



“Blow the Trumpet in Zion” (Joel 2.15)

Zion Trumpet

Zion Evangelical-Lutheran Church of Detroit

January/February 2014

Our New Kantor by Father Braden

OUR NEW KANTOR, Fr. Gary Schultz, isn't really new anymore. While his formal appointment and installation took place in November, he'll be celebrating his first anniversary at Zion this month. I have been very thankful for Fr. Schultz's playing, his work in assembling and leading our Zion choir, and for the blessing they have been to the several Masses at which they've recently sung. In addition to his duties as kantor, he is also assisting me with a number of on-going tasks and projects. I am very thankful for his help and support.

Perhaps you've noticed the new format of this issue of the *Zion Trumpet*. Fr. Schultz is working hard to improve our printed materials. He has also worked to update and improve our online presence. Zion website users will notice the new "drop down" menus available through the main menu, the addition of a "music" section to our website, and the correction and updating of the website. Fr. Schultz regularly updates our parish activities on our Facebook page and on the ZIONNEWS e-mail group. He is also producing the bulletin and ordos, including the calendars and liturgical calendar. The several tracts on the church year he has recently written have been well received. Copies are available in the Narthex, or by request from the parish office. ✝

Trip to Venezuela and Colombia by Father Braden

IF EVERYTHING GOES as planned, and according to God's will, I'll be making a trip to Colombia and Venezuela. I'm scheduled to be in Medellin, Colombia, January 13-15, and in Caracas, Venezuela, January 15-17. It's a quick trip, mostly meetings, but important to both churches.

I met Pr. Mario Marin in August when I taught in Maracay, Venezuela. Pr. Marin, who lives in Medellin, Colombia, travelled 24 hours by bus to take the course on Ecclesiology that I taught. Pr. Marin is a solid, confessional pastor who ministers in a very difficult environment. My trip to Medellin is one of encouragement and support for Pr. Marin, his family, and his

struggling parish, as well as a small group of confessional Lutheran parishes nearby.

In Venezuela, I'll be meeting with the administrative council of the ILV, the Venezuelan Lutheran Church in the capital. Fr. Ted Krey, director of Central and South American and Caribbean missions for the LCMS (and Zion member), will meet me in Caracas for the meeting.

Fr. Sergio Maita, a Pastor of the ILV, is currently at our seminary in Fort Wayne, by Zion's sponsorship, working on an advanced theological degree. Fr. Maita will complete his coursework in late February, and return to Venezuela to write his thesis. You'll see him around Zion a few more times before he returns home.

I am scheduled to return to Venezuela after Easter. I have been invited to teach the course from last August to a group of pastors on the other side of the country. My January trip is on behalf of the Synod; the trip after Easter will be on behalf of the Luther Academy. ✝

Pictorial Directory Update

THANKS TO Jennifer Balaska for her time and talents in photographing Zion members for our 2014 pictorial directory. This is a part of a larger project by Father Schultz to update and maintain our church membership records. Please make sure that the parish office has accurate addresses, phone numbers, and e-mail addresses for you and all members of Zion.

If you were unable to attend the photo sessions, one make-up session is planned for Sunday, January 12. If you are unable to attend this session, please submit a photograph to the parish office by January 17 to be included in the directory. This is a good opportunity for inactive members to reconnect with our parish. Any members who you have not seen in a while, please encourage them with this opportunity. ✝

Lutheran Witness Subscriptions

ANYONE INTERESTED IN subscribing to the *Lutheran Witness* magazine for 2014 may do so by placing \$8.76 in an envelope marked "Lutheran Witness" with their name and address in the offering plate or mail it to the parish office. The last date to subscribe or renew your subscription will be January 23. The *Lutheran Witness* is the official magazine of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. ✝



The Presentation of Our Lord by Father Braden

THE FEAST OF the Presentation of our Lord is celebrated every year on February 2. As a Feast of Christ, it is counted as a "First Class Feast," numbering it among the Church's most important. The biblical account of the Presentation of our Lord is recorded in St. Luke 2.22-38. In the first verse of this pericope, we learn that the Feast also includes the Purification of the Blessed Virgin Mary. So taken together with Luke 2.21, we have the Scriptural basis for three first class feasts of the Church – can you name them? (Hint: The Feast of the Circumcision of our Lord is celebrated on January 1 every year; the Feast of the Holy Name of Jesus is celebrated on a Sunday if one falls between January 2-5, and if not, then it is celebrated on January 2).

