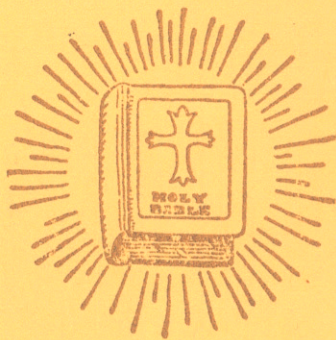


50<sup>TH</sup> Anniversary  
1898 1948



Zion Lutheran Church

El Paso, Texas



FIFTIETH  
Anniversary Booklet  
**Zion Lutheran Church**

*"Lord, I have loved the habitation of Thy house, and  
the place where Thine honor dwelleth".—Ps. 26, 8.*



2800 PERSHING DRIVE

EL PASO, TEXAS

REV. PAUL F. STUECKLER, *Pastor*



**Hours of Worship**

Sunday School 9:45 a. m.

Worship 10:45 a. m.



### Fundamental Teachings of the Lutheran Church

1. The Bible is the inspired Word of God; the entire Bible is His revelation and message to humanity.

2. There is only one true God and He has revealed Himself in three persons, Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

3. Man, originally created by God pure and holy, of his own free will fell from his high estate, and thus brought sin and death upon the whole human race.

4. Sin is every transgression of God's holy will in thought, word, and deed.

5. The redemption of the world was wrought by Jesus Christ, the God-man, when He died on the cross and rose again.

6. Justification is that act of God by which He declares man justified in His sight for the sake of Christ's perfect atonement, this fact being accepted by faith wrought in the heart of man by the Holy Spirit.

7. The means of grace and the Word, Holy Baptism, and the Lord's Supper through which God actually gives and applies the redemption earned by His Son to all who believe.

8. On the last day all men shall be raised from the dead, and all those who are still living will be changed in body, after which the judgment will take place, whereupon the believers will enter eternal life, and the unbelievers will be consigned to eternal condemnation.

9. Faith and sanctification go hand in hand. Holiness of life follows conversion and is a necessary fruit of faith; and though such sanctification is progressive, perfection can never be attained here below.

10. The true Christian Church is the sum total of all those who believe in the Triune God and trust in Jesus Christ as their only Savior. This is Christ's own institution and will endure until the end of time.

11. Prayer is the Christian's communion with God. It is divinely commanded, should be regularly practised by the Christian both for his own sake and for the benefit of others, and, if made in faith and through Jesus name has His definite and sure promises of gracious acceptance and ready answer.

12. The principle of separation of Church and State is in harmony with the spirit and letter of the Bible; according to this, the state works for the civil welfare of its citizens while the church supplies the spiritual and moral needs; and unless each remains in its separate realm great harm will result to both institutions.



REV. PAUL F. STUECKLER

Zion Lutheran School, Birmingham, Alabama  
Concordia College, New Orleans, Louisiana  
Concordia College, Fort Wayne, Indiana  
Concordia Seminary, Saint Louis, Missouri



"I am not ashamed of the Gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God unto salvation to everyone that believeth".  
—Romans 1:16.

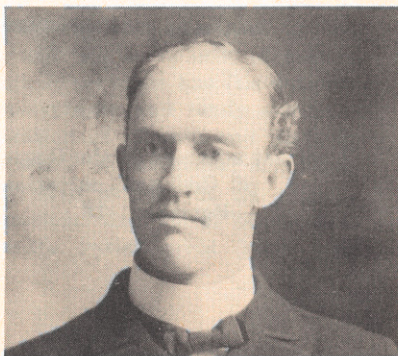
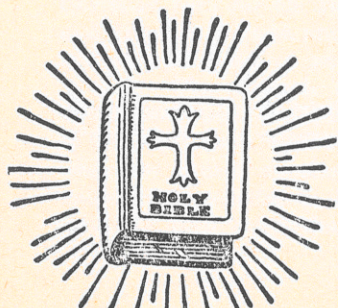


HISTORICAL SKETCH  
OF  
**Zion Lutheran Church**  
EL PASO, TEXAS, 1898 — 1948

The history of Zion Lutheran Church of El Paso, Texas, is replete with many trials and disappointments, and, thanks be to God, with many successes, too. In those days, 50 years ago, El Paso was just another Border City, known as the Pass of the North. This Pass City showed its most phenomenal growth after the revolution in Northern Mexico in 1912.

