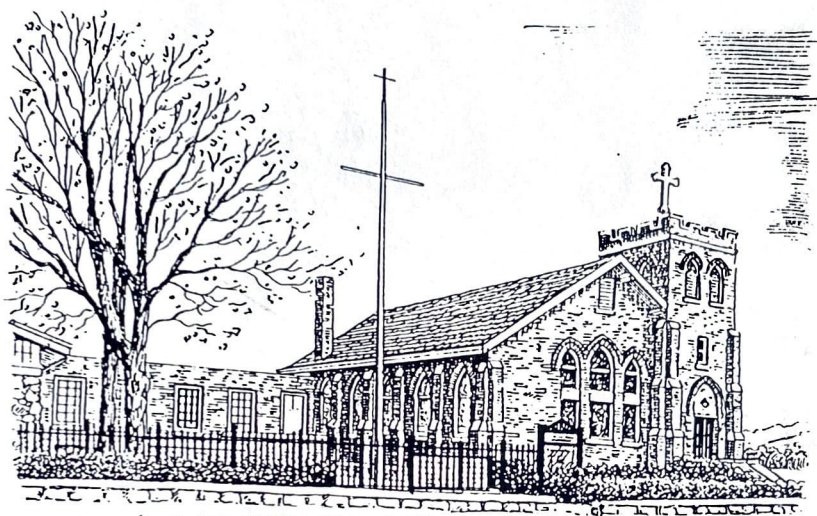


**CENTURY OF FAITH  
1898-1998**



**Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church**  
**Pre-School and Kindergarten**

2800 Pershing Drive  
El Paso, Texas 79903

Pastor Charles O. Canada

915-566-4667



Our congregation began a century ago through the working of the Holy Spirit upon the hearts and minds of the men and women of El Paso through pastors sent here to shepherd God's people. We are indebted to them in so many ways. God reached out through them to the people of El Paso and southern New Mexico and as far away as Papua New Guinea, as well as many other places in this world. This booklet of memories tries to capture some of the struggles and joys of this congregation's beginnings and progress over a hundred years.

We have celebrated births and deaths, baptisms and confirmations, weddings and anniversaries by God's wonderful grace working in our lives through the preaching of the Gospel and the administration of the sacraments. Now it is our duty and delight to thank and praise God for this spiritual home that has been so dear to us and our friends.

Therefore we dedicate this booklet to the pastors and members who organized, developed, and sustained Zion Lutheran Church during this Century of Faith. May these stories encourage us to work together to bring the saving Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ to all people in El Paso and throughout the world.

Yours in Christ,

Charles O. Canada  
Pastor



## 1998 MINISTERS AND OFFICERS OF ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH

PRESIDENT - John Roudebush  
VICE-PRESIDENTS - Jim Nymann & Ed Hamlyn  
SECRETARY- Mary Lou Smith  
TREASURER- Susan Cox  
FINANCIAL SECRETARY- Marge Barrett

### BOARDS & COMMITTEES

BOARD OF ELDERS John Paul Jones Jim Pofahl  
Don Moilan Gilbert Fahrenkamp  
Tim Brown John Williamson  
Worship Committee Esther Ruth Geyer Ruth Cagann  
Mary Jane Hamlyn LaVerna Washington  
Mary Sanchez Gilbert Fahrenkamp  
Music Ministries Organist Blanche Gross  
Choir Director Mary Sanchez  
Handbell Choir Director Jill Anderson  
Altar Care Committee Chairman LaVerna Washington  
Hospitality Committee Ordella Korte  
Caring Committee Esther Ruth Geyer Minnie Grove  
Amy Bodey Tim Brown  
Prayer Circle Evelyn Pofahl Beth Grau  
Head Usher Frank Flores  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES Dan Hatch Merle Hatch

Jerry Batts  
Custodian Lupe & Tony Macias

### BOARD OF PARISH EDUCATION

Carol Nymann Sharon Amastae  
Shirley Server Linda Chaumont  
Day School Director Nancy Cagann  
Sunday School Superintendent Shirley Server  
VBS Director Mary Sanchez  
YOUTH BOARD Galen Albrecht Kristy Server  
Sr. Youth Counselors: Steve & Marge Streitz  
Jr. Youth Counselors: Kathy Wurdeman Mary Sanchez  
Sharon Amastae  
Youth President Andrea Flores  
OUTREACH BOARD Bob Geyer Tammy Cagann  
STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE Jim Nymann  
Evening Guild/LWML Lucille Williamson, President  
Men's Club Will Voelsch, President  
PASTOR Rev. Charles O. Canada  
ADMIN. SECRETARY Amy Bodey



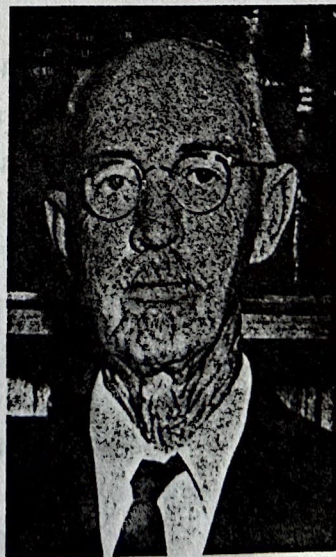
# A HISTORY OF OUR CHURCH

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.

