

The History of Zion Lutheran Church, Caroline 2008

The first settlers to come to the Caroline area brought with them a strong desire to obtain a means in which they could continue to worship in the faith of their fathers. August Lohff and his brother secured the services of Reverend Max Hein. Hein would conduct worship services in Caroline every four weeks.

On August 19, 1883, a group of men who had been attending the services of Reverend Hein met to officially organize a congregation. This group drew up a constitution and decided on the name of Zion Lutheran for their church. Charter members of the new church were the families of Albert Netzel, August Moenke, William Frankow, F. Beyer, Ferdinand Jolitz, Gottlieb Jolitz, Gottlieb Brandenburg, Sr., Carl Schmidt, L. Wielke, August Lohff, Fredrick Moenke, Karl Kellbach, August Schroeder, August Luttschavitz, August Schmidt, F. Lutz, Fred Braun, Ferdinand Zell, and Frank Lade.

A call went out to Reverend Hein on August 16, 1885. Accepting the call as the first permanent pastor, he served the congregation until 1887.

In 1885, it was decided to purchase land from August Netzel for the purpose of building a church and to provide grounds for a cemetery. The church was completed that same year, and on November 22nd the congregation gathered to dedicate the new House of Worship.

Pastor Hein was succeeded by the Reverend W. D. Ahl who was called on May 27, 1888. He was installed on July 15, 1888. In August of 1888, tentative plans for building a parsonage were discussed. The definite plans were not made until the annual meeting of January, 1889.

In September of 1890, Pastor Ahl accepted a call to Luther Seminary at Afton, Minnesota, to teach foreign languages.

In November of 1890, a call was extended to the Reverend A. Alexander of Palmer, Kansas. He accepted the call and was installed in December.

At the annual meeting, held January 4, 1892, the decision to build a school house (22 feet by 32 feet) was made and plans were completed in the summer.

In 1894, the congregation received the resignation of Rev. Alexander. The Rev. D. Kosche was then called and he accepted his new position.

At the quarterly meeting of October 6, 1895, plans were discussed to add a steeple to the present church building. Pledges were received with a sufficient amount to cover a 12 feet square and 70 feet high steeple. The contract was given to C.C. Fritz, who completed the work.

On May 21, 1899 two bells were purchased at the cost of \$335.40. from Gardener Bell Company of Milwaukee, Wisconsin. The two bells weighed 735 pounds and 416 pounds.

Rev. D. Kosche resigned in March 1905 and Rev. F. Alpers of Golden, Illinois was called to the parish. He accepted the call and was installed in August of 1905. Rev. Alpers submitted his resignation in July 1916 and retired from active ministry. It was during his ministry that the Leopolis and Split Rock churches were added to form a three point parish.

Following the formation of this parish, the Rev. I. Wegner of South Haven, Michigan, was called to serve. In 1916, plans were made and carried out for a new parsonage. In this same year, a new organ was purchased and in February a telephone was installed.

The Tabitha Society of Zion Lutheran Church was organized January 18, 1917. The purpose of this society was to promote a fellowship among the ladies of the congregation and to assist the congregation in serving its members. In 1919, the Society paid for the majority of a new furnace, which had been installed.

Electric lights were installed in the church in the year 1920. Up until this time, church services were held in the German language. Regular English services were introduced in 1925 and held on the last Sunday of each month. The transition from the services being conducted in German to English speaking was a challenge for some parishioners.

In the fall of 1926, Reverend Wegner accepted a call to West DePere, Wisconsin. The congregation then called Rev. Brede of Good Thunder, Minnesota, who accepted and was installed that fall.

In 1929, more land was purchased from Herman Ferg and Herman Buelter for the cemetery. That same year, the little white building (tool shed) was built. In 1930, the Cemetery Association was formed.

On February 27, 1931, Rev. Brede accepted a call to Cedarburg, Wisconsin. At this time Rev. Brede's salary was \$80.00 per month. His wife received \$60.00 per year as the church organist. It was also in 1931, that all records were written in English and the Luther League was established.

