

# Life in Middle Lancaster

Travel with me back in time. Imagine life in Middle Lancaster 175 years ago.

The local Lutheran Church was St. Paul's in Zelienople, which was organized in 1821 and although that seems close, it wasn't if you consider the transportation in those days.



One pastor traveled around to several different churches in the area, but could not always be at each church every Sunday; still, people gathered to worship. The pastor rode by horse and buggy, and if you look to the left going out the church drive toward the church parsonage, you still see a stone hitching post with the date 1913 engraved. This is where our early founding pastors would hitch up their transportation. There are also two other stone hitching posts just in back of the garage.



The German pioneers of Middle Lancaster and vicinity, with the aid of Rev. J.G.C. Schweizerbarth, organized Zion German and English Evangelical Lutheran Church on September 17, 1842. Land for the church and cemetery was donated by Jacob Swain, and a frame building, 30' by 40', was dedicated to the worship of God by Pastor Schweizerbarth on September 18, 1843.

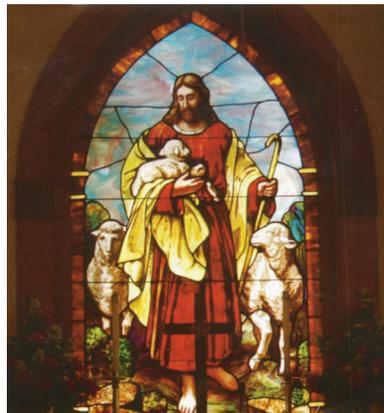


The congregation was served by two pastors for the first twenty years. Rev. Schweizerbarth cared for the German speaking members and the Rev. Gottlieb Bassler served the English speaking members. A Sunday school was conducted alternately with German and English speaking teachers and if Sunday school was opened in one language it was closed in the other language. Finally the Sunday school was divided into German and English, with each meeting at a different hour.

It was on April 8, 1861 that the decision was made to organize the one church into two separate bodies, each group having about 60 members at that time. The name given to the new group was Zion English Evangelical Lutheran Church. During the next 30 years both congregations (German and English) worshiped in the same church, holding services on alternate Sundays. Finally the English Congregation outgrew the original building, the members purchased 2.5 acres south of the original property and built our present framed church that was dedicated to the Service of Our Lord on May 8, 1892. Two years later, in 1894, the church parsonage was built, making it now 123 years old, and it was dedicated by Pastor H.K. Shanor.



During the pastorate of Rev. I.J. Goehring, a Luther League was organized and Missionary Society was reorganized, which resulted in a fourfold increase in membership. With the support of the Luther League, a Good shepherd stained glass window was placed in the alter recess of the chancel. At this time, an acetylene lighting system was installed in the sanctuary and parsonage; 420 feet of concrete walks were laid; and a piano and a new Reed organ were purchased. An Incorporated Cemetery Association was also established during his pastorate.



During the pastorates of the Rev. W.H. Mitchell and the Rev. H.F. Obenauf, the entire basement was manually excavated by digging and carting dirt from under the sanctuary by wheelbarrow and horse drawn scoops. Our church records say that the men of the congregation volunteered about 1,500 man hours and about 450 cubic yards of dirt. Before the basement was done, Pastor Mitchell took another call to St. Marks Church in Springdale and under his successor, Pastor Obenauf, the basement was complete in 1942. In between Pastor Mitchell and Obenauf, Zion's German congregation held its last service and the two congregations were once again united. On December 13, 1942, the church council of Zion's German congregation decided to turn the property over to Zion's English congregation. In exchange for the land and the cemetery, Zion's English congregation agreed to give perpetual care to the German cemetery.

The old church built in 1842 was sold for \$500 and moved to the North Hills where it was used for a home. Several congregation members supposedly located it and talked to its owner, Mrs. Wehr, just a few weeks before our 150th anniversary. It was destroyed for a new development shortly after Zion members located it. If anyone would happen to know anymore about it, we would love to talk to you, or if you would have any pictures, we would love to see them.

## 1926-1948

At a business meeting of the Luther League held on January 20, 1926, by a unanimous vote, it was decided to present the congregation with "The Parish Register", a complete and uniform system for keeping parish records.

On February 6, 1926, the pulpit was changed from the north to the south or Epistle side of the Altar - the historical position - so as to conform to Ancient and Lutheran Church usage and the lectern to the proper position on the north or Gospel side of the Altar.

During the year of 1926, the Faithful Workers' Bible class "presented to the congregation a handsome Individual Communion Service", quadrupled silver - plated, insect - and dust - proof, interlocking and self-collecting, which was dedicated on Sunday, October 10, 1926.

The Centennial was not observed in September 1942 as the parish was without a pastor from September 1st to November 30th. So a fitting celebration was held September 12, 17 & 19, 1943, commemorating 101 years of Lutheran work in Middle Lancaster.

On the evening of November 15, 1945, the congregations of the Parish held AN ANNIVERSARY in Zion Church for Pastor H.F. Obenauf, in commemoration of his 40 years in the ministry. There was an address by the President of Synod, Rev. H. Reed Shepfer, DD, and greetings from a half dozen pastors. During the social hour, an anniversary cake and 40 silver dollars outlining the figure "40" in a large shallow box were featured for the occasion. With this money, Pastor H.F. Obenauf purchased a new black pulpit robe.

A NEW CROSS and TWO BRASS CANDLESTICKS were presented by the Sr. Luther League at a cost of about \$65.00. They were placed on the Altar, blessed and dedicated on November 3, 1946.

A PAIR OF BRASS ALTER VASES were given and dedicated March 8, 1947 in memory of Mrs. Louisa Obenauf who departed this life on August 26, 1946. They were presented by her five children, one of whom was the present pastor, Rev. H.F. Obenauf.

An UNKNOWN DONOR OFFERED the Zion Congregation \$1000 in mid-October, 1947, for a new organ on the condition the congregation could raise a like amount, and do so by November 1st. Committees made a canvass and raised \$1000. This \$2000, added to the \$200 cash organ fund already on hand, made \$2200. On September 12, 1948, the congregation voted to buy the Minshall-Estey amplified Reed organ (55 for, 4 against). The organ was on trail two Sundays, and cost \$1595. Adding the chimes and two tone cabinets would be an additional \$640-\$825. The organ was properly dedicated September 26, 1948. The chimes were later bought.

THE INTERIOR OF THE CHURCH was REDECORATED in July and August 1948, costing \$850. The ceiling was redone in ivory, walls painted for the first time and done in peach glow shaded toward buff. Previously the walls were always papered. The men of the congregation came during May and steamed off the paper layers. Walls required one coat of sizing and two coats of paint. Ivory window trimmings were made brown to match pews, sash remained white. Floors were painted, brown and all the pews and furniture varnished. Work was done by O.H. Galey of Chicora and finished August 23rd. Services resumed September 5th. Payment was made of money accumulated in the current expense account in the last four or five years. Rededication was September 26, 1948 Pastor H.F. Obenauf preached on "A New Way in a Beautiful Church", Joshua 3:4b. Services August 8th and 15th were held in the basement. No services the 22nd and 29th of August.

WINDOW REMOVED - Two church windows on the east end, one on each side of the central chancel art glass window were plastered over on the inside, without alternations, during the July 1948 interior redecoration. The congregation voted the change (28-24), "to removed glare of light into people's eyes and for a more churchly interior". The change was made at a cost of \$22.00

## Zion Lutheran Church Quilts

For our 175th Anniversary a new quilt was made by the members of Zion Lutheran Church. The idea of the quilt blossomed in 2015 and members were asked to make a quilt square. In May of 2016, 42 patches representing the families of our church were lovingly pieced and sewn together by Sally Measel. Crosses were sewn on the quilt by the women of the church, WELCA, to hold the quilt together. The crosses giving form to the quilt is a great symbolism as it is the cross of Christ that gives form to the church and holds us together as children of God. Let us celebrate this year with the good gifts that God has given to us as a congregation in mission in ministry for God: the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

There have been other quilts made down through the years. Two others are known. One made by June Klimack for the Bicentennial of the United States in 1976. It was adorned in red, white and blue.

