

Zion Evangelical-Lutheran Church of Detroit

The Rev. Mark P. Braden, Pastor

The Rev. Gary W. Schultz, Kantor

Parish Office:

313-894-7450

Facsimile:

313-894-7871

Rev. Mark Braden (home)

313-429-9252

Rev. Mark Braden (cell)

313-404-1883

HOLY MASS is celebrated every Sunday and Wednesday at 10am, and on holy days as announced.

COMMUNICANTS ARE BAPTIZED CHRISTIANS who have been instructed in and publicly confess the Evangelical-Lutheran Faith. If you desire to commune at Zion, please speak with the Pastor before approaching the Altar.

THE DIVINE OFFICE OF MATINS is prayed Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday, and Saturday at 8:45am in the Chapel of the Holy Incarnation in the Rectory.

ADULT CHRISTIAN EDUCATION is taught every Sunday immediately following Holy Mass.

SUNDAY SCHOOL for children ages 3-12 is from September through May. Lessons are Bible-story based and activities are designed to reinforce the biblical lesson.

PRIVATE ABSOLUTION is available on Saturdays from 9 – 10am and by appointment.

PASTORAL COUNSELING based on the Holy Scriptures is available from the Pastor. An appointment is necessary.

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY BAPTISM is for infants and adults, and may be arranged by contacting the Pastor for an appointment.

COUPLES DESIRING HOLY MARRIAGE should contact the Pastor before finalizing the wedding date. Biblical instruction in Holy Marriage is required. All marriages are conducted by the Pastor according to Zion's usual order.

NEW MEMBERS are received by Baptism, Confirmation, Transfer or Profession of Faith. Instruction in Luther's Small Catechism and Private Absolution are required for all new members. Please ask the Pastor for further details.

SICK AND HOMEBOUND are visited regularly by the Pastor with the Scriptures and Sacrament. Please contact the Parish Office if you know of any parishioner in need of pastoral visitation.

PARISH OFFICERS DEACONS: William Gramzow, Thomas Habitz, Jr., Eric Russell TRUSTEES: Roderick Atkins, Gregory Gramzow, Paul Snoes; PARISH EDUCATION: Shirley Cross, Alan Kroske, Pamela Ruffin; OFFICERS OF THE VOTERS: Roderick Atkins (chairman), Jason Balaska (vice-chairman), Kristi Russell (secretary), Gregory Gramzow (treasurer), Jessica Chavez (financial secretary).

PARISH ORGANIZATIONS Adult Choir, Altar Guild, Children's Choir, Jubilate Deo Women's Choir, St. Seraphim Prayer Guild, Society of St. Samuel (Altar Boys), Usher Club, Zion Endowment Board.

Zion Evangelical-Lutheran Church

"THE LORD HAS CHOSEN ZION;
HE HAS DESIRED HER AS HIS DWELLING PLACE"



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Rorate Coeli—Fourth Sunday in Advent

December 22, 2013

The Approaching Joy



The world constantly looks for a God who is near, for heaven on earth. Here it is! In the preaching and Holy Eucharist, Our Lord is at hand. Until you stand before Him, He cannot be any closer than He is now! You are welcomed, then, to take Him to heart as He gives Himself to you.

The Theme of Today's Liturgy

The anticipation for Our Lord's coming now reaches its zenith. Our prayer is that the "earth open and bring forth salvation" (*Introit*). For when Our Savior comes with His grace, we are speedily helped by His mercy and satisfaction (*Collect; Alleluia*). Is it any wonder that we are to rejoice and be anxious for nothing (*Epistle*)? For the Lord is at hand and near to all that call upon Him in

truth (*Gradual*). The Baptizer prepares us for His coming by confessing clearly who He is (*Gospel*). So "let the skies pour down righteousness" – for the Righteous One is here!

The Sermon

The Pharisees and Levites approach to John and ask him by what authority does he baptize and preach repentance. Although John is neither Elijah, nor the Prophet, nor the Christ, he baptizes and preaches by the command and authority of Him who sent Him, the Lord Jesus Christ. Just as the ministry and proclamation of John was questioned, so too, the preaching of repentance and the gospel, proclaimed by Christ's servants, the pastors, receives criticism. The world and our sinful flesh would dismiss the message and ministry of the Church as a nuisance and as illegitimate – often times with the show of piety and kindness. But they have no authority to do so. They rail not simply against a person or an institution, but the Savior Himself, who in humility set aside His power and glory on the cross and continues to humble himself today as He comes to us to forgive our sins in His body, the Church.

