

ZSJ HISTORY 1986-1995

Beginning January 1, 1988, The American Lutheran Church, which Zion St John was a part, merged with the Lutheran Church in America and The Association of Evangelical Lutheran Churches, to become the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA). We became part of the Northeastern Iowa Synod. Pastor Thiele left in August 1990. Interim Pastor Perry Brown served until Pastor David Moore accepted a call to serve in April 1991. He served ZSJ for almost 3 years until Pastor Kent Mechler and his family came to Sheffield in April 1995. The youth program continued to be very active and was still called Luther League. They held many fundraising events and activities and donated funds to many different organizations. Easter breakfast became a very important part of our youth giving back to the church. Zion St John began outreach to various Mission building churches missionaries as part of the ELCA. These connections were in the US and across the world!



Other notable historical events were:

1986- the farm crisis reaches its peak resulting in 62 bank closures and 100's of farm foreclosures; The space shuttle Challenger explodes 73 seconds after liftoff, killing all 7 astronauts on board; Out of Africa is Best Picture; a mishandled safety test @ the Chernobyl Nuclear Plant leaded radiation killing over 4000 and contaminating land that is still un-inhabital; Desmond Tutu becomes 1st Anglican Church Bishop; 1st 3-D printer is sold; Women serve for the first time as Supreme Court justice and lieutenant governor of Iowa.

1987- Iran-Contra affair comes to light; AZT is approved for treatment of HIV/AIDS; President Reagan challenges Mikhail Gorbachev to tear down the Berlin Wall; Dow Jones close over 2,500 for the 1st time; 1st KFC opens in China.

1988- the 1st well-known computer virus, the Worm is unleashed; Saddam Hussein orders the killing of nearly 250,000Kurds; 1st McDonald's opens behind the Iron Curtain; 1st transatlantic fiberoptic cables are laid; Pan-American flight 103 is blown up by Libyan terrorists over Scotland; the Franklin County jail closes after 108 years.

1989- The Berlin Wall falls; savings and loan crisis comes to a head when Charles Keating goes to jail-Americans lost \$200,000,000 in the government bailout; Colin Powell becomes the 1st Black Chair of the Joint Chiefs of Staff; Tiananmen Square (China) protests begin and end with deaths of over 2000 protesters; Seinfeld premiers on NBC; 405 die in 1st Palestinian suicide attack in Israel; United Flight 232 crashes in Sioux City with 112 dead, but miraculously, 184 survive.

1990- English Channel tunnel is completed; World-wide Web work begins; Nelson Mandela released from South African prison after 27 years; Exxon Valdez spills 1000s of gallons of oil in Alaskan waters; Hubble telescope is launched by the space shuttle; American Disabilities Act, written by Iowa Senator Tom Harkin, is signed into law; Iraq invades Kuwait; Germany reunites.

1991- Gulf War begins with Operation Desert Storm, the first televised war and lasts 6 weeks; Rodney King is beaten by LA police officers; Tropical cyclone kills 138,000 in Bangladesh; Apartheid ends in South Africa; Soviet Union countries dissolve their associations and form new countries, including Russia.

1992- Bill Clinton is elected president; the Cold War officially ends; NAFTA is signed; cartoon network is launched; Church of England approves women to serve as priests.

1993- the World Trade Center is bombed for the 1st time, killing 6 and injuring 1,000; Janet Reno becomes the 1st woman Attorney General of the US; epic rains create devastating flooding in the Missouri and Mississippi River valleys; This flooding is televised daily and results in Des Moines is without water for 11 days and considerable damage to the Hilton Coliseum floor at ISU; drug lord Pablo Escobar is killed by Mexican police.

1994- Rwandan genocide results in the murder of 1 million Tutsi people; Nelson Mandela is elected president of South Africa; low speed chase results in the arrest of OJ Simpson for murder; George Foreman becomes the oldest HW champion; the Sony PlayStation is released.

1995- OJ Simpson trial is televised, he is eventually found not guilty of murder; Oklahoma City bombing results in the deaths of 168, including 19 children in the 1st floor daycare at the Alfred Murray Federal Building; Salt Lake City hosts the winter Olympics; Toy Story is released and becomes the 1st feature length film entirely created with computer animation; Jodi Huisentruit, TV news anchor, disappears in Mason City.