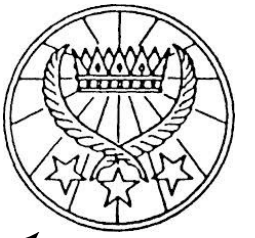


Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church
4305 Military
Detroit MI 48210-3415

Address Service Requested

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit No. 1489

“Blow the Trumpet in Zion” (Joel 2.15)



Zion Trumpet

Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church of Detroit

January/February 2016

Eternal Truths

by Father Braden

As you receive this issue of the Trumpet, the Feast of the Nativity of our Lord, Holy Christmas, will have already taken place. Soon after the Mystery of His Holy Incarnation, His sinless conception by the speaking of the archangel, and Mary's giving birth to God in the humblest of circumstances, come His circumcision and the giving of His Divinely appointed Name: Jesus.

These both occurred on the eighth day of His life, but His circumcision and the giving of His Name are theologically rich events, so the Church celebrates them on two separate days. The Feast of the Circumcision is celebrated on January 1st every year, the Feast of the Holy Name of Jesus is celebrated on the second day of January, or on a Sunday if one occurs between the 2nd and 5th. This year that Sunday is January 3rd.

In just these few days, the days between Christmas and the Feast of the Holy Name of Jesus, ten days in all this year, a year-full, indeed a lifetime full of Holy Mysteries are celebrated. They are Christological Mysteries that while observed in time, are eternal Truths. At Zion we enjoy daily Mass, as we learn

Continued on page 2



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

And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men.

ST. LUKE 2: 52

*from the Holy Gospel
for the Feast of the Holy Family*

In This Issue

Eternal Truths	PAGES 1-2
Zion's Children's Christmas Program	PAGE 2
Columbia	PAGE 3
Lent	PAGE 3
Christian Growth	PAGES 3-4
Christian Education	PAGES 4-6
Parish Anniversaries	PAGE 6
Children's Christmas Program	PAGES 6-7
New Parish Officers	PAGE 7
Lutheran Witness	PAGE 7

Enclosure:
January/February 2016
Calendar

of Christ and God's love for us in Him. I pray your celebration of Christmastide and each of its twelve days brings to you the great blessings of God's forgiveness, peace and the eternal hope of saving faith.

Because of the early date of Easter this year, the Epiphany season is shorter. Epiphany, always observed on the sixth day of January, can usher in as many as six Sundays after Epiphany. This year there are only two, the second being the last Sunday of Epiphany, which is always the Feast of the Transfiguration of our Lord Jesus Christ.

The brilliant manifestation of the Incarnate God on the mountaintop with Moses and Elijah, a clear glimpse of His majesty and His glory, is quickly veiled in His Humiliation as He descends that mountain to be reviled and rejected by men. Then the "Gesimas" prepare us for the great Forty Day Fast, which begins on Ash Wednesday, February 10th this year.



As the liturgical year leads us through the life of Christ, the Feast of the Presentation of our Lord and the Purification of the Blessed Virgin Mary helps us better understand the unfathomable Mystery of the Incarnation of Christ. It is on February 2nd of each year that we celebrate this Feast, which we also call Candlemass.

On Candlemass we hear the account of Simeon, there in the Temple, grasping in aged arms, the Christ Child on the 40th day of His Incarnate life. It is Simeon, led by the Holy Spirit to the Temple to see and touch the promised Messiah, that calls the Infant Lord "A Light to lighten the Gentiles, and the Glory of Thy people Israel."

Simeon's words are Divinely inspired, and by the Spirit of the Living God are recorded through the Evangelist St. Luke. Luther counted those Words important enough that in his setting of the Mass he replaced the ancient *Communio*, the Psalm verse that follows the Distribution of Holy Communion, with the *Nunc Dimmittis*, Simeon's sermon while holding the Consolation of all men, the Christ Child.

In Luther's setting of the Mass Simeon's prayer to be taken to heaven after holding the Holy Infant is placed on the lips of those who have just eaten and drunk the same Christ, as the Christian receives Holy Communion and then prays "Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant depart in peace, according to Thy Word. For mine eyes have seen Thy Salvation, which Thou hast prepared before the face of all people. A Light to lighten the Gentiles, and the Glory of Thy people Israel."