We owe much to our early fathers who determined there shall be a church of their own faith, a church where the pure Gospel is preached, a church designated as Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church of El Paso, Texas.

In the early nineties the first Missouri Synod missionary, the Rev. E. Moerbe, investigated El Paso, to learn if a mission could be established. The record does not reveal the report Reverend Moerbe rendered after his survey, but it likely was not very favorable, since no action was taken. However, a real beginning was made in 1896, when Mr. and Mrs. Bergmann of Chicago, Illinois, moved to El Paso. Mrs. Bergmann, in her zeal for the Gospel, located several Lutheran families in El Paso. She reported her findings to her pastor, the Rev. Wm. Kohn of Chicago. Her report was sent to the Southern District, which then included Texas, for further consideration. Early in 1897 the Rev. M. Waechter of Abilene, Texas, was assigned to serve El Paso. He conducted one service, and apparently was not impressed with prospects, for he did not return. The Southern District, however, provided a pastor to establish a congregation in El Paso, Texas, in the person of the Rev. H. A. Huebotter, who arrived in



**Program for Fiftieth Anniversary**

MORNING SERVICE

PRELUDE

HYMN No. 224—"Come, Holy Ghost, God and Lord"

ORDER OF SERVICE—*Hymnal Page No. 5*

SPECIAL SINGING—*Choir*

HYMN No. 466—"Christ, Thou Art the Sure Foundation"

SERMON—"We, Even as the Founding Fathers, Glorify the  
God of Abraham, of Isaac, and of Jacob"

THE REV. ALBERT F. JESSE, Austin, Texas

OFFERTORY

OFFERING

PRAYER

HYMN No. 473—"The Church's One Foundation"

COLLECT AND BENEDICTION

SILENT PRAYER

EVENING SERVICE

PRELUDE

HYMN No. 4—"God Himself is Present"

ORDER OF SERVICE—*Hymnal Page No. 41*

SPECIAL SINGING—*Choir*

SERMON—"Be Ye Reconciled to God"—II COR. 5, 18-21

THE REV. H. A. HUEBOTTER—(Retired)

OFFERING

HYMN No. 551—"Sun of My Soul, Thou Savior Dear"

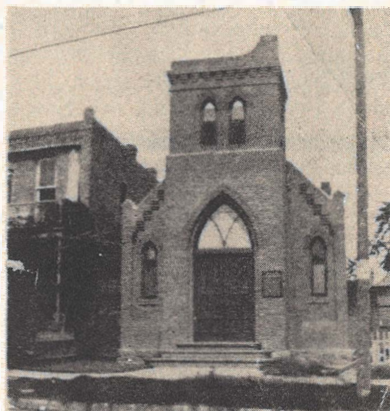
PRAYER — COLLECT FOR PEACE — BENEDICTION



El Paso September 7, 1897. On Sunday, September 12, Pastor Huebotter preached his first sermon in the First Methodist Episcopal Church, then located at Myrtle and Ochoa Street. On October 10 a new location was chosen, and services and Sunday School were conducted in a store building located at 215 N. Stanton Street.

In 1898 a parochial school was established and continued until 1899, when rental expense and limited support from the small flock compelled abandonment of the venture. Services were again held in the Methodist Episcopal Church.

Zion Lutheran Congregation was organized July 7, 1898. Charter members were F. E. Krahmer, George Detering, Herman Peper, and John Peper. This was indeed a small beginning and quite naturally a very difficult one, as one can well imagine. About this time there was a ray of hope, when Mr. and Mrs. Ogden presented Pastor H. A. Huebotter a deed to a lot on Second Street. The location of this lot was not desirable and the congregation decided to sell it. A new site was purchased at 1109 E. San Antonio Street early in the year 1900. On August 19th, 1900, Zion, El Paso, dedicated its new church home.



