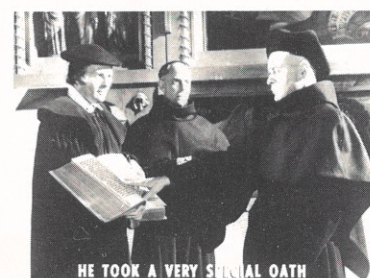
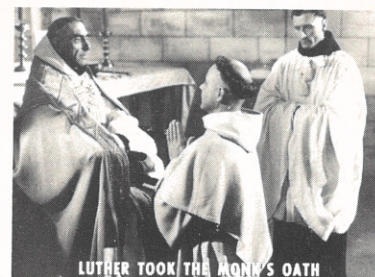


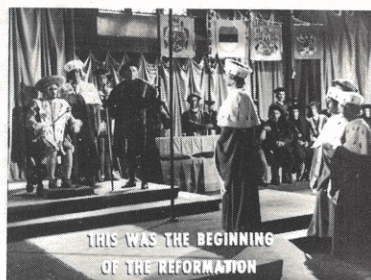
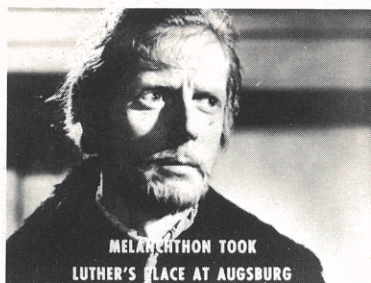
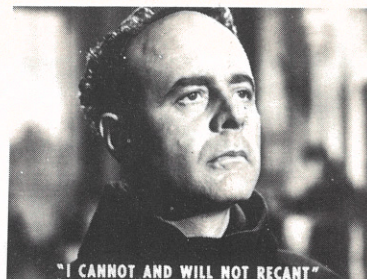
The Beginning of Lutheranism



The beginning of Lutheranism cannot be separated from the story of the man Martin Luther. He abandoned his studies as a law student in 1505 to become a monk of the Augustinian order. Seeking personal salvation through this religious life, he devoted himself totally and intensely to the discipline and was ordained a priest in 1507.

His superiors recognized Luther's intellectual capacity, however, and he began studies leading to the degree of Doctor of Theology. A short time later, in 1511, he was called to the recently established University of Wittenberg as a professor and pastor of the Castle Church. Intensive study of the Psalms and the Epistle to the Romans in preparation for lectures there, led him to an understanding of the doctrine of justification by faith.

The Roman Church's practice of the sale of indulgences for the forgiveness of sins seemed to be in direct conflict with the free Grace of God which Luther had rediscovered. He issued an open challenge to debate this and other issues by nailing 95 Theses, or propositions, to the Church door on October 31, 1517, little realizing that this was to be the start of the Reformation.

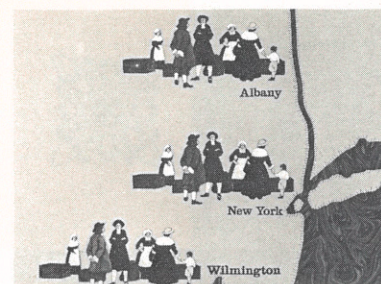


His teaching, preaching, and writing against what he believed to be corrupt practices of the Roman Church brought Luther into direct conflict with the hierarchy. Desiring to reform the Church from within, he found himself outside of it, excommunicated in 1520. He was given the opportunity to retract his teachings by Emperor Charles V at the Diet of Worms, 1521; his refusal to do so made him an outlaw.

Under the protection of Duke Frederick in Wittenberg, Luther continued his teachings and writing, convincing many of the truth of his doctrine. One of these, Philip Melancthon, a young fellow-professor at the university, began to work with Luther and later became Luther's successor in the Reformation. It was Melancthon who took Luther's place when the German princes met with Emperor Charles in Augsburg, 1530.