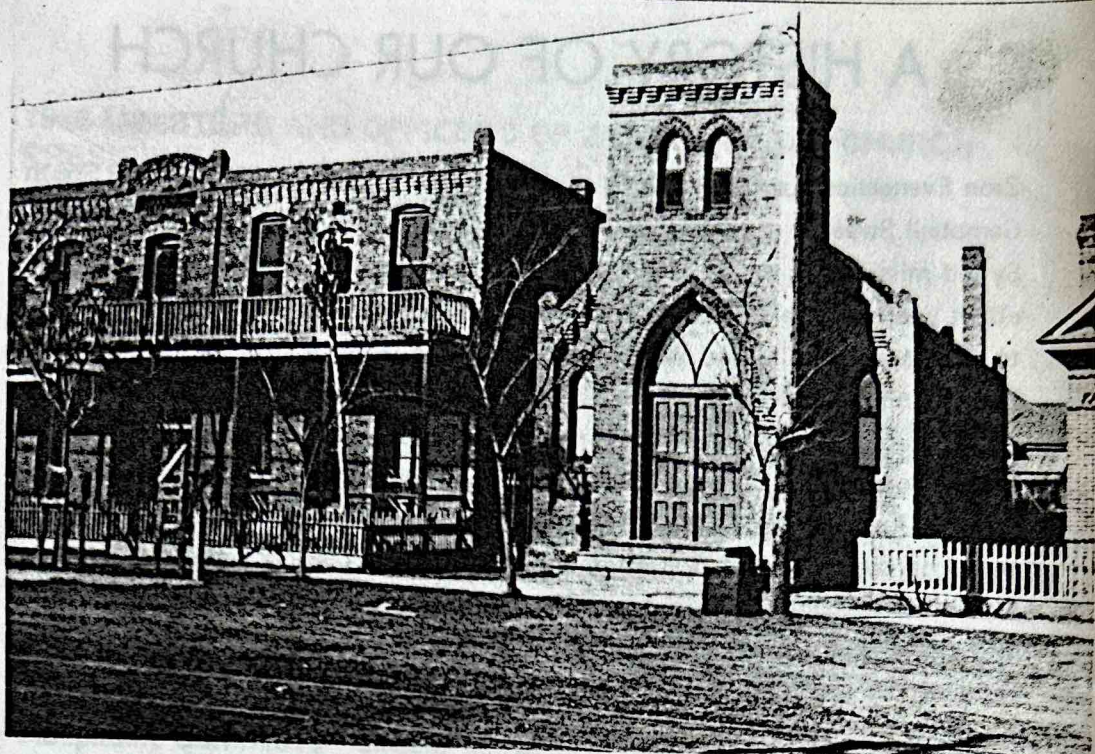
The charter members of the congregation were F. E. Krahmer, George Detering, Herman Pepper, and John Pepper. The population of the city at the time was 20,000. Pastor Huebotter wrote of those early days: "Though organized, yet things looked quite gloomy for our mission. Our services were poorly attended. 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.



**Rev. John C. Schmidt**

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.



**A 1921 Sunday School Class**



**Last Confirmation Class  
At Old Church**

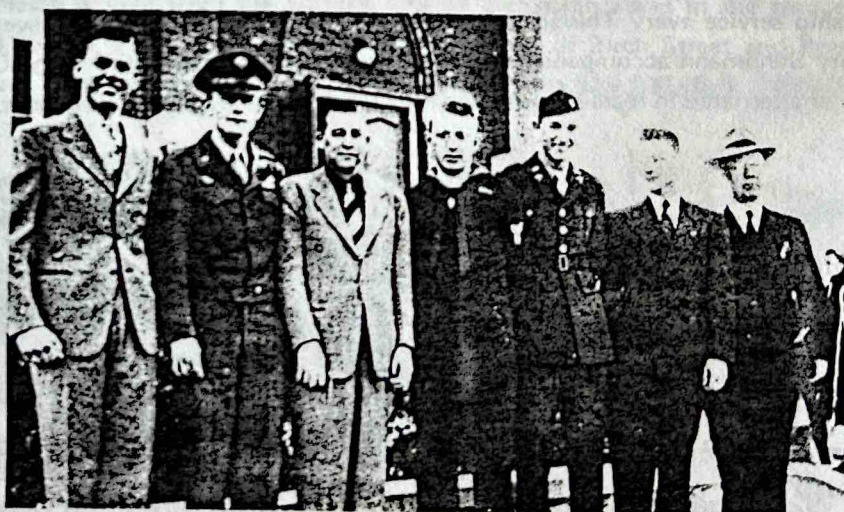




**Pastor Evers**

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**



Under Pastor Stueckler's leadership the congregation grew, facilities were expanded, and contributions to District and Synod regularly increased. In 1955 the congregation reached a peak with 302 communicants and 460 baptized members. Average attendance at Sunday morning worship for the year was 329, and 114 children were enrolled in Sunday School. The same year a new \$50,000.00 educational wing was added to the church. In 1958 a parking lot across Birch Street from the church was purchased for \$10,000.00. In 1965 a home was purchased at 2818 Pershing Drive to provide living quarters for a teacher, Mr. Paul Kramer, who had been called by the congregation to establish a parochial school. First and second grade classes were taught by Mr. Kramer during the 1965-66 school year. It was then decided that the school should be discontinued.

During the years of Pastor Stueckler's pastorate El Paso experienced such rapid growth that four other Missouri Synod congregations were formed in the city. Redeemer Lutheran Church was organized in the Lower Valley in 1951 with a strong nucleus from Zion. Grace Lutheran Church was established in 1957 to serve Northeast El Paso. Ascension Lutheran Church was organized in 1960 on the west side of the mountain. In 1966 Our Savior Lutheran Church was established to serve the rapidly expanding Eastwood area. The Lutheran Border Ministry was authorized in 1967 to establish a ministry to the Spanish - speaking population of El Paso. Despite the valiant efforts of many, the Redeemer congregation in 1970 decided to disband. Many of its members affiliated with Zion.

After 22 years of ministry at Zion Pastor Stueckler announced his intention to retire in September of 1967 and preached his farewell sermon on February 4, 1968.

Twenty-one months elapsed before the congregation obtained another pastor. During the interim pastoral care was supplied by Pastor Robert J. Schrank of the Lutheran Border Ministry until May 1969, and by Pastor Walter C. Clausen until the Rev. Merrill M. Kluhsman of Grand Island, Nebraska, was installed on November 9, 1969.



During 1971, the pastor's sacristy, the narthex, and the room between the sanctuary and the auditorium were remodeled. A communion rail and clergy chairs were added to the chancel, and new carpeting was installed throughout the church.

A new Rodgers organ was dedicated on June 18, 1972 in thanksgiving to God for the faithful service of Pastor Paul Stueckler and Pastor Theodore Evers. Also in 1972, the Fellowship Hall was renovated. The Kitchen was refinished and equipped with a new stove, refrigerator and new tile on the floor. In the spring of 1973 the former parsonage at 2808 Pershing was renovated and converted into office space for the church secretary and the pastor. Pastor Kluhsman served Zion until 1977.