The dedication sermon was delivered by Pastor H. A. Huebotter. The first official act in the new church was the baptism of Gusta Fahrenkamp, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. F. W. Fahrenkamp. In September 1900 a parochial school was organized. The record does not reveal further facts about this venture. On Easter day 1907, Pastor Huebotter preached his farewell sermon, after accepting a call to Olmstead, Illinois.

In the Fall of 1907 Pastor G. W. Fischer was ordained and installed, by Pastor C. A. Woech of Houston, Texas. Mr. and Mrs. F. E. Krahmer supplied temporary living quarters for the new pastor. Attendance and contributions were quite discouraging. During Pastor Fischer's pastorate a parochial school was conducted in the church. The pastor continued his service as pastor and teacher until 1909, when he, too, was called to

another field. The membership at this time was 24. Pastor O. Bahr followed Pastor Fischer. On August 25, 1912 a new candidate from Concordia Seminary in the person of Paul O. Birkmann was ordained and installed by Pastor G. W. Fischer. Pastor Paul O. Birkmann continued to serve this congregation until 1916. At this period the following were voting members: F. Bahr, R. Narzinsky, F. W. Fahrenkamp, W. J. Ahrens, H. Kretschmar, A. E. Voelkel, P. Wesnewke, F. E. Krahmer, and J. J. Olsen.

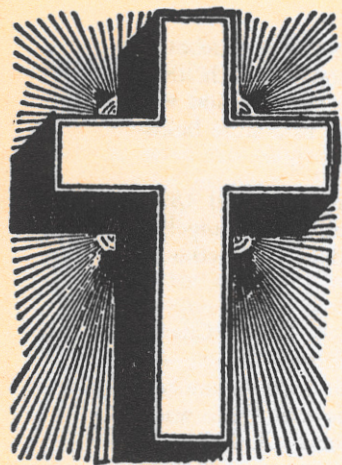
Pastor Birkmann made some effort to establish preaching stations at Valentine, Texas, and Mesilla Park, New Mexico. No lasting results seem to have been accomplished at these places. In 1915 a parsonage was purchased at 3816 La Luz Street. The Texas District Extension Fund loaned money to effect this purchase. In December 1915 the first conference and Mission Festival were held in El Paso. Pastors from New Mexico cities were in attendance at this meeting. This conference resolved to investigate possibilities in Deming and Santa Rita, New Mexico.

During the year 1916 mobilization of National Guard Units began on the border to check the depredations of Pancho Villa in Northern Mexico. This brought a number of soldiers from Eastern Lutheran centers. Michigan and Wisconsin National Guard units were stationed at Fort Bliss. Attendance at church services and Bible Class increased numerically so that space was quite inadequate. At this time Pastor Birkmann accepted a call, and Zion was again without a leader. However, the services were continued, when Albert Webbeking, a student of Concordia Seminary served his vicariate in El Paso. The congregation vested in him the authority to officiate as regular pastor in giving the Lord's Supper and baptizing. Pastor Webbeking served the congregation for one year, when he returned to his studies at the seminary.

