

Zion Evangelical-Lutheran Church

www.ZionDetroit.org



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Parish Office

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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, please speak with the Pastor before approaching the Altar.

THE DIVINE OFFICE is prayed in the Chapel of the Holy Incarnation in the Rectory. **MATINS:** Daily at 8:45am (except when there is a morning Mass); **VESEPER:** Tuesday/Thursday at 6:30pm.

ADULT CHRISTIAN EDUCATION is taught every Sunday and Wednesday 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 9:15-10am and by appointment.

PASTORAL CONSULTATION 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.

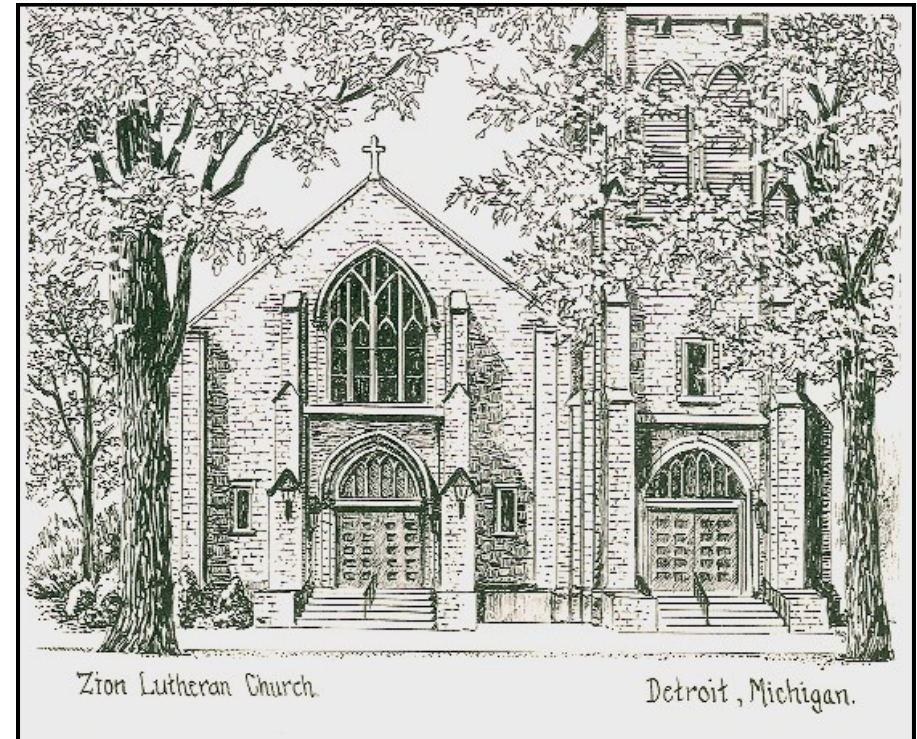
SICK AND HOMEBOUND are visited regularly by the Pastor with the Scriptures and Sacrament. Please contact the Parish Office if you know of any parishioner in need of pastoral visitation.

PARISH OFFICERS DEACONS: William Gramzow, Thomas Habitz, Jr., Eric Russell TRUSTEES: Gregory Gramzow, Paul Snoes, Kevin Wiedelman; PARISH EDUCATION: Shirley Cross, Robert Kelly III, Pamela Ruffin; OFFICERS OF THE VOTERS: Thomas Habitz, Jr. (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"



**4305 Military Avenue
Detroit, Michigan 48210-2451
(313) 894-7450
www.ZionDetroit.org**

**Rorate Coeli—Fourth Sunday in Advent
December 21, 2014**



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 John the Baptist makes his great confession. **I am not the Christ.** John refuses to listen to the lying whispers of the devil, the world, and his sinful flesh. He refuses to put himself in the place of God. John confesses: **I am not the Christ.** Your confession has not been as bold and steadfast as John's. You have listened to the whispers of the devil, the world and your flesh. Your ears have been clogged by their lies. You have fallen into temptation. You are not the Christ. Repent. Thanks be to God that Jesus of Nazareth is the Christ, the Lamb of God that takes away sin. His great confession is: I AM. He came as the Christ so that you would hear His voice. In the waters of Holy Baptism, you are bound to that Lamb of God. In Holy Baptism your ears are unclogged and you now hear clearly the voice of Jesus. He says, **this is my Body, this is my Blood**, and faith says, **Amen**. The season of waiting draws to its close and faith eagerly looks forward to the return the Christ.

