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The digitally scanned

Zion Lutheran Church of Niagara Falls

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The collection was assembled and digitally scanned by student assistants in the Monroe Fordham Regional History Center – Chris Root, Lynn Lombardo, and Chris Morgan. The supervision of this project was by Dr. Jean Richardson, Associate Professor, History and Social Studies Education Department.
One of the most beautiful and imposing houses of worship in Niagara Falls is the Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church on Michigan Avenue at 10th Street. This church is not only one of the largest and most prolific in the city of the thundering Falls of Niagara but also one of the oldest. The congregation celebrated its golden jubilee in 1907.

The founder of the congregation was Pastor Johannes Althaus, who came to Niagara Falls in 1854 and held German services every second Sunday in the public schoolhouse at the corner of what is now 11th Street and Ontario Avenue. In 1856 the first steps to establish a church were taken and in the same year the building of the church began. One of the members, Mr. Christian Fink, undertook to build the church for $999.99. One man donated the lumber and another the stone. Full of courage and trust in God all members helped and in the autumn the little church was completed. All knew it was a primitive structure but the congregation was happy with their ownership of a house of worship.¹

As the congregation grew it became necessary to build a larger church. The church property at Michigan and 10th Street includes several community rooms, a gym and church offices as well as the massive church which is decorated with intricate hand carvings. Membership at Zion Lutheran had dwindled to about 150 members from over 1,000 when the church was thriving in the 1950s. Zion Lutheran has also absorbed the former Bethany Lutheran Church located on Hyde Park and members from the First Presbyterian Church in Lewiston.

The Monroe Fordham Regional History Center maintains a collection of the ledgers and, and registers of Zion Lutheran Church. The records were scanned into digital format with the work of MFRHC and are available for the public’s use.

Zion Lutheran Church of Niagara Falls

Congregation Record 1857-1874

- Transfers (pages 1-130)
- Confirmation (131-171)
- Communion (172-199)
- Marriages (211-245)
- Deaths (246-266)

Congregation Record 1875-1931

- Transfers (pages 1-300)
- Confirmation / Baptism (300-400)
- Communion (400-600)
- Marriages (600-700)
- Deaths (700-864)

Congregation Activity Record 1953-1999

- Baptisms 1953-1999
- Confirmations 1954-1999
- Council Members 1956-1963
- Funerals 1953-1999
- Marriages 1953-1999
- Pastors 1954-2001

Parish Register 1931-1955

- Members (pages 41-120)
- Communions (153-214)
- Baptisms (250-303)
- Confirmations (320-334)
- Marriages (357-388)
- Funerals (389-411)
- Summaries (blank)
- Historical Events (428)

Parish Register 1955-1999

Parish Register 2000-
Meeting Minutes in German 1899

German Record Book 1909

Martha Society Minutes 1915-1936

Ladies Aid Membership 1912-1913; 1927-1928