



“Blow the Trumpet in Zion” (Joel 2.15)

Zion Trumpet

Zion Evangelical-Lutheran Church of Detroit

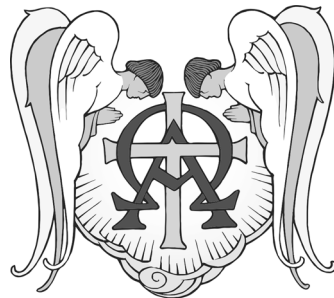
November/December 2014

Higher Things

HIGHER THINGS ASSISTS parents, congregations, and pastors in cultivating, encouraging and promoting a distinctively Lutheran identity among youth and young adults.



This summer's Higher Things gathering rejoices in the gift of the Te Deum, “We Praise Thee, O God,” a hymn of praise that gives us a foretaste of what's happening in worship in heaven and on earth.



Higher Things is July 21-24, 2015 in Grand Rapids. This year we have Zion youth interested in attending. Fr. Schultz, Vicar Grieser, and Michael Edwards will lead the group. The gatherings are primarily geared toward high school youth, but confirmed students of any age and college-aged students may also attend.

Registration begins November 1 and fills up quickly. Last year the conference was full by January. We will need to make reservations by mid-November. Registration forms are available from Father Schultz. ✕

Te Deum: Higher Things 2015
Who? Confirmed Youth, High School Students, College Students
What? Youth Gathering
When? July 21-24, 2015
Where? Grand Rapids, MI
Cost: \$345

Voters' Assembly

THE FALL VOTERS' Assembly was held on Sunday, October 12 following Holy Mass. The usual reports were given. The 2014-15 budget was approved. Copies of the budget and minutes are available from the parish office. The 2015 officers of the congregation were elected.

Congratulations to each of our elected officers and thanks to them for their service:

- ✕ Thomas Habitz, Jr., chairman;
- ✕ Jason Balaska, vice-chairman;
- ✕ Kristi Russell, secretary;
- ✕ Eric Russell, deacon;
- ✕ Kevin Wiedelman, trustee;
- ✕ Robert Kelly, III, Board of Parish Education;
- ✕ Kevin Wiedelman, Zion Endowment Board.

Thanks also to our other members who continue to serve in their offices. The annual installation of officers will be done in January during a Sunday Mass, which will be announced in the bulletin. ✕

Thrivent Choice

IF YOU HAVE an account with Thrivent Financial for Lutherans (formerly *Aid Association for Lutherans* and *Lutheran Brotherhood*), you have Thrivent Choice dollars to spend. You must specify where you want your Thrivent Choice dollars to go every year before March 31. Please designate them to Zion. This can be done online at Thrivent.com/thriventchoice, or by phone: 800-847-4836.

Detroit Lutheran Singers

THE DETROIT LUTHERAN Singers will present the concert series “Celebrate God’s Gift of Love This Christmas.” Tickets are \$15 (\$10 senior/student) and available at the door or www.DetroitLutheranSingers.com.



Sunday, December 7
3:30pm:
Historic Trinity – Detroit
7:30pm:
Hosanna-Tabor – Redford
Friday, December 12
7:30pm:
Shepherd of the Lakes – Walled Lake
Saturday, December 13
7:30pm: TBA. ✕

St. Andrew

by Father Braden

SAINT ANDREW WAS called immediately by the Lord to be an Apostle. His name is derived from the Greek word for “manhood” or “valor.” He was born in Bethsaida of Galilee, and was the brother of Simon Peter. Like Peter, Andrew was a fisherman, and lived in Capernaum, on the northwest shore of the Sea of Galilee. Mark 1.21, 29 tells us that Andrew and Peter lived together in Capernaum (and, interestingly, that Peter was married).

From the Gospel according to St. John we learn that Andrew was first a disciple of St. John the Baptizer. It was at John’s identification of Jesus as “the Lamb of God” that Andrew first followed Him. Andrew quickly found Peter and told him “We have found the Messiah!” (St. John 1.35-42) It was Andrew that brought Peter to Jesus. Later, Jesus called them with the promise “Come, follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men.” The brothers’ response was to leave their nets and follow Jesus (St. Matthew 4.18-22).

