

Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church

9195 B HWY

Bunceton, MO 65237

PHONE: (660) 838-6428

www.zlcloneelmmo.org

Rev. Paul C. Weisenborn, Pastor

9:00 a.m. Sunday School

9:00 a.m. Bible Class

10:00 Worship Service

Township:	T-47-N	Organized:	December 27, 1896
Range:	R-17-W	Disbanded:	No
Section:	24	Active:	Yes
Map:		Updated:	December 12, 2010

Cemetery: There is a cemetery associated with this church.

Area: Northeast quarter of the southwest quarter of the section.

Records: The location of the church records is unknown at the present time.

History:



Photograph Courtesy of H. Stone

Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church
From "Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church Cemetery Records"

On the 27th day of the month of December, 1896, a number of members of Trinity Lutheran Congregation at Clark's Fork, Missouri; living in the vicinity of Lone Elm, Missouri, held a meeting for the purpose of organizing a congregation. In this meeting a new congregation was organized for which the name Zion Evangelical Lutheran Congregation of Lone Elm, Missouri was chosen. At the same time a constitution was adopted. The first elders elected were Messrs. Henry Langkop and Frank Klekamp. Members of the Board of Trustees were Messrs. John Schmalfeldt and Hy. Smith.

In the first meeting, it was decided to build a church and parsonage near Lone Elm, Missouri. A tract of land consisting of five acres; just a little south of the Lone Elm Store was acquired from Mr. Wm. Twillman. A part of this land was laid out as the Zion Lutheran Cemetery. On the remainder of this land the congregation immediately began to erect a church and parsonage.

June 20, 1897, Zion Congregation called the Rev. H. Schaefer, until then, the pastor of the mother-congregation at Clark's Fork, as it's pastor and he became the first pastor of Lone Elm. July 22, 1897, the newly erected parsonage was dedicated. August 1, 1897, the corner stone for the new church was laid. The beautiful and well-built church, then one of the most beautiful churches in the country, was dedicated, April 17, 1898. Over 2000 persons attended the dedication services. The church was equipped with a pipe organ, beautiful stained glass windows, pretty altar, etc.

At the beginning, the services were conducted in German, the native language of many of the congregation. However, by the year 1919, gradually a change of language took place. Also, one finds many of the epitaphs and the data on the gravestones in the cemetery are in the native language of the deceased communicants. By the year 1947, the year of the 50th celebration, all services were conducted in English and the new hymnal with its order of service had been introduced. A new congregation had been organized in Bunceton, Missouri, nearby to which 25 of the Lone Elm communicants were released. Also, a large number of the members of their sister congregation in Boonville were once connected with the Lone Elm Congregation.

On February 9, 1948, the original church building was reduced to ashes by a fire of unknown origin. Immediately on the evening of February 10 sixty voting members assembled at the school building and voted to build a new house of worship, with the help of God. On January 15, 1950, the present church building was dedicated.

On the occasion of the 50th anniversary celebration of the church, the following communicant members since 1897 were present: Mrs. Ester Smith, Miss Emma Vieth, Mrs. Ella Twillman, Mrs. William Schleuter, Miss Sophie Hein, Mrs. Emma Fricke, Mrs. Laura Brandes, Mrs. Lucy Treiber, Mrs. Chris Broderson, John C Twillman, Hy C. Vieth, Mrs. Geo. Frieling, Mrs. Minnie Hein, Mrs. Albert Brandes, Mrs. Dora Fahrenbrink, Martin Smith, Henry Hein, Herman Fahrenbrink, Wm. Schleuter, John Roehrs, George Frieling, C.H. Toellner, others not present were: Mrs. R Martin, Mrs. J Pethan, Clarence Hosp, and Miss Emma Langkop.

During the first 50 years the following official acts were performed by the pastors: Baptisms – 439; confirmations – 436; marriages – 136; and burials – 211. At present (1976) there are 373 recorded graves in the cemetery.

Lone Elm Lutheran Church Has One of Largest Congregations in County
From "Memorabilia of Cooper County", 1990

The Question: "Is The Rural Church In Decay?" Is Answered With An Emphatic: "No" By This Institution Located On A Fertile Prairie South of Boonville; 1,000 Attended Recent Service.

Zion Lutheran Church at Lone Elm, has perhaps the largest and most faithful congregation of any denomination in Cooper county, outside of Boonville.

This congregation was branched off, 40 years ago, from Trinity Lutheran Church at Clark's Fork. On the last Sunday of the past year, the congregation celebrated its 40th anniversary. In that service over 40 of its charter members were present. Among these, was Julius Hosp, the oldest member of the congregation.

During its existence, Zion Lutheran Church has had but four pastors. The first pastor was the Rev. Henry Schaefer, who died recently at Providence, R.I. The present pastor, the Rev. Joseph W. Schoesch, has served now for 18 years, since May 1, 1919.

Two Languages Used

Forty years ago, when the congregation was founded, the German language exclusively was used in its services. Now almost all the work is being done in the language of our country. Every Sunday an English service is held. The Rev. Schoesch also preaches twice a month of German sermon.