Following a lengthy vacancy, Rev. B. Steve Hughey was installed as pastor on July 1, 1979. During Rev. Hughey's pastorate, the congregation moved to reach out to the Hispanic population of El Paso. Under Hughey's leadership Centro Cristiano de Ysleta (Ysleta Lutheran Mission) was established in 1981 and a ministry for children near the original site of Zion on San Antonio Street was started. Pastor Aubrey Morrison was later called by the Rocky Mountain District to be Missionary-at-Large to the San Antonio Street area. During this time, the rear of the church was remodeled to add the nursery, library and restrooms. Pastor Hughey connected with several of the synodical colleges and began a summer ministry program that brought college students to the border to study and get hands on experience in Hispanic neighborhoods. Rev. Hughey left in 1988 to serve the Synod's Board for Mission Services in St. Louis.

On April 22, 1990, Rev. Jeffrey E. Shearier was installed. Roberto Simental, a graduate of the TEE program, worked with Pastor Shearier to increase the Hispanic ministry at Zion. Rev. Shearier was supervisor for 4 vicars while he was at Zion. The vicars and their wives were Ron and Jana Burkhard, Robert and Laura Stevens, Guillaume Williams and John Paul and Christine Jankovich. Rev. Shearier left El Paso in 1995 to accept a call to Mt. Olive in Aurora, Colorado.

Rev. Charles O. Canada was installed on September 10, 1995. Pastor Canada, a chaplain in the U.S. Army, was stationed at Fort Bliss prior to his retirement from the military. Pastor Canada, his wife Linda and children, Cheryl, Amy and Peter reside in Northeast El Paso.



## OUR STAINED GLASS WINDOWS

When Zion's present building was completed seventy-five years ago, clear glass filled the windows on the east and west walls and behind the altar. A look through minutes of early Voters' Meetings provides a glimpse of the history of our windows—and also of how we have governed ourselves. (Thanks to Amy Bodey for looking through our early records.)

In April, 1923, very soon after the church's completion, cathedral glass was installed in the window behind the altar instead of the venetian blinds that were apparently there. The cost was \$8.75.

At the Voter's Meeting on January 9, 1934, there was some discussion regarding the glare from the window near the pulpit. It was suggested that some sort of picture be placed over this window. No action was taken. Several months later, Mr. Owens volunteered to paint a picture to cover the window free of cost. A committee of three was appointed to look into the matter. On May 8, 1934, the committee reported that the cost of the materials to paint the picture would be \$40.00 - \$50.00. The idea was tabled because the cost exceeded the money available in the treasury. Apparently another plan was suggested and it was decided to paint the window on the outside so that the glare would be eliminated. Unfortunately, that idea was not successful and by July 10th of that year, the paint had to be washed off.

The window behind the altar, appropriately inscribed "Hitherto hath the Lord helped us," is dated April 28, 1934 and this is the oldest of our windows. It was given by Mr. & Mrs. M. F. Betzel on the occasion of their 25th wedding anniversary.

Five years later, on April 16, 1939, the minutes report that it would cost \$215 to install an art glass window made by a local manufacturer. Permission for the Ladies' Aid and Mr. and Mrs. Steinmann to install the art windows was granted on September 14, 1940. On December 8, 1940, the congregation stipulated that when any art glass windows were installed they would conform to the size and shape of the windows presently in place. A letter from Leawell, Sherman, and Barnes quoted a price for insurance for four stained glass windows. The premium was \$36.03 for \$1250.00 coverage. At that meeting, the secretary was



directed to send letters of thanks to the Zion Miriam Society, Mr. and Mrs. Steinmann, Mrs. F. Fahrenkamp, Mrs. Webbeking and Mrs. Horsley for donating three stained glass windows.

A year later, the congregation decided--and then canceled their decision three months later to screen the windows.

Each of our windows tells a story both from the Holy Bible and from the life of our congregation. Beginning in the southeast corner of the church, on your left as you face the altar, the first window is from Psalm 62:2, "The Lord is my rock and my salvation." It is dedicated to the memory of Louise Pofahl by her husband and sons and is inscribed with the dates 1886-1944.

The next window, "Suffer the little children to come unto me." was given "in loving memory of Robert Narzinsky, 1872-1941 by his wife Mary and children.

The next window is dedicated to Otto, John and William Hintze by their parents in 1944 and is inscribed, "Come unto me all ye that labor and are heavy laden." When Otto Hintze visited our congregation in 1997 to speak about his many years of missionary work in New Guinea, he recalled that his parents were able to give the window after the Depression was over. His brother John was killed during World War II.

The last window on the east side of the church was given "To the Glory of God and in honor of our parents Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Fahrenkamp by their children, 1944."

The window behind the altar described earlier lost its natural source of light when additions were built on to the church and is now lit with carefully placed lighting which highlights the beam of light descending to Christ.

Proceeding down the west side of the church, the window closest to the pulpit was given by the Evangelical Lutheran Zion Miriam Society in 1940. It depicts the verse from Revelation 3:20 "Behold, I stand at the door and knock."

The next window, dedicated to the memory of Fredrich W. Fahrenkamp by his wife and daughters 1864-1936, is inscribed, "He is risen, He is not here."



"The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want" is the theme of the next window. It is dedicated to Ralph and Charles Steinmann by "Mother and Father" and is dated 1940.

The Zion Lutheran Walther League donated the last window on the west in 1944: "Go and do likewise."

In addition to these large windows, there are several other smaller, yet also beautiful, windows located throughout the church. The Miriam Society donated the windows at the back of the church in 1958. They depict a baptismal font, the Bible, and a Chalice. They extend into the choir loft, as does the window in the cloak room which has the crown of thorns. Walking up the stairs to the choir loft, you pass a small window with a cross and crown. In the sacristy, a window "The just shall live by faith" was dedicated by Clarence R. Kapp in memory of his wife, Ida Hilda Kapp on March 16, 1964.

(We thank Sharon Amastae for preparing this history of Zion's Stained Glass Windows)

## SHARING WITH OUR COMMUNITY

The congregation voted to select 10 community organizations to receive \$100 each, as part of our 100th Anniversary Celebration.

Those receiving \$100 were:

- American Red Cross
- Armed Services YMCA
- Child Crisis Center
- El Paso Drive-A-Meal
- El Paso Shelter for Battered Women
- Hospice of El Paso
- Lutheran Community Services
- Salvation Army
- St. Matthew Lutheran Church
- Ysleta Lutheran Mission

Thank you to all who helped us share with our community.



