The parking lot was repaired. The lighting project was finished and bifold doors and new counter tops were placed in in various locations.

God’s Work our Hands Sunday was held again with other ELCA Lutheran Churches. Hygiene kits were put together to be used at the Marinette and Menominee High Schools.

The Mission Endowment Committee was able to distribute its first funds. Five thousand dollars was distributed to the M&M Foundation, ELCA Campaign and Zion’s Scholarship program for Fortune Lake Camp.

The Stewardship Corner continued to be published in the monthly newsletter. This was the fourth year Karen Sylvester wrote these articles.

Pastor Keith and Karen, along with our Northern Great Lakes Synod, hosted Reverend Stephanie Franz from Germany during the months of March – May.



2017

Zion began broadcasting worship services live through Facebook.

Bible study classes continue to be offered on Wednesday evenings at Zion and Tuesday mornings at St. James.

The 500th Anniversary of the Reformation was celebrated at a Conference-wide event hosted by Zion on October 8. The event included a special worship service, a guest lecture, a mass choir and a picnic with bratwurst and all the fixings.

In addition to his duties at Zion, Pastor Keith Kolstad became the interim pastor at St. James.

Melissa Gannigan was hired as our new office administrator when Paula Vieth retired after 30 years of service.

The Red Cross began using our building once again for blood drives.



The sanctuary was remodeled with new carpeting. The communion rails were removed, and a platform was built by Randy Schroeder. The pews were installed in a new configuration and 4 shortened pews were added that provide space for walkers and wheelchairs. New pew cushions were installed. A system was installed to help those with hearing aids. Pastor Rick DeBenedetto built a new altar and two kneelers in memory of his wife, Ellice.



2018

Facebook has a range of 4 - 10 viewers a week watching the service live and 100-300 after the service is posted.

The walls and ceiling of the social hall were painted, and the floors were stripped and waxed. The kitchen was thoroughly cleaned, and all the kitchen cupboards were updated.

Giving grew by 4% with 421 baptized members.

The Hooks and Needles Group crocheted and knitted wool caps, lap robes for those in the nursing homes, along with prayer shawls and sensory muffs and mats for dementia patients.

The Ken and Thea Swenson Youth Fund was established with a gift of \$25,000.

In July, 9 youth and 3 adults traveled to Houston, Texas, for the National Youth Gathering. At Christmas, the youth baked cookies which were delivered during Christmas caroling. One Sunday each month the youth participate in worship as ushers, greeters, readers, etc.



2019

Like many churches in the area and nationwide, worship attendance continues to decline.

Pastor Keith sent out hand written cards to each member on their baptismal birthdays.

Zion paid off the loan for the carpeting and sanctuary updating project.

Food was collected for the homeless high school students and families in our community.

Zion's council held their monthly meetings at several different places in the community, including the High School, a local bank, DAR Boys and Girls Club, Luther Home, etc.

Sew for Missions made 144 quilts in honor of Zion's 144th anniversary.



Honoring our 2019 Graduates

Bishop Elizabeth A. Eaton was reelected to serve a second six-year term as our ELCA presiding bishop.



2020 COVID – ENTERING THE WILDERNESS

We began the year with a concert by Jason Gray, a contemporary artist, who performed at Zion. This concert was open to the public.

Due to the pandemic, worship at Zion changed drastically. We were one of the few local churches equipped to immediately livestream our services on Facebook. Making sure safe distances were maintained, Pastor was in the pulpit, Ann Buscher was at the piano or organ and the AV team on broadcast. We used videos of past performances of the choir or people performing special musical selections to incorporate into the worship services.

We started offering Holy Communion in a safe manner in June.

In July we offered an every-other-week opportunity to worship outside which was also livestreamed. Thanks to our great AV team and equipment, we were live on Facebook every week till October and joined by people from all over the country. A new WI-FI system was installed in order to reach people out in the parking lot.

SPARK and confirmation classes were held using Zoom.

SPARK students were given prepared packets with art materials and activities, a copy of the lesson plan and a family worksheet.

Advent bags were made and distributed to each family to keep us connected with each other. They were so popular we did them again for Easter in 2021.