The average church attendance at the Lone Elm Lutheran church is perhaps larger than at any other Protestant church in Cooper county. During 1936 the regular English services were attended by 12,305 and the German services by 1,857 worshippers, which makes an average of 272 per Sunday.

Crowds to Worship

On last Easter Sunday and the Sunday before, which was a confirmation service, fully 1,000 people attended the services.

The congregation owns a beautiful church property, which consists of a large modern church edifice, located on an elevation, so that it can be seen for miles from every direction. A spacious parsonage, a parochial school and a teacher's dwelling.

A well-kept cemetery is located immediately north of the church. The entire property was acquired already 40 years ago.

Almost all the people living within three miles in every direction from the church are connected with the congregation. At present over 300 communicant members belong to the congregation.

Several Societies

A number of organizations are active in various departments of church work. The Christian Day School is being taught since 1931. The school is accredited. The Sunday School has an enrollment of 90, which includes the Junior Bible Class, taught by Prof. Paul Mueller. Walter Toelner is superintendent of the Sunday School. A Senior Bible class is being taught by the pastor.

There are two young people's societies: the Senior Walther League, Earl Huecker, president; the Junior Walther League, Eldred Brandes, president, Mrs. Martin Smith is president of the Ladies Aid Society, and the Lone Elm chapter of the Lutheran Aid Society is headed by Arthur Hein.

The Officers

Officers of the congregation are: George Smith, president; William Toelner, secretary; Her. Siedenburg, treasurer; Ed. Kahle, M. Smith, and H. Siedenburg, deacons; Alb. Brandes and Walter Nauman, board of trustees; Ad. Schnack and Walter Brandes, board of Education.

A weekly bulletin, edited by the pastor, is distributed every Sunday at the church door.

The Lone Elm Lutheran Church has during all the years of its existence, made its wholesome moral influence felt on the entire Lone Elm Prairie. The well-kept homes and farms make it one of the

garden spots of Cooper county.

Mrs. H.J. Timm (Lone Elm Correspondent)

**Zion Lutheran Church Has Been Serving for Half a Century
From "Memorabilia of Cooper County", 1990**

On a beautiful, clear day, June 15 of this year, members of the Zion Lutheran Church at Lone Elm celebrated the golden anniversary of the congregation. Friends, relatives and members, former pastors and teachers came from adjoining counties and states to take part in the celebration and renew old friendships.

The forenoon service began at 10:30 o'clock with the Rev. John Mueller of Addison, Ill., officiating. Mr. Mueller was pastor of Zion Lutheran Church from 1910 to 1918.

At noon a dinner was served to the 500 persons present in the newly-renovated church basement. It was served in cafeteria style from two long tables which were decorated with vases of white and yellow flowers.

The afternoon services began at 2:30 o'clock with the Rev. W.W. Soeldner, pastor of Immanuel Lutheran Church, Boonville, in charge.

The Rev. F.A. Baepler of the Clark's Fork Lutheran Church presided at the organ during both the morning and afternoon rites. Special vocal selections were given by the church choir. Baskets of flowers decorated the church.

Church Organized in 1886

It was in the fall of 1896 that the people living in the Lone Elm community began talking of forming a church there. They were at that time members of the congregation at Clark's Fork, but desired a church closer to their home. On Dec. 27, 1896 a meeting was held to discuss the organization of another congregation.

The meeting was opened by the Rev. Henry Schaefer, pastor of the Clark's Fork church, with a prayer. At the meeting the Zion Lutheran Church was organized and Henry Langkop and Frank Kiekamp were elected elders. Members of the first board of trustees included John Schmalfeldt and Henry Smith.

Five charter members of the church still are living. They are John Roehrs, George Frieling, William Schlueter, C.H. Toellner, and Henry Fahrenbrink. Mr. Roehrs, now 89 years old, is the oldest member.

At the meeting it was decided to build a church and parsonage at Lone Elm and five acres of land just south of the Lone Elm store were purchased from William Twillman at \$60 per acre. Part of the plot was laid out for a church cemetery. On the remainder the church and parsonage were erected.

The congregation called the Rev. Mr. Schaefer as pastor on June 20, 1897. On July 22 of the same year the newly erected parsonage was dedicated and on Aug. 1 the cornerstone of the new church was laid. The church was dedicated April 17, 1898.

Pastors Are Named

Mr. Schaefer served the congregation for almost 13 years. Mr. Mueller, then of Lohman, Mo., was his successor. The Rev. William Zschoche was the next pastor, but he fell a victim of influenza and served the congregation only a few months. On May 4, 1919, the Rev. J.W. Schoesch became pastor and has remained at the post until the present. During his pastorate a basement was dug

under the church, a Sunday School was opened, and a Walther League organized.

Recently the entire church has been renovated. During the past two years about \$2500 has been spent on improvements.

The congregation now includes 299 baptized members, 250 communicant members and 85 voters. The congregation is not as large as it was 10 years ago when it had 319 communicants.

