

Zion Evangelical-Lutheran Church

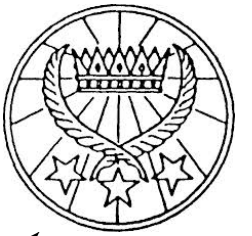
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"Blow the Trumpet in Zion" (Joel 2.15)



# Zion Trumpet

Zion Evangelical-Lutheran Church of Detroit

November/December 2015

## All Saints

by Father Braden

The Author of the Epistle to the Hebrews speaks of saving faith. Citing the Book of the Prophet Habakkuk, he writes "Now the just shall live by faith." (10:38, see Habakkuk 2:4) As St. Paul makes this the central theme of his Epistle to the Romans (see especially 1:17-18, where St. Paul cites the same verse from Habakkuk, and 3:20-25), so to in Hebrews justification by God's grace through faith in Jesus Christ is the central theme of the Epistle. Indeed, it is the central theme of both Testaments of Scripture, and so the Chief Article of the Christian faith.

In both Epistles, Romans and Hebrews, the Author leads the reader into the Holy of Holies, and brings the reader to stand before the Ark of the Covenant and the Mercy Seat. In both Epistles this marks the theological apex of the Epistle (See Romans 3:25 and Hebrews 9:5, where the same Greek word is used, a word that is only used twice in the New Testament, once in Romans, and once in Hebrews, and not outside of these two Books).

But it is not by Levitical Priest or the blood of bulls that we are saved. The Tabernacle, the Temple, and the Old Testament *cultus* were types, whose fulfilment is Jesus: "... Christ came as High Priest of the good things to come, with the greater and more perfect tabernacle not made with hands, that is, not of this creation. Not with the blood of goats and calves, but with His own blood He entered the Most Holy Place once for all, having obtained eternal redemption." (Hebrews 9:11-12)

It is not by works, not by animal sacrifice, not by trying our hardest, not by being "good people", not by doing "good" things, but rather by faith in Christ, our Great High Priest, the perfect Sacrifice, that we are saved. So, the Author asserts, we are not of those who draw back, rather we are "of those who believe to the saving of the soul." (Hebrews 10:39)

To believe is to have faith. So what is this faith? It is "the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not

*Jesus said to them,  
"Follow Me, and I will  
make you fishers of  
men." They immedi-  
ately left their nets  
and followed Him.*

ST. MATTHEW 4: 19-20

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seen.” (Hebrews 11:1). To believe what you see doesn’t take faith. To believe what you can’t see takes faith. To believe that man is sinful, that he is rotten to the core, that he hurts himself and others, doesn’t take faith. We see it all around us. We see it in **ourselves**.

But to believe that man is saved from sin and death simply by believing, by trusting in Christ, now - that takes faith. All we have is the Word of God, the Holy Scriptures. They are the inspired, inerrant, clear Words of men led by the Holy Spirit. In those Words is the Promise, the Gospel. And those who believe the Gospel, those who believe in Christ Jesus, “believe to the saving of the soul.” (Hebrews 10:39).

Having taught us what faith is, the Author does not stop. He gives us examples. He starts with the creation (11:1-3). No man saw the creation of heaven and earth. And yet by faith we believe it.



God made the heavens and the earth and all that is within them in six, 24-hour days. And on the Seventh Day He rested. The “theory of evolution” is a lie. We’re not the spawn of tadpoles and orangutans. We were not made like the animals. Man is not an animal.

We are special creatures of God, the pinnacle of His creation. God made them male and female. He made them in His image and likeness. God breathed into the first man the breath of life, and he became a living being. And the woman God fashioned from the rib taken from Adam’s side. Saving faith believes nothing else.

Having used the creation as his first example, the Author of the Epistle to the Hebrews gives many more examples. Beginning with Abel and Enoch and Noah and Abraham and Sarah, he names the

Patriarchs and saints of old. He continues with Isaac and Jacob and Moses, Gideon, Barak, Samson and Jephthah, David, Samuel and the Prophets.

As much as the creation teaches us about God, so too do these faithful saints who have gone before us. It is right for us to look at their lives as the Scriptures bid us do. It is good for us to see how God delivered them in tribulation. It strengthens us to see their faith even in the face of martyrdom. It brings us consolation and hope to know that they suffered as we do, and yet they were delivered as we are - by God’s grace through faith in Jesus Christ.

So the Epistle to the Hebrews bids us remember the faith given the saints of old, and draw comfort from them: “Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.” (Hebrews 12:1-2) It is not lost on those who read the Scriptures in Greek that the word “witnesses” in Hebrews 12:1 is from the same word that comes into English as “martyr”.