On May 14, 1931, Rev. R. C. Stubenvoll was called to Zion from St. Paul Lutheran Seminary, where he was still a student. He was installed June 21, 1931.

In 1931, a kitchen was added to the Parish Hall. The Parish Hall was used for wedding dinners. Church dinners were also held to raise funds to support the Church. There were no modern conveniences with water having to be carried from the Parsonage. When a dinner was served, the men would bring hot water from the cheese factory so that the dishes could be washed.

In 1934, Zion Lutheran celebrated its 50th year as a congregation. Two members of the Golden Jubilee committee were Charlie Miller and Emil Krueger.

A building fund was begun in 1935, but it was not supported by any great zeal until May of 1951.

In 1938, men and women were first allowed to take communion together.

In 1944, a new constitution was drawn up in the English language. The brotherhood was also organized in 1944.

In 1950, the parsonage kitchen and bathroom were remodeled.

It was during Rev. Stubenvoll's ministry that the present church building was erected. On May 3, 1951, a special congregational meeting was called to discuss building plans. Members selected to serve on the building committee were: Adolph Krueger, August Watters, Andrew Schoenicke, Gordan Raether and Frank Krueger.

The plans were accepted, and ground was broke the same month. George Kucksdorf from Leopolis was selected to build the church.

The organizations of the congregation then turned their concerns to the construction of the new church. Members offered services, gifts and labor, while the Tabitha Society contributed \$5,000.00 to equip the kitchen.

On July 10, 1951, Charles Niemuth purchased the old school building for \$500.00 It was moved across the street on July 24th and remodeled into a house. Ground was broken for the new church on July 30, 1951. It was at 2:00 p.m., May 11, 1952, that members and friends of Zion Lutheran Church gathered to lay the corner stone for the new church. The beautiful lannonstone building was 90 feet long and 42 feet wide, with full basement and kitchen service as a meeting and dining place, a big entrance, special room for mothers and a choir loft. The lannonstone was furnished by the Quality Limestone Products, Inc. of Sussex, WI. The cost of the building was around \$60,000, unusual in itself for a community the size of Caroline. Actually, however, the church building probably represented an investment of \$120,000 or more. Donated materials and labor helped pare down most of the cost. The altar and communion railing were built of native red oak with the interior finish work and doors of yellow birch. The pews are of native elm and were purchased from the Svoboda Church Furniture Company, Inc. of Kewaunee, WI. Services were held in the church basement until construction was completed.

It was a joyous day on January 25, 1953, when the new church building was completed and a dedication service was held. It was a great day for rejoicing with friends and relatives from far and near coming to celebrate. The program began with the unlocking of the church door at 9:00am, the dedication service at 9:30am, and a special church service in the afternoon. There were approximately 1,200 persons at the noon dinner served by the women of the church and members of ladies aid society, and 300-400 persons at the supper served in the beautiful church parlor.

In 1954, it voted to raise the minimum dues for voting members to \$15.00.

In 1955, it was decided that anyone who reached their 80th birthday were to be considered honorary members. They were not, however, required to pay dues unless they wished to.

In November of 1955, Rev. Stubenvoll accepted a call to Gillett, Wisconsin, concluding almost 25 years of service to this congregation.

On November 6, 1955, we extended a call to Rev. Harold Kromrey of Black Creek, Wisconsin. The congregation was vacant until May of 1956 when Rev. Kromrey was installed.

On March 14, 1956, German services were discontinued. Also, in June of that year, the use of the individual cup was introduced for communion, and the common cup was no longer used.

In 1957, Delmar Niemuth, son of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Niemuth, was ordained into the ministry. He was the first son of our congregation to enter the ministry.

In 1958, an outdoor bulletin board was added and in 1959 the Brotherhood built the stairway leading from the parking lot to the lawn in the back.

