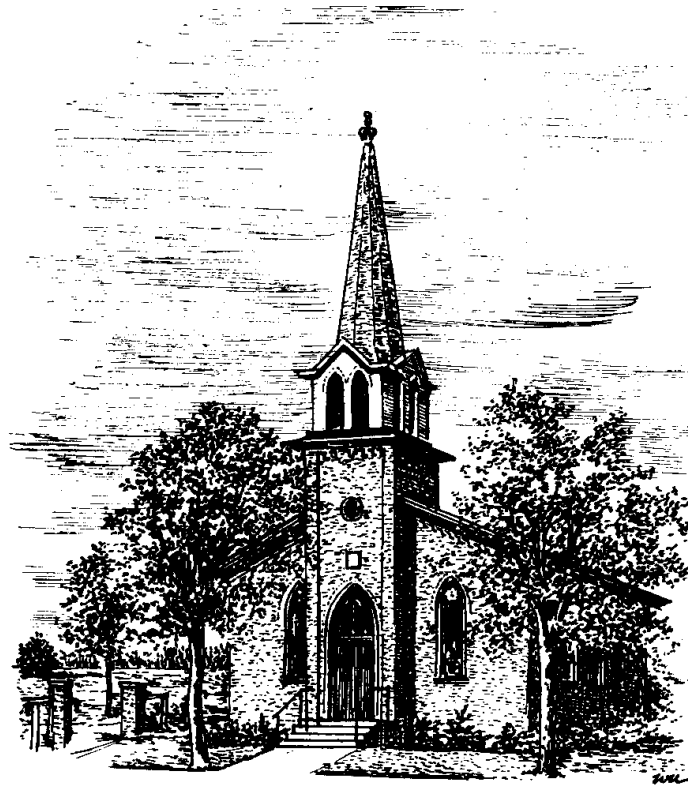


(Summary)

Zion Lutheran Church Minutes Book 1867 - 1951

Translated by
Edith Weber and Ingrid Weber



3050 South Fletcher Road
Freedom Township
Chelsea, Michigan 48118

We, the signed members, met on November 20, 1865 in the schoolhouse at the so-called Rogers Corners at Freedom Town, Washtenaw Co. We came up with the following conclusions:

- 1st -We should unite to become one independent evangelical – Lutheran congregation. We should be committed to maintain this union.
- 2nd -Michael Hinderer, Johannes Schenk, and Friedrich Pfitzenmeier should become trustees in this congregation.
- 3rd -These trustees should find a pastor for the congregation as soon as possible and in the best possible way.
- 4th -The members of our congregation who were until now members of the Thomas congregation should retire their membership in that congregation.
- 5th -These trustees should collect the signatures of the members for the support of the new pastor.
- 6th -The trustees are instructed to inspect the two acres of Johann Burkhardt’s land, including the house and the stable, under the cheapest conditions in order to buy a residence for the pastor.

Here are the following signatures:

Johannes Schenk	Martin Manz	Philip Bruckner
Michael Hinderer	Friedrich Zahn	Joh. F. Essig
W. Fr. Pfitzenmeier	Adam Hauck	Johannes Burkhardt
Jakob Eschelbach, jr.	Gottfried Eisemann	Jakob H. Senzahl
Wilhelm Buss	Heinrich Renau	Philipp Ullrich
H.J. Davidter	Heinrich Niehaus	Johannes Roller
Johann Gottfried Grau	Friedrich Eisemann	Johann Andreas Mossner
Johannes Eschelbach	Christian Koengeter	Johannes Mossner
Georg Wacker	(Köngeter)	Philip Schenk
Christian Klager	Jakob Staebler	Michael Zahn
Johannes Schettler	Jakob Eschelbach	Johann Nuebling
Karl Geyer	Jakob Bollinger	Johann Georg Mayer
Andreas Barth	Georg Wacker Jr.	Gerhard Kuhl
Friedrich Trinkle	Jakob Hauck	Wilhelm Grieb

The Origin of the Evangelical Lutheran Zion Congregation:

- 1865 Some members separated from St. Thomas Evangelical Lutheran Church to form a western half of the congregation.
- 1866 First Church Council was elected:
Michael Hinderer, John Schenk, and Jacob Eschelbach.
- 1867 In mid-May 1867, the elected Rev. Gebauer jointly serving St. Thomas and Zion. The new church was completed end of November. It cost \$3,213.35.
- 1873 Rev. Gebauer retired in May 1873 after serving both churches for six years. Rev. Baumann began his ministry at Zion.
- 1877 The church bell was purchased for \$598.20.
- 1885 The Rev. Baumann resigned and the Rev. Merz served for the next three years.
- 1888 In December Rev. Lemster accepted the call and served the congregation for the next 21 years.
- 1889 A new parsonage was built for Rev. Lemster.
- 1890 In November, a number of members of Zion left the congregation and organized the neighboring St. John's Evangelical Church. The reason: It was decided that the pastor should, once again, have the school open from November 17 until Palm Sunday. Here a quarrel broke out amongst the members. They walked out of the meeting. The church council postponed the meeting to Wednesday, November 19th.

In the meantime, five members were crossed off the list by the church council. It was agreed that the parish approved of the church council's action. It was decided that we will not let our pastor go. Also, wafers will be used, instead of bread during the communion services.

Mr. Messner announced that he wants to be removed from the congregation. The congregation elected Mr. Gottlieb Horning to replace Mr. Messner as a trustee.

1893 A school for religious instruction for children was built near the parsonage.

1895 The Ladies Aid Society was organized. The young people furnished the church with a reed organ.

1906 A band was organized by Rev. Lemster.

1909 An addition was built onto the church for a new altar, sacristy, and organ.

1910 On Sunday, February 6th, 1910, after the church service, Rev. Lemster informed the congregation that he has been offered a position at Blissfield, Michigan, and he asked for a peaceful discharge. It was granted to him. It was decided that on Tuesday, February 15th at 2:00 p.m., a special meeting will be held in order to elect a new pastor.

1910 Rev. Thieme began serving Zion.

1912 The Ladies Aid Society purchased a furnace for the parsonage.

1917 Zion celebrated its 50th anniversary and a new pipe organ worth \$1,325.00 was installed. On June 6th, a cyclone partially destroyed both the church and the parsonage. The congregation held a special meeting to discuss the reconstruction of the property, church, school, parsonage and the barn, all of which were partially destroyed by the cyclone. Jakob Koengeter (Köngeter), Friedrich Haist, Edwin Buss (Buß), Emanuel Schenk and Georg Haist served on the construction committee. The committee was given the instruction and the power to tackle the construction of the church immediately.

1918 The congregation's annual meeting had to be postponed from November 6th to November 28th (Thanksgiving day) because of the influenza and lung epidemic. Public meetings were forbidden to be held during this time.

1926 On Sunday, March 7th, 1926, Rev. Ernst Thiele terminated his resignation until January 20th in the following manner:

“After having served as a pastor to this congregation for 16 years, I must finish my work here for various reasons. For a long time my health has been leaving me a great deal to be desired, and my native land (Germany) has been calling me home.”

1926 Rev. Brueckner (Brückner) was called to Zion.

1927 A special meeting was held on July 17th, 1927. The church steeple was struck by lightning and damaged. It was determined that the church will be provided with a lightning rod. It was resolved that new shingles will be used to repair the church steeple. The shape and the height of the former church steeple shall be maintained.

1928 The old cemetery will be closed on March 1st, 1928. Land for a new cemetery was purchased from Georg Loeffler (Löffler).

1930 The Cemetery Board does not have anything else to report except that there are only 30 cents in the fund.

All services had been spoken in German until the second Sunday in February, at which time the first English speaking service was held.

1932 The congregation was informed that our Evangelical Lutheran Zion congregation officially was admitted into the Iowa Synod Association and the American Lutheran Church.

The Luther League was organized. The Ladies Aid re-decorated the interior of the church.

