

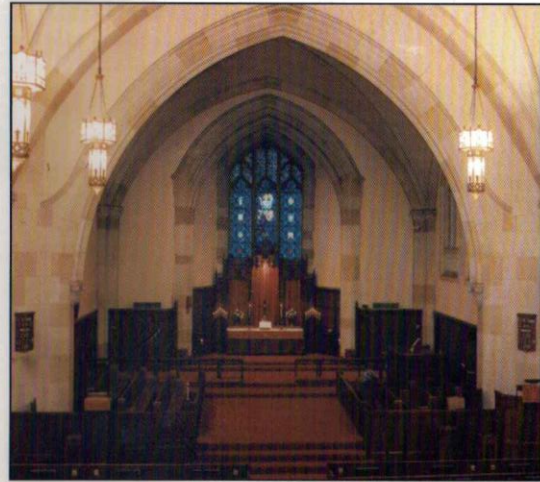
A·D·1956

MATTHEW 28:19-20

Cornerstone of Educational Building

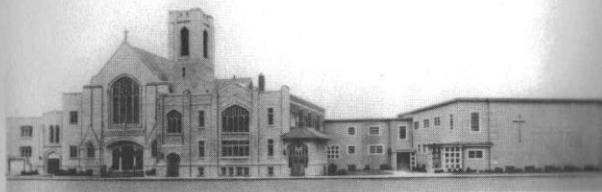
"Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:

"Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen."



MT. ZION EV.
LUTHERAN CHURCH

DETROIT, MICHIGAN
1924-1997



Lord, as the years roll onward,
And strong affections twine,
And tender memories gather
About this sacred shrine,
May this its chiefest honor,
Its glory ever be,
That multitudes within it
Have found their way to thee.

Mt. Zion has had a rich heritage and will leave an equally rich legacy.

When Mt. Zion started in 1924, thanks to dynamic pastors and leaders the church grew rapidly. Programs drew people from the community within walking distance or a short drive into participation. Mt. Zion was where the "action was" for youth through it's Sunday School, Vacation Bible School, Luther League activities, Friday Fun Nights and Roller Skating. Athletic teams abounded - baseball, softball, basketball, golf and bowling. Men and Women's groups were strong.

Mt. Zion's influence is felt far and wide. As members moved to the suburbs, they took their abilities and enthusiasm for participation and became active in the Churches in which they became members. A large number of members retired to Florida. Our 24 spiritual sons and daughter are serving the Lord in all parts of the United States.

Around 1980, Mt. Zion began serving it's changing neighborhood through a variety of social programs. Youth used the facility for head start, after-school and summer programs. Graduate Equivalency Program (G.E.D.) and computer classes were held. Basketball, Narcotics Anonymous and Alcoholics Anonymous held meetings. Meals on wheels prepared food out of our kitchen.

Due to a declining membership and high cost for maintaining the huge facility, the congregation voted to disband on October 19, 1997- our 73rd anniversary. The influence of Mt. Zion will continue to be felt through the Mt. Zion Foundation, a charitable non-profit organization. The facilities were given to Metro Matrix Human Services.

The closing worship service was celebrated on Sunday, October 19, 1997.

THROUGH THE YEARS

In 1924 Northeastern Detroit, north of Conner, consisted principally of farm lands that were rapidly being converted into subdivisions which were being sold for home building. There were homes sparsely dotting the district with more holes being dug each day.

Portlance Avenue, now East McNichols, was a narrow mud road from Conner to Gratiot. Gratiot was a narrow concrete road with a deep ditch on one side and a double interurban track on the other. On the south side of Portlance, west of Gratiot, was a large apple orchard which was divinely destined to become the site of a mighty Church dedicated to the Lord Jesus Christ.

Realizing the splendid prospects for a Lutheran Church in this rapidly growing district, the Pastor, Roy Linhart, of Faith Lutheran Church made a survey of the field and reported the results of his investigation to his Church Council. The matter was then referred to the congregation of Faith Church, and at a special congregational meeting, held on June 29th, it was resolved that steps be taken towards the establishment of a mission in this promising field.

The Pastor then met with the Mission Board of the Joint Synod of Ohio, which body unanimously sanctioned the starting of the mission and voted to permit Faith Church to transfer some of the loan which it had from the Mission Board towards the purchasing of the property location for the proposed mission. After a thorough investigation of all the available sites in the community, it was voted to purchase the beautiful site on Portlance Avenue. The total cost of the property

was \$10,500.00. Of this amount \$5,800.00 was loaned from the Mission board through Faith Church, the balance to be paid in monthly payments.

The Mission Board also furnished the funds for the purchase of a portable chapel, the cost of which was approximately \$3,500.00. The chapel was erected during the first week of August by several men of the Mission and of Faith Church.



September 14, 1924 - The dedication of the chapel took place. The service was conducted by the Rev. R. D. Linhart, assisted by Student Wm. H. Nies, who at that time was in the Theological Seminary at Capital University, Columbus, Ohio. Rev. E. C. Billing, Pastor of First English Lutheran Church of Detroit, the grandmother church of the mission, preached the sermon. That was a glorious event. It is estimated that about 400 people were present at the service. The picture shows that many of the people did not get inside the chapel. As evidence of warm missionary spirit filling the hearts of many, an offering and subscriptions amounting to approximately \$1,800.00 was received at the close of the service.

It was resolved that steps be taken toward the establishment of a mission in this promising field. On the approval of the Mission Board of the Ohio Synod and with the financial help of Faith congregation four lots with 192 feet frontage were purchased and a frame Chapel was erected. Dedication took place on September 14, 1924. The following month the first charter members, 43 in number, were received and at that time the organization of Mt. Zion Evangelical Lutheran Congregation was effected. The following 43 were charter members:

Mr. and Mrs. John Kaufman, Mr. and Mrs. Herman Lange, Mr. and Mrs. John Kluge, Mr. Dexter Kluge, Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Goetsch, Mr. and Mrs. Louis Langusch, Miss Dorothy Langusch, Mr. and Mrs. Emil Schneck, Miss Elizabeth Schneck, Mr. and Mrs. Otto Schultz, Mr. and Mrs. Albert Muhme, Mr. and Mrs. Harry Langusch, Mr. Clarence Rateick, Mrs. Emma Mahaffy, Mr. and Mrs. Henry Domke, Mr. and Mrs. Theodore Schwandt, Miss Edna Schwandt,

Mr. and Mrs. William Krogg, Mr. and Mrs. William Lanstra, Mrs. Bertha Haase, Mrs. Augusta Walters, Miss Emily Walters, Miss Florence Walters, Miss Josephine Walters, Miss Edna Walters, Mrs. Hattie Rinke, Miss Mildred Rinke, Mr. Charles Rinke, Mr. Elmer Rinke, and Miss Tina Schwandt.