The theme of Christ as the Light informs the practice of the Church, as doctrine and practice are ever inseparable, so on the Feast of the Presentation of our Lord and the Purification of the Blessed Virgin Mary we also bless all the candles to be used in worship in the upcoming year. A table full of candles is set apart for use in God's house at the beginning of the Candlemass. Each of those candles when burned point us to Christ, the True Light of the world, the Light that neither death nor grave could extinguish, the Light that brings you life.

Zion's Childrens' Christmass Program

Our Board of Parish Education writes an article elsewhere in this issue of the Trumpet that reports on our Christmas Program. Still, I felt compelled to write here that you might know the great joy I had as our Zion children took turns at the microphone proclaiming the great prophesies of the Old Testament, and the eternal Truths of the New Testament that chronicle the Promise of the coming of our Lord, and the account of His Holy Nativity. Together with the children we sang some wonderful Christmas hymns, and responsively with them recounted the fact of the birth of the Savior. I'm thankful to God, and to our Board of Parish Education, for putting on our first Christmas Program in many, many years.



Lending a helping hand! Bobby Kelly IV and sister Terri.

New Parish Officers

AT OUR FALL annual voters' assembly, several new parish officers were elected. Several members currently serving were also re-elected to their positions. The officers will be formally installed into their offices during the Sunday Mass in January. Watch for information in the Bulletin on the date of the installation of our new officers. Please keep our officers—new and continuing—in your daily prayers.

All of our boards should plan on meeting soon after the installation of the new officers. This will allow each board to welcome the new officers, to provide an overview of the responsibilities and initiatives of the board, to discuss with the new officers' their role on that board, and to plan the activities of the board in the upcoming year. Fr. Braden is available to all of our boards to join them for these meetings. Our Zion boards are: the Parish Council, the Board of Parish Education, the Board of Trustees, and the Board of

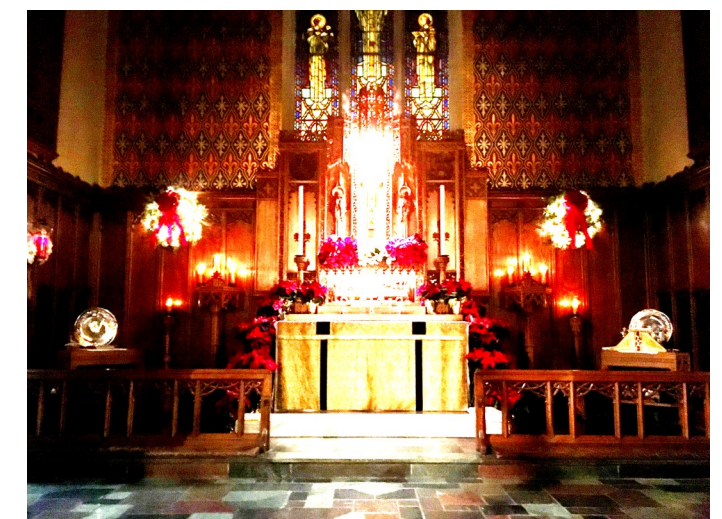
Deacons. The officers are listed on page 5 of the Trumpet. ✝

Lutheran Witness Subscriptions

ANYONE INTERESTED IN subscribing to the *Lutheran Witness* magazine for 2016 may do so by placing \$9.72 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 18. The *Lutheran Witness* is the official magazine of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. ✝



Zion prepares for the Coming of our Lord



Zion Celebrates our Savior's birth

Birthday Anniversaries

January

2 Alexandria Atkins
2 Natalie Balaska
8 Nancy Gramzow
18 Elijah Edwards
23 Anna Dalton
23 Judith Donnell
23 Richard Schultz
25 Rose Atkins

February

5 Paul Snoes
6 Michael Edwards
13 Julie Snoes
15 Eric Russell
21 Michael Quinkert
21 Silas Gray
23 Ruthalee Brown
28 Gladys Cline

Baptism Anniversaries

January

17 Janet Schulz
20 Alexandria Atkins
25 Rose Atkins

February

Chandra Gray
5 Jessica Chavez
14 Richard Schulz

Marriage Anniversaries

February

14
Roderick & Dana Atkins

Childrens' Program

by Bobby Kelly III

Greetings in Christ! Many thanks to all the parish youth who put on a most splendid Christmas program! On Gaudete Sunday, after Mass, the youth performed "The Celebration of Holy Christmas" by the Reverend Friedrich Lochner (1869). This program was once a regular part of Zion's advent season and it was a true blessing to see it return. Thanks to everyone who helped put this together, especially Pam Ruffin who graciously organized and facilitated everything.