The other quilt hangs in the sanctuary. It is the quilt that was made by the families of our church for the 150th celebration. It was pieced together by the women of the church in 1991-1992.

Both the 150th and the 175th quilt hang in the sanctuary to the glory of God. We will enjoy and cherish them forever.



150th Anniversary Quilt



175th Anniversary Quilt

# OUR CHURCH HISTORY

## Part Two

### Pillars

In 1948 the German and English congregations merged and used the foundation stones of the original building to form two pillars at the highway entrance to the cemetery.

The two stone pillars were erected in June, July and August of 1948 at a cost of \$580.30. Contents and a statement was deposited in the presence of a dozen people, (5 were youth) who heard the statement and saw the contents deposited in the old Corner Stone now marked 1842 – 1948.

The contents read: "To whom It May Concern" July 10, 1948 (date of the writing but was not deposited until July 23 when the masonry work was all done.)

Greetings: We on this date have built two stone pillars on this north edge of the original Zion German and English Evangelical Lutheran Church grounds, at a Highway, now known as Perry Highway or Route 19 of Penna. A driveway which was named "The H.K. Shannon Driveway" was ½ of a circle, one end of which was between these pillars and the other end between the parsonage and our present church. These two pillars 3' x 3' and about 6 feet high were made from stone of the foundation of the original church built in 1842 and had stood over 100 years. They wanted to preserve some of these foundation stones which are sacred to us and so they were put into these pillars. The mason chose to recut them for ornamental reasons. The south pillar has the original corner stone from the old church. It contained a box or vault 8" x 8" x 14 1/2 inches. Dates 1842 – 1948 are cut into this stone. In 1948 a copy of the church's financial report from 1946 was put in. It contains the enrollment of members as of January 1, 1947, societies and organizations with their financial reports, and the contributions of the members, names of the church officers and the pastor, a copy of The Lutheran, a United Lutheran of America "yearbook and directory", 1947 minutes of the Pittsburgh Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of the ULCA, the Luther League Review, an Intermediate Luther League Quarterly, an adult Sunday School lesson quarterly, a few beginners and primary Sunday school leaflets, a family worship booklet, etc.

The cooper penny of 1942 commemorates the Centennial of the Original Lutheran Organization in Middle Lancaster, Pa. and the 1943 penny (of World War II coinage) and the nickel the year of the completion of the merger of the English and German Congregations. The 1948 nickel is of the year these pillars were built to preserve this cornerstone and foundation stones of the old church."

So reads this typed statement enclosed which Henry F. Obenauf testified. P.S. a few coins or medals commemorating the 1917 Reformation year were also enclosed. Witnessing the placing of the wooden box or vault of 1842 into the stone were Rev. & Mrs. H.F. Obenauf, August Klimack and grandson Geo. Klimack, Mrs. Maud Scott, J.F. Warner and granddaughters Dolores J. and Marilyn Warner, Norma Measel, R.O. Barkley and sons Robert and Donald Barkley, stonecutter Raymond Di Faleo of Ellwood City and mason George Finley of Harmony. It was certainly a day and occasion to be remembered and in this, Zion's 175th year, we will also be adding items and mementos to be remembered.



## Parsonage

The parsonage was built in 1894 making it now 123 years old. Natural gas for heating, cooking, and lighting purposes was installed on January 12, 1926. Running cistern water and bathroom equipment were put into the parsonage between 1930 and 1940, along with electricity.

The two car garage was started in the fall of 1943; trees for the rough lumber were donated by Jacob Warner. Chas Domhoff and Pastor Obenauf cut the logs. Carpenter work was done by Andrew Frederick and the Pastor. It was ready for use and first occupied in May 1944 and was a much needed and much appreciated improvement.



A 62-foot water well was drilled in the summer of 1950, replacing the two rain water cisterns that were in use for about a quarter of a century. One cistern served as a well pit, housing the jet pump and pressure tank. New cooper tubing (replacing the old) carried water to the parsonage.

The parsonage was given two coats of exterior white paint in July 1951, costing between \$150.00 and \$200.00. The four parsonage first floors were recovered or refinished by Roach and Zeigler of Zelienople on April 6th and 7th of 1954. Sunken floors were jacked up by men of Zion Church. Leveling was done in 3 rooms with 3/16 inch plywood under them; linoleum was then laid in the kitchen, with the total cost being \$469.00. The attic roof of the parsonage was insulated during the month of November in 1958 and the parsonage was remodeled in July 1978. Over the years the parsonage has seen many improvements, including new windows, air conditioning and a new furnace. In this the year, 2017, the interior of the parsonage has once again been painted, woodwork restained and minor repairs done by Kathy Burg. The bedrooms, stairs, dining room and living room were completely recarpeted by Roach and Zeigler in Zelienople. Work has not only been done inside, there has been much work done outside as well, with a complete new sand mound septic system put in, and the removal of the big maple tree in the back yard, all before our tenants moved in with their 3 children.

## Yoking

Throughout our church history Zion has been yoked with 3 different parishes or churches. They are St. John's Lutheran (Old Stone), St. Mark's Lutheran Church in Lillyville and Hope Lutheran Church in Cranberry Township. St. John's (Old Stone) congregation, which had withdrawn from the parish about 1912, was reunited with the Middle Lancaster Parish in October 1930 during the second term of Pastor Goehring. St. Mark's Lutheran Church, Lillyville, was a part of this Parish from 1912 to 1955 when it was withdrawn; then Hope Lutheran Church in Cranberry Township was transferred to our Parish. The yoke between St. John's Lutheran (Old Stone) and Zion was the last to be dissolved on May 31, 1979. All of these are still existing congregations in our current

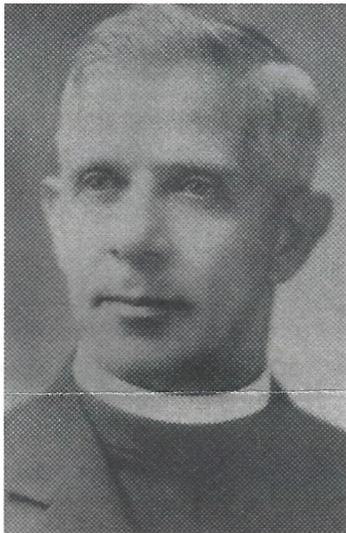
Southwestern Pennsylvania Synod EXCEPT for St. Mark's. Zion at this time is considering the yoking process with St. Paul Lutheran in Zelienople. Yoking means sharing a pastor, not closing either one of the churches. This is something that Zion and St. Paul are just beginning to talk about at the present time.



## Entering the Ministry

Two men entered the ministry from our parish; the Rev. John A. Beighey entered the ministry from the German speaking parish and was ordained in 1904. The Rev. Charles E. Read, D.D. entered the ministry from the English speaking parish and was ordained in 1908. Also from our parish Edith Read, Charles' sister, became a Deaconess and nurse. Emma Klimack became a full time parish worker. These women were both graduates of our Deaconess Motherhouse at Baltimore, Maryland. Edith and Charles Read's father made the baptismal font, lectern and hymn board, still being used in our Sanctuary today.