In 1960, the church was completely paid for and a mortgage burning ceremony took place.

On June 12, 1960 Robert Hildebrandt, son of Mr. and Mrs. Ray Hildebrandt, and Evan Dieck, son of Mr. and Mrs. Otto Dieck, were ordained into the ministry in a double ordination. Robert accepted a call to Trinity Lutheran Church, Waterloo, Iowa, and was installed there June 19th. Evan accepted a call to Zion Lutheran, Granton and Zion Pine Valley, Wisconsin. He was installed June 19th.

The Tabitha Society voted to accept the constitution of the American Lutheran Church Women on February 2, 1961. The purpose of the Z.L.C.W. is similar to those of the Tabitha Society, but also includes developing stewardship of time, talents, and gifts for our Lord, and programs of the American Lutheran Church.

Several improvements were made to the parsonage in 1963. It was remodeled inside and a new addition was added to the front of the house. Also a new oil furnace was installed.

Our parish became a two point parish in 1963 when it was decided that the Leopolis church be served from Pella.

On April 16, 1967, it was voted that the church buy a new Baldwin organ. The organ was dedicated in September.

On November 7, 1967, Rev. Kromrey accepted a call to serve as associate pastor at Immanuel Trinity Church, Fond du Lac, Wisconsin. Pastor Kromrey and his wife, Tina, had one son, Wayne. Just before leaving Caroline, the couple adopted a daughter, Dawn and later had another son Mark.

Rev. Robert Rosenberg was called from Waubun, Minnesota in January of 1968. He was installed on February 25, 1968, by the interim Pastor, Rev. Carl Musall, of Birnamwood. Pastor Rosenberg and his wife, Toby, had two sons, Chris and Eric.

On January 21, 1973, a special service was held at Zion to observe the 20th anniversary of the dedication of the present church building. Rev. Reuben Stubenvoll, former pastor of the congregation, was in attendance, but was unable to participate because of his health. Rev. Harold Kromrey, also a former pastor of the congregation, was the guest preacher for the morning service, assisted by Rev. Robert Rosenberg.

Also, in 1973, the upstairs of the parsonage was remodeled. The walls were paneled and new windows were installed.

On May 27, 1973, Pastor Rosenberg was granted a release from Zion to go to Oshkosh. On August 12, 1973, Rev. Joseph Kraly accepted the call to Zion.

On Sunday, July 18, 1976, a tradition was started to have a combined ecumenical worship service with Zion-Peace and St. John and Immanuel churches. The service was held at the Caroline Cougars baseball park. The format of the service was based on the church services held in 1748. The theme was "Spirit of '76 - Today and Tomorrow." Pastor Paul Laabs sermon was on "A Look to the Past" and Pastor Joseph Kraly "A Look to the Future" and were well received and gave much food for thought.

The combined vocal talents of members of the Town of Grant added much to the worship service. The 30 member choir was under the direction of Mrs. Dennis Schoen and organists duties were shared by Mrs. Andrew Buss and Mrs. Duwayne Radies.

During the services, residents who were 85 years and over were honored. Those in attendance were Mr. and Mrs. Emil Malueg, Mrs. Martha Behling, Mrs. Ella Minniecheske, F.R. Buss and Otto Dieck. Those unable to attend were Ida Hubert, Frank Buettner and Emil Haase.

On May 20, 1979, a \$17,600.00 energy conservation package was presented to the congregation and approved. As a result, the church was remodeled and made more efficient. The ceiling was insulated and paneled. New storm windows were added and helped beautify the church.

In 1979, Pastor Kraly accepted a call to Loyal, Wisconsin, and Pastor Jonathan Sachs was called to serve Zion. Pastor Sachs was installed December 2, 1979. Pastor Sachs and his wife, Betsy and two daughters Karen and Sarah became part of the community.

