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"Blow the Trumpet in Zion" (Joel 2.15)



Zion Trumpet

Zion Evangelical-Lutheran Church of Detroit

May/June 2017

Ascension

by Father Braden

The account of the Ascension of our Lord is recorded in the first chapter of the Book of the Acts of the Apostles. The second verse refers directly to the Ascension when it asserts, by Divine inspiration, that after suffering the Risen Lord presented Himself alive by many infallible proofs. The fact of the Resurrection of Jesus Christ was clearly shown forth. For forty days after His Resurrection He was seen by many, and taught of the things of the Kingdom of God. Through the Holy Spirit He gave His chosen Apostles commandments, "...until the day in which He was taken up..." The Risen Lord ascended into heaven forty days after His Resurrection.

The commandments the Lord gave His disciples are recorded in the fourth and fifth verses: "And being assembled together with them, He commanded them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the Promise of the Father, "which," He said, "you have heard from Me; for John truly baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now."

John the Baptizer had promised One greater than himself would come, One who would baptize not only with water, but with the Holy Spirit. That promise of John was fulfilled in the coming of the Christ. And it is He, the Christ, who



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"O Lord, You have searched me and known me: You know my sitting down and my rising up."

PSALM 139. 1-2

*from the Introit
for St. Peter and
St. Paul ✠ Apostles*

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Enclosure:
May/June 2017 Calendar

would send the Holy Spirit. That would take place on Pentecost, the fiftieth day. But ten days before the Holy Spirit would be sent, the Lord would first ascend.

The disciples, of course, had many questions. They had been waiting for the Consolation of Israel. They asked *“Lord, will You at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?”* But as frequently was the case with the disciples, as it is with us, our flesh drives us to ask the wrong questions of God. His ways are not our ways. He surpasses our understanding. The Lord’s answer is a gentle rebuke, followed by a promise: *“It is not for you to know times or seasons which the Father has put in His own authority. But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”*

The Kingdom that was to come upon men was not an earthly, political Israel. A far better Kingdom was promised. It is a Kingdom of forgiveness and life, a Kingdom of love and grace, a Kingdom that has no end. As the Lord promised, and so as our Catechism teaches regarding the Petition *“Thy Kingdom come”*: the Kingdom of God comes indeed without our prayers, but we pray in this petition that it come among us also. That Kingdom comes when God gives us His Holy Spirit.

They asked if He had come to restore Israel. Indeed, He came to restore Israel not to a physical or political nation, but to a right relationship with God. He came that their sins be forgiven, that they be reconciled to God in Him. He came that in His Resurrection they, and you, be declared holy and pure, sinless and without spot before God.

On the cross, the Lord proclaimed *“It is finished”*. The work of your redemption, and the redemption of all men of all times, was accomplished. But now the fruits of that work, the application of the

forgiveness and life Christ won on the cross, would be freely distributed to fallen men, that they might be received into the Kingdom of God. That was the charge the Lord gave to His disciples. They would be His witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth. Through them you would hear His Word.

But this work would not be accomplished by their own power. The Holy Spirit would come. The Spirit that proceeds from the Father and the Son would be sent by the Son into the world. That would be fifty days after His Resurrection. But first the Son would ascend to the place He was before, the center of the heavenly throne room, the place of authority and power over all creation, the Right Hand of God.

“Now when He had spoken these things, while they watched, He was taken up, and a cloud received Him out of their sight.” In the baptism of the Lord the Spirit descended and remained upon Him, which began the three years of what is called His *“earthly ministry”*. His Baptism was His *“installation”*, the public manifestation of His Office as Savior. Now, as He is taken up, as He upon whom they had looked for 33 years is received by a cloud and is no longer in their sight, He ascends into heaven. It is His coronation, the Eternal King now once again enthroned.

But He did not leave God’s Blood-bought children as orphans. Soon the Spirit would come, that flaming, blowing manifestation of the Eternal Spirit that hovered over the face of the waters at the creation, that Spirit by whom the Prophets spoke, that Spirit that David prayed not be taken from him, the Spirit who marks and fills all those who have faith in Jesus Christ.

As at the empty tomb, heavenly witnesses are sent to testify to the disciples regarding what they had



family. Thanks to the Wiedelmans for this very



nice gift!



The altar prepared for Palmarum.

The chrism prepared for Chrism Mass .



The Stations of the Cross, prayed on Good Friday.



The Mass The altar prepared for Easter Sunday.



of the Holy Mass for The Great Vigil of Easter: Pictured from left to right Mr. Emmett Bartens, Mr. Robert Kelly IV, Mr. Robert Kelly III, The Rev. Fr. Mark Braden, Mr. Thomas Habitz, Jr., Miss Emily Solomon, Mr. Dylan Smith

the posting of the 95 Theses was the public presentation of the *Augsburg Confession* on June 25, 1530. The *Augustana*, as it is named in Latin, is the finest confession of the Christian faith ever written. It confounded the Romish apologists, who, struggling to refute it in their *Confutation*, must have realized that the Lutheran Confessors had Scripture on their side, as one of the princes at Augsburg publicly said.