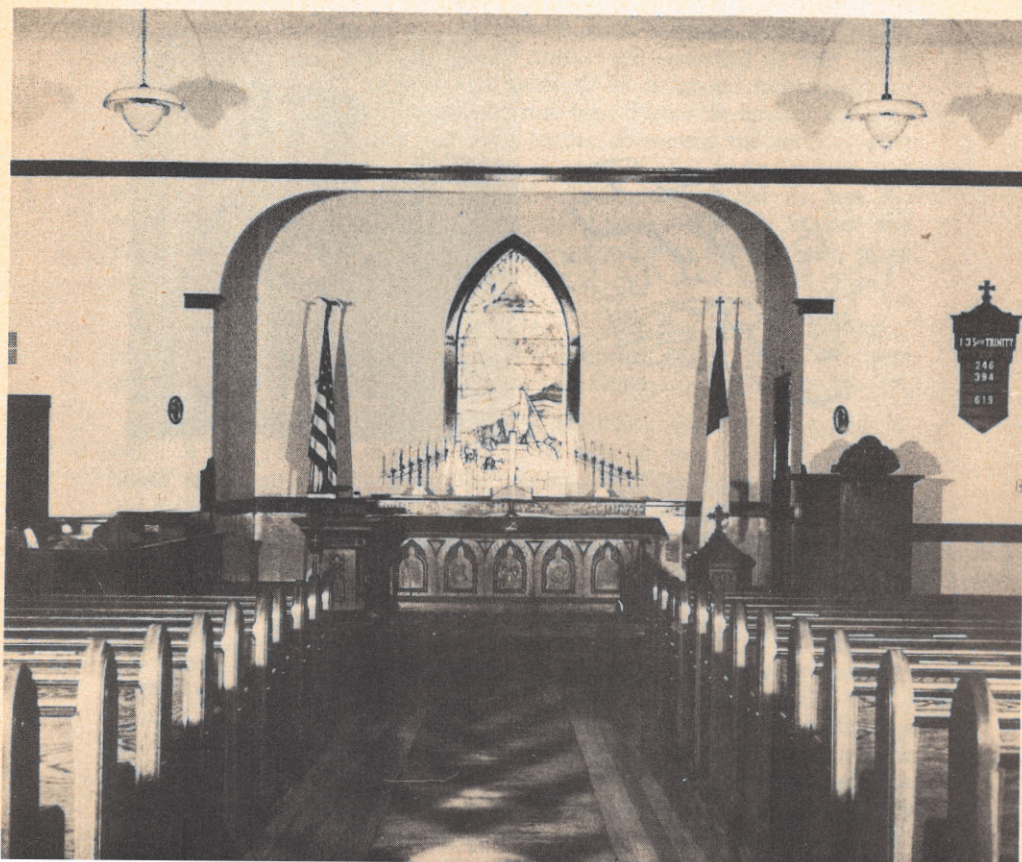
On September 15, 1917, Pastor J. H. C. Sieck was installed by Pastor Carl F. Schmid to Albuquerque, New Mexico. Pastor Sieck was also charged with ministering to the soldiers at Camp Cody, Deming, N. M.

A new church building was first proposed in a meeting on August 4, 1918. It was resolved that an appeal be sent to the Church Extension Board for financial assistance. The Army and Navy Board at this time was quite liberal in aiding congregations serving the armed forces. After a visit to El Paso by Pastor J. W. Behnken, who learned at first hand the dire need of aid, a request for a loan was proposed. It was also decided to appeal to other churches of the Missouri Synod to donate toward the building fund. This appeal brought 2700 dollars. After receiving a loan from the General Church Extension Fund in the amount of 13,000 dollars, a new location was sought, with the result that the present location, Pershing Drive and Birch Street, was selected. Various bids on the building were received, ranging down from 29,900 to 15,900 dollars. But, the congregation finally voted to build the church under the supervision of Mr. W. J. Ahrens, thereby saving a considerable sum. The cornerstone laying ceremonies of our new church took place on October 15, 1922. Dedication services were held in our new church building in January 1923.





# Our Renovated Church 1948



On March 10, 1921 Zion Lutheran Church of El Paso, Texas in a duly called meeting resolved to become a member of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod of Missouri, Ohio, and other states. The first delegate to attend a synodical meeting from El Paso was the late F. W. Fahrenkamp. Mr. W. J. Ahrens attended as delegate the following year.

At a regular meeting of the congregation on April 5, 1923, Pastor J. H. C. Sieck informed the membership that he had decided to accept a call to Canyon, Texas. A vote of appreciation was extended to Pastor Sieck for his splendid service to the congregation. With the new church, erected during his pastorate, the work in El Paso took on a more permanent appearance, and much growth was recorded.

