

ZION

BUILT
ON THE
CROSS OF CHRIST

JANUARY 29, 2017

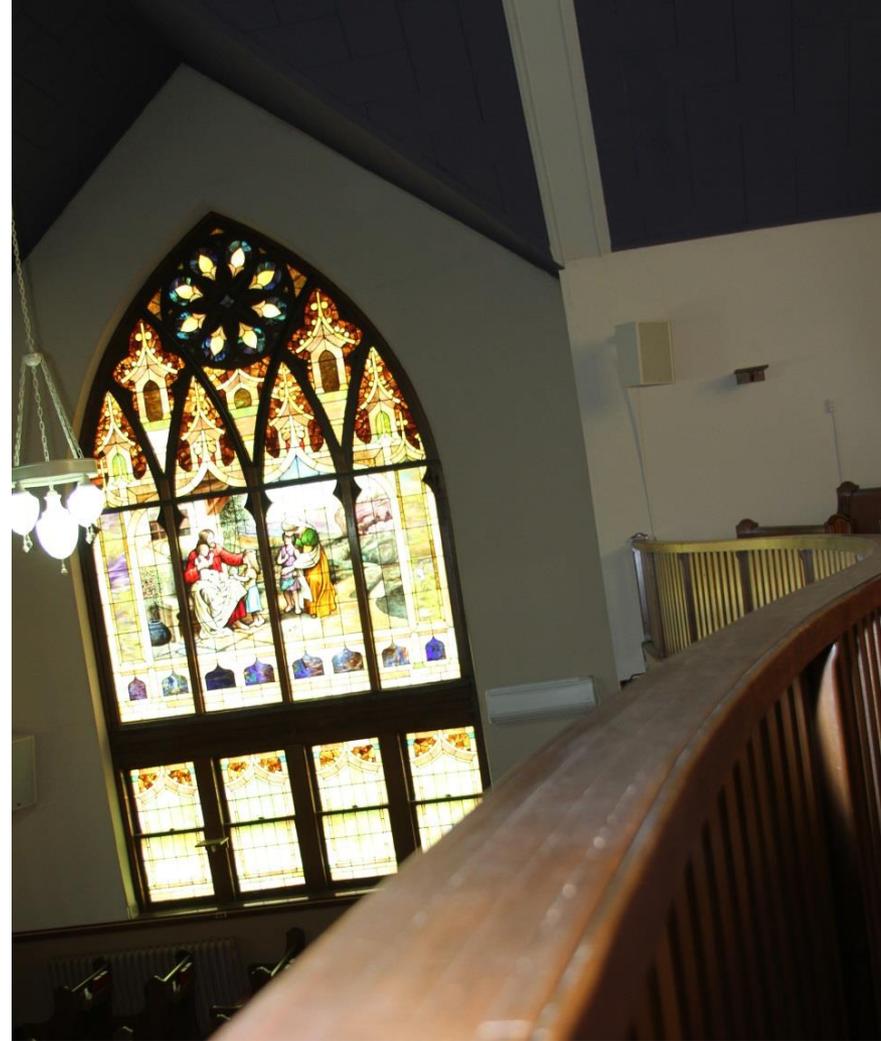
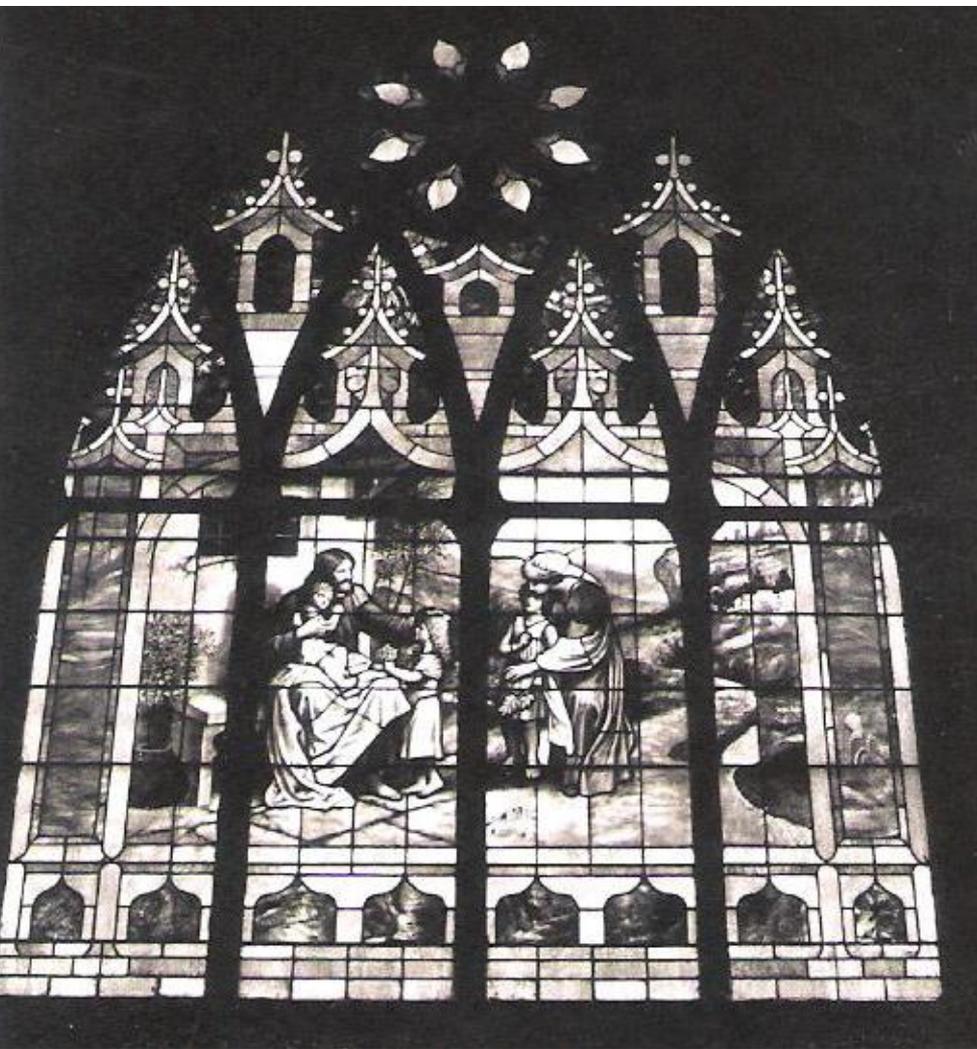




Let the Children Come



People often refer to and are in awe of Zion's stained glass windows which is understandable because they are truly breathtaking.



Courtesy of Jeff Wallman

Whether seen in black and white or in color, the details and shading are incredible.

Expenses for the Year 1917

March 22 Paid to Dubuque Altar Co.	557. ¹³ / ₁₀₀
Five Hundred fifty seven ¹³ / ₁₀₀ Part payment on Altar and Pulpit	
March 22 Paid to Ford Brothers Glass Co.	200. ⁰⁰ / ₁₀₀
for Balance due on Art Glass Windows	

Art Glass
\$75 + \$893.64
+ \$200
 (three payments)

Grand Total:

\$1,168.64

for all Art Glass Windows

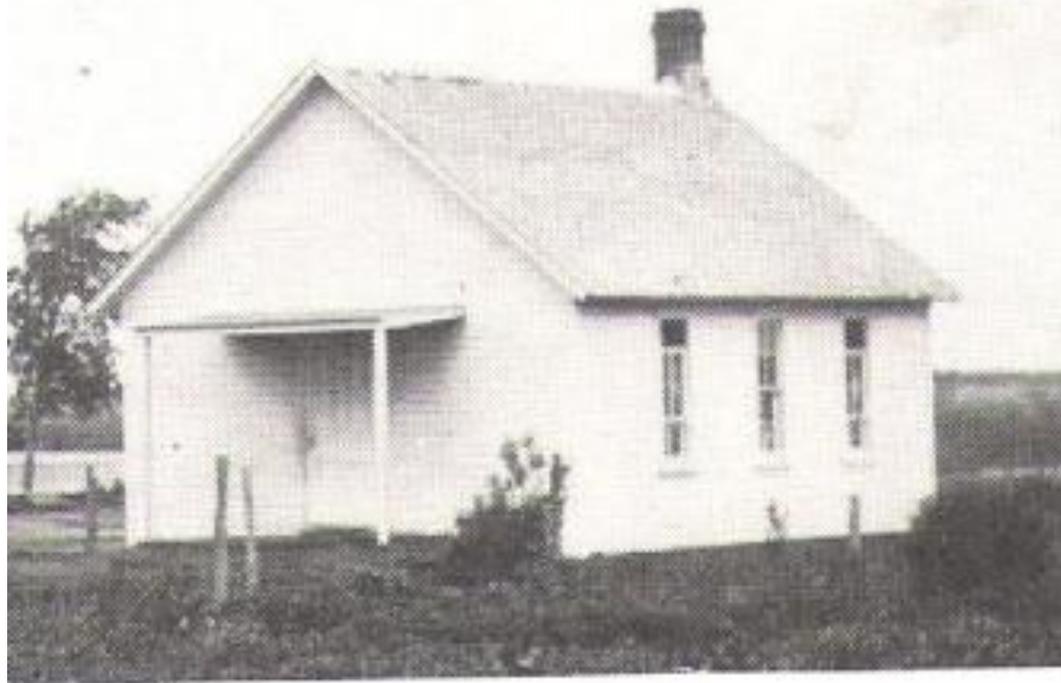
However, as can be seen in the expense books that were kept by treasurer, the windows are "art glass" from Ford Brothers Glass Co in Minneapolis Minnesota.

February 2 Paid to Thos. F. Geagan.	75. ⁰⁰ / ₁₀₀
Seventy five ⁰⁰ / ₁₀₀ a part payment on Art Glass to Ford Bros Art Glass Co. Minneapolis Min.	
February 3 Paid to Ford Bros Glass Co.	893. ⁶⁴ / ₁₀₀
Eight Hundred Ninety Three ⁶⁴ / ₁₀₀ A part payment on Art Glass in Windows, and Freight Charges from Minneapolis	

Three payments were made in Feb and March of 1917 with the total cost for all the windows being \$1,168.64. In 1963 a protective glass was added to the exterior side of the windows to protect them from damage. More will be shared on the art glass on upcoming Sundays while recognizing the other two art glass scenes.

German Lutheran School of Logan Township

Church was NOT the first place “That the Children Came”. Rather it was to the school which the congregation voted to build. Not many children came to church during the early years of Zion church. Adults members came to Sunday services with horse and buggy which meant the trip was often long and usually dirty because of road conditions (not many paved or gravel roads in those days) so children stayed home.



First school 1886

However, the children did come to the school. In Sept 1884, a motion was made to build a school on a half acres of land donated by William Johnson. Chris Meints would build the school for \$110 and was to be finished by May 1885. Apparently funds were not available and because of their unwillingness to go into debt the school was not built until 1886. The school was known as the GERMAN LUTHERAN SCHOOL of LOGAN TOWNSHIP. This school was not a parochial school and had to follow requirements as other country schools. But teaching the church doctrines were heavily weaved into the day as was the German language. It was built near where the current schoolhouse is today.

German Lutheran School of Logan Township



Teacher Fritz Meyer and students

17

A new schoolhouse was built to replace the original one and was dedicated on Ascension Day, May 5, 1921. There was a hallway along the west side as you entered which housed a closet that contained all the ladies groups' kitchen items plus kerosene stove. Off of that hallway was one large room with a stage and bookcase sitting on the east wall. The basement was just a hole in the ground and was unusable. Prior to the parish hall being built, this school house was also used to host congregational dinners such as when Zion hosted the District Convention in August 1939.

School House



It is unclear when the day school was dissolved. When William Johnson deeded the land to the church for the purpose of a school, the agreement read “for as long as a school remained active. Upon closing, the land would go back to the original owner” which was William Johnsen. Bob Hieronymus said it was no longer in session in 1946 when they arrived at Zion. Records of church minutes say a vote was taken in July 1950 to buy the land from William Johnson so that Zion could retain the schoolhouse for its Christian education program since that need was expanding rapidly.



Also on that land was a “teacherage” located just northeast of the current schoolhouse. Teachers resided in this house while employed by the church as teacher at the school.

A list of the teachers for the German Lutheran School is included on the next slide. Once the school was dissolved and it was no longer used for teachers, others lived there. The congregation voted to tear down the teacherage in January 1975.



Records of teachers are only sketchy and are recorded as follows:

Teachers of German Lutheran School of Logan Township

Gerhard Mueller: It seems certain that Mr. Mueller was the first teacher hired by the congregation. He taught from 1885 to 1886, (one year).

Gerd Schoen: He began in 1887 and was here for a number of years but is said to have taught mainly in the southern section of the congregation. (6 ??? years)

Teacher Saehbens: This teacher came around 1893. (1 year)

Louis Lamberti: At the meeting of August 20, 1894, the congregation authorized Lamberti to teach in the congregation. He served in this capacity until October 10, 1898. (4 years)

Heinrich L. Baehr: The motion was made to hire Baehr on March 14, 1899. He came from Schweer, Illinois, and was a particularly able and consecrated man whose one aim it was to implant the love of Jesus into the hearts of his youthful charges. Under the grace of God he exerted a deep and wholesome influence over the entire settlement. Baehr's blessed work was ended by his sudden death, December 11, 1911 and brought great loss to the church. (12 years)

F.C. Eckstein: Eckstein served as teacher from January 3, 1912 to 1914. He came from Wisconsin. (2 years)

W. Greffenius: He was Zion's teacher from February 8, 1915 to May 9, 1918 which was during the time that the present sanctuary was constructed. It also was when confirmation began to be held twice weekly. (3 years)

David Harnegel: Harnegel hired as teacher beginning September 1, 1920 but resigned on August 24, 1921.

Fritz Meyer: Hired Meyer was hired on a trial basis on August 10, 1928 and held that position until July 3, 1932. (4 years)

John Parde: John served as Zion's teacher from July 1932 to September 1944 and was the son of Peter W. Parde, member of the congregation. Under John's leadership, the music department flourished as never before. (12 years)

Church Minutes: July 3, 1932 – John Parde hired and will teach both German and English in confirmation.

Reiner T. Andreesen: Reiner was also a son of the congregation whose father was Frank Andreesen. He assumed the duties as organist and choirmaster in the fall of 1944.



Baptisms in the early years of Zion were mostly conducted in the homes or at the parsonage. As cars became the choice of transportation, more baptisms were conducted in the sanctuary.

