



Zion Lutheran Church

1937 - 2012

A History of 75 Years of Living Waters

Jesus stood up and cried out, "If anyone thirsts, let him come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, 'Out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.'" John 7:37b-38

In this dry land of sand and sagebrush, where man chose to harness the Columbia River for water and power, a mightier eternal force was established, Zion Lutheran Church. Seventy-five Years of GOD'S BLESSINGS have been ours through Zion Lutheran; the preaching of GOD'S everlasting GRACE, love, comfort, and protection have been ours with Zion Lutheran. Just as man's efforts have brought power and water to the desert, so God has provided His Almighty power and LIVING WATER for the thirsty soul.

About the time work began on Grand Coulee Dam in 1933, Pastor W. F. Georg, in conjunction with Pastor Brockmann, canvassed various communities, made initial calls, contacted prospective members, and located places to have church. Serving Hartline and Grand Coulee, on March 1, 1935, Pastor Hugo V. Gurney took charge of our new parish and provided LIVING WATER for the Thirsty.

Zion meaning mountain, or Church of God (Zion Lutheran) was chosen to be the name of our church. First services were held at the Kammeyer's (the old ice plant), S. E. Meyers, and the William Jensen's homes. Later services were held in the grade school in old Grand Coulee. Then, the desire for a communal church led to the search for lots. The desired lots were donated by Elmore Fleischmann Land Company in May, 1935. A \$500 loan was secured from the Mission Board for church construction. Thirst for LIVING WATER led the men of various skills to give generously of the time and ability to the building of church. After countless hours of loving labor, the church was dedicated on August 30, 1936. The first congregation counted thirty baptized members and fourteen Thirsty communicants.

How Zion Grew

1936 - A church building was constructed with a loan of \$500. 00 and was dedicated on August 30.

1937 - Zion Lutheran Church was organized on October 4 and was affiliated with the Missouri Synod.

1939 - A parsonage was built; Members and friends did all the construction.

1940 - 5 people were confirmed

1944 - a second floor was added to the parsonage.

1945 - there were 47 children in the Sunday School.

1946 - Bethel established in Coulee City.

1947 - a piano replaced the old pump organ. Zion became sister congregation with Bethel.

1949 - a church and Sunday School was established in Coulee Dam. The services were held in the co-op building.

1948 - 51 - the church was remodeled and a chapel bell was added from a school building in Govan, WA.

1952 - The Coulee Dam church was discontinued.

1956 - the Sunday School numbered 54, and average attendance was 67.

1959 - The church building was renovated and a garage completed.

1962 - The congregation celebrated their twenty-fifth anniversary on Aug. 12. There were 112 baptized members and 62 communicants.

1965 - a house on Fortuyn Street was approved for purchase to be used for a larger parsonage.

1972 - Chrismons were first used to decorate the church Christmas tree. There were 175 baptized members and 123 communicants.

1974 - Ground was broken for a new church building on July 25. The first women voting members signed the voting register.

1975 - The first services were held in the new church Oct 12.

1976 - the new building was dedicated July 6

1980 - The congregation supported a refugee family of mother with three daughters from Vietnam.

1982 - One hundred new hymnals were purchased.

1983 - Zion joined the community in celebrating the 50th anniversary of Grand Coulee Dam.

1987 - Zion celebrated their 50th anniversary. There were 190 baptized members and 139 communicants.

1988 The new stainless steel cross atop the church building is a "Helping Hands" project of the AAL in honor of Zion's fiftieth year. The cross was dedicated on Easter Sunday April 24th, and lighting was completed by Christmas. George Simon led this project. "This Spuds for You" dinner was held, a great success. For the second year, the Lenten Soup and Bread suppers were held, with 47 attending the first one. Family Night Talent Show was a blast. A processional cross, a gift from the family in memory of Bill Winkle, is dedicated June 5th. With the theme "Welcome to God's Family", VBS had 30 enrolled, and enjoyed a piñata and a balloon release on closing day. The Martin Luther film is shown on Reformation Sunday, with Bethel members also invited to the pie social which followed. Holiday Season saw the youth trimming gingerbread houses, and special nativity scenes were shown at the LWML Christmas Tea.