Outlawed and under ban of excommunication, Luther was unable to attend the meeting at Augsburg to which the Emperor had summoned the princes in an attempt to unify the Church and the Empire. Melancthon's efforts to reconcile theological differences failed. The Augsburg Confession, a Lutheran statement of faith, was drawn up, signed by the princes, and presented to the Emperor. Officially, the Lutheran Church had begun.

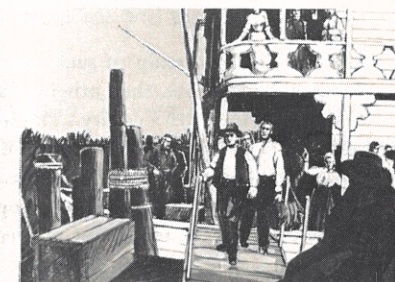
Pictures courtesy of LUTHERAN FILM ASSOCIATES
From the film "MARTIN LUTHER"



Lutheranism in the United States

The story of Lutheranism in the United States is an account of transplantation from many European countries. The first Lutherans were from Holland. In 1623, a handful of them settled in the Dutch colony along the Hudson River, near what is now Albany, and in New York City. Swedes settled near the mouth of the Delaware (1638); Germans established homes in Pennsylvania and New Jersey (1682), and in Georgia (1734).

Philadelphia became the early center of American Lutheranism for two reasons: the religious liberty in the colony, and the great leadership of Henry M. Muhlenberg. He organized and presided over the first Lutheran Synod in North America, the Ministerium of Pennsylvania, in 1748. It set the pattern for the later formation of other synods: New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Maryland and Virginia; and made possible the establishment of the first Lutheran Seminary at Gettysburg, in 1828, for the training of Lutheran pastors.



A new wave of German immigrants came to the United States in 1829, settling in St. Louis, Missouri. The earlier Lutherans had become somewhat "Americanized" by this time, so these new arrivals found language and doctrinal differences. Under the leadership of a young pastor, Carl F. W. Walther, they formed a new synod and founded a seminary in St. Louis. This was the beginning of what is now known as the "Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod".

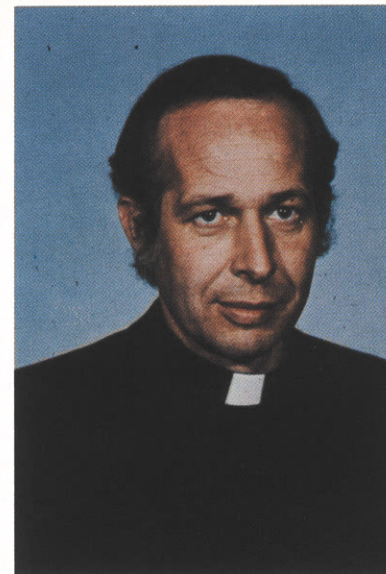


The greatest wave of Lutheran immigration came in the last half of the 19th Century. Many came from Germany, but a great number came from the Scandinavian countries; Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Finland. Their differences in language and national background prompted them to organize separate, independent synods. Typical was the Swedish Augustana Synod, organizing in 1860 under the leadership of Tuve N. Hasselquist, and establishing a college and seminary in Rock Island, Illinois.

Through the leadership of such men as Schmucker, Walther, Hasselquist, Passavant, and Heyer, the Lutheran Synods grew in members and effectiveness during the 19th Century. The work of education, health and welfare, and "Missions", grew considerably during this period. More and more, however, it became apparent that the small independent synods often lacked sufficient size and resource to operate most effectively. By the turn of the century, the process of merger and consolidation had begun.

In 1906, there were 30 Lutheran bodies in the United States; in 1964, there were 10. Three of these are by far the largest, with over 90% of the United States Lutherans holding membership in: The American Lutheran Church, formed in 1960; the Lutheran Church in America, 1962; and the Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod. There are those who look forward to a continuation of this process of merger and consolidation as the various Lutheran synods continue to work together in Christ's love.