(Rev. Charles E. Read, D.D. and Emma Klimack, also a picture of the Baptismal font, lectern and hymn board)



## Zion Church History

Zion had a major change to the sanctuary in 1976 when it was completely redone. The 83 year old floors were repaired and the old pews were removed by Clair Bieber and Lawrence Farinelli so that they could be replaced with new pews and a new communion rail, along with carpet put down for the first time. Zion also had 10 new church lanterns installed and the sanctuary got a fresh coat of paint. A service of Holy Communion on January 18th with the pastor, the Rev. T. Oliver Repo presiding, was the last time the old pews were used in the church and around 110 people attended the service. Members of Zion were able to take a pew home when "Pick a Pew" day was observed January 19th in the church. Owen Rape was just one of the members to take a pew home and we also have 2 sitting in the Fellowship hall entrance to remember and admire. Services for 2 Sundays, January 25th and February 1st, were held in the church basement. On January 28, 1976 Zion would be getting ready for new pews for the first time since the church was built in 1892. The new pews arrived the first week in



**OLD PEWS RECEIVE NEW HOMES** — Owen D. Rape, of Harmony R.D. 1, removes one of the old pews that have served worshippers at Zion Lutheran Church, Middle Lancaster, since 1892, to take to his home to be made into a bench table. Memories asso-

ciated with the old pews led members to keep them in the hope of finding a use for them in their homes. A service of Holy Communion Jan. 18, marking the last time the pews were used in the church, was attended by 110 persons. — Butler Eagle photo

### *Pews from Middle Lancaster Church Receive New Homes*

Pews that have served worshippers at Zion Lutheran Church, Middle Lancaster, since 1892, were removed and taken home by members following a service of Holy Communion on Jan. 18.

Memories associated with the old pews led members to

keep them in the hope of finding a use for them in their homes.

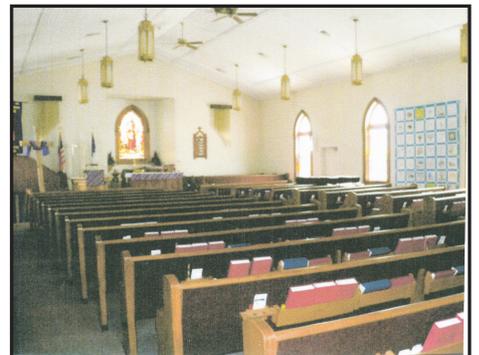
Services Jan. 25 and Feb. 1 will be held in the church basement. During this time, the floor will be repaired and carpeted. New upholstered pews are scheduled to arrive the

first week of February.

By Sunday, Feb. 8, the pews and a new communion rail will have been installed, and the congregation will resume worship in their refurbished sanctuary.

A special service of re-dedication will be at 7 p.m. Feb. 22. The Rev. Kenneth R. May, president of Western Pennsylvania-West Virginia Synod, will be guest speaker. Refreshments will be served following the service.

Zion is one of the early congregations of the Synod. Its roots go back to Sept. 17, 1842, when the Zion's German and English Lutheran Church was organized in Middle Lancaster. A frame church was built and dedicated on Sept. 18, 1843. From the beginning, the congregation was served by both German and English-speaking pastors. *Top Page*



Arlene Cameron  
A/V Director



February and were placed by Endicott Furniture Company, and the carpeting was installed by Roach and Zeigler. With everything else being new, it was only fitting to have the first public address system put in, donated by Mr. & Mrs. Lawrence Farinelli, in memory of Mary Boyer. A service of rededication was held Sunday, February 22nd at 7 p.m. at which time the community was invited to join in, sharing the happy occasion with the congregation. The public address system has been upgraded numerous times over the years and Arlene Cameron has been recording the services for all the Sunday, special services, and events like wedding and funerals for the past 40 years.

## Members of Zion get pews

"Pick a pew" day was observed Jan. 19 in Zion Lutheran Church, Middle Lancaster, when members began taking home the 83-year-old pews of the church which are being replaced by new sanctuary furniture.

The pews were installed at the time of the building of the church in 1892, and hold many family memories. Those associated with the church were given permission by the church council to take home a favorite seat.

Some members have not yet decided how they will fit the pews into their home decor, but nevertheless have taken advantage of the free offer.

The pastor, the Rev. T. Oliver Repo, said that 110 members attended a service of Holy Communion in the church Jan. 18, the last time the old pews were used in a service of worship.

Services for the next two Sundays, Jan. 25, and Feb. 1, are being held in the church basement.

During this period, the main floor will be repaired and carpeted and new upholstered pews will be installed. The new seats are expected to arrive during the first week in February.

The pews and a new communion rail will be placed by Endicott Furniture Co.

A service of rededication is planned for Sunday, Feb. 22, at 7 p.m. at which time residents of the Middle Lancaster community have been invited to join in sharing the happy occasion with the congregation.

The Rev. Kenneth R. May, president of the Western Pennsylvania-West Virginia Synod, will be visiting speaker. Refreshments will be served following the service.

Zion Lutheran's roots go back to Sept. 17, 1842, nearly 143 years ago, when Zion German and English Lutheran Church was organized in Middle Lancaster.

The following year, a frame church was built with dedication ceremonies held on Sept. 18, 1843. From the beginning, the church was served by both German and English speaking pastors.

On April 8, 1861, reorganization into two congregations took place. Both the German and English groups continued to share the same building until the English congregation outgrew the original structure.

The English group proceeded to buy more land and built the present frame structure beside the original church. This building was dedicated on May 8, 1892.

In 1943, when it became apparent that there was no longer a need for a ministry in the German language, the German congregation united with the English group and have worshipped together as one congregation for the past 32 years.

WEDNESDAY, JAN. 28, 1976—BUTLER COUNTY NEWS—7



CHURCH GETTING NEW PEWS — The pews in Zion Lutheran Church, Middle Lancaster, are being replaced for the first time since the church was built in 1892. Shown readying the floor for new carpeting and pews are Clair Biebler (left)

of Whitestown Road and Lawrence Farinelli of Middle Lancaster, both of RD 1, Harmony. The pews and carpeting will be placed in the church in February.

## Zion Lutheran installs new lighting

New lighting will enhance the Zion Lutheran Church, Lancaster Township, for Palm Sunday, Holy Week and Easter.

Ten church lanterns were installed in the nave. These lanterns will be used for the first time Sunday, March 23, at 10:30 a.m. for the worship service and distribution of palms.

A preparation service will be held Wednesday, March 26, at 7:30 p.m., with the theme, "The New Covenant."

The annual Tenebrae service will be Good Friday, March 28, at 7:30 p.m. The service will feature the seven last words of Christ from the cross and the darkness of the crucifixion.

Communion will be offered at the worship service, Easter, Sunday, March 30, at 10:30 a.m.

A public address system has been installed in memory of Mrs. Mary Boyer, donated by Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence Farinelli.

Our first preplanned budget was adopted in 1980 and on June 1st of the same year, the ground breaking for our new addition was held following the Sunday worship service. This addition was under the direction and volunteered labor of contractors Leroy Hall and Jim Brown, and the help of many volunteered hours by members of our congregation. The addition of the Fellowship hall, kitchen, offices, bathrooms, and the remodeling of the basement classrooms were completed on December 31, 1981. The new facilities were dedicated to the Glory of God on September 19, 1982 by Bishop Kenneth R. May for our 140th anniversary.

