



OFFICIAL NOTICE AND AGENDA

of a meeting of a City Board, Commission, Department Committee, Agency, Corporation, Quasi-Municipal Corporation or Sub-unit thereof.

Notice is hereby given that the HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION of the City of Wausau, Wisconsin will hold a regular or special meeting on the date, time and location shown below.

Meeting of the: **HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF WAUSAU**
Date/Time: **Wednesday, September 27, 2023 at 4:00 pm.**
Location: **City Hall (407 Grant Street, Wausau WI 54403) - BIRCH ROOM**
Members: Gary Gisselman (C), Linda Tryczak, Kevin Crooks, Mary Forer, David Oberbeck, Christine Martens, Steve Miller, Brian Mason, Patrick Bacher

AGENDA ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

1. Approve of the minutes from the July 26, 2023 and August 30, 2023 (AD Hoc) meeting.
2. Discussion and possible action on setting a public hearing for landmarking the Jacob Kolter house at 202 Grand Avenue
3. Discussion and possible action on setting a public hearing for landmarking the Marathon County Home and Hospital at 1200 Lakeview Drive
4. Update and discussion on former Kelly Park Property.
5. Discussion and possible action on Zion Lutheran Church (709 N. 6th Street) National Register Nomination
6. Discussion of potential landmarks and districts
7. Next meeting dates and future agenda items for consideration
8. Adjournment

Gary Gisselman - Committee Chairperson

This Notice was posted at City Hall and emailed to the Daily Herald newsroom on 09/25/2023 @ 1:00 p.m. Questions regarding this agenda may be directed to the Planning Department at (715) 261-6760.

In accordance with the requirements of Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), the City of Wausau will not discriminate against qualified individuals with disabilities on the basis of disability in its services, programs, or activities. If you need assistance or reasonable accommodations in participating in this meeting or event due to a disability as defined under the ADA, please call the ADA Coordinator at (715) 261-6622 or ADAServices@ci.wausau.wi.us to discuss your accessibility needs. We ask your request be provided a minimum of 72 hours before the scheduled event or meeting. If a request is made less than 72 hours before the even the City of Wausau will make a good faith effort to accommodate your request.

Distribution List: City Website, Media, Committee Members, Council Members, Hebert, Lenz, Jacobson

HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

Time and Date: Wednesday, July 26, 2023, at 4:00 p.m. in the Birch Room of Wausau City Hall
Members Present: Gary Gisselman, Kevin Crooks, Mary Forer, Christine Martens, Steve Miller, Linda Tryczak,
David Oberbeck, Brian Mason (arrived 4:04 p.m.)
Members Not Present: Patrick Bacher
Others Present: Brad Lenz, Blake Opal-Wahoske, Adam Doede, Kristin Smith

In compliance with Chapter 19, Wisconsin Statutes, notice of this meeting was posted and transmitted to the *Wausau Daily Herald* in the proper manner.

Chairperson Gisselman called the meeting to order at approximately 4:00 p.m. stating that a quorum was present.

Approval of the minutes from the April 26, 2023, meeting.

Miller motioned to approve the minutes from the April 26, 2023 meeting. Tryczak seconded, and the motion carried unanimously 7-0.

Discussion and possible action on Memorial Bridge restoration.

Gisselman said that there is information in the packet for the restoration.

Blake Opal-Wahoske, Wausau River District, said that they are looking for the commissions support for the bridge restoration project. Opal-Wahoske said that they are starting with educational presentations and will be working with Al Kowalski for estimates. The project is anticipated to start in Spring 2024.

Crooks said that a placard with the bridge name was discussed during the previous meeting. Opal-Wahoske said that he did look and there is a placard. Martens said that there should be history listed also. Tryczak asked if the American Legion did a dedication. This was confirmed.

Martens motioned to create a letter support the restoration of Memorial Bridge. Forer seconded. The motion carried unanimously 8-0.

Discussion and possible action on landmarking the Henry Miller House at 1314 Grand Avenue.

Gisselman said that the owners are present and asked that this be pulled from the agenda.

Discussion and possible action on landmarking the Jacob Kolter House at 202 Grand Avenue.

Gisselman said that there is information in the packet on the Jacob Kolter House.

Crooks said the modification make it ineligible for the national register. Martens said that even with the modifications, this is an important piece of property and would be a good idea to landmark it.

Miller asked if it would be disqualified because it isn't eligible for the national register. Gisselman said that the local landmarking has different qualifications. Crooks said that national register is more restrictive than the local landmarking requirements.

Crooks motioned to move forward to landmark the Jacob Kolter house at 202 Grand Avenue. Miller seconded, and the motion carried unanimously 8-0. Gisselman said that they will conduct an informational meeting before the public hearing.

Discussion and possible action on landmarking the Marathon County Home and Hospital at 1200 Lakeview Drive.

Gisselman said there is information on the property in the packet.

Crooks asked what the current use is. Gisselman said that is used as office space currently. Miller said that it is almost 100 years old.

Miller motioned to move forward to landmark the Marathon County Home and Hospital at 1200 Lakeview Drive.

Oberbeck asked if they have been contacted. Gisselman said they have not been. Oberbeck said that there have been extensive restorations going on at the property. It may be a good idea to talk to them before going through the process. Martens said that it would be nice to plans for the parcel.

Miller motioned to table the landmarking of Marathon County Home and Hospital at 1200 Lakeview Drive to the next meeting. Tryczak seconded, and the motion carried unanimously 8-0.

Discussion and possible action on creating a local historic district for UW-Marathon County Campus Historic District.

The commission discussed the properties in the proposed district. Martens asked if there are plans for the area. Lenz said that it is part of the Master Plan. Gisselman said that this would be a Class II district and would be advisory only. Martens asked if buildings in any other campuses are landmarked. Crooks said that some of the buildings are barely eligible and does not see that most of them are architecturally significant. Lenz said that the significance of the area is that it is a campus intact. The commission discussed the consequences of declaring the area as a historic district, specific properties and the boundaries of the district.

Mason motioned to not move forward with the local historic for UW-Marathon County Campus Historic District. Crooks seconded.

Martens asked if specific properties could be looked at. Gisselman said that would be an option.

The motion carried unanimously 8-0.

Discussion of potential landmarks and districts.

Miller said that the uniqueness of the downtown churches should be addressed and asked if it could be a district. The east boundary could be 5th or 6th Street, Fulton Street on the north side, river on the west side and Washington Street on the south side. Tryczak said that some have been landmarked. Lenz said that the historic districts could be overlaid. Gisselman said that the boundaries could be drawn and be researched. Mason said that he would be in support of this.

Next meeting dates and future agenda items for consideration.

The next meeting is scheduled for August 30, 2023.

Adjournment.

Tryczak motioned to adjourn. Miller seconded. The meeting was adjourned at approximately 4:45 p.m.

HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION – AD HOC

Time and Date: Wednesday, August 30, 2023 at 4:00 p.m. in the Birch Room of Wausau City Hall
Members Present: Gary Gisselman, Linda Tryczak, Kevin Crooks, David Oberbeck, Steve Miller
Others Present: Brad Lenz, Tyler Wariner, Bodie Wariner

In compliance with Chapter 19, Wisconsin Statutes, notice of this meeting was posted and transmitted to the *Wausau Daily Herald* in the proper manner.

Chairperson Gisselman called the meeting to order at approximately 4:00 p.m. stating that a quorum was present.

Certificate of Appropriateness for 910 McIndoe Street.

Gisselman said the contractors were present and the plan is to replace the porch.

Tyler Wariner said that the deck, including the structure underneath, is rotted. He said the columns are leaning and need to be replaced. The columns are sitting on the deck and are separating – it is not enough to support the roof. He said the roof needs to be jacked up and supported while the columns are replaced. The entire deck including the stairs and railings would be replaced. They have to dig down and put concrete piers underneath, to meet code. They have to rebuild with pressure-treated outdoor lumber. The deck boards would be a composite material. The columns would be replaced with new ones that look exactly the same. Forer asked what material they would be. Wariner said that they would be fiberglass, but they are wood now. They are currently rotting at the bottom.

Wariner said the railing would be replaced with aluminum and be brought up to the height required by code. He said it would look similar to what's there now. He said the concrete steps would be removed and be replaced by wood – there would be composite decking on top of a wood structure. Bodie Wariner said that with the rotted columns and deck that the roof could collapse. Crooks asked about the deck boards. Discussion followed on the composite materials, width, color, fascia, and fasteners. Gisselman said that there have been a lot of railings replaced in the district to be brought up to code and this would not be out of place. Wariner showed pictures of the house next door that has a new railing similar to what this one would be. He said the neighbors also replaced all the deck boards.

Crooks motioned to approve the certificate of appropriateness. Forer seconded. The motion carried 4-0.

Adjournment.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 4:15 p.m.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions.

1. Name of Property

Historic name: Zion Lutheran Church
Other names/site number: _____
Name of related multiple property listing: _____

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing):

2. Location

Street & number: 709 N. 6th Street
City or town: Wausau State: WI County: Marathon
Not For Publication: Vicinity:

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following

level(s) of significance: National Statewide Local
Applicable National Register Criteria A B C D

Signature of certifying official/Title:	Date
Daina Penkiunas, Wisconsin State Historic Preservation Officer	
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government	
In my opinion, the property <input type="checkbox"/> meets <input type="checkbox"/> does not meet the National Register criteria.	
Signature of commenting official:	Date
Title:	State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

- Entered in the National Register
- Determined eligible for the National Register
- Determined not eligible for the National Register
- Removed from the National Register
- Other (explain:) _____

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

- Private:
- Public – Local
- Public – State
- Public – Federal

Category of Property

(Check only **one** box.)

- Building(s)
- District
- Site
- Structure
- Object

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the county)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	0	Buildings
_____	0	Sites
_____	0	Structures
_____	0	Objects
1	0	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register _____

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

RELIGION: Religious Facility

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

RELIGION: Religious Facility

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

LATE 19TH & 20TH CENTURY

REVIVALS: Late Gothic Revival

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property: Foundation: concrete; walls: brick; roof: tile

Narrative Description

Summary

Zion Lutheran Church is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) under Criterion C: Architecture, as a highly intact example of a 1950s-era, Late Gothic Revival-style church. Built in 1953, the cruciform church is largely built with Stevens Point sandstone--both inside and out, while Indiana limestone is used as trim throughout. In addition to its masonry construction, the church's character-defining features include its steeply pitched roofline and Gothic- (or pointed-) arch windows and doors, as well as parapet endwalls and modest buttressing. The windows, most of which are detailed with stone tracery, feature brightly colored stained glass created by renowned craftsman Erhard Stoettner of the T.C. Esser Company of Milwaukee. Additional interior finishes include handmade ceramic floor tile, wooden roof trusses and ceiling beams with decorative painting, along with a significant amount of original wooden church furniture, including the pew seating. The church used the Wisconsin historic tax credit rehabilitation program to replace, in kind, its original terra cotta tile roof and copper gutters during

the summer of 2023. Zion Lutheran Church is among the best examples of Late Gothic Revival ecclesiastical architecture in the City of Wausau.

Site and Setting

Zion Lutheran Church is located in the northeast quadrant of the intersection of N. 6th and Grant streets in Wausau, Wisconsin and just a few blocks northeast of the city's commercial downtown and historic public square. The church is largely surrounded by the Andrew Warren Historic District (NRHP #84003708), which is comprised largely of residences and has a Period of Significance from 1870-1934.¹

The city block upon which Zion Lutheran Church sits is bounded by Franklin Street on the north, Grant Street on the south, N. 6th Street to the west and N. 7th Street on the east. The north half of the block consists of a black-topped parking lot. In addition to the church, the south half of the block includes three other buildings that are owned by Zion Lutheran Church—the 1962 former Zion Lutheran School (utilized today as one of three campuses of the Marathon County Head Start program), a 1963 parsonage, in between which is a 1920s-era, single-family home that has, starting in 1960, been used for pastor housing. These additional, church-related buildings are not included in the nominated boundary as they have undergone some degree of alteration but, most importantly, do not date to the church's Period of Significance (1953), and they are not examples of Late Gothic Revival-style architecture, which Zion Lutheran Church an example and for which it is significant.

The adjacent two-lane, asphalt-paved Grant Street carries largely local traffic, while N. 6th Street is a three-lane, one-way, north-south street that carries State Highway 52 through the city. A narrow grass terrace and sidewalk separates the church parcel from N. 6th Street, while a wider terrace and sidewalk runs along Grant Street; both terraces carry young trees. The church's primary front entrance is located along Grant Street and a wide concrete walk leads to the church's front stairs, while a narrow concrete walk runs between the church and the formerly associated school building to the east. Along N. 6th Street, a short sidewalk, delineated by a modern metal fence, continues to the concrete ramping and modern metal railing that runs along the west side of the transept and rear wings, which leads to the side (rear) door. The lot upon which the building sits is largely covered with lawn and it includes a small number of trees, both mature and young. Additionally, a number of landscaped areas with bushes and flowers are located along the ramping, as well as along the east and north elevations of the church.

¹ In 1984, when the Andrew Warren Historic District was listed, the church was not yet fifty years of age.

Name of Property

Also included on the property but not included in the resource count (due to their insufficient size and scale) is a modern, stone-sheathed sign and the previously mentioned, length of metal fencing, both of which are located along N. 6th Street and constructed circa 1995.