Pictures courtesy of LUTHERAN CHURCH PRESS
From The LCA Parish Education Curriculum



We dedicate this booklet to the pastors and members who organized, developed, and sustained Zion Lutheran Church during its first 75 years of existence. Through their work our Lord has touched so many lives in so many ways that any attempt to summarize what He has done for and through us is bound to be hopelessly inadequate.

As we thank and praise our heavenly Father for 75 years of His grace and mercy, we ask Him to bless us with the guidance and help of the Holy Spirit so that we can continue to move forward with our mission and ministry during the years to come.

If this pictorial yearbook helps us to become better acquainted with each other and to develop closer relationships so that we can work together for our Lord more effectively, it will have served a good purpose.

Yours in Christ,

Merrill M. Kluhsman

Merrill M. Kluhsman, Pastor

A HISTORY OF OUR CHURCH



Zion Lutheran Church

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Children are offered three hours of religious instruction a week. In addition to the hour on Sunday morning, midweek classes are held on Tuesday evening from 6:00 to 7:45. A two week Vacation Bible School is also held each summer. High school students meet for study on Sunday morning and

receive additional opportunities for Christian growth at weekly Walther League meetings, retreats, and rallies. For adults two classes meet on Sunday mornings, small groups meet in homes, and study programs are offered by the Societies.

FELLOWSHIP & SERVICE

The groups within the congregation which meet regularly for fellowship, service, and Christian growth are the Walther League, the Young Couples Club, the Miriam Society, the Evening Guild, the Lutheran Women's Missionary League, the Men's Club, and the Sunshine Club for senior citizens. In an effort to serve the community, tutoring service is offered to neighborhood children experiencing difficulty at school, and free feature movies are shown twice a week during the summer.

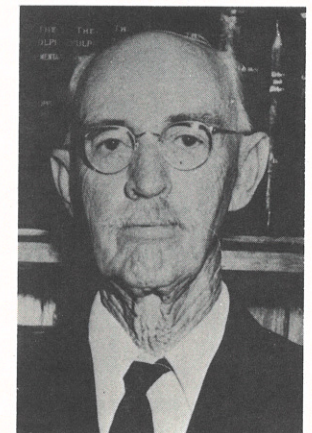
WORSHIP SERVICE	10:00 a.m.
SUNDAY SCHOOL	8:45 a.m.
COMMUNION	1st Sunday
YOUTH SERVICE	3rd Sunday 8:00 a.m.
CHURCH OFFICE	2808 Pershing
OFFICE HOURS	Week Days 9:00 to 3:00
OFFICE TELEPHONE	566-4667
PASTOR'S TELEPHONE	565-5772

Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church was organized on July 7, 1898, at 403 South Campbell Street in the home of Mrs. Bergmann. In the early nineties a Missouri Synod missionary, the Rev. E. Moerbe, investigated the El Paso area, but no real effort was made to establish a congregation until Mr. and Mrs. Bergmann moved to El Paso from Chicago. After locating a number of Lutheran families, Mrs. Bergmann reported her findings to her pastor in Chicago, the Rev. William Kohn. Pastor Kohn forwarded her report to the Southern District, which then included Texas. Consequently, early in 1897 the Rev. M. Waechter of Abilene, Texas, was assigned to El Paso. After conducting one service, however, he apparently informed the District that starting a mission was not feasible and did not return. Fortunately, there was an oversupply of seminary graduates at the time, and the District Mission Board called the Rev. H. A. Huebotter to serve as El Paso's first resident Lutheran pastor.

Pastor Huebotter preached his first sermon on September 12, 1897, in the First Methodist Episcopal Church on Myrtle and Ochoa Streets. One month later the congregation moved to a store located at 215 North Stanton St. A parochial school was conducted in the store for one year, but in 1899 the \$15.00 per month rental fee could no longer be afforded, and the small congregation was compelled to use the facilities of the First Methodist Church once again.

