

Zion Lutheran Church

Pine City, Minnesota

First Service - August 1884

Incorporated- January 1885

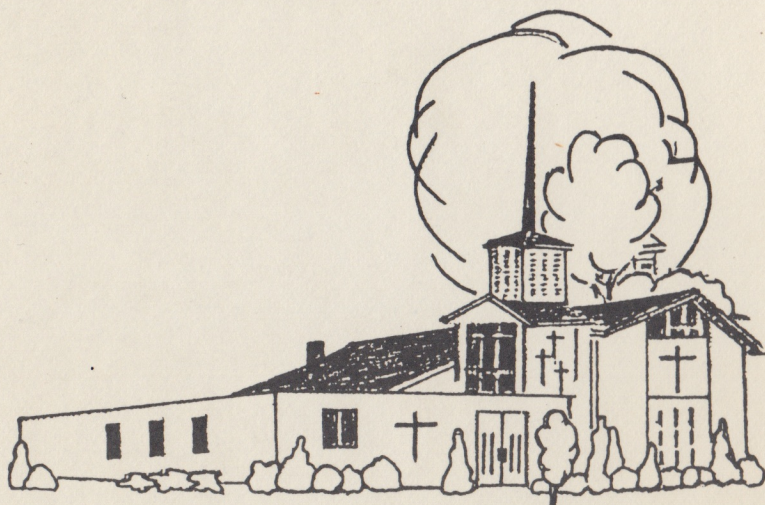
Dedication First Building- April 24, 1887

Dedication Second Building - February 6, 1955

Dedication Building Addition - September 9, 1979

Pastors serving Zion:

Student Pastor Fischer, 1884-1885; Wm. Braunwarth, 1885-1888; H. Dahlke, 1888-1890; A.F. Ude, 1890-1894; C. Abel, 1894-1900; A.W. Schultz, 1900-1905; C. Huebner, 1905-1909; A. Domman, 1909-1910; G.F. Luebker, 1910-1921; Paul Heinke, 1921-1927; Carl Steging - EM 1927-1948, Deep Haven, Minn.; A.W. Roegge, 1949-1959; Ross Schuler, 1959-1962; Frank Sass - EM 1962-1969, Vergas, Minn.; David Meyer, 1969-1974, Grace Lutheran, Brooklyn Park; Russell Peterson, 1975-1977, St. Peter Lutheran, Sawyer, N.D.; Donald Schmiege, 1977-; Erick Schmiege - EM 1983-, Ely, Minn.



Zion's 100th Anniversary Book Courtesy of
A.A.L.'s Milestone Program!

Planting and Harvesting:

A Century For Christ

1884 ~ 1984 ~



Zion Lutheran Church

Pine City, Minnesota

Saturday Evening

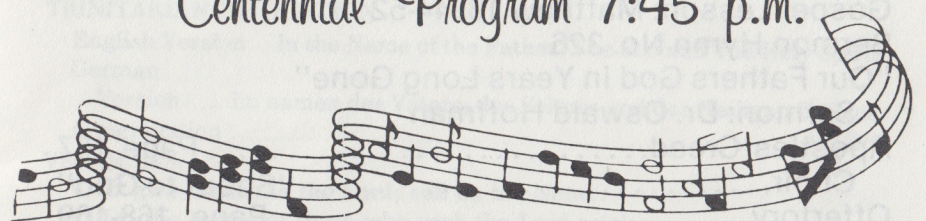
August 18, 1984

Congregational

Picnic

6:30 p.m.

Centennial Program 7:45 p.m.



-Hymn Sing

-Welcome and Introductions

-One Hundred Years of Memories

-Roll Call

-Baptisms

-Confirmations

-Marriages

Evening Vespers 8:45 p.m.

Sunday Morning Worship

August 19, 1984

8:15 and 10:30 a.m.

Opening Hymn No. 325 For Many Years, O God of Grace”	
Invocation.....	Page 158
Confession.....	Page 158
Absolution.....	Page 159
Old Testament Lesson: I Kings 3: 5-12 Choir.....	“Give Thanks to God”
Epistle Lesson: Romans 8: 28-30	
Gospel Lesson: Matthew 13: 44-52	
Sermon Hymn No. 326 “Our Fathers God in Years Long Gone” Sermon: Dr. Oswald Hoffman	
Apostles Creed.....	Page 167
Choir.....	“Shout to God”
Offertory.....	Page 168-169
Prayers	
Lords Prayer	
Benediction.....	Page 174
(Congregation:) “Amens”	
Closing Hymn No. 291 “Built on a Rock”	

ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH FESTIVAL SERVICE - 2 P.M.

PRELUDE MUSIC

Processional Hymn “The Church’s One Foundation”

The church’s one foundation is Jesus Christ, her Lord;
She is his new creation By water and the Word.
From Heav’n he came and sought her To be his holy bride;
With his own blood he bought her, And for her life he died.

Elect from ev’ry nation, Yet one o’er all the earth;
Her charter of salvation: One Lord, one faith, one birth.
One holy name she blesses, Partakes one holy food,
And to one hope she presses With ev’ry grace endued.

Through toil and tribulation And tumult of her war
She waits the consummation Of peace forever more
Till with the vision glorious Her longing eyes are blest,
And the great Church victorious Shall be the Church at rest.

Yet she on earth has union With God, the Three in One,
And mystic sweet communion With those whose rest is won.
O blessed heav’nly chorus! Lord, save us by your grace
That we, like saints before us, May see you face to face.

TRINITARIAN INVOCATION

English Version ... In the Name of the Father, The Son and The Holy Spirit
German

Version Im namen des Vaters, des Sohnes und des Heiligen Geistes
Congregation AMEN

VERSICLES:

V. O give thanks to the Lord, call on his Name.

R. Let the hearts of those who seek the Lord rejoice.

V. O Lord be gracious to me.

R. Heal me for I have sinned against you.

V. I will be glad and exult in you.

R. I will sing praise to your name, O most high.

First Lesson: Galatians 6:7-10

Choir: “Jesus Savior” by Herman Voss

Gospel Lesson: Matt 13: 3-9, 18-23

CONFESSION OF SIN

MINISTER:

Fellow Christians! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins
unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ
to grant us forgiveness.

V. Our help is in the name of the Lord,

R. Who made heaven and earth.

V. I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord.

R. And thou forgavest the iniquity of my sin.

ALL:

O Almighty God, Merciful Father, I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto Thee all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended Thee and justly deserved Thy temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray Thee of Thy boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Thy beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.

The Absolution:

MINISTER:

Upon this your confession, I by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost.

R. AMEN

Sermon Hymn: "Built On The Rock"

Built on the Rock the Church shall stand, Even when steeples are falling;
Crumbled have spires in ev'ry land, Bells still are chiming and calling,
Calling the young and old to rest, Calling the souls of those distressed,
Longing for life ever-lasting.

