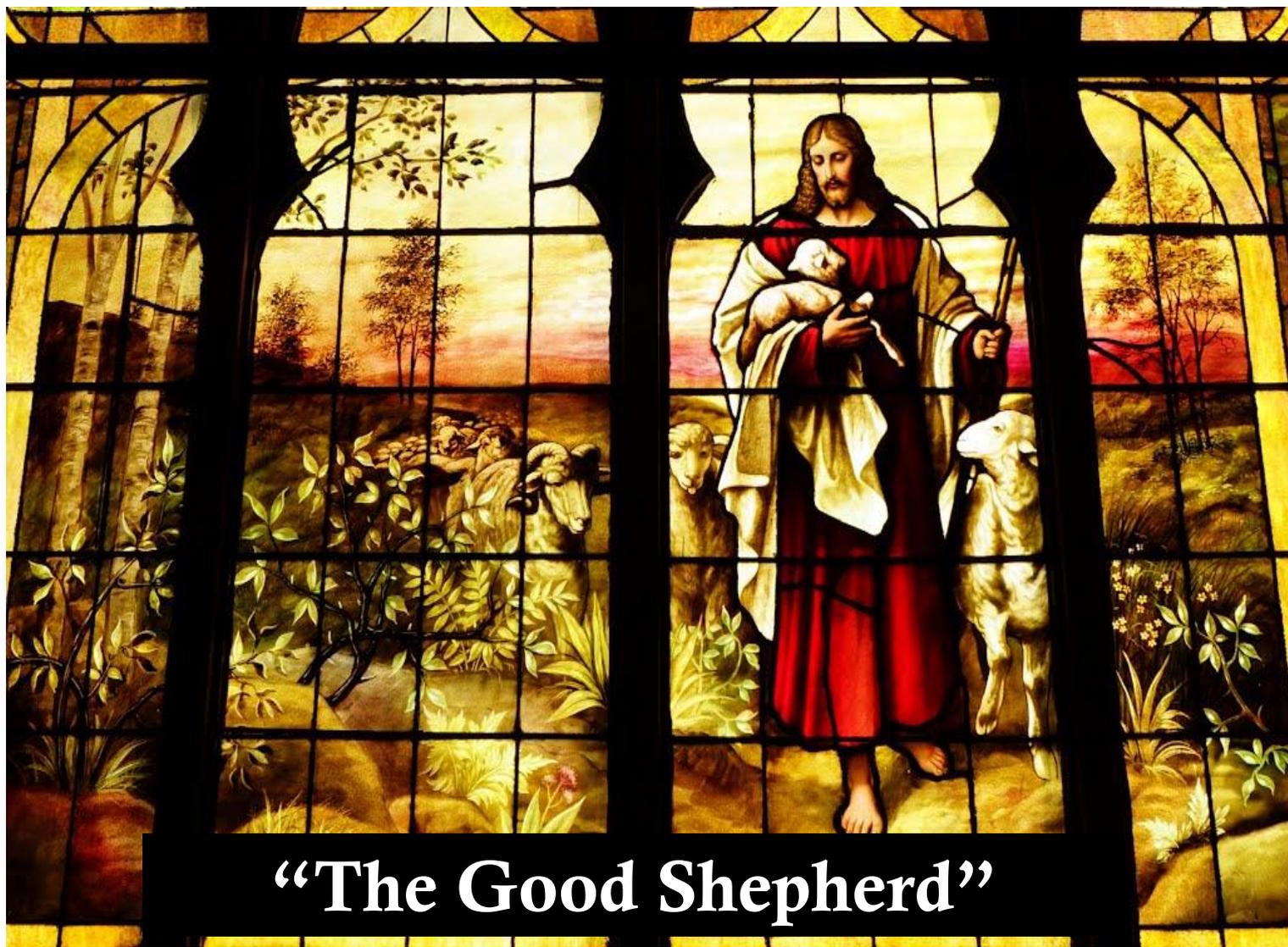


*Zion*

*Built on the Cross  
of  
Christ*





## “The Good Shepherd”

This window, which faces to the east, shows its most beautiful colors in the morning when the sun is rising. What a wonderful reminder to us of the Good Shepherd rising to His glory on that beautiful Easter morning.



Photo by Cheryl Meints

All the windows in this church are “painted stain” glass windows which means the artist applies paint, using traditional glass "stains", mat blending colors, and/or enamels. Most glass "stains" are made from heavy metal oxides. For instance gold will produce a red color, silver oxide produces yellow or gold, and cobalt yields a blue color.