This year, a surprise joint retirement party was held for Charlie Long and George Simon. Also, the reception given for the Wenzels to note their 35th anniversary was a complete surprise for them. Jeremy Day completed the "God and Me" program in Cub Scouts, and at the other end of the spectrum, Mark Beery attained his Eagle Scout award.

1989 - The Youth were active in sports, with a skiing trip to Havillah in January and a bowling party in May. 53 quilts were completed. Easter Breakfast gathered \$228.02 for the Reformation Library project at Concordia College, Portland. The Gehrke Windmill Gardens were planted by the AAL with 80 geraniums started by George Ruthhart, and watered this year again by Charlie Kessler. VBS had 22 enrolled, and their offering went to the Hispanic Mission in Yakima. On Sept. 17th, the new offering plates were dedicated to the memory of Pastor Nessett. We said farewell to George and Eleanor Simon as they moved to Spokane. Eleanor was long-time organist for our church.

This year, Evelyn Brice "Bricey" celebrated her 80th birthday. Roy & Vi Jensen and Elmer & Leona Rauch had

50th anniversaries. Laura Day won Best of Show and also a Superintendent's Award through Camp Fire entries at the Grant Co. Fair. John Hofman was presented with a leadership award by his profession. Ralph Rise attained his Master of Arts for Teachers degree. Betty Brashears retired from teaching.

1990 - The LWML did a total of 79 quilts. Offering at Easter Breakfast went to the Makah Lutheran Church, Neah Bay, WA. Ron Jantz and Chaplain David Stuenkel led services while the pastor was away. VBS had 28 enrolled. The sing-along at the church picnic enticed some campers from Montana and Idaho who were staying at Spring Canyon park to come join in with us in the fun. Jeannie Beery shared her talent by creating a beautiful banner for the church.

This year, Irene Wedeward celebrated her 85th birthday, and Buddy & Evelyn Mattson were married 50 years.

1991 - Soup and Bread Lenten suppers were again held. The family of Floyd & Jenny Sheeley presented the congregation with memorial monies which will be used to purchase new green paraments. LWML completed 65 quilts. Several of these were given to the abused children's home in Omak. Easter Breakfast raised \$400 for disaster relief in Africa, and the AAL will match this amount. VBS was held. Five young people were confirmed on May 19th. A BIG project was putting in the sprinkler system in the parking lot across from the church building. Zion hosted a retirement party for the Wenzels on Sept. 15th. The new green paraments were dedicated

This year, Oscar Skaar celebrated being 80, and earned a 10-year pin of working with SHIBA in the Grand Coulee area. Jeremy Day was awarded the Scouting's God and Family Award.

1992 - The quilt makers are enjoying the new adjustable-height quilt stands made by Roy Jensen. 65 quilts were completed. Theme for VBS was "The Greatest Adventure:

Jesus Saves the World." Linda Rise took her Sunday School class to visit at the Nursing Home; not sure who enjoyed it more. Smiles all around. Installation service for Pastor Jerry Powers was held on Sept. 20th. Theme was "Lift High the Cross." Jeannie Beery made a banner for the church with those words. A Halloween Welcoming party was given for Pastor and wife Nancy. The LWML Christmas Tea had 45 in attendance.

This year, we said farewell to long-time members Oscar & Edna Clemens as they moved to Spokane for health reasons. Laura Day will receive a medallion for her work on the God and Church project, a Camp Fire project done with the help of Pastor Martin A. Baumann.

1993 - A special Friendship Sunday was observed asking each member to invite a friend to attend with them that day. Quilters made 69, and celebrated by eating out. FLASH! The annex has been converted to a Teen Room. Easter Sunrise services had to be held indoors because the weather would not co-operate, but 76 attended. Five youth were confirmed on May 23rd, and their three grandmothers served at the reception. A new computer was purchased and stained glass insert panels placed in the two worship area entry doors, both memorials to Roy Jensen. VBS had 37 registered, and supported the local Food Bank by their offerings, bringing non-perishable food items, and recycling cans to be sold. The youth enjoyed an Ice Blocking party. A potluck dinner/auction fund raiser, with some of the funds matched by Lutheran Brotherhood, raised a total of \$1,418.49, with John Geisler using his magic auction tongue. The LWML celebrated 50 years, and the AAL gave them a special luncheon of thanks on LWML Sunday. Several Thanksgiving baskets were delivered. The youngsters and young at heart made 29 gingerbread houses and decorated them. The LWML ladies brought their Christmas saver stockings to the Tea, and raised \$478.40. This will be gifted to Lutheran Social Services of Spokane, the local Food Bank, and the Braille

workers. Charlie and Juleann prepared chili to feed the 24 carollers and kitchen help. Carolling was done at the Senior Manor, the Nursing Home, and several homes.

