



*Altar in Springtime*



*Christmas at Historic Zion*



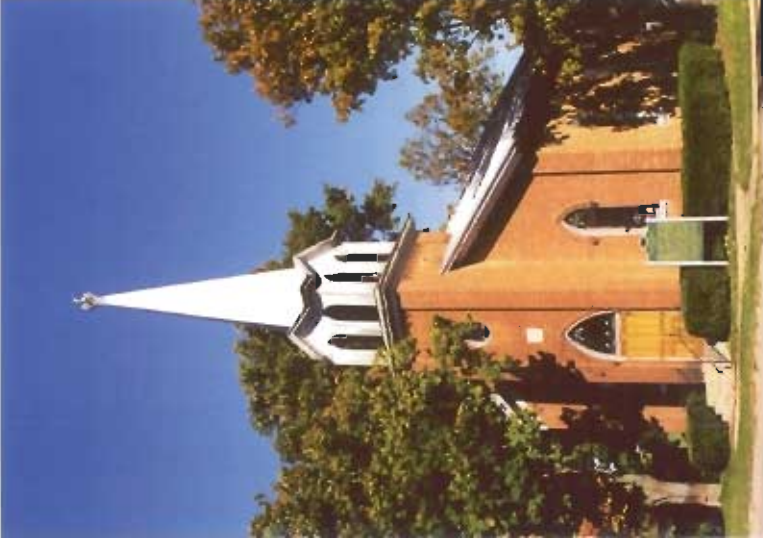
*Balcony*



*Art Glass Windows*



*Historic Zion Lutheran Church*  
3050 S. Fletcher Road  
Chelsea, MI 48118  
734-475-8064



*Start Your History  
In A Church Rich  
With Its Own*

*Historic Zion Lutheran Church  
Available For Weddings*

*20 Minutes West of Ann Arbor*

*3050 S. Fletcher Road  
Freedom Township  
Chelsea, MI 48118*

## Origin of Historic Zion

Zion Lutheran Church began as one of several German mission congregations in southwestern Washtenaw County. In 1842, Pastor Frederick Schmid formed St. Thomas Lutheran Church in Freedom Township. He rode horseback over the wilderness, visiting each congregation every six weeks. A portion of the St. Thomas congregation split in 1865 to form a western half of the congregation because of inconvenient worship times.

In December 1867, Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church dedicated its new church building on the corner of South Fletcher and Waters roads.

In 1909, an addition was made to provide room for the altar, the sacristy, and the organ. Art glass windows, a new altar, and new pulpit were also added.

## Triumph Over Adversity

Zion prepared to celebrate its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary on July 1, 1917. As a special thank offering, a pipe organ from Germany was purchased. On June 6<sup>th</sup>—just as the organ was being unpacked—a tornado passed through Freedom Township, partially destroying the church, parsonage, and schoolhouse—but sparing the new organ. The homes of several church members were completely destroyed.

The congregation met after the catastrophe and decided to rebuild the damaged buildings as soon as possible. Restoration was completed after several months of intense labor and, on September 16, 1917, the rebuilt church was rededicated and Zion celebrated its golden anniversary.



*Zion Lutheran in 1917*

## Historic Zion Weddings

The use of Historic Zion's pastor and organist is optional. Historic Zion's pastor must approve a visiting clergy person.

Facilities are available across the street at the new Zion Lutheran for the wedding party to dress. Access is limited to two classrooms and the restroom.

Contact Zion Lutheran Church with any questions regarding availability and to arrange a tour of the church with the Event Coordinator.

Church Phone: 734-475-8064

Church Fax: 734-475-8409

Email: [zionchelsea@yahoo.com](mailto:zionchelsea@yahoo.com)

Historic Zion served the congregation until 1974, when a new church building was dedicated. The congregation still uses Historic Zion for special occasions such as the Old Fashioned Christmas services and one Sunday a month in summertime. The public is always welcome at these functions.

## Michigan Landmark and Restoration

In 1974, a new building to accommodate the growing congregation was dedicated across the road from Historic Zion. In 1979, Historic Zion was entered in the Michigan State Register of Historic Places.

By 1992, when Zion celebrated its 125<sup>th</sup> birthday, members of the congregation had begun the first phase of a campaign to restore Historic Zion to its former glory. This restoration is not funded by the church but requires a separate source of revenue, such as bequests from Zion members or community members who remember Historic Zion in their wills, and occasional donations from historic board members and the community.

To further advance the restoration of Historic Zion, the preservation board has opened the building to community events such as weddings, music recitals, and similarly suitable events. Clients of Historic Zion take pride in knowing their event fees contribute to the ongoing upkeep and restoration of this venerable and beautiful Michigan landmark.