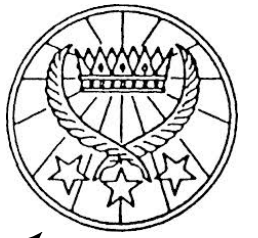


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"Blow the Trumpet in Zion" (Joel 2.15)



# Zion Trumpet

Zion Evangelical-Lutheran Church of Detroit

September/October 2015

## Good King Wenceslas

by Father

Braden

"Good King Wenceslas looked out, on the Feast of Stephen..."

These words, written by Englishman John Mason Neale over 150 years ago, chronicle the arduous trip of pious Wenceslas through brutal winter weather to give meat, wine and pine logs to an impoverished peasant. Neale chose a Finnish hymn tune to which he set his words. I'm guessing by now you're singing the choppy tune in your head. It is unclear from recorded history whether or not Wenceslas actually made the trip much sung about.

Although well known among us, the carol "Good King Wenceslas" isn't in our hymnal, of course. It is a carol, not a hymn. It isn't fit for use by the Holy Church in worship. The hymns included in our hymnal are centered on Christ, and His atoning death and glorious resurrection. We sing of what Jesus has done for us, not of our works. That said, Wenceslas is on the Western Sanctoral calendar, or has, as is commonly said, a "Saint's Day," a set day on which he is commemorated in thanksgiving to God.

The Epistle to the Hebrews teaches us that it is good and right to remember those who have gone before us with the sign of faith. The 11<sup>th</sup> chapter begins "Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. For by it the elders obtained a

*Continued on page 2*



*The Lord of hosts is  
with us; the God of  
Jacob is our refuge.*

PSALM 46: 11

*from the Introit  
for the Festival of the Reformation*

### In This Issue

Good King Wenceslas	PAGE 1
St. Michael Liturgical Conference	PAGE 2
Bolivia Trip	PAGE 3
Farewells and Welcomes Zion Parish Record	PAGE 4
Parish Announcements	PAGE 5
Parish Anniversaries	PAGE 6
Christian Education	PAGE 7
Enclosures: September/October Calendar	

good testimony.” What follows is a list of many of the great Saints of old, and the demonstration of saving faith in their lives.

After giving many examples of faith in their lives, the Scripture chronicles the mistreatment of the saints by the fallen world, which culminates in the martyrdom of the faithful. Chapter 12 begins “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...” From the lives of the faithful departed, we are to learn how God worked to strengthen and sustain them in tribulation, and from that we are to receive comfort as we face the struggles of life in this fallen world. God kept His promises to them, so too He keeps His promises to us.

But while their example brings us comfort, we do not look to them for help or salvation. We do not seek their intercession on our behalf. Hebrews continues “...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.” Faith looks to Jesus, the Lord of the faithful departed, the Lord who died that our sins be forgiven, and rose for our justification. He alone is our Help and our Salvation. It is He that makes us One with the saints of old, One with those who have gone before us with the sign of faith, One Holy Church, One Body, of which Christ Jesus is Head. It is of Him that we sing in the hymns of the Church, for in Him alone do we trust, as our fathers and mothers in the faith trusted.

There really was a Wenceslas. He was a Bohemian prince that died at a very young age in the Year of our Lord 929. He was thrust into his role as a teenage prince when his mother’s violent tendencies became too much for her subjects. Since paganism had a deep hold on Bohemia in the 10<sup>th</sup> century, the Christian Prince Wenceslas met with strong opposition, and was probably murdered by his brother Boleslav. Put to death for his faith, Wenceslas is rightly remembered as a Christian prince and mar-

tyr. The day appointed for his commemoration in thanksgiving to God is September 28<sup>th</sup>.