## MEMORIES FROM MINNIE GROVE

When Pastor & Mrs. Evers came to El Paso, Zion's parsonage was built. That was approximately 10 years after the church was built on Pershing. I remember when the kitchen linoleum was old and worn out. The church didn't have the money to fix it, but Mrs. Evers bought just enough linoleum to patch up the holes and she did a beautiful job. She just couldn't stand the holes in the middle of her kitchen and besides it was dangerous. She could've stubbed her toes on it and over she would have gone. Oh, we've lived through the times.

The first two pastors were housed in the lower valley as there was no parsonage yet. The young men and my brother went there as a group to visit the pastor as he was unmarried and they went almost every evening to keep him company. That was during World War I and the police came to us and said it had to stop. We said, "What has to stop?" The police were afraid our guys were planning something against our stand in World War I. The police kept watching. We finally moved the pastor closer to town to get him away from the police watching, even though there was no truth to the police's suspicions. They all had to swear to it that they never talked about the war. It was just visits to keep him company.

We went through a lot of things because of the German ancestry, our services were in German and we spoke in German. About a month later, the police came to our pastor and elders for a meeting to tell them they better not hear one more word of German from our church. They said, "You may not know it, but we have our spies in your midst and we will know if you've been preaching in German. If we hear any more German, we're going to close the church down." Of course, immediately, we started speaking English. At that time my father and mother had 10 children and there were some Sundays, we were the only ones in church. Another family had 4 children. They would bring their children to Sunday School, but they would not stop speaking German. We had to warn them to either stop coming or to speak English when they came to church.

My father was a conductor with the T & P Rail Road. With El Paso being the longest layover, he moved all the family here from Big Spring, Texas and that's how we came to be in El Paso. My mom and dad were together so much longer. Otherwise he was 3 days in El Paso and 1 day in Big Spring. My mama said that's not going to go - I'm going up there - so we went. I must have been about 10 years old.



You should have seen the old church on San Antonio Street. My cousin lived about 4 blocks from the church. We had just a little pump organ. The daughter of my uncle played the organ with her feet going constantly to pump the organ. She was completely worn out when church was over.

The altar from where the pastor preached was quite long and high up. There were steps behind the altar that he had to walk up to preach. A lot of the preachers who came were too tall and they would hit the ceiling! They had to stand on the level with the altar and then all we could see was their head. It was really something.

When the First World War broke out, it seem all they sent to El Paso was Lutheran soldiers! They came by droves and, of course, they couldn't possibly get everyone into that church. So we'd open both doors wide and there would be about 50 boys standing in front of the doors of that old church listening to the sermon and singing to the heavens. They sang so hardily that all the neighbors would stand on their front porches to listen. That is what prompted us to look for new property to build a larger church. We just couldn't get them all in. The longer the war lasted, the more soldiers were sent out here - more Lutherans.

The old church had one aisle and 2 rows of seats. My father had all of us children strung around him so he could watch us. Here comes an Elder and taps him on the shoulder and says, "Mister, you cannot sit here. The women sit on the left side and the men sit on the right side. You'll have to move." My dad looked up at him and said, "If I can be allowed to sleep with my wife at night, I can sit with her in church and you are not moving me!" Well, I guess that Elder said, "He's too rough for me," so he left him. The next Sunday, there wasn't one man who sat by himself. It just took someone with guts enough to sit there despite what the Elder or the Usher said. William Fahrenkamp was my dad's name.

When the current Zion was built, it had pane windows as we were a poor church. As a gift to the church, one of our members started the stained glass windows by putting a colored window in. My mom and dad said, "Wouldn't it be beautiful if we put in a window in honor of our children. So the window of Jesus saving Peter from sinking into the water is the one they put in the church. My dad's brother lived here too and he put one in on the other side. All the old timers put those windows in.

Potlucks - People didn't have them because they didn't have the money. It was terribly bad times. My mom and dad fed more preachers. Most every time we sat down to eat, there was a preacher











at the table. We didn't have the money to pay those pastors. Month after month, the preacher never got a nickel. The people would all try to do something for him each month. We would have food left over because mama would cook in big pots full and have no trouble in sharing food. We didn't live too far from the church so we either brought it down to him or had him over. Many a preacher ate at our table.

Women had little to do with running the church. It was done strictly by men. We cleaned and did things like that. Of course communion was always in German until we were forbidden to speak it. In those days we knelt in confession on the floor between the pews, before communion was given. At that service only those who wanted communion came to that service, no one else. After we had communion, the doors were open and the others would come in for the sermon.

I was married in 1918 to a soldier I met at Zion. He was from Norway, a wonderful man. We had 1 son, Gilbert, and one daughter, Rachel Klein.

#### **MEMORIES OF RUTH BETZEL**

1919 - When I was 4 and my sister, Eleanor was 6, my parents moved from Chicago to El Paso. We immediately joined Zion Lutheran Church at 1109 E. San Antonio Street. At that time, we went to our church from Cumberland Street on the street car. The street car was nicknamed the Tunerville Trolley.

Later we had a truck with seats along each side in the back. My parents would pick up anyone that needed a ride to Sunday School or Church. We would all sing as we rode to Church with our hair blowing in the breeze.

I remember the men of the congregation trimming the Church Christmas tree with candles. The men had to stand by during the services to be sure the tree did not catch on fire.

Our collection was taken by extending a long pole with a small pouch at the end. This was passed from the center aisle all along each row of benches.

We loved our Church and attended whenever the doors were open. These are fond and beautiful memories of the past. May God grant that our present Church has such wonderful memories.



OUR MEMORIES OF ZION by Mrs. Paul F. Stueckler  
Rev. Stueckler accepted the call to El Paso in 1946. The Second World War had been over a very short time, so there were many service men at church services and visiting in our home.

In addition, several German scientists were brought to the United States to work in the rocket program at that time. Rev. Stueckler went to Ft. Bliss every Saturday to give confirmation instruction to eleven children. He had a catechism that had English in one column and German in the next column. He also conducted services in German for the scientists and their families.

Werner von Braun was among those scientists. He had wanted Rev. Stueckler to marry him and his fiance, but she was not allowed to enter the country until after the marriage, so they were married in Germany. He later baptized their child. He and his family were guests in our home many times, and were special friends.

Rev. Stueckler preached four times each Sunday during the 1950's: two services at Zion, one at Redeemer in the lower valley during the Sunday School hour, and one in Alamogordo Sunday afternoon. Often Paul Junior drove us, and Ruth, our daughter, came along to play the piano. Rev. Stueckler had confirmation instruction there before the service. In addition, Zion had a congregational meetings on Sundays which he had to attend.