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 — Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)

The Hymns for Today's Mass

Processional Hymn		74
Chief Hymn	"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" (insert) (choir: stanzas 2 & 5)	
Offering Hymn		57 (stanzas 1-4)
Distribution Music	Soprano Aria: "Open Now My Heart and Spirit" — Bach (1685-1750)	
Distribution Hymns		95; 69
Retiring Processional Hymn		58 (stanzas 1, 4, 9) [Second Tune]



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.

Christmass Open House at the Rectory

Friday, January 2, 2015 — 6:30pm

Guests are welcome to bring an appetizer, dessert, or beverage to share.

Please RSVP on the sheet in the Narthex.



Prepare for Christmass Midnight

December 25, 2014

"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, 2014

"The Word Became Flesh"

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

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

Prepare for Next Sunday

Holy Innocents, Martyrs

"First Victims for Our Lord"

December 28, 2014

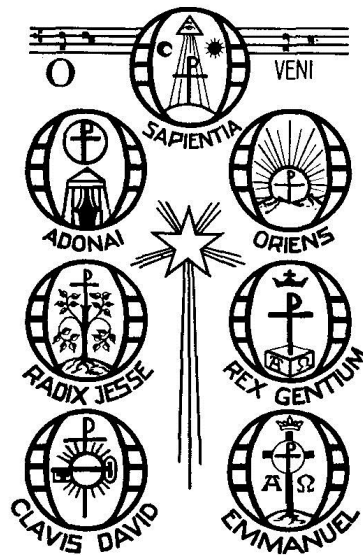
Jeremiah 31.15-17; Revelation 14.1-5; St. Matthew 2.13-18

Hymns: "By All Your Saints in Warfare" (insert), 273, 101, 137, 90, 104

Jesus comes and draws within Part of J.S. Bach’s Cantata 61 on “Savior of the Nations Come” is the soprano aria “Open Wide, My Heart and Spirit.” THANKS to Sarah Braden, soprano soloist, for singing the communion distribution music in today’s Mass.

*Open wide, my heart and spirit,
Jesus comes and draws within.*

*Though I soon be earth and ashes,
Me He will yet not disdain,
That his joy He find in me
And that I become His dwelling.
Oh, how blessed I shall be, freed from sin!*



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*) Isaiah 11.2-3; Proverbs 8.12; 9.1; 1 Corinthians 1.24 | **O Lord** (*Adonai*) Isaiah 2.5; 9.6-7 | **O Root** (*Radix*) of Jesse Isaiah 11.1,10 | **O Key** (*Clavis*) of David Isaiah 9.6; 22.22 | **O Rising Sun** (*Oriens*) Isaiah 9.1; 59.19 | **O King of Nations** (*Rex Gentium*) Isaiah 2.4; 9.6-7 | **O Emmanuel** Isaiah 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, an anonymous author composed the antiphons into a verse form and added the refrain. In 1966, the source of the plain-song tune *Veni Emmanuel* was discovered to be a fifteenth-century French Processional used by Franciscan nuns.

The choir sings stanzas two and five in a setting by Carl F. Schalk (b. 1929).

THE CALENDAR FOR THIS WEEK

Holy Mass for Rorate Coeli – Fourth Sunday in Advent Today, 10a, Church
Christmass Decorating Today, 11:15a, Church
Holy Mass for St. Thomas, Apostle (transferred) Mon, 10a, Church
Vespers Mon, 6:30p, Church
Matins Tue, 8:45a, Chapel
Vespers Tue, 6:30p, Church
Holy Mass for Wednesday of Advent IV Wed, 9:30a, Church
First Vespers of Christmass Wed, 6:30p, Church
Christmass Midnight Thr, 12a, Church
Christmass Day Thr, 10a, Church
Holy Mass for St. Stephen, Protomartyr Fri, 10a, Church
Private Confession and Absolution Sat 9:15a, Chapel
Holy Mass for St. John, Apostle and Evangelist Sat, 10a, Church
Holy Mass for Holy Innocents, Martyrs Sun, 10a, Church