All the curtains were fixed throughout the building. Pastor's office was moved next door and the finance office moved into the pastor's former office. Pastor's new office received fresh paint, new carpeting, blinds and a beautiful stained-glass window in the door. All the closets, rooms, and shed were cleaned, organized and decluttered. Painting was done in several areas.

JASON GRAY CONCERT - JANUARY 26, 2020



2021

Led out of the Wilderness!

In May we began in-person worship.

It took a long time for our attendance to rebound after COVID, due to people watching at home on Facebook at their convenience or spending time with family because of the pandemic.

A new Yamaha Piano and dolly was purchased.

Members of Zion went Christmas caroling to our homebound member

2022

Due to Zion's membership numbers declining, we voted at the Annual Meeting to have our council consist of nine members instead of 12 plus a youth member.

Pastor Keith Kolstad announced his retirement in February. On May 22nd, a service with a large choir, brass and organ celebrated his last Sunday followed by a banquet. Participates received a booklet on the life of Pastor Keith. Pastor received a stained-glass window based on Zion's logo "Going Where Jesus Leads" and a large check was given to enable Pastor and Karen to pursue a trip to the Holy Land.

Pastor Doug Schoen became Zion's quarter-time interim pastor.

The congregation voted to replace the boiler system and fix the bell. The new boiler system cost over \$65,000.

A safety and security task force were formed to address the needs of the congregation. We updated our building layout maps for the Marinette Fire and Police Departments. We changed the keys for all doors of the building.



Dinner in honor of Pastor Kolstad



Rev. Dr. Keith Alan Kolstad
Served Zion from 1998-2022

Pastor Keith was baptized, confirmed, and married at St. Luke's Lutheran in Waukesha, WI. He experienced his first whispers to ordained ministry in Jr. High and High School, due in part to the activities offered by the youth ministry of St. Luke's. His wife, Karen (Jamieson), also grew up as a member of St. Luke's. They graduated from Carthage College – Keith with a degree in music and Karen with a degree in elementary and special education – and were married in 1981. Keith attended seminary at the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago, graduating in 1985. He did clinical pastoral education at Rush-Presbyterian-St. Luke's Hospital in Chicago. His internship was spent at St. John's in Rock Island, IL. Both their children, Jacob and Jacqueline, were born while he attended seminary. Pastor Keith's ordination took place at the Synod Assembly for the Wisconsin Upper Michigan Synod of the LCA, at Carthage College on June 7, 1985. His first parish was Emanuel in Skandia, MI, and First in Trenary, MI. During this call, Karen began working in the Synod office. In January of 1996, Keith was called to be the associate pastor of Messiah in Marquette, MI. After almost 24 years of ministry with the people of Zion, he retired at the end of April 2022. Presently, Keith is employed as a part-time chaplain at Northland Lutheran Retirement Community in Marinette. He has been active in Kiwanis since his time in Marquette. With Kiwanis of Marinette, he performed in the Kiwanis Kapers. Starting in 2009, he helped write and produce these performances. Keith and Karen are blessed with two grandchildren, Morgan and Reid.

Pastor Keith was known for his use of puppets in children's sermons, his beautiful singing voice, and inspiring sermons. He was always looking for ways to continue his education through classes and reading. He challenged the congregation. He helped committees develop new ideas and emphasized mission to the community. He was talented with teaching confirmation and working with children. He guided Zion to a new logo and mission statement, instructed 2 interns, and supported the work of Fortune Lake Lutheran Camp. He loves to camp, fish, garden and spend time with his grandchildren.





Keith and Karen in the Holy Land



**Jessy Haid, Karen and Keith Kolstad. Amie and Jake Kolstad,
Reid, Morgan, and Jackie Kolstad Haid.**

Rev. Doug and Marilyn Schoen



This was the second time that Pastor Schoen was our interim pastor. In 1997 he served our congregation after Pastor Holmstrom retired. In 2022 he served our congregation for 2 years and 8 months while we waited for a new pastor. Though his job was not listed as full time he gave countless hours to Zion during this period including preaching, visiting the sick, singing in the Christmas choir and contemporary worship band, teaching confirmation, and attending many committee meetings. He helped the transition team and call committee through this long process. In the past his wife Marilyn has been our choir director and organist. She continues to play organ at many churches in the area. A special coffee hour and gifts were given to them on December 29th, 2024.