The Holy Eucharist

The Lord is at hand in the Blessed Sacrament of His Body and Blood. So why are we anxious? Let us instead rejoice, confess Him as our Help and Salvation, and welcome Him as He comes to us in His Holy Supper.

The Readings Deuteronomy 18.15-19; Philippians 4.4-7; St. John 1.19-28

The Prelude "Savior of the Nations, Come" (BWV 659) - J.S. Bach (1695-1750)

The Hymns for Today's Mass

Processional Hymn	74
Chief Hymn	"Oh, Come, Oh, Come, Emmanuel" (insert)
Offering Hymn	57
Distribution Hymns	95 (interlude after stanza 4), 69
Retiring Procession	58 (stanzas 1, 4, 5, 9) [SECOND TUNE]

Daily Mass for Christmaside

As we celebrate the birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, faith hungers for the saving gifts that Our Lord gives us in Holy Mass. As we celebrate the liturgical year, Zion will have Mass daily from Christmass Midnight through the Epiphany of our Lord. The schedule for Mass is as follows (Masses in the Church are shown in bold type):

December:

- 25 - **Christmass Midnight, 12am**
Christmass Day, 10am
- 26 - **Feast of St. Stephen, 10am**
- 27 - **Feast of St. John, 10am**
- 28 - **Feast of the Holy Innocents, 10am**
- 29 - **Sunday After Christmass, 10am**
- 30 - Sixth Day of Christmass, 10am (Chapel)
- 31 - St. Sylvester, Bishop, 10am (Chapel)

January:

- 1 - **Circumcision of Our Lord, 10am**
- 2 - Ninth Day of Christmass, 10am (Chapel)
- 3 - Tenth Day of Christmass, 10am (Chapel)
- 4 - **St. Titus, Bishop and Confessor, 10am**
- 5 - **Holy Name of Jesus, 10am**
- 6 - **Epiphany of Our Lord, 9:30am & 7pm**
- 13 - **Baptism of Our Lord, 9:30am**

May God bless you richly through His gifts of Word and Sacrament as you join in our joyful celebration of the incarnation of God, the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh!



Prepare for Christmass Midnight

December 25, 2013

I Bring You Good Tidings of Great Joy

Isaiah 9.2-7; Titus 2.11-15; St. Luke 2.1-14

Hymns: O Come, All Ye Faithful (insert), 85, 77, 94, 76, 92, 646

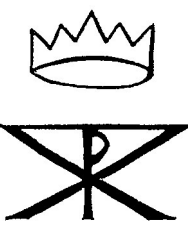
Prepare for Christmass Day—10am

December 25, 2013

The Word Became Flesh

Isaiah 52.6-10; Hebrews 1.1-12; St. John 1.1-14

Hymns: 105, 80, 92, 94, 87, 97, 98



Prepare for Next Sunday

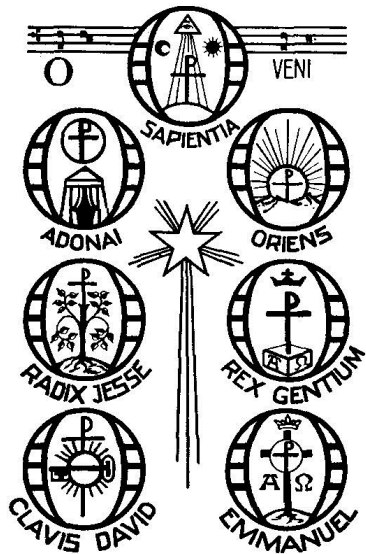
Sunday After Christmass

December 29, 2013 *This Child Is Set For the Falling And Rising of Many*

Isaiah 63.7-16; Galatians 4.1-7; St. Luke 2.33-40

Hymns: 90, 105, 137, 103, 77, 104





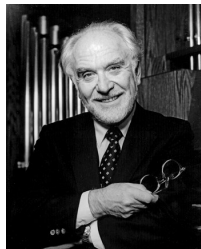
The “O Antiphons” The CHIEF HYMN “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” (insert) is based on the seven great “O Antiphons.” These antiphons are sung before and after the Magnificat at the Divine Office of Vespers (*the church’s evening prayer*) beginning on December 17. They bid our Lord “Come!” using seven different prophetic Names for the promised Messiah: **O Wisdom** (*Sapientia*) Is 11.2-3; Pr 8.12; 9.1; 1 Co 1.24 | **O Lord** (*Adonai*) Is 2.5; 9.6-7 | **O Root** (*Radix*) **of Jesse** Is 11.1,10 | **O Key** (*Clavis*) **of David** Is 9.6; 22.22 | **O Rising Sun** (*Oriens*) Is 9.1; 59.19 | **O King of Nations** (*Rex Gentium*) Is 2.4; 9.6-7 | **O Emmanuel** Is 7.14