This year, Evan & Myrtle Jensen celebrated 50 years. Bill Grandorff built "banner hangers" which will assist the Altar Guild in that task. Lavonne Long, Zion's "poet laureate", was a semi-finalist in the National Library of Poetry, and won the Editor's Choice award.

1994 - Congratulations to Charlie Long, Volunteer of the Year in the Grand Coulee Dam Area, and to Ray Duclos, Chamber of Commerce Businessman of the Year. Eric Ebb was named Zion's first-ever adopted Seminary student. He and wife Jane and two daughters are at the Ft. Wayne Seminary. VBS enrolled 38 youngsters. Theme: "Exploring God's Kingdom." This is the year of the tie-dyed teeshirts. The church office has a folding machine, gift from Oscar Skaar. Sunday School youth planted flowers around the church building. AAL planted the Gehrke Windmill Gardens. Here in concert was the youth group Captive Free. In the Fall, Missionary Allen Larsen with the Lutheran Bible Translators was the speaker for Mission Information Sunday. He had been with the Kono people in Sierre Leone, West Africa and will now be assigned to the Garifuno tribe in Guatemala.

1995 - 71 quilts completed by LWML and friends. VBS was held. Leroy & Linda Hansen, Jeremiah and Anna from Ft. Wayne Sem are our new Sem family. July 30th was Pastor Powers last Sunday at Zion. The Board of Stewardship challenges Zion to raise a ton of food for the local Food Bank from Oct. 22nd to Thanksgiving Day, Nov. 26th. Final total over 2,000 # of food and monetary support from both Lutheran Brotherhood and the AAL.

This year, the Grand Coulee Library Board renames the facility as the Etheta Anderson City Library. Frank & Evelyn Brice celebrate their 60th, and Irene Wedeward celebrates a 90th birthday. Elmer & Leona Rauch receive award for

outstanding volunteer work at Coulee Community Hospital. Jason Birdwell earns top honors in Lake Roosevelt High School art contest. Laura Day receives Camp Fire's top award, the Wo-He-Lo medallion. She is also in the cast of the Sleeping Beauty ballet.

1996 - Quilters were active, with 71 large and 3 baby quilts made. Two youth were confirmed on May 12th. Pastor William D. Goodin was installed on July 7th. As he arrived here, he was working on his second Masters, and had already earned a Bachelor of Arts, Master of Divinity, Doctor of Ministry, and has almost completed work for a Master of Theology degree. The VBS numbered 44 average attendance. Student offerings supported LAMP (Lutheran Assn. of Missionary Pilots), a group which serves remote areas of Canada and Alaska. The church picnic included a surprise "pound party" for the new pastor. Captive Free was here in concert. Bethel, Coulee City gathered cans to recycle and sold \$600.95 worth, the AAL matched the amount, and they could replace their water damaged carpet plus purchase a TV and a VCR. The youth at Zion repainted the Teen Room.

This year, the Chamber of Commerce named Michele Schumaker Young Citizen of the month, while mother Jenny was named Wright Elementary school Friend of the Month.

1997 - Friendship Sunday was again celebrated. Quilt count was 76, with 12 to go to the Support Center in Omak. The Sunday School children led the Palm Sunday processional with palm branches. "Captive Free" gave their concert outdoors. Theme for VBS was "Let's Follow Jesus" and 37 registered. Our sister congregation Bethel, Coulee City, celebrated their 50th anniversary. Zion choir sang at that afternoon service. Pastor Goodin begins editing the Faith, Hope & Clarity column in the local paper. Pastor completes his second doctorate, a Ph.D in Theology. A brochure that tells about Zion and invites the community to our church was delivered by volunteers to every home in the area. Eight

were confirmed and seventeen baptized into the Christian faith and welcomed to our Zion family on Nov. 23rd. A bid of \$113,214.24 plus tax of \$8,084.24 was received for the proposed Educational Addition to our church.