Church (Contributing, 1953):

Cruciform in plan, this Late Gothic Revival-style church is sheathed with Stevens Point sandstone, trimmed with Indiana limestone, and topped with a terra cotta tile roof. The central gabled portion is oriented on a north/south axis, while a full east/west transept with gabled parapet endwalls is located near the building's north end; the crossing of which is marked by a copper fleche topped with a copper cross that rises 38 feet above the roof's ridge. Short gabled wings extend to both the east and west near the south end of the building, providing for side entry to the narthex, while one-story side aisles extend from the central block. Gothic- (or pointed-) arch windows with tracery are located along the building's south, west and east elevations. Cut stone, most with quoining accents, outlines most of the building's windows and doors. Gutters, downspouts and flashing throughout the building are copper.²

A set of four concrete stairs and concrete stoop with an aluminum railing fronts the church's primary (south) entrance elevation facing Grant Street. The bulk of the central portion of the stepped and gabled, parapet endwall is faced with cut stone, while the remainder is covered with random ashlar limestone. Located at the southwest corner of this elevation and immediately above the stone water table is the church's cornerstone which reads, "Zion Lutheran Church," (facing south) and "A.D. 1952," (facing west). Entrance is gained through a pair of Gothic-arched portals, each with a recessed, rectangular wood-and-glass door, above which is the tympanum that features an intricately carved panel of stone at its center. The panel on the left (west) depicts a fleur-de-lis at the center (symbolizing the Trinity), while the panel to the right (east) features a crown (symbolizing Christ the King), both of which are surrounded by grapevines. A single, metal, Gothic-style lantern fixture is located on either side of the entrance. Setting off the first level from the second of the cut stone mid-section is a horizontal panel of intricately carved grapevines, below which are three "shields," which, from left to right, depict Agnus Dei (Lamb of God), the Creator's hand (Eternal Life) and the dove (the Holy Spirit). A Gothic-arch, stained-glass focal window with stone tracery is recessed within a larger Gothic-arch opening. Stone coping finishes the stepped and gabled, parapet endwall which terminates with a stone cross at its peak.³

² The Indiana limestone used for both the exterior and interior trim was supplied by the Garrison Building Stone Company of Mason City, Iowa, Proposal from Garrison dated 8 November 1951, This and all other construction-related proposals and/or correspondence cited hereafter is on file at the Zion Lutheran Church Archives, Wausau, Wisconsin.

³ The long carved panel above the entrance, along with the pair of rectangular panels immediately above the doors, was created by the McNeely Stone Company of Ellettsville, Indiana, Letter of correspondence from Frank A. Abrahamson to Ralph W. Burns, McNeely Stone Company, 12 August 1952.

Turning to the east elevation, a full-height, gabled wing with a stepped parapet and modest buttressing provides secondary entry to the church. A series of four concrete steps leads to a concrete stoop that fronts a wood-and-glass, double-door entry that rests an additional step higher. An ornamental metal railing lines the stairs and the stoop. The doorway surround consists of cut stone quoining and a recessed tympanum above that is inscribed with the sun symbol and the verse "I have hallowed this house which thou hast built to put My Name there for ever" (from 1 Kings 9:3). A raised drip mold outlines the Gothic arch, while a single lantern fixture is located to either side of the doorway. Near the gabled peak is a carved stone cross along with an open bible that is inscribed with SOLA GRATIA (meaning that it is only by God's grace that one is saved). Two, single and narrow, three-light, stained-glass windows rest within the south wall of the entrance wing, while a single such example is found on the north wall.⁴

Continuing along the upper portion of the east elevation, and located between the gabled entrance wing and the east transept wing are four, evenly spaced, Gothic-arched, stained-glass windows with stone tracery that feature quatrefoil designs. Each window is trimmed with stone quoining along with a raised stone drip mold and is separated from the window next to it by a modestly projecting stone pilaster. Beneath the windows projects the side aisles; the walls of which are vertically articulated by three stone buttresses that alternate with four, narrow, stained-glass casement windows with stone lintels and sills. The shed roof of the aisle is covered with green asphalt shingles.

The gabled, parapet endwall of the east transept wing carries a pair of two-light, stained-glass casement windows along the first level, one on each side of the central buttress that runs up approximately two-thirds of the elevation. The upper level includes a pair of Gothic-arched, stained-glass windows with stone tracery and a raised stone drip mold. Completing the upper level of the gabled main block of this elevation is the two-story chancel (or sanctuary) wall which, like the east transept, carries a pair of stone-trimmed, Gothic-arched, stained-glass windows with stone tracery. Instead of a stone buttress, the chancel windows are separated by a tall chimney stack that rises to the level of roof's ridge. Along the lower level of the chancel wall space and immediately north of the transept wing extends a one-and-one-half story staircase enclosure that is topped with a hipped roof covered with green asphalt shingles. A replacement wood-and-glass door is located along the first floor, while a single casement window is found along the upper level; each opening features a stone surround. Beyond the staircase is a one-story, flat-roofed rectangular block that encompasses the working sacristy (or vestry); a pair of casement windows is located along both

⁴ Correspondence between the architect and the church indicates that the symbols originally drawn by Abrahamson for the gables was the "Virgin Womb," which symbolizes the human nature of Christ. Based on the letter, that symbol was rejected by the church and instead the two Solas were requested, Frank A. Abrahamson, Letter of correspondence to Rev. Paul Roehrs, 20 June 1952.

its north and east walls. Finally, a small, one-story, hipped-roof entry with a modern metal fire door provides direct entry to the mechanicals in the lower level.

The central, stepped and gabled parapet endwall of the north elevation is completely devoid of fenestration and simply carries a large metal cross and a crown.⁵ Like the east elevation, the north end (chancel wall) of the west upper level of the main gabled block carries a pair of Gothic-arched, stained-glass windows with stone tracery. Extending from the first level and beneath those windows is a one-story, flat-roofed wing with stone coping; the north half of which includes the elevator and a conference room that were added on in 1995. The pair of two-light casement windows with stone trim that are located along the north elevation of this block were designed to match those found along the rest of the church. The west elevation of this wing is devoid of fenestration, less a tripartite casement window. A concrete ramp with a metal railing (added in 1995) runs along this wing, leading to the wood-and-glass door along the gabled west transept wing.

Like the other gabled endwalls of the church, the west transept wall is also parapeted and with stone coping but is without stepping. A pair of two-light casement windows occupies the first level, while a series of three paired casements line the second level. The visible upper portion of the north transept wall carries a pair of two-light casements, along with a tripartite example, while the south transept wall carries a series of four stained-glass windows on the first level and three, evenly spaced, tripartite casement windows with multiple lighting on the upper floor. All windows feature stone surrounds.

Identical to the east elevation and along the upper level between the west transept and the gabled west side entrance wing is a series of four, Gothic-arched, stained glass windows with stone tracery that alternate with stone pilasters. Beneath the windows project the side aisles; the walls of which are vertically articulated by three stone buttresses that alternate with four, narrow, stained-glass casement windows with stone lintels and sills. The shed roof of the aisle is covered with green asphalt shingles.

The gabled west side entrance wing mimics the side entrance wing on the east in that it carries a pair of wood-and-glass doors that rest within a stone surround with quoining. In this case, the stone tympanum is inscribed with “The ransomed of the Lord shall return and come to Zion with songs and everlasting joy” (Isaiah 35:10), along with a rose, which symbolizes the “Messianic Promise.” Modern light fixtures are located to either side of the entrance doors. Similar to the east gabled entrance wing, a stone inset of a cross and an open bible reads, “SOLA FIDE,” (meaning that one is saved through faith alone in Jesus Christ) is situated near the peak, while a pair of small

⁵ When the cross and the crown are placed together, they symbolize Jesus who willingly died on the cross to defeat sin, death and the devil, and who gives the crown of eternal life to all who believe in Him.

rectangular, stained-glass windows is located along the south wall and a single window on the north. The remaining wall space south of the side entrance includes only a single, small and rectangular stained-glass window.⁶

Interior Plan and General Finish

The two wood-and-glass-paneled doors⁷ along Grant Street open into the narthex, which includes a pair of open staircases with terrazzo steps and ornamental metal railings with a quatrefoil design that lead to the upper-level choir and organ loft. Enclosed staircases, also with terrazzo steps, run beneath those going up and access the lower level. Inscribed above the entrance door is “he that hath My commandments and keepeth them, he it is that loveth Me” (John 14:21). The wall along the staircase to the east includes a mounted registry desk and pamphlet shelving, while the wall to the west includes a mounted memorial desk that includes a remembrance book inside. Stone-trimmed, Gothic-arched doorways on either side of the narthex proper lead to each of the side entrances. The floor is covered with decorative geometric tile in brown, orange, and gold tones that continues into the side entrances, and into the central and side aisles of the nave, the transept, as well as the chancel. Two, two-light leaded-glass windows are located to either side of the pair of wood-and-leaded-glass swinging doors that open into the nave. Above the doorway, a sign reads, “Hic Domus Dei et Porta Coeli est,” which translates to “Here is the House of God and the Gate of Heaven” (based on Genesis 28:17).⁸

Above the narthex, the central portion of the organ and choir loft includes wooden pews, along with a Kegg Pipe Organ (with 3 manuals, 49 ranks and 2,891 pipes) that was installed in 2010 and has since been affectionately named Miriam. To the east of the loft is a small choir room, while another small room on the west is the music/organist’s office and library. Regarding the organ casework itself, and specifically the organ pipe shades, they were hand carved out of basswood by

⁶ Correspondence between the architect and the church clergy would seem to suggest that the church requested that a cross be added to the rose, as a reference to Martin Luther and the five Solas of the Lutheran faith. The architect dismissed that request and explained the symbolism of the rose, which dates to the 13th century, Frank A. Abrahamson, Letter of correspondence to Rev. Paul Roehrs, 20 June 1952.

⁷ The glass panels in the doors were designed and crafted by Erhard Stoettner of T.C. Esser, Frank A. Abrahamson, Letter of correspondence to Mr. Ted Prott (Zion Lutheran Building Committee Chair), 10 March 1953.

⁸ Based on church records, the terrazzo appears to have been obtained from the Venice Art Marble Company of Minneapolis, MN, Ted Prott, Letter of correspondence to the Venice Art Marble Co., 21 January 1953; Desks and shelving were made by the Ossit Church Furniture Company, Janesville, Wisconsin. The remembrance book details who donated specific items donated to the church in memory of family members. Based on a 1953 interior description of the church, the floor tile is believed to have been hand-made by the Nemadji Pottery of Moose Lake, Minnesota, “New Zion Church Rich in Christian Traditions,” *Wausau (WI) Daily Herald-Record*, 7 March 1953, 7.

sculptress and Master Carver Spirit Williams of Rockbridge, Ohio. The shades depict the four archangels, as well as the symbols associated with the twelve apostles.⁹

It is here in the organ and choir loft that the largest of Zion's windows is located. Executed by Erhard Stoettner of the T.C. Esser Company, this window, identified as "The Great South Window," depicts the life of Jesus Christ. The twelve images are meant to be read from bottom to top and left to right. The bottom row depicts the four major prophets—Isaiah, Daniel, Jeremiah, and Ezekiel—who foretold His arrival. The next two rows depict the story of Christ, starting with His childhood, then His passion, resurrection, and eternal rule. The top of the window is Agnus Dei, or Lamb of God.¹⁰

Entering the nave, which consists of a center aisle and flanking side aisles, the flooring (of all three aisles) is covered with the same decorative geometric tile as the narthex, while the flooring underneath the two rows of oak pews is a red/orange-tone asphalt tile.¹¹ The single-story side aisles are separated from the nave proper via large square piers of Indiana limestone that divide the interior into five bays. The first four bays (moving north from the narthex) carry Gothic-arched, stained-glass windows with stone tracery that illustrate events of the Old Testament (east side) and the New Testament (west side). The fifth and final bay, which comprises the transept space, is different on each sidewall. On the east, the upper wall space is open to the children's choir space, which includes wooden pews and a wooden-paneled balcony wall with a metal railing, while the lower transept space includes additional pews, as well as the baptistry. Regarding the latter, a platform extends from the north wall upon which the wooden baptismal font is located. The Byzantine mosaics and metal grillwork were added in the 1967 redecorating effort; however, the font, as well as the carved wooden plaque depicting our Lord being baptized by St. John and the shelf below it, is original to the space and crafted by the Ossit Church Furniture Company.

On the west, the upper level of the transept consists of a pair of tripartite windows that feature leaded and colored glass with stone tracery, all of which is set within a stone surround set off with quoining. These two windows allowed mothers with small children to hear mass through a speaker

⁹ "The Great Organ at Zion Lutheran Church," Wausau, Wisconsin, 2010 A.D., information/dedication booklet prepared by the church, 2010, n.p.; "Music," Information regarding the Great Organ is available online at www.zionlutheranwausau.com/organ/, Accessed August 2023. In addition to the United States, the work of Spirit Williams is in collections in Europe, Asia, and Australia, Brief biographical information available online at www.sculpturebyspirit.com/about-spirit, Accessed August 2023.

¹⁰ For a detailed account of all of the church windows, see the following 46-page booklet, "In Thy Light We See Light," The Windows of Zion, Wausau, Wisconsin, Booklet prepared by the church, 2013, 3, 13-19.

¹¹ A description of the church interior that was published shortly before its 15 March 1953 dedication cited that the floor beneath the pews was green tile, "New Zion Church Rich in Christian Traditions," *Wausau Daily Record-Herald*, 7 March 1953, 7. It is possible that the tile, which was designated to be asphalt tile per the plans, was replaced when the interior was restored in the 1990s; however, to date, no evidence of that has been found.

system, as well as to see through a row of clear-glass panes one row up from the bottom of the window. Originally, the second-floor (behind the windows) included a mother's room, nursery, and a beginner's room/family room (alternately used as a meeting room), along with a restroom. Although the bathroom remains, the upper-level space has been re-divided for offices for the pastor and assistant pastor, along with a large meeting room/shared office area. The walls are plaster and the floor is carpeted.

Extending from the nave in the space below is a small chapel that includes an organ at the rear, four rows of wooden pews and a pew screen, along with a recessed altar space that is set off by a decorative metal railing. The chapel windows along the south wall depict the four ways that Zion communicates the Word—through radio, television, preaching, and the study of Holy Scripture. The altar area includes a wooden altar upon which rests a painted wooden altarpiece entitled the “Zion Altarpiece,” that was created by Michigan artist Edward Riojas and installed in 2017. A second work by Riojas, a series of four painted wooden panels and entitled, *The Venite*,” was installed along the chapel's west wall in 2020.¹²

The bi-level chancel, which measures 30 feet deep and 24 feet wide and is two steps up from the nave level, includes a wooden pulpit, lectern, litany desk and two prayer desks. An additional step, which is delineated by a communion rail, leads to the high altar upon which the Botticino (Italian) marble, one-step predella and mensa (platform and altar table) is located. A Verde Issoire marble retable is located behind the altar, while a large cross made of Verde Issoire (Italian) marble trimmed with black and gold marble hangs along the north chancel wall. The flooring in the chancel features the same decorative tile as described in the aisles, transept, and narthex; however the steps are plain stone/not tiled. The gabled wooden ceiling of the nave, which continues into the chancel area, features Gothic-arch roof trusses of bleached oak that were painted with both color and gold leaf in the 1967 redecorating effort (and again in the 1995 restoration work).¹³

Located within the gabled west transept wing and through a doorway along the east side of the chancel is the vestry (or working sacristy as it was called on the original plans) which includes

¹² A description of the altarpiece panels is in “The Zion Altarpiece: A Description,” Dedication Booklet prepared by the church, 2010, On file at the Zion Lutheran Church Archives; the artist also describes the piece on his Facebook page, “Edward Riojas – Artist,” Accessed August 2023.