The charter members of the congregation were F. E. Krahmer, George Detering, Herman Pepper, and John Pepper. The population of the city at the time was 20,000. Pastor Huebotter wrote of those early days: "Though organized, yet things looked quite gloomy for our mission. Our services were poorly attended. We had no suitable meeting place. I often preached to only three or four people. Still it seemed, as it was, that we should not abandon our mission work in El Paso."

The prayers of the small congregation were answered to some degree in the spring of 1900 when Mr. and Mrs. Ogden donated to the church a lot on 2nd Street. This was sold so that a building site could be purchased at 1109



Pastor Huebotter



First Church

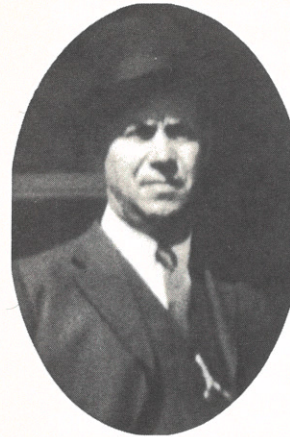
E. San Antonio St. The new site on the edge of the city was considered ideal, and construction proceeded rapidly. The church was dedicated on August 19, 1900. The dedication sermon was preached by Pastor Huebotter because his nearest fellow pastor was 500 miles away. A few weeks later a parochial school was once again organized. The next year Mrs. Dora Ogden presented the congregation a church bell, which is still housed in the bell tower of our present church. The first official act performed in the new church was the baptism of Gusta Fahrenkamp, who later married Vicar Albert Webbeking. At the present time the original church is being used as a residence.

On Easter Sunday, 1907, Pastor Huebotter preached his farewell sermon and left El Paso to become the pastor of a church in Olmstead, Illinois. In the fall of the same year Pastor G. W. Fischer was ordained and installed as pastor of Zion by the Rev. C. A. Woeh of Houston, Texas. The attendance at Pastor Fischer's first



Gusta Fahrenkamp

service was 17. The offerings during the first month of his pastorate totaled \$9.00. The parochial school was again reorganized and remained in operation until 1909 when Pastor Fischer accepted another call.



R. Narzinsky



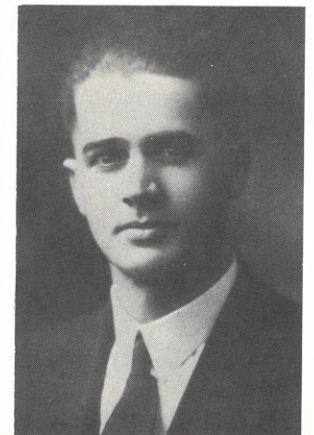
J. J. Olsen



P. Wesnewske

He was succeeded by the Rev. O. Bahr who remained at Zion three years. On August 25, 1912, a seminary graduate, Paul O. Birkmann, was installed as pastor. Church records for the following year show that there were then 56 baptized members, 30 communicants, and 15 Sunday School children. The voting members were F. Bahr, R. Narzinsky, W. J. Ahrens, H. Kretschmar, A. E. Voelkel, P. Wesnewske, F. E. Krahmer, and J. J. Olsen. In 1915 a parsonage was built at 3816 La Luz St. The following year the activity of Pancho Villa in Northern Mexico led to mobilization of National Guard units along the border. Units from Michigan and Wisconsin were stationed at Fort Bliss, and many of the young Lutherans attached to those units worshipped at Zion. Their presence at our worship services swelled attendance to such a degree that members began to recognize the need for larger facilities at another location.

In the summer of 1916 Pastor Birkmann accepted another call but remained in El Paso until the arrival of Albert Webbeking, a vicar from Concordia Seminary, Springfield, Illinois. During his one year of internship at Zion, Vicar



Vicar Albert Webbeking



Pastor J. H. C. Sieck

Webbeking was authorized by the congregation to officiate at Holy Communion. He was also given permission to start a Young People's Club which helped to keep a good number of the young men at Fort Bliss in touch with the church. Pastor and Mrs. Webbeking are now living in Placentia, California.