Not in our temples made with hands God, the Almighty, is dwelling;
High in the heav'ns his temple stands, All earthly temples excelling.
Yet he who dwells in heav'n above Deigns to abide with us in love,
Making our bodies his temple.

We are God's house of living stones, Built for his own habitation;
He fills our hearts, his humble thrones, Granting us life and salvation.
Were two or three to seek his face, He in their midst would show his grace,
Blessings upon them bestowing.

Yet in this house, an earthly frame, Jesus the children is blessing;
Hither we come to praise his name, Faith in our Savior confessing.
Jesus to us his Spirit sent, Making with us his covenant,
Granting His children the Kingdom.

Sermon: Dr. Oswald Hoffman-Lutheran Hour Speaker

Offering

Choir: "Here In This House" by Beethoven-Howorth

Prayer: [Responsive]

Pastor: For a hundred years of sowing the seed.

Congregation: We give You thanks O Lord.

P. For pastors, teachers, members, youth and all who have worshiped You here.

C. We give You thanks, O Lord.

P. For a century of reaping the harvest in Your fields.

C. We praise You, O God.

P. For continued opportunities and open doors for the doing of Your work.

C. We praise You, O God.

P. For the sharing of Your grace and power.

C. We give You thanks, Holy Spirit.

P. For the Means of Grace, Your Word and Sacraments.

C. We give You thanks, Holy Spirit.

P. In this anniversary year.

C. We ask your blessing on us O Lord.

P. As we look to the future and our work for You.

C. We ask You to bless us O Lord.

P. You have placed us here to plant the seed of Your Word.

C. Use us, O Lord for Your purpose.

P. You have called us to be workers in Your harvest fields.

C. Use us, O Lord for Your purpose.

P. Open our hearts and minds to the opportunities You place before us.

C. May we always serve You O Christ.

P. May we be faithful to Your Word, sharing its message with others.

C. May we always serve You, O Christ.

P. For all which You have done and continue to do.

C. We give You thanks.

P. For all You have called us to do now and in the future.

C. We ask for Your strength and blessing.

P. Be with us this day and bless us in Jesus' Name, Who also taught us to pray.

C. Our Father, who art in Heaven. . . AMEN

Benediction:

PASTOR:

And now as you go on your way may the Lord be with you, beside you to be a friend to you, behind you to encourage you, in front of you to guide you, above you to watch over you, and within you to give you His peace.

(English): The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.

(German): Der Herr segnet dich und du bist sein, des Herren Heiligkeit spiegelt sich in dir und macht dich gradig. Der Herr schaut auf dich mit Gefälligkeit und gibt dir Frieden.

Congregation AMEN

Recessional Hymn "A Mighty Fortress"

A mighty fortress is our God, A sword and shield victorious;

He breaks the cruel oppressor's rod. And wins salvation glorious.

The old satanic foe Has sworn to work us woe.

With craft and dreadful might He arms himself to fight.

On earth he has no equal.

No strength of ours can match his might. We would be lost, rejected.

But now a champion comes to fight, Whom God himself elected.

You ask who this may be? The Lord of hosts is he,

Christ Jesus, mighty Lord, God's only Son, adored.

He holds the field victorious.

Though hordes of devils fill the land All threat'ning to devour us,

We tremble not, unmoved we stand; They cannot overpower us.

Let this world's tyrant rage; In battle we'll engage.

His might is doomed to fail; God's judgment must prevail!

One little word subdues him.

Continued on page 7

A MIGHTY FORTRESS continued

God's Word forever shall abide, No thanks to foes, who fear it;
For God himself fights by our side With weapons of the Spirit.
Were they to take our house, Goods, honor, child, or spouse,
Though life be wrenched away, They cannot win the day.
The Kingdom's ours forever!

AmensChoir
Postlude Music

CENTENNIAL SERVICES PARTICIPANTS:

Dr. Oswald Hoffman, Guest Speaker, Lutheran Hour, St. Louis, Mo.

Former Pastors:

Rev. Frank Sass-EM, Vergas, Minnesota

Rev. David Meyer, Grace Lutheran Church, Brooklyn Park, Minnesota

Present Pastors:

Rev. Don Schmiede

Rev. Erick Schmiede-EM, Ely, Minnesota

Special thanks to Central Lutheran Church, Minneapolis, for use of their choir gowns. Our Redeemer Lutheran Ladies for serving of the Centennial dinner.

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A Century For Christ

1884 ~ 1984

FOREWORD

The following history of Zion Lutheran Church is not meant to be a scholarly document, but rather an informal account of the members of Zion Lutheran Church as they have served their Lord in this place for one hundred years.

Many people were involved in assembling the necessary information. The chief source of information was the recorded minutes of congregation meetings. From 1884 to 1923 the minutes were written in German which required translation. Other information used came from church records and documents and the files of "The Pine City Pioneer."

Thanks to all who contributed to this project.

The lumbering town of Pine City was only three years old when a group of German settlers gathered to organize a Lutheran church. The first official business meeting of Zion Evangelical Lutheran Parish of Pine City was held on August 10, 1884. At that time a formal constitution was drawn up establishing the new parish.

Mr. Oscar Fisher who had been acting minister of the parish and was a student of theology was selected as the "servant" to the new congregation. His wages were set at \$25 a quarter and he was boarded free at the homes of four church members. His wages were collected by Henry Rath, but later other members took turns making the collections. The new pastor's duties included teaching school "in connection with Beroun and Rush Lake every third week." A paragraph was added to the constitution setting down the responsibilities and obligations he was to fulfill: ". . .hire him as the Bible says as a servant of Christ and accept him as their preacher as long as he preaches right, lives morally, and does his duties in true faith."

Plans got underway for construction of a church building on three lots of land donated by Miss Jennie E. McCaine. The building would be financed by collections made by Mr. Fisher, the newly appointed pastor "with God's help" and by donations of materials by members of the congregation.

From the beginning the congregation sponsored a German school and eight members agreed to send their children. In the beginning it was held in the home of H. Lumberg.

During the first few months fourteen additional men signed the constitution, thus becoming voting members of the congregation. Pastor Sievers who had been serving as a temporary pastor previous to Pastor Fisher was released and was asked for the church records. Church meetings were held on the first Sunday of the month following services, but later this practice was discontinued.

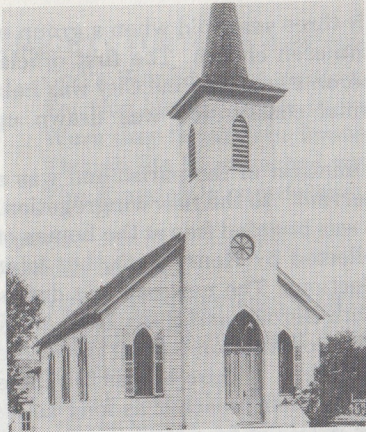
A Board of Trustees was established made up of George Kick, Adolf Radden, Henry Ausmus, Hans Wick, and William Glasow. These men in addition to Henry Glasow also made up the committee which would plan the building of an edifice.