## **Eighteenth Annual St. Michael Liturgical Conference: September 28, 2014**

The **St. Michael Liturgical Conference** is scheduled for, you guessed it, Monday, September 28, 2014 A.\*D., the Commemoration of St. Wenceslas. Our annual conference that focuses on the Holy Liturgy is held on the Monday closest to the Feast of St. Michael, Archangel, which always falls on the September 29<sup>th</sup>. This year Fr. Charles Evanson returns to Zion to serve as our keynote presenter. Fr. Evanson was the first keynote presenter for the St. Michael conference, held 18 years ago in 1997. Fr. Evanson is a true Churchman and scholar. He has served as Pastor of four Lutheran congregations, and as a theological educator and Professor in many different countries. He will be presenting a paper on “Liturgical Renewal in Missouri.” His paper will discuss the movement that brought liturgical worship back to our churches. This happened during the time of our own Pastors Runge and Evans, both of whom were leaders in the effort to restore the Holy Liturgy and reverent, liturgical worship to our churches. Fr. Burnell Eckardt, General Editor of *Gottesdienst* magazine and Pastor of St. Paul Evangelical-Lutheran Church of Kewanee, Illinois, will also present again this year. Fr. Eckardt will discuss the role of Dr. Robert Preus, President of our Fort Wayne seminary, in restoring Confessional Lutheran theology to our Synod, which brought with it a return to liturgical worship. The Reverend Doctor Daniel Reuning will also return to our Conference this year. Kantor Reuning served as Dean of our Seminary Chapel and Professor of theology and music for 32 years. He is the Director of the Fort Wayne Bach Collegium, perhaps the finest musical expression of Bach’s work in the country. Members of the panel will include our presenters, select editors of *Gottesdienst* magazine, and a special guest: Fr. Charles McClean, previously a keynote speaker at our Conference.

## **Christian Education** by Bobby Kelly

From the office of Christian education: Thanks be to God for his many blessings on his church this Trinity season!

The Zion Bible Camp ran from June 22 through the 26<sup>th</sup> with the Holy Liturgy as the main focus. How and why we worship the way we do not only separates us as God’s people, but specifically as Lutherans. It was a tremendous blessing to see all the children, ranging in age from 4 to 13, sing "A New Song". Many thanks to all who volunteered and supported the Camp in any way. The Camp was followed by the annual picnic on Sunday the 28<sup>th</sup> with the children receiving there certificates of completion. The weather was great and in true fellowship we were blessed to spend quality time with each other over food, snacks, and Gemutlichkeit! Thanks to all who helped put on the event, it was truly a whole congregational effort!

Congratulations to Sydney Atkins and Alexandria Atkins on their Confirmation! After continuous study in Luther's Small Catechism these two daughters of God completed the necessary instruction and pastoral approval to participate in the Solemn Rite of Confirmation. May the good and gracious LORD continue to sustain you with His Holy Body and Blood given and shed for you for the forgiveness of sins!

Thanks be to God for His blessing upon Zion this past year with Vicar Grieser! Aside from his daily involvement in the Parish education, he was instrumental in bringing the St. Samuel Society to bear fruit. The St. Samuel Society is for young men in the church who actively serve at Zion's altar. Along with their duties in the Lords house, they meet once a month to have fellowship and grow in faith.

Sunday school returns September 6<sup>th</sup>, the 14<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity. Volunteers are needed to teach. There will be a sign up sheet in the undercroft, or you can contact Robert Kelly if interested.

As always there are many opportunities to contin-

ue and further your study of God’s Word at Zion.

- Sunday Bible study- Hosea....11:30am Undercroft
- Wednesday Bible study- Revelation....10:30am Rectory
- Thursday- Adult Catechesis....7pm Rectory
- Men's Group-Formula of Concord Solid Declaration....check bulletin for date and time
- Women's Group-....check bulletin for date and time

"Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth"

2 Timothy 2:15

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*Does he, then, who is justified in this way, freely for Christ's sake by faith, need anything more for salvation?*

Paul certainly denies that plainly, Ro 4:5-6. There he maintains that the way in which we are justified and in which we are saved is one and the same, so that he who has justification by faith, the same by that very fact has adoption, blessedness, or salvation and their inheritance of life eternal. Therefore, just as we are justified freely, by faith lone, for the sake of Christ, without our works—as Paul points out on surest grounds, so that namely the promise of both righteousness and salvation might be firm and sure, Ro 4:16—so it is therefore falsely taught that our good works are necessary or our justification and no one can be justifies without his good works, [and] so it is also not rightly said that good works are necessary for salvation and that no one can be saved without his good works. For though true faith neither can nor ought to be without good works, yet good works do not enter to join in<sup>24</sup> or circle (as Luther says) of either justification or salvation.