In St. John 6.8-9, before the Feeding of the 5000, it is Andrew who presents the “boy with five small barley loaves and two small fish-

Continued on page 2



St. John the Baptizer calls Jesus the “Lamb of God” and Andrew follows Jesus.

Jesus said to them, “Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men.” They immediately left their nets and followed Him.

ST. MATTHEW 4: 19-20
from the Gospel for St. Andrew, Apostle

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es" to Jesus. When some Greeks asked Philip "Sir, we want to see Jesus," Philip's response was to find Andrew, who went with him to tell the Lord.

The longest and fullest recorded teaching of the Lord Christ on the end times was the response to a question posed in part by Andrew. The Lord's answer to the question can be found in St. Matthew 24.1-25.46, and the parallel passage in St. Mark 13.5-37.

The only mention of Andrew after Christ's great eschatological discourse is in the apostolic list in Acts 1.13. There, as in most lists, he appears fourth. He would have been with the Apostles at the Resurrection of the Lord, in the upper room Jesus miraculously entered, and he would have been present at Pentecost as one of the Twelve. Andrew is not mentioned by name in the Epistles or in Revelation. The tradition of the church through Eusebius (who cites Origen) is that after the Resurrection, Andrew went to Scythia to preach the Gospel there. Other early testimony places Andrew in Cappadocia, Galatia, and Bithynia, and then later further west in Macedonia, Thessalonica, Achaia, and Byzantium.

The tradition of the church records that Andrew was put to death by the Roman emperor Aegeas in Achaia. There Andrew was crucified, but not nailed, rather tied to the cross, which made the death slower. He received the martyr's reward on the November 30, probably in the year 60. Andrew's cross was a "saltire" or "decussate" cross, an "X" shape rather than a "T" shape. The saltire cross is now known as a St. Andrew's cross. As he is the patron saint of Scotland, his cross gave birth to the Union Jack, and to the confederate American



flag. The decussate cross, Andrew's apostolic symbol, is found as are the symbols of all the Apostles, carved into the buttressed beams of Zion's nave ceiling and highlighted in gold.

In the liturgical calendar, the Feast of St. Andrew has an important place. The Sunday closest to St. Andrew is also the first Sunday in Advent. Thus the first day of every liturgical year is determined by Andrew's commemoration before God.

It has long been the practice of Zion to celebrate Holy Mass on the Feast day of every Apostle. This year November 30 falls on a Sunday. As *Ad Te Levavi*, the first Sunday in Advent, has liturgical precedence, the Feast of St. Andrew is transferred to Monday, December 1. Plan to join us, won't you, to receive the Lord's Gifts and return thanks and praise to Him for His grace and goodness, especially in calling St. Andrew to be His Apostle, and for the many who came to saving faith in Jesus Christ through him. ✠



The Rev. Sem. Winston P. A. Grieser was inducted as Vicar of Zion on Sunday, September 7 at Holy Mass. Pictured with Vicar Grieser are the Rev. Fr. Gary W. Schultz, Kantor; Mr. Thomas A. Habitz, Jr., Chairman of the Board of Deacons; the Rev. Fr. Mark P. Braden, Pastor; and Mr. James Gramzow, Altar Server

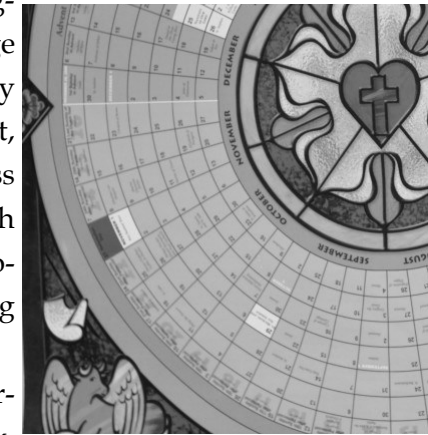
Church Year: End and Beginning

by Vicar Grieser

THE CHURCH YEAR is rapidly coming to a close. We begin our preparations for Advent. One way that the church denotes a change in the liturgical season is by the paraments (those garments which adorn the altar) changing colors. If it were not for the paraments changing from green to violet, the change in season might go unnoticed by many. As the church enters Advent, pay special attention to the seamless transition from the end of the church year to its beginning. The way to notice the subtle change is by paying special attention to the propers.