This year, Carl & Evelyn Russell were cited as "people who make a difference in the community." Jason Birdwell wins Best of Show with his scratchboard entry, and 1st in pencil category at the Columbia Arts Association competition at the High School. After 38 years on the job at Safeway, Bill Mattson has his last day of work.

1998 - Quilters complete 64 quilts. The VBS has 63 students enrolled. The Building Committee contacts The Laborers for Christ group concerning doing the building of the Educational Addition. Construction was begun in early July and the dedication of the completed project was on Oct. 25th. Total cost was \$56,000. The new communion cloth was a gift from the Laborers for Christ. Our new adopted Sem student is David Weaver and wife Kassie from the Ft. Wayne Seminary. Sam Rise, 9-yr. old 4th grader, heads up the successful annual food drive.

This year, John & Dorothy Geisler and Arlow & Rosemary Evers celebrate 50th anniversaries.

1999 - 62 regular size and 1 baby size quilts were done. Pastor Goodin begins editing the Coulee Lutheran, a monthly church newsletter. Three were confirmed at Zion on March 28th, and four at Bethel. "Jungle Journey" theme of VBS. Average attendance was recorded as 52.5. Offering went to Dan & Susan Ramsey, who are missionaries in Africa. "Captive Free" was here in concert. Kaitlyne Lee, 10-yr. old 5th grader, heads the annual food drive.

This year, Buddy Mattson celebrated 80 years. Evelyn Russell was named the AAL local Volunteer of the Year. A "Watch Night" party saw in the new century.

2000 - For the world, a new century Under God's Grace. VBS has 51 registered; Faithful quilters completed 66. With

AAL Helping Hands funds of \$1,600, a wheelchair ramp is constructed at Bethel by Zion builders. "Captive Free" is again here in concert. Our Pastor Goodin and Linda Dennis are married, ceremony and reception on Aug. 16th. Alexandra's House and the Omak Women's Shelter are supported by a Diaper Drive. A "Lutheran Liturgy" class is given by Dorothy Geisler. A fun potato bake/auction raises funds for quilt supplies. A "no-strings attached" Thanksgiving Dinner is held. Food Bank drive raises \$1,241.05 to be matched up to \$1,000 by the AAL.

This year, Areielle (R.E.L.) arrives from China to be adopted by Tracy White. Marvin Gordon stars in the title role in "Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dream Coat." Bill & Dorteia Grandorff celebrate their 50th. Kassandra Lee's team earns national SAFTY/SADD honors for their presentation. Betty Wenzel sends Christmas letter to all.

2001- The Wed. morning quilters made 80 quilts. AAL sponsored the Easter breakfast and the Duclos family sponsored the egg hunt. Shepherd's Cupboard, a LWML project was started to bring meals to people in need. The VBS children donated their offerings to the Gideon Bible Society to buy and donate Bibles. A neighborhood picnic was held on the church lawn. Zion hosted a Thanksgiving dinner open to everyone. Donna White reported the card program loan from the church was paid off. Bill Grandorff built the card display rack. Patty Servias has become one of our organists. She played at Our Savior Lutheran Church in Ephrata before moving here.

2002- Lenten services began on Ash Wed. Soup supper was held before the services. Lutheran's For Life sponsored a diaper drive from Mother's Day to Father's Day. The LWML Fall Rally was held at Zion in Sept. "Today's Light Bibles" were available at the rally. The Zion FLOCK (Friendly Little Old Christian Kids) met twice a month. Missionary speaker, Dan Ramsey, from Africa's Ivory Coast

spoke at Zion about his work. Advent services were held after the soup suppers.

2003- Fifty-Six quilts were made this year. Zion's first Shrove Tuesday pancake supper was a success. At least 105 people enjoyed it. Zion worked at the food bank in May. There were 7 or 8 helpers each Mon. Many from our church participated in the Sept. "Relay For Life" twenty-four hour walking marathon for cancer. Our team was called "Touched By An Angel" and we sold slices of angel food cake as our fund raiser. In Sept. a quilt show raised money for the building fund and in Oct. a potato feed and auction did the same. "Trees of Sharing" delivered gifts to 62 children in the area. Each year there are more people in the community helping Zion with this worthy project.