Program participants from left to right: Sydney Atkins, Ethan Atkins, Alexis Ruffin, Terri Kelly, Josiah Edwards, Bobby Kelly and Natalie Balaska .



Sarah Braden proclaiming Jesus birth.

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

www.ZionDetroit.org
4305 Military Avenue
Detroit, MI 48210-2451

PARISH OFFICE

Telephone
313.894.7450

Facsimile
313.894.7871

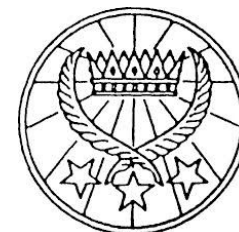
Church@ZionDetroit.org

THE REV. FR. MARK P. BRADEN,
Pastor

FrBraden@ZionDetroit.org

Mobile Telephone
313.404.1883

Home Telephone
313.429.9252



Columbia

The week of January 17th I'll be teaching a course in Colombia. I plan to leave after Mass, and return the following Saturday to preach and Celebrate on January 24th. The class I'm teaching is being offered to Pastors, Seminarists, and members of Lutheran congregations in Colombia. I'm teaching it on behalf of The Luther Academy, an organization that puts on theological conferences around the world, and for which I serve as an International Fellow. The Colombia course will be held in the city of Sogamoso, a smaller city north and east of the capital. I'll fly into Bogotá, and take a four hour bus ride to Sogamoso. The theme of the course is Ecclesiology, the doctrine of the Church. I hope to give a presentation on the trip in the Undercroft after Mass on Sunday, January 24th.

Lent

February 10th is Ash Wednesday, the first day of Lent. On that day we have Mass, with the Imposition of Ashes, at 9:30 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. in the church. So too on each of the next five Wednesdays we will have Mass in the church at 9:30 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. Watch the Bulletin for a schedule of Masses, and the sermon themes for the Wednesdays of Lent.

Christian Growth

St. Peter writes "grow in the grace and the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ (2 Peter 3:18). The context of his Apostolic exhortation is the false doctrine of the dying world that surrounds the Christian. The faith worked by the Word through the Holy Spirit is a living and active faith, and must be fed. To deny faith nourishment is to starve faith to death. So we pray of God's Word that we "read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest" the Holy Scriptures, "for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit." (2 Peter 1:21)

That the faith of our members be fed and grow, that we grow in the grace and the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, Zion affords many opportunities to study God's Word and the doctrines derived from it. After Mass each Sunday we meet in the Undercroft, and after a bit of conversation and usually a coffee cake or two, we study God's Word. Our study always begins with a brief section of the Lutheran Confessions, at this writing we are working our way through the Smalkald Articles. We then begin our study of Holy Scripture, which usually takes about an hour. We are currently engaged in a close study of the Book of Hosea. We're learning about the grace of God as He showed it to Israel and Judah in

the face of their apostasy, as the Lord and Judge of all mounts his case against them through the Prophet Hosea. This has immediate applications to our life, as we daily sin and fall short, receiving God's forgiveness and mercy.

Christian Education

Our Zion Men's and Women's group meet bi-weekly. Our Ladies are finishing a study of the development of the Holy Liturgy, from the days of the Apostles, through the Reformation, and to the liturgy we enjoy every Sunday at Zion. They have had the opportunity to study each of the Ordinaries and Propers, their development throughout the ages, and the way that they fit together to lead us in worship and inform and build our faith.

Our Men have recently increased the frequency of their meetings to twice a month, alternating Tuesdays and Thursdays so that more men can attend. We just finished working through Article VII of the Solid Declaration of the Formula of Concord, the Article on the Lord's Supper, and have begun Article VIII, the Article on Christology, or the doctrine of the Person of Christ. The men have learned the relationship between Christology and the Sacrament, and studied the errors of those who reject the Sacramental Presence of Jesus Christ in the Holy Eucharist. After each meeting of the Men's Group, we enjoy food and beverage and excellent conversation as we linger in the Rectory and discuss theology.

