Mt. Zion Lutheran Church
3055 Fairview Rd
Woodstock, VA 22664

A brief History
of Mt. Zion Lutheran Church, Woodstock
Fairview Section, Shenandoah County, Virginia

A deed written in 1829 has been found in a deed book at the Shenandoah County Court House stating that Abraham Smutz and family sold a parcel of land to a group of trustees for $1.00. The deed stated that a house on the property was to be used as a school house and meeting house with liberty for ministers of any and every church or denomination of people to hold services. The building was used by the Christian, Brethren, Mennonite, Lutheran and other religious groups and was located on the present Mt. Zion Lutheran Church parking lot. A group of Lutherans living in the Alonzaville and Jadwyn areas who had previously been attending Emanuel Lutheran Church in Woodstock, Virginia, began holding services in this building. The date when these Lutherans began using this building is not certain, but it is believed to have been as early as 1870. There are several church members buried in the

present church cemetery as early as 1882, which was approximately the time that Mt. Zion Lutheran was being organized.
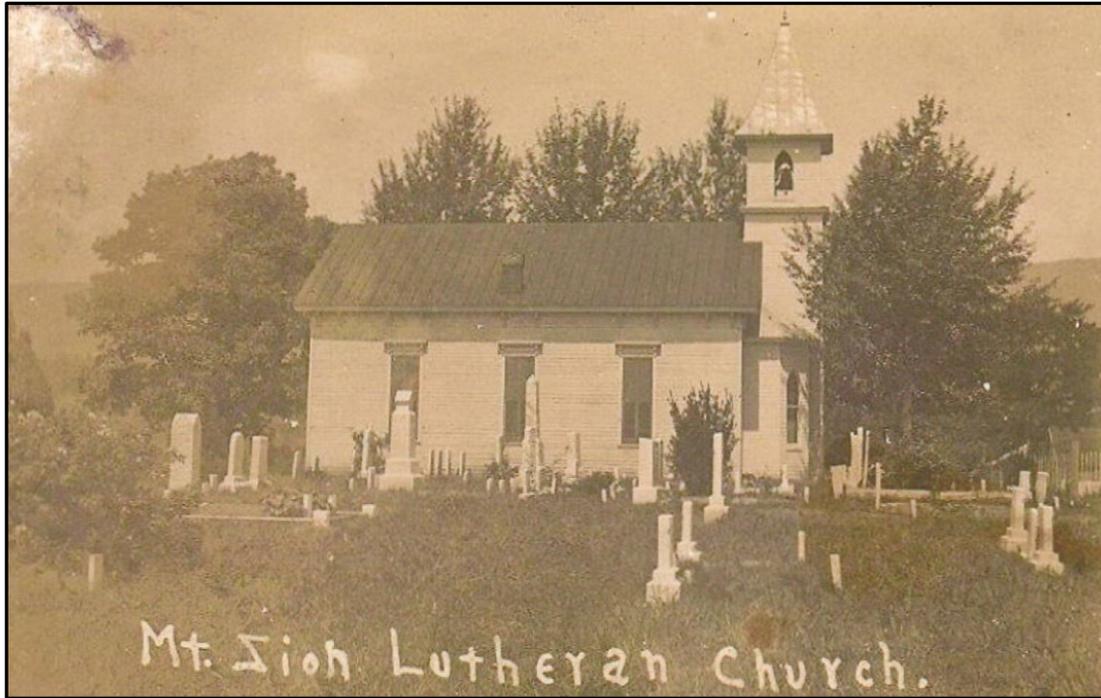
The original building was destroyed in a fire. In 1884, Mt. Zion Lutheran Church was officially organized as a congregation of the Virginia Synod. According to a deed at the Shenandoah County Court House, ten thousand square feet of land were purchased for fifty dollars from Eli and Sophia Coffelt on August 1, 1884 by this congregation for the purpose of erecting a church building. This building was completed and dedicated on November 4, 1884.

In 1937, stained glass windows were installed in the nave, west wing and narthex of the church. In June 1948, remodeling of the nave of the church was begun. This included changing of the two separate doors at the front of the church to one main entrance. The two original aisles in the nave were changed to one, and new church pews were installed. The additional Sunday School rooms on the south side of the church were completed and dedicated. The unfinished basement under the west wing was hand dug by the men of the church and completed to be used as additional classrooms. The stained glass altar picture of Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane was installed in 1948 as a memorial to members of the Mt. Zion congregation who had served in World War II. Memorial stained glass windows were added to the new south addition of the church, at the same time.

The addition of a parish hall and educational building was built in 1980 on land donated by the Ernest Copp family. It included classrooms, office space, kitchen, dining hall and restrooms on both upper and lower levels. This addition was dedicated on May 3, 1981.

Mt. Zion and St. Luke Lutheran Churches combined in 1895 to form a parish. On November 1, 1903, Mt. Zion and St. Luke united with the Lebanon Church congregation to form a three-church parish as a temporary arrangement that was made permanent in 1909 and named "Shenandoah Parish". In January, 1969, members of Mt.
Zion voted for realignment of a two-church parish with St. Luke which was named Mt. View Parish. In July, 1988, Mt. Zion members voted in favor of establishing a one-church charge which continued until January, 2015 when Mt. Zion and St. Luke Lutheran Churches once again formed a two-church parish named Mt. View.

Churches in the Shenandoah Valley

Mt. Zion Lutheran Church.

A more detailed history of Mt. Zion Lutheran Church written by Landon and Frances Walker can be found at the church located at 3055 Fairview Road, Woodstock, Virginia. This information is taken from that history.

Submitted by Judith Gochenour, November 2016