Also in the 1950's Rev. Stueckler began conducting services in Truth or Consequences, New Mexico. On his way there, he had confirmation classes for three Lemke families in Ft. Bayard, and held services in Deming, as well as several Lutheran members' homes.

In addition, Rev. Stueckler visited a Lutheran family in Hillsboro, New Mexico. They had a small store and gas station. I remember he was kind enough to fill our gas tank before we went on our way.

Rev. Stueckler delivered an article to the El Paso Times every week detailing activities at Zion.

Three of our children were married at Zion by their father: Paul Junior, Ruth and Lois (who were married in a double wedding ceremony.) Ruth and Lois celebrated their 40th wedding anniversaries in 1997. Rev. Stueckler baptized six of our grandchildren at Zion as well.



## **DO YOU REMEMBER**

1. The auto repair garage directly behind the church and the dirty oily alleyway?
2. The three parking places that were eliminated when the addition was built. They were marked "Pastor" "Organist" and the third one was considered first come first served.
3. The next time you're in church, look at the electric outlets between the 2nd to 4th windows in the sanctuary. Do you remember the oscillating fans on the wall that plugged into those outlets?
4. Do you remember the cardboard fans that were used before the fans were turned on?
5. Does anyone remember the basketball court???? It used to be in the parking lot across the street.
6. Who remembers the "Waffle Breakfast" served by the Walther League? Counselors and Leaguers would arrive at approximately 5:00 am on Easter Sunday to mix waffle batter, heat waffle irons and make the juice, sausage, coffee, etc. The cooks would practice and dish up their "successes" as a starting point to serve to early eaters. The "failures" were stockpiled and served to members such as Bill Geyer, Sr. or Paul Bartell as a practical joke! Everyone who came was served a good healthful meal after all the laughs derived from serving raw waffle batter, semi-cooked or generally destroyed waffles. Over the years, the menu has evolved from waffles to pancakes, to the current delicious egg/sausage/chili casserole now served. Who'da thunk Zion would ever NOT have waffles for breakfast on Easter morning.
7. Do you remember what used to be where the wall telephone and tape recorders are set up? The bathrooms.
8. Do you remember what used to be at the end of the hall into the "new" addition? An air conditioner.
9. Do you remember the restaurant type pass-through, closable dividers between the fellowship hall and kitchen.
10. Do you remember the book reviews?
11. Do you remember all the spaghetti suppers?

## **SUNSHINE CLUB**

Ida Wier suggested the name for the Sunshine Club. When Pastor Merle Kluhsman was at Zion, it was decided to set aside one day a month for the senior citizen members to have lunch, play games and have fellowship. The "younger" (middle-aged) members were to come to assist in games, etc. as necessary. They came and enjoyed the day although they were seldom needed for assistance. There was no specific name. When Ida visited her son and his wife in Florida, they



took her to a similar occasion at their church. It was called the Sunshine Club and she suggested it when she returned. It was happily accepted and it has retained the name. For senior citizens and the "younger" members - including working men who come in for the luncheon - it has been a ray of sunshine.

### HUMOR OVER THE YEARS

The Men's Club meeting, one night back in the 40's, was going to have hot dogs. I took a rubber winnie I had, and asked Otto Hintze, Sr. if I could fix him a hot dog. He said sure. So, I got a bun, put the rubber winnie in with mustard, ketchup and pickle relish and gave it to Otto. He took a bite, and when he did he pulled the winnie out of the bun. Few saw the episode, so he decided to fix one for Olly Olson, one of the pillars of the church. When Olly took a bite and pulled the bun from his mouth, he pulled his false teeth out! It was a great night!

One night during a Lenten service, two ushers, Henry Geyer and Oland Lane went to sleep at the back of the church. Both of them began to snore loudly. It was about the time the sermon was over and collection time, so we woke them up.

If you have been on duty on Sunday mornings as an usher or elder, you know that frequently street people come in asking for a handout. Well, one morning George Siglin and Vern Peters were on duty and a guy comes in. Vern gave him some money. I don't remember how much. Then Gunter Langham came in and sat at the back. He was Financial Secretary, and had been for years. He was a very proper person in every respect. Siglin went over to Peters and told him, "If you want to get your money back, just take it out of a collection plate before we take them up." Gunter turned red, white, and almost had cardiac arrest!

### MARTIN LUTHER

Do you know where the bust of Martin Luther is located these days? When you find it, please note that it is dedicated to Lt. J. G. John Hintze who was killed during World War II.

Did you know Rev. Otto Hintze, Missionary to New Guinea and son of the congregation, was the first person to be baptized in the present church building 75 years ago!



## MEMORIES FROM JERRI JONES

My family moved from Oklahoma to El Paso in 1946, and lived in the lower valley six months before moving to central El Paso, on Mountain Avenue. They lived next door to George and Dorthea Siglin (members of Zion) who invited our family to visit their church.

My father and mother, Herman and Ruby Young, were confirmed on April 10, 1949 - the same day my sister, Barbara, and I were baptized (my sister and I were baptized, confirmed and married our spouses at Zion) Our younger brother, Stephen, also was baptized and confirmed at Zion.

Many memories come to mind when I think of all the happy years at Zion with my "extended family." As I was growing up, attending church and Walther League, I remember the many servicemen (stationed at Ft. Bliss) who attended our church. My family had many "outings" in our back yard for them. In fact, my sister, met her future husband, Marvin Borchelt, while he was stationed here. They were married at Zion in 1956, and two of their four children were baptized here. I remember the fun trips to Albuquerque (on the train), Roswell, Clovis, and Carlsbad for our Walther League Rallies - where we made (and still keep in touch) some lasting friendships.

I met John Paul Jones in 1958 at Zion -- where he claims I "pushed him off the curb trying to introduce myself!" I was actually membership chairman of the Walther League at that time! We were married at Zion on March 7, 1959 and our children, Joilyn and James were both baptized and confirmed at Zion. Joilyn married Tracy George at Zion in 1983, and their son, Benjamin, was baptized here in 1993. Also, our daughter Stephanie was baptized at Zion in 1993.

There are, oh, so many memories at Zion -- all the wonderful dedicated Pastors (and their families) we've been blessed with, and the association with all of the great organizations within our church. We have been especially blessed in knowing the loving people who attend(ed) Zion.... and, for this, my family and I will always be thankful!