The plans called for a building 28'x40' including the altar nook. Decisions about a tower, the foundation, and exterior were left up to the committee and contractor.

The first constitution was lost so the pastor drew up a new one keeping the Lutheran faith. Later a copy of the original one was found and after a public reading of both, the newly written one was adopted on January 25, 1885. It was signed by George Kick, August Towsley, Hans Wieck, Henry Ausmus, E. Venhoven, Henry J. Rath, Adolf Radden, Hans Kruse, Hans Bottgen, Henrick Kruse, W. Glasow, Henry Brandes, J. Fohottlen, Herman Borchers, N.W. Lohriman, Paul Liebau, Fredrich Hottschule, Christian Dosey, Henry Schultz, Jochim Grimm, E. Dahlke, W. Dahlke, H. Dahlke, J. Wandell, John Kline, and Herman Spearing.

The Articles of Incorporation of the Evangelical Lutheran Zion Society of Pine City were formally filed with the Register of Deeds of Pine County, Minnesota, on January 26, 1885.

At a special meeting in March, 1885, Pastor Fisher presented his resignation effective August 1, 1885, as he planned to continue his studies and return to his "old brotherly synod." Several months after his departure, he was requested to return the books and paraments.



By January, 1887, the church building was nearly completed with an outstanding debt of \$300, which would be repaid in three years.

The following article was printed in the Pine City Pioneer on January 8, 1887.

"To the Public:

The members of the German Lutheran Church wish to extend their hearty thanks to the many kind friends who have so generously given us financial aid in the erection of our new church and especially the ladies who assisted us in the several entertainments given for our benefit. We heartily appreciate your past

favors and to enjoy a continuance of the same in the liquidation of the indebtedness now on our church. Our friends may rest assured that our best wishes will always be with them.

The Trustees"

The dedication was planned for April 24. Pastor H.P. Rolf of St. Paul was invited to take part and was also given power of attorney to look for a new pastor for the congregation. The dedication was reported in the Pine City Pioneer on April 29, 1887, as follows:

"The dedication of the German Lutheran Church which has recently been completed at this place, took place last Sunday and was conducted by Rev. Mr. Rolf of St. Paul and the Rev. Mr. Braunwarth of Rush City. During the day three services were held, one in the morning, one in the afternoon and one in the evening. The church building is one of the neatest little edifices of the kind there is along the line of the road, and the completion and dedication of the church speaks volumes for the enterprise and push of the congregation."

At a meeting in July, 1887, it was decided to send a letter of request to the Missouri Synod that the congregation be served by a pastor of the synod from the Minnesota and North Dakota District. During this interim the congregation was served by Pastor Sievers and Pastor Braunwarth of Rush City.

Pastor H. Dahlke accepted a call to Pine City in August, 1888, after travel money had been requested. He was asked to introduce the catechism in school and get writing and reading books. Parents paid tuition for German school which was held on Tuesday and Thursday evenings until Easter and after Easter it became day-school. Both English and German were used. Pastor Dahlke was also requested to visit every member of the community.

Mission giving was begun when the Easter collection was used for "sick students in Springfield, Minnesota." (The taking of collections during service was mentioned as a new idea. Evidently all church monies up to this time had been collected by the "collectors.")

In January, 1889, it was decided that communion would be celebrated every three months. Wine and wafers would be bought by the congregation. A reading service was sometimes conducted by members of the congregation following Sunday School.

The first Mission Festival was held on September 1, 1889, in the woods. The collection of \$19.50 was to be used for inner mission.



Pastor Dahlke received a call the following year and was "released in peace." In October, 1889, Pastor A.F. Ude was called and accepted. Travel money was collected from the other four congregations: Rush Lake, Rush City, Wyoming, North Branch.

Pastor Ude introduced a formal Lutheran service that was used by other Lutheran congregations. Although the congregation was in debt locally and had to again borrow \$130 to pay debts, mission collections were taken on one Sunday for the Minnesota-North Dakota District and on three others for "missions or other church purposes."

The church building was refurbished by painting the interior and installing shutters on the outside. Plans for the Christmas tree and gifts for the children were responsibilities of the women.

Beginning in 1891, Sunday School was held after each service and children were to attend "up to their 18th year."

Plans got underway to build a parsonage which was begun August 1, 1891. The Pastor was to visit all members and collect money for the building fund. They had to "drive deep" for water when they placed a pump near the parsonage.

Pastor Ude resigned in 1893 to accept a call to Blue Earth County and Pastor Carl Abel became the new pastor of the congregation.

The Pine County Pioneer of July, 1894, carried a notice of a mission program at the German Lutheran Church with A.J. Schroder delivering a lecture on "Darkest Africa."

In 1894 a shed (barn) 14x16x12' high was built. In January, 1895, more building was planned when a resolution was passed to build a school. A school board was appointed with George Kick and H. Schultz as co-chairmen and more plans for the school were set. Smaller children would attend from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. and the older children from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. with a charge of five cents a month.

The Pastor was granted a two week vacation "to get a wife." The May 10, 1895, issue of the Pine County Pioneer contained the following:

"Rev. Charles Abel of the German Lutheran Church returned from Chicago accompanied by his bride.

Thirty members of the German Lutheran Church surprised the pastor by calling at the parsonage with a pound party, just having returned from his wedding tour."

For the first time discussion was held as to the possibility of an English

mission and the question of affiliation with the Missouri Synod was discussed and on April 7, 1895, they voted to join.

The December issue of the Pine County Pioneer gave an account of the Christmas celebration in 1895:

"Christmas was observed in royal style by the German Lutherans on



Christmas Eve with a large and well filled tree. The entertainment consisted of speaking by 32 of the Sunday School children who also sang seven songs, appropriate for Christmas, the choir also rendered two selections which were well received. No presents were put on the tree by parents, but Miss Ida Dose received a fine album and pearl penholder in recognition of her services as organist. Christmas morning divine services were held at 10:00 o'clock."

August 30, 1895, saw the continuation of Mission Festivals at Zion. A combined service with Rush Lake and Rush City congregations was held at Rush Lake. Pine City sent a delegation of 45 according to the local paper's account of the event. Preachers, Prof. A. Landbeck of Concordia College, St. Paul, and Hebrew Missionary Nathaniel Friedman, and Pastor Charles Abel, presented the program. The Rush Lake Brass Band furnished the music and a collection of \$30 was taken. "All those in attendance report a pleasant time."

In 1896 permission was given for sixteen women to organize a Women's Club. One of the organization's first projects was papering the church. The following year they purchased two lamps and a wall map for the school. They held a picnic for the children in August.