A loan was taken out for \$72,000 in September of 1982 from Aid Association for Lutherans in Appleton, Wisconsin. The debt was to be paid off in January 1993 but through a special appeal for our 150th anniversary year, the debt was paid off April 19, 1992 (Easter Sunday) and the burning

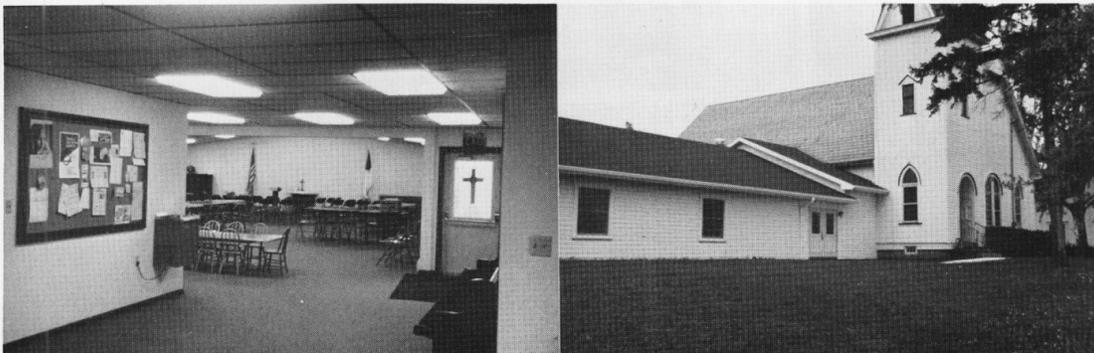
## Building



## For



## The



## Future

In 1992 the old church, built in 1842, was sold for \$500 and moved to the North Hills to be used as a home. Several congregation members located it and talked to its owner, Mrs. Wehr just a few months before our 150th anniversary; shortly after Zion members located it and talked to Mrs. Wehr it was destroyed for a new development. If anyone would happen to have any pictures, we would love to see them or know more about it; we would love to talk to you.

The picnic shelter was built by Leroy Hall, his crew, and many volunteer workers from Zion. Dave Kennedy supplied the concrete, and Chuck & Betty Pepper donated a substantial amount (\$5,000) in memory of loved ones to have the shelter built. The picnic shelter has a total of 12 picnic tables that were built by Jim Cameron and Jim Schidemantle. The picnic shelter was completed and dedicated on June 27, 1993. Four benches were donated by Kory Warner, for his Eagle Scout Project. They were given in memory of Howard (Butch) Miller, George & Lottie Measel, Albert & Ruth Miller, and Gilbert & Lillian Warner; another bench was given in honor of Carl & Betty Miller. Kory also built our fire pit as part of his Eagle Scout project. We have our annual church picnic and at least two outdoor worship services in the pavilion. The shelter has been painted several times and some minor work was done a few years ago, replacing some of the framework and the wooden cross repaired, thanks to Eric and Emily Painter. Now, in 2018, the cement has cracked and lifted and the power panel for the shelter lights and the lights in the parking lot need a serious upgrade. It has been briefly discussed and hopefully it will be one of our projects in 2018, so we can maintain the beauty of the shelter and the safety for our members.



In 1997 an addition to the back of the Fellowship hall was added for storage and to house the Southwest Butler County Food Cupboard, which began here at Zion on September 1, 1983. Our local Rotary Club group was the springboard to make this happen; they made the commitment and they contributed at least half of the cost. The previous pastor of Zion (Rev. Ronald Harbaugh) knew of a family in need from our congregation and asked Donna Hall to start a place here at Zion for anybody in the community.



RAY THOMPSON PHOTO

A new home for the Southwest Butler Food Cupboard — an addition to Zion Lutheran Church on Route 19 in Lancaster Township — was dedicated Sept. 14. Participating in the dedication were, from left: Zelenople Rotary Club representative David Kennedy; Food Cupboard director Jolene Witt; contractor Leroy Hall and the Rev. Margaret Suhr-Barkley, pastor of Zion Lutheran Church.

## New Southwest Butler Food Cupboard building dedicated

By **SHELBY RUCH**  
Correspondent

**MIDDLE LANCASTER** — When the Southwest Butler County Food Cupboard opened 14 years ago at Zion Lutheran Church, many believed it would be a temporary project.

While local unemployment soared during the 1980s economic downturn, some people needed help stretching the food budget.

Despite better economic times, the cupboard still fills a need in the Harmony-Zelenople community, supplying supplemental food to an average of 40 families each month.

And now, the cupboard occupies a new addition to Zion Church. The building was dedicated Sept. 14 during a worship service and reception.

The 20x30-foot structure was financed by donations from the Zelenople Rotary Club, local businesses and individuals.

"When we made this last commitment, which is a pretty permanent commitment, people wondered if we'd always have hungry people to serve," said Zion Pastor Margaret Suhr-Barkley, who chairs the cupboard board of directors. "I remind people that Christ said to feed the hungry among us."

The number of families being

served has remained fairly steady over the years, she said. In winter, the numbers increase. "I think it's because people get laid off from their jobs and don't have summer produce from gardens."

"I think the response we've been able to get is wonderful. Two years ago at Thanksgiving we started saying 'We've outgrown the space; what are we going to do?' And now, we have this addition."

"Our local Rotary was the springboard to make this happen. They made a commitment to the building. They contributed at least half of the cost."

"This is the third movement of the food cupboard," Rev. Suhr-Barkley said. "It originally was upstairs in a small room, then was moved downstairs to a larger closet in the basement."

The new quarters are convenient, opening into the ground-level fellowship hall where food bags are packed.

She said the pantry opened on Sept. 1, 1983, as a Christian outreach program of three churches, Calvin United Presbyterian in Zelenople, Grace Church of Harmony and Zion Lutheran.

"My predecessor, the previous pastor, knew there was a family need from the congregation, and asked Donna Hall to start a place

here for anybody in the community. And that started the Southwest Butler County Food Cupboard."

She said the new building, erected by Bennett and Hall Construction, is debt-free. A volunteer crew painted the interior; installed shelves and moved supplies from the basement into the new quarters.

Volunteers from local churches, organized by food cupboard director Jolene Witt, pack and distribute groceries to eligible area residents once monthly.

Some people have found other ways to help, the pastor said. "We just had a couple who celebrated their 50th anniversary and told people to make donations in money or canned goods to the food cupboard (in lieu of gifts)."

The food cupboard board of directors includes representatives from eight churches, Zion, Calvin, Park United Presbyterian, St. Paul Lutheran, St. Gregory's Catholic, Harmony-Zelenople United Methodist, St. Peter's Reformed and English Lutheran.

Food donations can be deposited at area churches. Monetary contributions can be sent to: Southwest Butler County Food Cupboard, Zion Lutheran Church, 557 Perry Highway, Harmony, PA 16037.

This is the third movement of the food cupboard. It was originally upstairs in the small room (sacristy), and then moved to a large closet in the basement and now to their current facility. The Southwest Butler County Food Cupboard services the immediate area of Zelenople Borough, Harmony Borough, Jackson Township and Lancaster Township by helping households stretch their income by providing basic household items. The current director for the food cupboard is Sharon Klaiber. There has been paper work filed with Lancaster Township for the Food Cupboard to extend their facility here at Zion since they need more room to continue serving our community. The addition could begin as early as this summer (2018) if they can get all the grants and final paperwork together.



## Zion Church History

Over the years we have been blessed with many talented members, like our organists, pianists, choirs and instrumentalist groups. We have traced our organists back to 1944-1945 when we had Miss Bertha Bieber and the assistant organist, Mrs. R.O. Warner. We also had Mrs. Kenneth Marshall, Mrs. Clair (Bonita) Warner, occasionally Mrs. Bill (Carolyn) Kristophel to accompany her on the piano, and our organist of today, Rosemarie Zebell. We have had an orchestra, banjo and guitar players, chime choirs, junior choirs, flutists, violinists, clarinetists, song writers and many others. So much musical talent we could not begin to name each and every one of them, but maybe some of these pictures will bring back some of those memories.