## MORE MEMORIES

There was so much hurt when Redeemer Lutheran Church in the lower valley closed it doors. It was small and we all felt so close to each other - a real family. There were several pastors in its 20 years of existence, but the congregation worked together and kept an active



church. Some transferred to Our Savior and some returned to Zion. Pastor Kluhsman was kind and patient and the congregation so caring and understanding while we gradually recovered from the deep hurting. Even though some of us had been members of Zion before transferring to Redeemer because we lived on the east side or lower valley, it took time to feel like Zion was our church. But little, by little we were comforted by God's people and found (or returned to) another warm church family.

Who was that man who served Zion for 35 years as the Treasurer? I've been told that was Gilbert Fahrenkamp! Bill Geyer, Sr. was treasurer for several years too. Bill taught many of us to turn in our receipts properly!

Eric Hjalquist recalls an event at one of the many carnivals held at Zion in which there was a cake walk. Eric gave his ticket and won. His Mom said he should choose a cake made by his God Mother, Renata Weber, but he choose a sail boat cake he had been eyeing all evening. As he ran to give the cake to his Mom, he tripped and dropped the cake. The boat was gone. He later entered the cake walk and won again. This time he chose the cake made by Renata.

Shirley Smith recalls confirmation class with Pastor Steve Hughey. She and the other students delighted in getting out of as much work as possible by getting Pastor Hughey to talk about other things. Of course, they used other means to get out of work too. Haven't all confirmation classes tried to do the same!

#### IN MEMORIAM

Zion has had many faithful, zealous Sunday School & Bible Class teachers. Among them was Lester A. Grau who by Army orders to serve at Ft. Bliss, Tx, after a tour of duty in Yokohama, Japan, with his family, found Zion a warm friendly church-home. Pastor Paul Stueckler invited him to teach adult Bible Class and High School Classes which he enjoyed for about 27 years. He also enjoyed wood working and designed and made the crosses which flank the Altar at Christmas & Easter to hold the potted flowering seasonal plants. Zion is still using the Collection plates he made and he and Alan made the bulletin board downstairs.



Chris and Carlos Sanchez remember Sunday School class with Mrs. Elizabeth Baker. They remember her loving and caring way of teaching the little ones. We are sure there are many other Sunday School students who remember Mrs. Baker, as she taught for over 50 years! Others of you fondly remember Mrs. Lucille Peters who taught you in Sunday School. Thank you to all who have taught our children!

Jim Pofahl, Sr. was baptized in the first church on San Antonio Street. He is still team-teaching with daughter-in-law, Karen Pofahl and daughter, Anne Louise Duff.

Can you guess how many little children have come to our Pre-School at Zion? Nancy Cagann is now director to lead us into the 21st Century with Zion Lutheran Day School. Thank you Nancy and the Board of Education for your ministry with the little children and their families.

Do you remember Pastor Canada running down the street chasing a robber who had taken the VCR from our Sunday School Office? Way to go Pastor Canada!

How many times have we taken for granted our organists and piano players! Emily Gebler, Ruth Cagann, Blanche Gross, Esther Ruth Geyer & Tammy Cagann to name a few. You are ALL very special and we thank you! What ever would we have done without you! Dr. John Heiden served as our Choir Director for over 50 years. Thank you Dr. John. And thank you to all the choir members over the past 100 years! Mollie Geyer is remembered for the many years of leading our Sunday School and VBS in singing praises to our Lord. Thank you, too, Mollie!

Do you remember all of the Christmas Programs, the Easter Egg Hunts, the church picnics, the fall festivals and carnivals, the talent shows? Did you know that in the early years, the adults were the participants in the Christmas Eve program? Do you remember the nights we have trimmed the tree at church? Sometimes, after getting the beautiful Chrismons and lights on, we would sing Silent Night with only the lights of the tree. What a special moment! Aren't we blessed to have such beautiful Chrismons for our tree? Oh, yes, we've had some delicious, warm bowls of chili after going out Christmas caroling in the old bus.

The Miriam Society was the first women's group at Zion. Oh, my, how many meals they served, how many items they have donated to the church! What wonderful times we had on the trips we made with the



Miriam Society. Do you remember Frank Baker driving us in the old bus to Las Cruces. We had to stop half way home for Frank to do some minor repairs before we could make it home!

How many book reviews have you attended at Zion? I will never forget how this encouraged me to read the books in Zion's library. There are some really great books there!

The Zion Lutheran Women's Missionary League (LWML) has been active since the beginning of the International and District LWML organization. How many "mites" have been sent in from Zion? Those mites have been used around the world to further the Gospel of Jesus Christ! It was a joy to attend the many Rallies, Christian Growth Workshops and Retreats held at the various locations in our Zone. Zion ladies have held many Zone & District Offices and are always one of the societies with the largest attendance at zone activities. Do you remember going to Glorieta for a District LWML Convention? We all rode a bus and Zion had a huge group in attendance! In 1996 the District Convention was held in El Paso for the first time. What a lot of work, but it was all worth it!

I remember my first time going to Evening Guild. What a warm welcome I received by those who attended. Do you remember all of the speakers we had over the years? It helped us know what was going on in our community. I remember how silly and how much fun we had those evenings at Zion! The Christmas Parties of the Evening Guild were always a highlight of the season. Evening Guild and LWML have now joined together to continue the goals and traditions of both.

There is now a Young Women's Group meeting at Zion on a regular basis. It was interesting to note the largest attendance we've had was the night we learned to quilt. It is nice to know the younger women are interested in continuing the sewing skills of the past. Many quilts have been made by Zion women.

What would we ever do without all of the Aid Association for Lutherans (AAL) and Lutheran Brotherhood fund raisers? I wonder just how much money was matched by these two benevolent groups over the past 100 years?

Do you remember when Roberto Simental first came to Zion's Spanish Bible Class with Pastor Hughey? Little did we know that Roberto would



be in Florida on his vicarage during our Anniversary Year! We miss you Roberto & Norma. We thank Rev. Jose Ruiz for ministering with us during Roberto's vicarage.

Have you seen any pictures of what Ysleta Lutheran Mission looked like in the very early years? What a change has taken place! The thrift shop had many Zion members as volunteers. We enjoyed having the Laborers for Christ come to Sunshine Club over the years. The Laborers for Christ and many Servant Events have worked with Pastor Karl Heimer and his staff to help make the Mission ready to go into the next century. It was in 1982 that Zion was instrumental in founding that lower valley Mission which serves many people in Word, Sacrament and Social Ministry.

