

Zion Lutheran Church Background and History

Beginning in 1880, worship services were originally held in the Kipfmueller log house in "County Center," which had the additional distinction of being the first Isabella County courthouse.

The first real church building used by the group which formally became Zion Lutheran Church was built on land owned by Mr. and Mrs. John F. Weber. It was located on the south side of Baseline Road one tenth of a mile west of Meridian Road from "County Center". The church was built by members of the group and was constructed of planed lumber at a time when most of the members still lived in log houses. This church was dedicated on September 11, 1881. The land on which it stood was purchased on December 23, 1882, for \$25. After 46 years of service -- at first used only as a church, later as a church and school, still later only as a school -- the building was sold for \$130. It was then moved a quarter mile east and remodeled to serve as a garage. This building is still standing today.

The group organized formally on January 1, 1889, to form Zion Lutheran Church. The pastor at the time was the Rev. W. Ziegenhain. The first signers of the Constitution were: George Huber, John Block, John Maeder, Leonard Huber, Frederick Biederstedt, and Herman Weis.

The record shows that about 1907 Zion Lutheran Church began efforts to form a daughter congregation in the City of Mt. Pleasant. Property for a new church was purchased July 27, 1908, and on September 22 of that year a new congregation, called Trinity Lutheran

Church, was organized. Its new building was dedicated in that same year. The building is still in use as a private home. It stands in altered form at 414 University Street .

On November 7, 1909, Zion Lutheran Church, the parent congregation , dedicated a new church of red brick at County Center, 30' x 50' in dimension.

In January 1938, Trinity Lutheran Church of Mt. Pleasant and Zion Lutheran Church at County Center resolved to reunite into a single congregation to be located in Mt. Pleasant. In August, of that year the red brick church at County Center was dismantled and moved to its present location, at 701 E. Maple Street . On October 16, 1938, the two congregations began to worship together again in the church they rededicated on that day.

In 1947 the church building underwent extensive alterations and redecoration, which was completed on November 16. Again in 1957, major work was done on the church. With the assistance of the Michigan District of the LCMS, Zion began outreach efforts to students at CMU. The capacity of the church was doubled and an east wing was added to the building to serve as a parish hall. Dedication of the new facilities took place on March 2, 1958.

In the mid 1960's the Michigan district established a full time Campus ministry at CMU. In 1968, Christ The King Chapel, located in the center of the campus, was dedicated. The separate Campus ministry was conducted by the district until 1990.

In December 1984, the congregation again resolved to totally renovate the interior of the church. The remodeling was completed and dedicated on

Sunday, September 22, 1985. Over time the building was improved by the installation of stained glass windows and a new Allen Digital Organ.

In 1992, Zion Lutheran Church, in partnership with the Michigan District, re-established a campus ministry at Christ The King Chapel. This ministry was initially served by vicars under the supervision of the pastor of Zion. Since 2000 this ministry has been carried out by an assistant pastor of Zion. In the fall of 1998, the ministry was expanded to include a part time minister to international students. In 2005 the ministry at Christ The King was designated as a satellite ministry of Zion. Our ministry to University and International Students remains the focus of the missionary effort of the congregation.

Throughout the 1990's the members of the congregation began to see the need for larger and more accessible facilities. Several formal studies were commissioned by the congregation and several sets of plans were drawn up to expand the facilities at the Maple street location. Neighboring properties were acquired and put into use to house the Sunday school and educational programs of the congregation.

By the fall of 1998 it became apparent that additions at the existing location would be costly and would not significantly improve the available parking. 39 acres of land became available at 3401 River Road on the northern edge of the city limits. This acreage was purchased and planning began to move the congregation's main campus to that location.

Construction of a 15,000 square foot building, housing the Preschool, Sunday school, kitchen, gymnasium and offices

was completed in the spring of 2008. A temporary worship area is in place in the gymnasium until a dedicated sanctuary can be completed. All properties owned by the congregation at the Maple street location were sold and the debt on the first phase of construction has been retired.

Planning is currently underway for a 6000 square foot sanctuary that will make use of the pews, chancel furnishings and stained glass windows that are a part of our congregational history and tradition. God willing, we anticipate that this last portion of the facility will be completed by 2014.

Official Boards

I. Duties of Officers.

The Executive Director of the congregation presides at all meetings of the Voters Assembly. He carries out the expressed will of the congregation as embodied in the resolutions of the Voters Assembly.