On March 4, 1980 women from Zion Lutheran Church Women (ZLCW) re-organized the Altar Guild. They formed a constitution for guidelines and the guild was divided into three groups: The Sacraments, Paraments, and Flowers. Beatrice Klitz was the first president and Florence Bossell was secretary-treasurer.

On July 19, 1983, Zion held an Old Fashioned Sunday in celebration of Zions first 100 years of mission. The congregation was asked to dress in old fashioned clothes. Rev. Robert Herder, Assistant to the Bishop of the N. Wis. District gave the sermon. At 11:30 a potluck picnic was held followed by old fashioned games.

On August 14, 1983 Zion held its 100th Anniversary Worship. Sons of Zion, Rev. Delmar Niemuth, Pastor of St. Peter, Grimes, Iowa and Rev. Gary Stubenvoll, Service Director with Lutheran Social Services of Wisconsin and Upper Michigan were liturgists and preachers. Following a potluck picnic a time to reminisce was had by Mrs. Reuben (Doris) Stubenvoll, Shawano; Rev. Harold Kromrey, Pastor of Immanuel, Cedarburg, Wisconsin; Rev. Robert Rosenberg, Pastor of Calvary, Oshkosh, Wisconsin; and Rev. Joseph Kraly, Pastor of Trinity, Loyal, Wisconsin. The evening service was presented by Rev. Evan Dieck (son of Zion), Pastor of Zion, Manawa, Wisconsin and Pastor Jonathan Sachs served as liturgists.

On June 19, 1989 Zion and Peace had a special joint congregational meeting for the purpose of acting on the resignation of Pastor Sachs. Bishop Herder led us in devotions. A call committee was assembled to interview pastoral candidates. That call committee should be no more than eight people. Two representing the church council and two others from each of the congregations. Zion's call committee was Stanley Buss, Elroy Mehlberg, Dale Klitz and Meta Netzel.

Rev. Sachs served Zion until 1989. From Zion and Peace Pastor Sachs went to Bethany Home in Waupaca. He has since retired.

Rev. William Schrupa accepted a call to Zion Lutheran Church in 1989. Pastor Schrupa and his wife, Tryphine, and daughters Emily and Katie came to Zion and Peace from Mt. Calvary in Trempeleau and Tamarach Lutheran in Arcadia.

President Dale Klitz led the annual meeting on November 5, 1990. Les Mehlberg made a motion seconded by Waldo Breitenfeldt to change our constitution to read ELCA in place of ALC.

At the annual meeting on November 4, 1991 with discussion again on putting storage cabinets in the choir loft. Duwayne Radies made a motion seconded by Char Breitenfeldt to start a "Narthex Fund" for renovating the Narthex.

A special meeting was held on August 23, 1992 for the purpose of getting the members to approve the purchase of a new copy machine. It was approved.

The annual meeting was held on November 2, 1992 with the following items discussed. Work is being done on parsonage garage, Lenten services will be alternating 5:30 and 7:30 on Wednesdays, discussion on the bell tower, Cliff Rohloff will get estimate on repairs. The trees in front of the church will be trimmed and replaced with new shrubs in memory of Ella Uecker.

At the annual meeting on November 14, 1993, pew pads were discussed. A motion was made to have the council check into it and memorial funds be used to pay for them. The outdoor worship service will be a Polka Service next year. A thank you was issued to Dale Klitz and Carl Grunewald for serving on the council. Installation of officers was held that same night because of the deer hunting season.

President Carl Lundt called the annual meeting to order on November 13, 1995. A thank you was issued to Char Breitenfeldt for teaching Sunday School for 10 years. Other church business included the oil tank has been removed by Jerry Sauby, Aaron Malueg has resigned as outdoor janitor, LeRoy Uecker will donate a tree for Christmas, and we will conduct our own services while Pastor is on vacation. It was brought up that we should look into making our church handicap assessable.