Benedictine monks of the seventh century arranged the antiphons so that the first letter of each in reverse order spells ERO CRAS (*Latin: “Tomorrow I will come”*).

In the thirteenth century, and anonymous author composed the antiphons into a verse form and added the refrain. In 1966, the source of the plainsong tune *Veni Emmanuel* was discovered to be a fifteenth-century French Processional used by Franciscan nuns.

Our hymnal includes a truncated version of the hymn (# 62) with no indication why three stanzas are omitted.

The organ introduction is a contemplative setting by Paul Manz (1919-2009). Trained at Concordia University Chicago and Northwestern University, Manz was a well-respected Lutheran musician of the twentieth century. His career included long tenures as kantor of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of St. Luke—Chicago and Mt. Olive Lutheran Church—Minneapolis, and professor of music at Concordia University—St Paul. He is known for his numerous organ compositions on hymn tunes and his choral motet, “E’en So, Lord Jesus, Quickly Come.”



The PROCESSIONAL HYMN, “Once He Came in Blessing” (# 74), sings of our vocation here on earth— “Let us here confess Thee” — while we await our Lord’s calling us to heaven: “Till in heaven we bless Thee.” Author Johann Roh (d. 1547) was a pastor in Jungbunzlau, Bohemia (Czech Republic) and later a bishop. He edited both a German and a Bohemian hymnal. His hymn directs us directly to the work of God’s Son to release us from our sins.

THE CALENDAR FOR THIS WEEK

Holy Mass for Rorate Coeli – Fourth Sunday in Advent Today, 10a, Church
Decorating for Christmass and Lunch Today, 11:15a, Church and Undercroft
Matins Mon, 8:45a, Chapel
Matins Tue, 8:45a, Chapel
Vespers Tue, 5:30p, Chapel
Adult Choir Rehearsal.....Tue, 11p, Choir Loft
Christmass Midnight Wed, 12a, Church
Christmass Day Wed, 10a, Church
Holy Mass commemorating St. Stephen, Protomartyr Thr, 10a, Church
Vespers Thr, 5:30p, Chapel
Holy Mass commemorating St. John, Apostle and Evangelist..... Fri, 10a, Church
Private Confession and Absolution..... Sat, 9a, Chapel
Holy Mass commemorating Holy Innocents, Martyrs.....Sat, 10a, Church
Holy Mass for the Sunday After Christmass..... Sun, 10a, Church
Adult Bible Class.....Sun, 11:30a, Undercroft
Sunday School.....Sun, 11:30a, Activities Center

IN OUR PRAYERS David Beens, Edward Brown, Linda Buskirk, Lela Casey, John Chavez, Gladys Cline, Anna Dalton, Martha Draspa, Sandy Frey, Ellen Hayden, Dru-cilla Huddleston, Florine Kaiser, Lawrence Kasner, Eleanor Luka, Earlene Maynarich, Michael Maynarich, Robert Murdock, Margaret Quinkert, Pauline Rivard, Alexis Ruffin, and Sylvia Schleif.

GIFTS AND DONATIONS From Kenneth Ingram for the Altar Guild in thanksgiving for successful surgery and recovery.

THE PSALM FOR THIS WEEK IS PSALM 19. PRAY IT EVERY DAY!

At the beginning of Psalm 19, it seems as if it is about the creation’s praise of the Creator (vv 1-6). However, it is about preaching—the preaching of the heavens and the preaching about the Lord’s law (v 14). The center of this preaching is not rules, but the Bridegroom and Strong Man (Christ) who comes out of His chamber and comes for the whole world (v. 5). And the preacher, ultimately, is St. John the Baptizer whose preaching converts the soul, makes the wise simple (v. 7), and drives us to confess our secret faults (v. 12). It is quite fitting, then, that we pray this Psalm on these last few days before Christ Mass. Through it, St. John once again prepares our hearts and minds for the coming of the Son.