Let's take a brief look at a few of our organists. Bonita was born and raised in the area. Her roots go back deeply into the history of this church and her love for music always was a top priority for her. At the age of 12 she was playing the pump organ and loved all kinds of music. She played every chance she got and when the time came and Zion needed an organist, she whole heartedly took it on. No matter when you were at the church or at her house she was always playing the organ, picking out familiar, favorite hymns. If she wanted to try a new hymn for a Sunday, she would first have the choir practice it over and over, then they would do it as their anthem on a Sunday and then a few Sundays later the congregation would sing the hymn. She provided and organized all our special music and selected all the anthems. For Easter and Christmas we usually had Carolyn or John Burgh play the piano and with familiar or favorite hymns, and with the whole congregation singing loudly, the church was filled with beautiful music, making it sound like we were in a tabernacle. She served as our church organist and choir director for 27 years. She "retired" from that position in 1992, but before she retired she wrote a song which was sung by our choir for Zion's 150th Anniversary. It was titled "CHURCH" and was written to the Glory of God.



Boneta Warner

After Bonita "retired" our new organist became Rosemarie Bowman Zebell, starting the first Sunday in January 1993. Rosemarie has a Bachelor of Science degree in music education from Duquesne University. She had been an organist / choir director at several churches including Oak Hills Christian Church and Grace Lutheran Church in Butler, Epiphany Lutheran Church in East Liberty, St. Ann's Church in Millvale and St. Richard Church in Pittsburgh. She has 3 grown sons and was a member of Trinity Lutheran Church in Gibsonia. Rosemarie has also been a teacher of piano and has now been with us as organist and choir director for 25 years. Rosemarie dedicates a great amount of time to ensure that the hymns, anthems, and other music mesh beautifully with the Scriptures for each Sunday. She also has encouraged the choir and congregation to use their talents in special ways; most recently she challenged us to come up with a poem, or a picture, depicting any aspect of the Christmas story.

### *A Mother's Love*

As Mary looked down on her baby with love,  
 She knew He was truly a gift from above.  
 As she cradled His head and counted each finger and toe,  
 The question has always been, did she know?  
 A mother's love knows no bounds,  
 It started in a stable in Bethlehem town.  
 She was with Him through each stage of His life,  
 Through the love and joys and sorrow and strife.  
 She was a young girl when He was born,  
 And she was still a young woman when she had to mourn.  
 She watch Him die upon the cross,  
 His gift to us was her great loss.  
 When you spend CHRISTmas morning opening your  
 PRESENTS,  
 Remember the best gift of all is in his PRESENCE.

--Marsha Davis

### Love Came Down at Christmas

Love came down at  
 Christmas in the form of a baby boy.  
 And over the years has given us great joy.  
 Soft and cuddly as can be,  
 a bundle of joy for you and me.  
 Yet this baby—God in human form—  
 Will give his life to save us from all harm.  
 Thank you, God, for this precious gift of love.  
 May we share this with our neighbor  
 As we praise you from above.

--Tom & Sally Davis

Rosemarie plays both the organ and the baby grand each and every Sunday. The baby grand was dedicated at a special service on Sunday September 25, 2011. We gave special thanks to the more than 50 members that made this purchase possible, in honor of, in loving memory of, to the Glory of God and Piano Bench/ Thrivent choice donors. When Rosemarie takes vacation time, we have Emily Painter, Carol Zimmerman and John Burgh, on the piano, with his wife Chris on the flute, as substitutes.



Rosemarie Zebell

Our choir puts in many hours practicing the anthem for every Sunday and for special services. We have had many excellent voices, from deep base to high soprano, soft and loud voices, but no matter what the range of their voice, we are thankful for each and every one of them and the commitment they make. It takes a very special person to sing with their heart and soul and make beautiful music. There is always a need for choir members to sing God's praise.



2016



2016



2017

Years ago someone came up with TEN COMMANDMENTS FOR THE CHOIR:

1. Thou shalt realize the choir's responsibility and importance to the beauty and smooth continuity of the services and sing accordingly
2. Thou shalt be dependable, loyally attending choir practice and Sunday services.
3. Thou shalt resist the temptation to sing unscheduled solos.
4. Thou shalt keep thine eyes constantly focused on the director; for verily he or she is the leader and thou art the follower.
5. Thou shalt keep a pleasant expression on thy face while thou art making a joyful noise unto the Lord.
6. Thou shalt not set thine own pace; for verily nothing is so disturbing to a director as a self-appointed metronome.
7. Thou shalt sing as an aid to the service of worship and not for the sake of individual performance or self - glory.
8. Thou shalt leave thy purse, flowers, earrings, red ties, chewing gum, strong perfume and similar paraphernalia in the choir room, and not take them into the sanctuary.
9. Thou shalt not talk to other choir members or otherwise distract the congregation.
10. Thou shalt support thy choir in all undertakings, for it is more blessed to give of thy talents than to receive criticism for lack of co-operation.

Over the years we have had the Zionettes group (which was the younger women's fellowship circle); the Edith Reed Circle and today we have the WELCA women. These groups have made quilts, done dinners, had rummage and bake sales and published cookbooks, just to name a few of their endeavors. We have children and adult Sunday School, the men have a Bible study group, we have father/ son grill outs, we have church picnics, we have had hay rides and Halloween parties, we have made apple butter and the list goes on and on.



Through the years we have had several outdoor nativity sets, one of the first ones was purchased by the Zionettes and memorial money. It served us well over 20 to 25 years and the donkey was used in numerous children's programs Pastor Peggy ( Margaret Suhr Barkley) even did a sermon "Mr. Don Key" about the donkey. In 1997-98 there was discussion about repairing or replacing the nativity and before we knew it we had funding for a new one (the one we have today) and the old nativity found a new home at Glade Run Lutheran Social Services in Zelienople (many still refer to it as "The Children's home") and they began working at repairing and repainting it immediately and they were so very thankful for THEIR new gift! The nativity we have today was given by:

THE HOLY FAMILY given in memory of Bill Bauder by Jeff & Linda Ness

THE ANGEL given in loving memory of Harold Miller by June Miller & family

THE DONKEY given in loving memory of loved ones (money taken from Zion's memorial Fund, Harry Miller)

THE SHEEP given to the GLORY of GOD from Zion's Sunday School. This set was dedicated the 2nd Sunday in Advent (December 6, 1998)

Since 1998 after our early Christmas Eve service, we have placed the Christ Child out doors in the crèche. It is a special time, when the children, the pastor, and the worship assistant venture outside and gather around the manger while the children and the congregation sings 'Away in the Manger". We remember and give thanks to God for all who made this possible. To all the members of our community and those who have driven by, it has served as a reminder of the greatest story and gift that God has ever given us ...The Birth of our Lord and Savior, God's Son, Jesus the Christ.

Some other significant memorials which have been made through the years are: our offering plates were given in memory of Harry Miller by Carl and Betty Miller and Leroy and Donna Hall but through the years the brass has worn off, so they have been replated in memory of Bob Barkley by his family and they are still being used today. The carillons were added to the church by George & Sally Measel in memory of Dean and Lottie Measel They ring every hour for the count and the half hour with one ring; they also play two hymns at 9:00 a.m., noon, 3:00, 6:00 and 9:00 p.m. It is heard throughout the neighborhood and what a beautiful sound indeed! Tom & Sally Davis and Arlene Cameron in 2014-15 added new drivers in the horns that were up in the belfry and the cost was around \$7,000.00. With the leaf envelope which you received, the donations will be used to recover the bell tower with vinyl, keeping it as close to the actual fish scale look as possible, and this will help to keep the stability of the structure and maintain its beauty. After this is completed it will also compliment the beauty of the new cross that was replaced due to the weather over the years. The cross was given by Jim & Debbie Muders and on a bright sunny day you look up and see the shimmering glow of the sunlight off of it. We have a tree that was hand drawn by Doug Trimble on the wall in our Fellowship hall that we put the leaves on to show who has contributed. Please help us fill the tree with fall colored leaves and beautify and preserve our bell tower for many more years to come.