Now back to Luke 2.22: "Now when the days of her purification according to the Law of Moses were completed, they brought Him to Jerusalem to present Him to the Lord." There are two important requirements of the Law revealed in this verse. First, the mother was counted as ceremonially unclean after birth. This prevented her from participating in Temple services. According to Leviticus 12.2-8 she had to wait 40 days, and then make the appointed sacrifice to be declared ritually clean.

Continued on page 2



Our Lord with Simeon and Anna in His Presentation in the Temple

Arise, shine; for thy light is come, and the glory of the Lord is risen upon thee.

ISAIAH 60: 1

from the Old Testament for the Epiphany of Our Lord

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The sacrifice specified in the Law was a year-old lamb, and a pigeon or dove. These were offered at the entrance of the Tabernacle, since the ritually unclean were not allowed to enter the Sanctuary, nor to touch anything sacred. Only after being declared ceremonially clean was the mother allowed to participate in public worship.

For a boy, counting from the day of his birth, eight days were required for his circumcision, then the mother waited an additional 33 days for purification. In the case of a girl, the mother waited two weeks, and then sixty six days. In Leviticus 5.7-11, we read that two doves or pigeons could be substituted for the required lamb in the case of poverty.

The second requirement of the Law revealed in Luke 2.22 is that a first-born male child had to be presented to the Lord. This requirement is set forth in Exodus 13.2, 12-14, comingled with the requirements for celebrating the Passover.

And so 1446 years after Moses gave the Law to Israel, Joseph and Mary take the Son of God to the Temple for His Presentation, and that Mary is declared ceremonially clean. And they offer, according to the Law, the sacrifice allowed the poor: two birds.

As you have gathered by now, the Old Testament Law was quite complex. It required sacrifice upon sacrifice, ceremony upon ceremony, pronouncement upon pronouncement, in a seemingly never ending series of rituals, most requiring the shedding of blood. But the Law never made anyone clean. It never offered the eternal forgiveness of sins.

So there is great joy for us, and for all men, in the Presentation of the Christ Child in the Temple according to the Law. While Mary and Joseph bore only two birds, God provided the Lamb - His Only-begotten Son. Once again the Temple was holy, for the Holy One entered the Temple borne in the arms of His mother and earthly step-father. The One who would fulfill the Law for all men of all times, the One who is without beginning and without end, who is before Abraham was, was presented on the fortieth day of His incarnate life in the Temple made holy by His presence. The Law required the first born to be sanctified by presenta-

tion, but this Child is holy of Himself - indeed it is His holiness that makes the Sanctuary holy.

Not by the blood of doves or pigeons, but by the Blood of Christ are you declared clean. Not by the birds she bore, but by the Son she bore was Mary cleansed. He shed His Blood, the perfect Lamb of God, the once-for-all Sacrifice for your sins, for the sins of Mary and Joseph, and for the sins of the world. It is He that kept the Law perfectly, from His circumcision to His presentation to His perfect life, and His perfect suffering and death. Believing in Him, by faith in the crucified and risen Christ, His perfect keeping of the Law is declared to be yours. And He who made the Temple holy by His presence now makes heaven holy by His presence, the ascended God Man reigning heaven and earth from His rightful throne.

