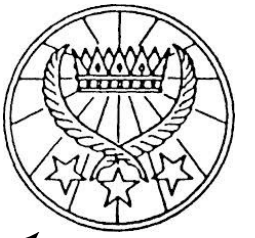


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“Blow the Trumpet in Zion” (Joel 2.15)



Zion Trumpet

Zion Evangelical-Lutheran Church of Detroit

June/July 2019

The Feast of the Visitation

by Father Braden

The Scriptures record two women who conceived miraculously. One, Elizabeth, was barren. She and her husband, Zacharias, were both advanced in years, too old to conceive. He was a Jewish priest of the division of Abijah, one of 24 priestly divisions established of old. When it came time for the division of Abijah to serve in the Temple, Zacharias was assigned by lot to burn incense while the company of worshippers prayed outside.

It was there, before the Altar of Incense in the Temple, that an angel of the Lord appeared to Zacharias, standing at the right side of the Altar. The angel said to Zacharias:



*“Do not be afraid, Zacharias,
for your prayer is heard; and
your wife Elizabeth will bear
you a son, and you shall call
his name John. And you will
have joy and gladness, and
many will rejoice at his
birth...”*

But John would be born neither for Zacharias' sake nor for Elizabeth's. The angel told them of his purpose:

*“He will also go before Him in the spirit and power of
Elijah, to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children,
and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, to make
ready a people prepared for the Lord.” (Luke 1:13-17)*

**“Now Mary arose
in those days and
went into the hill
country with haste,
to a city of Judah,
and entered the
house of Zacharias
and greeted
Elizabeth.”** “Luke 1:39-40

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Enclosure:
June/July 2019 Calendar

And yet, as miraculous as the birth of John would be, it would be a lesser miracle. For sixth months after the angel appeared to Zacharias, an archangel appeared to Mary:

“Rejoice, highly favored one, the Lord is with you; blessed are you among women! ... Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bring forth a Son, and shall call His name JESUS. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Highest; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David. And He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of His kingdom there will be no end.” (Luke 1:28-33)

Nothing is impossible with God! The Seed promised of Old was conceived in the Virgin’s womb by the Holy Spirit. The Savior took on Flesh and was growing in His mother’s womb.

It was then that Mary went to the “hill country” of Judea, not far from Jerusalem, to visit her cousin



Elizabeth. That visit is called “The Visitation”. As Mary entered the house and greeted Elizabeth, the Prophet and Forerunner in Elizabeth’s womb leaped inside of her. Elizabeth was filled with the Holy

Spirit, and she said *“Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb... Blessed is she who believed, for there shall be a fulfillment of those*

things which were told her from the Lord.” (Luke 1:42-45) Mary responded in the Words of the great canticle we call “The Magnificat”: *“My soul doth magnify the Lord, and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Savior...”*



Christ was Incarnate, without human father.

John began his Prophetic office, pointing to the Christ, even while in Elizabeth’s womb. Read Luke 1:46-53 to learn what Mary proclaimed, by the Holy Spirit, about God’s grace in His remembrance of His Promise of a Savior. God remembers His promises!

Join us, won’t you, on Tuesday, July 2nd, as we celebrate and commemorate The Visitation with Holy Mass at Zion at 7:00 p.m., in the church!

Trip to the Dominican Republic

May 13th through 17th I was in the Dominican Republic. I was invited to attend a planning meeting of the *Iglesia Luterana Venezolana*, the Venezuelan Lutheran Church (ILV), and to teach a two-day intensive course on the Book of Revelation. I have been teaching in Venezuela since 2006, but of late have been unable to get into the country because of the turmoil - political, economic, and social - there. The Luther Academy, an organization for which I serve as an International Fellow, flew 15 Pastors from Caracas, Venezuela to Santiago, the Dominican Republic, so that they could come together to discuss the state of the church, and study with me.

Annual Voters Assembly

By dictate of our congregational constitution, Zion has a regular voters assembly in June every year, and another in October. The October meeting is held to elect officers, who begin their service to Zion the following January. The June meeting is held to approve the budget for the upcoming fiscal year, which begins each year on the 1st day of July. The June voters assembly is scheduled for Sunday, June 30th this year. Please plan to attend, and join with your brothers and sisters in Christ as we do the business of the congregation. Minutes and financial reports will be available from the church office a few weeks after the meeting.