Zion's Contemporary Worship Band

Our Contemporary Worship Band began in 2001 under the direction of Bill Tipple. The contemporary service is held once a month with a blending of contemporary songs and familiar hymns, guitars, piano, drums and singers have made this a very popular service at Zion. Bill picks out all the music and arranges for the musicians to practice. Setting up and taking down all the equipment is a huge task. He built a cupboard to hold all the microphones, cords etc. One of the favorite parts of the service is the way we sing the Lord's Prayer as a call and response.



The band in 2023

2023

Pastor Schoen and the Transition Team began filling out the Ministry Site Profile detailing congregational statistics, community statistics, community demographics, ministry opportunities at Zion & the surrounding community and the skills and values we are looking for in the next pastor who will be called to serve Zion. Bishop Finegan used this document to inform and attract candidates who best match our profile.

Henry Zuehls, a junior at Menominee High School, attended the National Youth Gathering. He also spent 2 weeks at Fortune Lake Camp for counselor training.

2024

A new outdoor sign was put up on the congregation's property.

The AV equipment was updated, along with the sound system. A new screen was purchased and installed.

It was sad to see St. James Lutheran Church close its doors. Zion warmly welcomed some of the former members of St. James to worship.

The Mission Endowment Committee distributed \$7,600 in grant money.

A memorial gift and donations were given to fix and update the bell system at a cost of approximately \$30,000. We hope repairs will be complete and that it will be operating in celebration of the 150th anniversary.

New Christmas trees were purchased for the sanctuary.



Zion was without a full-time pastor for 2 years and 6 months. On November 3rd we voted to call Pastor Amanda Kossow as our new pastor. She began serving Zion on January 5th, 2025. Welcome Pastor Amanda!

Rev. Amanda Kossow

Pastor Amanda was born in Gladstone Michigan. She attended Wartburg Theological Seminary and was ordained at First Lutheran Church Gladstone, Michigan.

She served at Messiah Lutheran in Marquette, Michigan and Trinity Lutheran in Cass Lake, Minnesota. She has several cats and likes to kayak, hike, snowshoe, read, crochet, do puzzles and spend time with family and friends.



Pastor Amanda front row left with Bishop Katherine Finegan.

MINISTRIES OF ZION

A BRIEF HISTORY OF ZION SUNDAY SCHOOL

Zion Lutheran Church, was built in the 1870's at the corner of Terrace Avenue & 8th Street, Marinette, Oconto County, WI. In 1884 it started a parochial school. In 1895 Zion had 180 children enrolled in its Sunday School.

The building at the left of the church was built in the 1890's and was called the Young People's Hall. Later it became known as the Parish Hall.

In 1929, the building was renovated so that the basement could be used for Sunday School and other meetings.

In the early 1950's the Parish Hall was sold to the Order of Vasa for the sum of \$250.00. It was moved to the location on Hosmer Street, where it still is being used by labor unions and known as the Labor Temple.

This church building was razed in 1962 after the dedication of the new church at the corner of James & Paul Streets. The education unit was dedicated on February 4, 1962. In November of 1965 an explosion caused damage to the building. On Sunday, April 10, 1966, dedication of the restored education unit and completion of the new church took place.

Although there are no formal records, it is known that in 1880 a Swede School began in May, after the public school recessed for the summer. In the beginning, we had a student pastor teaching. The idea was to give the children spelling and grammar lessons during the summer months. The first teacher's pay was in the form of gifts from parents and others who were interested. Later fees were set; 75 cents for one pupil; \$ 1.35 for two; \$.50 for three; and the rest of the family went free. Interest was high at first, but the school was discontinued after some time.

The earliest records for our Sunday School are dated 1890 with heading "Journal for The Swedish Evangelical Lutheran Zion Congregation Sunday School". All data appears in the Swedish language. The oldest birthday recorded is 1870, with ages from 6 - 20 years. Addresses of many of the members are given as Menekaunee, WI. In the years that followed, two sessions were conducted; one in the Swedish language, the other in English. Classes in Swedish were discontinued around 1920.