*Ministry, Word and Sacraments: An Enchiridion*  
Sect. 170 pg. 63  
By Martin Chemnitz

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## Birthday Anniversaries

### September

2 Teri Kelly  
2 Alexis Ruffin  
15 Ethan Atkins  
20 Lois Meriwether  
23 Drucilla Huddleston

### October

3 Rev. Mark Braden  
4 Kenneth Ingram  
8 Michael Brink  
13 David Gorski  
17 Edward Brown  
18 Chandra Gray  
26 Kevin Wiedelman

## Baptism Anniversaries

### September

11 Robert Werner  
17 Alexis Ruffin  
20 Paul Snoes  
26 Shirley Bradley

### October

1 Monica Faerber  
2 Ethan Atkins  
11 Drucilla Huddleston  
13 Earlene Maynarich  
26 Kenneth Ingram  
27 Kevin Wiedelman

## Marriage Anniversaries

### September

8 Rev. and Mrs. Mark Braden

### October

stead of on a cot. My hope is that by God's grace, I will be able to receive an honorable discharge next year at the end of August.

I am eagerly looking forward to continuing my studies at the Seminary. Zion has given me an excellent theological platform from which to dive into further theological studies. And it is because of the rich theological study that I've undertaken at Zion that makes me eager to return and continue my education. After reading Chemnitz on the Lord's Supper with Zion's Wednesday Bible study, I am eager to take another is a class on the Lord's Supper. In addition to my classes, my classmates nominated me as the Spiritual Life Chair of our student body. I am still unsure what my duties and responsibilities will be, but now I know why I shouldn't miss Student Body meetings.

The spring of 2016 will certainly be a spring for me to remember. I will either be going out as an under-shepherd of the Good Shepherd or staying for a Masters of Sacred Theology (STM). If I do stay for an STM, my area of focus will be pastoral theology, specifically sermon structure and forms. During my time at Zion, the structure and method of developing my sermons has significantly improved. This is due in part to practice, but mainly by watching my sermons receive many wounds from the masterful strokes of Father Braden's red pen. I have seen few red pens wielded with such deadly skill. But for all of that, I am nothing but grateful for the time and energy he puts into it. I ask that you keep me in your prayers as I continue to contemplate whether to stay for an STM and may the Lord's will be done.

Finally, I regret that I won't be around to tell of the daring escapes and legendary soccer bouts that Father Braden and I will experience during our time in Bolivia. We will certainly take pictures though! By the time you read this by God's grace, Father Braden and I will have returned from our mission trip and I will be back in Fort Wayne dutifully preparing for classes. However, I am planning on attending the St. Michael Liturgical Conference September 28, and I hope to see many of you there. Thank you again for your generous hospitality, warm friendship, and especially for your fellowship in cheerfully receiving the wondrous gifts that our Lord Jesus Christ bestows on us with His Word and Sacraments.

In Christ,

Vicar Emeritus Winston Grieser

## A Note from Vicar

Greetings in Christ,

Dear friends, the time has come for me to depart and return to the Seminary. It has been a rare privilege to serve, worship and live among the saints at Zion. The Christian charity shown to me, the homebound, and every other guest at Zion has not once wavered. Zion is well known for its liturgical excellence and use of the ancient Christian liturgy. It is also known for the beautiful architecture and the wonderful Christian art that adorns the sanctuary. But for all that, what I will enjoy most when I come back to visit, is to see you, my friends and brothers and sisters in Christ.