1933 The pastor of the congregation asked that the amount of money which cannot be collected shall be crossed out in the cashbook. The assembly approved.

1935 It was decided that the Sunday School will start at 9:00 a.m. and the church services will begin at 10:00a.m. during the next winter.

1936 Harvest Festival collected \$71.00. It was determined that the language used during the Passion church services will alternate between English and German.

1938 A check, which amounted to \$504.50, was handed over to the pastor as an overdue salary. It was decided that the church council will set aside a certain amount for the pastor's salary.

1940 The report about the pastor's salary collections was read out loud by Geo. Haist because Geo. Loeffler (Löffler) passed away during the year.

The report states:

January collections:	\$ 350.00
April collections:	\$ 350.00
July collections:	\$ 350.00
October collections:	<u>\$ 384.00</u>
	\$1,434.00
Paid to the pastor:	\$1,400.00
Fund balance:	\$34.00

1941 Constitutions: Art. 1

Name and Incorporation:

The name and title of this congregation shall be:

ZION Evangelical Lutheran Church of Freedom Township,
Washtenaw County, Michigan

Church Discipline : Page 95

Members who live in open sin shall be disciplined according to Matt: 18

1942 On the 4th day of November 1942 it was resolved that all business meetings of the congregation shall be conducted in the English language.

German services were held on the 2nd and 5th Sundays of the month. Zion celebrated its 75th anniversary.

1945 The congregation purchased the William Beuerle property, the future site of the parsonage of the congregation. Mr. Geo. Haist asked to be relieved of his office after serving the congregation as deacon for 38 years. He was given a rising vote of thanks for faithful services rendered. Arthur Barth, deacon for 2 years, was elected in his place.

1946 It was resolved that we establish a regular building fund and that we distribute to each communicant member twelve envelopes for regular monthly contributions. It was resolved that the pastor's salary be increased from \$1,600.00 to \$ 1,800.00 per year.

1947 Mr. Fred Spier redecorated the church. New floors and lights were installed. The pulpit was rebuilt and the stairway and entrance were remodeled. The pastor was voted an increase in salary of \$200.00 and also a bonus of \$100.00.

1948 Trustee Clarence Koengeter (Köngeter) requested that he not be returned to his office. His request was granted. Alton Horning , trustee for three years, was elected in his place.

1949 Parish hall was dedicated in February.

1950 A special meeting of the congregation was called for June 11th , 1950 to consider a proposition made by our friend and brother, Arthur Wacker. Mr. Wacker offers to install an oil burner in our church without expense to the congregation. Mr. Wacker's gracious offer was gratefully received and, of course, the vote was unanimous.

It was reported that Arthur Wacker had presented the congregation with an oil burner for the church furnace and had it installed. The gift was gratefully acknowledged and a letter of thanks is to be sent to Mr. Wacker.

At the age of twenty-five, the men may be elected to membership in the church council.

1951 A special meeting was held on September 23rd, 1951 to consider the matter of signing a contract with the Kilgen Organ Co. of St. Louis, Mo. to repair our pipe organ. The contract price was \$375.00. By unanimous vote, the church council was instructed to sign the contract.

M.W. Brückner, acting secretary

List of Congregational Members

[as listed in the *Commemorative 50-year Anniversary* booklet (1867 – 1917)]