Propers are those parts of the service which change week to week, such as the hymns, the introit, collect and scripture readings. The readings and the hymns continue to emphasize the same theme: That our Lord Jesus will come to judge the world and take His Bride, the Church, to enjoy His nearer presence and the eternal wedding banquet.

At the end of the Church year, the church prepares for the return of our Lord Jesus Christ, and this is reflected in the propers used in the Mass. The text for the second-to-last Sunday is Matthew 25.31-46. In this pericope, our Lord describes what the final judgment will look like; how He will separate the righteous from the unrighteous as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. Our appointed readings, prayers, and hymns at the end of the church year remind the Christian that the earth is not our home and that we are to remain vigilant, awaiting the return of our God and King. The preparation for the Church during this time is summed up nowhere more clearly than in the



parable of the Ten Virgins. The theme of the imminent return of Christ in glory to judge both the living and the dead is not thrown to the way side with the start of Advent. Rather, we pray that God would "stir up His power and come." Advent is a penitential season and a time of preparation. The church remembers both Christ coming in the flesh as Immanuel to save His people and eagerly awaits His return as King of

kings and Lord of lords. For this reason that the Gospel reading for the first Sunday in Advent is Christ's entry into Jerusalem. By this Gospel the church proclaims that Christ came into the world as a man, not to rule but to save sinners. This then is how the season of Advent is different from the end of the Church year.

In Advent we are both looking forward and back. We remember that our king came in meekness and humility, but that He will come again with power and great glory. This is expressed in the hymn "Once He Came in Blessing." The first stanza looks back to Christ's Incarnation, and the second stanza looks forward to His triumphant return:

Once He came in blessing,
All our ills redressing;
Came in likeness lowly,
Son of God most holy;
Bore the cross to save us,
Hope and freedom gave us.

Still He comes within us;
Still His voice would win us
From the sins that hurt us;
Would to truth convert us
From our foolish errors
Ere He comes in terrors. (# 74)

Enjoy the putting up of lights and trees, but also pay close attention to this wonderful consistency given in the liturgy. ✠

hosts of heaven—patriarchs and prophets, unnumbered choirs—in Zion, the heavenly Jerusalem.

The final stanza of Martin Schalling’s hymn (429) is a treasure of the church:

Lord, let at last Thine angels come,
 To Abraham’s bosom bear me home,
 That I may die unfearing;
 And in its narrow chamber keep
 My body safe in peaceful sleep
 Until Thy reappearing.
 And then from death awaken me,
 That these mine eyes with joy may see,
 O Son of God, Thy glorious face,
 My Savior and my Fount of grace.
 Lord Jesus Christ,
 my prayer attend, my prayer attend,
 And I will praise Thee without end.

Space prohibits discussing all of the greatest hymns for use at funerals. A number that must be mentioned: “For All the Saints” (463), “Farewell I Gladly Bid Thee” (407), “I Fall Asleep in Jesus’ Wounds” (585), “This Body in the Grave We Lay” (596), “Jerusalem the Golden” (613), “I Know that My Redeemer Lives,” (200), “Jesus Lives! The Victory’s Won!” (201), and “Who Knows When Death May Overtake Me” (598), among others.

These hymns aren’t just for funerals. They are sung throughout life so that they may be on the lips of the dying, and comfort those overwhelmed in loss. They are not sad hymns – they are triumphant in Christ’s Resurrection. We sing them because they confess the reality of Christ’s victory over death. We sing them because they prepare us for our own death. We sing them because they are a comfort in all of the tribulations of life, especially when we remember our loved ones departed in the faith. ✠



The Good Shepherd Institute

by Father Schultz

EACH YEAR, THE Good Shepherd Institute of Concordia Theological Seminary holds an annual conference to discuss pastoral theology and sacred music. Each year since the Institute was begun in 2000, I’ve had the opportunity of attending. The Conference consists of worship, recitals, seminars, a hymn festival, and the chance to visit with colleagues.