¹³ The majority of the wooden church furniture in the chancel was executed by the Ossit Church Furniture Company, Various letters between J.R. Zimdars, Ossit Church Furniture and Rev. L.W. Roehrs, Zion Lutheran Church, 22 January to 10 July 1953; The metal flower stands and candle holders were crafted by Degner Metal Craft, Inc. of Milwaukee, Rev. L.W. Roehrs, Letters of correspondence to Gerhardt Degner, Degner Metal Crafts, Inc., 3 March, 15 April and 5 May 1953; The predella, mensa and cross in the chancel was made by the Milwaukee Marble Company, Milwaukee, E.G. Sellin, Letter of correspondence to Rev. Paul W. Roehrs, 14 February 1952. Remaining church windows not already described depict saints of the Reformation, specific Bible verses, and symbols that teach the church's faith and life.

modern cabinetry and is carpeted. A doorway on the west side of the chancel leads to a small sacristy. West of the sacristy is the former pastor's study, which is now utilized as the church secretary's office. The walls of that space retain their original wood paneling and the floor is carpeted. The remaining first-floor area that is west and adjacent to the current secretary's office was the original church secretary's office that now functions as a reception area. A small vestibule, hallway, stairwell (to both the upper and lower levels) and former consultation room (used today as the office of the church cantor) is located immediately south of the reception area. North of the secretary's office and reception area, in the 1995 one-story elevator addition that also includes a conference room and vault.

The basement level of the church originally included a large auditorium space with a stage at its north end, along with a kitchen, Sunday School meeting rooms, a choir room, and a cloak room, along with restrooms and the heating and ventilating mechanicals. Finishing off of the lower level was taken on by the congregation itself. Improvements have since been made to the lower level, however, its original spacing has been largely maintained.

Alterations

Alterations to the exterior since 1953 include (1) replacing the original roof tile of the side aisles with asphalt shingles at some unknown date around 1974¹⁴; (2) the construction of a small, one-story addition (with elevator) at the northwest (rear) corner of the building in 1995¹⁵; and (3) enlarging the original concrete front stairs and stoop along Grant Street and installing a new aluminum railing in 2007.¹⁶ In the summer of 2023, the building's original terra cotta tile roof was replaced in kind, while the side aisles were again re-roofed with asphalt shingles. This work done utilizing the Wisconsin historic tax credit rehabilitation program.¹⁷

¹⁴ Although not fully confirmed, the side aisle roof of the photo used on the cover of the Centennial anniversary booklet does appear to still be topped with tile, "Out of Zion . . . God Shines Forth, 1874-1974: In Commemoration of the Centennial Celebration of Zion Lutheran Church," 100th Anniversary booklet, Prepared by the Parish (1974), cover image. Per current church staff, the reason for removing the tile and replacing with asphalt shingles was that ice would fall from the roof of the main block onto the side aisle roof and crack the tiles.

¹⁵ "Modifications to Zion Lutheran Church," Plans prepared by Burgess Franzen Associates, Oak Park, Illinois, Sheet A-3, handwritten dates ranging between May and August 1995; Building permit for elevator addition, 21 August 1995, Both the 1995 plans and permit on file at the Zion Lutheran Church Archives.

¹⁶ Holster Construction, Letter of Correspondence to Zion Lutheran Church regarding the care and maintenance of the new concrete stairs and platform, 2 November 2007.

¹⁷ Although the original church plans called for a slate tile roof, Ludowici-Celadon Light Weight Interlocking weathered terra cotta tile was ultimately chosen. Color choices in 1951 were red, brown, black or green, with green costing \$313.00 more than the others, Proposal letter to Zion Lutheran Church regarding work to be completed by the Sheet Metal Contracting Company of Wausau, which included obtaining and installing the roof tile, 13 August 1951. The new Ludowici Classic 14" interlocking tile (in forest green) continues to be manufactured by the same Ohio company. The new asphalt shingles chosen are Malarkey Legacy brand, with rainforest (green) chosen as the color.

Name of Property

Alterations to the interior are enumerated as follows:

1963: By this date, all of the stained-glass windows were installed.

1967: The church was redecorated, which included the installation of the Byzantine tile in the Baptistry, the ceiling lighting, as well as the addition of gold leaf and color to the wood ceiling.

1993: The ceiling was refinished, the walls were painted and gold leaf was added around the windows. Accent and exit lights were added on ceilings and hallways and additional railings were added to the balconies of both choir areas.

1995: The administrative wing of the church, located in the west transept, was remodeled when the elevator and conference room were added on. This resulted in the removal of the original church secretary's office and the creation of a reception area and hall that leads to the new elevator and board room. The pastor's study remained largely intact; however, it now serves as the church secretary's office. The mother's room and nursery spaces on the second floor were removed and the pastor and assistant pastor's offices were created.

2010: The original organ was removed from the organ loft and choir and a new one installed, along with wood casing for the both the organ and the pipes.

Unknown Date: The working sacristy/vestry was improved with new cabinetry.

Integrity

The exterior alterations to Zion Lutheran Church are, overall, limited and its exterior integrity is at a high level. The initial alteration involved the removal of the original terra cotta tile from the side aisle roofs and its replacement with asphalt shingles. While the post-1974 replacement was not "in kind" as far as the material itself, efforts were made to match the green color of the tile in the replacement asphalt shingles chosen. Although an elevator addition was made to the church in 1995, it was made to the rear of the building and great care was taken to match the original stonework, stone trim, and windows of the original block, such that the addition is not immediately noticeable to passersby. Likewise, the 2007 enlargement of the stairs and entrance stoop/platform did not obscure any original detailing of the church and, for those unfamiliar with the original stoop and stairs would likely not recognize that it had been replaced. In short, the aforementioned alterations did little to alter the church's original plan or design. Finally, the 2023 rehabilitation of the church roof was done utilizing the Wisconsin historic tax credit rehabilitation program and, therefore, the work was completed in accordance with the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation.

Overall, the interior integrity of the church is at a high level. The installation of stained-glass windows --which was done at Zion between 1953 and 1963--after church construction is complete

and as donations and memorials are made, is a common occurrence. Alterations made as a result of the 1967 redecorating effort and the 1993-94 restoration work, including painting, the addition of gold leaf and Byzantine tile are purely cosmetic and do not alter but instead enhance the original design of the interior. Likewise, the modest addition of metal railings to the wooden balconies does nothing to alter the original church design. The most apparent change in the nave and sanctuary is the addition of lighting. Notably, early photos of the church's interior do not depict any lighting at all. The first mention of lighting was in 1967, while the 1993 restoration work also notes lighting upgrades. A comparison of the existing lighting to that from available photos dating to 1972 indicate that the fixtures were relatively similar in design, although the current examples are, perhaps, more detailed.

It is clear that some of the first-floor spaces within the west transept have been modestly altered due to the 1995 elevator addition, and that the conversion of the mother's room, nursery and beginner's room/family room to pastor's offices resulted in some walls being both removed and installed. However, despite those conversions, original detailing on each of those floors—specifically, the wood-paneling of the pastor's study, as well as the mother's room windows, continue to remain intact.

END OF DESCRIPTION, DO NOT DELETE

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A. Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B. Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C. Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D. Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Name of Property

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

- A. Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes
- B. Removed from its original location
- C. A birthplace or grave
- D. A cemetery
- E. A reconstructed building, object, or structure
- F. A commemorative property
- G. Less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Architecture

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is checked.)

N/A

Period of Significance

1953

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Dates

1953

Architect/Builder

Abrahamson, Frank A.

Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph

Zion Lutheran Church is eligible for the National Register and locally significant under Criterion C, as a very good and highly intact example of the Late Gothic Revival style as executed on a mid-twentieth century house of worship. Built in 1953, the cruciform church is constructed of both Stevens Point sandstone and Indiana limestone, both inside and out. In addition to its masonry construction, the church's character-defining features include its steeply pitched roofline, irregular massing, and Gothic- (or pointed-) arch windows and doors with stone quoining, as well as parapet endwalls with stone coping and modest buttressing. The windows, most of which are elaborated with stone tracery, feature brightly colored stained glass created by noted craftsman Erhard Stoettner of the T.C. Esser Company of Milwaukee. Additional interior finishes include handmade ceramic floor tile believed to have been handcrafted by Nemadji pottery of Moose Lake, Minnesota, wooden roof trusses and ceiling beams, along with a significant amount of original wooden church furniture produced by the Ossit Church Furniture Company of Janesville, Wisconsin. Although a small, one-story elevator addition was constructed at the northwest corner of the church in 1995, it was executed in the same materials as the original block and did little to alter the church's original design. The 1953 church was identified as potentially eligible for the National Register following a 2017-2018 intensive survey of historical and architectural resources in the city of Wausau, which was funded by the National Park Service. Although a small number of other Neo-Gothic Revival churches were also identified as potentially eligible as a result of that survey, none are considered to be truly comparable to Zion Lutheran Church.

Period of Significance and Justification

The church's Period of Significance is 1953, reflecting the year that the building was completed.

Criteria Consideration A

Zion Lutheran Church is an active parish; hence it is a religiously owned facility. Properties owned by religious institutions are not typically eligible for National Register listing; however, an exception can be made if a criteria consideration is met. Since Zion Lutheran Church's significance is derived from its architectural distinction, the property meets the requirements of Criterion Consideration A.

Narrative Statement of Significance

General History of Wausau

The history of Wausau is well-documented in the *History of Wisconsin* (1881) and in Marchetti's *History of Marathon County, Wisconsin* (1913). Originally known as Big Bull Falls, the lands were initially occupied by the Menominee and Chippewa tribes. Wausau's first permanent white settler was George Stevens, who came to the area in 1837 and established the first lumber mill in 1839. Six years later, Walter McIndoe arrived and would later own the sawmill that Stevens built.

It is McIndoe (1819-1872) who is credited with the formal organization of Marathon County in 1850; he was also responsible for the original plat of the village. The village, which by then was known as Wausau¹⁸, was incorporated in 1861 and developed early as a lumbering town. In 1872, with a population of about 1,500, Wausau incorporated as a city. Two years later, and with a population of 2,820, the Wisconsin Valley Railroad began service, which ultimately boosted the city's inhabitants to 4,280 by 1880.¹⁹

Notably, the Wisconsin Valley Railroad used informational leaflets and traveling agents to encourage German settlement in Wisconsin, specifically in Marathon and Lincoln counties. Between 1860 and 1880, German settlement in Wisconsin grew from 123,879 to 162,314 (1870) to 184,328. However, German immigration had begun prior to the railroad's efforts, with large numbers hailing from northern Germany, especially Pomerania, as they found the area's climate and growing conditions similar to that of their homeland. Of note, early Wausau resident August Kickbusch returned to his homeland of Pomerania in 1867 with the purpose of recruiting "700 good men" to work in the logging industry and populate the young village. His trip resulted in 702 Germans immigrating to the United States and settling in Wausau and the area towns.²⁰

Establishment and Growth of Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church

Although German Lutherans were among Wausau's early citizens, the city's Lutheran population did not have a dedicated building in which to worship until 1873. Initial services were conducted by Rev. J.J. Hoffmann, a mission pastor, and were held in the homes of both William Bardeld and the widowed Mrs. Fredericka Dahm. For three years thereafter, services were held every two weeks in a vacant home located at N. Fourth and McIndoe streets owned by Bardeld. The congregation was organized as Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church in August 1874, with Rev. Gustav Rosenwinkel serving as its first resident pastor. By Fall of 1874, the congregation numbered eighteen families. Two years later, a dedicated house of worship was erected at the corner of Plumer and Seymour streets, which was physically constructed by its members. On 15

¹⁸ *History of Northern Wisconsin* (Chicago: The Western Historical Company, 1881), 544-55; Louis Marchetti, *History of Marathon County Wisconsin and Representative Citizens* (Chicago: Richmond-Arnold Publishing Co., 1913). The name "Wausau" is reportedly translated by the Ojibwa/Chippewa as meaning "far away place"; however, another Indian language states that the word means a "noise like thunder," which may refer to the noise of the water going over the falls, "History-The Wausau Story," Available online at <https://www.ci.wausau.wi.us/Home/AboutWausau/HistoryofWausau.aspx>, Accessed March 2021.

¹⁹ Mary L. Malaguti and Maryanne C. Norton, "Final Report: Intensive Historic Survey," Prepared for the City of Wausau (May 1984), 13, Copy on file at the City of Wausau (and at the Marathon County Historical Society Research Library), Wausau, WI.

²⁰ Barbara Wyatt, ed., *Cultural Resource Management in Wisconsin* (Madison, WI: State Historical Society of Wisconsin, Historic Preservation Division, 1986, German Immigration, Digitized version with later updates available on cd; Malaguti and Norton, "Final Report: Intensive Historic Survey," 144; Howard R. Kleuter and James J. Lorence, *Woodlot and Ballot Box* (Wausau, WI: Marathon County Historical Society, 1977), 131-32.