In 1897 it was felt that Rush City, North Branch, and Wyoming should have pastors of their own so the work could be divided. However, five years later the records show that the pastor was again given permission to serve the other towns until they could find a pastor of their own.

Discussions were held at meetings dealing with the position the church should take on mixed marriages. Although it was considered to be "a very dangerous practice, the pastor was not forbidden to conduct such marriages."

The full Evangelical Lutheran liturgy was introduced and it was decided that the evening service should be based on words from the Holy Scripture. The Catechism edited by Lehman was introduced.

The church dealt very rigidly with members who did not take communion regularly. One member "who for several years made herself guilty by ignoring the means of grace was talked to for several hours when she finally accepted God and acknowledged her guilt."

The upkeep of the church buildings was a constant expense including the painting of the parsonage, installation of electric lights in the church in 1899, the hiring of a chimney sweep for \$1.50, and installing a cement floor in the parsonage basement to keep out the water. The lack of funds stalled the building of a school house. The congregation wrote synod asking for help of \$10 a month toward the pastor's salary.

In 1899 it was decided to have an English service "once in a while" so English song books were ordered.

Pastor Abel accepted a call to Mt. Olive Lutheran Church. Pastor A.W. Schultz was called and accepted the position in April, 1901. At that time a custom which was to be followed for a number of years was introduced. A collection plate was placed near the altar at communion services so participants could give a thank offering which would be used to buy supplies.

Mission work continued with the Easter collection being sent to poor students. The annual Mission Festival was planned at Koletsky's Woods.

The Swedish (Norwegian?) Lutherans used the church and helped pay

toward its upkeep. The Pine City Pioneer reported that the Norwegian Lutheran Church conducted Confirmation Services on Thanksgiving Day, 1901, at the German Lutheran Church.

Christmas, 1902 was celebrated with a Christmas tree decorated with candles. Earlier trees had been decorated with candy. George Kick, Sr. was assigned to watch the tree with a pail of water at his side during the service.

In 1903 a local drug store, The Breckenridge Pharmacy, published an ad in the local paper:

July 17, 1903

"Always being interested in the welfare of our churches and after talking with some of the members are willing to show our interest in a substantial manner 'as follows.' Will give half of entire proceeds from our Soda Fountain on each of the following Saturdays (which are usually the best days of the week)

Methodist July 18; Catholic July 25; Presbyterian August 1; German Lutheran August 8.

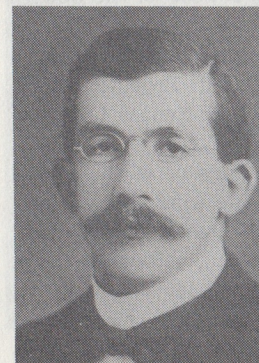
If the pastors or committee of ladies for each denomination will confer with us, will be pleased to do all in our power to make the business of these days as large as possible.

Breckenridge Pharmacy"

Action was taken at a business meeting to inform Mr. Breckenridge not to use the name of the parish in the advertisement.

During Lent in 1904, services were held on Wednesday afternoons at 2:30 p.m. Ascension Day services were held at 10 a.m. During services girls were to sit on the women's side of the church if there was enough room. If not, they could sit in the front pews on the men's side. A choir would sing and the Lord's Supper would be served on Pentecost.

Guest speakers, Pastors Kessel and Finaken, preached at the Mission Festival in 1904 and part of the collection was sent to African missions.



In 1904 Pastor Schultz accepted a call to Michigan and Pastor Huebner was called to Zion. Once again special collections had to be taken to eliminate a debt of \$100. Anna Kick was given a gift for being the "organ player."

The Engler house was considered for a school in 1906 and later was purchased and moved in from west of the village. Electric lights were installed the following year.

Although local debts existed, in May a collection was taken for the synod building fund.

Four families resigned because they lived at such a distance that they decided to form their own parish. The first custodian was hired at \$7 a year to make fires and clean the church. Up until this time the job had been shared by the members of the board of trustees.

Another first in 1906 was the sending of a delegate, Mr. D. Grandt, from Zion to a synodical meeting.

At Christmas time \$4.10 was left from the Christmas money so it was given as a gift to the pastor. Pastor Schultz had received a call from a parish in Michigan, and although the congregation felt, "It is God's will not to let

him go," he did leave. Again in 1906 a letter was sent to synod to ask for help for the pastor's salary "because District does not contribute and some members do not contribute." By now the Mission Festival was an annual event held each year in August.

The Women's Club wallpapered the church and the men installed an oven in the church. The Kroschel and Brook Park congregations became independent.

Church discipline at this time included warnings to families who "rarely came to church." Several special invitations were extended to them to activate their membership.

Pastor A. Domman became the new pastor in 1909 and served for two years. It was decided to raise the pastor's salary from \$500 to \$600. Any overage from the Christmas collection would also be given to the pastor as a gift. One dollar rent was collected from the Swedish Lutherans every time they used the church for services.

The congregation celebrated the twenty-fifth anniversary of the completion of the church in 1911 at the annual Mission Festival held in September.

Pastor G.F. Luebker was installed in 1911. His salary was partially paid by the other congregations who shared his services. For the first time every member made a pledge and in January, 1912, printed pledge envelopes were introduced. A hot air furnace was added to the church building at this time.

The church continued to be in debt. On July 4, in 1913 a dinner was held with the monies going toward the debt. In 1914 the financial statement showed receipts of \$632.30, expenses \$614.08, leaving a balance of \$18.22.

Further additions were added to the church property: church steps at the cost of \$27, a kitchen installed in the school building, a bell to be attached to the steeple purchased by the youth group, and a new chimney for the parsonage. By 1917 the church was insured for \$1600, the school for \$200, and the parsonage for \$600. Several members were to collect for the benefit of the pastor's automobile.

The first formal records of the women's organization called the Lutheran Club are dated May 13, 1918. The first officers included: President Mrs. Emil Hoefler, Vice President Mrs. N.P. Larson, Secretary Renata Luebker, Treasurer Mrs. H.S. Tampke.

Meetings were held every two weeks at private homes or at the school house. It was decided to serve coffee, sandwiches, one kind of cake and anyone who wished could serve beans or potato salad. Dues would be 20c.

Original members included: Mrs. Emil Hoefler, Mrs. Albert Klande, Mrs. G.F. Luebker, Mrs. Fred Spearing, Mrs. Ernst Hinze, Mrs. H. Tampke, Erma Tampke, Margaret Hoefler, Renata Luebker, Mrs. Peter Rohweder, Lizzie Rohweder, Mrs. A. Biederman, Mrs. William Engler, Mrs. George Kick, Mrs. Marion Lones, Mrs. Henry Meyer, Mrs. A. Heyn, Mrs. Al Oman and Mrs. Brusig.