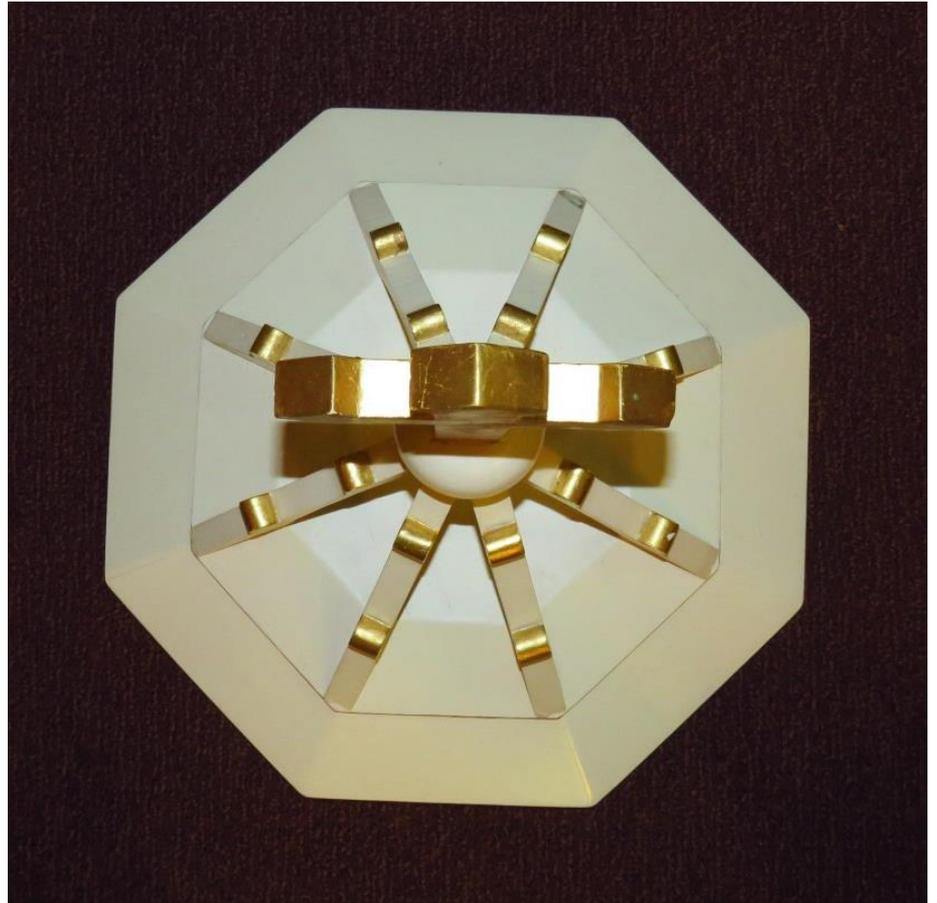


We are reminded of Jesus's baptism in the Jordan River in several places in the sanctuary. Matt. 3:16 states: "As soon as Jesus was baptized, he went up out of the water. At that moment, heaven was opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and lighting on him."

The dove is a symbol of the Holy Spirit. At Jesus' baptism, all three persons of the Trinity were present and active. God the Father speaks, God the Son was baptized, and God the Holy Spirit descends on Jesus. God is one, yet three persons at the same time.



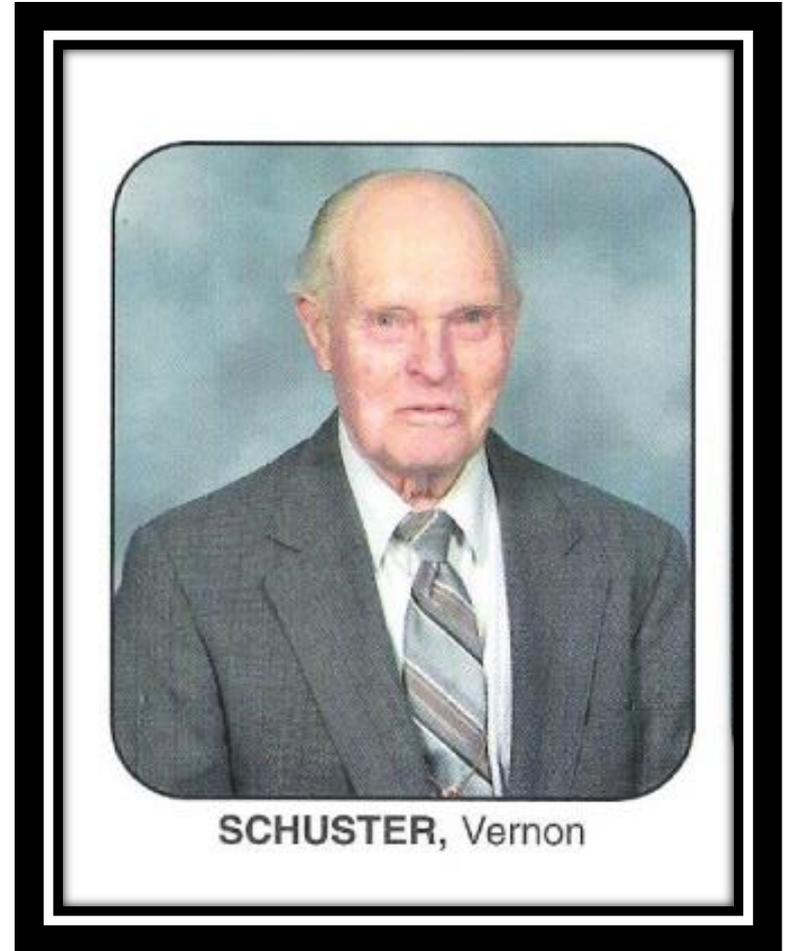
Baptismal Font



Courtesy of Cheryl Meints

The new baptismal font bought for the 1916 larger brick church was an octagonal font. Some explanations for the eight-sided shape are that it is connected to the eighth day being the day of Jesus, the resurrection. With our baptism we are born into a new life. Other sites have stated that it is for the eight beautitudes.

First Baptism

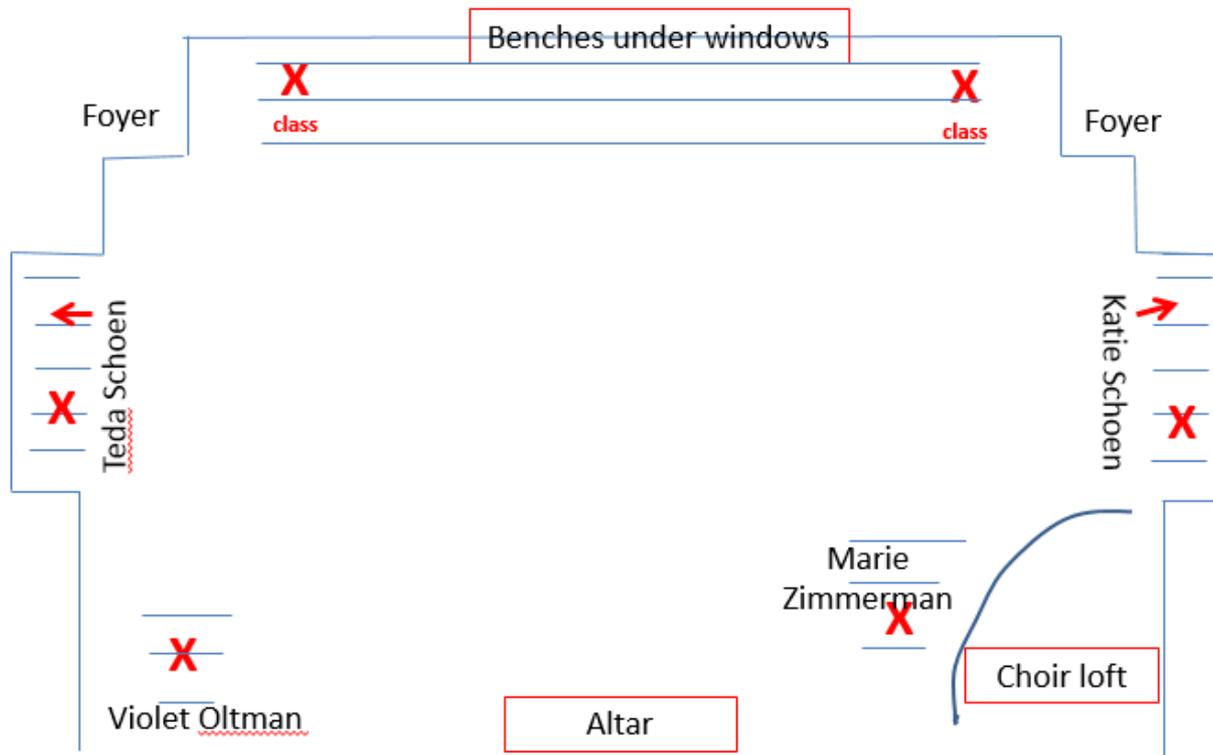


Zion dedicated the new brick church building on August 15, 1917. Four days later Raymond and Clifford (Vernon) Schuster were brought to the church to be baptized at the new baptismal font. Raymond and Vernon were cousins. Raymond was born 2 weeks before Vernon but they were both brought for baptism on August 19th. Since Raymond was born first he was baptized first. However he later left for a home church closer to where he lived while Vernon became a lifelong member of Zion who had all of his children baptized at the same font which is the one that still stands in the sanctuary.