A close up view can be seen by the ones sitting in the back rows of the balcony. These seats in the early years were filled with the young boys that had been confirmed. On more than one occasion, ministers stopped their sermon to get the attention of those who were choosing to discuss other matters during the service and got a tad bit loud. Maybe that is what is meant in Isiah 3:6 when it states “All of us like sheep have gone astray”. I guess the minister was trying to gather them back into his fold.



Photo by Jeff Wallman

## John 21: 14 - 17

- Verse 14: **This is now the third time Jesus was manifested to the disciples, after He was raised from the dead.**
- Three times Jesus asked Simon Peter if he loved Him. Each time Peter's answer was "Yes, you know that I love you."
- Jesus responded each time with:
  - Verse 15: **Tend My lambs**
  - Verse 16: **Shepherd My sheep**
  - Verse 17: **Tend My Sheep**



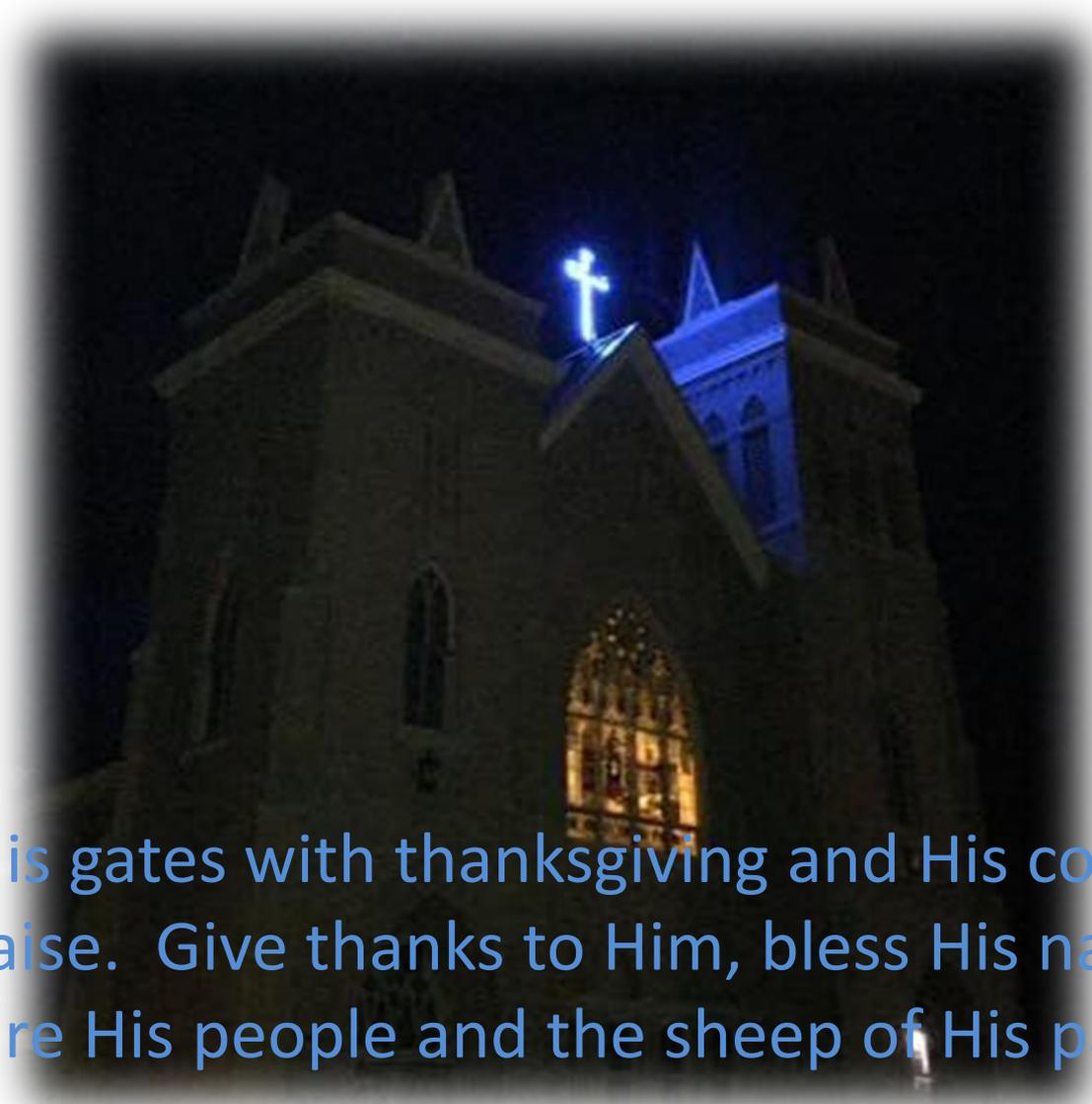
Go into the basement of this church during Children's Church and you can see that Jesus's flock has been gathered and is being tended to.