One of the organization's first projects was the making of a service flag for the members serving in the armed services during the First World War. In 1919 the women used profits from the Fourth of July dinner to have the benches fixed and the woodwork varnished. The women had the church papered and paid \$75 toward the old church debt.

Through 1919 the pastor's salary had been paid separately by donations collected on a house-to-house solicitation. At this time it was decided to

replace this practice by the use of pledges for the salary.

In 1920 a request was made to have English services one Sunday morning a month. Ushers were also appointed: George Kick, Tony Klicker, Olly Klicker, Otto Weidemann.

In 1921 Carl Heinke became the pastor of the congregation and served Zion for six years.

During the winters in the early 20's the Lutheran Club did not meet from December to March due to severe winter weather.

In 1923 a decision was made to write all church business meetings' minutes in English instead of German as had been done from the organization of the congregation.

During the following year, discussion took place concerning building a new parsonage. As \$2500 would be needed before beginning, it was decided to remodel the present structure for \$1500. The following year all members were requested to donate a day's work on the church grounds or pay \$2. A janitor swept and dusted each week but the women were asked to clean the church for Easter.

At the September meeting in 1924, it was decided to have German and English services each Sunday. Children were to attend confirmation class on Saturdays.

The women's organization continued meeting monthly in the school house. Due to the church being "terribly in debt," the women were asked to pay for repairs and put in light fixtures at the parsonage and in 1926 they paid \$100 toward the debt of the house. The name of the women's organization was now officially set at "Ladies Aid."

In 1927, Pastor Carl Heinke asked "for a peaceful dismissal" from the congregation as he had accepted a call to Spirit Lake, Iowa. A motion was



made to call a graduate student at \$1000 per year. **Rev. Carl Steging accepted a call to Zion in 1927.**

English services were now held every Sunday morning at 10:30 and German services were held at 2:30 p.m. twice a month. The church yearly budget was set at \$1650:

Pastor \$1000, Janitor \$40, Organist \$25, Fuel, light, telephone \$90, Repairs \$90, Interest and insurance \$75, Debt and building fund \$300.

A yearly statement of the business and the listing of the amounts given by individuals were published. A new style of hymnal was introduced and members were asked to buy their own.

The school house was sold to the highest bidder and moved away. Plans were underway to build a full basement under the church. The Ladies Aid donated \$10 for an English Bible for the church. The organization again served a dinner for the Mission Festival on August 2, 1929. Rev. Steging was "to take care of the Park Service as he saw fit."

In 1930 "The congregation decided to give the 'outing house' to anyone who would take it and fill in the hole." The pastor was given permission to serve Rush City and Rush Lake. The budget for 1931 was \$1845.

The Zion Lutheran Aid Society was re-organized. All ladies wishing to become members were to sign their names and the charge for lunch would be 10c. If a member missed two consecutive meetings (business) for any reason other than illness they would forfeit membership and would have to rejoin. The organization transferred their funds from the bank to postal savings for a period of time during the depression. In 1933 several ladies' meetings were postponed due to cold weather and a measles epidemic. An ice cream social was held in July where the Ladies Aid cleared \$11.70.

In August of 1933, a committee was formed to plan the congregation's 50th anniversary to be celebrated on June 17, 1934, at the National Guard Armory. The oldest living pastor, Rev. Carl Abel, who was then serving a congregation in Elmhurst, Illinois, and Rev. Paul Heinke, another former pastor, were invited as guest speakers.

Statistics for the first fifty years of the congregation were gathered as follows: 726 Baptisms, 462 Confirmations, 221 United in marriage, 161 Christian burials.

The members of the church council were: Ernest Hinze, George Kick, Oscar Schultz, Henry Moeding, Ray Nelson, Emil Stapel, and Gust Schwartzwald. Following are excerpts from the Pine Poker of June 21, 1934, as it reported the anniversary celebration:

"Last Sunday a crowd of approximately 400 people gathered in the local armory from near and far to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the organization of Zion Lutheran Church of Pine City.

"The festivities opened at 10:45 a.m. with a service conducted by the Rev. Carl Abel who was pastor of the congregation about 34 years ago. His address based on Rev. 21:1-8 concluded as he urged those present to remain faithful to the one thing in this uncertain world which is stable, namely to the Word of God as it is proclaimed in the Lutheran Church on the basis of the Bible alone.

"At noon a chicken and ham dinner was served to those present and the Kroschel Band furnished a delightful program of music.

"At 2:30 p.m. another festival service was held when the Rev. Paul Heinke who was pastor seven years ago, delivered the address based on the 23rd Psalm. He closed by encouraging his hearers to remain sheep of the Good Shepherd and to become ever more zealous in the work of the Lord.

"Immediately after this service there was an informal social gathering at which Pastor Abel who was at the same time serving all of the Lutheran congregations from Barnum on the north to Wyoming on the south related some of his experiences. This man was one of the committee instrumental in retaining the county seat in Pine City and was also very active during the great Hinckley Fire. His address touched on these incidents of the early history of Pine City and was very interesting to some of the pioneers present as well as to the newer generation.

"All in all it was a very happy occasion and one which will not be forgotten soon by those present."

In November a Sauerkraut Supper was held charging 25c for adults and 15c for children. A final decision was made to build a basement under the church with \$1000 borrowed from the Ladies Aid. Before the new basement was begun, discussion centered around the possibilities of building a new church but only \$5,260 was raised in pledges so the idea was dropped. The

Women's Club made bags to give each family for the purpose of collecting a penny a day for a year to be used to pay for the basement. On November 28 the newly remodeled building was dedicated as described in the Pine Poker:

"The Zion Lutheran Church will formally dedicate their remodeled House of Worship with services Sunday at 1:30. Rev. J.C. Meyer, President of the Minnesota District of the Missouri Synod, will deliver the address. A loudspeaker will be placed in the parish hall so a large crowd can be accommodated. A hot lunch will be served following the service for which 15c will be charged. The public is cordially invited to attend."

In 1937 the practice of a collection plate for the communion service was discontinued and the German service was also dropped. Choir gowns were the project of the Ladies Aid in 1938.

The Ladies Aid had a birthday bank in which each member placed a penny for each year of age on her birthday. The collection was used for the flower fund and any surplus was given to missions. A discussion took place trying to decide on a wood, electric, or bottled gas range for the kitchen.

In 1940 colored windows were added to the church. Green ones in the front and amber ones on the sides at a cost of \$1.75 a piece and \$1.00 to cut a pattern. The total cost was \$12.

During the Second World War an Honor Roll of service men and women was placed in the church. The women made kits and baked cookies to be sent to them and the congregation subscribed to the Lutheran Witness for each of them. Special collections were taken to buy New Testaments to be sent to all service people of the congregation.