Arner,	Anna	Eisele,	Bertha
Bareis (Bareiss),	Georg., Sr.	Eisemann,	Emanuel
Bareis (Bareiss),	Karoline	Eisemann,	Christine
Bareis (Bareiss),	Friedrich	Eisemann,	Waldo
Barth,	Karl	Eisemann,	Wilhelm
Barth,	Louise	Eisemann,	Annette
Barth,	Friedrich	Eisemann,	Norman
Barth,	Karl	Eisemann,	Gottfried
Barth,	Arthur	Eisemann,	Bertha
Beuerle,	Wilhelm	Eisemann,	Arthur
Beuerle,	Elisabeth	Eisemann,	Eleonore
Beuerle,	Clarence	Eisemann,	Alvin
Beuerle,	Leroy	Eisemann,	Milda
Bollinger,	Emanuel	Eisemann,	Maria
Bollinger,	Friedrich	Eisemann,	Wilhelm
Bollinger,	Alma	Eisemann,	Louise
Bollinger,	Rudolph	Eisemann,	Harold
Bollinger,	Dorothea	Eisemann,	Alfred
Bollinger,	Gottlieb	Eisemann,	Hilda
Bollinger,	Elise	Ernst,	Karoline
Bollinger,	Maria	Eschelbach,	Adeline
Bollinger,	Cora	Eschelbach,	Elmer
Bobnet,	Mrs. Katherin	Eschelbach,	Oskar
Bristle (Brüstle),	David	Eschelbach,	Julius
Bristle (Brüstle),	Emanuel	Eschelbach,	Emanuel
Bristle (Brüstle),	Christine	Eschelbach,	Maria
Bristle (Brüstle),	Wilbert	Eschelbach,	Georg
Bristle (Brüstle),	Clarence	Eschelbach,	Lolita
Bristle (Brüstle),	Elmer	Eschelbach,	Johann
Bristle (Brüstle),	Martha	Eschelbach,	Christine
Buss,	Edwin	Eschelbach,	Scott
Buss,	Karoline	Eschelbach,	Alton
Buss,	Almarie	Eschelbach,	Herbert
Buss,	Norman	Eschelbach,	Wilh. Fr.
Buss,	Waldemar	Eschelbach,	Martha
Buss,	May	Eschelbach,	Johanna
Buss,	Otto	Eschelbach,	Alma
Buss,	Bertha	Eschelbach,	Esther
Buss,	Raymund	Eschelbach,	Walther
Eisele,	Gottfried	Eschelbach,	Wilh. H.

Eschelbach,	Louise	Heller,	Leroy
Eschelbach,	Harold	Heller,	Karl
Eschelbach,	Eleonore	Hinderer,	Albert
Grau,	Amanda	Hinderer,	Martha
Grau,	Christ	Hinderer,	Christ
Grau,	Johann	Hinderer,	Bertha
Grau,	Emma	Hinderer,	Friedrich
Grau,	Arthur	Hinderer,	Emilie
Grau,	Alton	Hinderer,	Georg
Grau,	Heinrich	Hinderer,	Louise
Grau,	Ruth	Hinderer,	Harold
Grau,	Anna	Holzapfel,.....	Maria
Grieb,	Eugen	Hornung,	Christ
Grieb,	Franz	Hornung,	Emilie
Grieb,	Emma	Hornung,	Betha
Grieb,	Elisabeth	Hornung,	Ernst
Grieb,	Edna	Hornung,	Edwin
Grieb,	Gustav	Hornung,	Waldo
Grieb,	Karl	Hornung,	Gottlieb
Grieb,	Maria	Hornung,	Bertha
Grieb,	Wilbert	Hornung,	Erwin
Grieb,	Salome	Hornung,	Alton
Haas,	Christ	Kauffmann,	Wilhelm
Haas,	Barbara	Kauffmann,	Maria
Haas,	Alma	Kauffmann,	Ena ?
Haas,	Julius	Kauffmann,	Betha
Haist,	Friedrich	Klein,	Friedrich
Haist,	Pauline	Klein,	Emma
Haist,	Georg	Klein,	Rosina
Haist,	Martha	Klumpp,.....	Matthaeus (Matthäus)
Haist,	Erwin	Koch,	Albert
Haist,	Lorine	Koch,	Mabel
Haist,	Jakob	Koch,	Dorothy
Hauck,	Magdalene	Koch,	Walter
Hauck,	Johann	Koch,	Christ
Hauck,	Karl	Koch,	Bertha
Hauck,	Martha	Koch,	Roy
Hauck,	Louise	Koch,	Irene
Hauck,	Katherine (Käthe)	Koch,	Gottlob
Heinrich,	Albert	Koch,	Reimund
Heinrich,	Christ	Koch,	Helene
Heinrich,	Margarete	Koch,	Jakob
Heller,	Gottlob	Koch,	Edmund
Heller,	Katherina	Koch,	Pauline