It was believed that when a child was baptized, a connection should be established between him or her and the church. For this purpose, Zion had the Cradle Roll. All children under four years of age had a place on this roll. The superintendent of this division kept in touch with every child and remembered each with a visit and a card on his or her birthday. Upon the consent of the parents, this child was enrolled in our Sunday School. This practice continued for many years.

In the early years of the Luther Home on Pine Beach Road, Marinette, our Sunday School raised \$ 124.57. This was the greatest amount given by a Sunday School in the Superior Conference during the year 1916.

The Christmas program which highlighted the season was performed on a high platform in the church put up for the event. This was somewhat frightening for our younger children. The earliest date recorded for confirmation was 1884, although we know there were earlier classes.

Many years ago, as an incentive to attend Sunday School regularly, an award of a week's stay at a nearby cottage during the summer months, was given for perfect attendance. Members of Zion congregation offered their cottages. The Pine Beach area was generally the one visited.

By the 1980's intermediate and primary classes met Sundays during the school year. Vacation Bible School was held for one week following dismissal of the public schools. Preparation for Confirmation began in the eighth grade and continued through the ninth; sessions were held weekly on Wednesday afternoons after school.

Gradually, as more extra-curricular activities were held at the high school following regular school hours, it became more and more difficult to hold classes for 9th graders on Wednesday afternoons. Therefore, in the mid-eighties, a shift was made so that 7th and 8th graders began to come after school on Wednesdays for confirmation classes. This schedule was followed for many years and Zion offered Sunday School classes for children from age 3 through 9th grade. Youth were confirmed in the spring of the year as they concluded their 9th grade education.

In the fall of 1995, fresh, new, and exciting material was introduced. The material for age 3 - 6 grade was called "Good News Explorers" and the material for the 7th, 8th, and 9th graders was called "Living In Grace".

In 2001 Kingdom Come was started as our Sunday School program. 52 children were enrolled. Confirmation was changed to include 6th- 8th grade.

In 2007 Faith Fest was formed. It was a ministry of six area church that provided a Wednesday night educational opportunity for people of all ages.

In 2011 Faith Fest was dissolved and a new program called Spark began at Zion.

Zion has a children's library in the fellowship hall.

Christian Education at Zion Today

Zion have used the SPARK program since 2011. At age 3, each child receives a SPARK story picture Bible. There is a Spark Bible and a NRSV Bible in each pew in the sanctuary. Zion uses the 3 Year Common Lectionary for its readings in worship. One text from each Sunday of the school year is available in the SPARK Bible. When a child comes to education class on Wednesday night, this SPARK Bible is used enabling them to hear a story that goes with one of the texts for that upcoming Sunday. The SPARK program for 3-5 graders uses a NRSV of the SPARK Bible. This gives the children an introduction to the Word of God.

Confirmation is grades 6-8 and they use the Here we Stand Lutheran Study Bible. Children are confirmed on Reformation Sunday in their freshman year. They write a faith statement and read it to the council. They choose a special Bible verse that is spoken at their confirmation. The confirmands receive an ELW hymnal, a cross from Thrivent, and their certificate. It is a very special Sunday in the life of Zion.

Currently we have youth events for 6th-12th graders that include all the area ELCA churches. Stephanie Ehle from Bethel Lutheran Church in Menominee plans the events. She has been active in Fortune Lake Lutheran Camp and the current Youth Representative Coordinator for the Northern Great Lakes Synod. The children have fun activities and service projects. Due to the decline of children active in their congregations, Vacation Bible School has been a collaborative effort of many local churches including Presbyterian, ELCA, Methodist, and the United Church of Christ.

Currently, Zion has 12 youth in grades 6th-12th and 10 youth in the preschool and elementary age group. There are other youth that are members that are not active or live out of town. Our congregation is spread over many small towns from Stephenson, Michigan to Lena, WI. Sports, transportation, and family commitments make it difficult for them to participate in our education program which is held Wednesday evenings.

Dave Anderson, our intern in 1990, organized our youth and went to the ELCA National Youth Gathering in Texas. Since then, we have sent youth to every National Youth Convention.

Recently we have had Vacation Bible school in the evenings, starting with a family supper. Story time, crafts, games, and music are incorporated into the theme of the year.