While the Presentation of our Lord is an historical event, it is not relegated to ancient history. For it was more than a mere firstborn presented to the Lord. It was the Only-begotten, the Lord Himself, who was presented. It is the same Christ that made the Temple holy, and the same Christ that makes our Sanctuary holy. It is here, on Zion's altar, that He places His Body and Blood with bread and wine to be placed in your mouth. It is here, in our Baptistry, that He gives the washing of regeneration that works new life, forgiveness, and gives His Holy Spirit, the Spirit that proceeds from the Father and the Son filling you. And it is here, from the Pulpit and from the *Prie Dieu*, in preaching and Holy Absolution, that the forgiveness that Christ won for you is proclaimed to you and made yours, personally and individually, Christ received by your ear, working and strengthening faith in your heart by the power of the Holy Spirit.

By God's grace through faith in Jesus Christ, you are declared clean - not just ceremonially for a time, but truly clean, holy, pure and sinless for eternity. And soon the same Christ presented in the Temple will receive you in His heavenly Sanctuary, where there is, and will be, eternal worship of the slain Lamb that reigns.

Join us, won't you, on Sunday, February 2, as we celebrate the Feast of the Presentation of our Lord and the Purification of the Blessed Virgin Mary. ✠

The "Queen of Chorales"

by Father Schultz



IN MASS ON the Last Sunday in the Church Year (Nov 24), we sang the "King of Chorales" (*Chorale* is the German word for "hymn"), "Wake, Awake, for Night is Flying" (# 609) by Pastor Philipp Nicolai (1556-1608). Another of Pastor Nicolai's exceptional hymns is the "Queen of Chorales:" "How Lovely Shines the Morning Star" (# 343).

Nicolai's "king" and "queen" of hymns - together with the hymns of Martin Luther (1483-1546) and Paul Gerhardt (1607-1676) - set the standard for Christian hymns.

Nicolai's hymns are "royalty" because of both the strong text and matching tune. The music does not call attention to itself, but draws the singer into the text.

Nicolai's great hymn - "How Lovely Shines" serves as the chief hymn for two feasts: Epiphany of Our Lord (Jan 6 each year) and Transfiguration of Our Lord (this year, Feb 9)

As you sing this hymn twice at Mass (and be invited to sing it in your daily prayer at home), notice the rich scriptural images and beautiful poetry. Singing it as the chief hymn to begin and conclude the Epiphany season is a salutary custom to celebrate the liturgical year and it's themes. ✠

Christmass Treasures

by Father Schultz

WE ARE IN the midst of the Twelve Days of Christmass. Several of the finest hymns - the "treasures" that Lutherans possess - for this season are often overlooked.

We've sung these hymns at Mass. Continue to use them as part of your daily prayer at home.

These are hymns every Christian should know by heart. Although they aren't part of "popular holiday repertoire," they are a valuable part of living the Lutheran musical heritage.

From Heaven Above to Earth I Come (# 85)



Martin Luther wrote this hymn for his children for Christmass Eve 1534. Originally set to a popular folk tune, Luther wrote a new tune for his text when it began to be used in worship.

Luther captures the mystery of the Incarnation, God made flesh: The Lord who created everything is laid, weak and small, "where humble cattle lately fed" (st 9). The King of kings is throned in a narrow cradle upon "hay and straw so rough" (st. 10-11)

All Praise to Thee, Eternal God (# 80)

This hymn, also by Luther began with a 1370 German translation of an ancient Latin sequence for Christmass. To this existing stanza, Luther added six more of his own.

Our English version is based on stanzas 1,3,5,4, and 7 of the German. The tune *Gelobet seist du, Jesu* is associated with the medieval German text.

Notice the opposites Luther draws upon throughout the hymn: While everything belongs to our Lord, He takes a manger for His throne (st 1). The creator of all is held in the arms of a virgin (st 2). Christ's lowly birth allows us to rise to heaven (st 3). Christ comes in the darkness to make us children of light (st 4).