Koch, Elsa
 Koch, Martin
 Koch, Katherina
 Koch, Friedrich
 Koengeter (Köngeter), Georg
 Koengeter (Köngeter), Friedrike
 Koengeter (Köngeter), Clarence
 Koengeter (Köngeter), Esther
 Koengeter (Köngeter), Arthur
 Koengeter (Köngeter), Elsa
 Koengeter (Köngeter), Hilda
 Koengeter (Köngeter), Jakob
 Koengeter (Köngeter), Martha
 Koengeter (Köngeter), Edna
 Koengeter (Köngeter), Wilbert
 Koengeter (Köngeter), Elsa
 Lambarth, Amanda
 Loeffler (Löffler), .. Anna
 Loeffler (Löffler), .. Emanuel
 Loeffler (Löffler), .. Mathilde
 Loeffler (Löffler), .. Ruth
 Loeffler (Löffler), .. Roy
 Loeffler (Löffler), .. Friedrich
 Loeffler (Löffler), .. Louise
 Loeffler (Löffler), .. Herbert
 Loeffler (Löffler), .. Esther
 Loeffler (Löffler), .. Georg
 Loeffler (Löffler), .. Clara
 Loeffler (Löffler), .. Walter
 Loeffler (Löffler), .. Elsa
 Loeffler (Löffler), .. Johann, Georg
 Loeffler (Löffler), .. Magdalene
 Lutz, Karoline
 Maher, Ludwig
 Maher, Maria
 Maher, Arthur
 Maher, Ruben
 Meyer, Heinrich, Sr.
 Meyer, Katherina
 Meyer, Heinrich, Jr.
 Prinzing, Christ
 Prinzing, Agnes
 Prinzing, Georg
 Prinzing, Arthur

Prinzing, Ida
 Prinzing, Ruth
 Prinzing, Lina
 Prinzing, Lydia
 Prinzing, Friedrich
 Prinzing, Pauline
 Roller, Emanuel
 Roller, Barbara
 Roller, Walter
 Roller, Katherina
 Roller, Amanda
 Samp, Christine
 Samp, Auguste
 Samp, Friedrich
 Schallenmüller, Georg
 Schanz, Johann
 Schenk, Emanuel
 Schenk, Karoline
 Schenk, Herbert
 Schenk, Irma
 Schiller, Albert
 Schiller, Ida
 Schiller, Julius
 Schiller, Michael
 Schiller, Ella
 Schiller, Christine
 Schiller, Emanuel
 Schiller, Robert
 Schiller, Minna
 Schiller, Ernst
 Schiller, Delia
 Schiller, Elfrieda
 Schiller, Alfred
 Schiller, Clara
 Schneider, Albert
 Schneider, David
 Schneider, Magdalene
 Schneider, Ruben
 Schneider, Jakob
 Schneider, Louise
 Schneider, Alfred
 Schneider, Herbert
 Seitz, Adolph
 Seitz, Leila

Seitz, Emanuel
Sodt, Bernhard
Sodt, Maria
Thieme, Ernst
Thieme, Sibylla
Wacker, Emanuel
Wacker, Maria
Wacker, Arthur
Wacker, Norman
Wacker, Lorenz
Weber, Barbara
Weber, Friedrich
Weber, Pauline
Weber, Georg
Weber, Friedrich
Weber, Reinhold
Weber, Hermann
Weitz, Katherine (Käthe)
Wenk, Johann

Wenk, Lydia
Wenk, Martin
Wenk, Martha
Wenk, Elmer
Wenk, Erwin
Wenk, Rubina
Wenk, Edna
Wenk, Ernst
Zahn, Dorothea
Zahn, Bertha
Zahn, Friedrich
Zahn, Lydia
Zahn, Georg
Zahn, Katherina
Zahn, Rudolph
Zahn, Betha
Zahn, Johann
Zahn, Karl
Zahn, Wilhelm