The goal for the fifteenth-annual conference is to look at the Church Year, discussing philosophical and theological implications of time to practical considerations of how to bring it all together on a Sunday morning. Also considered will be how the Church Year impacts lives during the time between Sundays.

The Good Shepherd Institute serves the church and the world as a theological center of conversation, research, and resources for congregations, pastors, and musicians. Established in the year 2000, the Good Shepherd Institute is dedicated to the care of souls by means of hearing and discerning the clear voice of Christ, the Good Shepherd, through preaching, teaching, liturgy, and hymns. The Good Shepherd Institute provides scholarly, theological, and practical resources of pastoral theology and sacred music for the church. ✠

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.

Zion Evangelical-Lutheran Church

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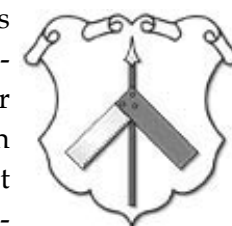
Coming Up in the Church Year

ADVENT BEGINS SUNDAY, November 30. Our Advent midweek Masses will be **Wednesdays at 9:30am and 7pm** in the Church. Advent is a penitential season: one of preparation and increased fasting, almsgiving and prayer. Please plan to join us for our special midweek Masses. The Advent sermon series will be announced in the bulletin in mid-November. Vicar Grieser will have the opportunity to preach at one of the Wednesday Masses as well.

THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD is celebrated with Holy Mass December 25 at **Midnight and 10am**. These Christmass Masses complement each other and are intended to be attended by all, not one instead of the other. It has been our tradition at Zion to celebrate Mass daily for the Twelve Days of Christmass. Following these days, on January 6, the Epiphany of our Lord is also marked by a special Mass. Mark your calendars now, and join us for the daily Christmasstide Masses.

ST. AMBROSE DECEMBER 7 Ambrose was a lawyer and politician before he became the bishop of Milan, Italy in 374. He became well-known for his sermons, prolific writings, and hymns. He died on Good Friday in 397. Ambrose is considered one of the greatest doctors of the Christian Faith.

ST. THOMAS DECEMBER 21 Also known as Didymus (the twin), Thomas was the Apostle who did not believe that Jesus appeared to the others on Easter night. After Pentecost, he ministered the Gospel in India, where he was martyred. Because this feast falls on a Sunday, it is transferred to Monday, December 22. Holy Mass at 10am in the Chapel.



ST. STEPHEN DECEMBER 26 Shortly after he became one of the original deacons, Stephen the protomartyr (“first martyr”), was murdered by a Jewish mob. Saul (later St. Paul) witnessed the death. Stephen’s confession of the faith was two-fold—in word and in death. Holy Mass at 10am.

ST. JOHN DECEMBER 27 John was one of Jesus’ “inner-circle.” After Jesus’ death and resurrection, John cared for the Blessed Virgin Mary. He wrote the Gospel and Epistles that bear his name, and recorded the revelation of Jesus Christ. John was the only Apostle to die a natural death. Holy Mass at 10am. ✠



Christian Education at Zion

ALL OF OUR classes are open to all members and visitors. In addition to Sunday and many special Masses, in the Chapel we also pray Matins five days a week, and Vespers two times a week. Faith is hungry. Faith desires to grow in the Word. Please plan to join us for some of the many opportunities Zion offers to receive God's gifts, and for Christian growth.

SUNDAY SCHOOL 11:30AM | ACTIVITIES CENTER | Sunday School is for ages 3-12. Lessons are Bible-story based and activities are designed to reinforce the biblical lesson.

SUNDAY ADULT STUDY 11:30AM | UNDERCROFT | Our current study is the book of Hosea. 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.



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 CATECHESIS 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.

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 book of Jude. 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*. We are studying the Solid Declaration of the *Formula of Concord*. All men are encouraged to attend and bring guests.