Although we daily remember those who have gone before us in the faith, and at every Mass we commemorate in thanksgiving our Fathers in the faith, the month of November offers us three excellent opportunities to remember “the great cloud of witnesses”. The Feast of All Saints is a commemoration of all those who have “fallen asleep in faith.” (1 Thessalonians 4:13-18), both those known to us and those known only to God. This year All Saints falls on a Sunday, November 1<sup>st</sup>.

The next day the Feast of All Souls is celebrated. The focus on this day is the celebration of the truth that the souls of the faithful departed are with Christ.

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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The great Sequence Hymn *Dies Irae*, paraphrased in our hymn *Day of Wrath, O Day of Mourning* (TLH 607) is sung. Confident of our salvation by God's grace through faith in Jesus Christ, we sing "With Thy favored sheep, oh, place me! Nor among the goats abase me, but to Thy Right Hand upraise me!"

Three weeks later, Zion observes *Totenfest*, the Last Sunday of the Church Year. In the early church, days of commemoration were observed for the Apostles and Evangelists. Especially early are the Feasts of St. Peter and St. Paul, St. John and St. James. Afterwards commemorations were added of the martyrs and prominent saints.



While the Feast of All Saints commemorates in thanksgiving to God the life and salvation of all those who have gone before us, *Totenfest* is a commemoration in thanksgiving to God for the life and salvation of our blessed parish departed – those who we know and loved who have left this vale of tears in the last year. It is at *Totenfest* that the names of the departed are read, and the

church bell is tolled after each name.

What comfort there is for us in the fact that the souls of these recently departed are in heaven with God. They faced the "last enemy", death, in faith. And they received faith's reward, eternal life with the Object of saving faith, even Jesus Christ our Lord. And what joy there is in knowing that the Church Victorious, the saints in glory, are One with us as worship here the God that they now behold there, as we are made One Communion with them by the holy Body and precious Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ!

Join us, won't you, for the Feast of All Saints and for *Totenfest*? Stand with us in the Nave in which they stood, sit in the pews in which they sat and in which you sat with them. Remember before God in thanksgiving the grace He manifested in their lives. Remember before God in thanksgiving how the faith He gave them touched you, how the love He showed them was shown to you. Do as Scripture bids us do: "since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith..."

## Advent

by Father Braden

The Feast of St. Andrew, Apostle is celebrated each year on November 30<sup>th</sup>. The Sunday nearest the Feast of St. Andrew begins the new Church Year. On that Sunday we celebrate the First Sunday in Advent. This year Advent begins on Sunday, November 29<sup>th</sup>. Again this year during Advent Mass will be celebrated at 9:30 a.m. and at 7:00 p.m. every Wednesday. Advent is a time of special devotion, a time of repentance, when violet paraments and the Baptizer's call invite us to fall to our knees before a just and holy God. The Wednesdays of Advent this year are December 2<sup>nd</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup>.



It has been my practice to base my Advent mid-week sermons on the Introit Psalm, the First Reading, or the Gospel appointed to the Wednesday of Advent. In my almost seven years at Zion I have rotated these year to year, so this year I'll be preaching on the Gospel texts appointed for the day. Here are the dates of the Wednesday Masses, the Gospel texts, and the sermon themes, drawn from the Gospels:

**Advent I - *Ad Te Levavi*:** Wednesday, December 2<sup>nd</sup>,

Luke 4:14-22 -- "He has anointed Me"

**Advent II - *Populus Zion*:** Wednesday, December 9<sup>th</sup>,

Matthew 11:11-15 -- "If you are willing to receive it"

**Advent III - *Gaudete*:** Ember Wednesday, December 16<sup>th</sup>,

Luke 1:26-38 -- "You shall call His Name Jesus"

**Advent IV - *Rorate Coeli*:** Wednesday, December 23<sup>rd</sup>,

Matthew 3:7-11 -- "Bear fruits worthy of repentance"

In keeping with the penitential nature of Advent, the Wednesday mid-week Masses will be spoken "low" Masses in the Church. I will lead the Chief Hymn *a capella*. Plan now so that you and your whole family can join us at Zion on these special days.

### The Zion Parish Record

For September & October 2015

**Additions** Nicole Olivia Ramanathan

**Removals** None

**Membership** 219 Members



Liturgical Renewal in Missouri

Pictured is keynote presenter The Rev. Dr. Charles Evanson

## Detroit Lutheran Singers

by Kris Murphy

The Detroit Lutheran Singers are preparing for the upcoming Christmas season. They will be having Christmas concerts on the following days and locations :



\* Sunday, December 6,  
3:00 pm Historic Trinity Lutheran Church, Detroit

\* Sunday, December 6,  
7:00 pm Holy Cross Lutheran Church, Warren

\* Friday, December 11,  
7:30 pm St. Michael Lutheran Church, Canton

\* Saturday, December 12, 7:30 pm Crown of Life Lutheran, Rochester

Tickets are available at the door: \$15 General Admission, \$10 Children and Seniors, Children under 12 are free.

