

HISTORY OF ZION EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

U.A.C. - UNALTERED AUGSBURG CONFESSIONS

The history of any Christian congregation can only be told in part, the part that is seen. The rest is written in the complete memory of God who knows the thoughts and intents of the heart. *"The Lord knows them that are His."* Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church now looks back to recall and appreciate what God has done.

The history of Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church reveals the faithfulness of God who said that His Word would not return to Him void but would accomplish that which He pleased (Is. 55:11). Zion is built upon the foundation of the apostles and the prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone (Eph. 2:20).

Zion's single message has been, Christ crucified and risen again for our sins and the sins of the whole world, based on the words of St. Paul, I Cor. 2: *"For I determined not to know anything among you save Jesus Christ and Him crucified."* The design of the present sanctuary, built in 1968, emphasized this determination. The cross at the peak of the roof, the cruciform design of the sanctuary, and the cross behind the altar are constant reminders of this key message.

The middle name of Zion, Evangelical, further reminds us that all members are sharers of the GOSPEL beginning in Painesville and vicinity and reaching out into the whole world to make disciples of Jesus Christ in response to Christ's Great Commission.

ROOTS

Most of the 35 charter members of Zion were immigrants from Germany. There were soon added contingents of Finns, Hungarians, Norwegians, English, Slovaks, Dutch, Polish, Italians, Estonians, etc., until now more than 25 nationalities are represented in the congregation. This mixture has made it easier to reach out and draw in others.

EARLY BEGINNINGS

Zion was not yet organized when services were held for the first time in the Elm Street home of George Lehnert on the first Sunday of Advent 1891. For two years various pastors from Cleveland came to conduct bi-weekly Sunday afternoon services in the Lehnert home. Worshippers included families from Madison and Unionville who traveled the thirty to forty miles by horse and buggy to hear the Word of God.

FORMAL ORGANIZATION

On August 6, 1893, several Lutheran families under the guidance of Dr. C. Manthey Zorn, pastor of Zion Lutheran church, E. 30th Street in Cleveland became organized as Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church, Painesville. George Lehnert was the first person to sign the constitution. From 1894 until 1920 (26 years), services were conducted in the home of Mr. & Mrs. John Heerlein on Elm Street. Mrs. John (Barbara) Heerlein had been a leading spirit in gathering the families for the first service.

The Rev. H. Schluesselman of St. John's, South Euclid served this group for 10 years beginning in January 1894. For the next ten years, until 1914, The Rev. P. O. Kleinhans from Cleveland served this group of worshippers. Imagine living in a home where Christian services are held regularly for 26 years. "It blesses all the family," as Wilhelmine "Minnie" Heerlein, one of the children and a member of Zion until her heavenly homegoing in 2002 at the age of 101, gratefully attested.

JOINT PARISH WITH GENEVA

Zion, Painesville and St. John, Geneva were formed into one parish in 1914. The Rev. Edwin Beyer, who established his home in Geneva, came directly from the seminary in St. Louis to serve this joint parish. He preached alternately both in Geneva and in Painesville. In 1918, his ministry was cut short by his death from the flu epidemic at the close of World War I. Both congregations felt this loss deeply.

In July 1919, The Rev. Martin Ilse, who served this joint parish until 1926, was installed as the pastor. Two months later, two lots at the corner of Erie and Elm streets were purchased. Plans were begun to erect a church. The portable Mission Chapel, which had served Concordia Lutheran Church in Cleveland, was moved to the E. Erie & Elm Street location in 1920 by Friedrich Endress.

On one very rainy day, the men of the congregation disassembled, moved, and reassembled this portable chapel on the foundation they had previously prepared. Horse and wagon hauled the chapel from Cleveland to Painesville. Because of the high cost of labor, members of the Zion congregation did most of the work connected with the erection of their church. After the building had been completed, the dedication was delayed several months by a fire that partially destroyed the factory making the pews for the church. The church at 550 E. Erie Street was dedicated on October 10, 1920.

In August 1920, the women of the congregation organized the Ladies' Aid Society. In April 1922, they provided new windows for the church. In the fall of 1922, they paid off two hundred dollars of the church debt and in 1926, they supplied the basement with a wooden floor and plaster board walls.

Worship services took on a special ministry in music when in early 1921 a choir was organized.