A number of calls were sent to various pastors during the ensuing months. The congregation was vacant for almost a year. Since neighboring churches were so distant it was impossible to have regular preaching services. Several members alternated in reading a sermon each Sunday. Other pastoral duties were performed by Pastor John C. Schmidt of Douglas, Arizona. Pastor Schmidt conducted preaching services every Thursday Evening and Bible Class every Friday Evening.

On March 6, 1924 a special meeting was called to announce that Pastor Theodore H. Evers of Amarillo, Texas had accepted the call sent him. Pastor Evers was duly installed March 31, 1924. Pastor Evers served this congregation from March 31, 1924 until his death on December 18, 1945. He thus filled the longest pastorate in Zion Lutheran Church. During his pastorate our congregation felt the sting of economic instability that also gripped the whole nation during this period. Many a plan and program had to be abandoned because of the lack of finances.

Then came World War II and mobilization of the armed forces. Young men of the congregation went away and were missed. However, we had many mothers' sons from all over the nation in our church every Sunday. It was inspiring to see the church filled to capacity each Lord's Day. One hundred or more soldiers in every service was the rule at that time. These soldiers loved their Savior and also showed their faith by contributing very liberally. A happy occasion it was when we could ceremoniously burn the last note that cleared our church debt. Pastor Evers had the privilege of officiating at this event, which occurred February 23, 1945. On December 18, 1945, after preaching a sermon to German Prisoners of War at Fabens, Texas, Pastor Evers was stricken with a heart attack. He died within a few hours. "Well done, good and faithful servant". Matt. 25, 23.

Our present pastor, the Reverend Paul F. Stueckler, was installed March 31, 1946, just 22 years to the day after the previous pastor was installed. The installation rites were performed by the Reverend C. F. Rittman, who also conducted services from the time Rev. Evers' death until Rev. Paul F. Stueckler's call. Pastor Stueckler soon made a survey of New Mexico cities. A year later a new missionary was placed in Hot Springs, New Mexico, to look after that area, in which about 100 Luth-



erans were located. A war-surplus building was purchased and a parsonage and church built.

During the two years of Pastor Stueckler's pastorate 44 were confirmed, and about 6000 dollars have been spent in equipping and improving our church plant. A new Hammond Organ was purchased by the Miriam Society, and a fine Bell-Howell Projector was secured by the Walther league. A new heating system was installed from the Church Improvement Fund, and a complete renovation of the church building was undertaken for the 50th Anniversary celebration. As we celebrate our 50th Anniversary, Zion Lutheran Church can boast of one of the most beautiful and best equipped church properties in El Paso. For this we say: SOLI DEO GLORIA!



#### AUXILIARIES OF OUR CHURCH

**MIRIAM SOCIETY:** The Miriam Society was organized on February 21, 1923, and is thus the oldest society in the congregation. At the first meeting there were 12 ladies present. The first officers chosen were: Mrs. Rickensrud, Pres.; Mrs. H. Hafner, Vice-Pres.; Mrs. H. W. Steinmann, Secty.; Mrs. M. F. Betzel, Treas.; The purpose primarily was to assist the pastor, and to furnish and beautify our new church. There are many accomplishments to the credit of the Miriam Society. To mention some of them: Purchased the new pews for the church—paid one half the cost of the parsonage—carpets for the church—Altar cross and candelabra—art glass window—equipped the kitchen—organized campaign to accept pledges toward purchasing our new Hammond Organ which was dedicated, February 23, 1947, to the memory of Pastor Theodore H. Evers. Besides the larger projects mentioned, the members of the Miriam Society have always been active in visiting the sick, and sewing for the needy. Many packages have been sent by this organization for European Relief. Present officers of the Society are Mrs. C. C. Deal, Pres.; Mrs. M. F. Betzel, Vice-Pres.; Mrs. O. H. Gebler, Secty.; Mrs. H. Grove, Treas.; May the Miriam Society, under God's blessing, continue its good work to the praise of the Savior's name.



**SUNDAY SCHOOL:** Our Sunday School has always been considered one of the most important departments in our church organization. Much time has been given by various members to teach the young the truths of God. At the present time we have a very competent teaching staff of 13 members who teach an enrollment of 119. Mr. Jas. Pofahl is our able Superintendent.