In 1980, a committee was formed to begin making banners for each new member baptized at the baptism font. From 1980 till 2011, 338 of these banners have been made. Lorene Wallman started making all the banners for the Zion newest members in 2012. With the two banners needed for last Sunday and one for yesterday, she has made 40 banners.





Classes Held in the Sanctuary

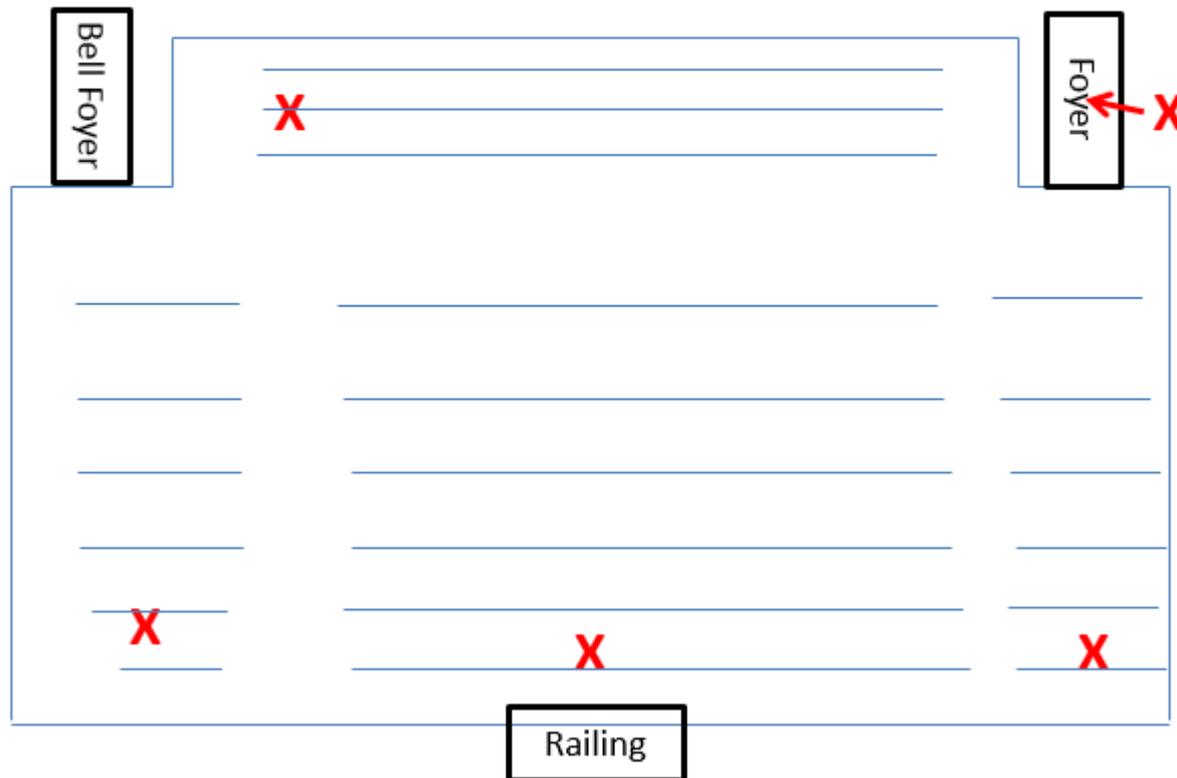
At a child's baptism, parents and sponsors promise to bring them to the Lord's house and to teach them all that He has commanded. The congregation also welcomes the child and promises to make available a Christian education programs. "Let the Children Come" and come they did. With no other building large enough to hold all the classes needed, the church sanctuary was called upon to fill that need. Geneva Parde and Dena Trauernicht recalled this being where some of the teachers held their classes on Sunday mornings when they were attending Sunday School.

Just imagine having 6 or 8 Sunday school classes going on at the same time in this space!



The balcony was also needed for classes. Edward Ideus recalled being in one of those classes. His class was by the low railing in the balcony. When asked if it was noisy with all those classes going on at the same time, he said “no, everyone was very respectful of their teachers”.

Balcony





On the back side of the church



Door from the outside stairs



Room behind the organ

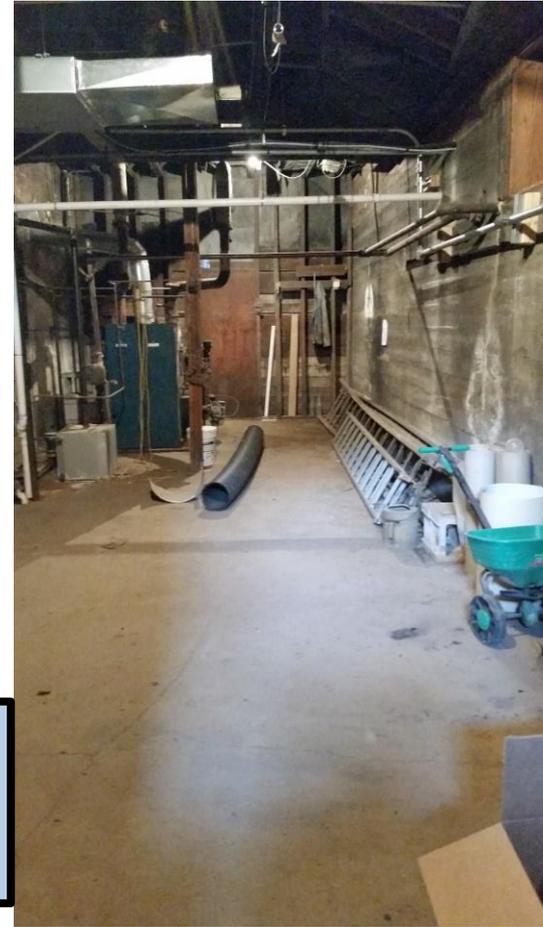
Every available space was utilized for classrooms, even the space below the altar that housed the boiler along with the coal and cob bins. These were the doors that led to two classrooms. The outside cellar doors on the west side of the church were used most often. The door in the organ room was seldom used.

Two Classrooms in Boiler Room

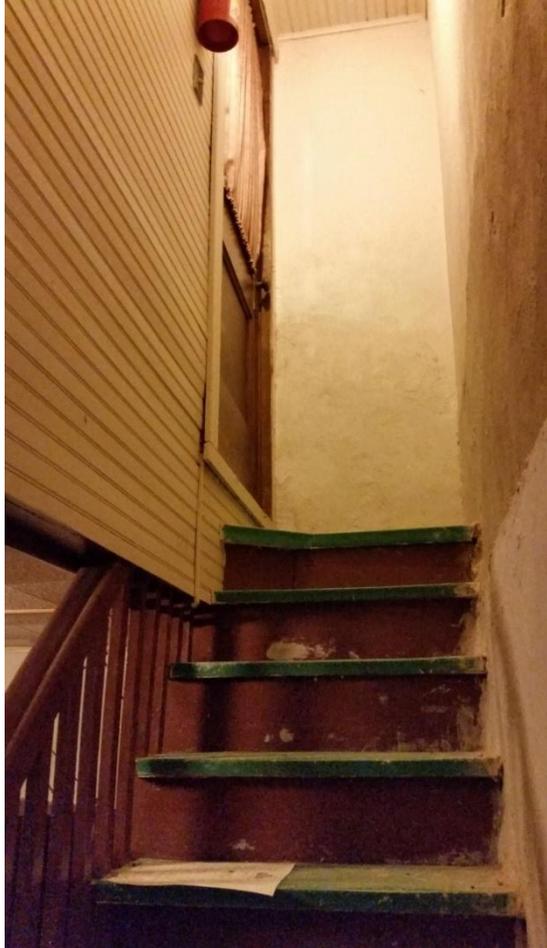


First classroom was at the bottom of these stairs from the organ room

Second classroom was next to it and was the one with the cellar outside doors.