When the Rev. Carl F. Schmid of Albuquerque, New Mexico, installed J. H. C. Sieck as Zion's new pastor on September 15, 1917, the congregation had already begun to make a transition to the English language. On the first

Sunday of each month the morning worship was conducted in English. Soon English language services were also held twice a month on Sunday evenings. On August 4, 1918, the congregation adopted a proposal to build a new church. The following spring the Rev. John W. Behnken visited the congregation, compared its condition to that of a "carpenter who is asked to build a house without tools," and urged the members to appeal to the Lutheran Church Board for Army and Navy for a financial grant to construct a new church.

In October of 1919 the congregation voted to become self-supporting. One year later it was decided to appeal to the other congregations of the Missouri Synod for contributions to the Building Fund. The appeal raised \$2700.00. After receiving a loan from the General Church Extension Fund in the amount of \$13,000.00, a site was purchased on the corner of Birch Street and Pershing Drive. Bids on the proposed building ranged from \$29,900.00 to \$15,900.00.



M. F. Betzel



F. Fahrenkamp



Oscar Gebler



Otto Hintze

The congregation finally voted to reduce the cost by building the church under the supervision of one of the members, W. J. Ahrens. The cornerstone was laid on October 15, 1922, and the new church was dedicated on January 28, 1923, with the Rev. John C. Schmidt of Douglas, Arizona, as the guest speaker. The final cost for land, construction, and furnishings was \$18,535.55. The members of the Building Committee were F. W. Fahrenkamp, O. H. Gebler, and M. F. Betzel. Paul Wesnewske, Robert Narzinsky, and Martin Betzel were Trustees. Otto C. Hintze was president of the congregation; Martin F. Oestermeyer was treasurer; and Oscar Gebler was secretary.

In a duly called meeting on March 10, 1921, the congregation 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 F. W. Fahrenkamp.

After Pastor Seick accepted a call to Canyon, Texas, on April 5, 1923, the congregation was without a pastor for almost a year. During this period Pastor John Schmidt of Douglas, Arizona, served as vacancy pastor. He conducted a worship service every Thursday evening and Bible class every Friday evening. Henry Steinmann accompanied him on visits to the sick. Otto Hintze and Oscar Gebler alternated in reading sermons at the regular Sunday morning services.



Rev. John C. Schmidt



A 1921 Sunday School Class



**Last Confirmation Class
At Old Church**



Pastor Evers

On March 31, 1924, The Rev. Theodore H. Evers of Amarillo, Texas, was installed as the next pastor of the congregation and served until his death on December 18, 1945. During his pastorate the members felt the sting of economic instability that gripped the entire nation. In 1926 a new parsonage was built on the lots next to the church at a cost of \$4556.79, with Martin F. Betzel as the builder, but many plans and programs had to be postponed because finances were not available. Then armed forces were mobilized for World War II, and young men from all over the nation

helped fill the church to capacity Sunday after Sunday. It was normal to have 100 or more Fort Bliss soldiers in church every Sunday. These young men demonstrated their love for their Lord by their regular attendance and their liberal contributions. Thanks in part to their generous help, on February 3, 1945, the congregation was able to burn its mortgage and became debt free. Nine months later, after preaching to German prisoners of war in the labor camp at Fabens, Texas, Pastor Evers suffered a severe heart attack and died within hours. During his 21 years of faithful service to the congregation, he also ministered to a group of Lutherans in Deming, New Mexico.