January 1877, the congregation was incorporated and a constitution adopted. Two years later, a parochial school--the city's first--was built adjacent to the church and, in 1880, the church became affiliated with the Missouri Synod. Two years later, a parsonage was built for its first resident pastor, Rev. H. Erck.²¹

By January 1884, it was apparent that their church had become too small for their sixty-member parish and they purchased lots at the corner of 5th and Scott streets. Construction began on their new brick Gothic Revival edifice (no longer extant) in spring of 1884 and dedication occurred on 19 October. Their old frame church on Seymour Street was utilized as a school until fire destroyed it in 1892. A new school was built in 1892 at 5th and McClellan streets (no longer extant), next to which a new parsonage (at 508 N. 5th Street, no longer extant) was completed the following year. As of 1907, the congregation had 296 voting members, 955 communicants and a total of 1,334 members. Even with the 1898 enlarging and remodeling project, they once again they found themselves short on space. Rather than build new again, a contingent of sixty-seven voting members left Zion to organize Evangelical Trinity Lutheran Church (1908 with later additions), which was established at 501 Stewart Avenue, on the city's growing west side.²²

Until 1911, services were held almost exclusively in German. Although a resolution to conduct some services in English was passed that year, German services were not entirely discontinued until 1964. In 1916, rather than enlarge the 1892 school, a new one was built (no longer extant). Recognizing that their church would eventually become too small once again, a building fund was established in 1921. A few short years later, the 1893 parsonage was moved from across the street and placed next to the church, after which it was expanded and remodeled (no longer extant). In 1928, a Sunday School was established. As of the church's fiftieth anniversary (1934), the congregation had grown to 1,518 persons.²³

As an additional way to spread the gospel, at the behest of Rev. Paul W. Roehrs and with the help of WSAU's Chief Engineer and Zion Lutheran member Roland Richardt, Zion's services began broadcasting in 1937 on the recently established WSAU 550 AM radio. Following a successful

²¹ "Fiftieth Anniversary of the Dedication of Zion Ev. Lutheran Church, Wausau, Wisconsin, 1874-1884-1934," n.p., Booklet in Zion Lutheran Church file, Marathon County Historical Society Research Library, Wausau, WI; Keith Uhlig, "City's Oldest Parochial School to Shut Down," *Wausau Daily Herald*, 24 May 2001, 1A-2A. After Zion Lutheran, the next parochial school in Wausau was St. Mary's Catholic School in 1883 and St. Stephen Lutheran School in 1885, Janet Roberts, "Education at Zion Lutheran Spans 100 Years," *Wausau Daily Herald*, 30 August 1979, 3.

²² "Fiftieth Anniversary of the Dedication of Zion Ev. Lutheran Church," n.p.; Marchetti, *History of Marathon County Wisconsin*, 361; "Significant Events in the History of Zion Lutheran Church," Timeline, in the Zion Lutheran Church file at the Marathon County Historical Society Research Library (MCHSRL), Wausau, WI.

²³ *Ibid.*; "Zion Church 50 Years Old," *Wausau Pilot*, 4 December 1924, 1.

test series that included the noon day Lenten services, as well as Easter Sunday service, the Council recommended that the congregation broadcast the Sunday morning English service, which at that time was held at 10:30 a.m. The radio broadcast, known as the Wausau Lutheran Hour, which is one of the oldest local church broadcasts in the nation, continues today on WSAU (as well as on 95.1 and 99.9 FM) with Zion's 9 a.m. worship service.²⁴

In order to accommodate the growing congregation, an additional Sunday service in English was added in 1943. The following year, with an eye to building new once again, property (which included an existing house) at Sixth and Grant streets (the church's current location) was purchased. One month later, a campaign to raise \$100,000 began for what was conservatively anticipated to be an approximately \$300,000 church building. In July 1945, a Building Committee was appointed, with Theodore Prott serving as chairman.²⁵

Property-Specific History

Frank A. Abrahamson of St. Paul, Minnesota was selected as the architect in 1946. Three years later, during the church's diamond jubilee celebration, preliminary drawings for the new church at N. 6th and Grants were presented by Abrahamson and published in the local paper the following week. Seating capacity was to be over double of their 1884 church. Although construction was anticipated to start in 1950, ground was not broken at the new church site until 21 October 1951, with actual excavation by the George Babl Trucking and Excavating Company of Schofield beginning three days later. Orville E. Madsen of Minneapolis served as the general contractor, while the Ellis Stone and Construction Company of Stevens Point supplied the exterior stone.²⁶

On 20 April 1952, the cornerstone was laid for the new edifice, attended to by Rev. Paul W. Roehrs and his son Rev. Luther Roehrs. By this time, the estimated cost of the church had risen to \$439,000. Approximately three months later, the steel work for the 2.5-ton spire/fleche was put in

²⁴ Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church, Congregational Meeting Minutes, 3 March 1937 and Church Council Meeting Minutes, 29 March 1937, both unpublished church records, On file at the Zion Lutheran Church Archives; "Listen Live on WSAU Radio Every Sunday," Available online at www.zionlutheranwausau.com, Accessed August 2023; Zion Lutheran Church broadcast information, Available online at www.wsau.com/shows-zion-lutheran-church/, Accessed August 2023.

²⁵ "Out of Zion . . . God Shines Forth, 1874-1974," 10.

²⁶ "Looking into the Past," Ten Years Ago (re: Zion diamond jubilee), *Wausau Daily Record-Herald*, 13 October 1959, 4; "Zion Church to Begin Jubilee Services Sunday," *Wausau Daily Record-Herald*, 22 October 1949, newspaper clipping on file at MCHSRL; Looking into the Past," Ten Years Ago (re: construction to start in 1950), *Wausau Daily Record-Herald*, 18 December 1959, 14; "Zion Church Group to Act on Project," *Wausau Daily Record-Herald*, 24 September 1951, 19; "Zion Church to Break Ground for New Edifice," *Wausau Daily Record-Herald*, 20 October 1951, 7; "Zion Church Starts Building," *Wausau Daily Record-Herald*, 22 October 1951, 3; "Complete Excavation for New Zion Church," *Wausau Daily Record-Herald*, 3 November 1951, 12; "Zion Pastor to Observe Dual Jubilee," *Wausau Daily Record-Herald*, 8 February 1952, 8.

place along the roof's ridge. The church was completed in 1953 and dedication services were held on 15 March of that year. Between the nave, side chapel and three balconies, seating capacity of the church proper was noted as 886, while the lower level could seat 350 for meals and 450 or other activities. The final total for the church's construction, including interior finishes and furniture (but not including the stained glass windows), was \$400,824.72.²⁷

In 1960, the church purchased the house located at 624 Grant Street (two doors down from the church) and it was utilized as a parsonage for the assistant pastor. Two years later, Zion Lutheran built a new Contemporary style school immediately east of the church that was designed by the Sheboygan firm of Satre & Senescall. Completing their building program, a new Contemporary style parsonage was built three doors down from the church in 1963. The following year, the last regularly scheduled German language service was conducted. The church continued to acquire adjacent properties through the 1960s, eventually owning the entire block bounded by Grant, Franklin, and North 6th and 7th streets. The congregation's efforts in improving the block eventually earned them a city beautification award in 1970, the same year the congregation voted to grant voting membership privileges to women, as well as allowing them to hold office as members of most boards and committees. Redecorating of the church interior, under the direction of Potente Studio of Kenosha, occurred in 1967 and included setting off the baptistry's two walls with Byzantine-style mosaics, painting the church's beamed ceilings with color and gold leaf and installing new hanging light fixtures.²⁸

The congregation celebrated its 100th anniversary in 1974 and, four years later, the church changed affiliations from the Missouri Synod to the American Evangelical Lutheran Synod. Just over a decade later, the church engaged in the restoration of the church's interior--the first phase of "Zion 2000," a three-phase capital improvement plan that launched in 1993. After scaffolding was placed throughout the interior, work included the following: the interior walls, ceiling, stone and windows were cleaned; walls were painted; old wiring was removed and replaced; the ceiling was refinished; gold leaf was added around windows; the baptistry platform was extended, balcony railings were added and new lighting was again installed. Although Phase 2 was to originally include the construction of a new entrance that would include an elevator and physically connect the church

²⁷ "Zion Church to Lay Cornerstone," *Wausau Daily Record-Herald*, 19 April 1952, 1, 10; "Zion Church has Ceremonial Day," *Wausau Daily Record-Herald*, 21 April 1952, 1, including photo and caption, 5; "Erect Spire," *Wausau Daily Record-Herald*, 23 July 1952, clipping in Wausau Churches-Lutheran, MCHSRL; "Set Dedication for Zion Church," *Wausau Daily Record-Herald*, 12 February 1953, 16; "Zion Church to be Dedicated," photo and caption, *Wausau Daily Record-Herald*, 13 March 1953, 3.

²⁸ Zion Lutheran parsonage was designed for the Lutheran Church, Missouri Synod, as a "model church parsonage" by Herman York, a New York City architect whose plans were regularly published in the "House of the Week," series in the *Wausau Daily Record-Herald* Building page, Photo and Caption, *Wausau Daily Record-Herald*, 31 December 1963, 15; "Redecorated Zion Lutheran Church Set for Consecration Palm Sunday," *Wausau Daily Record-Herald*, 17 March 1967, 14; "Out of Zion . . . God Shines Forth: 1874-1974," 11.

to the school, that plan changed, resulting in the modest one-story elevator addition being made to the rear (north end) of the church in 1995. In 2007, the front stairs and stoop were enlarged and a new aluminum railing installed and, three years later, a new Kegg organ was installed, the latter fulfilling the goal of Phase 3 of the “Zion 2000” plan. Today, the congregation numbers 1,053.²⁹

Area of Significance: Criterion C: Architecture

Designed by architect Frank A. Abrahamson of Minneapolis, Minnesota and completed in 1953, Zion Lutheran Church is a highly intact example of the Late Gothic Revival style of architecture. Although Whiffen’s *American Architecture Since 1780* designates that the Late Gothic Revival style reached its peak in the United States between 1890 and 1915, Late Gothic Revival in Wisconsin, which is also referred to as the Neo-Gothic Revival style in Wisconsin’s *Cultural Resource Management Plan*, had not yet truly begun.³⁰

Gothic architectural motifs, including pointed-arch openings, stone tracery, and steeply pitched roofs, have been utilized for Wisconsin churches since the mid-nineteenth century. However, a primary difference between nineteenth and twentieth century Gothic Revival churches is the overall emphasis on vertical height, of which twentieth century examples tended to omit. Primary characteristics of the Late Gothic Revival style (as applied to houses of worship) include steeply pitched roofs, irregular massing, and random ashlar construction. While still traditional in its overall design, Late Gothic Revival detailing is more subdued than its predecessor Gothic Revival and High Victorian Gothic styles.³¹

Churches built in the United States prior to World War II largely reflected traditional styling such as Romanesque, Gothic Revival or Colonial Revival. In general, in Wisconsin, traditional design continued well into the 1950s, despite the fact that both national and state architectural journals of the period had fully embraced “Modern.” It was within this fifteen-year period (1945-1960) that the transition from traditional to modern church design was made. While Modern or Contemporary design was embraced by many architects, it was the church congregation members that most often steered the church’s design. In 1945, in addressing “the problem of American Church Design,” the Interdenominational Bureau of Architecture (re: American Protestant churches) wrote, “The exterior designs in this book will impress some as being generally too conservative. However, they

²⁹“Out of Zion . . . God Shines Forth: 1874-1974,” 11; “Zion Lutheran Church to Have 100th Anniversary on Sunday,” *Wausau Daily Record-Herald*, 23 August 1974, 11; “Zion Church Restoring its Historic Gothic Sanctuary,” *Wausau Daily Herald*, 15 March 1995, 1994 Progress Edition, 7; “Zion Lutheran Church, Wausau, Wisconsin,” Cover feature in *The Diapason*, January 2011, 28-29. The new Kegg organ replaced the previous 1939 organ that had been moved to this location from the previous church at N. 5th and Scott streets.

³⁰ Marcus Whiffen, *American Architecture Since 1790: A Guide to the Styles* (Cambridge, MA: MIT Press, 1999), Contents; Wyatt, ed., *Cultural Resource Management in Wisconsin*, Architectural Styles.

³¹ Ibid.

illustrate in nearly every case what a congregation demands and approves . . .”. Seven years later, the resistance to modern church design was still evident, for George B. Allison wrote, that although “. . . principal architectural magazines hold strongly with the contemporary trends,” in his experience, “. . . most building committees oppose contemporary trends, at least to some degree.”³²

Despite the church’s 1953 date of completion, it is of note that Zion Lutheran had already hired Frank A. Abrahamson as its architect in 1946, when church architecture, including Abrahamson’s work, was still largely traditional in design. Overall, Zion Lutheran Church is traditional in appearance and prominently displays the aforementioned primary characteristics of the Late Gothic Revival style including a steeply pitched roof, irregular massing, Gothic- (or pointed-) arch stained-glass windows with tracery and random ashlar construction--specifically featuring Stevens Point limestone and Indiana limestone trim. Additional features also common to the Late Gothic Revival-style that are also employed in Zion’s design are parapet endwalls with stone coping, stone quoining, and buttressing, as well as carved stone panels, the lattermost of which are displayed above the entrance portals, both horizontally and as rectangular panels within the arched tympana.³³

Gothic architectural motifs that continue in the interior include pointed-arch window openings and doorways—many with stone quoining, along with metal staircase railings in the narthex that exhibit a quatrefoil design. Other original interior features that complement the style include the following: the handmade ceramic floor tile that is believed to have been handcrafted by Nemadji pottery of Moose Lake, Minnesota; wooden roof trusses and ceiling beams that are detailed with decorative painting; terrazzo staircases; as well as a significant amount of original wooden church furniture produced by the Ossit Church Furniture Company of Janesville, Wisconsin. Although not original to the church’s 1953 construction, the Byzantine-style mosaic walls that were added to the Baptistry in 1967, the distinctive hanging light fixtures installed in the 1990s (which resemble the fixtures installed in 1967), the carved basswood organ pipe shades executed Spirit Williams and installed in 2010, and the chapel artwork recently created by Edward Riojas, blend together well with the Late Gothic Revival interior. All combined, Zion Lutheran Church is a very good and highly intact example of the Late Gothic Revival style, both inside and out.

Comparative Analysis

The 2017-2018 Historical & Architectural Resources Survey of Wausau inventoried several ecclesiastical examples of Late Gothic Revival (or Neo-Gothic Revival), ranging in date from the

³² The Interdenominational Bureau of Architecture, *Planning Church Buildings* ((New York: The Friedman Press, c1945), 4; George B. Allison, “The Church and its Architecture,” in *The Journal of the American Institute of Architects*, Vol. 17 (March 1952), 124-25.