In the past two years we have sponsored a Vacation Bible School. The success in this our Anniversary year was outstanding. There were 95 individuals participating in the program.

**WALTHER LEAGUE:** This congregation has, for many years, had a youth Society. This society was not originally affiliated with the Walther league, but on June 7, 1938 a charter was issued to the local society, and it has functioned as a chapter of the International Walther League since then. Several very fine rallies have been held in El Paso. Much social work was done among the soldiers during World War II. Every Sunday evening our Lutheran Service Center was open to military men, and refreshments were served, games were played, and in general the men were made to feel at home. Many of the members of the congregation took soldiers into their homes for meals during this time, too. Members of the society visited the sick soldiers at William Beaumont General Hospital regularly. The Walther League also donated an art glass window to the church.

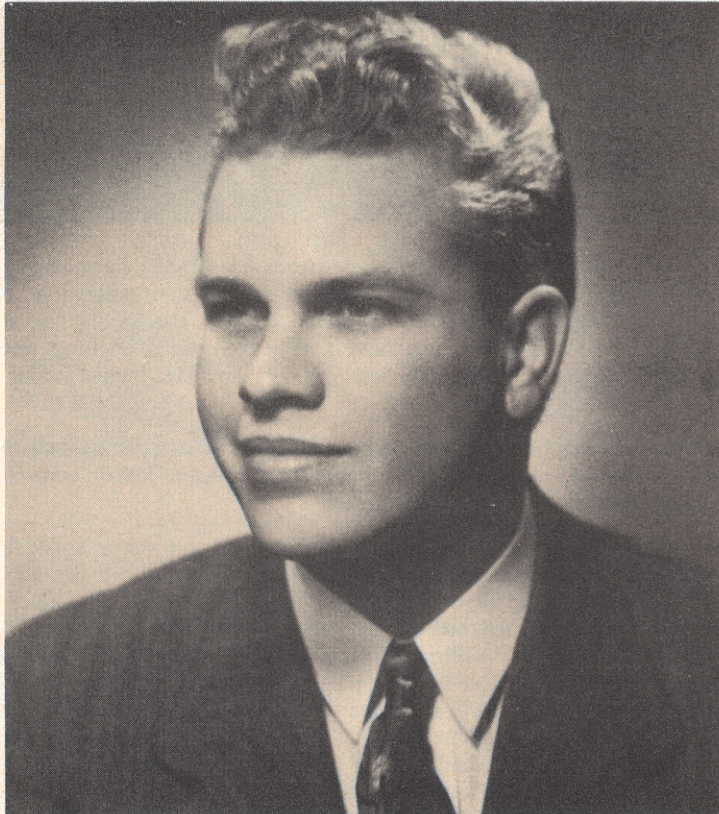
#### MEN'S CLUB

The newest organization in the congregation is the Men's Club, which was organized this summer, after a number of preliminary social meetings. So far it has not affiliated with the Lutheran Laymen's League, but it is expecting to do so in the near future, and take part in promoting



the projects of this nationwide organization. A previous men's club placed the lighted cross upon the tower.

A memorable event in the history of Zion Lutheran Church was the ordination and commissioning of Otto C. Hintze for work in the mission field of New Guinea. The Rev. Otto Schmidt of Saint Louis came to El Paso to officiate at this affair, which was held July 25, 1948. Otto Hintze is the only one in the 50 years of our existence as a congregation to complete the course for the holy ministry. Our prayers and best wishes go with him in his work of bringing the precious Gospel of Jesus to benighted souls on the other side of the globe.



We celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of Zion Lutheran Church of El Paso, Texas with thoughts of sincerest gratitude to the Lord of the Church who has made it possible for us to carry on through the past half century. And we pray that He may ever be with us in the future, so that "the devil, the world, and our flesh" may not dissuade us from unflinching allegiance and loyalty to the noble cause which we have espoused. He has promised, "Lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world".

*"God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life.—JOHN 3, 16.*