How many of you helped with the San Antonio Street Ministry? I can remember how exciting our meetings were as we planned the "Christian Fiestas" to be held each month at first and then each Sunday in the San Antonio Street area where our first Zion Lutheran Church was. We tried to purchase the old Zion building, but the Lord had other plans. The owner was not open to selling at the time. Aubrey Morrison came to be a Vicar at Zion and after ordination was Missionary-at-Large at Holy Cross Mission. The Morrison family was a special part of Zion during their time in El Paso.

Do you remember any of the names of the students who came to Zion for the Hispanic Internship Program? Rev. Ralph Patrick, now pastor at Mission, Las Cruces was one of those students. Rev. Ken Davidson came more than once. Becky Tegtmeier Grossman and Edna Richlie became Lutheran Bible Translators and have kept in contact with members of Zion. Romances began during these internships too. Monica Husbands married Kris Bornstad and Dennis Boehmer married Carrie McGlin. Many of these students have gone on to become pastors, missionaries in foreign lands, teachers, deaconesses and DCEs! They have all taken a little of Zion with them into their lives.

Memories are told of police coming to the church in Ruidoso while the youth were there for a retreat. He was just investigating the reason lights were on in the church at such a late hour. "You can't see when you wake up with a policeman's light in your eyes", a Youth Counselor was heard to say. Do you remember who was at that retreat???



A youth retreat at the Smith's cabin found many hiking up Smith's mountain. There were a bunch of tired youth that afternoon. During this retreat they also went into the town of Cloudcroft to watch the Christmas parade.

How many youth groups have gone skiing at Ruidiso? How many youth camping trips have there been? How many Walther League meetings have you been to in other towns across this Southwestern land? They were all special to those in attendance! What fun too!

Memories of the Synodical Youth Gatherings are told by Pat and John Roudebush. Justin "Wayne" Williamson several times borrowed the video of the first San Antonio Gathering to recall the memories. Our hotel rooms overlooked the Alamo in San Antonio. We all went out together for Italian food on the River Walk. Can you ever believe how small those first gatherings were, compared to the one being planned for 1998 in Atlanta with 30,000 coming! The Bible studies at all of the gatherings have been fantastic. We will never forget the Denver Gathering! Jeff Morrison, Carrie Geyer and Lori Patton were participants in the first ever Youth Gathering Band and Choir! They had to get up really early for practice. How proud our youth group was of them as they performed at the gathering! We will be praying for a safe and wonderful journey to Atlanta for our "100th Anniversary Year" Youth Group, with Mr. & Mrs. Strietz as counselors.



## **100th YEAR MEMORY HIGHLIGHTS**

**Rev. Roger Krause, Rocky Mountain District President was guest preacher to open our anniversary year.**

**New Handbells were purchased and our Handbell Choir presented their premier performance.**

**Rev. Howard Patten, President of the Kansas District and son-in-law of Zion, was guest preacher in August.**

**Sunday School Rally Day and a Box Lunch Social.**

**Rio Grande Circuit Reformation Rally at Zion with guest preacher, Rev. Otto Hintze, son of the congregation. Brats and Sauerkraut served to all. Rev. Otto Hintze was also guest speaker at a two-day Symposium.**

**Anne Louise Duff directed a Christmas Eve Program remembering previous Christmas programs. 100 stars were placed in the sanctuary.**

**Our Savior Lutheran Choir presented a Christmas Cantata.**

**On the Baptism of our Lord Sunday, a chain with 1167 names of all who have been baptized at Zion was made.**

**Celebration of the 75th Anniversary of the present church building.**

**In February we had Friendship Sunday and a Talent Fest to share the special gifts given to members of Zion.**

**100 Year Cleaning Day to help make our building sparkle!**

**A Christian Passover Seder was held on Maundy Thursday.**

**Seven young members of Zion confirmed On Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday with the traditional Easter Breakfast sponsored by the youth since 1928.**

**A Mother's Day Tea with hats, gloves and many memories revisited.**

**Renewal of Wedding Vows was held in June during a worship service.**



During the year the Bulletin Board held photos of construction of the present building, previous Christmas Days at Zion and of members on their Baptismal Days, Confirmation Days and Wedding Days.

On Friday, July 3rd - Rev. Max Metcalf, grandson of Zion's founding pastor, Rev. H. A. Huebotter led us in a special Vesper Service and hymn sing. Evening Guild & LWML helped serve at the reception following the service.

An old fashioned July 4th Picnic was held on Saturday at the home of Jim and Carol Nymann. Lots of food, games and fireworks were planned to help celebrate Zion's anniversary and our Nation's birthday.

Sunday Morning, July 5th began with the bell ringing 100 times. Our guest preacher was Dr. John Johnson, President of Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, Missouri. The Festival Worship Service featured German, English and Spanish with former Pastors participating.

Later in the day, at Fort Bliss Officer's Club a banquet was planned with guest speaker, Dr. Jean Garton, a member of the Board of Directors of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. Zion's choir and Handbell choir, along with Joilyn George helped make the day even more festive with their music. An anniversary quilt designed by Magdalena Sandoval and made by Shirley Server, Karen Server & Shirley Cline was presented to it's happy new owner.

July 13 - 17, 1998 - Still to be held is an "Old Fashioned" Vacation Bible School. This will be held in the morning hours as VBS in the past was held. Students and class volunteers are invited to participate! Make plans now to join in the fun!

