

Zion Lutheran Church To Dedicate Sculpture

Zion Lutheran Church will dedicate a new wooden sculpture over the altar tomorrow morning.

The figure is eight feet tall and was sculptured by Arnold F. Mahlkecht of Ortisei, Italy. It represents the ascending and returning Christ.

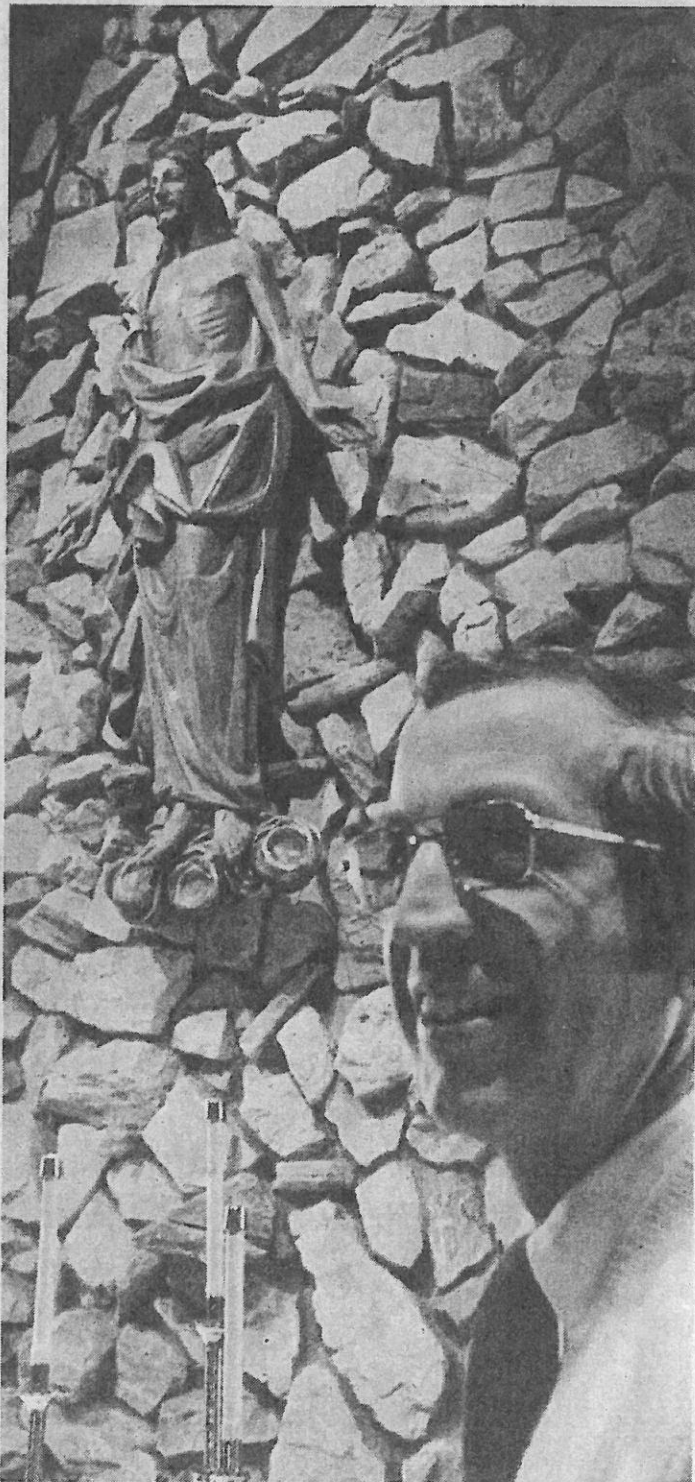
Mahlkecht did the work using wood of the Linden Tree, which is related to the Basswood in the United States. Linden wood is a fairly close grained, has little expansion or contraction potential, resists checking and is easy to carve.

The piece of wood used in the Zion Lutheran sculpture is made up of two and one-half inch pieces of lumber, glued together after having been air dried for 15-20 years.

Mahlkecht does the work in a little shop in the back lower level of his home. The shop is one of many specialty carving shops in the valley in the Dolomite Mountains.

The town where Mahlkecht lives was called the town of St. John and was a part of the country of Austria. But the area was turned over to Italy during World War I.

Mahlkecht is 40 years old and his father, 84, still carves and is a specialist in casework.



DEDICATION TOMORROW — Pastor Theodore Stellhorn, of the Zion Lutheran Church stands in the pulpit of the new sanctuary where tomorrow dedication ceremonies will be held for the statue behind him above the altar. The eight foot sculpture arrived from Italy and was installed this week. (Leader Photo by Mike Core)