A special meeting was held on March 26, 1995. The purpose of the meeting was to elect four members later changed to five of the congregation to be on a building committee to look into the possibility of making our church handicap assessable. Committee members included: Allan Adams, Dale Klitz, Duwayne Radies, Stanley Buss. Mike Handrich represented the council as head of the committee.

At the annual meeting on November 12, 1995, Dale Klitz gave a report from the committee on the handicap assessable project. A discussion was held on charging non-members for weddings being held in our church. It was decided to charge \$150.00.

President Carl Lundt called the annual meeting to order on November 10, 1996. Jason Raether is our council representative from the Luther League. Pastor Schrubba would like to enroll in a class with the subject being mental illness. He would be gone for a month. It was decided to let him do this.

At the annual meeting on November 9, 1997, the financial situation of the church was discussed. A discussion was held about freezing the interest on the Uecker fund so it wouldn't be used to pay bills. A committee was formed to find out why members aren't attending church. Pastor Schrubba will be gone from January 5-30 to attend school in Madison.

Action decided at the annual meeting on November 8, 1998 included: purchasing a new copy machine. Steve Verg will do the snowblowing this winter. Dale Klitz gave a report from the building committee.

After the plans for a new Narthex at Zion Lutheran Church were approved by the congregation, construction began on July 14, 1999.

Carl Lundt called the annual meeting to order on November 7, 1999. Dale Klitz and Stan Buss gave a report on the building. The stone work was salvaged from the building and was used on the new addition. Electrical boxes are in, roof on, stone, siding and sidewalk will be poured next spring. Interior basement will be opened this winter. Upstairs will be opened January or February and the elevator in February. After the building project is done there will be some work to do on the bell towers and other parts of the church.

President Dale Klitz called the annual meeting to order on November 5, 2000. It was decided to raise organist pay from \$22.50 to \$25.00 per service. There is concern to change the fiscal year from October 1 to September 30 to January 1 to December 31. The members present encouraged the council to look into changing it for next year. Communion will remain on the 1st and 4th Sundays instead of the proposed change to 1st and 3rd. In other discussion more members are needed to help with the Colorama food stand.

President Dale Klitz led the congregational meeting on March 18, 2001. Some of the items discussed: A reserved sign will be put on the back pew and ushers will sit there. This is so there are no chairs in back of the pews and will make walking in back easier. Ushers need to count the number of people in church and record it so Pastor Schrubba can send in accurate numbers. The building dedication will be on Palm Sunday. The annual meeting this year will be held at the same time. The new fiscal year would begin January 1, 2002. However, the budget will be in effect from October 1, 2002 until December 31, 2002. The greatest impact will be upon the Pastor's salary. Adjustments will be made in the budget to reflect these changes.

The new Narthex addition was dedicated on Palm Sunday in April of 2001. The addition was completed debt free, due to memorials, pledges, gifts-in-kind and labor by members and non-members of the congregation. The lighted cross on the exterior of the Narthex and furniture inside were given in memory of Valerie Erdmann. Members of the building and planning committee were: Joyce Buss, Char Breitenfeldt, Sue Raether, Mike Handrich, Stanley Buss, Dale Klitz, Duwayne Radies, Allen Adams, George Fritz, Jr.

Dale Klitz called the annual meeting to order on February 10, 2002. The Narthex completion and dedication have been a highlight of the past year. Having the addition added to our church has been a great improvement to the church and congregation. With the help of the members, we had \$10,000 left when it was completed. The church and parsonage will need new roofs in the upcoming year.

Zion Lutheran Church held its 50th anniversary of the dedication of the church building on Sunday, February 2, 2003. Rev. Doug Bisbee, Associate with the Bishop of the East Central Synod (ELCA) was the guest speaker. Rev. Jonathan Sachs, former pastor at Zion reminisced on his years in Caroline. The Rev. Bill Schrubba read letters from Gary Stubenvoll, Tina Kromrey wife of the late Reverend Harold Kromrey; and from Reverend Robert Rosenberg. The pre-service music and special music for the anniversary service was provided by the youth of the church including: Jesse Blum, Brittany Bartz, Brooke Bartz, Terri Egdorf, Devin Lang, Rory Mehlberg, Stephanie Riska. Rusty Mehlberg was the director. Ron Jurgens, Rose Malueg, Rusty Mehlberg, and Becky Van Buren with help from the congregation sang "This House of God". The Zion Choir performed "Build on a Rock".