Every Wednesday after Mass we meet for Bible class as well. Our Wednesday class is engaged in a close study of the Book of Revelation. I can't say enough about this study. The Apocalypse of Jesus Christ given St. John is a complex and rich Book

that reveals Christ and Him crucified and risen for our salvation. It is a liturgical Book, and regularly depicts the heavenly Divine Service that serves as a pattern for our worship of the same God here on earth. The wealth of Old Testament prophecies and their fulfillment in the Lamb slain that reigns in the center of the heavenly throne room are woven into this Divine Vision. The ongoing battle between the fallen world and the Church is a central theme of the Book, and of the life of every Christian. If you're available on Wednesdays, I certainly encourage you to join us for Mass and Bible Class.

Every Thursday night, after singing Vespers in the Church, we have Adult Catechesis. After praying together, we study Luther's Small Catechism as presented by Edward Koehler, who taught theology at Concordia Teacher's College in River Forest, Illinois. Koehler is a remarkable theologian, and his explanation of each of the Chief Parts of the Christian Faith is a great basis for our continuing Adult Catechesis. These classes are required for those joining Zion, and are recommended for all Zion members and guests. After our Thursday meetings our group usually finds a trendy and exciting new restaurant near the church, and we enjoy hip new foods and beverages together. One Thursday a month our adult catechesis is displaced by a meeting of the Zion Men's Group.

In addition to all these opportunities to study the Word of God and the doctrines derived from it, our Board for Parish Education offers Sunday School for the children each Sunday after Mass. The lessons are based on Luther's Small Catechism and the appointed Gospel reading for each Sunday of the Church year. If your child isn't regularly attending Sunday School, please bring

Second to your teaching and practice of the Christian faith in the home, Sunday School is the best way for your child to grow in the knowledge of the Scriptures.

Confirmation classes, the catechesis of our youth, are held every Saturday morning throughout the school year. Confirmation took place for many years in our Zion school. Children would have religion class regularly, and would have three solid years of preparation before Confirmation, and were typically confirmed in the eighth grade. Now that Zion can't offer daily Christian education in our school, I meet with children, usually after they complete fourth grade, and I develop a Confirmation curriculum for them individually. Preparation for First Communion is included in our Confirmation classes, although First Communion and Confirmation don't always happen at the same time.

The children all study together on Saturday mornings, but they are frequently in different years of their preparation. If your child is of this age, please bring them to me so that we can begin the process that leads to their receiving the Body and Blood of Christ, and to their Confirmation. Our catechumens study Luther's Small Catechism, and memorize each of the Chief Parts and the explanations. They submit ten sermon reports, and prepare for the public examination that takes place every year before the Feast of Pentecost.

As we are led through the life of Christ by the Church's Year of Grace, the liturgical calendar, we find comfort and strength as we live out our earthly lives as Christians, and prepare for our eternal lives with the Christ who gives us life. He is the One promised of old, the One who took on Flesh and was born of the Virgin, the One circumcised and named on the eighth day, the One revealed to the nations as Prophet, Priest, King and Lord, the One by whose shed Blood you are purchased, the One in whose resurrection you are declared righteous, the One who ascended into heaven to open heaven to you, the One who comes again soon to take His Church home. Join us, won't you, at Zion, as we receive His Gifts of forgiveness, salvation and life!

"...but grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory both now and forever. Amen." (2 Peter 3:18)

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

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

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 morning 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., Michael Edwards; **TRUSTEES** Silas Gray, Paul Snoes, Kevin Wiedelman; **BOARD OF PARISH EDUCATION** Shirley Cross, Robert Kelly III, Sherry Edwards; **OFFICERS OF THE VOTERS** Thomas Habitz, Jr. (chairman), Alan Kroske (vice-chairman), Pamela Ruffin (secretary), Jessica Chavez (financial secretary), Kevin Wiedelman (Treasurer).

The Zion Parish Record

For November & December 2015

Additions Nicole Ramanathan, November 22, 2015

Removals None

Membership 219 Members