The Zion re-painted children's church area in the basement reminds us of Jesus' words to Peter. Thank you to our current shepherd, Pastor Jer for that reminder.

# Matthew 25: 31-36

- Verse 32: **“All the nations will be gathered before Him; and He will separate from one another, as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats;**
- Verse 33: **And He will put the sheep on His right and the goats on His left.**
- Verse 34: **Then the King will say to those on His right, “Come, you who are blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.**

When you drive by or enter these doors at night, that “Good Shepherd” is there as a constant reminder to all His people that He cares for us and we are to care for others as those on His right hand and not be the Goats on his left.



Enter His gates with thanksgiving and His courts with  
praise. Give thanks to Him, bless His name.  
We are His people and the sheep of His pasture.

Verse 35: "For I was hungry and you gave Me something to eat;

**Which is just what many of our youth projects do!**



**Sunday School classes**

As do many of our other outreach projects by other organizations from Zion.

## Tanzania Water Project



## Warren's Table

I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink;"

**Verse 36: "Naked, and you clothed Me"**



**Youth Project**

**Tree of Wramth**

**I was sick, and you visited Me.**

## **Brotherhood Soup Suppers**

Last month's brotherhood benefit raised over \$9,000 for Scott Higgins, a former member of Zion, who has been battling cancer for 15 years and that amount is without matching funds from Thrivent. A job well done tending His sheep!



**Scott Higgins Benefit**

# Council

Sometimes members of the governing body in a church are called “elders” because of the wisdom gained over time. However this small art window in the sanctuary can remind us of the words in 1 Peter 5:5 that we are to respect those that are older than us, listen to those younger than us, and be humble enough to admit that you can learn from each other, all characteristics of great leaders.

Luke 2: 41-52

Verse 47:

And all who heard Him were amazed at  
His understanding and His answers

Verse 52:

And Jesus kept increasing in wisdom and  
statue, and in favor with God and men



# Council

Many responsibilities fell upon the shoulders of a 3 man council in the early years of the church. There were no committees to do the work so the council had a tremendous number of decisions to make and always had something to do. By the motions in the minutes, we can tell that everything was decided by the “voting members” at congregational meetings. One motion in 1938 was to repair the toilet in the parsonage – it passed by the way. I don’t think Pastor Jer and Karen would want to wait till an annual meeting for that decision. Another motion in 1945 was to write a thank you to Mary Fuller for the land that she gave to the church for the windbreak. The third person in the front row of the following newspaper article is Rev Fritschel from the Central office in Greeley CO. He is the one that was very instrumental in the constitutional amendments that brought about changes at Zion in 1964. In addition to the three members there was a secretary that does not appear to be an elected member. He must have been chosen by his handwriting skills as all minutes were beautifully written.

# Three-Man Council until 1964



Pastor Reents with the three councilmen  
and the secretary to the council



CELEBRATE 75th ANNIVERSARY— Zion Lutheran Church, South  
east of Pickrell, celebrated its diamond jubilee anniversary Sunday  
with hundreds of people attending the four services. Pictured above  
are: (front row left to right) Rev. J. E. Kitzelman, business manager  
of the Lutheran Hospital, Beatrice, the Rev. John Hieronymus, pastor  
of the church; the Rev. Erwin G. Fritschel, Greeley, Colo., president  
of the central district of the American Lutheran church, who preached  
the morning anniversary service; and back left to right the four coun-  
cil members: George Wallman, Siebald J. Idous, Ed Schuster and  
Harm Jurgens. (Sun Photo).

★ 1949 ★  
**100's Flock  
To Hanover**

Front row: Revs. Kitzelman, Hieronymus, Fritschel  
Back two rows: Councilmen and secretary

1949



**1986 Council**

After 1964, all councils had 9 members with those members also being on the committees that were started to share the work load.



**Property and Management  
1986**



**Parish Education  
1986**

Although the 1964 amendments changed the voting rules and the number of men on council, there were other changes that were still being fought 10 years later, sometimes leading to a minister asking for his release as with Pastor Grant. The window in the sanctuary on the following slide can be a reminder that God wants us to take the time to listen to Him and His leaders. During this annual meeting in 1974, a letter was read from the Central District regarding the right of women to vote in the church. This came after a failed attempt in 1973 to change the church's constitution. Women were granted the right to vote in 1920 on political matters for their country but were still NOT able to vote on matters for their church over 50 years later in 1974.

However, in 1975 a motion was approved that gave all baptized and confirmed members of legal voting age the right to vote on church matters. Women were now able to help with the decisions of the church.