In 1942 one hundred fifty new hymnals were ordered. The women's organization continued to serve funerals for those who wished for that help. The secretary was instructed to approach the ration board about coupons for sugar and coffee due to the rationing restrictions during the war. The women from time to time redecorated the church. In October, 1943, they sent cards to the boys in service and bought a \$300 War Bond. All Ladies Aid meetings began with a prayer for the boys in service. In the fall of 1945 the women had a Food and Fancy-work Sale.

About this time the church began to investigate the cost of becoming self supporting which would cost each family \$26. Fluorescent lights were installed in the church.

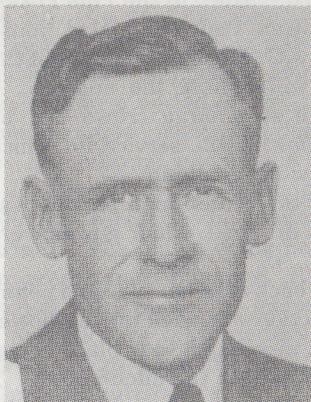
Following the war in 1946, the women planned a Memorial Banquet for the ex-servicemen and women. As a memorial a Hammond organ was purchased. All members were asked for food and funds. The lacking amount was taken from the Ladies Aid fund. Servicemen to be honored guests were seated at a separate table. After all the preparations were made, the banquet had to be postponed several weeks due to the polio epidemic.

In 1947 the Ladies Aid adopted a family in Europe. The Teschke family in Germany had three children—six years old, two years old, and six months old. Packages which contained cod liver oil and \$6 worth of groceries were sent from time to time. One package contained \$3.95 worth of seeds.

A second women's organization was formed in February, 1947, when seventeen ladies met to form the Women's Guild. Dues were set at 25c and sewing was chosen as the main project. The group decided to make rugs to raise money to purchase benches for the church. The Guild and the Ladies Aid planned a combined auction for October. Lunch was served with pie at 10c, cake at 10c and coffee at 5c. The profits of \$197.91 were divided by the two organizations. Another joint project was cutting out aprons for a future

sale.

After serving Zion for twenty-one years, Pastor Carl Steging was released to accept a call in Pierce, Nebraska, and **Pastor A.W. Roegge was installed as the new pastor of the congregation in February, 1949.**



The educational program of Zion grew with the Release Time Program where school children were released from public school classes in the various churches. Vacation Bible School became a regular event at Zion with the Ladies Aid providing some of the supplies. The Women's Guild bought two dozen Bibles for the education programs of the church.

In 1951 definite plans started to take shape for the building of a new church. Several parcels of land were under consideration, but

following much discussion and inquiry, it was decided by a 41-6 vote to build on the present site. Walter Schwartzwald, Roy Teich, and Jack Oman were named to a Building Committee. An architect was engaged to draw up plans. Canvassers called on members of the congregation to obtain pledges toward the new building. Pledges totaled \$9000 by October 1951.

In January, 1952, plans for the building which was described as "modern functional" were accepted as drawn by Max and Gerald Buetow of St. Paul. Ground breaking for the new building took place on June 7, 1953, and the corner stone was laid on June 27, 1954. Volunteer labor helped greatly in keeping the construction costs at a minimum.

In July, 1954, officers of the Ladies Aid and Women's Guild drove to Milltown, Wisconsin to place an order for furnishings for the new church.

The order included: 34 pews \$3240, 2 chancel pews \$40, 2 frontal screens \$162, 1 altar \$282, 1 lecturn \$96, 1 baptismal font \$145, 1 communion rail with gate and padded kneeler \$363, total \$4563.

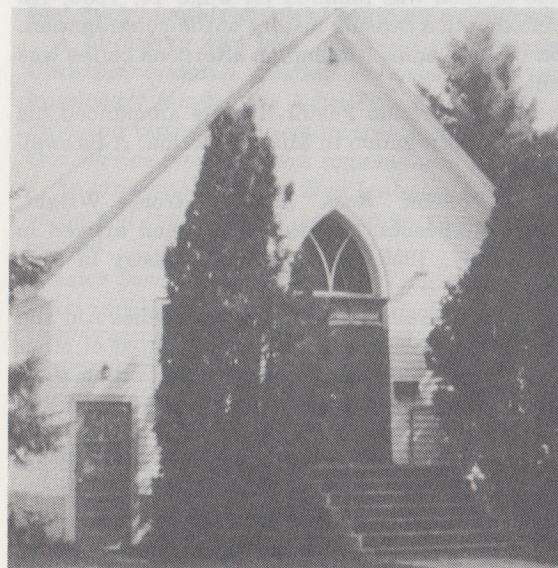
The pews and chancel furnishings were made from northern red oak with a driftwood finish. Although the initial cost was covered by the women's

organizations, many of the furnishings were later purchased as memorials by individuals and families of the congregation. Since that time a Memorial Fund has furnished many items for the church.

The new church was dedicated on February 6, 1955. Members and visitors



assembled in the old church at 10:25 for a brief farewell or leavetaking after which the congregation walked in a procession to the new church, led by the pastor and the officers of the church who carried the Bible and altar service pieces into the new edifice. The service was conducted by the pastor, Rev. A.W. Roegge, and the sermon was delivered by Pastor Carl Steging of Pierce, Nebraska, a former pastor. Following the service a potluck dinner was served in the church basement. At 2:30 p.m. a thanksgiving service was conducted with Rev. K.F. Lichthardt of St. Paul as speaker. The day of festivities ended with an informal musicale in the evening featuring Sabrina, a violinist; the Pine City Men's Chorus; and the Walther League Chorus all accompanied by Nina Larson at the organ.



The original church building was sold for \$500 to the Seventh Day Adventists from Cambridge and was moved to a site in south Cambridge where it still stands.

The new kitchen was furnished by the Ladies Aid with over \$3000 worth of equipment purchased from Joesting and Shilling of St. Paul.

To commemorate the 70th anniversary of the congregation in 1954, a commemorative plate bearing

the picture of the original church building on it was sold for \$2.25. A list of the pastors who had served the congregation was printed on the back.

During the 1950s a project of the congregation was a food stand at the annual Pine County Fair. The menu included: chili 25c, pie 15c, donut 5c, hamburger 25c, pie alamode 20c, hot dog 20c, pop 10c, coffee 5c. The profit in 1951 was \$304.

In 1954 the following amounts of food were used during the three day event:

120 lbs. hamburger, 32 lbs. wieners, 5 qts. cream, 31 qts. milk, 60 pts. chocolate milk, 16 loaves bread, 50 doz. hamburger buns, 45 doz. wiener buns, 25 gal. ice cream, 600 ice cream cones, 12 doz. cherries, 10 doz. popsicles, 1 doz. eggs, 12 doz. boxes crackers, 15 lbs. coffee, 80 homemade pies (not enough), 15 doz. homemade doughnuts. Supplies for chili: 5 gal. kidney beans, 40 lbs. onions, 6 boxes chili powder, 50 lbs. hamburger, 5 gal. tomatoes, 1 wooden crate of celery. The fair stand continued as a project until 1960.