ADULT CATECHESIS THREE THURSDAYS A MONTH 7PM | RECTORY | This class is for those considering membership, and existing members to review and deepen their understanding of the Christian faith, using *Luther's Small Catechism* annotated by Edward W. A. Koehler.

The Zion Parish Record

For September & October 2014

Additions None

Removals
Transfer

Carl and Sarah Paulus – to Our Savior – Arlington, VA (September 7, 2014)

Membership 215 Members

New Address

Drucilla Huddleston
15181 Ford Road—Apt 312
Dearborn, MI 48126

A Blessed End Has Come At Last: Hymns At A Funeral

by Father Schultz

THOUGH A PASTOR never sets out to offend people, often some take offense when the pastor discusses funeral hymns. The reason? Many hymns considered the "default" for funerals range from theologically weak to entirely inappropriate for the Christian funeral. The pastor must insist that the hymns sung clearly proclaim:

- ✘ original sin;
- ✘ Christ's atonement;
- ✘ Christ's victorious resurrection over the grave;
- ✘ the resurrection of the body;
- ✘ dying and rising with Christ in Holy Baptism;

There are numerous reasons weak funeral hymns run rampant, even among Lutheran parishes. Among them: lack of catechesis, misguided ideas among the unchurched about funerals, insufficient training in hymnody among the clergy, and an overall misunderstanding about the purpose of a funeral.

Often funeral hymns are discussed only in the difficult days as death is drawing near, or among family members who have recently lost a loved one. It is difficult for a pastor to decline hymn selections in these situations, and yet, sometimes it must be done. Working with funerals as the pastor or musician for fifteen years, I can count only a handful that made exclusive use of strong hymns. Several times all of the choices have been unusable, and I've had to gently guide people toward greener pastures.

In whatever stage you're at in life, take time to consider quality hymns for use at a funeral. Discuss the hymns with your pastor. Make sure those who will make your final arrangements

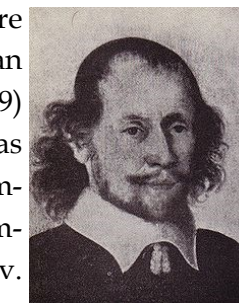
know about the hymns you've chosen with your pastor. Consider the hymns that a pastor might suggest for a funeral.

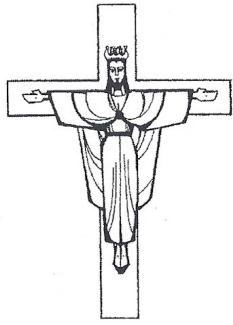
Nearing the end of the liturgical year, the themes of the end of our life and the end times become a focus at Mass. A number of the hymns in the "death and burial," "communion of saints," and "life everlasting" sections of the hymnal will be sung in upcoming Masses, and are fitting for use at a Christian funeral.

A good place to start is Martin Luther's "In the Midst of Earthly Life" (# 590). Based on a tenth-century medieval antiphon, Luther added two stanzas to a German version of the antiphon, which includes the *Trisagion* of the Greek liturgy: "Holy and righteous God!" Clearly proclaiming original sin leading to death and Christ's victory as the only comfort in death, it is an immense help to the bereaved: "Lord, preserve and keep us, In the peace that faith can give. Have mercy, O Lord!"

The Chief Hymn for the Feast of All Saints is "Oh, How Blest Are Ye Whose Toils are Ended" (# 589). A prolific Lutheran hymnwriter, Simon Dach (1605-1659) expresses the joy of heaven: "Christ has wiped away your tears forever," commemorating the saints freed from imprisonment to life on earth. The Rev. Fr. Kenneth Runge, Zion's third pastor, translated the 1737 text by P. Pfeffer that was sung in alternation with Dach's hymn. It was recently republished in "Walther's Hymnal," a 2012 translation of the 1892 *Kirchen-Gesangbuch für Evangelisch-Lutherische Gemeinden ungeänderter Augsburgischer Confession*, ("Church Hymnbook for Evangelical-Lutheran Congregations of the Unaltered Augsburg Confession").