# Women's Right to Vote



our 1974 Budget was discussed  
A Treasurers report was given and showed  
income of 23,987.97 and expenses of  
21,955.67 and a Balance of 2452.15

Our Chairman read a letter from the  
Secretary of Central District convention  
about the right of women to vote.

Mission Festival Speakers were discussed  
Henry Barde gave a financial and  
august activity report of our Centennial.

Motion made and seconded to adjourn  
motion carried. Prayer by Pastor Grant  
and Lords Prayer by all  
Earl Miller Sec.

a special meeting of the Zion Church Council  
was called by the Chairman on August 11  
1974. a motion was made and seconded ~~to~~

that the Zion Lutheran Church Council  
grant Pastor Odean Grant his release.  
Motion carried.

Earl Miller Sec.



**1975 Council**

**Library Board**



If you noticed earlier, all committees and council members were men. However that started to change after 1975 with men and women serving together on various committees. In the upper right hand corner is the council who led the congregation through this change.

**Park Board 1986**



**Parish Ed Board 1975**





In 1999, a big step was taken with our first woman council person, Virginia Harms, being elected. Three years later the members of the 2002 council appointed Judy Carstens as the president of their council thus becoming the first woman to hold that position.

**Virginia Harms**  
1999  
First Woman Council Member



HARMS, Elmer & Virginia



**Church Council**

**Judy Carstens**  
First Woman Council President  
2002

# Jeremiah 3:15

Verse 15: “Then I will give you Shepherds after My own heart who will feed you on knowledge and understanding.”



This small art window in the sanctuary reminds us that God promised to give His people leaders who would follow Him. So who were the shepherds sent to Zion to feed us knowledge?

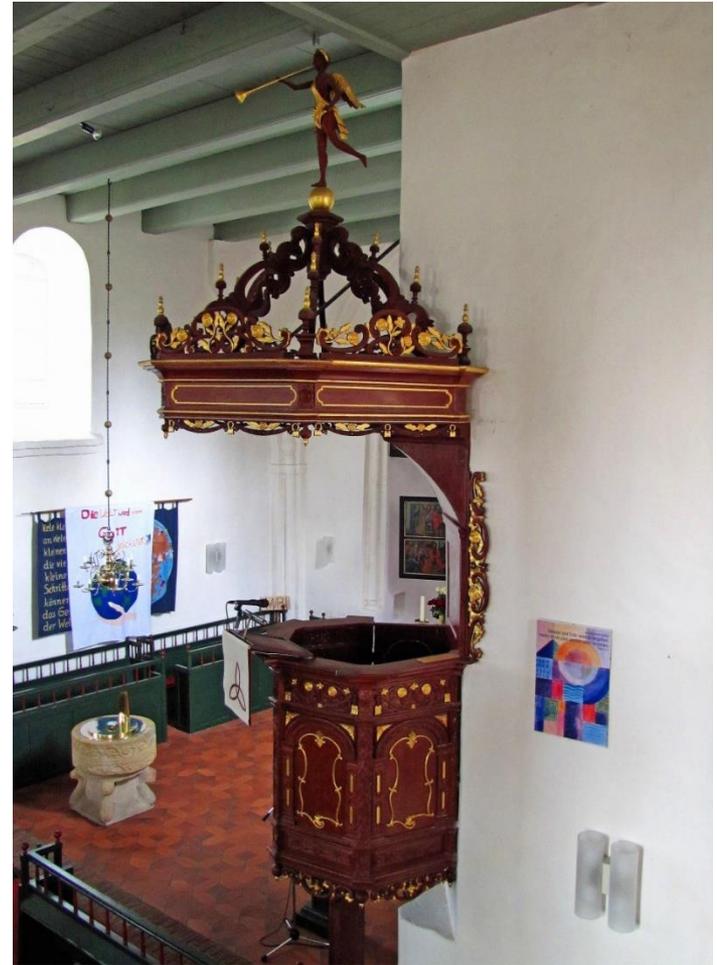


- **F.W. John:** Circuit rider who held services in Albert Muellers' dugout.
- **Martin Martens:** First permanent pastor for Zion who was shared with Immanuel Lutheran, Sterling.
- **Wilm Ehmen:** First pastor who served Zion only. Also was postmaster at the Bonn post office located at the church.

- **Theodore Seyler:** Pastor when the first Zion church building was built.
- **Lompe:** Started having church also in area schools and helped organize Christ Lutheran, Pickrell.
- **J.B. Hertel:** Pastor when the church that sat in this same location was enlarged and a bell added. He also was Pastor Reents' father-in law.