The first classroom was at the bottom of this stairway from the organ room. It was Mrs. Reents' class and was for 5 year olds. The second classroom was in this bigger room. These rooms were used for the youngest students thinking that there would be fewer noise distractions. They look pretty scary today!



South Foyer
Stairway



Later years the youngest students took a different narrow stairway to get away from distractions. That stairway could be reached through this door in the south foyer. At the bottom of these steps was a small room approximately 6 ft by 8 ft, the same size as the foyer above it. It was the only basement space at that time for the church on the east side with the enlarged basement not being added till the 70s. Luckily, small children no longer need to use that narrow stairway in able to go hear their bible stories.

That same stairway room can still be seen if you look around the corner at “Children’s Church”, the space currently being used for those same age students during church services.





Thanks to many talented and dedicated members and master painter, Pastor Jer, that basement area is being transformed into a less scary space.



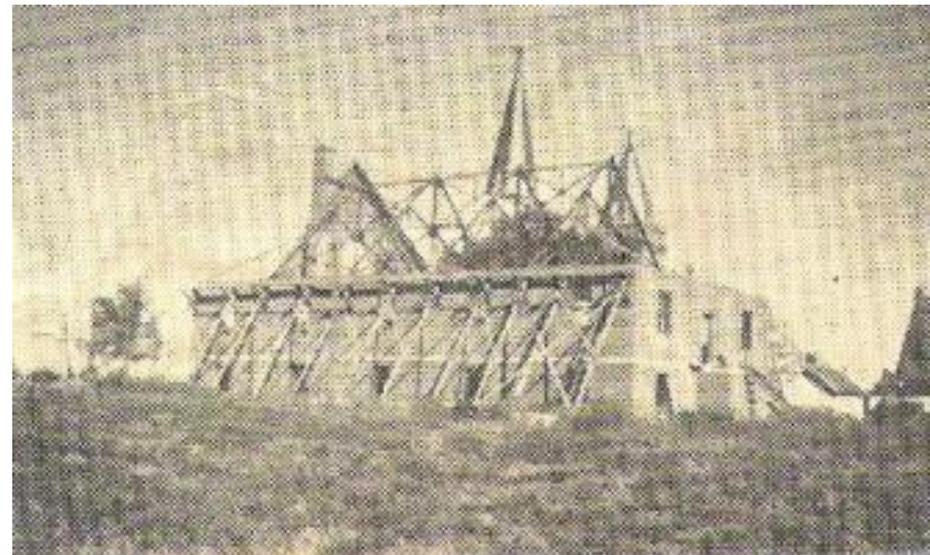
Looks like the hands of God are being placed on these little ones heads and they are being blessed with a welcoming place to gather. More on this space will be shared during Basement to Attic Sunday.



For over 25 years Sunday school was held in the church and as Emma Meints brought up in her memory, those were years without indoor restrooms.

With the Sunday School program outgrowing the sanctuary, a motion was made by John Gronewold at the annual meeting on January 9, 1946 to build a Parish Hall to provide additional space for that Sunday School program.

The motion passed 70 to 16. In May of that same year, Brune Meints traded 3 acres of land for a barn and cob shed. This is the land that allowed a parish hall to be built as part of Zions property.





But getting the hall built took longer than expected. First, special permits had to be obtained before the building could start because of the shortage of materials caused by War War II.



Money was also tight for Zion members in 1947 so funding the building project was challenging.

Financial Report from Building Committee

Parish Hall – July 7, 1947

REPORT ON THE CONDITION OF THE BUILDING FUND
OF ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH, PICKRELL, NEBRASKA
AS OF JULY 7, 1947

THE COST OF FINISHING THE PARSONAGE AND
OF ERECTING THE SUNDAY SCHOOL BUILDING:

DISBURSEMENTS, January 9 - July 7, 1947 (See preceding page)		\$ 3,602.80
CONTRACT COSTS OF THE SUNDAY SCHOOL BUILDING:		
Poster Lumber Co., for Building Materials	15,314.00	
De Vries & Sons, for Labor	9,886.00	
ESTIMATES:		
Wiring, Light Fixtures, Plumbing, Heating	6,000.00	
TOTAL COST: \$ 34,802.80		34,802.80
INCOME OF BUILDING FUND:		
MISCELLANEOUS INCOME:		
Balance, January 9, 1947	\$ 488.21	
Cash from 1946 Pledges	240.00	
Sale of Surplus Goods (Lumber, Tile, Fencing, Henhouse, etc.)	615.86	
TOTAL MISC. INCOME: \$ 1,344.07		1,344.07
1947 PLEDGES (Counted as Cash):		
District No. 1	\$ 8,310.00	
District No. 2	9,285.00	
District No. 3	9,120.00	
TOTAL PLEDGES: \$ 26,715.00		26,715.00
TOTAL INCOME OF BUILDING FUND: \$ 28,059.07		28,059.07
DIFFERENCE BETWEEN COST AND INCOME: \$ 6,743.73		

The difference of \$6,743.73 between our building costs and the income of the Building Fund is the shortage with which we are faced as of July 7, 1947.

THE BUILDING COMMITTEE OF
ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH, PICKRELL, NEBRASKA

By
FRED H. LIENEMAN,
Secretary-Treasurer.

SUNDAY SCHOOL BUILDING SUBSCRIPTION LIST: DISTRICT NO.2
Committee Members: John J. Gronewold and John T. Busboom

The first figure is the original pledge as of July 7, 1947; the second figure is the pledge as of January 9, 1948, and includes whatever additions were made.

Name	Amount	Name	Amount
Busboom, John T.	225.00 250.00	Parde, Arnold	25.00
Busboom, Theodore	50.00 100.00	Parde, Edd	200.00 200.00
Bus, Herman, F.	200.00 200.00	Parde, Henry H.	225.00 260.00
Bruns, Eilert	100.00 125.00	Parde, Henry J.	250.00 300.00
Bruns, Henry	75.00 100.00	Parde, Heye	200.00 200.00
		Parde, Mrs. Jennie	100.00 125.00
Carstens, G. P.	100.00 200.00	Parde, John H.	225.00 235.00
Carstens, Paul	100.00 150.00	Parde, John J.	200.00 250.00
Cramer, Eilert	50.00 50.00	Parde, Jurgen	
		Parde, Peter W.	10.00 10.00
De Buhr, Harm	100.00 100.00	Parde, Wilke E.	75.00 75.00
De Buhr, John H.	150.00 150.00		
De Buhr, Martin	200.00 240.00	Rademacher, Herman	75.00 100.00
De Buhr, Menne	75.00 100.00	Rademacher, Hick	25.00 25.00
Dismoier, H. F.	50.00 50.00	Reins, John H.	50.00 50.00
Dorn, George G.	350.00 400.00	Remmers, John E.	25.00 25.00
Ehmen, Henry W.	50.00 50.00	Schmidt, Mrs. Tena	25.00 25.00
Ehmen, John H.	225.00 275.00	Schuster, Mrs. Antje	50.00 50.00
Ehmen, John W.	225.00 250.00	Schuster, Edward	100.00 100.00
Ehmen, Willie	200.00 250.00	Schuster, Harm	200.00 210.00
Evers, Rickie	5.00 5.00	Schuster, Henry	150.00 200.00
		Schuster, Herman	125.00 125.00
Folkerts, George	50.00 75.00	Schuster, John H.	100.00 100.00
		Schuster, John J.	225.00 250.00
Gronewold, Mrs. Gerhardina	100.00 100.00	Schuster, John L.	125.00 175.00
Gronewold, John J.	300.00 500.00		
Gronewold, Wm., Sr.	500.00 500.00	Trauernicht, Alfred	100.00 100.00
Gronewold, W. W.	250.00 350.00	Trauernicht, Edward	150.00 150.00
		Trauernicht, Gerald	15.00 15.00
		Trauernicht, Henry	100.00 100.00
Harms, John	80.00 110.00	Trauernicht, John G.	50.00 150.00
Hofeling, H. H.	100.00 100.00	Trauernicht, Martin	200.00 225.00
Huls, Heye R.	75.00 75.00	Trauernicht, Willie	75.00 75.00