"Jerusalem, Thou City Fair and High" (# 619) triumphantly expresses the Christian's joining the





St. Michael Liturgical Conference

THE SEVENTEENTH-ANNUAL St. Michael Liturgical Conference, Monday, September 29, was a great success. Our keynote speaker, the Rev.

Dr. D. Richard Stuckwisch of Emmaus Lutheran Church, South Bend, Indiana, was well received. His presentation "Pastoral Care of Catechumens and Communicants" was scholarly, pastoral and a bit provocative. Among our churches the practice of Confirmation and First Communion varies widely. With candor and honesty, Fr. Stuckwisch treated a controversial topic thoroughly, with a focus on the care of the souls entrusted to him at Emmaus.

The sectional papers by Fr. Joel Baseley (Emmanuel—Dearborn), Dr. Daniel Reuning (Redeemer—Fort Wayne), and Fr. Burnell Eckardt (St. Paul—Kewanee) were likewise excellent.

Fr. Baseley presented on the First Communion and Confirmation practice in the Missouri Synod during her first 50 years. His paper included some original translation from the German of important historic documents.

Dr. Reuning taught the group to point Psalms according to the historic Gregorian modes.

Fr. Eckardt presented on the touch of Jesus and healing, and the incarnational implications of the Pastoral Office.

The Conference began with Holy Mass commemorating St. Michael the Archangel. Our guest preacher was Fr. David Petersen from Redeemer—Fort Wayne. The Divine Office of Sext was prayed at noon, and Solemn Vespers at 4pm. The



day concluded with Gemütlichkeit in the Undercroft.

Thanks to the many Zion members who served on the St. Michael Committee, and the members and friends of Zion that accomplished the planning, set-up, registration, service, and clean-up for the conference. They all worked hard to make the conference a success.

Committee: Kathleen Atkins, Fr. Braden, Shirley Cross, Judi Donnell, Thomas Habitz, Jr., Fr. Schultz, and Kevin Wiedelman; Gemütlichkeit: Jason & Jennifer Balaska, Eric & Kristi Russell; Preparation: Nancy Gramzow, Al Holmes, Eddie Holmes, Kristi Russell, and Sherrie Williams;

Mass Servers: Fr. Ryan Beffrey, Fr. Braden, Michael Edwards, Fr. Eric Forss, Bill Gramzow, III, Vicar Grieser, Thomas Habitz, Jr., Bobby Kelly, III, Eric Maasel, Blake Martzowka, Fr. David Petersen, Eric Russell, Fr. Schultz, Bishop David Stechholz, Fr. Brian Westgate, and Kevin Wiedelman;

Thanks also the many generous donors who supported the conference this year. Thrivent, through our agent Mr. Jeff Long, provided a gracious gift to make the conference possible. Several faithful members and friends also used their Thrivent Choice dollars to support the conference. It is our goal to increase donations to the conference in the years to come.

The eighteenth-annual St. Michael Liturgical Conference is Monday, September 28, 2015. Please mark your calendars now and plan to attend. We have selected a proposed topic, and have several tentative speakers. When the topic and keynote speaker have been confirmed, it will be announced in the bulletin and the **Trumpet**.

The conference papers and videos are available on the St. Michael Liturgical Conference page of the Zion website. ✂

Theological Conferences

by Father Braden

IN ADDITION TO the St. Michael Liturgical Conference, we are active in several other theological conferences. On September 20, I presented at the St. Andrew Confessional Conference in Memphis, Michigan. I spoke on the life of Luther and the development, structure, and flow of the Augsburg Confession. I also presented on the same theme at in the Earhart Mansion at Concordia University as part of their Reformation celebration.

Vicar Grieser and I attended the annual *Gottesdienst* Oktoberfest theological conference at St. Paul—Kewanee, IL, where Fr. Burnell Eckardt, a frequent St. Michael Conference presenter, serves as pastor. The keynote speaker was Dr. John Stephenson, of Concordia Seminary—St. Catherines, Ontario, who spoke at our St. Michael conference a couple of years ago. For the last few years, Fr. Eckardt has invited me to serve as deacon at the Mass during the conference. It is an honor to serve.