Upon completion of the chapel, regular church services were also conducted in English and from their onset, they were better attended than the German services. During the Lenten Season in 1922, Pastor Ilse offered to conduct an English evening service on those Sundays when there was no morning worship in Painesville. These were so well attended that they were continued throughout the year, giving the congregation an English service every Sunday. This led to further increases in attendance.

In June 1925, Zion joined the Synod of Missouri, Ohio and Other States. In September 1925, the mission board granted Pastor Ilse a student assistant. Mr. John Peterson from the Springfield Seminary alternated preaching in Geneva and Painesville with Pastor Ilse. Consequently, both an English and a German service were held at both places every Sunday.

ONE PARISH WITH FULL-TIME RESIDENT PASTOR

Church membership continued to grow in both Painesville and Geneva and by May 1926, both congregations felt strong enough to support a pastor of their own, without the help of Synod. Zion Congregation called The Rev. Alfred Moeller, of Decatur, Indiana, who was installed as the first resident pastor on November 14, 1926 by The Rev. Ilse. The presence of a full-time resident pastor resulted in continued growth, and the congregation reached a communicant membership of 160. It was then that several Finish families from nearby Fairport Harbor joined Zion. The Rev. Moeller served Zion for a period of eight years.

When The Rev. Moeller accepted a call to Shumm, Ohio in 1934, the congregation called The Rev. Louis F. Bregitzer, a graduate of Concordia Seminary in St. Louis. The Rev. Bregitzer, who later became the founding pastor of Good Shepherd, Brooklyn Heights, Ohio, served the Zion congregation for twelve years. By this time membership of the congregation had reached a total of 240.

Because of industrial growth, the area's population was increasing and the region became a growing field for mission work. By 1938, it became apparent that the chapel on Erie Street was no longer large enough and that relocation would be an advantage.

In 1939, a 130 x 140 foot lot located at 508 Mentor Avenue, was purchased for \$6,000, This debt was paid within a year; however, the erection of a building had to be postponed. Building restrictions of World War II further delayed it.

February 2, 1947, The Rev. Ottomar E. Bickel, who had served for five years at Christ Lutheran church in White Cloud, Michigan, was installed as pastor by The Rev. Walter Storm. In April 1947, two services were begun. Communicant membership at the beginning of 1947 totaled 240. Average Sunday attendance was 157. By the beginning of 1948, communicant membership had grown to 330 and the average Sunday attendance was then 174. The church continued to grow.

MENTOR AVENUE CHAPEL IS BUILT

In 1947, the overcrowded church led to the formation of a building committee under the direction of Fred C. Rutz. The renowned Lutheran architect, J. Adam Fichter of Akron, Ohio was engaged. He designed of an overall church plan in a simple Gothic design that would be built in several stages. Ground breaking of the chapel, which was planned to eventually become a wing of the church, occurred on August 8, 1948. A Sunday School hall which extended to the north was planned to serve as an overflow room for the chapel. It was decided to delay laying a cornerstone until the main sanctuary would be built.

Again the congregation became personally involved. Members contributed hundreds of man-hours of help in the construction of the chapel, built as a cost of \$80,000 with furnishings that included a Baldwin electronic organ, was dedicated on August 14, 1949, with The Rev. Alfred Moeller, emeritus, former pastor of Zion, present for the services. When the chapel was completed, communicant membership had reached 417. Within weeks of the dedication of the new chapel, two services were needed again. Attendance continued to grow. By the end of 1952 there were 552 communicant members. Average Sunday attendance was 252.

In April 1949, during construction of the chapel, the congregation purchased the adjacent property at 486 Mentor Avenue for \$22,500. Located on that property was a stately old home with 13 large rooms. This beautiful home served as the parsonage for the Bickel family until it was removed in 1962 to make room for the completed church. The 2.5 acre lot also provided much needed parking space and a rear outlet on to Jackson Street. The parking lot was eventually paved in 1958.

In 1951, daily noontime Holy Week devotions were broadcast over WICA, Ashtabula. These were continued for five years.

ERECTION OF AUDITORIUM

In the spring of 1951, a building committee chaired by Fred Rutz was formed to investigate the needs of the growing Sunday School, and construction of an auditorium-gymnasium began in the spring of 1952. Because of the continually increasing Sunday School attendance, the Sunday School choose the motto "Onward, Upward!" for the dedication service which took place on November 30, 1952.

