

mt. zion

extra edition

# CENTENNIAL TIMES

Vol. 1, Issue 3

September 19, 1993

**One generation will commend your works to  
another; they will tell of your mighty acts.**

**Psalm 145:4**

(The following article is from the Lutheran Standard,  
dated June 23, 1894)

## Good News from North Carolina

"St. John's and Miller's Evangelical Lutheran churches stand some 9 or 10 miles apart in Catawba co., N.C. About midway betwixt these two points, Rev. J. H. Rexrode began mission services in the fall of 1892, principally for the benefit of his members who had a long, rough road to travel to church. Considering the needs of the country and the souls of their children who needed instruction, as well as their own spiritual welfare, the necessity of a church home became more apparent to our members at each monthly service.

After prayerful consideration this little band of brethren bravely went to work in earnest. They went forth like Hiram's men, to the woods, to obtain timber for their house of worship cut and hauled their logs to the saw mill, and now after ten months' toil, can look with pride upon a neat churchly looking edifice which they constructed chiefly with their own hands. They can behold it with joy for it is to be as its name indicates a Mt. Zion for themselves, their children and all true believers. Its walls shall hear nothing save the pure Lutheran doctrine. In it is to be preached God's pure Word.

To such use it was solemnly set apart on Sunday, June 3, 1894, under the beautiful title of Mt. Zion's Ev. Lutheran Church. The dedicatory sermon was delivered by Rev. J. H. Rexrode from Genesis 28, 17: 'This is none other but the house of God and this is the gate of heaven.' In the afternoon Prof. W. E. Tressel preached a

sermon of a very practical nature from I Kings 8, 63: 'So the king and all the children of Israel dedicated the house of the Lord.' The above brethren and the writer performed the dedicatory act, before the first service.

The building, as indicated, is a frame structure. It is ceiled. It is 50 ft. long and 30 ft. wide, cut off 5 ft. at each corner. It is only a 14 foot story, but the rafters are ceiled making the height from the center 18 ft. It has a sacristy and a library room. It has no altar but one will be put in place soon. It is estimated that the church will seat comfortably 400 people. It has a good location and a very churchly appearance.

The building if let to a contractor would have cost nearly \$600, it is estimated. The mission was blessed with a goodly number of carpenters and did their own work principally. A debt of about \$100 remains to be paid.

Any one knowing the sacrifices of the brethren cannot help but say with us: 'Well done.' We also gladly state that several friends, principally members of the Tennessee Synod, helped faithfully, some as much as 14 to 16 days, in erecting this building. Some of them expect to identify themselves with the congregation as soon as it is organized which will occur Sunday, July 1st. It will organize with 25 or 30 members. Thus God continues to bless our labor. May the Lord bless these brethren and their church that many souls may find that it is a 'house of God and a gate of heaven.'"