I know that during my time at Zion I have spent many weekends away doing military duty, and as of July 27, 2015, I have officially been in the service for five years. I wanted to thank the parish for the patience and support which you have shown to me while I serve our country. Such support has been of great benefit to me and should not be underestimated. So once again, many thanks for all of your support. Your support helped me to remain focused on my military duties while I was away from Zion. Such focus allowed me to be successful, and in turn led to my recent promotion to 1st Lieutenant. Along with this promotion, I will be moving to a new unit closer to home. I will thoroughly enjoy only having a twenty minute drive to drill. Also this means that I will be sleeping in my own bed in-

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.

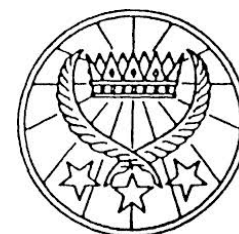
The Trumpet is published six times each year. It is free for members of Zion. Non-members are invited to contribute toward the production and mailing of the Trumpet.

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.

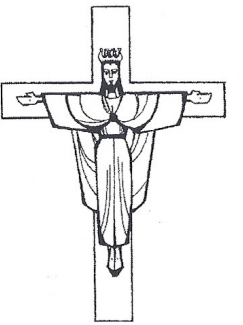
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The Conference begins with a Solemn Mass at 9:00 a.m. All Zion members and their guests are welcome to attend. Fr. David Petersen, Pastor of Redeemer Evangelical-Lutheran Church of Fort Wayne, will preach for the Mass. Fr. Braden will serve as Celebrant. The Conference begins immediately following the Mass. Sext and Solemn Vespers will be prayed at 12:00 and 4:30, respectively. Please join us for the Conference! Donations in support of the Conference, and volunteers to serve at the Conference, are needed.



## Reformation

Saturday, October 31<sup>st</sup> is the Festival of the Reformation. On that day we thank God for the return of the doctrine of justification by grace through faith in Jesus Christ, restored to the Church through the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther, the Blessed Reformer. Reformation Mass is at 10:00 a.m. Please plan to join us.

## Bolivia trip

by Father Braden

As this Newsletter is being prepared, Vicar Grieser and I are preparing to travel to Bolivia. We'll be teaching for a week in Cochabamba, a small city high up in the Andes Mountains. I'll be teaching a course on Christ and the Church for Bolivian Pastors and several seminarians who will travel from Argentina. Vicar Grieser will be teaching English as a Second Language to locals who live around the congregation in Cochabamba. Through the ESL course it is our hope to establish connections for the church with neighbors who are not members. This will, God willing, open the door to the sharing of the gospel of Jesus Christ with them. I'll give a presentation on the trip during Bible Class when we return.✠



## Vicar Grieser

Vicar is wrapping up his year of service to Zion. This issue of the Trumpet includes his final article as Vicar of Zion. By the time you receive this Newsletter, Lord willing, he'll be back in Fort Wayne

attending his last year of seminary classes. A farewell event was held in the Undercroft on Sunday, August 2<sup>nd</sup>, to thank Vicar for his time at Zion. Mr. Thomas Habitz, Chairman of Zion congregation, presented Vicar Grieser with a gift from our parish, a portable Communion kit.

## Confirmation by Father Braden

On Sunday, August 2, 2015 A.M., the Rite of Confirmation was conducted during the Mass at Zion. Alexandria Atkins and Sydney Atkins were Confirmed in the Christian Faith, and received Holy Communion for the first time. Alex and Sydney studied for the last two years. They memorized the Small Catechism, wrote sermon reports, and passed a public examination held on July 29<sup>th</sup>. We thank God for their public confession of faith, and for the forgiveness and salvation He gives them through Word and Sacrament! A reception for the Confirmands was held on Sunday, August 2<sup>nd</sup>. Please keep Alex and Sydney in your prayers. Our next Confirmation class begins Saturday, September 12<sup>th</sup>. If your child is of Confirmation age, please see Father Braden.