The Women's Guild continued their sewing projects and in January, 1956, they completed seven layettes for Lutheran World Relief. Four boxes of additional clothing were also packed for World Relief.

In the fall of 1956 the first Preaching-Teaching-Reaching Mission was held at Zion in an attempt to reach the unchurched members of the community. It was a week-long mission with members calling on prospective members and inviting them to one of the special evening services led each night by Rev. Ted Raedeke.

The Women's Guild made confirmation gowns which were rented by the confirmands. The Guild sold Christmas cards with an etching of the new church on them.

Father-Son and Mother-Daughter banquets had become annual events with profits being placed in a Scholarship Fund for any congregation member who planned to enter Christian service upon completion of training.

The 75th Diamond Jubilee of Zion was planned for June 14, 1959. An anniversary booklet was printed with a capsule history of the congregation. A dinner was served at noon by the Ladies Aid and an afternoon coffee was served by the Women's Guild.

Shortly after the anniversary celebration Pastor Roegge announced his acceptance of a call to a mission congregation in Miami, Florida. A farewell reception was held in his honor.

Pastor Ross Schuler from Wright, Minnesota, accepted a call and arrived in July, 1959, to begin his ministry in Pine City.

In 1960 the women of the Ladies Aid and the Women's Guild joined women of other Pine City congregations to organize a visiting program for shut-ins at Lakeside Nursing Home and in the community.

The Easter Service in 1960 was broadcast over the local radio station, WCMP. Since 1960, altar flowers have been provided by congregation members as memorials under contract with the local florist. The practice of sending cards to visitors was begun.

After serving Zion for three years, Pastor Schuler accepted a call to Oak Ridge,



Tennessee. One month later Pastor Frank Sass accepted a call to serve the congregation.

Through the years the women's organizations continued to work to supply the congregation with choir robes for the junior choir, flowers for the church gardens, and supplies for the kitchen.

In 1964 the practice that had taken place during summers previously now became a regular - two services each Sunday.

Land was purchased for a new parsonage in the west part of Pine City for \$1500. Work was begun and in November, 1965, the home was dedicated. Its cost was \$20,574. The old parsonage was sold and moved four miles south of Pine City and the area was covered



with lawn. The Sass family moved into the parsonage that winter.

After many planning meetings by a joint committee of officers of the Women's Guild and the Ladies Aid, both organizations were dissolved in order to form a new unified organization for all women of the church. The Lutheran Women's Missionary League of Zion Lutheran Church of Pine City was established in May, 1965. The treasuries of both organizations were combined and new officers were elected. The new constitution was approved on July 20. The first officers were: Mrs. Dick Lindig President, Mrs. Richard Klante Vice President, Mrs. Robert Teich Secretary, Mrs. Ilene Hill Treasurer, Mrs. Elmer Henning Christian Growth Chairman, Mrs. Fred Engler, Jr. Christian Growth Chairman.

All business of the organization was handled at four quarterly meetings so that each monthly meeting could be a program.

A library project was begun to provide members of the church with Christian oriented reading material. The organization also adopted a missionary family, the John Franeshie family of New Guinea. Christmas gifts and birthday remembrances were sent to the members of the family. Our service persons were remembered in the same manner.

An important date for Zion Lutheran Church was August 15, 1965, when as part of the morning worship service the mortgage for the church was burned.

Pastor Sass accepted a call to Vergas-Loon Lake and left the congregation in January, 1969. Pastor Guettersloh of Hinckley served the congregation for six months as interim pastor until July 27 when **Pastor David Meyer, a former missionary to the Philippines, was installed as pastor.**

Through the years, the LWML continued a number of projects: gifts to shut-ins at Lakeside and in their homes, cans of cookies to service persons, volunteers visiting on a one-to-one basis at Lakeside, church flower beds, several Bible study groups were begun, building a library, holding showers for those who had home fire losses. In 1971, thirty-one packages of clothing were sent to Lutheran World Relief.

In 1970 woman suffrage was discussed by the congregation but no action was taken on this issue until 1978 when women were granted the vote.

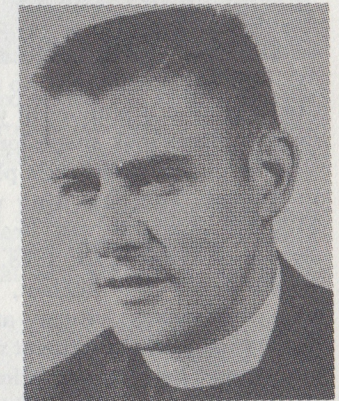
In 1972 the LWML adopted a second missionary, Margarette Schuster who was a Lutheran Bible Translator in the Philippines.

In 1973 the congregation budget had grown to \$27,796 and the church had a communicant membership of 483. Discussion continued for a number of years concerning the building of a Sunday School wing but it was decided in 1973 not to start until \$20,000 had been pledged.

A Schumerlich Magnabell carillon was placed in the bell tower as a memorial. The chimes play Christian hymns at noon and at 6 p.m. each day and between services on Sunday morning.

In 1974 Bill and Dorothy Tracy began taping the Sunday sermons to be taken to shut-in members of the congregation as well as used in a service for patients at Lakeside Nursing Home.

Zion celebrated its 90th anniversary with a special service and



congregational dinner on June 23, 1974. Dr. August Mennicke, President of Minnesota North District of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod and Pastor Carl Steging, a former pastor, took part in the celebration.



In December, 1974, Pastor Meyer was released to accept a call to Aurora, Minnesota. During the nine month period without a pastor, Pastor David Bode of Weber served the congregation. **Pastor Russell Peterson of Groton, South Dakota, accepted a call in August and served the congregation until March, 1977, when he accepted a call to Sawyer, North Dakota.**

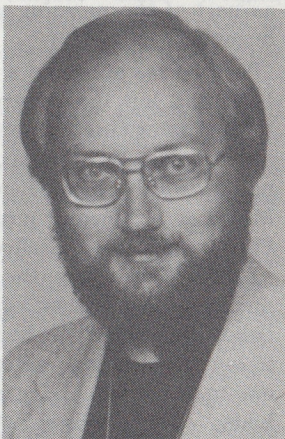
In 1975 a Monday Quilting Project was begun that has produced thirty to forty quilts a year for the Lutheran World Relief and other projects.

Stained glass windows were dedicated in the church on May 30, 1976 as a memorial.

Debbie Wiechman, a daughter of the congregation, served 27 months as a medical missionary in Taiwan.