For a congregation that had a long heritage of not building until funds were available and being debt free, this was hard for them. A financial report had never been published in the history of Zion's existence until July 7, 1947 when the members voted unanimously to publish this document. All pledges and contributions were listed alphabetically by district for all to see. They took very seriously the mission of becoming debt free.

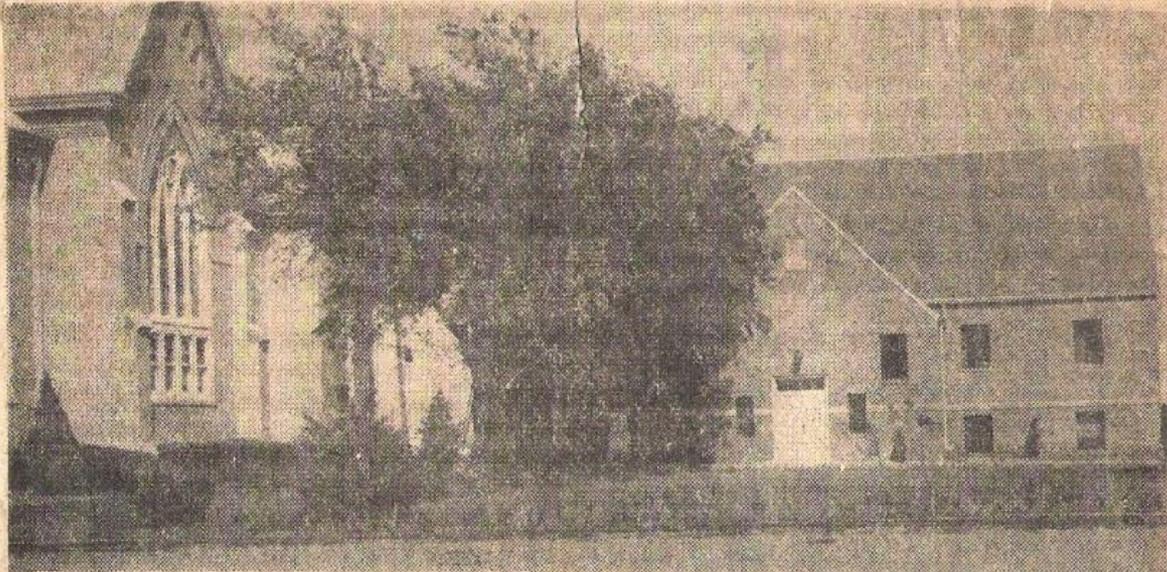
Laying
of the Parish Hall
Cornerstone
1947



But the hall
became a reality.
The cornerstone
was placed on
October 12, 1947.



DEDICATE NEW PARISH HALL



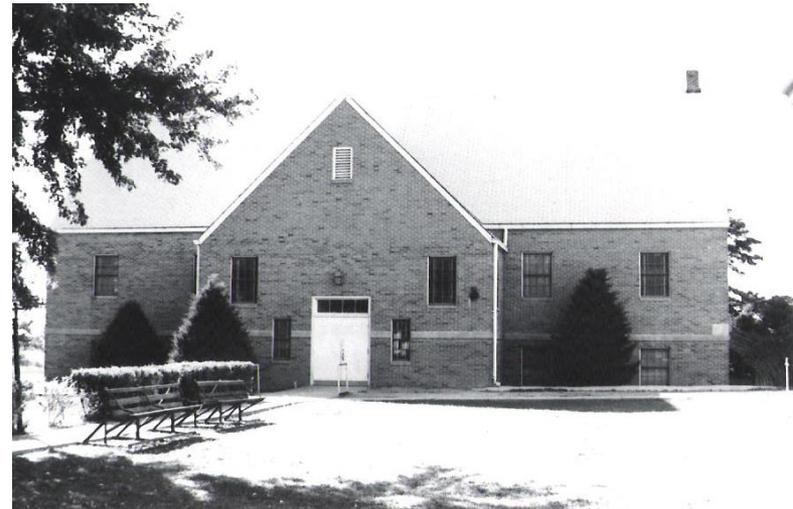
Zion Lutheran church's new parish hall (right) which will be dedicated in special services Sunday. Part of the church proper is seen at left.

Hold Dedication Services Sunday For New Parish Hall Of The Zion Lutheran Church

The Zion Lutheran (Hanover) will have ample space for their

It was dedicated on August 15, 1948. Notice how the buildings in this Daily Sun newspaper article are flipped. Apparently a photo printing glitch!

Dedication
August 15, 1948



This is an aerial view of the Zion properties as they appeared in the late 1940s and in 2017



Photo courtesy of Nick Jurgens



Remodel of the Parish Hall



The decision was made to remodel the parish hall with the dedication being part of the 125th Anniversary of the church in 1999. New restrooms and an elevator lift were added making both levels handicap accessible.



Interior of Parish Hall



Other than those additions, the interior has not changed much in the 69 years since it has been built.

The Upper Room (Stage)

Many memories have been made on this stage through Luther League plays, Brotherhood Soup Supper fund raisers, and we are sure there are treasures to be found underneath in that storage area. Anyone interested in tackling that job, make sure to let the property and management committee know.





But those who hope in the
Lord will renew their strength.
They will soar on wings like eagles;
they will run & not grow weary,
they will walk & not be faint.
Isaiah 40:31

After being used as a public school in the early years, the schoolhouse across the road was remodeled in 1960, and again in 1970 with the help of the Luther Leaguers.



Originally it had one large room but when remodeled that was divided into 5 separate classrooms on the upper level (although 8 classes met when needed) and the downstairs was converted into usable space with a restroom and 4 classrooms. The original "yellow" bookcase of the 1921 school is still located on the lower level.



It took many dedicated teachers to fulfill the needs of the many children that came through the Parish Hall and School house doors. These are group pictures that were taken of the teacher for a centennial book in 1975.



Parish Hall & Schoolhouse Classes



The parish hall and schoolhouse were and still are being kept very busy.

Luther League Officers



Following confirmation, youth joined in on Luther League. A Luther League for the young people of the church was organized in the fall of 1928. It discontinued for a few years but was reorganized on May 2, 1946 and still is active today- known as Lutheran Youth Organization (LYO).