In Sept. Evelyn Mattson celebrated her 80th birthday with a special coffee hour. Charlie Long received a plaque from the board of trustees honoring him for his work at Zion.

2004- Care packages were sent to our college students and members in the military. Betty Brashears was in charge of Zion's food bank participation. Four young adults were confirmed on Palm Sunday. Mike Martin was the VBS director this year and Sarah Wapato was in charge of refreshments. Zion's annual food drive was from Oct. 17th thru Nov. 14th. We had a table at our community's holiday bazaar in Dec. which was held at Wright Elementary.

2005- Lutheran's For Life Sun. was in Jan. The offering donations for it were shared between the Omak Support Center and Alexandria House in Spokane. 79 quilts were completed this year. Two youths were confirmed on Palm Sunday. Zion's Sun. morning Bible Class had supported Allen and Sheri Larson since Sept. 1990. They are with the Lutheran Bible Translators. In July there was a potluck and concert on the lawn of Zion to listen to Pastor Dave Suelzle and his son Dan. The special projects committee sponsored

2 tables at the Senior Center Christmas Bazaar. Funds from this project went towards a new church roof.

2006- The Pastor's circuit meeting was held at Zion in Jan and the ladies served the luncheon. Wed. morning Bible study and quilting began in Jan. 75 were made and were displayed during quilt Sunday. 35 quilts were given to the Omak Shelter; seven quilts were kept at Zion for local needs and the rest were shipped to LRW in the spring. The LWML Fall Rally was held at Zion in Sept. Their project was making school kits for the local schools. In Jan. a wedding reception was held for Michelle and Eric Prentice and in March a wedding reception was held for Mike and Sandy Martin.

2007- Betty Brashears asked the voters to approve the reinstatement of the weekly coffee hours and she volunteered to chair the same. Pastor Goodin began a weekly Bible study on Jeremiah in Sept. There were 2 students in their 2nd year confirmation study and 2 students in a Sat. study. Evelyn Russell and Melba Cash were the big winners in the Sept. special projects quilt show. Lowell and Dianne Bassett had a concert at Zion in Oct. There was a church talent show in Nov. The annual LWML Advent Tea was held in Dec. Women of the area were invited to attend.

2008- A total of 96 quilts were made this year. Feb., June and Oct. were Zion's months to help at the food bank at the Nazarene Church. VBS had 32 kids and 15 teacher-helpers. Their offerings went to the Meals On Wheels program. The holiday bazaar also raised funds for the Meals On Wheels. College care packages were sent to Katrina Baker, Cathi Geisler, Nick and Amy Larsen, Robin Tess, Eddie, Sam and Heidi Rise, Isa Rivera, Jared and Gina Ruston, David Servias and Andrea Schumaker. The LWML celebrated 65 years in ministry with a special luncheon and cake after church on Aug. 10th.

2009- Easter Sunrise service was held indoors this year. The Duclos family made the Easter breakfast. There were 90 quilts made this year. LWML had a yard sale to benefit the "Trees of Sharing". The Thrivent Northwest 2nd Harvest food truck came in June to distribute food. Thanks to Paul Schepler for leading the worship service while Pastor Goodin was in the hospital. On mission Sunday we had Vicar Shawn Neider preaching the morning service and our missionary, Alan Larson, preaching Sun. evening after the potluck. Shawn and his wife, Tonya, live in Winthrop and he will be working in our circuit this year. The new carpet by the altar was purchased with funds from the Lavonne Long memorials.

2010- Some of our quilts were sent early this year to Haiti for their earthquake relief. There were 4 young people confirmed on Palm Sunday. The LWML nursing home birthday visit and sing-along was in May. Zion members Ellen Haven and Betty Grandorff live there. Lake Roosevelt HS graduating seniors, Tiffany Baker, Kelcee Erickson, Jordan Reeves and Peter Rise were honored at church in June. In July and August the quilters met again to make more quilts for LRW because of the great need. The 165 yr. old chapel bell now has a new tower. It was made possible by memorial donations. John and Bobbi Klobucher celebrated their 65th wedding anniversary in May. Pastor Goodin and Linda retired from Zion and Bethel on Dec. 31st. Pastor Goodin has been in the ministry for 40 years and 14 ½ of those were at Zion and Bethel.