Last year, I taught New Testament at Concordia University. This year they've invited me to teach Christian Ethics. If the schedule stands as proposed, I'll be doing that spring semester. I've already begun to prepare the lectures. ✂

Zion on the Internet

SINCE 1999, ZION has maintained a Yahoo! Groups e-mail list updating members and friends about news and upcoming events at Zion. If you aren't subscribed, do so today by sending a message to zionnews-subscribe@yahoo.com.



Additionally, in recent months, we have established a page on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram. Find us on each of these at ZionDetroit. Our YouTube page is Zion Evangelical-Lutheran Church. We are also developing a Wikipedia entry.

Our website remains an important source for information about Zion. It contains information about our parish history, theological papers and studies, and is updated weekly with the sermons from Sunday and Wednesday Mass, festival Ordos, and the weekly bulletin. ✂

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

COMMUNICANTS are baptized Christians who have been instructed in and publicly confess the Evangelical-Lutheran Faith. If you desire to commune, please visit with the Pastor before approaching the Altar.

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

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** Gregory Gramzow, Paul Snoes, Kevin Wiedelman; **BOARD OF PARISH EDUCATION** Shirley Cross, Robert Kelly, III, Pamela Ruffin; **OFFICERS OF THE VOTERS** Thomas Habitz, Jr. (chairman), Jason Balaska (vice-chairman), Kristi Russell (secretary), Jessica Chavez (financial secretary)

International Work

by Father Braden

IN LATE JULY, I taught a course for pastors in Bolivia. The course was well received. I spent a few days in St. Louis in September with the Luther Academy discussing international theological education and my service to the Academy as a Fellow. It was my honor to meet the Rev. Carlos Schumann, a pastor in Chile, and Luther Academy Fellow for South America. I have been working with Pr. Schumann through the internet for some time. We will be continuing in our work together as we plan theological conferences for South America in the upcoming year.

My trip to Venezuela last year was cancelled due to the violence and rioting there. The inflation driven by progressive and socialist policies has destroyed the value of the Venezuelan currency, which is generally worthless outside of the country. This has driven the cost of a round-trip ticket up to over \$5,000 (my last trip to Colombia, which shares a border with Venezuela, was just over \$800). Flights are frequently oversold with no refunds available. In that case, you have to wait for days to get a space on the next plane out. This happened to me in 2007.

The violence has quieted down in Venezuela, thanks be to God, but the inflation is worse. Kidnapping for money is a significant problem. The people lack necessities for daily life. The black market, and hence crime, has ballooned. Our churches and pastors are suffering. I'm working with the Venezuelan church to plan a trip after Easter. I am to teach a course on Ecclesiology, the doctrine of the Church, in San Félix (the east side of the country), where I taught Revelation two years ago. I may



have to fly into a neighboring country like Colombia or Brazil, and take a bus ride across the border to make it happen.

I hope to make a couple of quick trips to Colombia this year in support of the mission we are supporting in the city of Medellín, the first in January. I usually fly in on a Monday, and back on a Friday, so I'm at Zion on Sunday. It is a wonderful comfort and encouragement to Pastor Mario Marín to have us visit in support of the struggling mission he serves. The congregation is small and quite poor. Most of the members must ride the bus to get to church, and bus fare, while cheap, is prohibitive for them. At the end of the Service they frequently divide up the offerings to pay for their trips home, and there is nothing left for the Pastor. Pr. Marín has faithfully served in these circumstances for many years.

It is my hope to have Vicar Grieser accompany me on one of the trips to South America. It would be great experience for him. Vicar Eckardt went to Venezuela with me during his Vicarage, and he is now preparing for service in the mission field in a Spanish-speaking country.

The Rev. Daniel Conrad, a friend of Zion, is being deployed to the newly-reclaimed seminary in Mexico City. He has invited me to visit Mexico as he gets established there in the upcoming year.

I recently taped a Spanish video course for our Fort Wayne seminary. It is a course in Christology, the doctrine of Jesus Christ. The course is running in Spain this year. There may well be an opportunity to visit Spain in the near future.