All Boards, committees and auxiliary organizations in the congregation are responsible to the Executive Director, and he is welcome at any and all meetings of such groups but has no voting power in such groups. He also presides over the meetings of the Parish Planning Council.

The Director appoints a secretary to be present at all Voters' meetings of the congregation and at all meetings of the Parish Planning Council to enter the minutes of meetings in a permanent record book. The Secretary conducts all official correspondence of the Voters Assembly.

In the absence of the Executive Director, Assistant Directors of the congregation act for and in his place. They perform whatever duties the Executive Director assigns to them as his representatives.

The Treasurer is responsible for accurate recording of congregational receipts and

disbursements and budgeted and actual expenditures according to proper accounting procedures. The treasurer has oversight over methods and systems for keeping financial records. He coordinates the flow of monies from the treasury to the various Boards in such a way that an adequate balance is retained for the payment of salaries and other regularly recurring expenses. He signs all checks for payment of bills, salaries, or any other financial commitments of the congregation.

II. The Parish Planning Council

The Parish Planning Council serves as a forum for planning the total work of the congregation. It presents long-range plans for the development and expansion of Christ's work in our midst to the Voters Assembly and prepares the agenda for the four (4) meetings of the Voters Assembly.

The Parish Planning Council is not primarily a decision-making body but serves as a forum where the activities of the Administrative Boards may be discussed, evaluated, and coordinated, and where all such activities may be integrated into an overall congregational program.

Administrative Boards

The Board of Elders

The objectives of the board are: the spiritual welfare of the members of the congregation, the care of the pastor(s) and the worship life of the congregation.

The board is concerned about the spiritual and physical welfare of the Pastor(s) and his family and reviews these matters at least once a year, making recommendations for improvements to the Parish Planning Council and the Voters Assembly.

The board ensures that the worship services of the congregation are conducted "decently and in order." They exercise oversight over all matters pertaining to the public worship life of the congregation, advising the Voters Assembly in matters relating to the worship services of the congregation and providing recommendations regarding the scheduling of services, worship forms and hymns used by the congregation in public worship. Members of the Board assist the pastor(s) in the administration of the Sacraments, the conduct of worship services, and other church rites when such assistance is requested.

This board is also given oversight over Christ The King Lutheran Chapel and LCMS students worshipping there.

All ministerial duties at Christ The King Lutheran Chapel are under the direction of the pastor and the Board of Elders.

The Board of Evangelism

The objective of this board is the proclamation of the Gospel to the unchurched, the enlistment and training of members of the congregation for such proclamation, and the revival of the spiritual life of church members who seem to have lost their love of Christ and the fellowship of God's people.

The Board plans and manages all organized efforts of the congregation in gaining new members.

The Board provides training opportunities for lay evangelists involved in evangelism programs of the congregation.

The Board encourages all members of the congregation to engage in witnessing to their faith in Christ and provides opportunities for all members of the congregation to learn the skills of effective witnessing.

The Board is responsible for all public relations activities that are specifically designed to project an image and awareness of Zion Lutheran Church to the outside community.

The Board of Christian Education

The basic objectives of this board are to administer the educational agencies of the congregation, establish policies which govern such agencies, and to recruit and train the personnel which is required to staff the educational agencies of the congregation. This board encourages and assists parents in their task of Christian Education and training of their children as disciples of Jesus Christ.

The Board selects and appoints the Sunday School Superintendent and Sunday school and weekday school teachers from the communicant membership of the congregation. They evaluate and approve the curriculum of the Sunday school, weekday school and Preschool.

The Board establishes written guidelines which govern the operation of the Preschool and is responsible for all policies and personnel decisions.

This Board is responsible for maintaining the church library.

The Board of Young People's Work

The objective of the Board is the promotion of the spiritual development of the young people of the congregation as disciples of Jesus Christ through

fellowship activities with one another and involvement in the work of the congregation and the Church at large.

The duties of this board include the supervision of all Youth and Young Adult organizations in the congregation. The Board promotes the involvement of the youth of the congregation in youth activities offered through the Lutheran Church--Missouri Synod and is responsible for the selection and training of all adults who counsel or direct organizations in the congregation designed for youth under the age of 18 years.

The Board of Stewardship

The basic objectives of this Board are to initiate programs designed to develop biblical attitudes toward stewardship in the members of the congregation, to provide for the training and utilization of members of the congregation for the work of the kingdom of God, and to ensure the financial stability of the congregation and its work through a program of proportionate giving.