2011- Pastor Stephen Larson from Wenatchee was at Zion as our interim pastor. The bell tower dedication was on Easter Sunday in memory of John Geisler, Bill Grandorff and Ellie Brado. Pastor Goodin officiated. The youth served the Easter breakfast and donations went towards camperships to Camp Ortoha. Donna White reported that Zion would be responsible for the food bank in March, July and Nov. There was a bridal shower for Heidi Rise and Gerald Macheso after

church on March 20th. Shawn Neider was installed as Bethel and Zion's new pastor on June 19th. There was a dinner after the service. The church picnic in Aug. had a good turnout and great weather. The LWML Advent celebration featured a program on Christmas traditions from some of the countries the member's ancestors came from.

2012- 62 quilts were made by the Wed. morning quilters. The LWML sponsored the Easter morning breakfast with the help of the elders. The new organ was dedicated in April. It was purchased with memorial funds in loving memory of Vi Jensen, Rosemary and Arlow Evers, Larry Goetz and Bill Wyatt. The digital piano was given to Bethel in Coulee City. Zion served 886 individuals and 412 households at the food bank in Feb. The Thrivent 2nd Harvest Food truck was at Zion in May and 144 families were served. The youth had a food drive in July at Safeway. A graduation party for Andrea Schumaker was held in March. Areielle White had her 8th grade piano recital at Zion in June. A high school graduation party was held for Rachel Anderson, Clayton Emerson and Mason Marin. Mary Ann Boll, Dorothy Geisler, Dorthea Grandorff and Pastor Shawn Neider are currently working on preparing the history booklet for the 75th anniversary celebration while many others working on other preparations.

HOW WE GREW

	1937	1962	1987	2012
Communicant members	14	62	139	61
Baptized members	30	112	190	67

	<u>1937-1962</u>	<u>1962-1987</u>	<u>1987-2012</u>
Confirmed	142	114	73
Adults baptized	55	25	51
Infants baptized	213	112	61
Marriages	56	38	28

Zion's Pastors

HUGO V. GURNEY led our little flock from May 1, 1935 until he received a call and left our parish in 1938 for Beacon Hill, Seattle.

ELMER MUHLEY came in November 1939. He was a pleasant, energetic and sincere man of God, and was a blessing to our congregation. He brought his bride, Irene to the parsonage built by Zion's members. He accepted a call to Grace Lutheran in Pocatello, Idaho and left in 1944.

EINAR BACH was teaching school at Kennewick, Washington when he accepted the call to Zion in March 1944. He graduated from Springfield Seminary in 1941. He brought his wife and two children and the small parsonage was enlarged to accommodate them. In March of 1946, he accepted a call to Coulee City – Hartline.

MARCUS TROSIN, a brilliant preacher of the gospel came in June 1946. He resigned in February, 1947.

THEODORE SIEK was installed in April 1947. During the four years he served our church, a children's choir was formed and choir robes were made. He transmitted a radio program over KFDR for three months. He accepted a call to Jerome, Idaho and left in December 1951.

HERBERT SCHIEFELBEIN graduated St. Louis Seminary in June 1952. He was installed in July 1952. While here, new pews were purchased with each family donating towards the cost. He accepted a call to a parish in Portland, OR and left in November 1953.

JOHN FRESE served as vacancy Pastor from November 1953 until October 1954 when he accepted our call. Pastor Frese preached the true word. In September 1963, he accepted a call to Jerome, Idaho.

JOHN F. FALK was installed on October 4, 1964. He gave us an appreciation of the history in the Bible. He worked well with the Sunday School staff to equip them for teaching. He accepted a call to Fairbanks, Alaska and left on February 28, 1969.

KENDALL E. GOODFELLOW graduated from Concordia Seminary, Springfield, IL and was installed on July 20, 1969. Pastor Goodfellow lit a fire under our congregation with his love of service to the Lord and many changes took place while he was here. New forms of the Worship Service were opened up to us. He received and accepted a call to Hillsboro, Oregon and left April 29, 1973.