All My Heart This Night Rejoices (# 77)

Paul Gerhardt's magnificent Christmass hymn recounts the miracle of Christ's birth and what it means for us as we are justified in Him: "I am pure, in Thee believing, From Thy store evermore, Righteous robes receiving!"

Christ's birth is life-changing: "Dearest Lord, Thee will I cherish, Though my breath, Fail in death, Yet I shall not perish!"

Our Lord's rich blessings to you as you sing this Christmasside! ✠

Birthday Anniversaries

January

2 Alexandria Atkins
 2 Natalie Balaska
 8 Nancy Gramzow
 10 Bernadine Cross
 23 Anna Dalton
 23 Judith Donnell
 23 Richard Schultz
 24 Linda Grams
 25 Rose Atkins
 26 Sylvia Schleif
 28 Lorraine Copas

February

2 Nekeiessia Henderson
 5 Martha Draspa
 5 Paul Snoes
 12 Shirley Forrest
 13 Julie Snoes
 15 Eric Russell
 21 Michael Quinkert
 23 Ruthalee Brown
 28 Gladys Cline

Baptism Anniversaries

January

7 Nachella Jordan
 11 Taneisha Cross
 11 Tanja Cross
 11 Jennifer Gramzow
 13 Toijuana Steele
 13 Jerrell White
 16 Sandra Scheffler
 17 Janet Schulz
 20 Alexandria Atkins
 24 Terrance Hooks
 25 Rose Atkins
 29 Victoria Murdock

February

3 Lynn Scott
 5 Jessica Chavez
 14 Richard Schulz
 20 Patricia Gabrail
 21 Martha Draspa

Marriage Anniversaries

February

14 Roderick & Dana Atkins

Confirmation

by Father Braden

FOR 115 YEARS, Zion had a parochial school. Unique to the Missouri Synod is that our parishes opened schools more frequently than other church bodies. When Zion had a church school, confirmation was part of the curriculum. The children of our parish attended Zion every day. The pastor and teachers would teach religion classes daily, which gave the students access to Christian education every day for years. Historically, near the end of eighth grade the students were publicly examined, confirmed, and received Holy Communion.

It's been over 15 years since Zion had a parochial school. To provide Christian education to our children, and to ensure their spiritual well-being, our confirmation practices have been adapted to the current situation. This means that, in some cases, the youth of our parish may take first communion classes, and receive Holy Communion several years before they are confirmed. In other cases, the children attend Saturday morning catechism classes, and at the end of the class they are examined, confirmed, and receive Holy Communion.

The receipt of first communion is not based on age. Luther's *Small Catechism* does not say a person is truly worthy and well prepared when they finish eighth grade. Rather, Holy Scripture, and the proper exposition of Scripture we have received in the *Small Catechism*, teaches us "That person is truly worthy and well prepared who has faith in these words: 'Given and shed for you for the forgiveness of sins.' But anyone who does not believe these words or doubts them is unworthy and unprepared, for the words 'for you' require all hearts to believe."

Our children come to Zion with very different levels of Christian catechesis, some from Lutheran backgrounds, some from non-Lutheran backgrounds. This means that the necessary catechesis varies child to child. I personally spend time with each child to ensure that they know the Scriptures, the Ten Commandments, the Creed, and the Lord's Prayer. Further, to the best of my ability, I strive to ensure they are well prepared to receive Christ's Body and Blood worthily, as St. Paul describes in 1 Corinthians 10-11, and as our Catechism teaches.

This requires the support of the parents in bringing their children to Mass every Sunday and feast day, and Sunday school every week. Because many of our children are not in Lutheran schools, I assign weekly memory work. They are required to memorize the *Small Catechism* and its explanations, and they recite it to me in small sections. I also take periodic Saturday morning quizzes, and the children must submit ten sermon reports during their preparation for confirmation. The length of time is different for each child.

