



One Hundred Twenty-Five Years of Faith and Service

<i>Pastors</i>	<i>World Events</i>	<i>Members</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - LCMS railroad preacher, Rev. Waechter of Abilene, investigates mission potential in El Paso - Pastor Huebotter arrives as missionary. (1897-07) - Parochial school is led by Rev. Huebotter (1898-99) - Pastor Fischer is installed as pastor (1907-08) - Parochial school is led by Pastor Fischer (1907-08) - Pastor Bahr is installed as pastor (1909-12) 	<p>1890s</p> <p><i>John Wesley Hardin Shot (1895)</i></p> <p><i>El Paso Population is 10,338</i></p> <p>1900s</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mrs. Bergman, suffering from tuberculosis, arrives in El Paso and asks her home pastor in Chicago if a Lutheran Church could be established. The LCMS Southern District investigates and calls first missionary. - Worshippers organize as a congregation in 1898, borrowing and renting spaces for worship and school. Worship is in German. - Zion members build first sanctuary on San Antonio Street, thanks to a donation from the Ogden family.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Pastor Birkmann is installed as pastor (1912-16) - Vicar Webbeking is authorized to administer sacraments during interim (1916-17) 	<p>1910s</p> <p><i>Mexican Revolution (1910-20)</i></p> <p><i>UTEP Established (1913)</i></p> <p><i>WWI (1914-18)</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Lutheran members of the US military begin attending Zion in large numbers.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 1917 Pastor Sieck is installed as Zion's pastor - Pastor Sieck ministers to military in Deming, NM, and Ft. Bliss. 	<p><i>Pancho Villa (1916-23)</i></p> <p><i>Five Points in El Paso becomes its "2nd Downtown"</i></p> <p>1920s</p> <p><i>Prohibition (1920-33)</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Zion transitions into worship in English. - 1918 Zion decides to build a new sanctuary in the new Five Points community and receives financial support LCMS churches and the LCMS Ministry to the Armed Forces - 1923 The sanctuary in Five Points is completed. - Future missionary and LCMS leader Otto Hintze Jr. is the first person baptized in Zion's new sanctuary.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Pastor Evers is installed as pastor (1924-45) and continues ministry to military in Deming. 	<p>1930s</p> <p><i>Great Depression (1929-1939)</i></p> <p>1940s</p> <p><i>WWII (1939-45)</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 1926 the parsonage is built. - 1934 The first of Zion's stain glass windows is installed. - 1935 Neon Cross added (first neon sign in El Paso) and pool table is donated. - Ministry to members of the armed forces increases amid WWII deployments. - Offerings of military members help Zion pay off its mortgage (1945)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Rev. Stueckler is installed as pastor (1946-67) 	<p><i>"Cold War" (1945-1991)</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Zion provides worship services at Ft. Bliss in German for "Operation Paper Clip" scientists and families.