**The first six pastors who served Zion prior to the new church building.**

# Altar in Strackholt Church in Germany



On “Known as Hanover” Sunday, the history of the early settlers missing their home church in Hanover Germany was shared. Their home church in Strackholt also had a raised pulpit. The traditional pulpit is raised well above the floor to make it easier to hear and see the minister no matter where you were sitting in the sanctuary.

The Zion pulpit not only reminded them of their church in Germany but even more so of this church in Flatville where their Illinois relatives were attending. The following slide has a picture from Immanuel Lutheran Church in Illinois. It was completed in 1915, just when the vote to build our current sanctuary was occurring. Most of the settlers from Germany came to the Bear Creek area of Pickrell by way of Illinois. When they arrived in Illinois from Hanover Germany the only land that seemed available was the marsh land which is what they had just left in their homeland of Germany.

Not wanting that type of land, and hearing about the Homestead Act and land availability in Nebraska, they left Illinois headed to the Pickrell area. Many feel the design of our church came from this church. See any similarities on the following slide??





# Flatville, IL



Here are the two pulpits side by side. Doesn't it look to be the exact same pulpit? The pulpit's size and its accompanying ornate carvings were meant to minimize the presence of the minister who stood behind it. The raising of the pulpit was not only for acoustic reasons but to signify that the scripture was coming from God above and that its explanation was to be raised above all.

# Pickrell, NE



# Altar & Pulpit purchased together



Photos by  
Cheryl Meints



The pulpit and altar were bought together from Dubuque Altar Co. in Iowa for a total of \$757.13.

# The resurrection on the 8<sup>th</sup> day



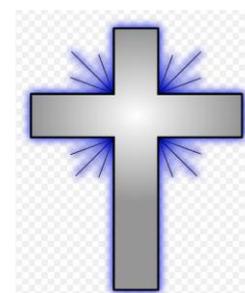
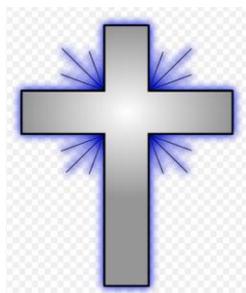
The canopy above the pulpit is not just decorative but can have a useful acoustic effect.



The canopy and the wood door behind the speaker both act as sounding boards primarily to help the speaker's voice project out rather than up. Both the pulpit and the baptism font were built with the octagonal shape, representing the symbol of life and the rising of our Savior on the 8<sup>th</sup> day, Resurrection day.

Following are the twelve pastors that have served as Zion's leader and preached from that raised pulpit for almost 100 years. The box below their picture tells the number of years they served Zion.

Pastor Reents has two boxes with the red box being the number of years he served Zion before the new church was built.





28



10



7



2



5



5

15 +



20



4



5



4.5



2+



3+



J.B. REENTS  
1902-1945



JOHN HIERONYMUS  
1946-1956



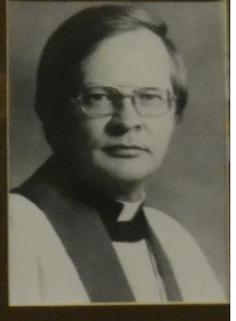
RICHARD FRUEHLING  
1956-1962



LEONARD FOLKERTS  
1962-1964



ELWIN BERGSTRASSER  
1964-1968



ORDEAN GRANT  
1969-

- **J.B. Reents:** Zion pastor for 43 years. Reents convinced Zion members to build a new brick church in 1916.
- **John Hieronymus:** First pastor to live in the current parsonage. Initiated families sitting together. Collection plates started.
- **Richard Fruehling:** New hymnals were purchased and hymnal racks were added to the pews.

- **Leonard Folkerts:** Hymnals were left in the racks at church rather than taking them home. Young MEN from the previous confirmation class became the acolytes.
- **Elvin Bergstrasser:** Young MEN used as ushers. Five men council replaced the three men council.
- **Ordean Grant:** Unity room and basement was added to the church.