When the children are ready for confirmation, I recommend them individually to our Board of Deacons. The deacons, the parents of the children, and any members of the congregation who desire to attend, are present for the public examination. The deacons then vote on each confirmand, who, Lord willing, are then confirmed the following Sunday.

We are currently blessed to have six children of various ages in catechism class. Some will be confirmed at Pentecost, as is Zion's tradition. Others will continue in their studies until they are ready for public examination, which may take an additional year. In either case, I am dedicated to ensuring that the children are well prepared to receive the Lord's Supper. I am also dedicated to their thorough instruction in the six chief parts of the faith, and so they perform well on their written and public examinations, that they may stand before the Lord of the Church and Zion congregation to publicly make confession of the one, holy, catholic and apostolic faith.

Please pray for and encourage our youth catechumens: Josiah and Anna Edwards; Bobby Kelly; Alex, Sydney and Ethan Atkins. ✠

The Zion Trumpet is the informational and educational newsletter of Zion Evangelical-Lutheran Church. It communicates the news of Zion and instructs members in various aspects of the Christian Faith.

The Trumpet is published six times each year. It is free for members of Zion. Non-members are invited to contribute toward the production and mailing of the Trumpet.

Zion Evangelical-Lutheran Church is a parish of the one, holy catholic and apostolic Church and is affiliated with the English district of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod.

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Epiphany of Our Lord January 6



FOLLOWING THE TWELVE days of Christmass, the church celebrates the Epiphany of Our Lord, the day the visit of the Magi is commemorated and beginning the season of focus on Christ as the light to the world.

Epiphany is a major feast of Christ in the liturgical year. Join us for the Epiphany Mass on Monday, January 6 at

9:30am & 7pm. ✠

Baptism of Our Lord January 13

IN HOLY BAPTISM, we receive the forgiveness of sins and are made a member of God's family—children of Our Father in heaven. St. Matthew 3.13-17 records Jesus' baptism.

Jesus—as true God—is already a member of God's family. Jesus—as true God—is without sin. Why would Jesus be baptized?

Jesus is baptized "to fulfill all righteousness." Jesus is baptized for you. In the water of the Jordan, the sin of the world is placed on Jesus. In the water of your baptism, Jesus' righteousness is placed on you.

Our Lord's baptism is commemorated each year on the octave of the Epiphany. Join us for Holy Mass in honor of Our Lord's baptism on Monday, January 13, at 9:30am. ✠



Epiphany, Septuagesima, and Lent



THIS YEAR, BECAUSE of the later date of Easter, there are five Sundays of Epiphany (last year there were only two!). The Feast of the Transfiguration of our Lord will be celebrated on Sunday, February 9. Septuagesima season, the three weeks of pre-Lent, follow immediately. Ash Wednesday is March 5; Easter is April 20. The Feast of Holy Pentecost, our traditional Confirmation Sunday, is June 8. Watch the bulletin for our calendar of opportunities to receive the Gifts of God in His Divine Service. ✠

Christian Education

There are many opportunities to study God’s Word at Zion. If you aren’t regularly attending one of these studies, resolve to do so in this new year. If none of these days or times work with your schedule, please suggest an alternative time to the parish office.

SUNDAY ADULT STUDY 11:30AM | UNDERCROFT | Our current study is “A Survey of the New Testament.” This class enables parents to study the Holy Scriptures while their children attend Sunday School. Coffee and snacks are provided. Thanks to those who provide snacks. Anyone is welcome to bring donuts, bagels, fruit, etc. to share. This class is for age 13 through adult.

SUNDAY SCHOOL 11:30AM | ACTIVITIES CENTER | Children ages 3-12 learn the Scriptural account heard in the Sunday Mass and portions of the *Small Catechism*. Parents are encouraged to attend the adult study while their children attend Sunday school. Thanks to Alan Kroske and Pamela Ruffin for coordinating Sunday School. Volunteers are needed for teaching in the future.