**175th Anniversary Gift to Zion**

I would like to place my leaf  
on the tree ...

\_\_\_\_\_ In Honor of

\_\_\_\_\_ In Loving Memory of

\_\_\_\_\_ To the Glory of God

\_\_\_\_\_

Name of Person or Persons

Given by: \_\_\_\_\_

Your Name



Zion has been involved in the community in more ways than we could ever begin to name, but here are a few that stand out: in 1976 youth members of Zion, St. Paul's and Trinity Lutheran church held a 24 hour rock -a-thon and collected over \$1,200.00 for world hunger; we have for many years been involved with and sponsored Boy Scout Pack 360. Carl Miller was Scout Master for many years and they have done many scout projects like our Gazebo, fire pit, picnic benches and much more. They still hold some of their award banquets here at Zion. In 1978-79 we sponsored a basketball league and Zion has also sponsored a softball team since the late 70's. Tom Davis was manager up to 6 years ago, and then it was taken over by Ross Cummings for a year or two. Now it is managed by Frank Porter and assistant Mark Kristophel, and is made up of several different churches in the area. They currently use 2 different baseball fields (Lancaster & Lutherlyn) –in the past they would use the field at Connoque-nessing Park, Burry's new ball field and a field in Evans City. Through the years many of our members (men & women) have made up the team, but in the past few years Zion has gone together with other churches because of lack of interest and very few youth. So we want to thank all of those who are playing and continuing to go and watch the games and they will always welcome new players. Once a year Zion use to get a group together to go to a Pirate game.



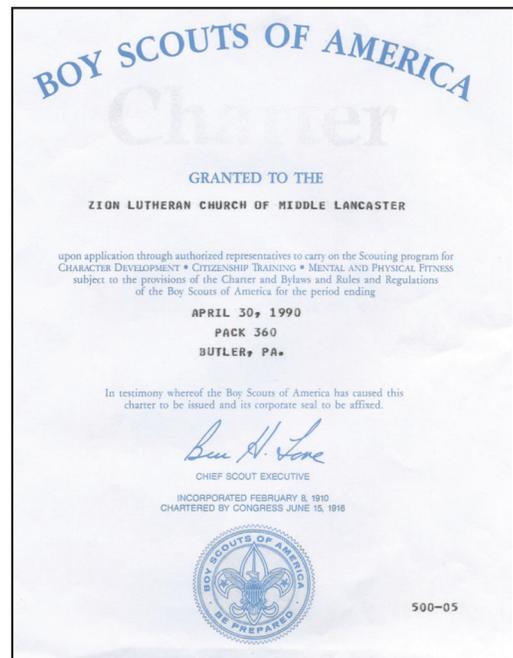
**Rockin' around the clock**

A group of area youths keeping occupied with various activities during the 24 hour rock-a-thon held last weekend at Zion Lutheran Church in Lancaster Township. A total of 17 young people took part in the rock-a-thon, which began at 7

p.m. Friday, Feb. 20. Participants had to bring their own rocker. The rock-a-thon at Zion was one of several held by the local district of the Lutheran Church in America.



**ROCK-A-THON NETS \$1,200 . . .** Members of three Lutheran churches, who held a rock-a-thon over the weekend, collected \$1,200 for world hunger at its conclusion yesterday. Participants were youths and several adults from the Trinity Lutheran and St. Paul's Lutheran congregations and the Middle Lancaster Lutheran Parish. They began rocking in rocking chairs Friday and finished the rock-a-thon at 7 o'clock yesterday morning, 36 hours later. Some of the "rockers" publicized the event by rocking at Ellwood City News Co. They included, seated left to right, Carla Miller, Mike Hall and Kim Strohecker, and standing, Shelley White, Karen Schuller and Cheryl Miller. The participants thank the community and sponsors for their help in the project. (Ledger photo by Greg Silvestri)



Zion has been involved with God's Work, Our Hands doing projects around the community; we have done worldwide outreach events, gone on youth mission trips, participated in Habitat for Humanity, and one of our most important community activities is VBS being hosted here at Zion but involving St. Paul's and English Lutheran

churches . Even though the number of youth in our church has declined, we have reached out to the youth in our communities to have one of the largest groups of children ever (2018). For pictures and to see the VBS activities, go to our web site ([www.zioninharmony.com](http://www.zioninharmony.com)). In 2015 Zion entered a float in the 4th of July parade for our 173rd year.



Also as a Christian outreach program, the Food Cupboard open its doors in September 1983 here at Zion. At that time, the Food Cupboard was supported by Zion, Calvin Presbyterian, and Grace Church; today the Food Cupboard is supported by virtually all of the local churches. Zion still houses the Food Cupboard here and an addition is planned to start in September 2018

Zion continues to seek ways to reach out and help those in need. There will always be change and adaptation in a viable Christian group, but one thing remains the same: the love of God and faith in his mercy that led and directed our founders and that continues to guide and motivate our way as we press onward in His service.

This is God's house ... a landmark in our community and a testimony of our faith. It has been dedicated and rededicated over the years with new pastors, new hymnals, new Bibles, new altar and paraments, banners, flags, altar vases, pascal candle, processional cross, advent wreath, new piano and organs, choir robes and carillons. Our church has had many coats of paint, different wall paper, new carpeting, new padded pews, light fixtures, refinished woodwork, storm windows, sound systems and ceiling fans. A new addition was our Fellowship hall, kitchen, restrooms, offices, new heating system, outdoor siding and sidewalks which were a major project. The old basement was replaced with individual classrooms and nursery, all of which required new furniture, tables, chairs and supplies. New equipment was required for the offices, including a computer. Vertical blinds were purchased for the fellowship hall and the new addition was built to house the Food Cupboard. A handicapped-accessible elevator was installed, emergency fire doors were put in the front of the sanctuary and our picnic shelter was a memorial gift. We have been through many changes and challenges but the same Lord and Savior is ever-present to be worshipped and glorified. We have many old and dear memories to share, departed loved ones to cherish, and new members to welcome and have Fellowship with.

Now let's take a look back to some of our Anniversaries.

On June 1, 1980 after the Sunday morning service, ground breaking for our "new addition" took place for the new Fellowship hall, bathrooms, kitchen and church offices. The project was completed on December 31, 1981. The new facilities were dedicated to the Glory of God by Bishop Kenneth R. May on September 19, 1982, the same time Zion celebrated its 140th Anniversary as well as the 90th anniversary of the dedication of the sanctuary.

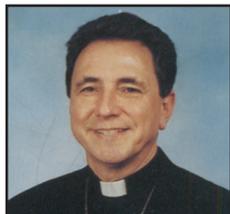


On Sunday September 20, 1992 we celebrated our sesquicentennial (150th) anniversary, which was a huge celebration, with special guests Rev. Bishop Donald McCoid, Bishop of the Southwestern Pa. synod; Mrs. Grace Wilson, wife of former Pastor Rev. W.T. Wilson. Pastor Wilson served Zion English Lutheran Church from 1931 – 1942; Mrs. Olive Wehr & Family (Mrs. Wehr purchased the old German church in 1842 and had it moved to Ingomar and converted into a home. In August of 1992 the house was torn down.) Pastor & Mrs. Bob Keplinger, who served as vice pastor at Zion during the vacancy from January 1987- May 1988, were also present. For several years English Lutheran and Zion had joint efforts in many ministry projects. His wife Lana was Zion's church secretary from November 1990 – July 1992. Pastor & Mrs. Bill Brewer, who came to St. Paul's in August of 1989 and joined us in SEARCH weekly Bible study and other joint Lutheran ministry projects were also in attendance. Pastor Paul Ruff had been

at Zion several times as a supply pastor and had a deep interest in history. The Rev. Margaret Suhr (now Barkley) presided at the service, with Bonita Warner as our organist, and Miss Heather Amend as our secretary. There was special music by Chris and John Burgh, and Wendy & Andy Measel. The hymn of the day at this service was written (words and music) by our own member and deacon, Grace Bickert, for our Anniversary year.