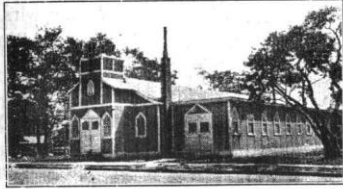
At a congregational meeting held on January 6, 1925, the regular officers of the church were elected. At this meeting also, by unanimous vote of the congregation, a call was issued to Student Wm. H. Nies to become the regular pastor of the congregation.

On March, 1925-Student Nies took up the work, coming from Columbus, Ohio, nearly every week-end and sending a student in his place when it was impossible for him to leave his school work.

On June 28, 1925, the rev. Wm. H. Nies was installed at the Faith Lutheran Church and from then on became the active pastor of Mt. Zion. From this date on Mt. Zion became the fastest growing congregation in the American Lutheran Church, known then as the Joint Synod of Ohio.



1925 Reverend William H. Nies becomes pastor of Mt. Zion (June 28, 1925 - June 30, 1966). Luther League, Cradle Roll, Men's Club organized. First Children's Catechism Class of 7 confirmed. First adult class numbering 19 confirmed. Pastor Nies directs choirs (1925-35).



1926 Chapel enlarged to meet growing needs of congregation.

(June 13)-The addition to the chapel was dedicated. First Father and Son and Mother and Daughter banquets held.

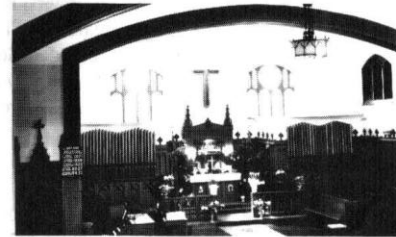


1927 Ramona Theatre (located directly across McNichols on the NW corner of Gratiot), was used for Sunday School. Ladies Society organized. Boy Scout troop started. Two Luther Leagues came into being-Junior and Senior.

(October 2)-The first sod was turned over for the first unit of our permanent church building.

(October 19)-Exactly three years to the day from the time our congregation was organized the steam shovel began to work.

(December 11)-The cornerstone was laid.



1928 Dedication of first permanent church (June 3). 1830 people witnessed the dedication festivities with three services.

(July 1)-Miss Dorothy Lanstra began her work as Secretary and Organist and was with us until May 31, 1931.

Men's bowling League organized.

1929 Missionary Society organized.

1930 Reverend O. G. Grotefend (June 1, 1930-January 10, 1932) becomes first assistant pastor. Branch Sunday School held in Von Steuben School. First Vacation Bible School conducted.

1931 Ladies circles organized. Girl Scout troop started.
(June 2)-Miss Ruth Wrobel (later Mrs. Ruth Moore) began her work as Organist and in January of the following year served as Secretary and Organist. She served in this capacity until January of 1943 when she gave up her work as Secretary, but remained as Organist until January of 1944.

1932 *(February 7)*-dedicated our new pipe organ, a gift of the Ladies' Society. Athletic Club formed. Orchestra started.

1933 Double Sunday Services inaugurated. Reverend William Dierksheide, vicar (August 13, 1933-July 1, 1934). Confirmed membership 1,429. Sunday School : 905.

1934 Reverend George Grewenow; vicar (August 13 - October 21). Mt. Zion wins Detroit Lutheran Baseball League championship. Mother's Club for mothers of school children organized. Reverend William Weiss, vicar (October 22, 1934-February 24, 1935).

1935 Junior Mission Band organized. 15 minute Saturday night prayer meetings held. Men's Basketball team wins city championship. Ladies hold weekly gym classes in Robinson School. Worship services held each Sunday evening in Utica, Michigan.

1936 Two mid-week Lenten service schedule established. Lenten attendance averages over 1,000 per night.

1937 Reverend Walter Schmidt, assistant pastor (June 30, 1937 - November 13, 1938). "I Do" club formed. Ladies bowling league started. Kenneth Jewell becomes director of music (September 1937 - June 1963). Luther League divided into three groups; Junior, Intermediate and Senior).

1938 *(February 27)* purchased the gas station property adjacent to the church on the west side and later remodeled it. Annex for Sunday School. Branch Sunday School started at the Voelker home in East Detroit. Deacon Chimes dedicated. 210 received into membership on Palm Sunday. Daughter of Mt. Zion organization formed. Men's Basketball Team wins East Side Detroit title.



- 1939** (*February 4*) completed the personage on Hickory Avenue and on March 5th, had open-house. The cost was \$9,368.00. Usher Club formed. Reverend E.J. Melchert, assistant pastor(January 13, 1939- October 27, 1940). First regular worship service held at Branch Sunday School in East Detroit-91 in attendance-16 children baptized.
- 1940** Reverend Ernest Dietz, vicar (November 10-April 30, 1941). Property at rear of church purchased for parking lot at the sum of \$3,500.00. Omega Luther League formed. Mt. Zion "Herald" published and mailed monthly to every home.
- 1941** Reverend David Schultz, assistant pastor (May 14-January 31, 1943). General Luther League (all leagues combined) begins to meet once each month. Construction begins on new church basement. Groundbreaking - November 2nd. Hardball team won city championship.
- 1942** New Church basement dedicated (OCTOBER 18). Service Flag dedicated. Red Cross Unit started. Chapel dedicated for Branch Sunday

School in East Detroit. Confirmed membership: 2,345. Baptized membership: 3,160. Sunday School moves back from Ramona to new church basement.

- 1943** Reverend Gerd Heidmann, assistant pastor (May 30-July 27, 1947). Leona Scheland becomes Church secretary (January 1943-September 1952). Branch Sunday School organizes into Gethsemane Lutheran Church with 48 charter members. Prayer services held on Wednesday evenings. Reverend Alvin Reuter, vicar (July 4-June 4, 1944).
- 1944** Burned mortgage on new basement(March). Jean MacPherson Boeberitz becomes assistant organist. Reverend Carl Schneuker, vicar (June 4-January 30, 1945). Children's Confirmation Class of 90 confirmed in May (largest in history). In addition to a hardball team, a softball team is fielded and wins the City Championship.
- 1945** V-E Day service of prayer and Thanksgiving-May 8. V-J Day Service held on August 15. Mrs. Pauline Hotchkiss becomes organist (March 1945 - May 1950). Reverend Charles Weishaupt, vicar (January 30- September 9). Reverend Ewald Bash, vicar (September 10 - May 26, 1946). Quiet Evening Communion Services on the fourth Sunday of the month inaugurated. Goodwill committee organized.

1946 Fellowship Club organized. Girls' Basketball Team started. Reverend Norman Wegmeyer, vicar (June 2 - June 1, 1947). 2,540 present on Easter Sunday in Ramona Theatre. Pastors' white robes worn in summer. Mid-week Advent Service inaugurated.

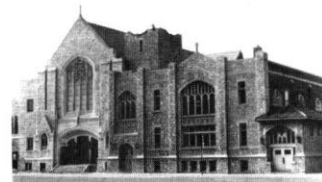
1947 Priscilla Guild organized. May 30 - Memorial Program in memory of the eleven who made the supreme sacrifice and honoring the 416 members of Mt. Zion who served in the Armed forces during World War II. Reverend John Dennis, vicar (August 17 - June 6, 1948). Fun Nite held each Friday to meet the delinquency problem - average attendance: 321 boys and girls.

