

ZSJ HISTORY 1966-1975

Pastor Loken finished his call at ZSJ in 1972 and was followed by Pastor Gordon Carls. As a member of the American Lutheran Church (ALC), ZSJ became active in mission appeals and many other outreach programs. Sunday morning services were taped and brought to shut-ins and there was a Dial-a-prayer phone line for those needing to hear a word of comfort. Confirmation classes met on Saturdays for 8-9th grade students. The Meal in the Upper Room and Shrove Tuesday traditions started. 1973 brought the discovery of the Christ Statue in the storage shed at the St John property east of town. It was to have been buried in the cemetery when the churches merged, but was forgotten. A committee was formed to tackle the restoration of the statue, which now stands in the narthex to greet all who enter the sanctuary. The SS choir was started by Mrs. Carls. When the children sang for worship they wore white robes with black ties. SS teachers prepared their own lessons in five-week cycles and VBS became part of the summer curriculum. In 1974, nine pairs of stained-glass windows were added to the sanctuary, depicting the life of Jesus. Six additional smaller stained-glass windows were added to the narthex entry area. These windows reflect the life of the church and our worship of God. In 1975 the church celebrated the centennial with the writing and performing of an historical pageant that was performed in the park bandshell. Over 125 people participated in the play written by Mrs. Melvin Ammerman and Betty Heginger. The theme was "A Century of Grace."



Other notable historical events were:

1966 – Indira Gandhi elected prime minister of India; troop numbers increase in Vietnam and war protests become common; Soviet space probe crashes on Venus, becoming first craft to land on another planet; Beatles are the most popular singing group; *Sound of Music* wins Best Picture; 1st artificial heart is implanted; F5 tornado nearly destroys Topeka KS; Supreme Court rules that police must inform people of their rights, we now call Miranda Rights.

1967 – Nazi war crime trials continue; Apollo 1 astronauts are killed in a launch pad fire; 1st 737 flight; Muhammad Ali refuses to enter the military draft; Elvis Presley marries; 6 Day war between Israel, Egypt and Syria begins and ends; Thurgood Marshall becomes the 1st African American Supreme Court Justice; John McCain is shot down over North Vietnam and held as POW for 5 years; The Queen Elizabeth II is launched.

1968 – The Tet offensive begins in Vietnam; Civil Rights protests become very common; MLK Jr (April) and Robert F Kennedy (June) are assassinated;

Hot Wheels are the most popular toy; Saddam Hussein becomes part of the Iraqi government; Intel is founded in Silicon Valley; 1st Special Olympics are held in Chicago; Franklin County Historical Society is founded.

1969 – 1st Concorde Jet flies from France; Golda Meir becomes 1st woman to be Israeli prime minister; John Lennon marries Yoko Ono; UCLA wins 3rd consecutive NCAA Basketball championship; Eisenhower dies; Neil Armstrong becomes 1st person to walk on the moon; Manson family murder rampage occurs; Woodstock music festival draws 400,000 young people; Sesame Street premiers.

1970 – Beatles disband; Apollo 13 lands safely after an onboard explosion; Kent State students are killed during war protests; Aswan Dam in Egypt is completed; guitarist Jimi Hendrix dies from drug overdose; withdrawal of troops from Vietnam begins; OSHA is created by federal law; Duane and Floppy Show continue to entertain Iowa children.

1971 – *All in the Family* debuts; NASDAQ becomes part of NY stock exchange; Evel Knievel sets one of many world records jumping over things with his motorcycle; *Stairway to Heaven* is the most popular song; Starbucks opens in Washington state; Amtrak begins service; Voting age is lowered to 18 with passage of 26th amendment; Disney World opens; Greenpeace is founded; Longest NFL game is played, lasting 82 minutes and 40 seconds of playing time.

1972 – President Nixon visits China; Watergate scandal begins with the arrest of 5 White House operatives; unrest erupts in Northern Ireland; Bobby Fischer becomes 1st US world chess champion; 9 Israeli Olympic athletes are murdered in Munich; DNA molecule is discovered; 115,000 Iowans serve in Vietnam War, with 869 deaths.

1973 – *The Godfather* wins Best Picture; 1st mobile phone is used in NYC; Sears Tower in Chicago becomes the tallest US building; Skylab is the 1st space station; Billie Jean King defeats Bobby Riggs in the Battle of the Sexes tennis match; Spiro Agnew resigns as US VP and Gerald Ford is confirmed by congress to replace him.

1974 – Richard Nixon, along with other world leaders, Brandt (Germany) and Meir (Israel) resign; Rumbel in the Jungle fight between Ali and Foreman happens in Zaire; ABBA debuts; Henry Aaron breaks Babe Ruth's record with 715 homeruns; violence continues in Northern Ireland; Rubik's Cube is invented.

1975 – American troops withdraw from Vietnam after the fall of Saigon; Margaret Thatcher is elected the 1st woman prime minister of Britain; Bill Gates founds Microsoft; NASA launches the Mars probe, Viking; 2 attempts to assassinate President Ford are thwarted; HBO is 1st pay-per-view TV network; Edmund Fitzgerald sinks in Lake Superior.