Our SPARK children singing during a church service.



Ready for the Christmas program



Flying High with Jesus Bible School at the Menominee airport in 2012

SEW FOR MISSIONS

The Sew for Mission ladies have a rich history at Zion. This group has been sewing for over 100 years. They have made quilts, layettes, health kits, sewing kits, school kits, hospital gowns, bibs, choir robes, curtains, rolled bandages, and so much for our church, community, and Lutheran World Relief. Each October items are boxed up and loaded into a box car to ship all over the world. It has been a tradition for our youth to help load the box car.



Blessing of the Quilts



Sew For Mission 2025



Jack Heimbuch packing up our quilts

STEWARDSHIP & GENEROSITY

Our Stewardship and Generosity Committee is very active at Zion. The goal at Zion's stewardship ministry is to help God's people grow in their relationship with Jesus through the use of their time, talent, and finances that God has entrusted to them. Temple talks, binders that went from door to door, monthly articles in the newsletter, and emphasis each month on one of the seven marks of discipleship found in our vision statement were many of the creative ways the Stewardship Committee conducted their stewardship drives each year. They would choose a theme and decide on unique ways of bringing their message to life.

SOCIAL MINISTRY TEAM

The Social Ministry Team has been active for many years at Zion.

They have donated to NEWCAP, the Local Animal Shelter, Dorothy's Haven of Hope Homeless Shelter and the Rainbow House.

They have collected school supplies, sold equal exchange coffees and teas for Lutheran World Relief, and put on the harvest dinner each year to honor the elderly of our church.

They collect food and hygiene items for the local food pantries and our school district.

They have participated in God's Work Our Hands Sundays.

They sponsor names on the Angel Tree for the Salvation Army so local children can have a blessed Christmas.

They put on coffee hours at church.

They have conducted a World Hunger theme drive each year with a unique theme.

Zion has won the Bear Award twice from the Synod for our World Hunger Drives.



HISTORY OF BENEVOLENCE

If you read the annual reports of Zion, you will find Zion has a history of mission. From the very beginning, Zion has given to Lutheran colleges, foreign missions, sanitariums, nursing homes, and Lutheran seminaries. We helped build and still contribute to the Luther Home. We supported other congregations and Fortune Lake Camp. Even the proceeds from selling our parsonage on Terrace Avenue was used to fund new churches. In our history, we built and rebuilt church buildings, Sunday School wings, and two parsonages. We still give to the work of wider church through our Synod, the DAR program, Luther Home, Fortune Lake Camp, and World Hunger. We actively collect food, supplies and monies for many groups and activities in our community. Zion's Mission Endowment Fund enables us to support many nonprofit groups in our area. In 1921 the annual report showed contributions to China, India, Africa, Canada, Armenia, and Europe. We gave monies to the Deaconess Institute, Bethphage Mission, Luther Home, Pension Fund, Augustana College and Seminary, and an Immigrant Home in New York.

CARING MINISTRY TEAM

The Caring Ministry team began in 2010. They provide quality, Christ-centered confidential care for those in our congregation who are elderly, home bound, dealing with grief or lonely. The group is comprised of four components: distribution of Holy Communion, visiting the elderly/home bound, a card ministry and meeting transportation needs to worship.

In the 1918 annual report of Zion this group was called the Sick Benefit Society where they even gave out monetary aid to those who could not work due to illness, as well as food and help in the home. What will it take for you to be the love God in the world today?

SPECIAL NEEDS CLASS

For many years Zion hosted the Ecumenical Bible Class for Adults with Special Needs. The meetings included a pastor from the area teaching a lesson, music, prayer, activities, and snack. They learned to play hymns and songs with colored bells. They would play their bells at area churches, nursing homes, their annual Christmas program, and for the Knights of Columbus who were their main source of funds. Their Christmas program was a children's book read by a pastor with Christmas carols and bell pieces woven throughout the story. Ann Buscher, a member of Zion, began the bell program and chose the story each year. Pastor Keith was a favorite reader. Northland Lutheran Retirement Community had a group home called Edgewood Manor. Most of the residents worshipped at Zion and participated in this Bible class. At this time, the class meets at another site but are still playing their bells each Christmas.