With a steady growth in membership, space for Sunday School and church worship again became overcrowded making it necessary for some of the classes to move back into the Ramona Theatre. In the spring, the congregation resolved to complete our church building. Work was begun in October and the dedication took place on September 18, 1949. Building fund for new church.



1948 Reverend James Hunter, assistant pastor (February 15 - April 16, 1950). Reverend William L. Nies, vicar (June 15 - June 5, 1949). Sunday School enrollment: 1,006. Boys win Detroit Lutheran softball championship. 13534 East McNichols parsonage purchased.

1949 Dedication of the new Church (September 18) - 3,887 in attendance. 25th Anniversary services and banquet. Baptized membership: 4,001. Confirmed membership: 2,951. Reverend David Wolber, vicar (July 10, 1949- August 27, 1950). Blood Bank started.



1950 Pastor William H. Nies receives "Doctor of Divinity" degree from Capital University Theological Seminary. 25th Anniversary of the ordination of Dr. Nies and his service to his Lord and Mt. Zion noted in a special service (June 18). Reverend William L. Nies becomes a pastor of Mt. Zion (June 25, 1950 - April 21, 1963). Denise Greiner, organist (July 2, 1950 - March 31, 1957). Memorial plaque for all who gave their lives in World War II dedicated. Reverend Norman C. Schellhase becomes a

pastor of Mt. Zion, giving Mt. Zion a three-man pastoral staff (December 3, 1950 - January 23, 1955). Annex (old gas station) becomes Luther League Lounge.



1951 Property west of Lounge purchased - also, 13528 East McNichols parsonage. Old Church converted into parish hall gymnasium. Silver wedding anniversary of Dr. and Mrs. Nies observed (June). Voting age lowered from 21 to 18. Bus is purchased.

1952 "Lutheran Standard" mailed to every home. Parking lot paved. Dr. and Mrs. Nies travel to Holy Land. Yvonne Steinway becomes Church secretary (September 1). Girls win city basketball championship. boys are Eastside champs.



1953 Construction of new parsonage, 13500 East McNichols at Pelkey. 13534 East McNichols parsonage becomes Sunday School annex. Young People's Bible Class goes over the 100 mark. Girls win basketball title. Cub Scout troop established. First Luther League Officers' Retreat (August).

1954 30th Anniversary of Mt. Zion observed - Confirmed membership: 3,234; Baptized: 4,449; Sunday School enrollment: 1,061. Fourth of July Service at Bel-Air Drive-In Theatre. Spiritual Life Mission (October).

1955 Luther League Lounge (old gas station Annex) torn down and 13534 East McNichols parsonage sold and removed. Reverend Luther Heyde becomes a pastor of Mt. Zion (June 1955 - October 1960). Office of Administrative Secretary established and position filled by Edmund Zoellner (August 1955- April 1959). Youth Choir travels to Texas for Luther League Convention. Parish Education Building Fund campaign (October), \$325,000.00 pledged. Kitchen modernized.

Realizing the need for greater facilities for Sunday School, offices, a chapel and recreation, plans were begun for our new Parish Education Building and the renovation of our present parish hall. For the first time in our history we engaged a fund raising organization- Marts & Lundy Co. Over \$325,00.00 was pledged by our members. Work was begun in January of 1956.

- 1956** Cornerstone laying for Parish Education Building (April 29). Luther League attendance reaches all time high. Spiritual Growth in 5 Dimensions program begins with 76 fireside meetings. Girls win city basketball crown. Fellowship Club re-organized. Nursery and Toddler Sunday School Departments established.
- 1957** Dedication of Parish Education Building (February 17). Pauline Hotchkiss returns as organist (April 1957 - June 1967). 3,372 present at Easter services. 11 AM Sunday School started. Daily Chapel devotions and Bible Study begin. New facilities offer multiple recreational activities under the House Committee. Golden Age Group established.
- 1958** 11,838 attend Lenten services to witness Pastor Nies' "Persons in the Passion." Parish Education Staff numbers 178. Golf League organized (June). 445 attend Vacation Bible School. Wednesday evening summer services started. Mt. Zion Nurses' Guild organized (September).
- 1959** Begin using new Lutheran Hymnal and Service Book (January 11). Church Lounge renovated-old balcony becomes "Rehearsal Room." Mrs. Naomi Nies honored as Mt. Zion's "first lady" at surprise birthday celebration (April 19 - over 700 attend). Robert Leininger becomes Administrative Secretary (April 1959 - November 1969). Women vote to adopt "Women of the Church" plan of organization

(June). Sunday School enrollment: 1,071. 35th Anniversary of Mt. Zion observed during month of October.

- 1960** First "cap and gown" service for high school graduating seniors (January 29). 41 attended in Chapel. Chancel and aisles of church carpeted by the Women of Mt. Zion (February). Mt. Zion Library opens (Sunday, March 6). The Library, sponsored by the board of Parish Education for all ages, begins with 75 books. More than 200 were added during 1960. Sunday School sponsors Pastor Robert J. Miller as a Missionary to Ethiopia. Sponsorship includes paying of his salary. Pastor Miller preaches at Mt. Zion and says "farewell" before departing for the mission field (July 31, 1960- June 1965). Retired men of the Church organized for service and fellowship (October).
- 1961** Scared cantata "Olivet to Calvary" presented by Senior Choir during worship services (March 19). Pastor Nies was presented "Lamb Award" for outstanding service to youth by the National Lutheran Committee on Scouting (May 7). Mt. Zion enters Mel Ott League-a little league for Lutheran boys nine to thirteen. Reverend Donald Ralph Staude becomes a pastor of Mt. Zion (June 25).
- 1962** Entire publication of the "Herald" (editing, printing, mailing) becomes a Mt. Zion office job (January). First Luther League Exchange Program, MZ leaguers travel to our Savior

Lutheran Church, Milwaukee, Wisconsin for week-end and then entertain their Milwaukee hosts the following week-end in Detroit (May). Young Married Couples Club organized (October). Mt. Zion hosts the Michigan District Luther League Convention. Event was climaxed with Communion Service in the Ramona theatre (November).

- 1963** Reverend Dalton Gronlie becomes a pastor of Mt. Zion (July 21, 1963-March 31, 1964). Jon Tousley becomes Choir Director (September 1963-April 15, 1964). Reverend Gerald E. Ferne becomes a pastor of Mt. Zion, giving Mt. Zion a four-man pastoral staff (December 1, 1963).
- 1964** Daniel Evola becomes Choir Director in April 1964. Reverend Scott R. McKinney becomes a pastor of Mt. Zion (June 21, 1964- September 15, 1968). Mt. Zion's 40th Anniversary celebrated during the month of October. Bethel Series-Congregational phase-began October 7 with enrollment of 360 adults.
- 1965** Dr. Nies honored on his 40th Anniversary in the holy ministry at a surprise celebration at Denby High School (June 13). Mt. Zion hosts the Michigan District of the American Lutheran Church Convention (May). Purchased fourth parsonage, 27299 Bradner, Warren, Michigan (May 10). Purchased vacant lot on East McNichols, between the two parsonages (August 2). Sunday Church School sponsors Geraldine DeMitchell, R.N., a member of Mt.