WILLIAM JURGENS  
1974 - 1984



RICK DANFORTH  
1986 - 1988



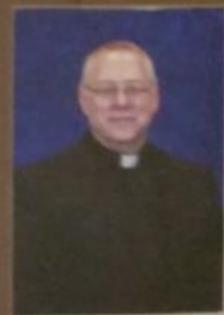
PAUL PETERSEN  
2000 - 2003



JOHN SIEVERS  
2004-2008



DAVID SMITH  
2011-2015



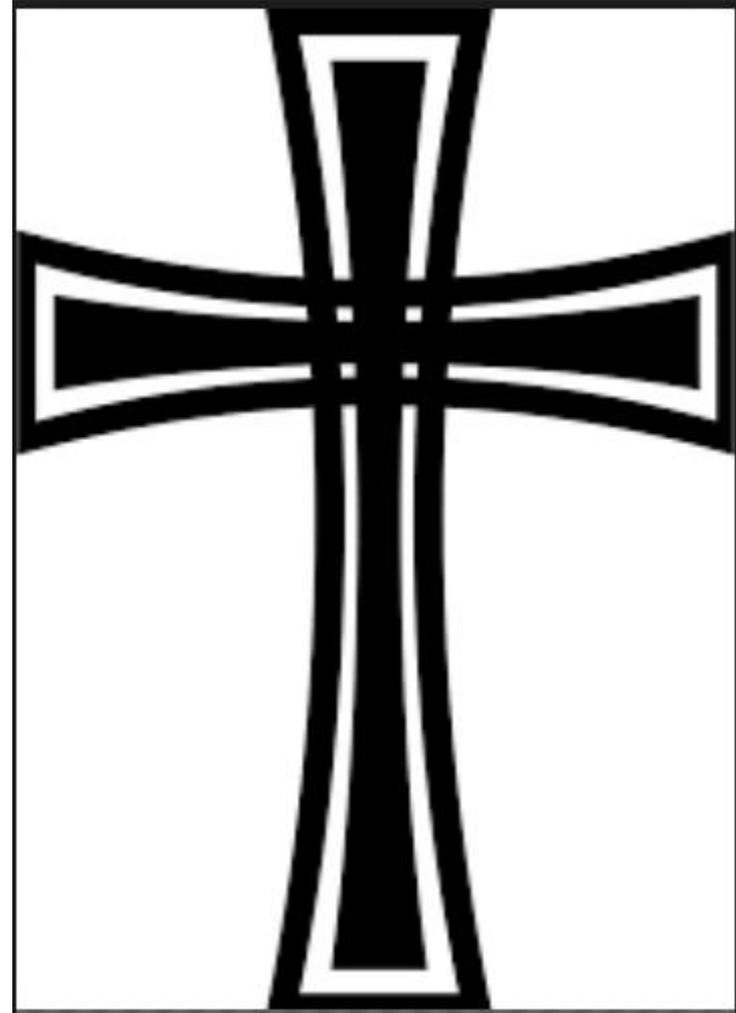
JERRY GILBREATH  
2016 -

- **Wm Jurgens:** Handicap ramp and bathrooms were added to the church. Children's sermon was initiated. Women allowed to vote on church issues.
- **Rick Danforth:** Initiated "Ask the Pastor" classes.
- **Paul Petersen:** PMA (Parish Ministry Associates, classes, lay ministry, Bethel classes

- **John Sievers:** Initiated air-conditioning the sanctuary, offering envelope system, time & talent sheets
- **David Smith:** Fellowship addition was approved and started.
- **Jerry Gilbreath** (aka the "painting pastor"): Lunch time Bible studies began, "Karen's Kitchen" fellowship time began. Children's church was initiated and the basement repainted.

## Students for full-time ministry

Zion has always been committed to financially helping those who wanted to go into the ministry full-time assisting with tuition, room/board, and etc. Even when there was not someone from our home congregation seeking ministry work, the council told the seminary to use the money for a student that they knew needed financial help.