Luther League Sponsors





1 John 3: 23

“Little children, let us not love with word or tongue but in deed and truth”

A Junior Youth organization (JYO) was started in 1996 and involves 6th thru 8th graders. Both groups are active today and participate in many service projects

Sunday School Attendance & Giving

1938		JANUARY				FEBRUARY				MARCH				
ATTENDANCE		2	9	16	23	30	6	13	20	27	6	13	20	27
CONTRIBUTION		3	2	3	3	4	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
Scholar's Name		<i>Emma Thompson</i>												
		Sunday School												
At		_____												
		1938												
Class No.		_____												
		1 qtr.	2 qtr.	3 qtr.	4 qtr.	Year								
Attendance														
Contribution														
If a date is punched, scholar was absent that Sunday. E., Entered. D., Dropped. T., Tardy. Ex., Excused.														
1938		SEPTEMBER				AUGUST				JULY				
ATT.	CON-TRIB	2	9	16	23	30	6	13	20	27	3	10	17	24
		3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
1938		OCTOBER				NOVEMBER				DECEMBER				
ATT.	CON-TRIB	2	9	16	23	30	6	13	20	27	4	11	18	25
		3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
1938		JUNE				MAY				APRIL				
ATT.	CON-TRIB	5	12	19	26	1	8	15	22	29	3	10	17	24
		3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3

No. 100. Published by LUTHERAN BOOK CONCERN, 57 E. Main St., Columbus, O. Price per 100, 75c

Attendance was taken diligently with Sunday School being held year round. The children's contributions were also recorded on this card which you can see was usually 2 or 3 cents in 1938 which was quite a lot considering that this was during the depression years of the 30s. Attendance now is kept electronically with no Sunday School being conducted in the summertime.

Shirley Gronewold

1	Gronewold, Harold		
2	Gronewold, Johnnie		
3	Gronewald, Katee		
4	Gronewald, Lenhart		
5	Gronewald, Lawrence	Aug 14, '40	Oct 20, '46
6	Gronewald, Ehme	July 28-46	Nov 23, '47
7	Gronewald, Daylen	May 4-5	July 19, '53
8	Gronewald, Johnnie	Nov 3-57	Dec 28, '58
9	Gronewald, Steve	Nov 20, 1960	Dec 10, 1961
10	Gronewald, Pamela	Oct 6, 61	Oct 14, 1962
11	Gronewald, Janice	Oct 23, 61	Nov 9, 1962
12	Gronewald, James Lynn	Oct 21, 1962	Nov 10, 1962
13	Gary Gronewald	Oct 3, 65	Oct 9, 1966
14	Patty Gronewald	May 8, 66	May 7, 67
15	Terry Ehme Gronewald	Oct 6, 1968	Oct 5, '69
16	Joel Grant	July 26, 1970	Aug 27, '71
17	Tamra Gronewald	Dec 20, 1970	Jan 72

Here you can see Ehme Gronewold, received his pin on July 28th, 1946. His son, Gary, received his in 1965, and his daughter, Tammy, who was in Shirley Gronewold's first nursery class, received her gold pin in 1970.

Teachers received a similar pin that said “teacher” on it after completing one year.





The teachers received their wreath after they had completed 5 years of teaching and then added a bar for every 5 years thereafter.

5 years

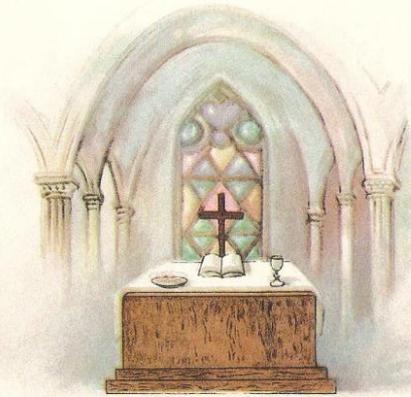


20 years



Sunday school pins were worn with pride by young and old.





Denkspruch :

Ich bin die Auferstehung und das Leben. Wer an mich glaubt,
der wird leben, ob er gleich stirbt; und wer da lebet und
glaubet an mich, der wird nimmermehr sterben. Joh. 11, 25. 26.

Er pflegt, Er schützt, Er tröstet mich;
Sterb ich, so nimmt Er mich zu Sich,
Wo Er jetzt lebt, da komm ich hin,
Weil Seines Leibes Glied ich bin. Hallelujah!

Konfirmations-Schein.

Renke Wilhelm Leners,
geboren den *19. Januar, 1910,*
konfirmiert am *Palmsonntag*
den *5. April, 1925*
in der *ev. luth. Zions* Kirche
zu *Hanover, Nebr.*

J. B. Reents,
Pastor.

Just as in the early years, students continue their Christian education in confirmation. The beginning confirmation classes were taught completely in German with a heavy emphasis on memorizing the sacraments hymns, psalms, and Bible verses. Notice how this 1925 confirmation certificate of Renken Leners states that it took place at 'Hanover, Nebraska.'

This was the last confirmation class from the old church before it was moved across the road to make room for the new brick church. There are 38 students surrounding Pastor Reents. A questioning of confirmands happened usually a week before the rite of confirmation where the girls wore blue or black dresses. I bet we could ask many of our members and they would still remember the question they were asked at the examination.

This examination night was discontinued in the mid 1960s. The actual revisiting of their baptismal vows on their confirmation day was usually held on Palm Sunday.





Here is the 1917 Zion confirmation class at their 50th reunion. 1917 was the year this sanctuary opened its doors. Twenty seven of the twenty-nine living members were present. There were 34 in the original class.

Confirmands no longer have to go through the nerve wrecking experience of an examination but they do complete a Faith Project, something that symbolizes their personal Christian journey.



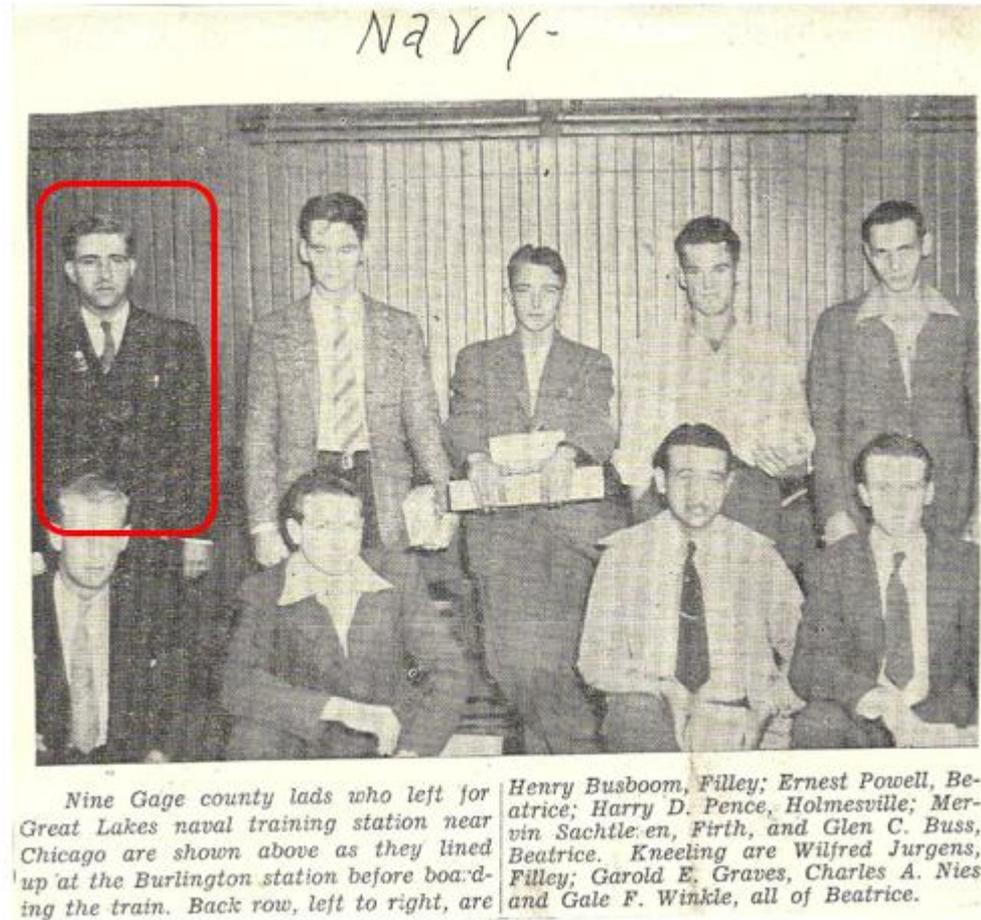


They present and explain why they choose that project to the council. All are welcome to stay and enjoy the confirmands presentations.