Zion, as a lay Missionary to New Guinea (November 1965-June 1968).

- 1966** Pastor Staude and Pastor McKinney engaged in a series of Lenten Dialogue Sermons. Dr. Nies retires after 41 years as senior pastor of Mt. Zion (April 30), having his "Farewell Sermon" May 1. Pastor Staude introduced the Lay School of Theology Curriculum. Five adult courses were added to the adult Christian Education Program.
- 1967** Mt. Zion congregation bestows upon Dr. William H. Nies the title of Pastor emeritus. Pastor Ferne's 30th Anniversary in the holy ministry observed (May). Reverend Gerd. E. Heidmann becomes senior pastor of Mt. Zion (June 18). Sara Welch, organist (August 20).
- 1968** Mt. Zion engages the Resident Counseling Service of the Stewardship Department of the A.L.C. (March). Pastor Heidmann honored on his 25th Anniversary in the holy ministry at a surprise celebration (June 16). Project Summer Hope-our response to the crisis of the city was begun at Mt. Zion (June). Sunday Church School sponsors Miss Constance Lovaas, a lay Missionary to Madagascar (July).
- 1969** Hope for All Seasons became the theme for Mt. Zion's continuing involvement in ministering to the needs of the community. 130 adults, on an ecumenical basis, volunteered their services for the Tutoring Program. Mt. Zion's 45th Anniversary observed (October).

- 1970 Reverend Robert L. Larsen becomes a pastor of Mt. Zion (February 16, 1970-January 31, 1977). Parsonage at 27299 Bradner, Warren, was purchased by Pastor Larsen (February). Gary Wilson becomes interim Choir Director, Terolle Wilson, Interim Organist(March 16 - June 30). Buttons and Bows Co-Op Nursery begins at Mt. Zion (September 9). Sharon Rogers becomes Organist-Choir Director (October 1, 1970 - February 18, 19, 1979).
- 1971 Sunday School picnic at Magary' Pine Grove (Gratiot and 32 Mile Road). Sponsored Parent Effectiveness Classes.
- 1972 Youth community Program conducted (June-August). Over 300 participated.
- 1973 "Herald" takes on new look; typed and prepared for mailing by volunteer help.
- 1974 Governing Board was authorized to conduct the business of the congregation on a monthly basis with the Church Council meeting as advisable. Senior Citizens Food and Friendship Community Program begins at Mt. Zion (February). "Herald" name changed to "eMZee Views" (February). Mt. Zion's 50th Anniversary observed (October). Anniversary Dinner at Warren Chateau (October 20). 900 in attendance. Endowment Fund officially initiated.
- 1975 Dr. William H. Nies honored on this 50th Anniversary of Ordination (June 22). Pastor Gerald E. Ferne retires after 38 years in the holy ministry (November 1). Congregation approved recommendation of Pulpit committee to go to a two-person pastoral staff (November 30). August Jenkins and Fritz Busch retire (December 31) after many years of faithful service as custodians.
- 1976 Parsonage at 12887 Hickory, Detroit was sold.
- 1977 Pastor David H. Miller becomes a pastor of Mt. Zion (June 12, 1977-September 13, 1981).
- 1978 Congregation approves adoption of Lutheran Book of Worship(December).
- 1979 June Schaffer served as interim organist (February 25-March 18). David L. Fox becomes Organist-Choir Director (March 25). Lutheran Book of Worship (LBW) dedicated Sunday, June 17. Quilters disband June 21.
- 1980 Roman Catholic-Lutheran Service (All Saints' Festival) conducted at Mt. Zion, November 2nd. An "English as a 2nd Language" program originally thought to be short-term, expands and continues as more and more Southeast Asians are ministered to in this way.
- 1981 Pastor Gerd E. Heidmann retires after almost 38 years in the Christian ministry(February 15), having his "Farewell Sermon" February 8th.

Pastor Heidmann was honored at his retirement at a celebration at Mt. Zion (February 8). Dr. Harold d. Schlachtenhaufen becomes senior pastor of Mt. Zion (May 1, 1981-1989). The congregation voted for one Worship Service (10:15 a.m.) with the education hour at 9 a.m.

- 1982** Thru "Project H.E.L.P." about \$90,000.00 was received for repairs to the building; 18 different Community services are now housed at Mt. Zion; Stewardship emphases were increased. Lay distribution of Communion begins.
- 1983** A revised constitution was approved with new Commissions for the Church Council. Rebecca Cumbow began work (February) as the full-time Director of Open Arms Community Center. Combined Catechism classes with two other congregations began (September). The first major mailing for the Million Dollar Endowment Fund was sent to the alumni.
- 1984** Mrs. Yvonne Steinway retires in April after 31 years of service as parish secretary. Mrs. Luann Schmitz begins as new parish secretary. Mt. Zion celebrates her 60th Anniversary with guest pastors, picnic, ice cream social, banquet, and ecumenical worship service. New visitation teams are formed.
- 1985** Evangelism Church in Society Commission started new visitation teams and neighborhood survey. Placed two series of ads in newspaper. Rebecca Cumbow resigned as Director of the

Open Arms Community Center to return to school full-time. Food Pantry distributed an average of 60 sacks of groceries per week. Second Thoughts Resale Shop opened.

- 1986** Pastor Glenn Devantier joined the staff as Director of "No Longer Strangers." Diane Lobstein began as new church secretary, Ralph Steward becomes coordinator of the Food Pantry/Clothes Closet. A house at 12462 Pelkey was purchased as a culture center for "Hmong Stitchery Co-Op." Andrew Bradford began as the new custodian.
- 1987** Mt. Zion hosts the final convention of the Detroit Conference, A.L.C.W., A Summer Youth Program was held for the sixth year for about one hundred kids, new community center programs were added, M.Z. votes to join the E.L.C.A., a new chair lift system is installed, the Fix-Up-Fund ended.
- 1988** The congregation of Mt. Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church adopted a new mission statement which included these words: "we believe that we are called as God's family; and as individuals to work with and toward helping those in need; regardless of race, class, creed, or background to secure adequate housing, education, food, health, freedom, justice, and equality; and to share in the suffering this may bring." Donald Ludwig becomes Coordinator of the Food Pantry, Larry Burns becomes Voluntary Director of the "Youth and Young

Adult Development Project" for O.A.C.C. A Head Start Center begins operation in September. New "year-around" Evangelism and Stewardship programs are begun.