## The Twofold Eating of the Body of Christ

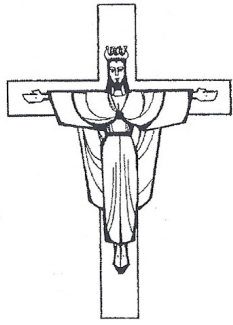
"... the sacramental eating of the body of Christ in the Supper is not what the adversaries imagine,

namely, that we orally eat only a symbol of the absent body of Christ, or that somewhere else beyond the observance of the Supper (which according to Paul is celebrated in the gathering of the congregation) faith should seek and embrace the humanity of Christ. But because the body of Christ is truly and substantially present and distributed with this bread, therefore, when our physical mouth receives this bread and eats it, we can truly say and believe that our mouth at the same time also receives and eats the body of Christ, although this does not take place in the same kind of physical way in which the bread is eaten. We can very simply understand and judge this on the basis of the examples and similes we have indicated.

On the basis of what we have said up to this point we can draw the sure, firm, and correct conclusion that in addition to the physical eating and the spiritual eating there is a third kind of eating, namely, the sacramental eating of the body of Christ which of necessity must take place in the Supper if we do not want to reject the proper and natural meaning of the words of the testament of Christ.

But the spiritual eating of the flesh and blood of Christ can take place either outside of or within the celebration of the Lord's Supper. For when, even outside of the celebration of the Lord's Supper, faith embraces and lays hold of Christ, who is both God and man, who is brought to us and offered to us in the Word — when faith does this in such a way that it applies to itself His benefits which He merited for us by giving of His body and the shedding of His blood — then we can say that we are eating the body of Christ spiritually (John 6). But in the Lord's Supper the spiritual eating must not so turn our mind and faith away from this celebration of the Supper which is taking place in the gathering of the congregation that in our meditations we are carried beyond the heaven of heavens, as our adversaries imagine."

*Chemnitz, Martin. The Lord's Supper. Translated by J.A.O. Preus. 1979. Concordia Publishing House: St. Louis. 63-64.*



## St. Michael Liturgical Conference

by Kevin Wiedelman, Chairman of the Board of Trustees

Greetings in the strong Name of Jesus, Lord of the only true Church! By God's grace, and by His gracious provision through the hands of His saints, the 2015 St. Michael Liturgical Conference was by all measures a resounding success. On behalf of the Board of Trustees and the Conference Committee, I would like to thank everyone who played such an important role in making this happen. Specifically, I would like to recognize those organizations and individuals who helped support the Conference financially. The majority of the Conference budget is supported by outside donations, and without them, it simply would not be possible. I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to the following:

- Thrivent Financial
- Zion Altar Guild
- Dr. and Mrs. Michael Anderson
- Dr. and Mrs. Anthony Atkins
- Kathleen Atkins
- Mr. and Mrs. Roderick Atkins
- Linda Buskirk
- Shirley Cross
- Alberta Dequin
- Judith Donnell
- Thomas Habitz Jr.
- Mr. and Mrs. Hunter Hinchcliff
- Drucilla Huddleston
- Mr. and Mrs. Robert Kelly III
- Lois Meriwether
- Mr. and Mrs. Keith Phares
- Mr. and Mrs. Eric Russell
- Kevin Wiedelman
- Rev. and Mrs. Richard Zeile



Holy Mass: The Commemoration of St. Wenceslas, Martyr

Pictured from Left to Right: The Rev. Seminarist Winston P.A. Grieser, The Rt. Rev. David P. Stechholz, The Rev. Fr. Ryan D. Beffrey, The Rev. Fr. Brian P. Westgate, The Rev. Fr. Mark P. Braden, Mr. Kevin Wiedelman, and The Rev. Fr. Eric Forss.



Holy Mass: The Commemoration of St. Wenceslas, Martyr

Pictured is The Rev. Fr. David H. Petersen.

## St. Michael's Conference

by Father Braden

The annual St. Michael Liturgical Conference was held on Monday, September 28 this year. The conference was a wonderful success. Our Keynote Speaker was the Rev. Fr. Charles Evanson, who spoke on the topic of "Liturgical Renewal in Missouri". The Rev. Dr. Daniel Reuning presented a paper on the life and work of Walter Buszin, a theologian and musician who worked to restore Gregorian chant to the Lutheran Church. The Rev. Dr. Burnell Eckardt presented a paper on the influence of the Rev. Dr. Robert Preus on Confessional and Liturgical renewal. The Mass was celebrated, and the Divine Offices of Sext and Vespers were prayed. Many friends of Zion, and Pastors from near and far, were in attendance. The luncheon was tasty, and the Gemütlichkeit was reverent revelry.