FORTUNE LAKE

A place of grace in Crystal Falls, MI

Fortune Lake Lutheran Camp is owned and operated by the 80 congregations of the Northern Great Lakes Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) and several other Lutheran congregations in the U.P. It is licensed by the State of Michigan. Fortune Lake Lutheran Camp (FLLC) is located in Michigan's Upper Peninsula - a four-season place of beauty that attracts thousands of visitors every year. Since 1930 Fortune Lake Lutheran Camp has been a special place where God's abundant grace is not simply taught but experienced. It offers programming for all ages and disabilities.

FLLC began its outdoor ministry program when youth Luther League members wanted a Bible camp amidst the beginning of the Great Depression. Because of their determination and faith, property was secured and purchased through a resolution made at their annual assembly. Within a matter of weeks, six buildings were erected, a well was dug, electricity was brought in, and the first Bible camp at FLLC took place.

When Zion was a part of the Superior Conference of the Augustana Synod, it joined with other congregations of the conference to purchase Fortune Lake during the Depression. Since that time, Zion has actively supported the camp with donations of time and money. Thanks to the Neverman and Ellis families every year we are able to give scholarships to students from our congregation as well as to students in the community.

In 2015 Fortune Lake Camp celebrated 85 years of ministry. They dedicated the new pavilion and raised enough monies to fund four tree houses to replace the thirty-year old tents in the Vagabond program. Zion donated over \$8,000 for camp scholarships, upkeep and reduction of debt.

Fast forward to 2023 and Fortune Lake Lutheran Camp is thriving. It served 495 campers during the summer program, held nine Day camp programs with area congregations, had Victory Camp for adults with disabilities and a Musical Theatre Week. It has welcomed more than 1,300 day and overnight guests from Northern Great Lakes Synod Events, family rentals and partnerships with area schools. Financially they are strong. In 2025 they will offer unique programming such as Night Owls, Dungeons and Dragons, and Lego week.