Once a student's last year was finished they received a cross to complete their pin as seen here on Ehme Gronewold's pin. It was just understood that you would still regularly attend Sunday school for at least two years after you were confirmed which was about the age of 18. It has been said that young men were recognized as being Hanovers because of their suits and Sunday School pins that were often worn when going out on Sunday afternoons.

Sunday School Pins



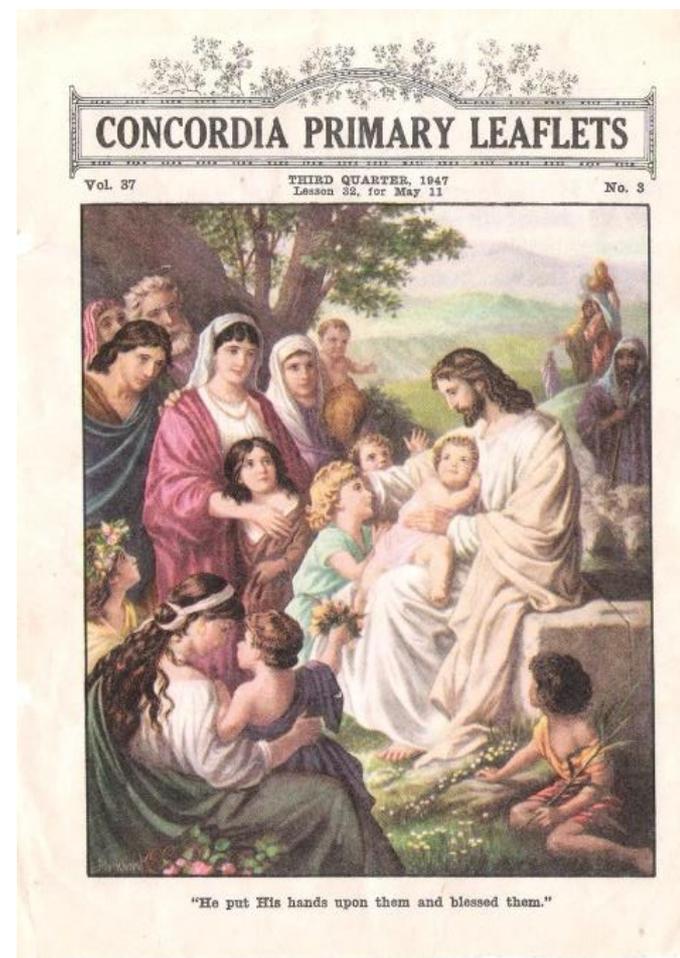
Here you can see that Henry Busboom was wearing his pin the day he left for naval training during WWII. The first record of a Sunday school pin being given was in 1943. Giving out the bars for the pins seems to have been discontinued sometime in 2008. Jesse Gronewold was given his last bar in March of 2008. Today "Breakfast Club" is attended by our high school youth in the basement of the school house.

Shirley Gronewold's Teacher Pin

Teacher pins were also discontinued but it is unsure when. Using Shirley Gronewold's pin, we believe they were discontinued around the early 1990s. We know that her daughter, Tammy was in her first nursery class and as seen earlier, Tami received her gold pin in 1970. And if you look carefully you can see that the 3rd bar down recognizes her 20th year of teaching, with nothing larger than that.



However the bar below it says 'tenth'.



"He put His hands upon them and blessed them"



The Parish Ed board decided to straighten that up for Shirley and completed her pin today!

Shirely has blessed Zion's youngest Sunday School children and the Sunday School program by teaching our nursery classes for 47 years. Job well done, good and faithful servant!



JESUS BLESSING LITTLE CHILDREN

Mark 10: 13-16

WHILE Jé-sus was still a boy, He said, "I must be about My Father's business." Do you know what business, or work, that was? Long before Jé-sus was born an angel had said of Him, "He shall save His people from their sins." When Jé-sus was grown up, He began His work as our Savior. He went about preaching and teaching and also chose some friends to learn from Him and to help in teaching others. These were called His disciples.

One day, as Jé-sus was teaching the people, some mothers brought their little children to Him. They wanted Jé-sus to lay His hands on them and bless them. Now, when the disciples of Jé-sus saw this, they did not like it. They told the mothers to keep the children away. They thought Jé-sus had no time for little children.

When Jé-sus saw it, He was much displeased with His disciples. He told them. "Suffer [let] the little children to come unto Me, and forbid them not: for of such is the kingdom of God." Yes, Jé-sus even told them if they did not receive the kingdom of God as a little child, they would not enter therein. Then Jé-sus took the children up in His arms. He put His hands on them and blessed them.

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LESSON 32

Jé-sus is the children's best Friend. He wants all the little children to come to Him. He wants the mothers to bring the children to Him. You were brought to Jé-sus when you were baptized. You are brought to Him at home when you learn your little prayers. You are with Jé-sus every time you come to Sunday school and church. Jé-sus is your best Friend. He loves you. He wants to take you also in His arms and bless you.

Little children, come to Jesus;

Hear Him saying, "Come to Me!"

Blessed Jesus, who, to save us,

Shed His blood on Calvary.

Little souls were made to serve Him,

All His holy Law fulfill;

Little hearts were made to love Him,

Little hands to do His will.

Primary and Junior Hymnal, No. 33, 1.

Sunday-school Hymnal, No. 396, 1.

QUESTIONS

1. Who brought little children to Jesus? 2. What did they want? 3. What did the disciples think of this? 4. What did they tell the mothers? 5. How did Jesus feel when He saw this? 6. What did Jesus say to them? 7. How did Jesus show His love for the children? 8. Who, then, is the best Friend of children? 9. When were you brought to Jesus? 10. When are you with Jesus? 11. How did Jesus show His love to you?

(Concordia Picture Roll, No. 76.)

LESSON 32

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This is the inside of that 1947 Sunday school lesson. Inside it states (read rectangle) which is exactly what Shirley told the Beatrice Daily Sun in an article in 2009, the 125th Anniversary of Zion. "I try to get them to know Jesus is their best friend and to want to come to Sunday school," she said. Thank you Shirley for being Jesus' arms for the last 47 years.

Shirley's Old & New Pin



Shirley
will wear
it with
pride and
cherish it
for years
to come.



Sunday School Picnic – June 1938



Hanover Church Members Enjoy Picnic Band Concert in Day of Frolic

“More than 600 members of the Hanover church and the Sunday school east of Pickrell stayed after services Sunday, May 29, for a picnic lunch on the grounds west of the church, a concert by the Hanover community band, and an afternoon of games “for young and old”. The sport ended with a softball game between the old and young men, in which the youth routed their short-winded rivals.”

Bible school was always followed by a picnic. Picnics in the early days of Zion were held in the pastures of Brune Meints and Renke Zimmerman where games like gunny sack races were played after everyone ate. The number of members that attended this picnic is amazing.



At some point Bible School was shortened to all day long for one or two weeks. A church service at the tabernacle at Chautauqua Park, and later Riverside Park in Beatrice followed that Bible school week. A highlight for many children was being able to go swimming with all your Sunday school classmates at the public pool which was truly a rarity and treat. This portable organ was used in those church services and it still works!



Bible School is still being provided to the Zion young people. Now the classes are divided into groups with a variety of ages integrated into the groups with older students being mentors to the younger ones.



Bible School



The Bible School classes meet for a week in the mornings culminating with a student led Bible School service on the following Sunday. There is no longer a congregational picnic but rather a hot dog feed for all participating students.



February 26, 2017



“Good Shepherd” Sunday

A special thank you to all those who have led Zion’s youth in their Christian education. As Geneva once said, “You are never too old to spread God’s Word”. Please join us again in February for “Good Shepherd Sunday” as we continue to remember those who have led us in our spiritual journeys.