With construction costs of slightly over \$40,000, this project provided space and facilities to accommodate the increasing Sunday School and youth activities. At one time 27 classes of the Beginner and Primary Departments met in the auditorium. As a gymnasium, it became the site for youth activities, volleyball games and for both league and impromptu basketball games and tournaments.

REGULAR CHOIR MUSIC

During 1952, the Senior Choir undertook the arduous task of singing every Sunday from September through May, a practice which still continues at this time. In June 1952, W. R. Dewey Wolff retired after directing the Senior Choir for 18 years. In September 1952, Mrs. Esther Black succeeded him as choir director. The junior choir, which was organized that same year, remained in existence until May 1984.

GOD GAVE THE INCREASE

Steady growth continued and six mission congregations were established in the area originally served by Zion and Immanuel Evangelical Lutheran Church in Fairport. Zion transferred groups of members to assist in the formation of the following churches:

1953 – Faith, Mentor, The Rev. Robert Raabe

1955 – Grace, Thompson (Established by Immanuel, Fairport), The Rev. Harold Kallio

1957 –St. Paul, East Painesville (Established by Immanuel, Fairport), The Rev. John Mattson

1958 – Peace, Chardon, The Rev. Arthur Dingel

1961 – Good Shepherd, Mentor, The Rev. Arden Mead

1966 – Holy Cross, Madison, The Rev. James Pingel

VICARS

Despite the transfer of members to new mission churches in Mentor and Thompson, the congregation continued to grow and the need for pastoral services increased. Communicant membership in 1958 was 548 with an average Sunday attendance of 331. Vicars were requested to assist Pastor Bickel. In 1956, Vicar George Sedory was the first of seven sent to serve at Zion. He was followed by Vicar Raymond Kahle, Vicar Ronald Loncar, Vicar Glenn Renken, Vicar Frederick Schmidt, Vicar Donald Kroll and Vicar Clement Haberman.

FURTHER EXPANSION

In 1963, still another building project was completed. This was a rear section that provided more education and office space, a small prayer chapel, a vestry, a sacristy, a lounge and a garden courtyard. Additional youth Bible Class classrooms were added on the basement level. The parsonage was razed and the parking lot was enlarged and paved.

ASSISTING PASTOR

Upon his retirement in 1964, Dr. & Mrs. Gustav Aho, fellow servants at Immanuel, Fairport for 18 years, moved to Painesville. They joined Zion and Dr. Aho began to serve the congregation. During 1966-67 he assumed assisting pastoral responsibilities.

GOD'S BLESSINGS CONTINUED

By 1965, communicant membership had reached 701. Increased worship attendance demanded the constant use of the overflow room adjoining the chapel. The chapel seated 180, but because attendance for the second service averaged 225 each Sunday, 30 to 40 people had to be seated out of sight of the pulpit and chancel. In July 1965, the south entrance facing Mentor Avenue was closed so that more seats would be within view of the altar. The chancel was moved to that location and the overflow room became the major seating area. Pews in the east end of the chapel were turned completely around and the choir occupied the west section. During this time the Sunday school enrollment was 585 with an average attendance of 405.

OVERCROWDING SPURRED BUILDING PLANS

Under the leadership of Edward Chimney, chairman of the building committee, plans were made to construct the church sanctuary. Groundbreaking occurred on April 30, 1967, and on September 10, 1967, the cornerstone for the new church was laid. Inserted in the cornerstone was a small metal box which contained the following items: Luther's Small Catechism, a copy of the Constitution of the congregation, a list of the congregation officers and name of the builder contractor, the most recent copy of The Lutheran Witness, a copy of the minutes of the meeting which had decided upon the building of the sanctuary, the actual ballots used in that decision, a copy of The Painesville Telegraph of Saturday September 9, 1967 which included a news article about the cornerstone laying, and a copy of a news article about the cornerstone laying, and a copy of the worship folder used in the cornerstone laying service.

DEDICATION OF THE SANCTUARY

The new sanctuary, which was designed by H.E. Biskup of Biskup, Rowe and Associates of Cleveland, was dedicated on March 31, 1968. Construction costs totaled \$232,496.02. Early in 1968, an Estey pipe organ was purchased for \$2,500 from the Euclid Avenue Christian Church. Removal and storage until the sanctuary was ready to be used, installation and renovation of the manual organ with 27 ranks of pipes were an additional \$10,800. By 1968, communicant membership was 780.