# Students for full-time ministry

Arden Dorn



Fred Wilken

Leroy Remmers



Casey Lieneman



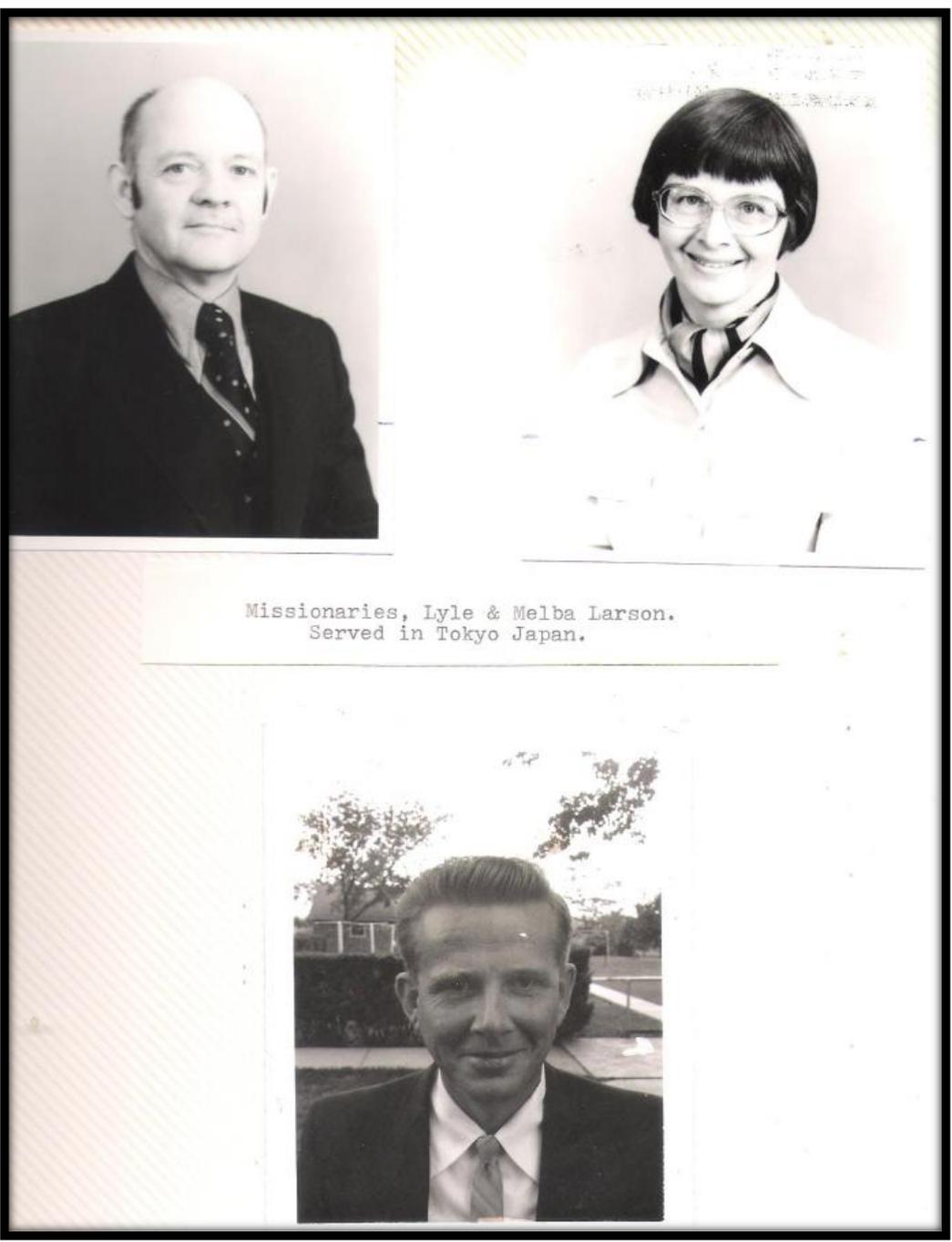
Raymond Ideus



# The Larsons

- Served in Tokyo Japan
- \$5000 to \$5500 was given each year by Zion from 1971 to 1983 (maybe longer however not mentioned in minutes)

The same was true with the missionary field. The minutes for many years reflected the commitment to shepherds in the missionary field. For at least 12 of those years it went to the Larson family who received \$5000 to \$5500 each year to support the work they were doing overseas.



Peterson

Fruehling



So what is the view for those  
shepherds from that pulpit?

Jurgens

Grant



Pretty cool view, although it looks so much better when the benches are full!

# Pastor Grant



**As can be seen when Pastor Grant was in the pulpit, preaching to the parishioners in the front, the rows that were so close members got a sore neck from looking up during the sermon.**

# Inside of the Pulpit



The view looking up gives you a pretty awesome view of the ceiling, which was repainted while Pastor Sievers occupied that pulpit.



**Preserve the memories**

Clarence Zimmerman, former member of Zion and a man who was born the same year these church doors were open in 1917 shared a memory about this window he says he will never forget. “While at Bible School, a group of us boys were playing baseball north of the school house, across the road from the church. Alfred Remmers was pitching and Dick Jurgens was up to the plate. He was a really good hitter and could really whack the ball. He hit it so far that it hit the big east window. The baseball cracked the window and got stuck in the hole it made. We were afraid to go tell Pastor Reents because he could get really mad sometimes. But we walked over to his house and told him. He didn’t get mad and said he was proud of us for coming to tell him.

There was a really tall girl in Bible School whose last name was Schmidt. She went in the balcony, stood on a stool by the window, and could just barely reach it. She popped the ball back out to us from the inside. The metal t-rods held the window in place.”



Maybe a challenge needs to go out to all those in the back rows to see who can find where the repair was done. Clarence said it was on the very south end!



# Preserve the Sanctuary



You can see the details and richness of the colors created in the painted stain glass. When cleaning a “painted” stain glass window you need to be very careful as certain cleaners can damage the coloring which is non-reversible. Along with cleaning of the windows, care needs to be taken to check the steel reinforcing system periodically to ensure it remains attached to the window's lead matrix. As leaded glass windows age, normal expansion and contraction may break the copper tie wires away from the round steel reinforcing bars.