I would like to personally thank all those who worked so hard to make the Conference a success: the St. Michael Committee, our caterer, those who volunteered to serve at the Mass, the Divine Offices, and at the Conference: our set-up and clean-up crews, our school who worked so well with us to allocate and share space, the Lutheran Center Book store, those who picked up the books and those who staffed the table, and those who gave of their time, talents and treasure (and gasoline and bedrooms) to make sure our guests were well provided for and the Conference ran smoothly. Zion really shined, and we had many compliments. Thank you! The 2016 St. Michael Liturgical Conference is already being planned. It is scheduled for Monday, September 26<sup>th</sup>. Mark your calendar now! Watch for Bulletin announcements on the formation of next year's committee.

## Voters Assembly

by Father

Braden

The October Voter's assembly was held on Sunday, October 25<sup>th</sup>. It has been our custom at Zion, as is required by our Constitution, that a Voters' Assembly be held in May to pass the budget, and in October to elect officers for the next year. The minutes

**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, Thomas Habitz, Jr.; **TRUSTEES** Silas Gray, 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), Kevin Wiedelman (treasurer), Jessica Chavez (financial secretary)

## Birthday Anniversaries

### November

10 Josiah Edwards  
18 Linda Buskirk  
21 Paula MacMunn  
23 Josef Ruffin  
27 Monika Hoffmann

### December

2 Jeanne Beaupied  
2 Jessica Chavez  
4 Anna Edwards  
14 Theodore Krey  
17 Kathleen Atkins  
19 Fayth Atkins  
20 Revelle Cross  
20 Roselle Cross III  
25 Thomas Habitz, Jr.  
27 Janet Schulz

## Baptism Anniversaries

### November

2 John Chavez  
8 Nicholas Alford  
16 Darwin Terry  
17 Silas Gray  
24 Anna Edwards  
24 Elijah Edwards  
24 Josiah Edwards  
25 Joshua Chavez

### December

15 Paula MacMunn  
29 Theodore Krey

## Marriage Anniversaries

### November

28  
William & Nancy Gramzow

### December

15  
Michael & Sherry Edwards

I have also been invited to Spain, where a Pastor friend is planting mission congregations and establishing theological education to encourage Spanish men to become Pastors.



As the opportunities to serve the Lord and His Church internationally emerge, I'll discuss them with the Board of Deacons and our Church Council. I'll keep you updated when I have more information. Zion members are always invited to travel with me, and to support the work of our Missionaries abroad. If you're interested in joining me, let me know.

## Thanksgiving

by Father

Braden

**Thanksgiving Mass** will be celebrated this year on Thursday, November 26<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m. in the Church. Remember that the word "Eucharist" is derived from the Greek word for "Thanksgiving." Join us as we receive the Body and Blood of Christ, and make your thanksgiving a true Thanksgiving!

## Suggestions Welcome

by Father

Braden

At Zion we periodically receive input from members and visitors. This is a good thing, we very much want your input. If you desire to make a comment or suggestion, please be sure your name and email address or phone number are on the comment or suggestion you make. We can't respond to anonymous notes.

## Christian Education

by Father

Braden

**Opportunities for Christian Education** - Among the many blessings of Zion are the many opportunities that we have to grow in our knowledge of the Word of God. Faith is hungry. Faith desires to

be fed. Please prayerfully consider joining us at one of the following:

Sunday Bible Class - following Mass each week

Wednesday Bible Class - following Mass every Wednesday

Zion Women's Group - every other week on Saturday afternoon, begins with Vespers

Zion Men's Group - at least once a month at 7:00 p.m., begins with Vespers

Adult Catechesis - every Thursday evening, begins with Vespers at 6:30 p.m.

Don't forget our St. Samuel Society, which meets monthly to provide an opportunity for our altar servers to grow in the faith and to enjoy each other's company, and our Youth Sunday School which meets every Sunday after Mass.

"Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God." (Hebrews 12:1-2)



## The Great Zoo Trip

by Robert Kelly

On September 4 a group of 16 Zionites went to the zoo for a day of fellowship. The weather was great and the animals were very active. Thanks to everyone who came out and made the day a success. Special congrats to Alexis Ruffin who won the how-long-can-you-keep-your-hand-on-the-



frozen-ice contest.



Congratulations Alexis!



Heads Up!

Taking a rest!