DANIEL A. WURSTER graduated Concordia Seminary, St. Louis and was ordained at his home church in Valparaiso, Ind. on May 17, 1973. His wife Kaylyn was a deaconess serving the St. Louis district. He was installed on August 19, 1973. Pastor Dan led us during the time of building our new church building. He accepted a call to Our Savior Lutheran Church in Okanogan, WA and left us in November 1976.

NORMAN M. NESSET graduated Concordia Seminary, Springfield in 1965 at age 46 and served only one parish before accepting our call. He was installed on July 10, 1977. His talent of teaching led us in many areas of Christian Education. He was very flexible and would go along with new ideas. Pastor Nessel retired on May 1, 1984 and he and his wife "Dottie" had a home in the area.

ELMER W. WENZEL graduated from Concordia Seminary in St. Louis in 1956. During the time Pastor Wenzel was serving the congregation at Odessa, WA, he also served as vacancy pastor here at Zion during 1963. He was serving at Peace Lutheran in Monroe, WA when he received and accepted our call here to Zion. He was installed on October 7, 1984. His wife Betty was gifted musically, and served as

choir director for many years. The Wetzel's resided in Electric City until his retirement from the ministry. A reception was held for the Wetzel's on Sept. 15, 1991 as they left Zion.

JERRY POWERS graduated from the Fort Wayne Seminary and began his second career as a parish minister here at Zion. He was installed here on Sept. 20, 1992. He was a gifted preacher. He and wife Nancy were in our midst until July 30, 1995 when they moved.

WILLIAM D. GOODIN graduated from Concordia Seminary in Springfield, IL. in 1970. He was ordained at Christ Lutheran Church for the Deaf in Jacksonville, IL at that time. He was called here in 1996, shortly before he earned his second Doctorate, a Ph.D. in Theology. He served us 14 1/2 years after 40 years in the ministry, all of it in the Northwest District. He and wife Linda raised six children. We remember him as a teacher, and motorcycle rider. Pastor Goodin retired on Dec 31, 2010

SHAWN F. NEIDER graduated from Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, in May 2011 and was ordained and installed at Zion on June 19. God blessed his wife, Tonya, with a job at the Park Service in Coulee Dam as they get to know the Coulee and share God's Word with thirsty people.

We remember with grateful thanks the vacancy and guest pastors who have preached at Zion at various times for various periods of time as needs have arisen. These included Martin A. Baumann, Ron Janz, Stephen Larson, Robert Merz, Ken Schauer, Bill Lehmann, Will Nitz, Hospital Chaplain David Stuenkel, and others.

The congregation is also most grateful to the Elders who have at times led our worship in a "reading" service. Wherever the sermon was found, our souls were always fed with God's true Word.

Zion's Witness

Our congregation has favorite projects and charities they support each year. Some of these have been on-going for many years, while some newer ones have been added more recently in our 75-year history.

However, each one of these enables us to better show loving support to our fellow members, other Christians, or is a witness in our community. Each one equips us to more easily show how we can encourage one another to more fully "love our neighbor."

Some of the ways in which Zion witnesses to the community and helps them to know us are the Sunday School, the quilting for charity local and world-wide, the Easter Breakfast, VBS (Vacation Bible School), church picnics, special music performances, talent shows, Nursing Home visits, local Care and Share Food Bank, Trees of Sharing, potluck meals, the Christmas Tea, and others. The quilting projects have involved many throughout the community and have even brought some into the congregation. The Quilt Shows were always a community favorite.

Other projects are more congregational oriented. A few are the recognition of confirmands, college youth "care packages", support of a Sem student, support of a missionary, All Saints Remembrance Day, Lutherans for Life Diaper Drive, and Wheatridge seals.

In all of these, the LWML (Lutheran Womens Missionary League) as well as the former organization AAL (Aid Association for Lutherans, now known as Thrivent for Lutherans) and the Lutheran Brotherhood gave generous support of times and monies to our congregational projects. AAL worked especially through Helping Hands and Project: Beautification events.

Zion Lutheran Church is a loving and caring and giving group of Christians who show by their lives that Jesus lives in their hearts. May God continue to bless our fellowship and our outreach bountifully into our future.