### “Song of Zion”

1. The early pioneers, had a void deep in their life, where would they go, who would care?  
In sorrow or in strife.  
REFRAIN: A century and a half ago, the foundation was begun. The corner stone of Zion was Jesus the Holy One.
2. So our Zion church was born, with Jesus as the head. Where people joined together to have their spirit fed. REFRAIN
3. Our hope is that our message, reaches out to show we care, so those around will know they've found a real solace there. REFRAIN
4. The spirit of her people, is strong as it was then; with Jesus as the constant strength of Zion's women and men. REFRAIN
5. We give you thanks dear Jesus, for our heritage of love. And ask for continued blessings and grace from above. REFRAIN



The choir anthem “CHURCH” was written in Honor of Zion’s 150th Anniversary, by our organist and choir director Bonita (Bea) Warner.

### “CHURCH”

1. We love this church, O God, where in thy presence dwells. Where we come to worship and hear the chiming bells. We sing, and pray and praise God, our faith and trust renew. But when it comes to service, what does the word church mean to you?  
REFRAIN: Let's spell it.  
“C” Christ is the cornerstone.  
“H” Hope for the longing heart.  
“U” You are essential, uniting every part.  
“R” stands for redemption, for each and every soul.  
“C” Church is our mission.  
“H” Heaven is our goal.
2. Our church has a mission and there are tasks to do, something for each one of us, not just a chosen few. Just think about the spelling CHURCH, You are the center without you, there would be no church. REFRAIN
3. With Christ as our head, and Christ within our hearts, we can build on old dreams, new times need new starts. Have faith and be a blessing, keep trusting God above. Our church will be united with God's unfailing love. REFRAIN

Also serving Zion that day were: Bob & Florence Barkley (greeters); Jason Beige, Bob Beige, Bud Bieber, Bob Hollerman, Blaine Shidemantle and Butch Miller (ushers); Adam Wright (Acolyte); Brad Benoit (Crucifer); Walt Klimack, Debbie, Grace Bickert and Ken Strohecker (Deacons). Flowers on the altar were given by Mr. & Mrs. Clair Warner; flowers on the piano were given by Mr. & Mrs. Dave Kennedy. All the flowers were given to the glory of God in honor of Zion's 150th Anniversary.

During the service the new deacon robes were dedicated. The robes were a memorial gift in loving memory, of Ruth Clatsworthy.

Through a special appeal for our anniversary year, the church's mortgage was burned (it was paid as off as of April 19, 1992, EASTER SUNDAY) and there was a luncheon along with a burning ceremony after the service. This was a very special day indeed!

Our 160th anniversary: As part of our anniversary Bishop Donald J. McCoid from the South Western Pa. Synod joined us for the festivities and proclaimed God's holy word during our Festival Eucharist Service. The Rev. William Brewer, our neighboring pastor from St. Paul's Lutheran Church, wrote us a special hymn for the occasion.

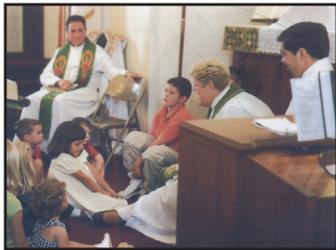
### "WE GIVE THANKS"

We give thanks for all God's blessings; We give thanks for his great love.  
We remember all the good times God has graced us from above.  
As He was in the beginning, He is now and ere shall be;  
Ever present, ever ready to forgive and set us free.

Now we celebrate our calling and the gifts of everyone.  
Now we celebrate God's goodness and the wonders He has done.  
For our doors are always open to whoever wants to pray.  
You may even find a stray sheep in our yard this very today.

So we gladly raise our voices on this anniversary,  
For one hundred sixty years now we have served so faithfully.  
May God bless us in the future; may His light show us the way  
May He prosper all our efforts, and our fears may He allay.

WE GIVE THANKS TO THE FATHER; WE GIVE THANKS TO THE SON  
WE GIVE THANKS TO THE SPIRIT; THE THREE -IN-ONE



As Rev. Brewer said: OUR DOORS ARE ALWAYS OPEN! Let's think about the tradition of red doors, they date back centuries. There are several meanings associated with red doors. Red symbolizes the sacrificial blood of Christ that saves those who come to Him. Red is also a reminder of the Passover and a sign of the Holy Spirit. Church doors began being painted red as a way of remembering the ultimate sacrifice that others made for their faith. The red doors of churches traditionally indicated a place of sanctuary, refuge and safety. Those in need would

would not be captured or harmed inside the holy walls of the church, which offered physical and spiritual protection. There have been many pictures taken in front of Zion's red doors for confirmation and weddings.

All are welcome here at Zion as together we gather around Word and sacrament to hear God's word proclaimed and to be fed at God's Holy Table by the very body and blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus the Christ.



Our 175th anniversary service was held on the actual day, September 17, 2017. It was a very uplifting service, with Bishop Kusserow here to lead worship and communion for this special service. Pastor Susie Esseck, who has been serving Zion faithfully the past two years, Nathaniel Christman (our local interim pastor) with his wife and family, were also in attendance. Also attending was Rev. and Mrs. Charles Kampmeyer, serving Zion from 1956-1959. Pastor Susie served as Deacon, and Caleb Cekella served as acolyte. Flowers on the altar were given by Arlene Cameron in memory of her husband Jim Cameron; our bulletins were given to the Glory of God and in Thanksgiving for Zion's 175th Anniversary by Zion's Fellowship team. Our greeters were Angela Muniz and family, and our lead usher was Mark Kristophel. The choir sang "This is the Church" for that week's anthem.

*175 Years of Service*  
to the Community



Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church  
is celebrating its 175th Anniversary on  
**Sunday, September 17**  
with Bishop Kurt F. Kusserow  
and  
Pastor Marsella (Susie) Esseck presiding

The Worship Service with Holy Communion  
**begins at 10:30am**  
and a Social Hour will follow the service.

*Please come and Join us*

Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church  
557 Perry Highway, Harmony  
724-452-8886  
www.zioninharmony.com





After the service Rev. Margaret Suhr Barkley (served Zion from 1988 – 1996) came with her husband Denny to attend the festivities and the buffet. It was with deepest regrets that Rev. Richard Cooper (1969 – 1973) and Rev. Barbara Love (1997 – 2016) were unable to attend the festivities.

535 Barley Road  
Creekside, Pa 15732  
September 7, 2017

Dear People of Zion,  
I wish to thank you for the invitation to Zion's 175th anniversary celebration. Have a joyous day in the Lord. I continue to hold you in prayer. Even though I cannot be with you I will be celebrating where I am.  
In Christ's Service,  
Rev. Barbara Love

Dear Members of Zion Lutheran Church,

Thank You For The Invitation For My Wife And Myself To Attend The 175th Anniversary Of The Founding Of Your Congregation. Unfortunately, we will not be able to attend.

We do want to wish you the best and congratulate you for your 175 years of service to the Christ.

And I can only hope that you will, in this day, make a pledge to make the next 175 years, years of preaching the Gospel of Salvation and by the daily personal acceptance of Jesus Christ as Lord, Savior, Teacher and Guide. And, to sharing the Love of Christ each day by loving and helping those who cross your path.

Tom and Sally Davis keep us up to date in the life of Zion. Tom still does car taxes.