- 1989** *(JAN.)* Larry Burns hired as program director of OACC. *(FEB. 5)* David Fox's last Sunday. *(FEB.)* Christine Moitel interim organist. Mildred Pociask honored as first "Woman of the Year". *(MAY)* Gene Rouse hired as night caretaker. *(JUNE)* Allen Kerkes hired as Music Director/Organist (1989-1990). *(JUNE 18)* Hmong service start in chapel. *(SEPT 10)* Last Sunday for Dr. Harold Schlactenhafen. *(OCT. 29)* 65th Anniversary dinner at Warren Chateau.
- 1990** *(FEB.)* Della Uteg honored as "Woman of the Year". *(MAR 16)* Gail Stacherski hired as part-time custodian. *(JUNE 6)* LSSM "Love to Give in So Many Ways" topped \$18,910. *(SEPT 16)* Rev. Bill Mock becomes Senior Pastor. *(OCT. 21)* Allen Kerkes resigns.
- 1991** *(FEB.)* Mildred Miller honored as "Woman of the Year". *(MAY)* Larry Burns resigns. *(APR.)* Darwood Sundermann hired as Music Director/Organist (1991-1995) *(JUNE)* Sponsored the Long Family from Cambodia.
- 1992** *(JAN.)* Gym renovations completed-handicapped bathrooms and offices. *(FEB.)* Naomi Kozin honored as "Woman of the

Year". *(DEC)* Gene Rouse relieved of caretaker's job.

- 1993** *(FEB.)* Arlene Kangas honored as "Woman of the Year". *(APR.)* sent bag lunches for the homeless to Christ Iroquois Church.
- 1994** *(JAN. 31)* Rev. Brenda Echols begins as Associate Pastor (1994-1997). *(APR. 10)* Rev. Echols installed. *(FEB.)* Dorothea Rose honored as "Woman of the Year". *(APR.)* Fed the homeless at Christ Iroquois Church and at St. Clare Parish. *(MAY 15)* Dedication of memorial trees honoring Dr. Wm H. Nies and Rev. Gerd Heideman in courtyard Phil Jones begins as night caretaker.
- 1995** *(FEB.)* Janet Guthre honored as "Woman of the Year". *(FEB. 8)* Phil Jones relieved of caretaker's job. *(MAR)* Fed the homeless at St. Clare Parish. *(APR.)* Hosted the Nelson Trout Lectures. *(JULY)* Darwood Sundermann resigns. *(NOV. 30)* Rev. Bill Mock resigns. *(JUNE)* Summer year-round Sunday School begins.
- 1996** *(FEB. 12)* Darryl Mitchell starts as night caretaker. *(FEB.)* Virginia Gnuschke honored as "Woman of the Year" OACC disbands and merges with Metro Matrix as provider of programs. *(APR.)* fed the homeless at Christ Iroquois Church.

1997 (FEB.) Evie Russell honored as "Woman of the Year". Congregation agrees to establish the Mt. Zion Foundation from the Endowment Fund assets. Facilities given to Metro Matric Human Services. Last service October 19, 1997.

INTERESTING ITEMS CULLED FROM THE CHURCH RECORDS

First Recorded Baptism

William Vincent, son of Mr. and Mrs. Benjamin Vincent, Baptized Sept. 21, 1924.

First Recorded Marriage of Member

Mr. David LaForest and Miss Edna Schwandt, September 24, 1925.

First Recorded Burial of Member

Mr. Otto Voss - July 19, 1926.

First Recorded Confirmation Class

Bernice Langusch, Muriel Langusch, Helene Christensen, Dorothy Kluge, Leona Rinke, Thelma Schwandt, Viola Schiele.

First Wedding in New Church

Mr. Carl Sparre and Miss Dolores Spack - September 24, 1949.

First Baptism in New Church

Gerald Earl Langgood, son of Mr. and Mrs. Earl Langgood, baptized Sept. 18, 1949.

OUR DAUGHTER CONGREGATION

GETHSEMANE LUTHERAN CHURCH

ON SUNDAY AFTERNOON, December 4, 1938, Mt. Zion established a branch Sunday School. The first session was held in the living room of the home of Mr. and Mrs. John Voelker, 12483 Utica Avenue, Warren Township, East Detroit, Michigan. 29 persons were present.

On the afternoon of Jan. 29, 1939, the first Church Service was conducted by Pastor William Nies, at which time 91 persons were in attendance and 16 were brought to Christ in Holy Baptism. Periodically services were held after this time.

the Sunday School met alternately in the garage and in the basement of the Voelker home. Mrs. John Voelker, who taught a Sunday School class at Mt. Zion and was regularly at church service, was in charge of the Sunday School and did most of the work for several years.

Ground was broken for a church building on April 26, 1942. The chapel was dedicated on June 7, 1942.

Gethsemane Congregation was organized on December 5, 1943. The Pastors of Mt. Zion served the congregation until Pastor LeRoy Sarver was installed. The next Pastor was Rev. Luther Knauff. The Rev. Arthur Peffly is the present Pastor.

The entire program of Gethsemane was financed by Mt. Zion Lutheran congregation, without any assistance of the Mission board.

The congregation disbanded June 1997.

SENIOR PASTORS



Dr. William H. Nies
1924-1966



Gerd E. Heidmann
1967-1981



Dr. Harold D. Schlachtenhaufen
1981-1989



William Mock
1990-1995

ASSISTANT/ASSOCIATE PASTORS

Oliver Grotefend	1930-1932
Walter Schmidt	1937-1938
Elmer Melchert	1939-1940
David Schultz	1941-1943
Gerd Heidmann	1943-1947
James Hunter	1948-1950
Norman Schellhase	1950-1955
Wm. L. Nies	1950-1963
Luther Heyde	1955-1960
Donald R. Staude	1961-1969
Dalton Gronlie	1963-1964
Gerald E. Ferne	1963-1975
Scott R. McKinney	1964-1968
Robert L. Larsen	1970-1977
David H. Miller	1977-1981
Brenda Echols	1994-1997

VICARS

Wm. Dierksheide	1933-1934
George Grewenow	1934
Wm. Weiss	1934-1935
Ernest Dietz	1940-1941
Alvin Reuter	1943-1944
Carl Schneuker	1944-1945
Charles Weishaupt	1945
Ewald Bash	1945-1946
Norman Wegmeyer	1946-1947
John Dennis	1947-1948
Wm. L. Nies	1948-1949
David Wolber	1945-1950

**ORDAINED SON/DAUGHTER OF
MT. ZION**

William L. Nies	Ordained June 18, 1950
Theodore Partiridge	Ordained June 8, 1952
Donald Gruenburg	Ordained June 14, 1953
Gerald Labuhn	Ordained June 14, 1953
Robert Brandenburg	Ordained June 30, 1957
Harold Schroeder, Ph.D.	Ordained September 8, 1957
Roy Nurse	Ordained June 15, 1958
Gene Walker	Ordained June 19, 1960
Gordon Labuhn	Ordained June 18, 1961
Ronald Dingle	Ordained June 17, 1962
Ronald Rein	Ordained June 17, 1962
Oren Schroeder	Ordained June 16, 1963
David Winter	Ordained June 14, 1964
Paul Wee	Ordained August 16, 1964
Robert Mix	Ordained June 19, 1966
Gary W. Bergamo	Ordained June 2, 1968
John S. Ferne	Ordained June 15, 1971
Dennis E. Kenny	Ordained July 18, 1971
Ronald S. McCollister	Ordained July 30, 1972
Richard C. Ferne	Ordained December 23, 1973
Robert A. Ellers	Ordained June 29, 1975
Clifford Randall	Ordained September 26, 1976
Sigval Berg	Ordained June 28, 1981
Elizabeth Czubay	Ordained May 1, 1988