While the Lutheran Confessors had other documents to add to the *Augustana* to fill the 1580 Book of Concord, it is the presentation of the Augsburg Confession that established the Evangelical Lutheran theological position, and unified the Lutheran party. The *Apology*, the *Smalcald Articles*, the *Treatise on the Power and Primacy of the Pope*, the *Small and Large Catechisms*, and the *Formula of Concord*, both the *Epitome* and the *Solid Declaration*, establish no new doctrines. They are simply expositions of the Biblical faith confessed in the *Augustana*. Together with the three Symbols, or Creeds, these comprise the Book of Concord, to which all true Lutherans subscribe as a proper exposition of Holy Scripture.

The Anniversary of the Presentation of the Augsburg Confession, June 25th, falls on a Sunday this year. On that day Zion will commemorate the Presentation of the Augsburg Confession. I have twice given presentations at Pastoral conferences on the life of Luther and the development and presentation of the *Augustana*, and I am planning to use our Bible Class on Sunday June 4th, and Sunday June 11th, to make a similar presentation to the faithful at Zion. Plan to join us and learn more about Luther, and the making of the Confession to which you subscribe. In July we'll return to our study of the Gospel according to St. John.

"This Jesus God has raised up, of which we are all witnesses. Therefore being exalted to the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, He poured out this which you now see and hear. For David did not ascend into the heavens, but he says himself: 'The LORD said to my Lord, "Sit at My right hand, till I make Your enemies Your footstool." Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly that God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ.'" (Acts 2:32-36, NKJ)



Zion's Pastors



New pictures of Zion's Pastors have been installed in the Rectory Dining Room. The framed pictures are accompanied by plaques which give the names of Zion's Pastors and the dates of their ministries. The framed pictures and plaques, and the installation, are a gift from the Wiedelman

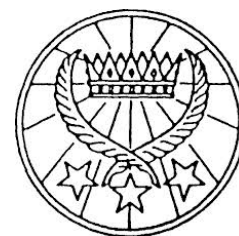
The **Zion Trumpet** is the informational and educational newsletter of Zion Evangelical-Lutheran Church. It communicates the news of Zion and instructs members in various aspects of the Christian Faith.

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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heaven as He went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel, who also said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand gazing up into heaven? This same Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will so come in like manner as you saw Him go into heaven."

The Spirit would come. Then the Lord will return. You live in the time between those two great works of God. You live in His Kingdom of grace. By His grace, you are marked with His Spirit, the sign of your redemption. By His grace, you are filled with His Spirit, the Spirit that leads you to do the very things God has established for you. He leads you in the way of holiness. He brings to your mind the Words of Christ. And soon, as it pleases the Lord, He will come again to take His Church home. When will He come? *"It is not for you to know times or seasons which the Father has put in His own authority"*, the Lord taught His disciples.

It is ours to live out our lives as Acts describes the Apostles – looking heavenward for the coming of our Lord, while living out our earthly lives redeemed by His precious Blood, receiving His Saving Gifts, and basking in the grace that He pours out upon His Church. We do so in faith, the faith that He gives, in the sure confidence that the Lord who promised to come in the Flesh, the Lord who promised to die and rise again, the Lord that promised to ascend to where He was before, will soon call His Church home.

The Feast of the Ascension of our Lord will be celebrated at Zion on Thursday, May 25th, with Solemn Mass at 7:00 p.m. The Feast of Holy Pentecost will be celebrated on Sunday, June 4th. The Feast of the Most Holy Trinity will be celebrated on Sunday, June 11th.

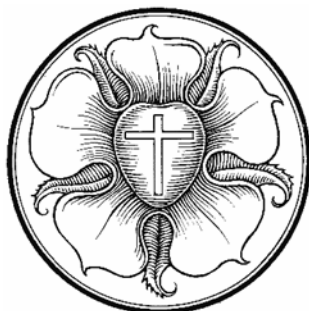
Vicar

Over the years Zion has had a good number of Vicars. It has been our practice of late to have Vicars serve every second year. We have recently been well-served by three Vicars. Fr. Ryan Beffrey, who after leaving Zion was Ordained as Pastor of Mount Olive Lutheran Church in Cleveland Heights, was the first Vicar of Zion during my eight years here. Fr. Beffrey recently

Continued on page 3

Epiphany Evangelical-Lutheran Church in Dorr, Michigan.