The annual meeting was held on February 9, 2003. It was discussed remodeling the old women's bathroom. Plans include removing the toilet and partition, putting the refrigerator from the kitchen in and adding some shelves. It was also discussed remodeling the old mens bathroom and making it a unisex bathroom. A new sound system was installed before Christmas, costing \$1,518.55. Money was taken from the Easter Breakfast Fund for this. The wood around the stained glass windows in church need to be replaced. North Woods Studio donated towards the project. Also discussed a new floor in the church kitchen, refacing kitchen cupboards, placing a water cooler system in the Narthex. Funeral groups should be revised and the committee includes Beatrice Klitz, chairman; Linda Jurgens, Ron Jurgens, Gladys Wichmann, and Tryphine Schrub.

The annual meeting was held on February 8, 2004. Items discussed: the parsonage carpeting is done and looks nice, church window project completed, and water bubbler is in.

On February 6, 2005, the annual meeting was held. Items discussed include: Kitchen walls have been completed by Yvonne Schoen and Janis Radies and floors will be done this summer. The church parsonage bathroom is in need of remodeling. Mindy Zimdars is ending her term on Campus Crusade. The Musums are currently in the United States, but will be returning to New Guinea. MAMA House of Hope in Marion will be a resale shop, food pantry. It was decided to donate the funds that would have gone to Mindy Zimdars to MAMA's House of Hope.

President Dale Klitz called the annual meeting to order on February 5, 2006. Old collection plates and communion ware that has been in storage was discussed. Old pictures found in storage. It was suggested they be put on display. At the choirs request it was decided to remove the pews from the choir area. Kay Blum suggested that the organ may need attention soon. Peggy Krueger was thanked for the excellent job she is doing on the newsletter. She was also thanked for the beautiful cross at the cemetery. Joyce Buss made a motion to freeze the Alma Thiel fund.

Rod Riska, council president called the annual meeting to order on February 4, 2007. Peggy Krueger reported the following change from the 2006 meeting: It was Roger's idea to build and donate the inspirational cross that the Leslie Mehlberg family helped to erect at the Zion Cemetery. Another change was Joyce Buss indicated that she would like to change her motion to read, "to freeze the Alma Thiel fund, with the exception of the seminary students. Yvonne Schoen reported that the choir wanted to purchase a permanent tree for the church. The choir was given permission to purchase an artificial tree. A committee was set up to further investigate improving our present sound system. Chad Lundt, Kay Blum, Janis Radies and Yvonne Schoen will report findings to council.

At a special congregational meeting on June 3, 2007 it was decided to use money from the Organ Fund to upgrade the sound system of the church.

Zion Lutheran Church held its annual meeting on February 10, 2008 following Sunday church service. Rod Riska opened the meeting. Devotions were led by interim pastor John Czarnota.

Pastor Bill Schrub has accepted a Letter of Call to serve as Pastor of Grace Lutheran Church in Sisseton, South Dakota. He served Zion and Peace until January 25, 2008.

Rev. John Czarnota is our interim pastor. His wife, Jennifer is also a pastor and she serves The United Lutheran Parish.

The Zion 125th Anniversary Committee consists of Peggy Krueger, leader; Roger Krueger, treasurer; Kay Blum, Lori Egdorf, Shirley Klaeser, Sue Raether, Lynn Grunewald, Kathy Krueger.