## The Epistle to the Hebrews

The Epistle to the Hebrews, having reminded us of God's grace shown to the saints of old, bids you turn your eyes to Jesus Christ in faith, for you, dear Christian "...have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, to an innumerable company of angels, to the general assembly and church of the firstborn who are registered in heaven, to God the Judge of all, to the spirits of just men made perfect, to Jesus the Mediator of the new covenant, and to the blood of sprinkling that speaks better things than that of Abel."



## Farewells and Welcomes

### The Russells by Tom Habitz

We wish to thank Mr. Eric Russell for his years of service in our midst. Eric and his wife Kristi (who also served faithfully as voters assembly secretary) recently completed a job-related move to the Dallas, Texas area. For Eric's duties at Holy Mass and many behind the scenes activities, we thank God! We wish Eric and Kristi the best at their new congregation. The Board of Deacons expects to make an appointment of an eligible individual to complete the remaining term of Eric's position.

### Welcome by Kevin Wiedelman

The Board of Trustees is pleased to welcome Mrs. Kris Murphy as our new Parish Secretary. Kris is a life-long Lutheran and a member of St. Paul Evangelical-Lutheran Church of Belleville. She will be in the parish office from 9:00 AM until 1:00 PM Monday through Friday each week. Her e-mail address is [kris@ziondetroit.org](mailto:kris@ziondetroit.org). In her responsibilities as Parish Secretary, Kris will be supporting the Board of Trustees and handling the day to day office work of our congregation. Welcome Kris!

### Thank you

I would like to thank Fr. Braden, Kevin Wiedelman, Vicar Grieser, and all of the members of Zion for the incredibly warm welcome you have given me. You are all truly a blessing to me and my family. God's richest blessings to you all. Kris Murphy your new church secretary

### Zoo Trip Saturday September 5<sup>th</sup> members of Zion are

headed to The Detroit Zoo for a fun filled day of lions, tigers, an occasional polar bear and fellowship. We hope you will join us. All interested parties should email Bobby Kelly at [rjk36781@gmail.com](mailto:rjk36781@gmail.com).

### A Quiet Time by Tom Habitz

"Silence and reverence in God's House." What a blessing we enjoy in our parish to make preparatory petitions in holy quiet prior to the start of Mass. Indeed many congregations have replaced silence with socializing, and reverence with reverie. Blessed are you who maintain awe before the Holy God, and a self-reflective atmosphere in the nave of our church, especially in those critical minutes before the bells introduce the Mass procession. The bells rung at 15 minutes before Mass (except for in penitential seasons) are the "call bells", and it is a good routine to arrive at church before these toll in order to be spiritually prepared for Our Lord's service.

## Martin Luther on the Sacraments

Now examine further the efficacy and benefits on account of which really the Sacrament was instituted; which is also its most necessary part, that we may know what we should seek and obtain there. Now this is plain and clear from the words just mentioned: *This is My body and blood, given and shed FOR YOU*, for the remission of sins. Briefly that is as much as to say: "for this reason we go to the Sacrament because there we receive such a treasure by and in which we obtain forgiveness of sins. Why so? Because the words stand here and give us this; for on this account He bids me eat and drink, that it maybe my own and benefit me, as a sure pledge and token, yea, the very same treasure that is appointed for me against my sins, death, and every calamity.

On this account it is indeed called a food of souls, which nourishes and strengthens the new man. For by Baptism we are first born anew; but (as we said before) there still remains, beside s, the old vicious nature of flesh and blood in man, there are so many hindrances and temptations of the devil and of the world that we often become weary and faint, and sometimes also stumble.

Therefore it is given for a daily pasture and sustenance, that faith may refresh and strengthen itself so as not to fall back in such a battle, but become

**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:** 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; **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).

## The Zion Parish Record

For July & August 2015

**Additions** None

**Transfers** Eric and Kristi Russell 8/16/15 to Faith, Plano, Texas