IN OUR PRAYERS Jennifer Balaska, Edward Brown, Linda Buskirk, Lela Casey, John Chavez, Gladys Cline, Anna Dalton, Martha Draspa, Susan Edwards, Sandy Frey, Thomas Habitz, Ellen Hayden, Drucilla Huddleston, Florine Kaiser, Lawrence Kasner, Eleanor Luka, Earlene Maynarich, Michael Maynarich, Robert Murdock, Margaret Quinkert, Pauline Rivard, and Julie Snoes;

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 (v 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

ST. THOMAS, APOSTLE Today the Church commemorates the Feast of St. Thomas the Apostle. Since this feast falls on a Sunday, it is transferred to Monday. **Holy Mass** will be celebrated **tomorrow** at **10am** in the Church. Remember this day in your daily prayer at home. Read Judges 6.36-40, Ephesians 2.19-22, and St. John 20.24-29. Pray the Collect on page 88.

Thomas was an evangelist in Persia and India. The first missionary in India, he built a church with his own hands, signified by the carpenter's square. He was martyred with arrows, stones, and being speared by a heathen priest.



 **ADVENT MID-WEEK MASS** Continue your Advent meditation at Mass at 9:30am this Wednesday. The text is 2 Peter 3.8-14 on the theme "A Thief in the Night."

RIDE TO CHURCH NEEDED Drucilla Huddleston is interested in a ride to church on Sunday mornings. She lives near Ford Road in Dearborn. If it would be possible for you to pick Drucilla up, please contact Fr. Braden.

PLAN TO ATTEND CHRISTMASS MIDNIGHT AND CHRISTMASS DAY There are three historic Masses to celebrate the Nativity of Our Lord: Christmass Midnight, Christmass Dawn, and Christmass Day. At Zion, we celebrate Christmass Midnight and Christmass Day. These Masses are different, and designed so that Christians attend both in the celebration of the Incarnation of the Son of God. **Mark your calendars and invite family and friends to attend Christmass Midnight and Christmass Day at 10am.**

CHRISTMASS DECORATING Everyone is invited to help decorate the Church for Christmass today following Holy Mass.

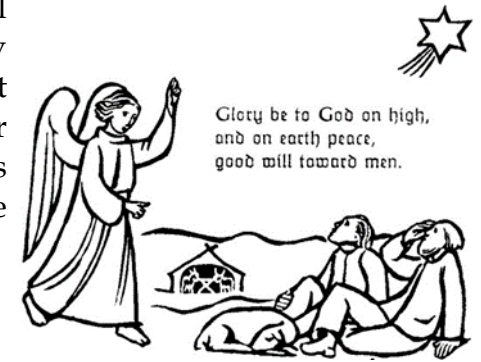
DAILY MASS FOR CHRISTMASSTIDE See the schedule on the facing page. Additional copies of this flyer are available in the Narthex. Put one on your refrigerator or bulletin board. Hand them to your family, friends, neighbors, co-workers, and other acquaintances to invite them to Holy Mass at Zion.

LUTHERAN WITNESS SUBSCRIPTIONS The flagship magazine of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, *The Lutheran Witness* is a monthly publication that offers news, features, columns, Q&A's, and more. In addition to the print edition, it is available on-line for your computer or tablet. If you subscribe through Zion, the yearly subscription rate is \$9.72. Please submit your payment to the parish office for the 2015 subscription by January 18.



Daily Mass for Christmas tide

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 - Feast of the Nativity of our Lord

Midnight Mass - 12am

Christmass - 10am

26 - Feast of St. Stephen, 10am

27 - Feast of St. John, 10am

28 - Feast of the Holy Innocents, 10am

29 - St. David, Patriarch, 10am (Chapel)

30 - Sixth Day of Christmass, 10am (Chapel)

31 - St. Sylvester, Bishop and Confessor, 10am (Chapel)

January:

1 - Circumcision of Our Lord, 10am

2 - Ninth Day of Christmass, 10am (Chapel)

3 - Tenth Day of Christmass, 10am

4 - Most Holy Name of Jesus, 10am

5 - St. Titus (transferred), 9:30am

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!