Tree Houses



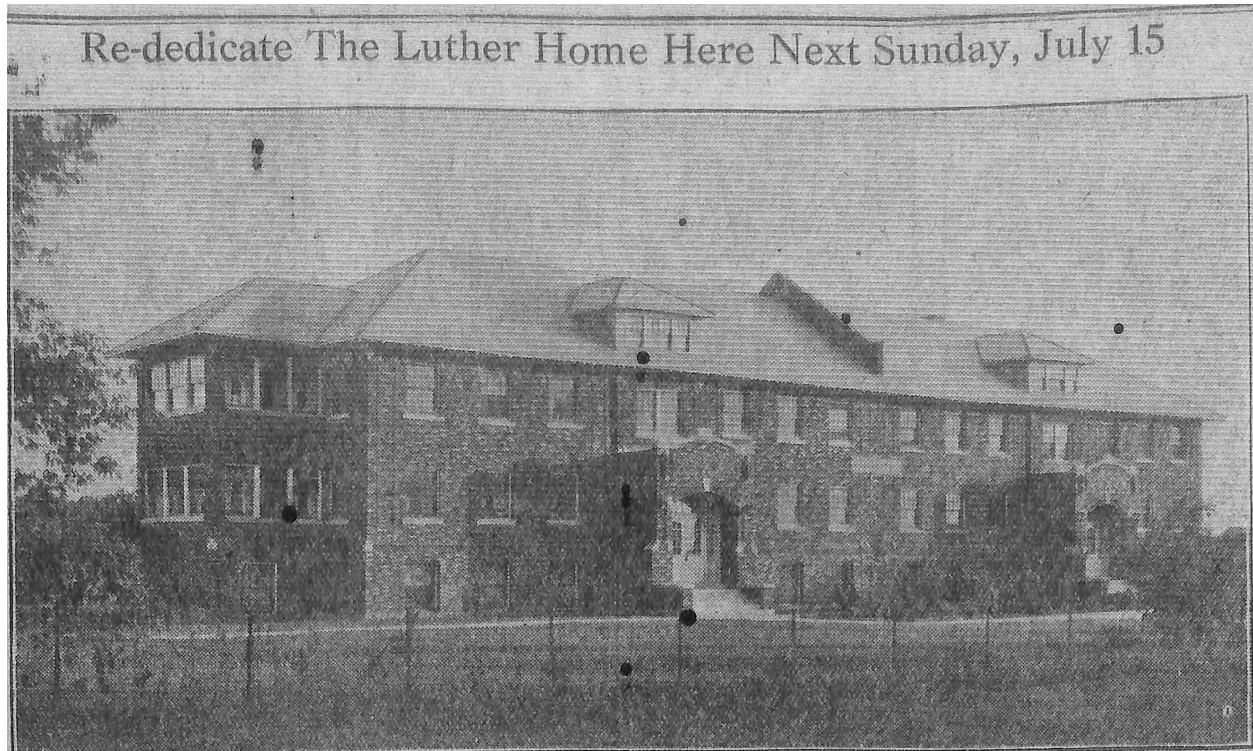
Waterfront

HISTORY OF THE LUTHER HOME

The first building was erected in 1916 at a cost of \$18,355 and dedicated July 22, 1917.

Rev. Karl from Zion Lutheran Church was on the organizing committee. The Luther Home was owned and controlled by the Superior Conference of the Lutheran Church Augustana Synod (this was the name of our conference and synod at that time).

In 1928 an addition was built so it could house 45 people. The building cost was \$45,000. At the dedication ceremony, Zion's choir performed and our current pastor at that time, Rev. Vestling, was secretary of the board.



Luther Home in 1928

In August of 1973, this building was razed.

Northland Lutheran Retirement Community now has a skilled nursing home called Luther Home, an assisted living facility called Luther Manor, and independent living facilities called: Northland Village, New Hope Heights, Interfaith Manor, and Terrace Estate apartments. There are also 32 homes under the care of NLRC. Chaplain services are offered to all residents.

Northland Lutheran owes its existence and its accomplishments since 1917 to its member congregations. Zion is one of these congregations and has given monies to their endeavors since 1916. Over the years many of our members have served on their boards and foundation. The members of the congregation have volunteered their time by donating lap quilts, held birthday parties, served communion, played piano for their worship services, helped in the activity room. and sang Christmas Carols to its residents.

MEMEBERS OF ZION WHO BECAME PASTORS

Rev. Peter Gustaf Carlstedt 1883-1971

Peter Gustav Carlstedt was born on February 4, 1883, in Sweden, grew up in Marinette and died on February 10, 1971 in Sandstone, Minnesota. He married Florence Olivia Berg and had nine children. He attended Yale University and Gustavus Adolphus Seminary. He served several congregations in Minnesota.

Rev. Carl Oscar Leonardson 1902-1971

Oscar was born in Marinette on March 13, 1902 and died in Lansing Michigan on May 29, 1971. He married Ruth Peterson and had six children. He graduated from Milwaukee School of Engineering and Gustavus Adolphus Seminary. He served churches in the Midwest and Florida. He was active in the Boy Scouts of America for 28 years. From 1945-1957 he was the director of the Augustana Brotherhood.

Rev. Dr. Lael Harold Westberg 1906-1993

Lael was born in Marinette on April 14, 1906 and died June 11, 1993 in Tucson Arizona. He married Elizabeth Nelson Ruez and had 2 children. He graduated from Lawrence College in Appleton, WI and Augustana College Seminary. In 1961 he was sent to Stockholm, Sweden to be a pastor of the first Augustan Lutheran Church to have an English dominated service.

Rev. Robert Warren Kleinke 1948-2022

Bob was born in Marinette, WI on September 8, 1948 and died in Elroy Arizona as a result of an undiagnosed tear to his aorta on July 12, 2022. Bob went to Luther Seminary and was ordained in 1981. He married Joanne Johnson and had four children. He served churches in the Midwest and Arizona. In addition to his family and the church he loved music and golf.



Rev. Gene Wickman

Pastor Gene Wickman and his wife were raised, nurtured in faith, confirmed, and married at Zion Lutheran Church, Marinette. He married Carol Jean Magnuson in 1966 and has four children, 8 grandchildren and 2 step grandchildren. Dr. Lowell Wickman, Dr. Kevin Wickman, Laurel Brantner and Amanda Wickman were all baptized by Pastor Holmstrom.