Jesus said, "The harvest truly is plentiful, but the laborers are few. Therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest" (St. Matthew 9.37-38) Zion is blessed with the opportunity to serve the Lord of the harvest. I am always glad to take Zion members with me when I travel. Members can be of great help in international settings, teaching English, doing service projects for local churches, and supporting the

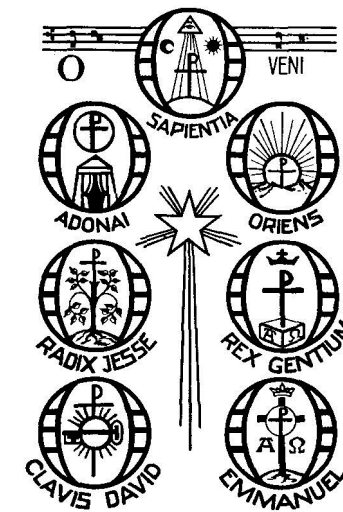
work of taking the saving Gospel of Jesus Christ "to the ends of the earth" (Acts 13.47-48). Please consider joining me, or supporting Zion's international work with a gift, as we strive to help our Christian brothers and sisters in other countries. ✝

The Great O Antiphons

AS ADVENT CONCLUDES, the seven days prior to the Vigil of Christmass each has an ancient solemn antiphon consisting of a fervent prayer to the Messiah, whom it addresses by one of the titles given Him in the Scriptures.

They are called the "O's of Advent" because they all begin with that interjection. The Divine Office of Vespers has been selected as the most appropriate time for this solemn supplication to our Savior, because, as the church sings in one

of her hymns, it was in the evening of the world that the Messiah came among us. These antiphons are sung at the Song of Mary, the *Magnificat* ("My soul magnifies") to show us that the Savior whom we expect is to come to us by Mary. They are sung before and after the canticle. The assist us to enter into the spirit of the Church and reflect on the great day which is coming.



- O Sapientia (O Wisdom) DECEMBER 17
- O Adonai (O Lord) DECEMBER 18
- O Radix Jesse (O Root of Jesse) DECEMBER 19
- O Clavis David (O Key of David) DECEMBER 20
- O Oriens (O Dayspring) DECEMBER 21
- O Rex Gentium (O King of Nations) DECEMBER 22
- O Emmanuel (O Emmanuel) DECEMBER 23

The seven stanzas of "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" are based on these antiphons.

- Adapted from Dom Guéranger, "The Liturgical Year: Volume 1," 1949. ✝

Birthday Anniversaries

November

7 Renee Simmons
10 Josiah Edwards
14 Hannah Adams
15 Nicholas Alford
18 Linda Buskirk
19 Charlotte Gramzow
21 Paula MacMunn
23 Josef Ruffin
24 Charles Sherk
27 Monika Hoffmann
27 Frank Jarecki
29 Delores Scharf

December

1 Patricia Gabrail
1 Karen Simmons
2 Jeanne Beaupied
2 Jessica Chavez
4 Anna Edwards
8 Elizabeth Murdock
8 Jerrell White
9 Anthony Barbee
12 Jennifer Gramzow
14 Theodore Krey
16 Deborah Faerber
17 Kathleen Atkins
19 Fayth Atkins
20 Leslie Braden
20 Revelle Cross
22 Laura Fox
25 Thomas Habitz, Jr.
27 Janet Schulz

Baptism Anniversaries

November

1 Douglas Faerber
2 John Chavez
8 Nicholas Alford
8 Carlos Henderson
8 Nekiessia Henderson
8 Aisha Williams
8 David Williams
8 Dushawn Williams
15 Sequoia Gray
16 Darwin Terry
17 Silas Gray
21 Karen Cline
24 Anna Edwards
24 Elijah Edwards
24 Josiah Edwards
25 Joshua Chavez
25 Robert Ganz
26 Tammy Barbee

December

6 Keith Cobb
8 Karen Simmons
15 Paula MacMunn
18 Sandra Garzon
23 Charlotte Gramzow
25 Deborah Faerber
29 Theodore Krey

Marriage Anniversaries

November

28 William & Nancy Gramzow

December

15 Michael & Sherry Edwards