This board provides general supervision of the financial affairs of the congregation and provides counsel and direction to the Treasurer and the Financial Secretary. This board prepares the annual budget of the

congregation and presents that budget to the regular Voters Assembly meeting in October. This board also prepares a list of "Missions of the Month" which are submitted to the Voters Assembly.

The Director of the Board of Stewardship appoints a Financial Secretary from among the members of the Board. The **Financial Secretary** keeps accurate records of the contributions of each communicant member.

The Board of Trustees

The objective of this Board is the proper maintenance and repair of church property. The board represents the congregation in all legal matters, and in the general protection of the congregation against loss or damage in regard to the church property. Church property as defined here also includes Christ The King Lutheran Chapel. (Financial responsibility for maintenance and repairs at CTK must be in accordance with the Policies outlined in Zion's Covenant Agreement with the Michigan District.) The Board executes all resolutions of the Voters Assembly regarding the purchase, repair, and replacement of church property and equipment.

The Board of Family Life

The basic objectives of this Board are to strengthen the bonds of fellowship between members of the congregation, develop activities to enhance and strengthen the family life of our members and help toward the social integration of new members into the congregation. This board plans, supervises, and implement social gatherings of the congregation from time to time throughout the year which encourage mutual cooperation, trust, and enjoyment of life together in the congregation. Special consideration is given to activities that enhance and strengthen the family life of our members.

The Board for Campus Ministry

The objective of this board is the development and oversight of programs at CTK Chapel in accordance with the policy outlined in Zion's Covenant Agreement with the Michigan District. The duties of this board include, the responsibility for programs at CTK designed to complement an ongoing Word and Sacrament Ministry, developing and implementing a plan for contacting all known LCMS students at CMU and encouraging them to worship and participate in activities available at the Chapel, and developing and implementing operational guidelines for the Lutheran Student Fellowship and providing

overall supervision of that organization.

This board also supervises the International Student Ministry efforts at CTK. The board handles all public relation efforts which promote activities, programs, and ministry at CTK.

Directors of Zion Lutheran Church

Executive Director:

Brian Tice

Assistant Director:

William Whitehead

Board of Elders: Todd Greenlee

Board of Evangelism:

John Schimmelmann

Board of Stewardship:

Mitzi Chaffer

Board of Young Peoples Work:

Jodi DeMarrow

Board of Education: Tim Narr

Board of Trustees: Joe Claybaugh

Board of Family Life: Linda Hanley

Board of Campus Ministry:

Kevin Dush

Organizations

Zion Lutheran Pre-School – For more than 35 years Zion Lutheran has offered a uniquely Bible based preschool in the Mount Pleasant community. Zion Lutheran Preschool is currently filled to capacity. We enroll children from the Mount Pleasant area and serve families from all faiths. Enrollment is open first to members of Zion and then the community at large. Contact: DeDe Buerkel.

Lutheran Women's Missionary League – Women to Women –

Who are we & what is our purpose? All women of Zion are members and are encouraged to attend meetings. Guest are always welcome as well. Our purpose is to develop and maintain greater mission awareness in conjunction with the Michigan District LWML, provide service and outreach to those missions, as well as to our congregation, and to provide opportunity for Bible study and fellowship.

....When do we meet? We now have many different opportunities for women to get together! You are invited to attend whenever you would like even if it is your first time!

....Bible Study. Enjoy Bible studies geared toward women on the fourth Tuesday of every

month at 6:30 p.m. beginning in September of each year. We meet in the Mueckler Library at Zion.

....Crafters: Do you love to sew, knit, scrapbook, make cards, etc. Then we would love for you to come to this circle on the second Saturday of the month at 10:30 am. We meet in the Mueckler Library.

....Moms: Are you in need of some adult time? All moms are welcome to join the Moms' Circle on the 1st Thursday of every month at 5:30 pm. Childcare will be provided.

....CWLSG: Are you struggling with your weight or your overall health due to poor eating habits and lack of exercise? You are invited to join the Christian Weight Loss Support Group on Wednesday evenings at 5:30 pm in the Mueckler Library.

....Outreach: This is a possible circle of outreach and visitation to our members who are shut in or are in the hospital. We need a leader and interested individuals for this circle to take shape.