On July 17, 1977, Pastor Donald Schmiede was installed as pastor. In the same year, it was decided to sponsor a 15 minute program on Sunday evenings on the local FM radio station, WCMP, which continues to the present time.

In 1978 after a number of years of discussion, definite plans took shape for a new addition to the church and architect's plans were accepted in August. **The new wing would be built for \$120,536. Ground was broken following the service on October 29, 1978. The new building would house the kitchen, banquet-assembly area, coat rooms, offices, and workrooms. At the same time the basement was remodeled into classrooms for the education program of the church. The completed building was dedicated in September, 1979.**



The educational program of the church expanded in 1978 with the formation of nine women's home Bible study groups, one men's group, and a couple's group that meet once a month with lay leaders who receive guidance from the pastor.

In 1982 following a two year study of the ministry of Zion Lutheran Church, a number of congregational lay-committees were established in the areas of Stewardship, Evangelism, Public Relations, Education, Worship, and Parish Fellowship.

In 1982 plans got underway for the congregation's Centennial Celebration in August of 1984. The Centennial Committee under the leadership of Jane Robbins began meeting monthly making plans for the celebration which included an invitation to **Dr. Oswald Hoffman of the Lutheran Hour to be guest speaker.** All former pastors were contacted and invited to take an active part in the program. Invitations were sent to former members, friends, and congregation members. An anniversary plate with a sketch of all three church buildings was prepared for sale.



The celebration plans included an old-fashioned picnic supper on the church lawn and an informal program on Saturday, August 18. Three services were held on Sunday with **Dr. Hoffman** speaking at all three. A congregational dinner was served at Our Redeemer Lutheran Church at noon and an informal coffee hour following the afternoon service concluded the celebration.

Notes

A century has passed since a small group of German settlers established the congregation we know today as Zion Lutheran Church of Pine City. The membership has grown to 836 baptized souls.

“Planting and Harvesting: A Century for Christ 1884-1984”, the theme of the anniversary, is indeed what has been happening through the years. Total statistics for the one hundred years include:

Baptisms	1815
Confirmations	1398
Marriages	1267
Burials	512

Through the years God has guided and strengthened us so that we say, “To God be the glory; great things He has done”.

As the first one hundred years comes to a close and we review the past and look to the future, let us join in the well-known hymn of praise and prayer:

“Our God, our Help in ages past,
Our hope for years to come,
Be Thou our Guard while troubles last
And our eternal home.”

Zion congregation weath

by Donna Heath

Members of Zion Lutheran Church in Pine City have been working for over a year preparing for their centennial celebration on Aug. 18 and 19.

A celebration of this kind serves to remind Christians everywhere of the struggles and sacrifices early pioneers made to establish their denominations in new territory.

Researching the history of Zion was no small task for committee members, since all the minutes of what transpired in the beginning were written in German until 1923. The files of the Pine City Pioneer revealed how the small group which established the church managed to build, expand and grow to the present membership of 836 baptized members. A centennial plate has been produced in memory of the occasion and orders are being taken at the church office.

First church

Pine City was just three years old when German settlers decided to organize a Lutheran church. The small nucleus of immigrants chose Oscar Fisher as acting minister because he was a student of theology.

His wages were set at the token amount of \$25 per quarter, and members of the congregation agreed to board him free of charge in their homes. In addition to his duties as pastor, he was expected to teach school in Beroun and Rush Lake every third week.

The congregation also agreed to sponsor a German school. Eight members agreed to send their children. Since there was no schoolhouse or church building, classes were held in the homes of members.

As soon as a Board of Trustees was established, plans got

underway to build a 28x40 foot building, including an altar nook. Decisions about a tower, the foundation and exterior were left up to the committee and the contractor. By January 1887, the church building was nearly completed, with an outstanding debt of \$300 which would be



Dr. Oswald Hoffman

ners century of change

repaid in three years.

Public thanks to the entire community for any contributions made physically or financially in helping the new congregation build their church were made in an article in the Jan. 8, 1887 issue of the Pine City Pioneer.

The spirit of cooperation by settlers in a pioneer community is reflected in that article. People of all faiths needed each other.

A series of pastors served the little parish, coming for awhile, then moving on. By 1891 Sunday School was established after each service, and children were expected to attend until they were 18 years old.

Adding on

It was inevitable the church would need a parsonage to house its pastor, and that project was undertaken in August, 1891. The pastor was expected to visit all members of the congregation to collect money for the building fund. The records note they had to "drive deep" for water when the pump was installed near the house.

Building continued. In 1894 a shed or barn was constructed on the property, and in January, 1895 a resolution was passed to build a school. It was decided that smaller children would attend from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. and the older ones from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Tuition was set at five cents a month.

The congregation gave the minister, Rev. Charles Abel, a two-week vacation so he could go to Chicago to get married. When he returned with his new bride, 30 members of the German Lutheran Church surprised them at their home with an old fashioned shivaree or "pounding

party" as it was called in the local newspaper.

Christmas, 1895 was time for a festive Christmas Eve party by the congregation. Sunday School children presented a program, a tree was decorated and although no presents were exchanged by the children, the church organist was given an album and pearl penholder for her services. Christmas morning services began at 10 a.m.

As the congregation grew and prospered it became more involved in mission work. Since the women in most congregations take on the bulk of the money-raising projects for mission work, permission was granted in 1896 for 16 women to organize a women's club. They later became known as the Ladies Aid Society and still carry that title.

The first job the women took on was to wallpaper the church. They bought two lamps and a wall map for the school and held a school picnic for the children.

Overcoming

Minutes of the church meetings reveal the problems all congregations were facing in those early days. Mixed marriages were becoming more frequent, and although it was considered to be a very dangerous practice, the pastor was not forbidden to conduct such marriages.

The church also dealt rigidly with members who did not take communion regularly, and finances were always a burden. Upkeep of the buildings and the pastor's salary stretched the budget of the little church to the limit, although by today's

standards it is insignificant.

In 1889 the board decided to have an English service "once in awhile," and English songbooks were ordered.

By September, 1924, the decision was made by the board to have Sunday services in both German and English. That was the beginning of Zion Lutheran as it is today.

Centennial

Rev. Carl Steging came to Zion in 1928 and will return for the centennial celebration, as will other pastors who served the congregation throughout the years.

The celebration will include an old fashioned picnic supper on the church lawn and an informal program on Saturday, Aug. 18.

Dr. Oswald Hoffmann, who is a speaker on The Lutheran Hour, a radio ministry of the International Lutheran Layman's League, will be the guest speaker at three services on Aug. 19.

Hoffmann is widely recognized as an outstanding Protestant church leader and is listed in "Who's Who in America." he has appeared on numerous network television and radio programs, including Today and Face the Nation.

A congregational dinner for Zion Lutheran will be served at Our Redeemer Lutheran Church at noon on Sunday, and an informal coffee hour following the afternoon service will conclude the celebration.