Many young people, however, have left the community to go to work in metropolitan areas. Several years ago a new congregation was organized in Bunceton and about 25 communicants were released to this church. A large per cent of the members of the Immanuel Lutheran Church at Boonville once were connected with the Lone Elm congregation.

The present officers of the church are: Elders, Richard Lenz, Walter Wieland, and Lawrence Toellner; board of trustees, William Niebruegge and Herman Schlueter; board of education, Hugo Huecker and Carl Hein; chairman, George Smith; treasurer of synod's budget, William Kahle; secretary, Walter Toellner.

The first child to be baptized in the new church was William Toellner. On March 11, 1897 the first wedding took place when Miss Anna Marie Johnmeyer became the bride of Reinhold Weber, Mrs. Weber, who lives at Creighton, Mo., was present at the golden jubilee program. Mr. Weber died several years ago.

The first funeral held at the church was that of Mrs. Julius Hosp and 12 days later rites were conducted for Mrs. Martin Hoerl.

The first class of catechumens included Clarence Hosp, William Twillman, Harman Toellner, Emma Bosua, Jenny Robin and Marie Hagemeir.

A Christian Day School always was an important factor in the religious training of the young people of the congregation, so a schoolhouse was built along with the church. For 47 years classes were taught here and a class of catechumens was instructed there almost every year. Last year, however, the school was closed because no teacher was available. But Mr. Koenig of Perry County has been employed to teach during the 1947-48 term.

In 1933 a Sunday School was opened for the children. Earl Huecker is president of the Sunday School. Teachers include Miss Gertrude Schoesch, Miss Lois Schoesch, Miss Edna Smith, Mrs. J.W. Schoesch, Miss Marjorie Vieth and Mrs. Lawrence Toellner.

A Ladies Aid Society was organized in 1913 and now has 65 members. The first meeting of this group was held at the home of Mrs. William Schlueter. Other charter members include Mrs. C. H. Toellner, Mrs. Emma Toellner and Mrs. Anna Fricke. The present officers of the organization are Mrs. J.J. Fahrenbrink, president; Mrs. Herman Kahle, vice-president; Mrs. Adolph Schnack, treasurer; and Mrs. J.W. Schoesch, secretary.

Young People Organize

A young people's society, which belongs to the Walther League, was organized in 1921. Officers of this group are Eldon Lenz, president; Leon Kahle, vice-president; Leola Pethan, secretary; and Vera Siedenburg, treasurer.

Today the congregation has in its midst two couples who have celebrated their golden wedding anniversaries. They are Mr. and Mrs. William Schlueter, who have been married for 59 years and Mr. and Mrs. George Frieling, who have been married for 56 years.

The committee which arranged for the golden jubilee celebration included Albert Brandes,

Lawrence Toellner, Walter Wieland, Adolph Schnack, George Smith, Albert Klekamp, Adolph Kahle, Richard Lenz, and Earl Huecker.

by Mrs. Raymond Smith

Zion Lutheran Church
From "Cooper County Church Sketches" by F. Chesnutt, 1993

The Zion Lutheran Church at Lone Elm began in a building still in use as a school on Highway B in Cooper County. In 1896, the Trinity Lutheran Church at Clark's Fork had released 25 members to form a congregation nearer their homes. The four mile trip was difficult on the bad roads of the time.

Dr. Kelly sold the Lutherans two acres with a house to be used for the Pastor, Rev. Henry Schaefer. A few miles to the West the old Concord Christian Church had closed so the industrious group salvaged it and rebuilt it on their land. It became their schoolhouse and temporary church.

It is said that 100 students began classes the first day under tutorship of C.F.G. Duesenberg! With older students helping younger ones, grades 1-8 were taught in the German language. The Zion Lutheran School has continued to this day with extra classrooms and teachers.

The state charter was issued March 3, 1897, to the "Zion Church of the German Evangelical Lutheran Congregation at Lone Elm." The same year five more acres were purchased from William Twillman south of the Lone Elm store for a new church, parsonage and cemetery.

The Bunceton Eagle described the new church as being very impressive; frame construction in American Gothic style, a bell tower 80' high including a 6' cross on top, gabled ends, stained glass throughout, an organ loft reached by a spiral staircase to a balcony which seated 80 people. The organ contained 600 pipes, 19 of which were decorated. Lighting was provided by a chandelier of twelve oil lamps raised and lowered by a pulley. 2000 worshippers attended the dedication.

In the beginning, services and instruction were all performed in German. However, as succeeding generations grew up an English service was added. As growth continued the Bunceton Lutherans separated to meet in the Princess Theatre building and form the Grace Lutheran congregation.

On February 8, 1948, the Zion Church was completely destroyed by fire and with it a treasury of wood carvings and sculpture. Within two years, however, the present brick and limestone structure was completed at the same location, a Lone Elm landmark.

Lone Elm Prairie was named for a tree which once stood southwest of the village on the Oglesby farm. Trees were a rarity on Cooper County prairie land as the tough grasses resisted the growth of trees.