Special events held during our anniversary year included: Love and Marriage Sunday, it was held in April. It featured a pot luck dinner, wedding memorabilia from church members, a listing of all the marriages at Zion, a spoof on the Newlywed game entitled Holy Matrimony Game. Couples Elroy and Elaine Mehlberg, Ron and Judy Grunewald, George and Kristy Crum, Rachel and Wayne Ahlers participated, with the youngest couple Rachel and Wayne winning the game. Shirley Klaeser and Carole Krueger, painted the plaques issued as prizes for the couples. Jesse Blum and Terri Egdorf served as host and hostess. Rachel Ahlers made wedding cakes for the event. McKenna Crum, Taylor Schoen, Kimberly Buss, Megan Steinke, Sara Steinke and Emily Steinke served the cake. The girls wore aprons, Sue Raether had collected from the weddings she worked at as a young girl.

A quilt was constructed by Shirley Pockat and Barb Laux. Members of the congregation made a square and they were sewn into a beautiful master piece. Original plans were to raffle the quilt as a fund raiser, however, Pastor John and everyone else decided it should stay in the church, so Lori Egdorf and her mother-in-law, Dorothy Egdorf made another quilt to be raffled off at our Celebration Sunday in August.

Displays of pictures and other memorabilia such as Communion Chalice, candles, old hymn books have been placed in the Narthex. Shirley Pockat was busy making a large banner and youth and adults are to sign it.

For Mother's Day Peggy and Roger Krueger made corsages for the ladies and they were given out at our church service. In addition, high school and college graduates each received one at Baccalaureate Sunday. Peg and Roger also handed out cross worry stones for Father's Day.

An Autumn Blaze red maple tree was purchased and planted in the back of the church - near the patio area in honor of Zion's 125th anniversary. Dale Klitz, Gene Mehlberg, and Roger Krueger took care of planting it. A ceremony was held by the Sunday School led by Heather Wuske, superintendent. "The Tree" a poem by Joyce Kilmer was read by Taylor Schoen and Lauren Reissman. Each student placed a stone at the base of the tree with their name on it.

On July 13, 2008 the annual joint outdoor worship service led by Pastor John Czarnota. The theme was community volunteerism. The Zion 125th Anniversary recognized the following organizations from Caroline and Split Rock: Caroline Lions Club, Caroline Conservation Club, American Legion and Auxiliary Post 456, Caroline Community Development Corporation, Caroline Cougars Baseball team, Caroline Cougars Little League team, Caroline Aces 4-H Club, Caroline Wildcat Softball team, Grant Fire Department, Grant EMS, Tigerton Main Street, Tigerton Junior Bowling, Tigerton Lions Club, Tigerton Advancement Association, Tigerton Area Ambulance Service.

There are still events being planned such as Celebration Sunday on August 17, 2008. The worship service is scheduled to begin at 10:15am with Pastor John Czarnota leading us in worship. Special music is planned for the worship service.

Former pastors and their wives who plan on attending include: Pastor Jonathan and Betsy Sachs and Pastor Robert and Toby Rosenberg. Bev Kraly wife of the late Rev. Harold Kraly and Tina Kromrey wife of the late Rev. Harold Kromrey also plan to attend and share memories with the congregation.

Those also invited who won't be able to attend: Bishop Justman who has a schedule conflict, Pastor Delmar Niemuth, Des Moines, Iowa and Pastor Bob Hildebrandt, Metairie, Louisiana.

Lunch will be a potluck and the anniversary committee will be supplying hot sandwiches, ice cream sundaes and beverages. Our entertainment will be the "Step 'n Sisters" led by Gloria Sharp from Clintonville.

In addition, there will be something special for Zion and its congregation for the rest of the year.

We, the people of Zion, enjoy looking back at the history of our church and we enjoy celebrating the past. And we give thanks to God for guiding, protecting, and blessing us through this rich history.

And now we look forward with eager eyes to the future and ask that He gives us zeal for the mission. Make this church a blessing to those around us, and give us the boldness and courage to move forward with strength toward what lies ahead.