Zion's Music

Music has always been important at Zion Lutheran Church. We have the heritage of Luther's hymns, and of Bach's chorales traditionally played upon an organ. Zion has always been blessed with many able musicians, both gifted pianists and organists, as well as singers.

Choirs from the past included the one in 1947 that presented an Easter Cantata. In the early 1950's, Junior and High school Choirs were active with the pastor's wife Mrs. Schiefelbein as director. Twelve choir robes were sewn by the ladies of the church. In 1967, the Concordia Choir sang here. The Junior Choir gave a Christmas concert in 1972. More recently, the Adult Choir sang for the first time wearing their new blue robes at the Children's Christmas program, in the present church building. This was in 1986, and the pastor's wife Betty Wenzel was the director. After the Wenzels retired, other such as Linda Rise, Mike Martin, and Paul Schepler led the choir at various times. The Sunday School children use voice and instruments when they lead the congregation in the worship service.

But music here also includes when our members put their God-given talents to use to beautify the worship services in non-traditional ways. Among the talents that people have shared were the singing accompanied by the guitar by the Batterman Family. If you heard it, you could never forget Marvin Gordon playing Silent Night at the Christmas Candlelight Service one year, using "tuned glasses." For several years, there were enough school band members among our youth to have a small band playing either for Christmas or Easter services. Pat Maxwell through her fine playing has introduced us to several unusual instruments such as the Hammer Dulcimer, the Mountain Dulcimer, and the Psaltery. Trumpeters such as Linda Goodin or Marvin Gordon have heralded many Easter services. And, with modern technology, when Paul Schepler sings a "solo", he has a full background of choir and instruments. A special

treat is always when the organist and the pianist play a hymn "in sync." Takes talent plus commitment to get that right.

Various youth singing groups have been hosted here these past twenty-five years. They included the Lutheran Bible Institutes "Family," Dry Bones, Captive Free, and New Vision. Since 2006, Lowell and Dianne Bassett were here for four years until they retired to Sun City, AZ. These concerts are a good time to invite the community to join us for these programs. And the strong and sincere witness to their faith that each group gave was a blessing for the audience.

As new hymnals became available, each pastor incorporated into the worship services music new to our Lutheran background. Memorable were the days when Pastor Nessett would lead us in practicing the liturgies from the new hymnal for ten minutes before the worship services began. This practice directly led into the present congregation being familiar with all the various liturgical settings for the services.

A pump organ was first used to accompany the services at early Zion, and was followed by the purchase in 1947 of a piano. Ten years later an organ was purchased and dedicated on April 7th. In 1971, a Hammond organ was purchased after it was brought in for a demonstration. This was upstairs in the old church, Patty Servias recalls. As each instrument was replaced, the congregation would offer the other instrument to our sister congregation, Bethel Lutheran Church, Coulee City.

Later the Evers family gifted Becky's practice organ to the church, and the Brice memorial Kurzweil digital piano was added in 1999.

At a congregational meeting in March 2012, it was suggested that we begin looking into purchasing a new organ. David Comrie did the research, and eventually contacted the Northwest Organ Co. in Spokane. David, Ralph & Linda Rise, and Patty Servias went for a demonstration on April 14. All were impressed with the quality of an Allen Protégé model. The decision to purchase

was approved by the congregation the next day followed by installation the next week, with dedication on Sunday, April 22, 2012. The Evers organ was given as a trade-in, and the Brice Kurzweil piano was offered per tradition to Bethel, Coulee City.

God's Greatest Gift

His gifts are all around us,
the bounty of His love,
He showers them upon us
from heaven, up above.
The beauty of the world we know,
is all of His own doing.
The glistening sparkle of the snow,
with its cleansing and renewing.
A flower bursting forth in March
to give us hope of spring.
Morning dew upon a leaf,
the warmth of the sun on your face,
mountains and lakes,
valleys and streams,
each setting, in the right place.
The laughter of a child at play,
the quiet of their rest,
the joy of sharing little things,
the peace within our breast.
His greatest gift, sometimes unclaimed,
and often times unheeded.
This greatest gift He gives to man
is the one that is most needed.
If we but look to Him
we can see love shining from His face
and know His greatest gift to us
is the wonderful gift of HIS GRACE.

Lavonne Long, 1986



Zion 1936



Zion after 1959, remodeled



Zion 2012