Fr. Peter Eckardt, who served as Vicar at Zion, now serves as Associate Pastor of Immanuel Evangelical-Lutheran Church of Alexandria, Virginia. It was my great joy to present a theological paper recently at a conference at which Fr. Eckardt was also a presenter. Our most recent Vicar, Winston Grieser, has received the Divine Call to serve as Pastor of Abiding Faith Lutheran Church in Florence, Kentucky. Zion is thankful to the Lord of the Church for these men, and they remain daily in our prayers.



We are working to bring a Vicar to Zion this year, but not in a traditional way. While I was on the campus of Seminario Concordia in Buenos Aires, Argentina last summer, I learned that the son of a Pastor friend of mine would be eligible for his Vicarage this year. Fr. Reneé Mendoza, the President of the ICEL, the Bolivian Lutheran Church, hosted me at his home when I taught in Cochabamba last year. He is a faithful, Confessional Lutheran Pastor. His son, Vladimir, is at a point in his studies at Seminario Concordia that has prepared him to serve his Vicarage. I have asked the church to send Seminarist Mendoza to Zion to serve as Vicar in the upcoming year.

Both Zion and the church in South America will benefit greatly from Seminarist Mendoza's time here. I am anxious for him to arrive and to begin his work. The necessary paperwork with the American government to allow Seminarist Mendoza to enter our country, and to remain for a year, has delayed his arrival by almost four

months. It is our hope to have him safely in Detroit and inducted as Vicar in the next few months.

Seminarist Mendoza is forwarding a brief article about himself and the Bolivian church, which we will print when we receive it. Please keep him in your prayers.

Christian Education at Zion

Sunday Adult Study 11:30am | Undercroft
Study of the Gospel of St. John; Coffee is provided; Thanks to those who bring refreshments.

Sunday School 11:30am | Rectory
Children ages 3–grade 8 study the Sunday Gospel lesson and have activities and music designed to enhance the biblical teaching. September-May.

Sunday Youth Study 11:40am | Rectory
Young adults in high school and college who are confirmed meet to study the Holy Scriptures organized around the six chief parts of Christian doctrine.

Wednesday Adult Study 10:45am | Rectory
Study of the Book of Genesis. Often the group goes out to lunch following the study.

Youth Catechesis Saturday | 10am | Rectory
For children preparing for Confirmation, this class instructs students in the basics of the Christian Faith through *Luther's Small Catechism*.

Adult Catechesis Thursday | 7pm | Rectory
The study of The Enchiridion of Martin Chemnitz, this class allows members and guests to study Christian doctrine at a more advanced level.

Men's Group 1 Tue. & 1 Thr. a month | 7pm | Rectory
Study of the *Solid Declaration of the Formula of Concord*.

Women's Group 2 Saturdays a month | 1pm | Rectory
Study of the Epistle of St. Paul to the Galatians.

500th Anniversary

You have probably heard a lot about the 500th anniversary of the posting of the 95 Theses, to be celebrated on October 31 this year. There are a lot of



events planned, a new Luther movie to see, and several concerts that will commemorate the anniversary. That is all good and right.

Perhaps the 95 Theses started it all. They certainly get a lot of press. But more important than *Continued on page 6*

Birthday Anniversaries

May
2 David Kasner
8 Anthony Spicer
12 Andrew Stechholz
13 Roderick Atkins
28 Susan Spicer
29 Roger Beaupied

June
3 Carlton Alford
7 Bobby Kelly III
9 Eugene Brown
9 Bobby Kelly IV
11 Renee Adkins
14 James Gramzow
14 Ellen Hayden
20 Margaret Alford
27 Monica Faerber
29 Shirley Cross
29 Taneisha Cross
30 Darwin Terry

Baptism Anniversaries

May
4 Carol Matschikowski
11 Michael Quinkert
21 William Gramzow
22 Natalie Balaska
24 Ralph Trevino
25 Darin Gray
29 Anthony Atkins
29 Roderick Atkins

June
1 Ruthalee Brown
1 Bernadine Cross
3 Jeanetta Bryant
12 Stacy Gray
15 Anna Dalton
17 Andrew Stechholz
18 Carlton Alford
18 Margaret Alford
18 LaToia Davis-Gray
30 Rhetta Dillon

Marriage Anniversaries

June
7 Robert & Leticia Kelly
11 Silas & Chandra Gray

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

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

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, Thomas Habitz, Jr., Michael Anderson **TRUSTEES:** Silas Gray, Paul Snoes, Kevin Wiedelman; **PARISH EDUCATION:** Shirley Cross, Robert Kelly III, Sarah Braden **OFFICERS OF THE VOTERS:** Thomas Habitz, Jr. (chairman), Alan Kroske (vice-chairman), Pamela Ruffin (secretary), Kevin Wiedelman (treasurer), Jessica Chavez (financial secretary).