MINISTERIAL STAFF INCREASED

Mr. Ronald E. Hoehne, a graduate of the Lutheran Lay Training Institute of Milwaukee, Wisconsin, was installed as pastoral assistant on February 4, 1968. He served Zion in the area of Christian Education, Youth, and Stewardship, and assisted Pastor Bickel with worship services and the calling program of the church.

Lay Minister, Darrel Adams, who arrived in July 1972, served Zion in that capacity for one year until 1973.

A year later, in July 1974, The Rev. Larry Troxel was called to be the Associate Pastor. He served Zion until October 17, 1976 when he left to serve at Trinity Lutheran Church in Creston, Iowa.

In February 1977, Ronald Hoehne returned to Zion to serve as Associate Pastor. Installed on August 13, 1978, he remained at Zion until accepting a call to Immanuel Lutheran Church in Rosebud, Missouri in June 1980.

LWML ORGANIZED

On October 4, 1978, an information meeting was held for those women interested in forming a chapter of the Lutheran Women's Missionary League (LWML). Under the guidance of Pastor Hoehne, an application for a chapter was filed and accepted. Zion then had the Ladies' Aid Society, who continually provided support for the local church, and the LWML, who reached out into national and international missionary endeavors.

PARTNERSHIP IN CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Interest grew in establishing a Lutheran elementary school. Because it was evident that this could only occur through the collaboration of several churches, a corporation, Our Shepherd Lutheran School Association, was formed in 1979. Initially, this corporation was established by St. John's, St. Paul's, and Zion, but it was later joined by Faith, Holy Cross, Good Shepherd, and Grace. Mr. Ronal Bork was called to be the first principal and teacher of grades three and four and Miss Kathie Pfefferle was called to teach grades one and two. September 3, 1980 was the first day of school. Fourteen students were taught in two classrooms located in St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Painesville.

On Easter Sunday, April 19, 1981, Pastor Kenton Wendorf, who had served at Camp Lutherhaven, Indiana, was installed as Associate Pastor. He served in that capacity until January 1984, when he became the Administrative Pastor and Pastor Bickel continued full time as Associate Pastor. At that time, communicant membership had reached 879 with an average Sunday attendance of 409.

In obedience to the commands of Our Lord Jesus Christ, Zion has also continually ministered to the physical needs of the poor. Initially, these needs were attended to by the pastoral and secretarial staff and supported by specific contributions of Zion's members; however, in 1982 a line item called *Poor, Needy, Food Pantry* was included in the church budget. This led to an organized program where members of Zion staffed the Food Pantry. Support for this ministry grew among area churches.

Enrollment at Our Shepherd Lutheran School continued to increase. In the fall of 1983, when enrollment was at 110 students with six full-time teachers and one part-time teacher, three classrooms were used at Zion along with the three classrooms at St. Paul's.

In 1984, regular radio broadcasts were begun. Pastor Bickel prepared short daily messages, titled Searchlight, that were broadcast over WPVL, Painesville. Beginning in 1986, individuals residing in the WPVL broadcast area had the opportunity to wake up to a six A.M. devotional message prepared and delivered by Pastor Bickel.

MUSIC AND PRAISE

Throughout Zion's history, music has continued to be an important vehicle of praise. Early in 1986, Cornerstone, a quartet with guitar accompanists, was organized. Beside singing contemporary Christian music at Sunday worship services and holding concerts at Zion, they spread the good news of salvation in song at many area churches. In 1992, a pianist joined the group. Sunrise singers was organized in 1987 so that the early service worshipers would also have choral music in the service. By 1988, the name of this group had been changed to Sunrise Singers.

On January 19, 1986, Pastor James Zinkowich of Unity Lutheran, Cleveland, Ohio accepted the call to be an Associate Pastor of Evangelism and Christian Education. At this time, communicant membership was 888 with an average Sunday attendance being 468.

Enrollment of Our Shepherd Lutheran School continued to grow and the need for additional classroom space became apparent. Under the supervision of Jack Hoyer, chairman of the building committee, ground for an educational wing was broken at Zion on June 18, 1986. This wing, containing four classrooms and the school offices, was dedicated on April 5, 1987, and when the school year began in 1987, 115 students and the faculty of six full-time and one half-time teacher were together again at one location.