<p>- Pastor Stueckler assists the Colorado District LCMS in church planting throughout New Mexico: Deming, Alamogordo, Las Cruces, and Silver City as mission stations until they are able to organize and call a pastor.</p>	<p><i>Operation Paper Clip at Ft. Bliss (1945-59)</i></p> <p>1950s</p> <p><i>Korean War (1950-53)</i></p> <p><i>El Paso Population Booms</i></p> <p>1960s</p> <p><i>Vietnam War (1964-73)</i></p> <p><i>Chamizal Treaty (1963) brings</i></p> <p><i>Hispanic families to Five Points</i></p>	<p>Zion member Rev. Otto Hinze Jr. begins missionary service in Papua New Guinea (1948-65)</p> <p>- By 1955 worship attendance averages 329 and Sunday school attendance 114.</p> <p>- The education wing is built and dedicated in 1955</p> <p>- Zion assists the LCMS Colorado District in church planting throughout El Paso County: Redeemer (1951), Grace (1957)</p> <p>- Zion assists the LCMS Colorado District in planting two more El Paso churches: Ascension (1960), Our Savior (1966)</p> <p>- Zion parochial school reestablished for one year, led by Mr. Paul Kramer (1965-66)</p> <p>- 1967 Lutheran Border Ministry is begun by Zion members the Colorado District LCMS and Pastor Schrank</p>
<p>- 1968 Pastor Schrank of Lutheran Border Ministry serves as Zion's vacancy pastor for a year.</p> <p>- Pastor Kluhsman is installed as pastor (1969-77)</p>	<p>1970s</p> <p><i>War on Drugs (1971-present)</i></p> <p><i>Personal Computers (Apple 1977 IBM 1981)</i></p>	<p>- 1970 Redeemer Lutheran Church closes and many members join Zion</p> <p>- Zion makes numerous improvements to the facilities during this decade: renovations of the sacristy, narthex, and fellowship hall, and conversion of the parsonage into the church office.</p> <p>- Amy Bodey is hired as Church Office Secretary, serving for 35 years (1973-2008).</p> <p>- Zion parochial school is reestablished, led by Joan Schrank (1970-85).</p>
<p>- Pastor Hughey is installed as pastor. (1979-88)</p>	<p>1980s</p> <p><i>Space Shuttle Program (1981-2011)</i></p> <p><i>Microsoft Windows (1985)</i></p> <p><i>"World Wide Web" (1989)</i></p>	<p>- Zion leads campaign to build new church in Ciudad Juarez for <i>Iglesia Luterana Cristo Rey</i></p> <p>- Zion begins the "San Antonio Street Mission" downtown.</p> <p>- Zion and the Rocky Mountain District LCMS begin Ysleta Lutheran Mission Human Care (YLM) and call Pastor Karl Heimer as pastor/director.</p> <p>- Sunday School and VBS outreach serves hundreds of children</p>
	<p>1990s</p>	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Pastor Shearier is installed as pastor (1990-95) - 1990 Theological Education by Extension graduate Roberto Simental enters vicarage program and begins Spanish Bible study group and monthly worship services. 	<p><i>Cold War ends</i></p> <p><i>El Paso Star kept on permanently during and after Operation Desert Storm</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ministry to Armed Forces amid Persian Gulf War deployments. - Zion begins vicarage program - Zion leads circuit in planting of St. Matthew Lutheran (now Crosspoint) - Decision made to reopen the parochial school and extensive education building renovations take place.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 1995 Pastor Canada is installed as Zion's pastor (1995-2006) 	<p><i>NAFTA trade agreement signed (1994)</i></p> <p><i>Ciudad Juarez' population booms</i></p> <p>2000s</p> <p><i>9-11 "Global War On Terror" begins (2001)</i></p> <p><i>Ft. Bliss expands</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Zion Day School is reestablished with Mrs. Nancy Cagaan as director (1995-2017) - Bible Studies and twice-a-month worship services and are held in Spanish with help from YLM pastors - 2003 Our Savior Lutheran Church closes and many members join Zion - Ministry to Armed Forces amid increased deployments - Stained-glass windows are refurbished
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 2007 Pastor Howard Patten begins service as interim pastor (2007-19) - 2011 Pastor Stephen Heimer is installed as pastor with ministry agreement to continue as YLM's chief operating officer and Pastor Patten serving part-time as an assisting pastor. - Pastor S. Heimer ministers in Immigration Detention Center and on live radio in partnership with YLM - 2019 Pastor S. Heimer ends work as YLM COO - Pastor Patten as pastor emeritus assists circuit churches. 	<p><i>Global Financial Crisis (2008-2009)</i></p> <p><i>Juarez Cartel War (2008-2012)</i></p> <p>2010s</p> <p><i>El Paso's Spur 601 is completed (2011)</i></p> <p><i>Surges in Immigration (2016-present)</i></p> <p>2020s</p> <p><i>COVID-19 Pandemic</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Many facility renovations take place including sanctuary and the outside signage. - Zion holds golf tournaments and galas to support YLM work in Mexico during crisis of economy and violence. - A bilingual website and social media pages expand active outreach on internet. - "Jr. Elder" program invites members of military to serve as wingmen to Zion elders - Zion Day School reaches 50+ enrollment with waiting list - 2017 Sandra Alvarado becomes Zion Day School director (2017-20) - Zion begins livestreaming worship services over internet. Bible Studies groups and boards utilize online meeting platforms.

Read stories, view photos and videos surrounding these events at:
www.zionelpaso.org/history

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