Gene attended Luther Seminary in St. Paul from 1977-1981 and was ordained at Our Saviors Lutheran Church in Chippewa Falls, WI in 1981. Pastor Holmstrom presented Gene with his ordination stole. Pastor Gene received 3 years of extensive training in clinical pastoral education and was a board-certified chaplain in the Association of Professional Chaplains. He developed, organized, and led the Laity in Ministry program which was utilized in all 3 synods in which he served. This program received an award through the College of Chaplains.

From 1981-1985 he served as pastor to Seniors at Grace Lutheran Church and chaplain for the M.B. Syverson Lutheran Home in Eau Claire, WI
From 1985-1988 he served as Administrative Chaplain for Grace Lutheran Foundation in Eau Claire. During this period, he served Valley of the Shepherd Lutheran church in Mondovi, WI as permanent supply pastor from 1987-88 and chaplain for American Lutheran Home, Menomonie, WI in 1998. He helped organize and was part of the Eau Claire Police Chaplaincy Program. 1998-2003 he served as chaplain of the Fond du Lac Lutheran Home and assistant pastor at Ascension Lutheran Church for one year. His final call was to serve Grace Lutheran Church in Pembine, WI from 2003-2013.

In his retirement he enjoys serving the Northern Great Lakes Synod, providing pulpit supply. He has preached at Zion several times in the past few years. He currently lives in Pembine WI. He loves golfing, playing pickleball, working in the yard, and playing piano and guitar.



Pastor Wickman on the bench

Greetings from Paul Boneham

Congratulations to you and the congregation of Zion Lutheran Church as you prepare to celebrate your 150* anniversary! I know that the congregation has much work ahead to prepare for the celebration and to revisit the long history of the church. In that regard, I wanted to write to share a bit of history that may or may not be memorialized there.

I was baptized into Zion Lutheran Church as an infant in 1955. At that time, the church was located east of Main Street near the old high school. I remember attending services there as a child. I was later confirmed in the new church in 1970 and was married there in 1976 to Pamela Schmidt (also a member) by Reverend Paul Holmstrom.

My maternal grandparents, Godfrey and Alvina Larson were members of Zion, as were my parents, Donald and Lorena Boneham as well as a number of aunts, uncles and cousins. My father was a home builder, real estate developer and general contractor. Around 1960, he purchased a large parcel of vacant land at the southwest corner of Edwin Street and Shore Drive. He had it plotted and subdivided for homesites. The three main streets installed there are Paul, James and Florence Streets. These were named for myself, my brother Jim, and my sister Mary Florence (Mary Street having already been taken).

When the congregation decided that it needed to build a new sanctuary in light of the aging condition of the old one, my parents elected to donate the land necessary for construction of the new church. Further, my father was chosen by the leadership of the church to be the general contractor for the new structure. I remember watching the construction of the new facility taking place, and of attending the service of laying the cornerstone at the church when I was a boy. I also remember attending the service of dedication and have enclosed a copy of the bulletin used for that service in 1966, as well as a newspaper clipping from the same time.

One more bit of history. My parents were close friends with Reverend and Mrs. Robert Johansson. Reverend Johansson was a dynamic speaker and key person to the success of the church. He had served as a chaplain during World War I and brought a lot of his experiences from the war to his ministry. At the time of planning the new sanctuary, one of the church leaders noted that it might be advisable to take out a life insurance policy on Reverend Johanson to insure the continuity of the church finances in case of his death.

Mr. Otto Nimmergood, a member of the congregation, agreed to pay the premiums on the policy. Reverend Johansson died of a massive heart attack in 1965 at the age of 60, within months of the date that the policy was taken out. The receipt of \$100,000 of insurance proceeds paid for the majority of costs for completing construction of the new church.

My wife and I have travel plans that currently conflict with the August 24th celebration date. We will likely miss the celebration, but will be there in spirit.

Kind Regards,
Paul Boneham



Zion Congregation 2025



Lord God, you have called your servants to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths as yet untrodden, through perils unknown. Give us faith to go out with good courage not knowing where we go, but only that your hand is leading us and your love supporting us through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.