The need for more space arose and in 1988, an addition of four more classrooms was dedicated. In June, 1989, Ron Bork accepted a call to St. John's in Fraser, Michigan and later that summer, Mr. Jack Lelle accepted the call to be

principal-teacher at Our Shepherd Lutheran School. In 1992-93 a staff of 12 taught and provided supportive services to the 160 students enrolled in Our Shepherd Lutheran School. In 1990, the property on Mentor Avenue adjacent to the church was purchased for \$165,000. This property became a playground for the school. Continuing to prepare for the future, Zion purchased the property at 467 West Jackson Street in May 1992.

By May 1990, it became apparent that the 83 year old Estey organ was approaching the end of its useful life. In September 1990, Paul G. Bunjes, Chairman Emeritus of the Department of Music at Concordia College, River Forest, was commissioned to design a new organ and in February 1992, a 32 rank pipe organ was ordered from the Zimmer Organ Company. Cost of this endeavor was projected to be \$253,330. As a part of the 100th anniversary celebration, this organ was dedicated on September 19, 1993. Dr. Walter Pelz, a noted composer and recitalist from Bethany College, Lindsborg, Kansas, played a dedication hymn sing and concert that afternoon. "Proclaim what He has done" was the motto for the 100th anniversary year of Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church.

ZION ENTERS A SECOND CENTURY ...

WITH BLESSINGS OF NEW PERSONNEL

In March of 1994, William Patrick was hired as a second organist serving with Janice Steffens. Later that year The Reverend Ottomar Bickel announced his retirement and marriage plans are set for December 31, 1994, having served Zion for 47 years. He then served as Pastor Emeritus for another eight years.

In 1995 Zion began supporting the work of Todd and Kim Roeske at a Tagakaulo Kalagg Lutheran Mission in the Philippines. In an attempt to offer worship services for an additional segment of the congregation, Saturday evening services were successfully started in July of that year. A newly married couple, David and Coreen Jander were contracted as DCEs from September 1996-1997. David as DCE Intern and Coreen as DCE served Zion for one year. The Zion Lutheran Church Endowment Fund, Inc. was certified and the constitution was signed on March 18, 1996. Carol Sippola offered her secretarial services to Zion beginning July 24, 1996.

Cheri Franz began the role of Youth Director in 1997. It was also at this time Jimmy Riley accepted a call as DCE, moving to Painesville with Barb and their young children coming from Seward, Nebraska.

EXPANDED MINISTRIES BRING NEW OPPORTUNITIES

In 1999 four sons of Zion were enrolled in Seminaries to study for the ministry: John Greig, Bob Green, Dan Skillman and Robert Carabotta. Prepared luncheons for Seniors became a popular regular activity for good food and fellowship in 2000.

At this time Zion expanded their Christian ministry to four area Nursing Homes for weekly services on Thursday. Also a Mission Committee was formed to increase mission awareness with Ann Marie Bollas serving as Chairman. Projects were planned on an international, national, local and congregational level conducting service projects and prayer support.

On June 10, 2001 an Ordination Service was held at Zion for Roger Vernick and Robert Carabotta. On June 16, 2002, John Greig was also ordained at Zion.

Pastor Kenton Wendorf accepted a call to Grafton, Wisconsin in August 2003 after having served Zion faithfully for 22 years. An Alaskan Mission trip was made in July for two weeks to tell the story of Jesus to Native Americans in Alaska. Seventeen children and adults enjoyed this exciting adventure and servant event.

RECOGNITION FROM SYNOD

In 2003 a letter was received from President Kieschnick noting Zion was identified as one of the 30 most effective congregations in the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod; emphasizing recruitment and retention of professional church workers in the past 5 years. He also made note of the number of adult confirmands, average worship attendance and new church plants. Representatives of the congregation were invited to a seminar to share their story of success.

NEW MINISTERIAL ADDITIONS AND CONTEMPORARY SERVICES ARE WELCOMED

Another son of Zion, Nathan Wendorf was ordained into the Ministry on July 3, 2005. On August 7, Jimmy Riley was installed as Vicar of Zion, and with encouragement from the Zion Voters, he entered the DELTO Program (Distant Education Leading Toward Ordination). Interest grew in a Contemporary service and Cheri Frantz formed a Contemporary Band and has been instrumental in this service to the present time.