PASTORS TO ASIAN COMMUNITY

Glenn Devantier	1985-1997
Zong Houa Yang	1993-1997

**MISSIONARIES SPONSORED BY
MT. ZION**

Rev. Robert J. Miller Missionary to Ethiopia
1960-1965
Geraldine DeMitchell RN-lay missionary to New Guinea
1965-1968
Connie Lovass- lay missionary to Madagascar
1968

RETIRED ASSOCIATED PASTORS

Rev. Oscar Ice - Chairman of Evangelism Commission
Rev. Karl Oelschlager - Pastor to Shut-ins

CHURCH SECRETARIES

Dorothy Lanstra	1928-1931
Ruth Wrobel Moore	1931-1943
Leona Schelund	1943-1952
Yvonne Steinway	1952-1984
Luann Schmitz	1984-1986
Diana Lobstein	1986-1997

ADMINISTRATIVE SECRETARIES

Edmund Zoellner	1955-1959
Robert Leininger	1959-1969

ORGANIST AND/OR MUSIC DIRECTOR

Rev. Wm. H. Nies	1925-1935 - Choir Director
Dorothy Lanstra	1928-1931 - Organist
Kenneth Jewell	1937-1963 - Director
Ruth Wrobel Moore	1928-1944 - Organist
Pauline Hotchkiss	1945-1950 - Organist
Denise Greiner	1950-1957 - Organist
Pauline Hotchkiss	1957-1967 - Organist
John Tousley	1963-1964 - Choir Director
Daniel Evola	1964-1970 - Choir Director
Gary Wilson	1970 - Interim Choir Director
Terolle Wilson	1970 - Interim Organist
Sharon Rogers	1970-1979 - Music Director
June Schaffer	1979 - Interim Organist
David L. Fox	1979-1989 - Music Director
	1990-1991 - Interim Organist
	1995-1997 - Interim
Christine Miotel	1989-1991 - Interim Organist
Allen Kerkes	1989-1990 - Music Director
Darwood Sundermann	1991-1995 - Music Director



Antiphonal Organ



Main Organ
David L. Fox
Organist



Massed Choir
Late 1940's



Zioneer Choir
1975



Senior Youth Choir
1960



Senior Choir
1994

CONFIRMED MEMBERSHIP

Oct. 19, 1924.....43	1948.....2800	1973.....1861
1924.....63	1949.....2911	1974.....1741
1925.....165	1950.....2930	1975.....1610
1926.....300	1951.....3018	1976.....1497
1927.....450	1952.....3112	1977.....1828
1928.....606	1953.....3150	1978.....1755
1929.....825	1954.....3214	1979.....1700
1930.....1025	1955.....3242	1980.....1065
1931.....1143	1956.....3252	1981.....921
1932.....1273	1957.....3322	1982.....866
1933.....1429	1958.....3346	1983.....668
1934.....1510	1959.....3355	1984.....678
1935.....1592	1960.....3301	1985.....594
1936.....1681	1961.....3271	1986.....470
1937.....1756	1962.....3384	1987.....513
1938.....1872	1963.....3339	1988.....460
1939.....2031	1964.....3283	1989.....440
1940.....2214	1965.....3212	1990.....445
1941.....2353	1966.....3091	1991.....413
1942.....2387	1967.....3091	1992.....417
1943.....2404	1968.....3030	1993.....390
1944.....2561	1969.....2609	1994.....377
1945.....2602	1970.....2563	1995.....352
1946.....2722	1971.....2489	1996.....324
1947.....2737	1972.....1949	1997.....319
1948.....2800		

OUR CHURCH

Just 73 years ago, on September 14, 1924, our first chapel was dedicated and the first service held. In June of 1926, an addition to the chapel was dedicated. On October 18, 1942, the basement of our new church was completed. The new church was dedicated September 18, 1949, completing the 5th building program in 25 years.

Our new church (basement dedicated in 1942) cost about \$300,000.00 with furnishings. The architects were Gerald M. Merritt and Lyle S. Cole of Detroit, Michigan.

The main auditorium is 130 feet long and 72 feet wide. From the floor to the highest peak in the ceiling is 44 feet. The top of the cross is 70 feet above the ground.

The normal seating capacity in 1949 was 1,200, but with our overflow in the narthex and the old church, we could accommodate 2,000 for a service.

Quite often questions are asked concerning the interpretation of the symbols throughout the church. In the chancel furniture, you will find the following symbols:

At the top of the reredos, we have an **X.P.** which is the Chi Rho symbol. This is among the most ancient of the so-called monograms of our Lord Jesus Christ. It is the abbreviation of the word "Christ". This name of our Savior was spelled **XPICTOC** in ancient Greek unicals. Taking the first two letters of the word **XPICTOC**, the abbreviation **XP** was the result. Also on the reredos, in the two end panels, are two carved shields. The one on the left is a carving of grapes and the one on the right of carved wheat. The grape and wheat are emblematic of

the Body and Blood of Christ, symbols of the communion service.

The carved panels of running vine and grape design used in the reredos and altar is a symbol of our Lord and His followers, the Church Unity.

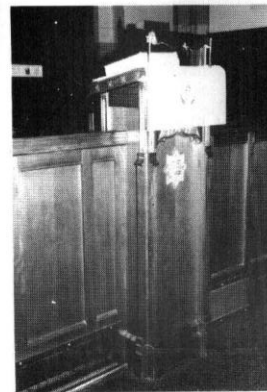
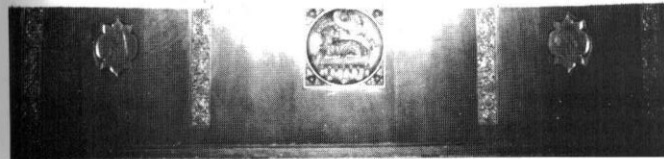
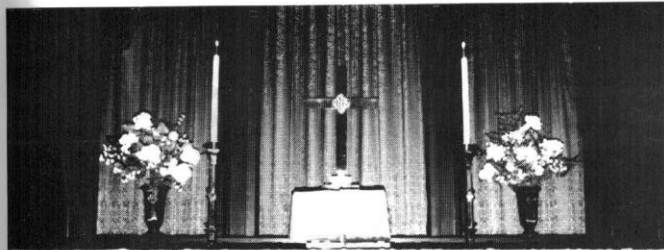
In the center of the altar is a carved panel called the "Angus Dei." This means the Lamb of God; symbol of our Lord. This shows the Angus Dei, or Lamb of God, lying on the book of seven seals, carrying the banner of victory, crowned with a 3-rayed nimbus, signifying that it is a symbol of Divinity.