**Along with the windows, the repair of the outside walls seems to be ongoing. The picture in the bottom right corner of the next slide is at the bottom of the door frame in the north narthex. At first it was believed to be termites but it seems to be the plaster wall that is crumbling as it dries out after years of incoming water from the towers and damaged joints.**

**Hopefully the ongoing water problems will be lessened with all the new tuck pointing that the property and management committee has committed funds to.**







## Ongoing water repairs



- January 1923: Committee for fixing the church walls. Meeting about what causes it.
- January 1926: Church walls to be redone when leaking stops.
- January 1932: Towers are to be repaired and plastered, they are to try tarring first.
- February 1952: Building committee should supervise and solicit funds for repair work on church. Waterproof walls.

# John 10: 11

**“I am the good shepherd; the good shepherd lays down His life for the sheep”.**



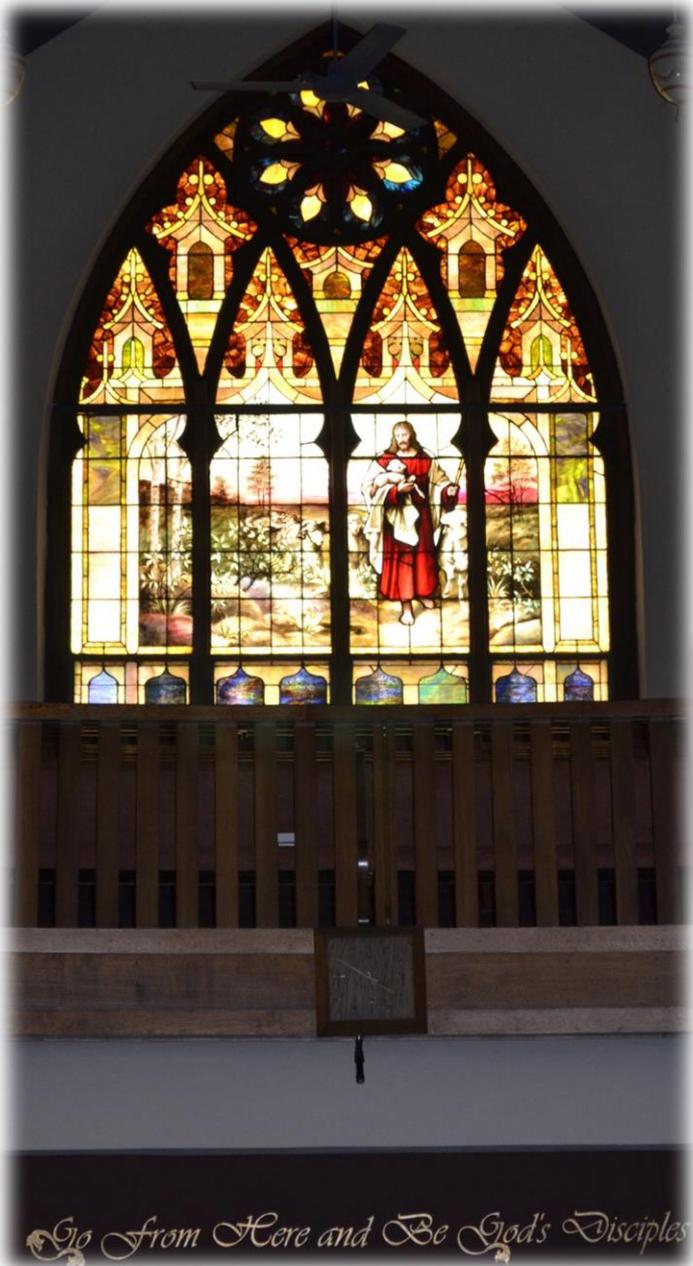
Now as we approach the Lenten season, let these two small art windows be a reminder that Jesus was the Chief Shepherd that was sent to us and who shed his blood.

And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the unfading crown of glory.

1 Peter 5: 4



**And let these two small art glass windows, which are located in the fellowship hall, serve as a reminder of what Peter tells us in Chapter 5, verse 4. Jesus Christ, the Chief Shepherd, will come again and will judge all people.**



*Go From Here*

*Be God's Disciples*

**So now “Go From Here and Be God’s Disciples” tending to all his sheep; Let’s end today’s celebration with a word of prayer.**

*Go From Here and Be God's Disciples*



**Please join us for  
“Together at the  
Altar”**

**March 26, 2017**

Alleluia ✠ Alleluia ✠ Alleluia