**HAPPY 100TH ANNIVERSARY ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH!**



## COMPARING ZION, LC-MS, EL PASO, U.S. AND WORLD EVENTS

- 1869 - Transcontinental Railroad completed.
- 1870 - St. Clements in El Paso was founded.
- 1871 - Great Chicago Fire
- 1876 - Custer was wiped out at Little Big Horn -
- 1878 - Synod's first black congregation in Little Rock, Ark.
- 1879 - Edison invents first practical incandescent light bulb
- 1879 - The El Paso - Las Cruces area had half dozen freight lines. \$75.00 to go to San Antonio.
- 1880 - Tigua Indians would help travelers, assisting against Apaches.
- 1881 marked the last of the Apache-Comanche raids.
- 1881 - Train comes to El Paso
- 1882 - First issue of Lutheran Witness came out
- 1882 - El Paso City Hall was moved to Overland & Santa Fe
- 1883 - Brooklyn Bridge completed.
- 1884 - First public school in El Paso - Central at Campbell & Myrtle
- 1886 - Capture of Geronimo marks end of Plains Indian warfare.
- 1886 - Statue of Liberty unveiled in New York
- 1889- Mayo clinic founded.
- 1892 The El Paso-Juarez Railway Company using mules pulling a trolley car.
- 1894 - K Naether and E. Mohn go to India as Synod's first foreign missionaries.
- 1894 - Ground breaking for Hotel Dieu Hospital
- 1895 - Marconi invents wireless telegraph
- 1896 - Olympic Games revived in Athens
- Rural Free Delivery inaugurated RFD
- 1897- 1907 - Rev. H. A. Huebotter, Zion's Founding Pastor
- 1898- ZION LUTHERAN FOUNDED
- 1898 - U.S. defeats Spain in Spanish-American War
- 1898 to 1901 there were 1,000 building permits issued - Lots sold for \$200 - \$400 at 6% interest
- 1890'S TO 1960'S - Alligator Pool in San Jacinto Plaza Park
- Alligators named, Minnie, Oscar, Suitcase & Sally. They were removed to protect the alligators from the people, rather than to protect the people from the alligators. Oscar alligator ended up in a college professor's office.
- 1899 - Gideon Bible Society organized.
- 1901 - President McKinley assassinated, succeeded by Vice-President Theodore Roosevelt



- 1901 - January 17- 20 was the El Paso Texas Midwinter Carnival, the forerunner of the Sun Carnival of later years
- 1902 - El Paso High School was playing football in New Mexico, Arizona & West Texas. Phoenix was the team's greatest rival during the early years.
- 1903 - First Lutheran high school founded in Milwaukee.
- 1903 - First successful powered air flight by Wright Brothers.
- 1903 - First U.S. coast-to-coast motorcar crossing - 65 days.
- 1906 - San Francisco earthquake
- 1906 - First Baptist Church of El Paso was built at the cost of \$45,000. The building is still there today at Magoffin & Virginia
- 1907 - Rev. G W. Fischer came to Zion
- 1908 - Ford introduces the Model T
- 1908 - First broadcast of music and voice on radio.
- 1909 - President Taft came to El Paso to visit Mexico's President Porfirio Diaz
- 1909 - Rev. P. Bahr installed at Zion
- 1900's - McMickle's at 600 East San Antonio Street sold bread for 3 cents a loaf - Coffee was 30 cents a pound, 100 pounds of flour \$3.75, Round Steak from fat steers was 13 cents a pound. They had the best sanitary display of meat under glass in the Southwest
- 1908 - "Chihuahueta" -Pancho Villa once lived hiding from Mexico's President Huerta.
- 1910 - Mexican Revolution started lasting 10 years.  
"Viva Mexico" - grito - the cry of liberty
- 1911 - The great Juarez Battle of 1911  
Important because of its strategic position & large population
- 1912 - Rev. Paul O. Birkmann installed at Zion
- 1912 - Titanic sinks
- 1913 - Federal Income Tax introduced - (16th Amendment)
- 1914 - War breaks out in Europe
- 1914 - Panama Canal completed
- 1914 - El Paso to Phoenix Automobile Race  
Best Racing Cars in Texas - Buick - Stutz -Kissel Kar, Cadillac- Ford- Marmon-Beaver Bullet-Oldsmobile-Fiat
- 1916 - 1917 - Vicar Albert Webbeking serves at Zion
- 1916 - 1917 - Pancho Villa's raids into New Mexico  
March 9, 1916 - attack on Columbus, NM -  
June 21, 1916 - Battle of Carrizal 17 U.S. soldiers killed
- 1917 - Lutheran Laymen's League organized at Milwaukee



- 1917 - Word "German" eliminated from official name of synod
- 1917 - Rev. J.H.C. Sieck installed at Zion
- 1917 - U.S. enters WWI on Good Friday
- 1918 - Armistice Day (Nov. 11) Casualty Count 349,000  
including 112,000 dead
- 1919 - Lutheran Deaconess Association organized
- 1919 - Volstead Act passes over presidential veto (Prohibition)
- 1920 - 19th Amendment Ratified (Women's Suffrage)
- 1922 - Formation of U.S.S.R.
- 1923 - ZION MOVED INTO NEW CHURCH BUILDING ON PERSHING
- 1923 - Synod begins work with the blind
- 1923 - Pancho Villa was killed
- 1924 - Rev. Theodore H. Evers installed at Zion
- 1924 - KFUE Lutheran radio's first broadcast
- 1924 - Hitler writes Mein Kampf
- 1926 - New St. Louis Seminary campus dedicated
- 1927 - Lindbergh makes solo flight from New York to Paris
- 1929 - Wall Street crash (October), Great Depression begins
- 1929 - St. Valentine's Day gangland massacre in Chicago
- 1930 - First Lutheran Hour broadcast
- 1933 - Hitler comes to power in Germany
- 1933 - Severe droughts turn Great Plains into "Dust Bowl"
- 1936 - LCMS Armed Services Commission organized
- 1937 - *Portals of Prayer* debuts
- 1941 - Japan Bombs Pearl Harbor
- 1942 - Lutheran Women's Missionary League organized
- 1945 - Germany surrenders (May)
- 1945 - Atomic bombs dropped on Japan; Japan surrenders (Aug)
- 1946 - Rev. Paul F. Stueckler installed at Zion
- 1946 - Billy Graham begins evangelistic career
- 1947 - 100th Anniversary of Synod
- 1948 - Convention adopts the name "The Lutheran Church - Missouri  
Synod"
- 1950 - Korean War starts
- 1951 - Mission work begins in Papua New Guinea
- 1953 - Korean War ends
- 1955 - Salk polio vaccine developed
- 1955 - Dr. Oswald Hoffmann becomes Lutheran Hour Speaker.
- 1969 - 1977- Rev. Merrill M. Kluhsman served as Zion's Pastor
- 1979 - 1988- Rev. B. Steve Hughey served as Zion's Pastor
- 1990 - 1995- Rev. Jeffrey E. Shearier served as Zion's Pastor
- 1995- Present - Zion's current Pastor is Rev. Charles O. Canada