³³ Wyatt, ed., *Cultural Resource Management in Wisconsin*, Architectural styles.

turn of the twentieth century through the 1950s. Among those churches considered generally comparable to Zion Lutheran Church include St. John's Episcopal Church (1914) at 330 McClellan Street; the National Register-listed First Universalist Church (1914; NRHP 80000159) at 504 Grant Street; and First Presbyterian Church (1928) at 406 Grant Street.³⁴

The first two examples—St. John's Episcopal and First Universalist--both are English-inspired, were completed in 1914, and include a parsonage wing that results in a U-shaped complex. Regarding the latter, the National Register-listed First Universalist Church (AHI#16260), which was designed by renowned Milwaukee architect Alexander Eschweiler, is constructed of stone, features buttressing, as well as parapet endwalls with stone coping, and includes Gothic-arched, stained-glass windows with tracery. Although largely symmetrical in design, a crenellated bell tower extends from the building's southeast corner, on top of which extends a copper fleche. The church's entrance doors are located within the tower but they do not face the street. While the church remains largely intact, the attached, English Tudor Revival-style classroom and offices wing was demolished in 2006 and a new wing constructed in 2007, along with a large glass atrium installed along the building's mid-section.³⁵

Similarly, St. John's Episcopal Church (AHI#51201), designed by the Wausau firm of Chromaster, Speer and Swarthout, is constructed of stone (in this case, locally quarried fieldstone from the Town of Hatley), features buttressing, parapet endwalls with stone coping, and Gothic-arched windows with stained glass and tracery. The remainder of the U-shaped complex consists of a Guild Hall and former rectory, both of which exhibit Tudor Revival styling. Although traditional in their overall styling, both the First Universalist Church and St. John's Episcopal exhibit low-lying, English-inspired profiles rather than the vertical emphasis seen on Zion Lutheran; both churches also pre-date Zion Lutheran by nearly four decades and, as such, are not truly comparable.

Constructed just twenty-five years earlier than Zion, First Presbyterian Church (AHI#51013) was designed by O.H. Briedert of the Chicago firm of Childs and Smith. Like the previous two examples, First Presbyterian is constructed of stone, features Gothic-arched, stained-glass windows with stone tracery, parapet endwalls with stone coping and buttressing. Like First Universalist, it features a crenellated entrance belltower (albeit a much taller one) along its side and it too is U-shaped, as it includes attached classrooms and a parsonage. With its overall lower

³⁴ "Historical & Architectural Resources Survey 2017-2018: City of Wausau, Marathon County, Wisconsin," Prepared by Heritage Research, Ltd., for the Wausau Historic Preservation Commission (August 2018), 38-39, 42-43, 68-69; National Register of Historic Places, Eschweiler Thematic Resources of Marathon County, Wisconsin, #80000159. Although Salem Evangelical Lutheran Church and Parsonage, designed by the Milwaukee firm of Steffen & Kemp and completed in 1959 was identified in the 2018 survey report as Neo-Gothic Revival in style, it is actually more appropriately categorized as an example of 1950s Contemporary church architecture, as there is no Gothic Revival detailing to be seen anywhere on its exterior.

³⁵ "Downtown Church Begins \$1.9 million expansion," *Wausau Daily Herald*, 25 September 2006, 3.

proportions and belltower placement, it is also English-inspired in its design, thus rendering First Presbyterian also not directly comparable. English-inspired or not, both First Presbyterian and St. John's Episcopal are also considered to be potentially eligible for the Register for their respective Late Gothic Revival styling.

Architect and Artisans

Frank A. Abrahamson

Zion Lutheran Church was designed by Frank August Abrahamson of St. Paul, Minnesota. Born in Motley Minnesota in 1884, Abrahamson earned a bachelor's degree in architecture from the University of Pennsylvania in 1911. After returning to Minnesota, he joined the firm of native Frenchman and Ecole des Beaux-Arts-trained, Emmanuel L. Masqueray (1861-1917) who had established a practice in St. Paul in 1905. Upon Masqueray's death in 1917, Abrahamson, along with Fred Slifer and Edwin Lundie, would partner to establish the successor firm of Slifer, Lundie and Abrahamson, in order to complete Masqueray's thirteen unfinished commissions. Upon their completion, Lundie went on the established his own firm, while Abrahamson and Slifer, specialists in church design, would practice together until 1936. During their partnership, they produced the National Register-listed Hamline Methodist Episcopal Church (1925) in St. Paul, which is reminiscent of Wausau's Zion Lutheran Church. Abrahamson, who continued to specialize in church architecture, including parochial schools, practiced alone from 1936 until retiring in the 1960s; he died in 1972. The extent of Abrahamson's ecclesiastical work in Wisconsin is relatively unknown; however, he is confirmed to have designed Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church (1953; AHI#74892) at 605 S. 4th Street in Watertown and Immanuel Lutheran Church (1956; AHI#142938) at 1021 Spaight Street in Madison. As of 1949 (when hired by the Immanuel Lutheran congregation), Abrahamson was "considered one of the outstanding church architects in the field of Lutheran church building in the northwest."³⁶

Erhard Stoettner, T.C. Esser Studios

Erhard Stoettner was born in Bavaria, Germany, in 1899. He began his apprenticeship at the age of twelve in the shop of his family, with Erhard being a fourth-generation stained glassmaker. After serving in World War I, Stoettner worked on numerous churches throughout Europe, including the cathedrals of Chartres, Rheims and Cologne. He eventually obtained his degree as a master craftsman at the School of Arts & Crafts in Dusseldorf, Germany. In January 1929, Stoettner came to the United States and is identified in secondary accounts as having worked first in Boston and then Minneapolis. By 1930, however, he was living and working as an artist for Conrad Schmitt Studios in Milwaukee. He remained there until sometime in 1934, when he began working for the T.C. Esser Company in their newly established stained glass department, serving

³⁶ Firm announcement (re: Slifer, Lundie and Abrahamson), *The American Architect*, 22 August 1917, 144; "St. Paul Architect Engaged by Immanuel," *The Wisconsin State Journal*, 20 July 1949, 7.

as its department head. Stoettner worked with the firm into at least the early 1970s; he died in 1992. Stoettner's son Ronald (1930-2000) apprenticed at T.C. Esser, working under his father. Stoettner designed and/or created stained-glass windows in no less than thirty-five religious facilities in the state of Wisconsin, as evidenced in a 1971 list of Stoettner's work, of which Zion Lutheran Church is included.³⁷

Ossit Church Furniture

The pews, among a number of other church furniture pieces, were made at the Ossit Church Furniture Company which, by 1953, was located in Janesville, Wisconsin. The company was started circa 1897 in Milwaukee by two Latvian brothers, Jacob and Peter Ossit and was known as Ossit Bros. After growing out of its initial basement quarters, it later moved into a building of its own. After the brothers sold it sometime during the 1910s, John Tuhtar headed the company until his death in 1934. That same year, his son Eugene, who had been with the company since shortly after his 1925 graduation from the University of Wisconsin-Madison, moved the factory to Janesville. Although the company filed for bankruptcy in 1936, the firm was reestablished as the Ossit Church Furniture Company. Eugene died in 1974. The firm, which was located at 251 Hyatt Street (no longer extant), closed its doors in November 1983.³⁸

Edward Riojas

Edward Riojas was responsible for the "Zion Altarpiece" in the west transept chapel (installed in 2017), as well as a series of four painted wood panels collectively known as "The Venite," which line the west wall of the chapel (installed in 2020). Born and raised in Grand Rapids, Michigan, and raised in The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, Riojas graduated in 1981 with a bachelor's

³⁷ Bertha Kitchell Whyte, *Craftsmen of Wisconsin* (Racine, WI: Western Publishing Co., Inc., 1971), 165, 169-71, 173; "Stained Glass: Premier Art," *Milwaukee Sentinel*, 29 May 1967. Whyte's biographical information regarding Stoettner cites he was nine when he began his apprenticeship, while the *Milwaukee Sentinel* article, which included material from Stoettner himself, cites he was twelve; T.C. Esser Company Complex, Determination of Eligibility Form, Prepared by Heritage Research, Ltd. (Schnell), April 2008, Digital copy on file at tes | Historical Consulting, LLC, Kiel, WI. Also, Whyte notes that Stoettner came to the United States in 1931, after working in Boston and Minneapolis, then coming to Milwaukee in 1934. Census and immigration materials, as well as Milwaukee city directories indicate that both the 1931 and 1934 dates are incorrect, U.S. Federal Census, Population, 1930 and *Milwaukee City Directory*, 1930-1934, both the census and directories are available online at www.Ancestry.com. Accessed August 2023.

³⁸ "With Old Skills, Janesville Firm Turns Out Church Furniture," *The Wisconsin State Journal*, 17 February 1952, 13. This article cites that Ossit furniture began in 1867 by William and Peter Ossit; however, following a review of records, the Ossit brothers—namely Jacob and Peter—did not immigrate to the United States until the 1890s. Although they are both noted as carpenters as of 1895, Ossit Bros. is not identified as such until the 1897 Milwaukee city directory, U.S. Federal Census, Population, 1900, 1910, Available online at www.Ancestry.com, Accessed August 2023; Eugene Tuhtar's obituary states he graduated in 1923; however, other records indicate he graduated in 1925, including a 1922 newspaper article that cites his status as a sophomore, "Student Political Contest Waxes Hot on University Campus," *The Wisconsin State Journal*, 22 October 1922, 11; "Janesville Dealers File in Bankruptcy," *The Wisconsin State Journal*, 25 August 1936, 5; "Eugene W. Tuhtar," Obituary, Janesville newspaper clipping, undated (March 1974), clipping available online at <https://www.findagrave.com>, Accessed August 2023.

Name of Property

degree in Fine Arts from Aquinas College in Grand Rapids. After three years in advertising, he moved to the newspaper industry, working as a staff artist for *The Grand Rapids Press* for more than thirty years. His work, both secular and religious, can be found in institutions, sanctuaries and private collections throughout the United States, Canada, and Europe. In Wisconsin, in addition to Zion Lutheran, his known works are located in Mt. Zion Lutheran Church in Greenfield and Emmanuel Lutheran Church, Adell. In 2023, an Easter Vigil coloring book, illustrated by Riojas, was made available, by download, on The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod website. He currently resides with his family in Byron Center, Michigan.³⁹

Herbert Ladwig

Although not considered permanent art in the church, two notable works of marquetry that hang on the walls of the building—one of the 1884 Zion Lutheran church and the other of the subject 1953 church--were executed by Wausau native, Herbert Ladwig. Born in 1904, Ladwig joined Employers Mutual Insurance at the age of sixteen and retired from the company in 1969. In his 20s, he took up marquetry, the art of composing designs and pictures using thin wood veneers of various kinds and colors. In 1953, two of Ladwig's pieces won first prize in the Pacific National Exhibition's International Hobby Show in Vancouver, B.C., Canada and in 1960, The Marathon County Historical Society featured twenty-five pieces of Ladwig's work in a changing monthly exhibit. As of 1969, Ladwig, who served on a variety of committees and boards at Zion Lutheran, including as congregation president, estimated that he had sold approximately 100 marquetry works. He died in 1971.⁴⁰

Carolyn Holmes

Although the needlework itself was ultimately completed in 1989 by Zion Lutheran Church's Altar Guild, the actual needlepoint designs on the fourteen total kneeler cushions in the chancel and the side chapel altar were executed by Carolyn Holmes (1916-2001), owner of Mili Holmes' Studio of New Canaan, Connecticut. The cushion designs were hand-painted on canvas using acrylic or oil paints which were mixed to match the needlepoint yarn. When chosen, Holmes' work was in more than thirty churches across thirteen states. At the time of Holmes' death, she was noted as

³⁹ "Edward Riojas," Brief biographical information available online at www.edriojasartist.com/bio, Accessed July 2023; "Lutheran Art Explained: Artist Spotlight: Edward Riojas," in *Interest Time*, Issue 117 (2019), 9-10, Available online at https://interesttime.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/InterestTime_117_F_PAGES.pdf, Accessed August 2023; Easter Vigil Coloring Book available online at The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod website, <https://www.lcms.org/>, Accessed August 2023.

⁴⁰ "Local Man Wins Honors with Skill in Ancient Art," *Wausau Daily Record-Herald*, 30 October 1953, 1; "Inlay Wood Work Exhibit at Museum," *Wausau Daily Record-Herald*, 6 May 1960, 13; Jamie Goertz, "Wood Inlay Work Provides Exacting Hobby for Wausau Man," *Wausau Daily Record-Herald*, 7 November 1969, 24; "Herbert A. Ladwig," obituary, *Wausau Daily Record-Herald*, 10 September 1971, 8.

having her ecclesiastical needlepoint designs in forty cathedrals and churches including the Great Altar rug at the National Cathedral in Washington, D.C.⁴¹

Concluding Significance Statement

Completed in 1953, Zion Lutheran Church is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C at the local level as an excellent and highly intact example of the Late Gothic Revival style of architecture. The cruciform plan house of worship prominently displays such character-defining features including a steeply pitched roof, irregular massing, masonry construction, Gothic- (or pointed-) arch, stained-glass windows with stone tracery, along with parapet endwalls with coping, buttressing, stone quoining, and a distinctive copper fleche. Additionally, the interior of the church retains its original decorative handmade tile flooring by Nemadji Pottery of Moose Lake, Minnesota, stained-glass windows by glass craftsman Erhard Stoettner of Milwaukee; as well as church furniture manufactured by the Ossit Church Furniture Company of Janesville, Wisconsin.

Criterion Consideration A

While properties owned by religious institutions or used for religious purposes are typically not eligible for National Register listing, an exception may be made if its significance meets one of the criteria considerations. Zion Lutheran Church meets the requirements of Criterion Consideration A, as a religious property that derives its primary significance from its architectural distinction.

Land Acknowledgement

This nomination recognizes the depth of human presence here, the ancestral homeland of American Indians for millennia. From as early as the seventeenth century, Euro-American exploration and settlement, military campaigns, and government programs, all had the effect of repeated displacement of Indians of many tribal affiliations. This continuous tribal movement resulted in Wisconsin being home to many tribes who originated from other parts of the country, generating a pattern of immigration, relocation, and formation of a new homeland. Some of these tribes remain in Wisconsin but others may not. We acknowledge that the property that is the subject of this nomination is located on land long occupied by American Indians.

Archaeological Potential

COMPLETE

⁴¹ Of note, it took each needle pointer about nine months to complete each cushion, "A Celebration of Creation," *Wausau Herald*, 26 March 1989, 1E; "Carolyn (Millie) Holmes," Death notice, *New York Times*, 25 March 2001, 44.