Today's Announcements

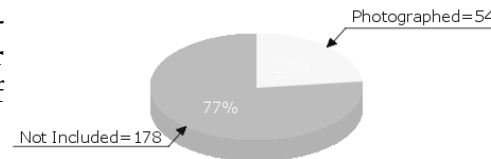
LUTHERAN WITNESS SUBSCRIPTION Anyone interested in subscribing to the *Lutheran Witness* magazine for 2014 may do so by placing \$8.76 in an envelope labeled "Lutheran Witness" with their name and address in the offering plate. The last date to subscribe or renew your subscription will be January 23, 2014. The *Lutheran Witness* is the official magazine of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod.



CHRISTMASS The celebration of Christmass includes three Masses: Midnight, Dawn, and Day. At Zion, we celebrate two of these Masses: Christmass Midnight and Christmass Day. The lessons, propers, hymns, music, and sermon are all designed for worshippers to attend both Masses. Mark your calendar and plan to attend both Christmass Midnight and Christmass Day at Zion.

Zion 2014 Pictorial Directory

2014 ZION PICTORIAL DIRECTORY If you were unable to have your photograph taken at church, please submit a photo to the parish office as soon as possible. 54 people were photographed, about 23% of our members. Thanks to Jennifer Balaska for the use of her time, training, and equipment for this project.



GUEST PREACHER The Rev. Fr. Jacob W. Gaugert, missionary to Togo, Africa, will preach at Mass today. During lunch (following Christmass decorating), Fr. Gaugert will speak about his work in Togo. Fr. Gaugert is a college and seminary classmate of Fr. Schultz. Please remember Fr. Gaugert in your prayers and consider supporting his work financially.

CHRISTMASS DECORATING Volunteers are needed to help decorate the church for Christmass immediately following Holy Mass today. After the decorating, please stay for lunch and a presentation from Rev. Fr. Jacob Gaugert, missionary to Togo, Africa.

CHRISTMASS OPEN HOUSE AT THE RECTORY Everyone is invited to a Christmass Open House at the Zion Rectory on Friday, Jan 3, beginning at 6:30pm. Please RSVP on the sheet in the Narthex.

Rev. Fr. Jacob Gaugert: Serving the Lord in Togo



Fr. Gaugert serves as a career missionary through the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod in Togo. He teaches courses in Lutheran theology at The Centre Luthérien d'Etudes Théologiques (CLET), or Lutheran Center for Theological Studies, in Dapaong, Togo, West Africa. He also teaches distance learning, continuing education courses, and coordinates visiting professors to CLET.

Fr. Gaugert was born in Sullivan, WI, and was baptized and confirmed at St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church. He graduated from Concordia University-Mequon, WI, in 2004 with a bachelor's degree in theological and classical languages. He received his M.Div. from Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, IN, in 2010. Before becoming a career missionary, he served as a pastor at the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Dr. Martin Luther (SELC District) in Chicago, where he was involved with urban/cross-cultural mission work. In his free time, he likes to read, garden and raise chickens.

The LCMS began work in Togo in 1980. Leadership training is conducted among people of Togo through the Lutheran Center for Theological Studies (CLET), located in Dapaong. CLET serves the French-speaking Lutheran church bodies of seven countries: Togo, Ivory Coast, Guinea, Benin, Burkina Faso, Congo and the Democratic Republic of the Congo. In 2001, the church bodies established an international board to ensure that African leadership will promote and govern the center. The CLET program includes two tracks—a pre-seminary track for leaders who have little formal education, and a track leading to ordination. Courses are all contextualized to address specific West African issues. Church planting is the central emphasis of program courses. After the first class of CLET finished their coursework, they collectively planted five churches! In May 2002, the first Togolese pastors were ordained in the Lutheran Church of Togo (ELT). Additional classes have followed.

LCMS missionaries walk alongside the ELT as partners. In 2009, the ELT held its first general assembly, established a constitution, elected leaders, and provided libraries for church leaders.

LCMS World Relief and Human Care has supported mercy projects in Togo by providing loans to farmers, so that they might purchase livestock; medicine and medical equipment; digging wells; drought and famine relief; agriculture programs; road improvement; clinic restoration; literacy programs; assistance to families affected by civil conflict and flood disaster response.

The Lutheran Church of Togo has 10 ordained ministers, over 30 congregations and preaching stations and more than 5,000 baptized members.