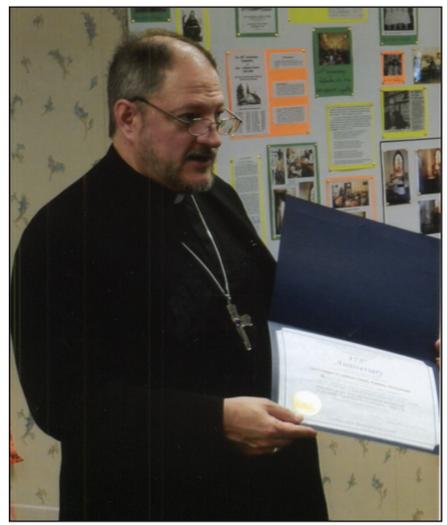
I may not be with you physically today, but I am with you in spirit!

May God Bless Each and Every One of You -- And Bless Zion Lutheran Church!

Yours In Christ,  
Pastor Richard P. Coynard

Bishop Kusserow lead with blessings for Zion, and the other ministers gave their blessings and comments. Bishop Kusserow said the prayer and lead us in the feast that was prepared by Chef Michael Davis. After the meal we had the cutting of the cake, and Bishop Kusserow presented us with a certificate commemorating 175 years of service.

After the meal the Bishop and the ministers had pictures taken in front of the original front door. Thanks to Doug and Chris Trimble who then had the door placed into a frame, which is in the fellowship hall to be remembered always.

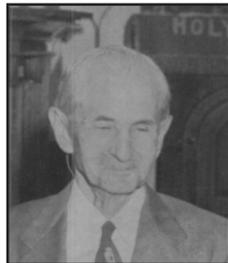


Pastors who has SERVED Zion:

Rev. Gottlieb Bassler	1842 – 1861	Rev .F.C.H. Scholz	1927 – 1930
Rev. Josiah McPharrin	1861 – 1862	Rev. I.J. Goehring	1930 - 1931
Rev. A.H. Waters	1863 - 1864	Rev. W. T. Wilson	1931 - 1936
Rev. Jonathon Sarver	1864 - 1866	Rev. W.H. Mitchell	1937 - 1942
Rev. Gottlieb Bassler	1866 - 1867	Rev. Rev. H.F. Obenauf	1942 - 1955
Rev. G.W. Frederick	1867 - 1868	Rev. T.C. Scheifele	1955 - 1956
Rev. M.L Kunkelman	1868 - 1870	Rev. C.W. Kampmeyer	1956 - 1959
Rev. David McKee	1870 - 1871	Rev. F. Stueber	1964 - 1968
Rev .M.L. Kunkelman	1871 - 1877	Rev. Richard Cooper	1969 - 1973
Rev. Frank H. Miller	1959 - 1963	Rev. T. Oliver Repo	1973 - 1977
Rev. Peter Riffer	1878 - 1890	Rev. Ron Harbaugh	1978 - 1987
Rev. G.J. Diener	1891 - 1894	Rev. M. Suhr-Barkley	1988 - 2006
Rev. H.K. Shanor	1894 - 1906	Rev. Barbara Love	2007 - 2016
Rev. C.L. Dozer	1907 – 1910		
No Minister during this period			
Rev. I.J. Goehring	1913 - 1925		
Rev. H.C. Glander	1925 - 1927		



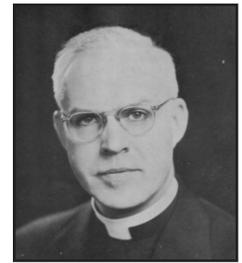
Rev. H.K. Shanor 1894-1906



Rev. I.J. Goehring 1913-1925



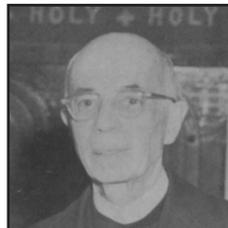
Rev .F.C.H. Scholz 1927–1930



Rev. W. T. Wilson 1931-1936



Rev. W.H. Mitchell 1937-1942



Rev. Rev. H.F. Obenauf 1942-1955



Rev. T.C. Scheifele 1955-1956



Rev. C.W. Kampmeyer 1956-1959



Rev. T. Oliver Repo 1973 -1977



Rev. Ron Harbaugh 1978-1987



Rev. Barbara Love 2007-2016



Rev. M. Suhr-Barkley 1988-2006

Since late in 2016, Pastor Susie Esseck has been serving Zion by leading worship on every Communion Sunday, as well as for special services. We have been blessed in that, even though we have had various lay leaders on other Sundays, we have most often been served by Yvonne Thickey (usually the second Sunday of each month); and John Bulger (usually the fourth Sunday of each month). Pastor Susie, Yvonne, and John have become part of our Zion family in every sense of the word. Pastor Nathaneil Christman has served us as our local interim pastor, visiting our shut- ins and folks who are hospitalized; he also does funeral services, attends our Council meetings, and much more. God has provided abundantly over the past two years, and we thank these people who have so willingly served us.



Our Worship Assistants since 2016 have done a wonderful job of organizing all of our services, special services and our calendar year to help keep the church running smoothly and assisting the pastors. Thank you Pam Ferrainolo, Marsha Davis, Joanne Porter, Tom Bickert, Doug Trimble and our organist, Rosemarie Zebell.



Walt & June Kilmack



Walt (2002)

I was Baptized at Zion in 1928. My first memory is the Preacher (as they were called then, not Pastors) appeared in a robe, most of the stubborn Dutchmen didn't care for the robe. The Preachers were on their first call out of Seminary and usually stayed about three years, their salary was supplemented by farm produce, then they moved on to a higher paying job. I remember the church picnics at Bill Warners woods. It was an all day affair dinner, then games & recreation, supper and later a weiner roast, usually about 50 or more people attended. I also remember Christmas Eve programs, they were well attended and we had to put chairs in the aisles. We children had speeches, and sang our Sunday School songs. Afterwards we got a box of candy, hard tack mostly with a couple chocolates on top. A big

treat for Depression kids. Sometime in June we had another program on Childrens Day. I remember the budget for the year was about what they get on one Sunday today. Around 1939-1940 we dug out for the basement, by hand until we could get a horse and scoop it out. The concrete was mixed in a small mixer, then wheeled into the forms. Being a kid, I got a light job, filling the buckets with sand and cement for mixer. We had no paid help for cleaning, so a family would take a month at a time cleaning, mowing grass etc. Mamma and Pappa took a summer month as closer members had to take care of the furnace in the winter. June and I were married there in 1948 by Reverend Oberauf. Walt.

Now as we end our 175th year we use the fellowship hall weekly. We have had new doors put in, in memory of members, and new stained glass in the doors, which was done by Dave Kennedy. We also put in all new LED lights in our Fellowship hall, offices, kitchen and restrooms. We gather after our worship service for a coffee, tea, a tasty sweet or a light lunch provided by our Fellowship team. We admire the lighted cross that is in our Fellowship hall which was dedicated in memory of Leroy Hall by his family. It is lit every Sunday morning when we come for Sunday School and stays lit through our Fellowship hour or our special church events and it gives off a soft glow of peace and serenity. We "Go in Peace and Serve the Lord" every Sunday. Our mission begins as soon as we leave

our church doors! But we don't go alone. God's Holy Spirit, poured out upon us in the waters of our baptism, goes with us. We go with the promise of our Crucified and Risen Lord, Jesus, "Remember, I am with you always, even until the close of the age!"



LeRoy Hall



Our many thanks and memories go out to Leroy Hall, Jim Brown and the many volunteers who made this possible. So if you haven't been to our Sunday worship service for a while, we invite you to please come and join us.



Through the power of the Holy Spirit and baptism we have been given a strong foundation in the faith. Let us strive through scripture, prayer, communion and the fellowship of believers to be a witness of our faith, cherishing our past and trusting in God to guide us into the future.

We hope you have enjoyed these history write ups.

Evelyn Stephens

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