The letter "A" on the left of the altar is a Greek letter "Alpha" and the "O" on the right of the altar is a Greek letter "Omega". When these are used together, they mean our Lord Jesus is the beginning and the end of all things.

On the center panel of the pulpit is the Open Book with Alpha and Omega. This is a symbol of the Word of God, divine authorship, which tells of Christ in the beginning and ending of all things. The other carved panels as located on the pulpit are "The Oak Leaf and Acorn," symbol of Strength and Virtue; "The Rose," symbol of the Messianic Promise; "The Pomegranate," symbol of the Resurrection; "The Olive Branch," symbol of Peace and Charity.

On the lectern, we have the Crown and Cross, the Cross thrust through the Crown of Eternal Life, Our Lord's Kingly Office.

The symbols on the pew ends are four in number, - the Thistle - symbol of the Fall of Man; Luther's Rose - symbol of Luther; Ivy Vine - symbol of Faithfulness; Lily - symbol of Purity.



THE ALTAR WINDOW

The central feature of the window is the "Resurrection Scene," with Christ as the central figure. About Him are the two women who came to the tomb and a soldier who was on guard.

In the upper part of the window is the "Alpha" and "Omega," which was explained previously.

1. *Baptism* - symbolized by a dove over a baptismal bowl. The dove, emblematic of the Holy Spirit, expresses the fact of Regeneration in Baptism.

2. *Bible* - shown open with the letters V.D.M.A. inscribed on it. These letters represent the Latin words *Verbum Dei Manet in Aeternum*, that is "The Word of God endureth forever," 1 Peter 1:25.

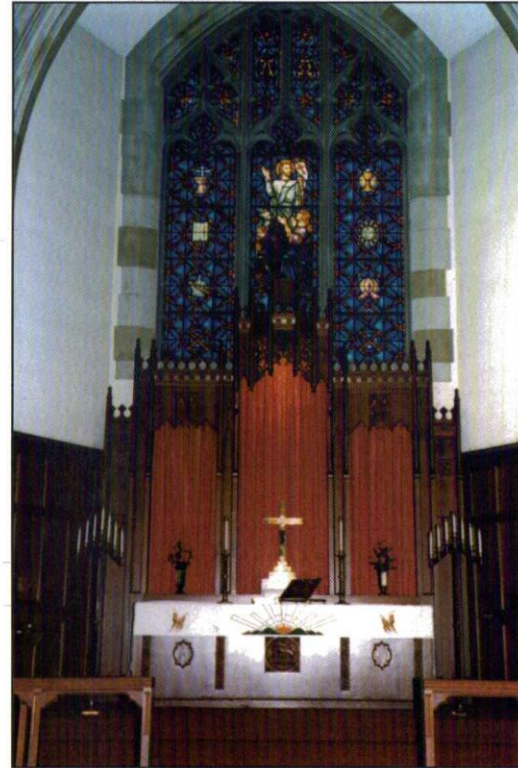
3. *King Forever* - The symbol is that of a scepter and a crown. The scepter is that of a long staff, terminating in an orb, crowned with a cross. The scepter and the crown signify Christ's Kingly office and express the fact that we have eternal life through Him.

The symbols on the right, beginning at the top, are:

1. *The Lord's Supper* - represented by a chalice, or communion cup and the paten or bread plate. Rising out of the chalice is a circular wafer upon which are the letters I.N.R.I., meaning *Jesus Nazaremus Rex Iudaeorum*, "Jesus of Nazareth, King of the Jews." This is symbolical of the Real presence of Christ, in, with and under the bread and wine.

2. *IHS* - These letters stand for *Jesus Hominum Salvator*, "Jesus, Savior of Mankind." Frequently the letters IHC are used. This is the abbreviation of the Greek word IHCOYC, meaning "Jesus." In our symbol you will notice the IHS surrounded by the Circle of Eternity, with alternating straight and wavy rays of glory proceeding from it.

3. *Hands in Prayer* - This needs no explanation.



BALCONY WINDOW

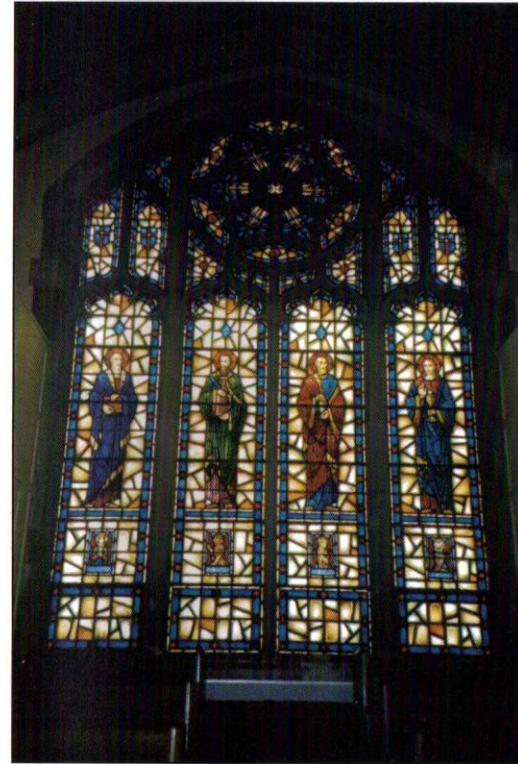
From left to right we have the picture of the four Evangelists - Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. Below each one we have their representation in symbols.

a. *The Winged Man* - the symbol of St. Matthew, because that Evangelist begins his Gospel by tracing the human descent of our Lord. He also lays stress upon the Incarnation of the Son of God. Thus *the Winged Man* signifies the human nature of our Lord Jesus - His Incarnation.

b. *Winged Lion* - denotes St. Mark, because that writer opens his inspired Gospel by describing St. John the Baptist who was the voice of one crying in the wilderness. St. Mark speaks of the Grace of god. Thus the Winged Lion represents His royal character, since the lion is the king of beasts.

c. *Winged Ox* - is a representation of St. Luke, because he gives us a very full account of the sacrificial death of our Lord. The Winged Ox or Calf testifies to Christ's sacerdotal nature, for the calf is the emblem of sacrifice.

