

ZSJ HISTORY 1956-1965

After the 80th anniversary celebration in 1955, ZSJ called Pastor Henry Dieter. When he arrived in 1957, the church basement was no longer enough space for the Sunday School classes. The congregation voted to add the two story education wing, for a cost of \$40,000, which was completed and dedicated in 1959. Pastor Dieter and his wife started the first candlelight service with the adult choir singing. Mrs. Dieter also started the Carol Choir, for children in grades 4-6. The women of the church created the white robes and black ties they wore on the Sundays they would sing. He also had the privilege of ordaining his son Allan into the ministry in August 1960.



In 1963, Pastor Palmer Loken (wife Anna and children, among who was Judy Loken Siems) was called to ZSJ. During his 9 years, ZSJ participated in many cooperative ministries with other church denominations. Dress codes were no longer enforced, ladies did not wear hats and men might not wear a suit. Sunday sermons were more focused on preaching about the love and grace of God and forgiveness through Jesus Christ our Savior.

Other notable historical events were:

1956– Elvis Presley appears on the music charts with “*Heartbreak Hotel*”; Pakistan becomes the 1st Islamic republic; actress Grace Kelley marries the Prince of Monaco; The Methodist church grants women full ordination status; President Eisenhower signs legislation creating the Interstate Highway system; NY Yankee Don Larsen throws the only perfect game in the World Series.; segregated bussing is declared unconstitutional.

1957-The Suez Canal reopens after a year; 15 year old Paul McCartney meets John Lennon; Mackinac Bridge, world’s longest suspension bridge, opens, connecting the upper and lower peninsulas of MI; Russian Sputnik program sends a dog into space.

1958-American Van Cliburn wins the famed Tchaikovsky piano competition; NASA is created; USS Nautilus crosses the North Pole underwater; Pope Pius XII becomes the 261st pope; Jim Henson founds the Muppets.

1959-Buddy Holly, Ritchie Valens and the Big Bopper die in a plane crash near Clear Lake Iowa; Fidel Castro becomes dictator of Cuba; Alaska and Hawaii become the 49th and 50th states; 1st battle in Vietnam occurs; the movie *Ben Hur*, wins 12 Academy Awards; the 1st human HIV death happens in the Congo.

1960– Greensboro NC Woolworth’s sit-in by 4 black college students; 1st US weather satellite launched; Civil Rights Act of 1960 is signed into law; Russians shoot down US spy plane and capture pilot Francis Powers; JFK is elected president; Muhammad Ali wins a gold medal; Russian president Khrushchev pounds his shoe on a desk during a meeting at the UN; world population tops 3 billion.

1961-Bay of Pigs invasion in Cuba is defeated; Beatles perform as a group for the first time in Liverpool; Washington DC residents are granted the right to vote in presidential election with the passage of the 23rd Amendment; Gary Player becomes the 1st non-American to win the Master’s golf tournament; Allan Shepherd becomes the first American in space.

1962-John Glenn orbits the earth; Jackie Kennedy gives a televised tour of the White House; Spider Man is introduced by Marvel Comics; Marilyn Monroe dies from an overdose at the age of 36; Cuban Missile Crisis ends with the removal of Soviet missiles from Cuba.

1963-Vietnam War continues; MLK Jr. writes the *Letters from a Birmingham Jail* and gives his famous *I Have a Dream* speech on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial; JFK delivers the *I ama Berliner* speech in West Berlin; 16th St Baptist Church in Birmingham is bombed; JFK is assassinated in Dallas; Eugene Sukup patents the Stirway Stirring Machine.

1964-the US government issues a hazardous warning about smoking; Beatles perform for the first time in the US on the Ed Sullivan Show; Muhammad Ali wins the HW championship; Great Alaskan earthquake, the 2nd most powerful ever recorded at 9.2, strikes Anchorage; Vietnam War demonstrations break out all over the US; Nelson Mandela is imprisoned in South Africa; Walt Disney premieres *Mary Poppins*; MLK Jr receives the Nobel Peace Prize.

1965-Winston Churchill dies; Malcolm X is killed; Catholic Church authorizes the saying of mass in local languages instead of Latin; 1st US ground troops are sent to Vietnam; MLK leads the 4 day march from Selma to Montgomery AL; *Charlie Brown Christmas* debuts on CBS.