WEDNESDAY ADULT STUDY Immediately following Holy Mass, this study is reading “Ministry, Word, and Sacraments: An Enchiridion” by Martin Chemnitz (1522-1586), an important leader in early Lutheranism. Coffee and snacks are provided. Often the group goes out to lunch following the study.



YOUTH CATECHISM SATURDAY 10AM | RECTORY | This class teaches the chief parts of the *Small Catechism* to learn the essential beliefs of Christianity as taught in Holy Scripture. This study of the Catechism prepares students in third – eighth grades for First Communion.

ADULT CATECHISM The day and time for this study varies and is announced each week at the Sunday adult study. Following the *Small Catechism*, it prepares high school students and adults for communicant membership in the church. Members are encouraged to attend to review the teachings of the Church and to get to know our new members.

WOMEN’S GROUP TWO SATURDAYS A MONTH 1PM | RECTORY | Gathering shortly before 1, we move to the Chapel of the Holy Incarnation in the Rectory to pray the Office of Vespers and then continue with the study. Coffee and snacks are provided. We are currently studying the *Formula of Concord*, one of the documents explaining what Lutherans believe, teach, and confess. All women are encouraged to attend and bring guests.

MEN’S GROUP ONE THURSDAY A MONTH 7PM | RECTORY | Gathering shortly before 7, we move to the Church to pray the Office of Vespers, and then return to the Rectory for our study. Following the study, there is food and *Gemütlichkeit*. The current study is Article XXIV of the *Apology of the Augsburg Confession*, “On the Mass.” All men are encouraged to attend and bring guests.

Official Acts / Membership Updates

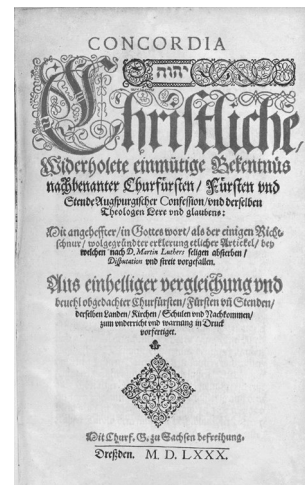
Holy Baptism: Kevin Wiedelman (Oct 27, 2013), Anna Edwards, Elijah Edwards, Josiah Edwards (Nov 24, 2013)

Transfer In: Rev. Gary Schultz from St. Paul – Fort Wayne, IN

Adult Confirmation: Silas and Chandra Gray (Oct 27, 2013)

Transfer Out: Christopher and Kelly Forsyth, Olivia, CJ to Trinity – Traverse City, MI

From the Lutheran Confessions



THE LUTHERAN CONFESSIONS (Book of Concord) are the collection of documents that explains what Lutherans believe, teach, and confess about the Scriptures and Christian doctrine.

Below is an excerpt from the *Solid Declaration of the Formula of Concord*:

On account of this personal union and communion of the divine and the human nature in Christ we believe, teach, and confess also, according to our simple Christian faith, what is said concerning the majesty of Christ according to His humanity, [by which He sits] at the right hand of the almighty power of God, and what is connected therewith [follows therefrom]; all of which would be naught and could not stand if this personal union and communion of the natures in the person of Christ did not exist *realiter*, that is, in deed and truth.

On account of this personal union and communion of the natures, Mary, the most blessed Virgin, bore not a mere man, but, as the angel [Gabriel] testifies, such a man as is truly the Son of the most high God, who showed His divine majesty even in His mother's womb, inasmuch as He was born of a virgin, with her virginity inviolate. Therefore she is truly the mother of God, and nevertheless remained a virgin.

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

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. Matins is not prayed when there is a morning Mass.

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

PRIVATE CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION is available on Saturday from 9-10am or by appointment.

PASTORAL CONSULTATION based on the Holy Scriptures is available by appointment.

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

COUPLES DESIRING HOLY MARRIAGE should contact the Pastor before finalizing the wedding date. Bible 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. Visit with the Pastor for further details.

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

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.

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