CCI – Confirmation and Catechism Instruction CCI is for children in grades four through eight and meets on Wednesday evenings at 6:00 p.m. CCI is preceded by a light dinner. All of our children are encouraged to attend. Parental assistance is

always appreciated, especially with the preparation of the meal. Contact: Tim Narr.

Youth Groups - The Zion Youth Groups includes youth in grades four through high school. Throughout the year there are many youth activities including lock-ins, retreats and outings. The high school youth gather each Sunday morning for bible study following the morning worship at Zion. Junior and Senior High students meet regularly one Sunday night each month for pizza and Bible study. Contact Jody DeMarrow

Family Life - The Board for family life sponsors a regular family night, (normally the first Friday evening of each month) and well as seasonal trips and an annual camping weekend. Contact: Linda Hanley

Junior Choir - The Junior Choir meets on Wednesday, at 5:00 pm and is directed by **Mrs. Mitzi Chaffer**. The Junior Choir is made up of children in grades second and up and performs regularly for worship services at Zion and Christ The King Chapel.

Senior Choir - Church choirs are spiritually uplifting to the worship service and fulfill the command that we should "Speak to one another with psalms, hymns and spiritual songs. Sing and make music in your heart to the Lord." *Eph. 5:19*. Zion's choir is made

up of men and women who enjoy sharing their musical gifts. The choir is currently directed by **Mitzi Chaffer**, and meets on Wednesdays at 6:45 pm and during Advent and Lent at 6:30 pm.

International Student Ministries

Christ the King Lutheran Chapel attracts a large foreign student body. Individuals are needed to assist with language conversation and mentoring with these students to help them with their English and understanding our culture. Contact : Anne Bakker.

LSF - The Lutheran Student Fellowship committee coordinates CTK campus activities for CMU students. They meet Sunday evenings at the chapel. Contact Pastor Bakker for more information.

Summer Softball - A softball team is organized every Spring. The team has scheduled games with the Mount Pleasant Church League and the Mount Pleasant City League. League participation will be determined by the level of interest expressed.

Quilters - A group within the Zion Women's Guild that weekly gathers to quilt blankets for missions. See church calendar for date and time. Contact **Joyce Schafer**.

Greeters - Members who greet worshippers before each service

at both Zion and CTK. Contact Claudia Schimmelmann to volunteer.

Bible Class Opportunities

Sunday

Sunday School for all ages
9:15 am Zion Lutheran Church
Adult Bible Class
Meets in fellowship area
7:00 pm
LSF Student- led Bible Study
CTK

Monday

Adult Information Class
(Class time, dates and location will vary)

Tuesday

7:00 pm Women's Bible Class
Zion Lutheran Church
(4th Tuesday of each month)

Wednesday

8:30 pm LSF Pastor's Bible Study
Christ the King
(Meets during CMU fall & winter semesters)

Thursday

10:30 am Life Light Bible Study
Zion Lutheran Church
7:00 pm Life Light Bible Study
Zion Lutheran Church
(See calendar for course dates)

Saturday

8:00 am Men's Breakfast Bible Class
Zion Lutheran Church
(Third Saturday of the Month)

The WEB

www.zionchristtheking.org

The web site attempts to keep up to date with all weekly, monthly, and quarterly events. The constitution and bylaws are posted, as well as the weekly bulletins and monthly newsletters. Minutes of the voters' assembly meetings are posted. Links to the Christ The Kings web sites, as well as the Michigan District and LCMS sites are included. Following is a navigating menu to the different pages available on the site.

Pages in the Web Site:

Pastors' Page

Bible Study Opportunities

Calendar Events and Board Sites

Family Life/Birthdays

International Ministry

LWML/Women to Women

Leadership and Email

**Lutheran Student Fellowship
Activities**

Newsletters, Bulletins, Minutes

Constitution & Bylaws

Notes for Preschool Parents

Portals of Prayer

Preschool Information

Special News

Statement of Belief

Sunday School

The News Page

Trustees

**Worship Schedule/Volunteer
Schedule**

Vacation Bible School

**Youth Activities/Higher Things
Web**

Zion Lutheran Foundation

Contact us

Christ The King Chapel and
International Student Fellowship
maintain their own web site at:

www.lutheransatcmu.org

E-mail Addresses

If you would like to be on an e-mail list serve and receive via e-mail special information and notifications usually not published on the web, please provide your email address to John Schimmelmann at
ML3153@power-net.net.

