

A Brief History of Zion Lutheran Church

- 1849 German families moved into Southington.
- 1867 December 4 – Organized as German Evangelical Lutheran Church of Plantsville & Southington. Services were every other Sunday in German.
- 1871 Built a one room Chapel with 30 movable pews. Each member was required to pay \$6 dues.
- 1889 In Southington Lutheran Church there was a congregational vote to ask for the resignation of the pastor. There was a split in the congregation and “The German Lutheran Evangelical Zion Society” was formed.
- 1894 A parcel of land was purchased on Bristol Street.
- 1895 A new church was dedicated. Three stain glass windows were given in memory of Krampitz, Pekrul, and Tiede families.
- 1960 Purchased the land on Woodruff and Pleasant Streets.
- 1963 Ground was broken for the new church. \$100,000 cost of building.
- 1964 New building was dedicated.
- 1967 Start of Zion Nursery School.
- 1969 Began making Apple Fritters for Apple Harvest Festival.
- 1976 Formed Association of Evangelical Lutheran Churches (200 congregations, 100,000 members)
- 1982 Formal covenant between First Lutheran, St. Paul’s, and Zion.

- 1988 Pastor Burce called as pastor.
Formation of Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.
Paid off mortgage one year ahead of schedule.
- 1994 Pastor Burce leaves for another call.
- 1995 Pastor Debner comes to Zion.
\$88,000 budget.
300 baptized members, 280 confirmed.
- 1996 Zion votes to build a 3800 square foot addition.
- 1997 The "Gathering Place" is dedicated.
The Stained Glass Committee begins.
- 1999 The new altar is dedicated on Easter Sunday.
- 2003 Zion acquires the education trailer.
- 2004 40 Days of Purpose campaign is held.
Congregation reaches over 700 baptized members and 500 confirmed.
Budget reaches over \$200,000.
- 2005 Zion begins a sanctuary expansion project, increasing the seating capacity for worship services. Concurrently, new window frames are installed to be used in the Stained Glass Committee's window project.