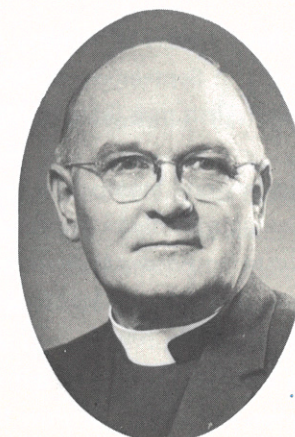
Zion Servicemen with Pastor Evers



Service People Attending Zion in 1945

The Rev. C. F. Rittmann conducted services until Pastor Paul F. Stueckler was installed on March 31, 1946, twenty-two years to the day after the installation of his predecessor. Shortly after his arrival in El Paso Pastor Stueckler was asked to make a survey of towns in Southern New Mexico for the Colorado District, of which Zion was now a member. A year later a missionary was placed in Truth or Consequences, New Mexico, and small groups were formed in Deming, Alamogordo, Las Cruces, and Silver City, New Mexico. Regular visits by Pastor Stueckler helped each of these mission stations to reach the point where they eventually were able to organize a congregation and call a pastor.

Prior to the congregation's 50th anniversary the church was completely renovated, a new heating system was installed, and improvements were made at the parsonage. On February 23, 1947, a new Hammond organ was dedicated in memory of Pastor Evers. The anniversary was celebrated in special services on September 12, 1948. The Rev. Albert F. Jesse of Austin, Texas, preached at the morning service, and the congregation's first pastor preached at the evening service. Pastor Huebotter's sermon on 2 Corinthians 5:18-21 was entitled, "Be Ye Reconciled to God."



Pastor Paul Stueckler

SERVING IN 1973

President of the Congregation	Walter C. Hjalmsquist
Vice-President	Lester A. Grau
Secretary of Congregation	Mrs. Thomas Pofahl
Financial Secretary	Lloyd Nelson
Treasurer of Congregation	Gilbert Fahrenkamp
Sunday School Superintendent	James W. Pofahl
Board of Elders	John P. Jones, Homer Bodey, William Geyer
Board of Trustees	John Eckstrom, Robert Pofahl, Derral Brown
Board of Education	Alvin Schatte Jr., Henry Fryer, Hubert Pasanen, Mrs. R. Schrank
Evangelism Committee	Mrs. William Geyer, Mrs. Homer Bodey, Mrs. James Pofahl
Youth Counselors	Mr. & Mrs. Adam Weber Mr. and Mrs. Robert Pofahl
Office Secretary	Mrs. Lorna Enell
Church Organist	Mrs. Ruth Cagann
Choir Director	Dr. John Heiden
President of Miriam Society	Mrs. Gilbert Fahrenkamp
President of Evening Guild	Mrs. Ralph Blumhardt
President of LWML	Mrs. Phil Barrett
President of Walther League	Chris Hatch



50th Anniversary picture of the Miriam Society, which was organized on February 21, 1923. The Society has performed many works of mercy and completed many church improvement projects. A large painting by Dorothy Geyer for the Fellowship Hall was given by the Society in thanksgiving for 50 years of God's blessings.

75th ANNIVERSARY SERVICES



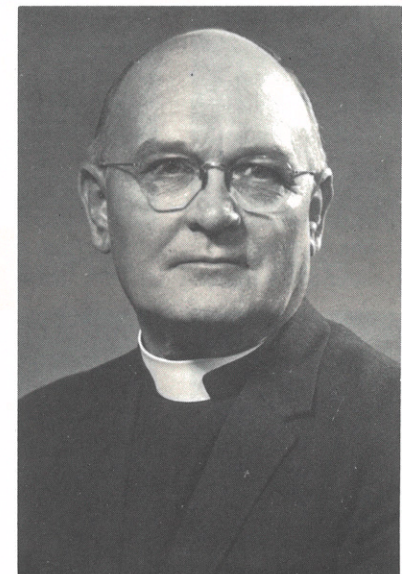
Prof. Otto Hintze

June 10, 1973

The preacher for our first anniversary service will be Otto C. Hintze Jr., the only son of the congregation who has become an ordained Lutheran pastor. He is now Professor of Missions at Concordia Seminary, Springfield, Illinois.

June 17, 1973

The Rev. Paul F. Stueckler, pastor of Zion from 1946 to 1968, will preach for our second service. In the evening he will be a guest of honor at our anniversary banquet.



Pastor Paul Stueckler