Preservation Activities

Zion Lutheran Church was evaluated as potentially eligible for the NRHP during a survey of the City of Wausau conducted in 2017-2018. Eligibility was re-affirmed prior to the writing of this nomination, through the completion of a Part 1 Wisconsin state tax credit application that was submitted along with the Part 2 application in April 2023 and approved that same month. As a partner with the Wisconsin State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) and the National Park Service (NPS) participating in the Certified Local Government (CLG) program, Wausau is required to maintain a system to survey and inventory historic properties. That entails regular surveys with updates every 20-25 years to identify properties that appear potentially eligible for the NRHP.

Since 2018, the City of Wausau has pursued and been awarded additional grant funding to list the Highland Park Historic District, which was identified as potentially eligible in the 2018 survey. The District was officially National Register listed on 17 October 2022.

END OF STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE DO NOT DELETE

9. Major Bibliographical References

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____
- recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other
- Name of repository: Zion Lutheran Church Archives

Wisconsin Architecture and History Inventory # #236471
and/or Archaeological Site Inventory #: _____

Bibliography (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

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Name of Property

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END OF BIBLIOGRAPHY DO NOT DELETE

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property: .51 acre

Provide either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

Datum if other than WGS84: _____
(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

1. Latitude:	_____	Longitude:	_____
2. Latitude:	_____	Longitude:	_____
3. Latitude:	_____	Longitude:	_____
4. Latitude:	_____	Longitude:	_____

Or

UTM References

Datum (indicated on USGS map):

NAD 1927 or NAD 1983

1. Zone:	<u>16</u>	Easting:	<u>293152</u>	Northing:	<u>4982124</u>
2. Zone:	_____	Easting:	_____	Northing:	_____
3. Zone:	_____	Easting:	_____	Northing:	_____
4. Zone:	_____	Easting:	_____	Northing:	_____

Verbal Boundary Description

The nominated boundary of Zion Lutheran Church is a rectangle that measures 185 feet (east and west lines) x 120 feet (north and south lines).

Boundary Justification

The boundary equates to the original legal description for the church property which was described as Lots 1 and 2, Block 8 in Stewart, Mason & Parcher's 2nd Addition in the City of Wausau, Marathon County, as recorded at the Office of the Register of Deeds, Marathon County, Wisconsin, plus the 10-foot vacated alley at the rear (see Figure #3 for Sanborn map with block and lots identified).

Although the block upon which the church sits includes three other buildings that were historically associated with the church and that are still owned by Zion Lutheran Church (including the 1962

former Zion Lutheran School and a 1963 parsonage—both of which are Contemporary in styling—as well as a 1920s-era, single-family home). These additional buildings are not included in the nominated boundary as they have undergone some degree of alteration but, most importantly, do not date to the church’s Period of Significance, as they are not examples of Late Gothic Revival-style architecture, of which Zion Lutheran Church is significant.

Today, the church, the former school building, as well as the associated parking lots have been combined under one legal parcel. The extension of the historic boundary to include the vacated 10-foot alley was done to ensure that the church, in its entirety, is included in the boundary (as all records would seem to suggest that the back of the church was built on the rear lot line and it appears that the 1995 addition extends just beyond the north wall of the church proper), as well as to provide a modest buffer between the church and the parking lot if, in the future, the parking lot were to be developed. The 10-foot extension beyond the historic parcel also allows a boundary line to be drawn that does not go directly through the existing, modern fencing, which continues to the north to encompass the adjacent, associated parking lot.

END OF GEOGRAPHIC DATA DO NOT DELETE

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Traci E. Schnell, M.A.

organization: tes | Historical Consulting, LLC

street & number: 211 Paine Street

city or town: Kiel State: WI zip code: 53042

Email: tracieschnell@gmail.com

Telephone: 262.366.0397

Additional Documentation

List of Figures

1. USGS Quadrangle: Wausau East, Wisconsin, 7.5 minute.
2. Historic Boundary Map. Zion Lutheran Church, 709 N. 6th Street, Wausau, Marathon County.
3. Sanborn map, 1923; Republished 1954.
4. Rendering of Zion Lutheran Church, entrance (south) elevation, undated. Drawn by Frank A. Abrahamson, architect.
5. Historic photo of Zion Lutheran Church exterior. Published in the *Wausau Daily Record-Herald* on 13 March 1953, page 3.
6. Historic photo of Zion Lutheran Church interior. Photo taken on date of dedication, 15 March 1953. Photo in possession of the Marathon County Historical Society Research Library.
7. Floor Plan of church, main level.

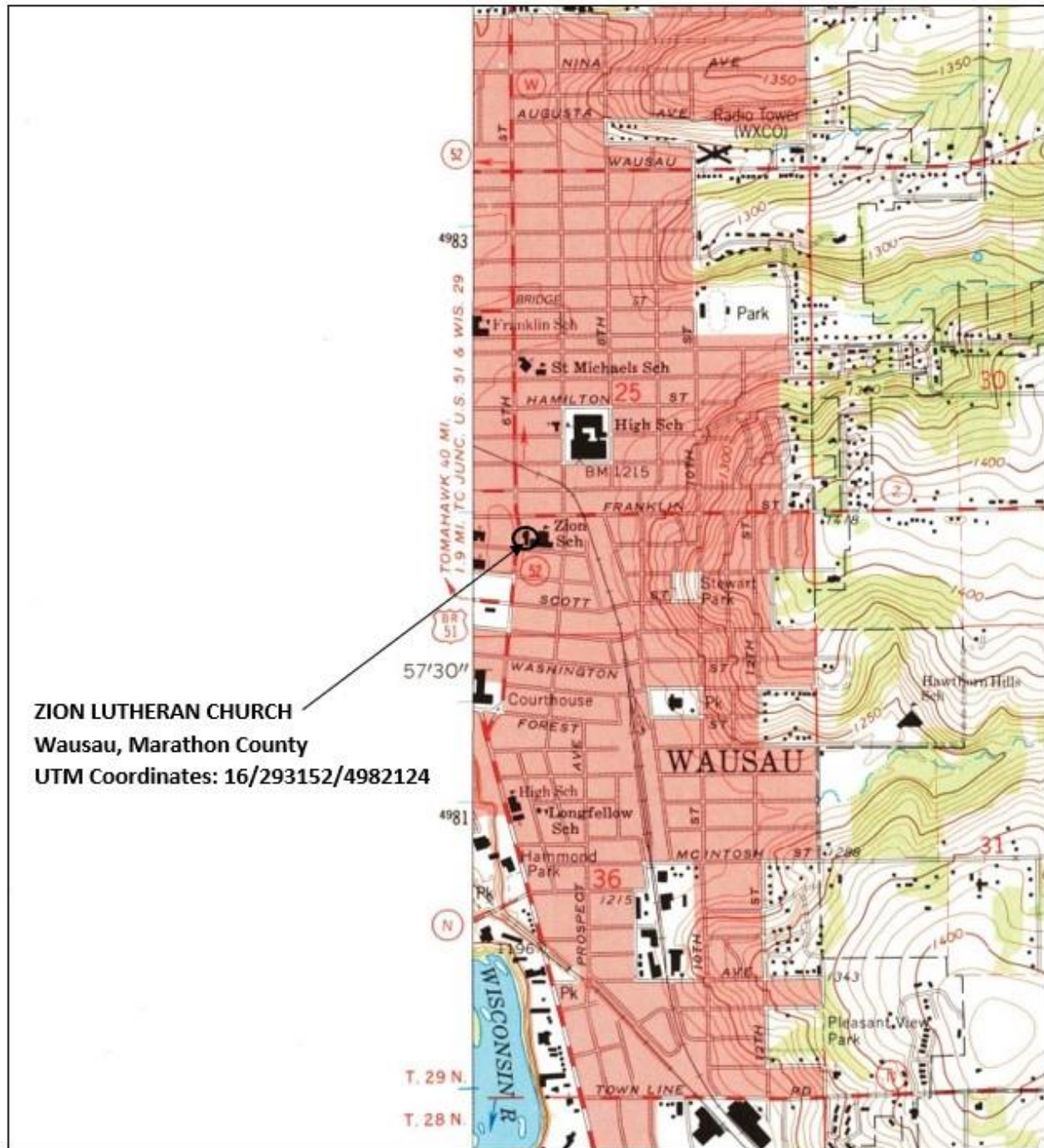
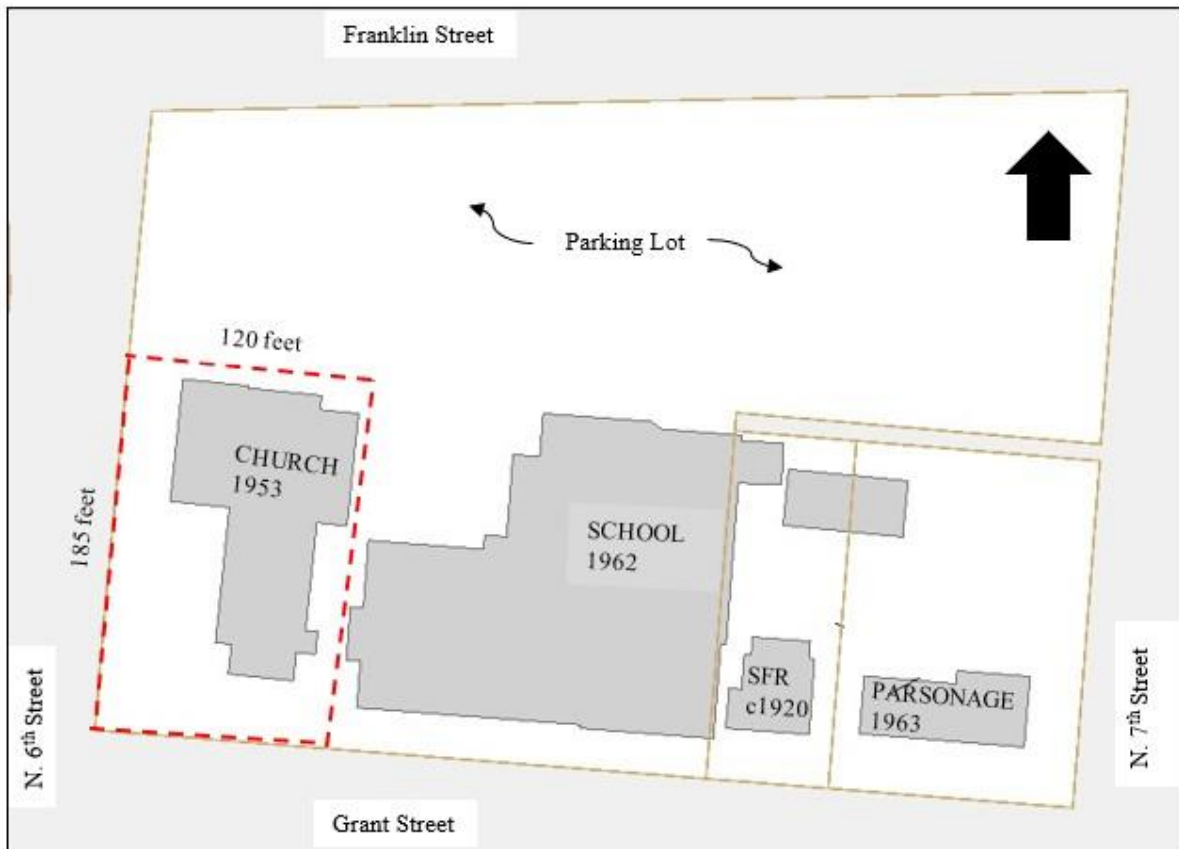


FIGURE #1: USGS Quadrangle: Wausau East, Wisconsin, 7.5 minute.



--- = Historic Boundary
SFR = Single-Family Residence
(used as parsonage after 1960)

Marathon County GIS Mapping
Not to Scale

FIGURE #2: Historic Boundary Map: Zion Lutheran Church, 709 N. 6th Street, Wausau, Marathon County, Wisconsin.

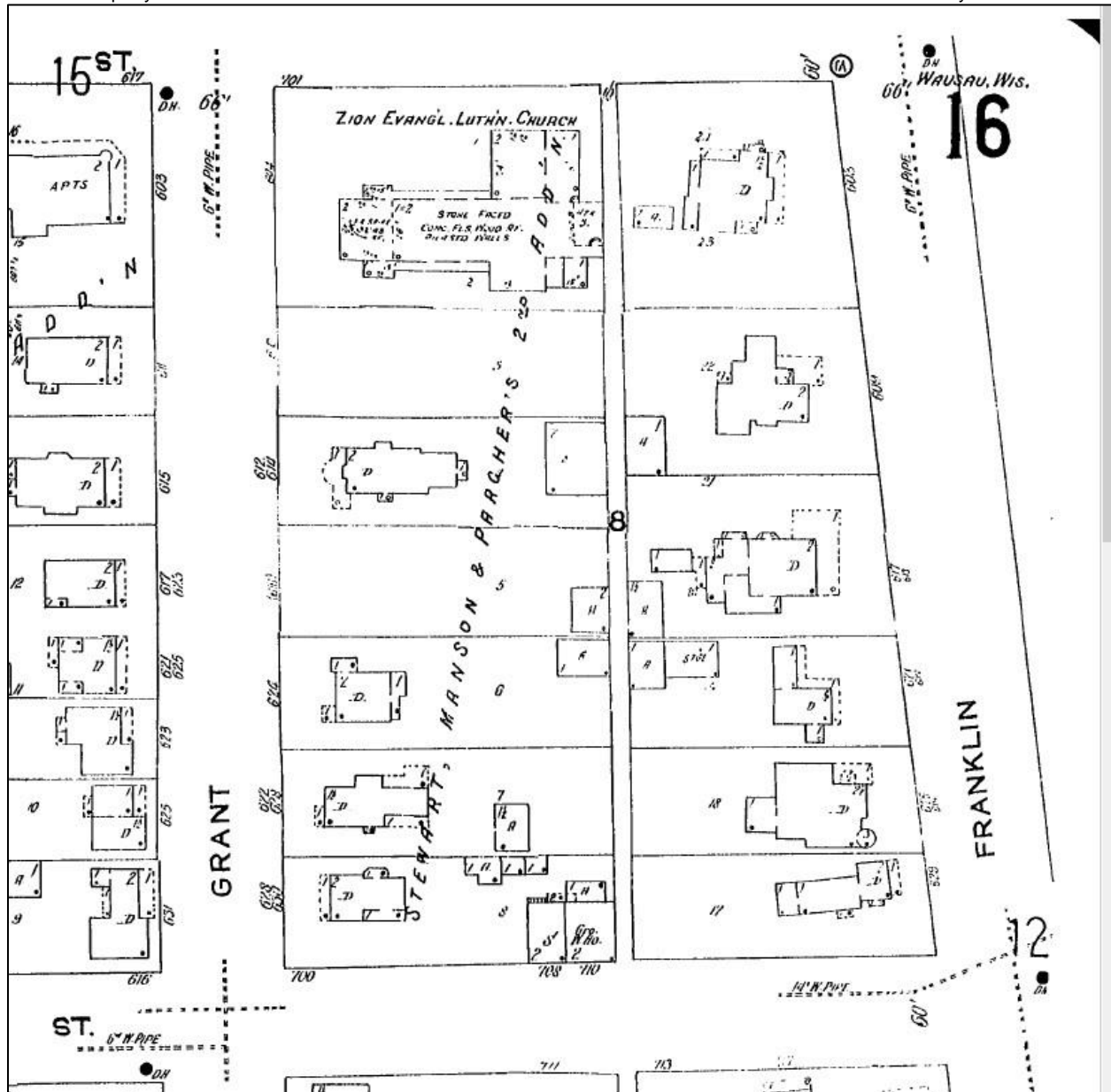


FIGURE #3: Sanborn Map. Depicts lot lines, as well as the 10-foot alley that has since been vacated. Please note that the church dropped “Evangelical” from its name by the time they moved to this location, despite its naming on the map itself.