Pastor James Zinkowich chose to retire on September 30 after serving Zion's congregation with the Gospel of Jesus Christ for 19 years. The next year Pastor Gerald Matzke, former Senior Pastor of St. Paul's Milford Center, Ohio, accepted a call to Zion as Senior Pastor in February 2006.

DREAMS OF BOAR'S HEAD FESTIVAL REALIZED

During December 2005, dreams of a Boar's Head Festival originated as an opportunity to share the Christmas story of God's gift of His beloved Son with our family, friends and community. In 2006 the dreams were realized and serious work began, under the dedicated work of Jim Kosciak and company.

A BELL CHOIR IS ORGANIZED

A group of dedicated bell-ringers spring into action in 2007 and embellished worship services and special occasions. Katie Ruzin has served as the choir's director since its inception.

NEW BEGINNINGS AND OPPORTUNITIES OFFERED

Now with the communicant membership of 892, the year of 2008 was the year of many new beginnings. A Stephen Ministry program began to study the needs and opportunities with Barb Riley and Penny Broge as organizers. A Prayer Group was started, meeting on Sunday mornings under the leadership of Ann Marie Bollas. A Meals to Heal Ministry originated and was led by Ellie Busam and a Ladies Saturday Bible Breakfast began on a monthly basis.

Vicar Jimmy was called as Associate Pastor of Zion and, after acceptance, was installed on June 28, 2009. Also in June of 2009, Jack Lelle retired as Principal of Our Shepherd Lutheran School after serving faithfully in that capacity for 20 years. On September 20, Jake Rogers was installed as the new Principal of the school, now with an enrollment of 133 students. Judith Palinkas accepted the position of Kitchen Coordinator in September also.

In 2011, Ellie Busam accepted responsibility for a newly organized Martha Guild, a group that would provide a luncheon for a grieving family and friends following a funeral. A new Stewardship Committee was formed under the leadership of Pastor Matzke and also a new Young Adult Bible Class on Sunday mornings. This brings the number of classes studying God's Word to ten in our congregation.

Principal Jake Rogers accepted a call to Grace Lutheran School in Sandy, Utah in June of 2012. A contract for Our Shepherd Lutheran School Principal was extended to Keith Trent. He began this position in the 2012-2013 school year.

In 2012 a Drama Ministry Team was organized under the leadership of Cheri Frantz. The Voters also organized a Planning Committee to review the current and future needs of Zion's ministries with emphasis on the physical plant and future disposition of the growing attendance in the Contemporary Service. They will also evaluate the peripheral properties for possible use or demolition.

BOAR'S HEAD FESTIVAL PROCLAIMS THE SAVIOR'S BIRTH FOR SIX YEARS

In 2012 the Boar's Head Festival was performed for the sixth year under the faithful direction of Jim Kosciak. In an answer to prayer, God blessed our efforts and provided an open door in the hearts of His people to receive it with joy and excitement. One hundred and eighty three actors, musicians and behind the scenes people attended each performance and all four performances enjoyed a full house. The birth of the Savior was once again celebrated with the people of Painesville at Zion!

FOURTEEN MEN OF THE CONGREGATION SERVE IN THE MINISTRY

As Zion Lutheran Church's 120th anniversary was celebrated in August 2013, the Lord has blessed the congregation's efforts to teach the importance of serving God in His ministry. Currently there are 14 former members serving in the Holy Ministry as they focus on Christ and His cross for His people's salvation. These servants are: Chris Atwell, Phil Bickel, Jason Broge, Robert Carabotta, Fred Davison, Robert Green, John Greig, Tom Lampella, David Peck, Jimmy Riley, Lane Seitz, Dan Skillman, Roger Vernick and Nathan Wendorf.

Kimberly Palinkas was commissioned as a Lutheran School Teacher at Our Shepherd Lutheran School in August 2012.

Zion continues to live by her motto: "Sharing the Message of Salvation through Jesus Christ, Strengthening Believers, and Serving Others in Need."

WE HAVE BEEN TRULY BLESSED IN OUR 120 YEARS. TO GOD BE THE GLORY!

Thank you to Janet Koerwitz and Doris Weaver for the hard work and dedication to put this History of Zion together.