

<sup>Present</sup> History of Zion Evangelical Church.  
Dedicated July 13, 1924

(In the fall of the year 1888 an Evangelical congregation was organized by Rev. Ed Schweizer and was called, Zion Evangelical Church of Marion, Williamson County, Illinois.

(Of the twenty charter members six are still with us.) J. B. Heyde, John Kaeser, E. F. Lang, William Vogt, H. D. Weber and Henry Wickers. The following pastors have served the congregation since its organization.

Rev. Ed Schweizer, from 1888 to 1891  
Rev. A. Bockstruck from 1892 to 1894  
Rev. Herman Krull from 1894 to 1897  
Rev. G. Press from 1897 to 1900  
Rev. C. E. Miche from 1900 to 1905  
Rev. A. Bender from 1905 to 1906  
Rev. Aug. Jennrich from 1906 to 1911  
Rev. F. Maurer from 1911 to 1913  
Rev. C. A. Mysch from 1913 to 1920  
Rev. E. W. Rudu since Oct. 1, 1920.

Records show a slow but healthy development. The first ten years were trying ones. After the erection (in the year 1898) of a parsonage where the pastors could find a home, the development was more rapid. The same year during the pastorate of the Rev. B. Press, the Ladies Aid Society was organized. Under the efficient leadership of its first and subsequent officers this society has rendered valuable services to the congregation and to day the society looks back with gratitude toward ~~the~~ God upon 25 years of blessed work for the savior. In the course of time other societies were organized. The Martha Circle" during the pastorate of the Rev. C. H. Mysch, and The Mixed Choir, about four years ago, the later was reorganized into an "Evangelical League" and speedily became the largest society of the church, numbering 71 members to day.

The growing church membership and Sunday school made the erection of a new and modern church an absolute necessity.

For this purpose a building fund had been started during the pastorate of the Rev. C. A. Mysch. In the year 1923 the congregation came to the unanimous decision to build a new church and today just a year later, the congregation is grateful to God who has prospered the work.

The church has been erected and furnished at a cost of 32,000.00. The task of the building committee who so faithfully labored toward the successful completion of the church is done and the congregation gratefully acknowledges their efforts as well as those of the valuable contractor, Mr Robert Sparks. The Evangelical church, St. Paul's near Johnson City, has during all these years helped faithfully in this work and deserves to be commended for its share in the work.

The church register shows 470 baptisms, 270 confirmations; 102 marriages and 134 deaths as well as 4,200 communicants.

Thirty five years ago the lot occupied by this church was a corner of Charles H. Denison's pasture. Today there stands upon it a brick structure which is a monument to steadfast Christian purposes, and a credit to the city of Marion. The new Evangelical church which is being dedicated to day, is a substantial brick structure, large enough to care for its congregation for some time to come. The building proper is 44 by 60 ft. in size and to the top of the tower 60 ft.

The new pipe organ, a Wicks made at Highland Ill was placed through John B. Heyde & Son at a cost of \$1800.

all parties concerned having cut off all profit and put it in as near cost as possible. Miss Katherine Kaeser is the organist, and our pastor, Rev. F.W.

Budy, is also an accomplished musician. Everything is substantial and built to last, Robert Sparks was the contractor, and he deserves the greatest credit

for the care and splendid workman-  
put into the building. It will be a  
standing advertisement of his good  
workmanship.

For many years the congregation  
worshipped in the old frame structure, and  
its walls have seen many stories of  
conversion, of baptisms, weddings and  
the final rites for members whose  
work had been finished. Today the  
following charter members still remain  
and have the happiness of worshipping  
in the new building: Henry Wickert,  
H. D. Weber, Wm Voigt, John Kacser,  
John B Heyde, Earnest F. Lang.

The Evangelical Synod of North  
America, of which this church is and  
has been a member since its organization  
was founded on the 15<sup>th</sup> day of October  
1840, in Gravois Settlement, now a part  
of the City of St. Louis, Mo, where the  
Synod still has its head quarters

To-day this denomination comprises  
1400 congregations served by 1200

following:

Chairman John J. Wohlwend  
First vice. Pres. W. P. Reuter  
Sec. " " Dr. H. L. Wohlwend  
Secretary Geo. Soldner.  
Treasurer. F. J. Kaeser

Milke Scharfale

Superintendent of Construction

John J. Wohlwend

Treasurer of Pipe organ fund

Miss Elizabeth Feurer.

In addition to building the fine new church the parsonage has been repaired, re papered and repainted, and put in first class shape for the pastor and Family.

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