FIGURE #4: Rendering of Zion Lutheran Church, entrance (south) elevation, undated.

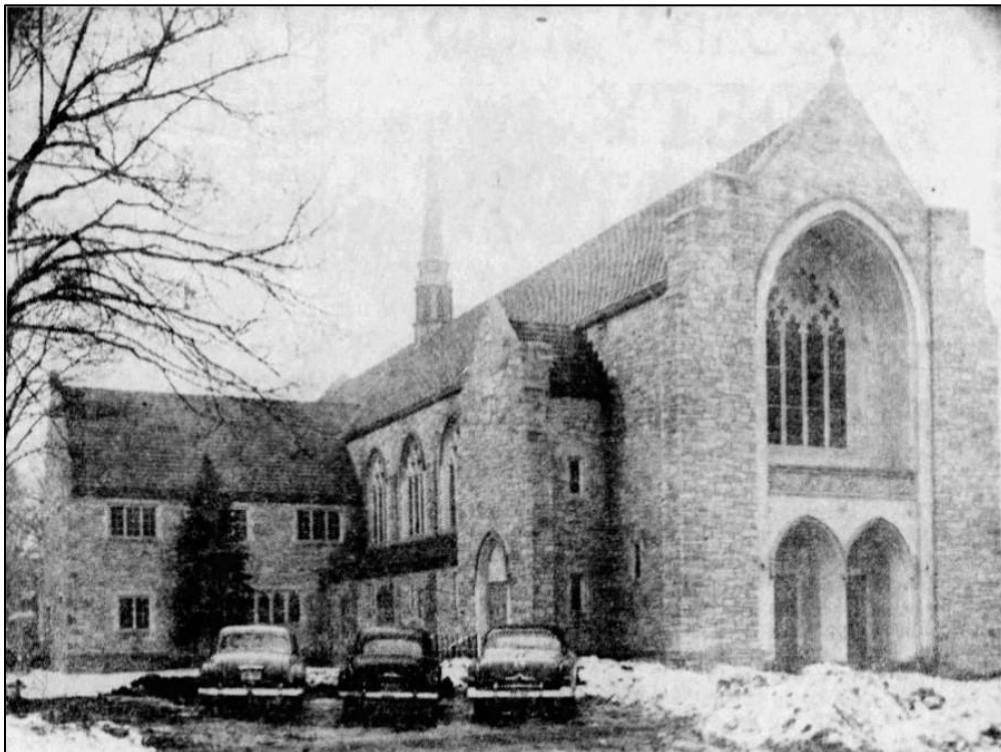


FIGURE #5: Historic photo of Zion Lutheran Church, March 1953.



FIGURE #6: Historic Photo of Zion Lutheran Church interior, 15 March 1953.

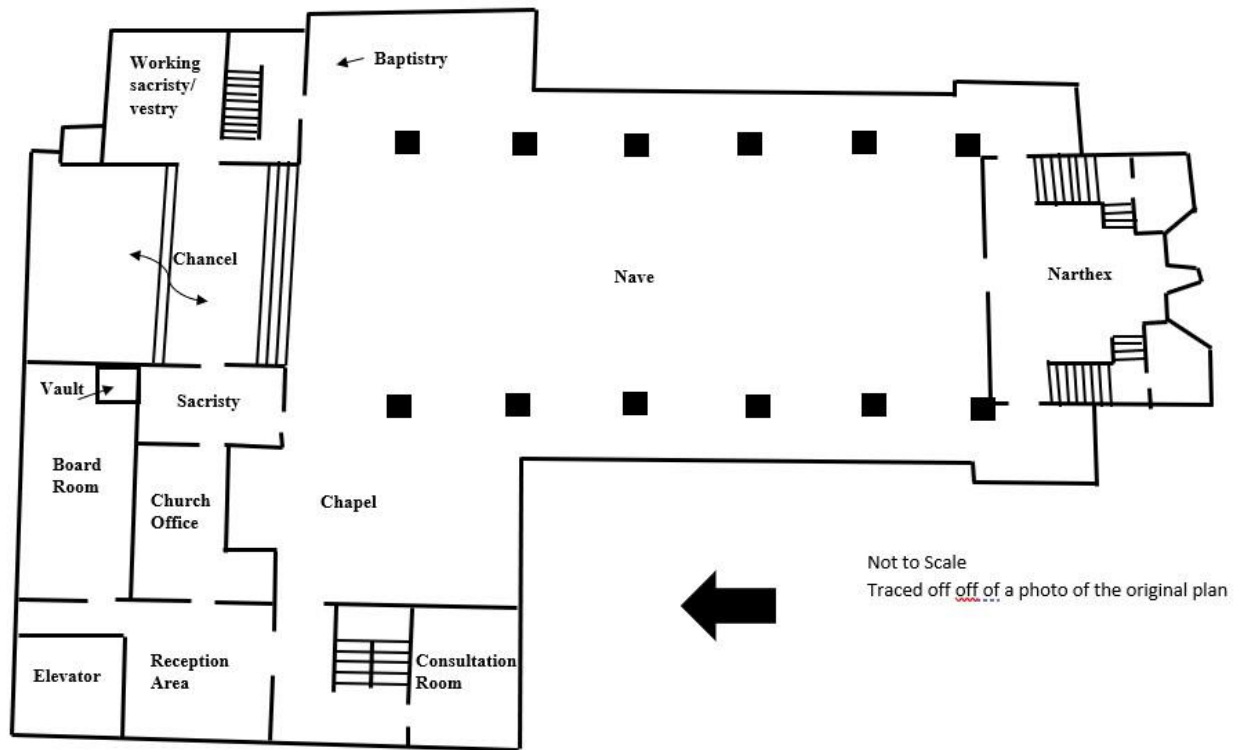


FIGURE #7: Zion Lutheran Church, Main Floor Plan

END OF FIGURES SECTION DO NOT DELETE

Photographs

Photo Log

Name of Property: Zion Lutheran Church
City or Vicinity: Wausau
County: Marathon State: WI
Photographer: Traci E. Schnell
Date photographed: February 2023

1 of 17 (WI_Marathon County_Zion Lutheran Church_0001)
South and west elevations; view to northeast

2 of 17 (WI_Marathon County_Zion Lutheran Church_0002)
South elevation; view to north

3 of 17 (WI_Marathon County_Zion Lutheran Church_0003)
South and east elevations; view to northwest

4 of 17 (WI_Marathon County_Zion Lutheran Church_0004)
East and north elevations; view to southwest

5 of 17 (WI_Marathon County_Zion Lutheran Church_0005)
North and east elevations; view to southeast

6 of 17 (WI_Marathon County_Zion Lutheran Church_0006)
Primary (south) entrance detail; view to north

7 of 17 (WI_Marathon County_Zion Lutheran Church_0007)
East narthex entrance detail; view to west

8 of 17 (WI_Marathon County_Zion Lutheran Church_0008)
Interior: narthex; view to south southeast

9 of 17 (WI_Marathon County_Zion Lutheran Church_0009)
Interior: narthex into nave; view to north northwest

10 of 17 (WI_Marathon County_Zion Lutheran Church_0010)
Interior: nave and choir balcony; view to south

11 of 17 (WI_Marathon County_Zion Lutheran Church_0011)
Interior: nave and side aisle; view to northwest

12 of 17 (WI_Marathon County_Zion Lutheran Church_0012)
Interior: nave and chancel; view to north

13 of 17 (WI_Marathon County_Zion Lutheran Church_0013)
Interior: Baptistry; view to north northeast

14 of 17 (WI_Marathon County_Zion Lutheran Church_0014)
Interior: west transept chapel and Zion Altarpiece; view to north northwest

15 of 17 (WI_Marathon County_Zion Lutheran Church_0015)
Interior: west transept chapel; view to southwest

16 of 17 (WI_Marathon County_Zion Lutheran Church_0016)
Interior: ceiling of chancel; view to ceiling

17 of 17 (WI_Marathon County_Zion Lutheran Church_0017)
Interior: nave light fixture; view from east transept choir

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for nominations to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.). We may not conduct or sponsor and you are not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number.

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for each response using this form is estimated to be between the Tier 1 and Tier 4 levels with the estimate of the time for each tier as follows:

- Tier 1 – 60-100 hours
- Tier 2 – 120 hours
- Tier 3 – 230 hours
- Tier 4 – 280 hours

The above estimates include time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and preparing and transmitting nominations. Send comments regarding these estimates or any other aspect of the requirement(s) to the Service Information Collection Clearance Officer, National Park Service, 1201 Oakridge Drive Fort Collins, CO 80525.

Property Owner

Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name/title	Robert Kittel, President		date	August 2023
organization	Zion Lutheran Church Board of Trustees		phone	715.575.3264
street & number	709 N. 6 th Street		zip code	54403
city or town	Wausau	state WI		

If there are other interested parties that should be noticed, please provide in the tables below

name/title	_____		date	_____
organization	_____		phone	_____
street & number	_____		zip code	_____
city or town	_____	state WI		

name/title	_____		date	_____
organization	_____		phone	_____
street & number	_____		zip code	_____
city or town	_____	state WI		

name/title	_____		date	_____
organization	_____		phone	_____
street & number	_____		zip code	_____
city or town	_____	state WI		



Memorandum

To: Certified Local Governments in Wisconsin
From: State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), Certified Local Government Coordinator
Date: September 7, 2023
Re: *National Register of Historic Places* nominations for properties in CLG jurisdictions

When the *State Historic Preservation Office* (SHPO) receives a *National Register of Historic Places* (NRHP) nomination for a property within the jurisdiction of a *Certified Local Government* (CLG), the preparer will share the nomination with the chief elected official and the Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) in that community at least 60 days prior to the State Review Board's consideration of the nomination. The State Review Board meets quarterly, typically in February, May, August, and November.

This is an opportunity for the HPC to comment on the nomination and contribute local knowledge of the property and its history.

As a CLG, your commission's responsibility is to review the nomination and provide an opinion as to whether the property meets the eligibility criteria for the NRHP. Typically, HPCs do this by placing the nomination on the agenda of a regular meeting and allocating time for public comment as well as commission review. It is not within the HPC's responsibility or authority to require or request edits from the nomination preparer. If the commission has concerns or feedback about the content of the nomination, that information should be transmitted directly to the SHPO.

A summary of public comments and/or a letter of the commission's opinion may be submitted, by postal mail or email, to:

Ian Gort
ian.gort@wisconsinhistory.org

State Historic Preservation Office
Wisconsin Historical Society
816 State St. Rm. 305
Madison, WI 53706

The letter may come from the chair of the HPC, the director of the Planning Department, the chief elected official, or any combination thereof. Regardless of whether the SHPO receives correspondence from the CLG, the SHPO will proceed with the nomination process.