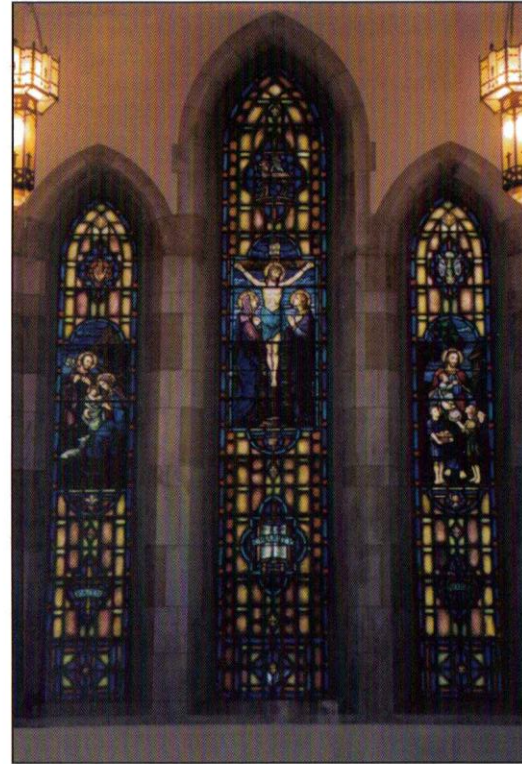
d. *Winged Eagle* - is the symbol of St. John, because from first to last his Gospel soars on eagles' wings to the very throne of heaven. It represents the Grace of the Holy Spirit which was ever upon the Savior. St. John speaks of the Divine nature of our Savior and His Kingly Office.



EAST WINDOW

You will notice four sets of symbols in each panel.

1. At the top (from left to right):
 - a. *God the Father* - depicted by a hand, with the thumb and first two fingers extended and the third and fourth fingers closed. This represents God the Father in benediction or blessing.
 - b. *God the Son* - depicted by a lamb. Explained in a previous symbol.
 - c. *God the Holy Ghost* - depicted by a dove, emblematic of the Holy Spirit.
2. Central feature of each window:
 - a. *Birth of Christ*.
 - b. *Crucifixion of Christ*.
 - c. *Christ blessing the children*.
3. Below the pictures:
 - a. *Fleur-de-Lis* - It is a symbol of the Holy Trinity.
 - b. *Cross and Crown* - Cross is thrust through the Crown of Eternal Life.
 - c. *Burning lamp* - This symbolizes Christian Knowledge.
4. Lower symbols:
 - a. *Faith* - The Cross.
 - b. *Charity* - The Bible.
 - c. *Hope* - The Anchor.



SMALL WINDOWS IN NARTHEX - (beginning at the West):

1. *Luther's Coat of Arms* - It represents a black cross, in a red heart, on a white rose, in a blue field, surrounded with a golden circle.

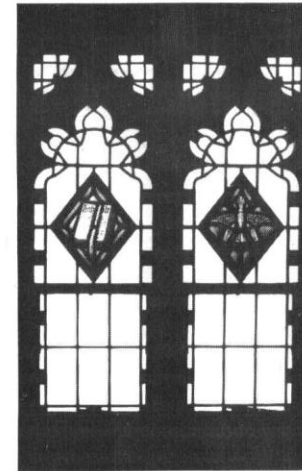
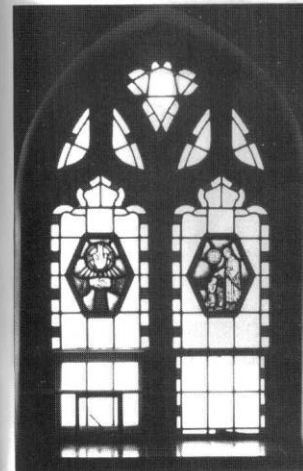
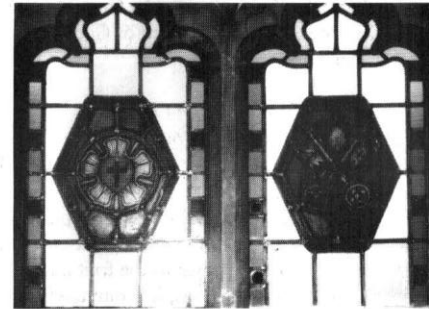
2. *The office of the Keys* - Since the Office of the Keys is "the peculiar church power which Christ has given to His Church on earth to forgive the sins of penitent sinners unto them, but to retain the sins of the impenitent, as long as they do not repent," it is fitting that the symbol for this power is two keys saltier, that is, crossed like the letter X. The one key represents Excommunication, by which the door is locked upon the willful and impenitent sinner. The other key is Absolution, by which the door to the Kingdom is gladly opened to the sinner, when he repents. The one key is gold and the other silver. They recall Peter's confession, and our Lord's statement regarding the Office of the Keys.

3. *Holy Matrimony* - This sacred rite is symbolized by two clasped hands. There is a third hand above them, with the thumb and first two fingers extended in Benediction. This represents the blessing of the Triune God which rests upon this holy estate.

4. *Confirmation* - We have the symbol of a dove, reminding us of the words from our liturgy, "renew and increase in thee the gift of the Holy Ghost." Hence the dove is the symbol of the Holy Spirit. In the picture is a clergyman, clad in vestments, laying his right hand upon the head of the one being confirmed.

5. *The Bible* - The Divinely inspired Word of God. It is opened, signifying that it should be read by all.

6. *Spreading the Word* - This is depicted by a dove over the opened Bible. Since the dove is emblematic of

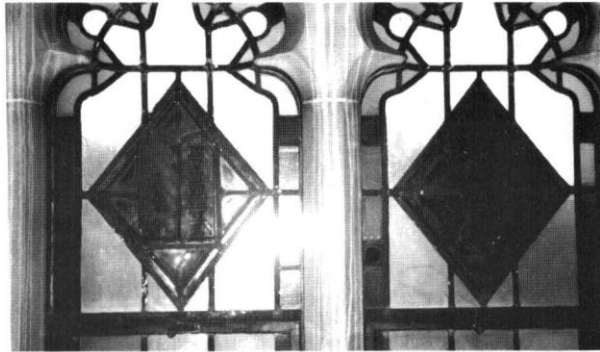


the Holy Spirit, this signifies the Bible was written by inspiration of God. The dove over the Opened Word of God signifies the spread of this Word of God throughout the world.

SMALL WINDOWS IN BALCONY

1. *Depicts the Ten Commandments* - They are represented on two tablets, three commandments on the first, and seven on the second.

2. *Depicts Sin, or "The Fall"* - Man's temptation and fall is symbolized by a trunk of a tree, with leaves and fruit (generally an apple is shown as the fruit but since we do not know what fruit it was, it is omitted in this picture.) A serpent, symbolical of satan, is coiled about the tree.



WOMEN OF THE YEAR



Mildred Pociask
1989



Della Uteg
1990



Mildred Miller
1991



Naomi Kozin
1992



Arlene Kangas
1993



Dorothea Rose
1994



Janet Guthre
1995



Virginia Gnuschke
1996



Evie Russell
1997



Primary Sunday School
1955



Sunday School
1997



A Grateful Acknowledgment

We would like to extend our deepest Thanks to our current (and last) President, Robert Hughes. Bob has been our mainstay these past few years when the sledding was rough - during the year of Pastoral vacancy and these last two years of Senior Pastor vacancy. His life has revolved around Mt. Zion spending many hours each week keeping the building in repair, doing administrative supervision, and spending many hours in lawyers and synod offices. Words are not enough to say "Thank You".



We also extend our appreciation to all those who throughout the years have so generously given of their time and talents to fulfill the mission of Mt. Zion.

TO GOD BE THE GLORY