Zion Lutheran Church, Wausau, Marathon County 1 of 17



Zion Lutheran Church, Wausau, Marathon County 2 of 17



Zion Lutheran Church, Wausau, Marathon County 3 of 17



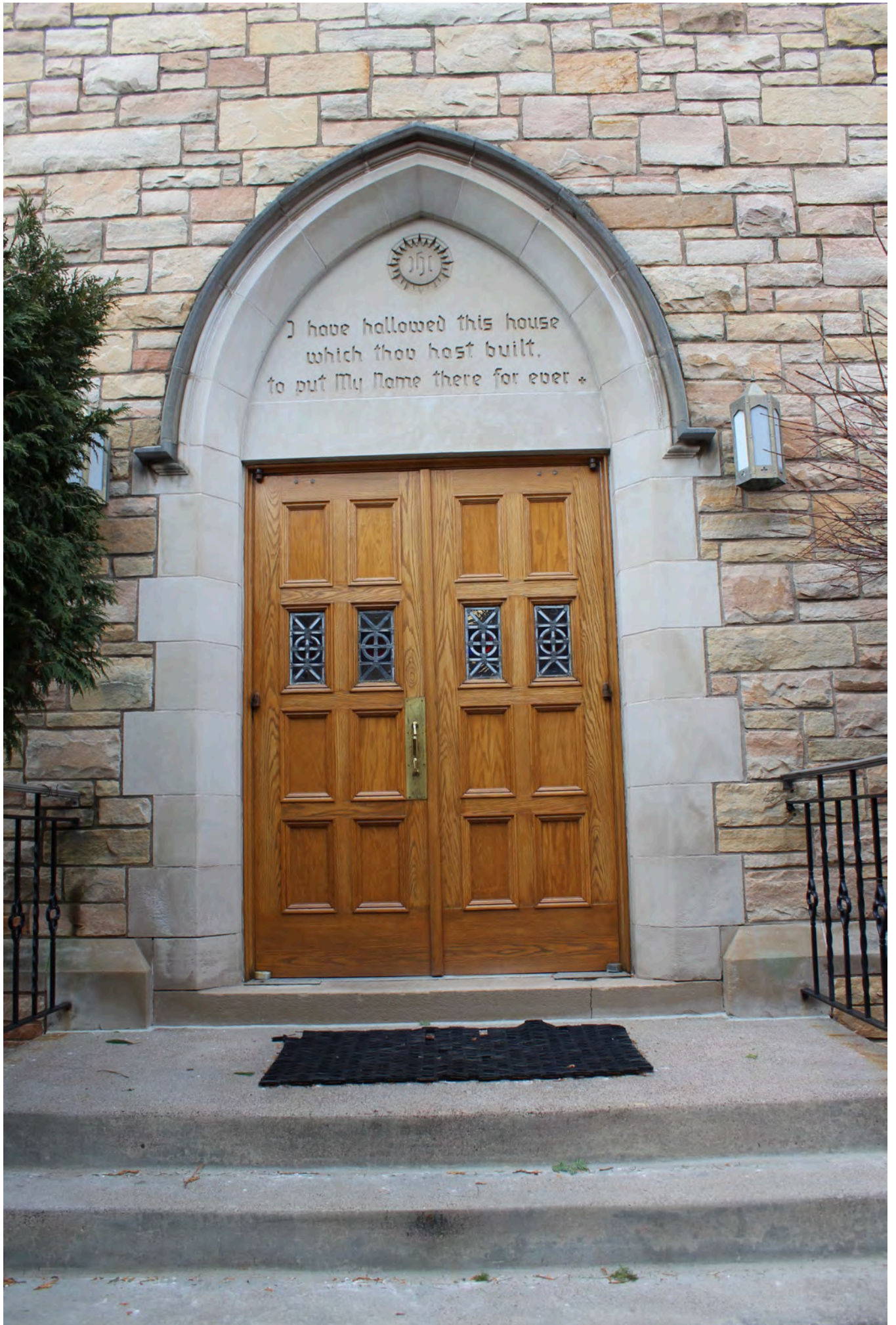
Zion Lutheran Church, Wausau, Marathon County 4 of 17



Zion Lutheran Church, Wausau, Marathon County 5 of 17



Zion Lutheran Church, Wausau, Marathon County 6 of 17



Zion Lutheran Church, Wausau, Marathon County 7 of 17



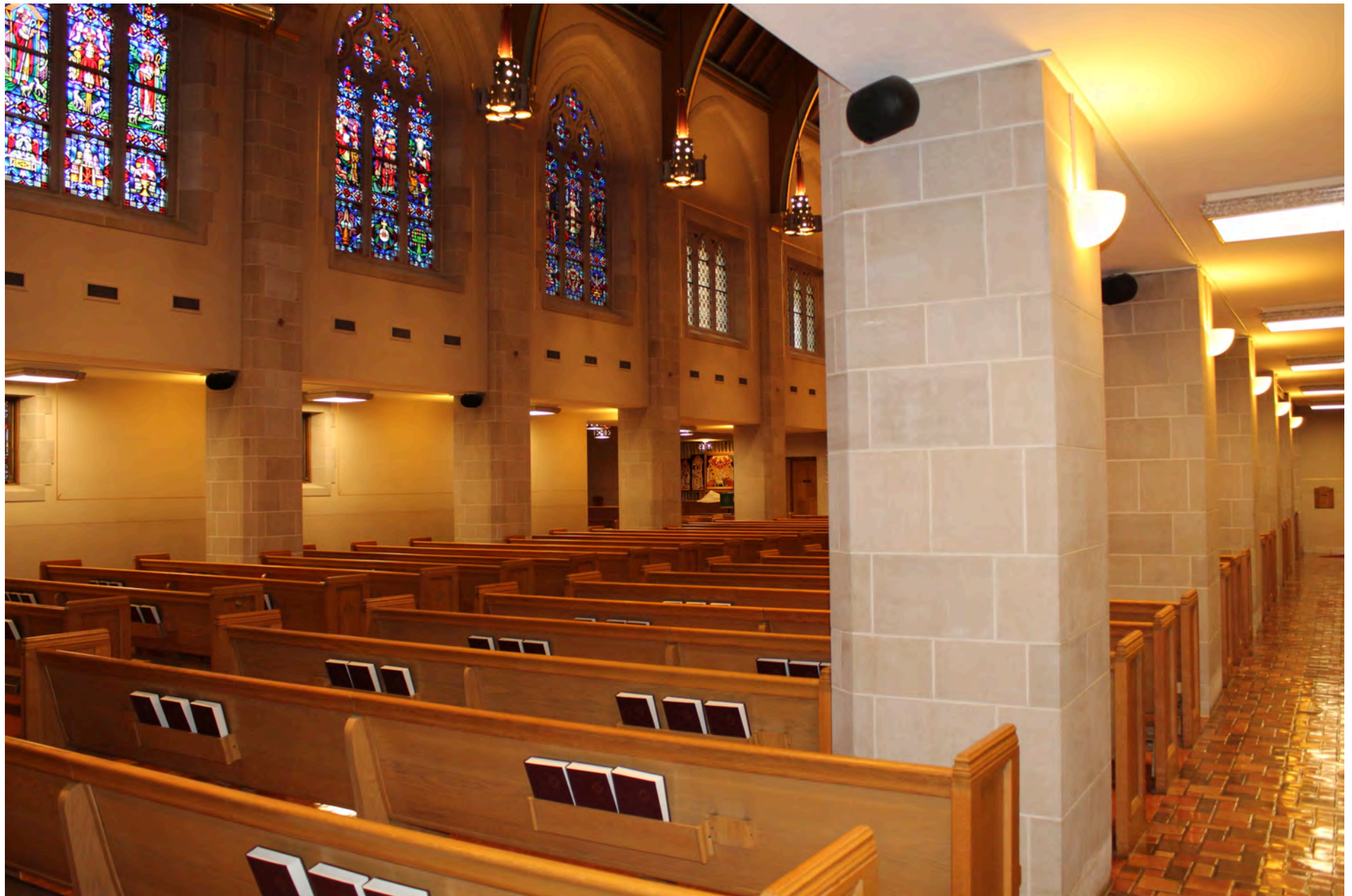
Zion Lutheran Church, Wausau, Marathon County 8 of 17



Zion Lutheran Church, Wausau, Marathon County 9 of 17



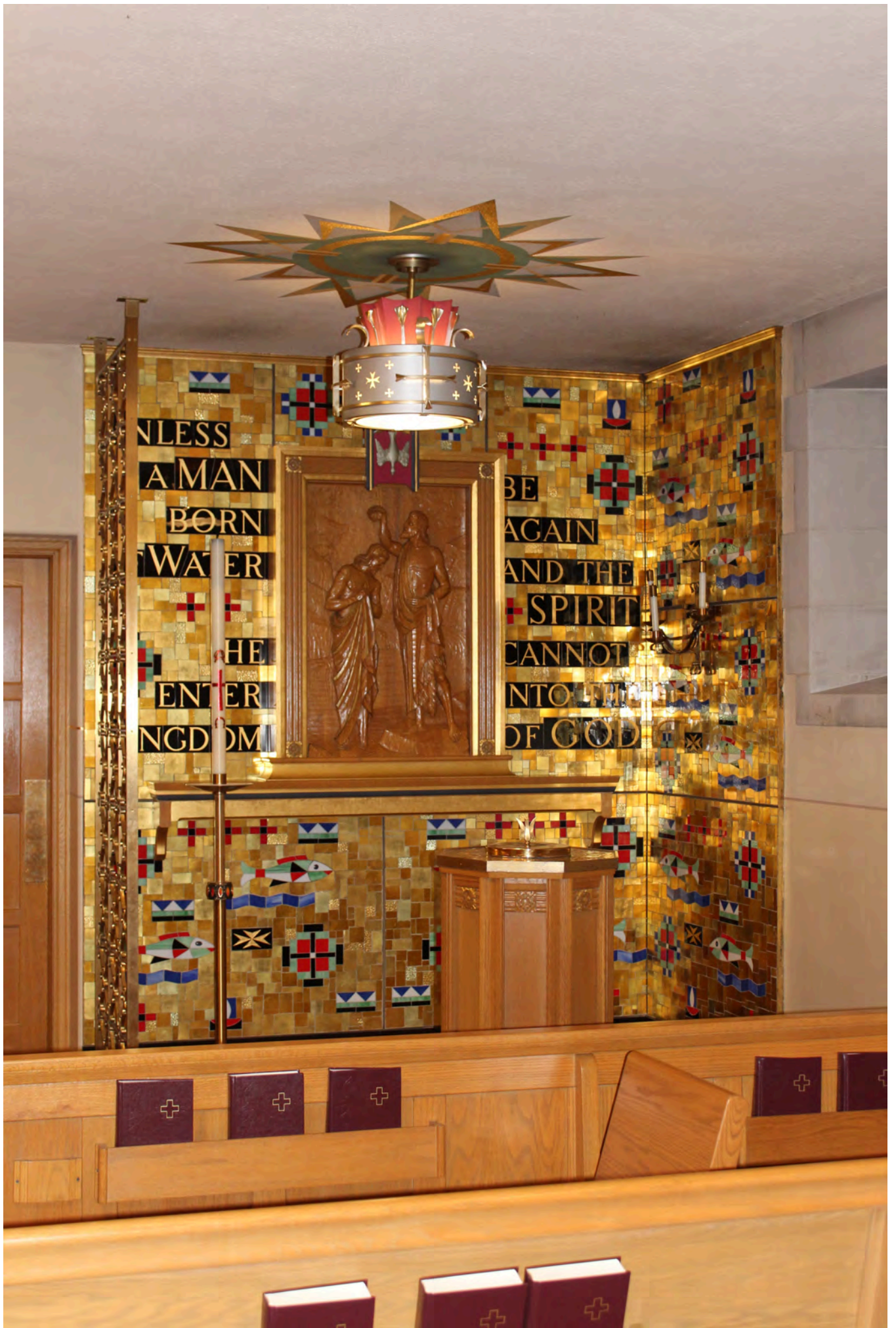
Zion Lutheran Church, Wausau, Marathon County 10 of 17



Zion Lutheran Church, Wausau, Marathon County 11 of 17



Zion Lutheran Church, Wausau, Marathon County 12 of 17



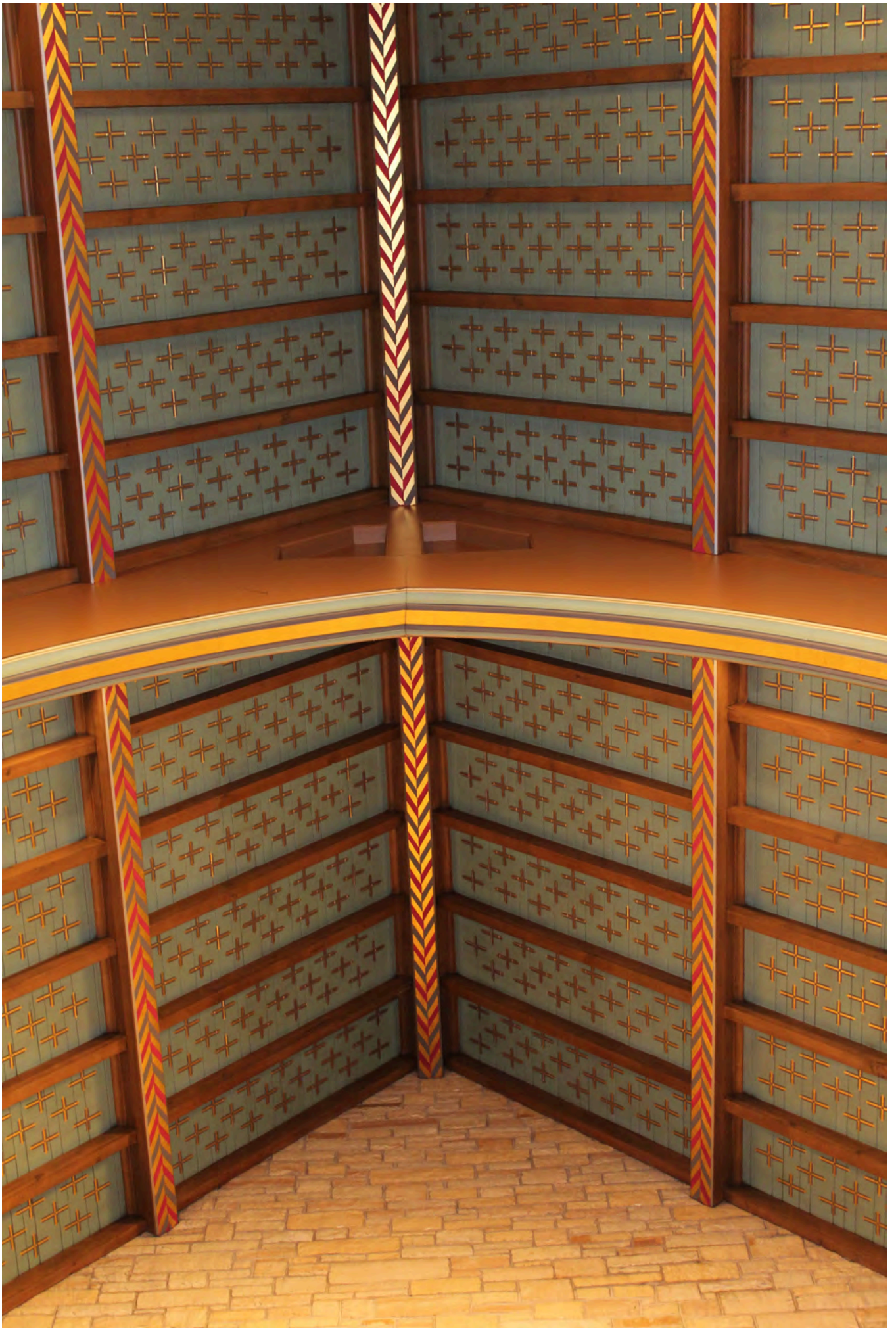
Zion Lutheran Church, Wausau, Marathon County 13 of 17



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Zion Lutheran Church, Wausau, Marathon County 15 of 17



Zion Lutheran Church, Wausau, Marathon County 16 of 17