As Mary declared the grace and glory of God in the inspired Words of the Magnificat, she said of God “His mercy is on those who fear Him, from generation to generation...” His mercy is on you, dear Christian, you who believe in the Incarnate Lord Mary carried in her womb, you who believe in the crucified, risen and ascended Lord that comes to you in Word and Sacrament at Zion! His mercy is on you who are baptized into His Name, on you who receive His Holy Absolution, on you who eat the Body of Christ and drink His Blood, on you who hear His Word publicly preached and read. He who is Mighty has done great things for you, and holy is His Name!



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 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 Archdeacon David Stecholz, William Gramzow, Thomas Habitz, Jr., Michael Anderson **TRUSTEES:** Silas Gray, Paul Snoes, Bill Arthur; **PARISH EDUCATION:** Shirley Cross, Robert Kelly III, Janet Stechholz **ENDOWMENT BOARD:** Fr. Mark Braden (chairman) Tom Habitz, Jr., William Gramzow, Alan Kroske; **OFFICERS OF THE VOTERS:** Thomas Habitz, Jr. (chairman), Alan Kroske (vice-chairman), Pamela Ruffin (secretary), Paul Snoes (treasurer), Jessica Chavez (financial secretary).

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 Galatians. 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 | 6pm | Rectory
The study of *We Confess Anthology* by Herman Sasse, 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 Martin Chemnitz's *The Two Natures of Christ*.

Women's Group 2 Saturdays a month | 1pm | Rectory
Study of The Book of Proverbs.

Birthdays Anniversaries

June
3 Carlton Alford
7 Bobby Kelly III
9 Bobby Kelly IV
14 James Gramzow
20 Margaret Alford
27 Monica Faerber
29 Shirley Cross
30 Darwin Terry

July
1 Alan Kroske
2 Patty Braden
5 Leticia Kelly
13 Florine Kaiser

Baptism Anniversaries

June
1 Ruthalee Brown
12 Stacy Gray
15 Anna Dalton
17 Andrew Stechholz
18 Carlton Alford
18 Margaret Alford
18 LaToya Davis-Gray
30 Rhetta Dillon

July
1 Eugene Brown
4 Susan Spicer
10 Alan Kroske
20 Patty Braden
31 Florine Kaiser

Marriage Anniversaries

June
7 Robert & Leticia Kelly
11 Silas & Chandra Gray
July
22 Kevin & Shannon Wiedelman

time with Fr. Ted Krey, Regional Director of Central and South America, the Caribbean, Mexico, and Spain. Fr. Krey is a personal friend, and a Zion member (from afar...) Pr. Krey and I discussed several opportunities for upcoming courses in several different countries. It was nice to see Fr. Krey, and to live with his family for a few days.

On Friday I got up at 3:00 a.m., and made my flight back to New York. After a layover, I arrived home in the late afternoon, safe and sound, thanks be to God.

The Lord of the Church has opened the door to bring the Confessional theology and liturgical practice we enjoy at Zion to many other countries. While the trips may be exhausting, I always return refreshed and excited about the opportunities we have as a congregation to help churches around the world. It is, after all, the desire of our Lord that the Holy Gospel be preached "to the ends of the earth!"

Weddings at Zion

By the time you read this, we will already have had two weddings at Zion. The first was Saturday, the 25th of May, the marriage of Luke David Thompson-Kolar to Brittany Joy (née Richart). The second was the marriage of Mitchell Daniel Meyer to Sarah Marie (née) Braden, my daughter. It was a joy to preside at both weddings, and to see God's grace in bringing such fine Christian young men and women into Holy Matrimony! May God richly bless both couples as they grow in love for God, and love for one another!

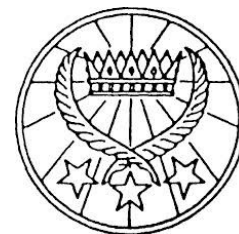
The Zion Trumpet is the informational and educational newsletter of Zion Evangelical-Lutheran Church. It communicates the news of Zion and instructs members in various aspects of the Christian Faith.

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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It was a tremendous blessing to be reunited with my Venezuelan brother Pastors. I have corresponded with many of them in the last few years. We have sent them some financial support. Last year our

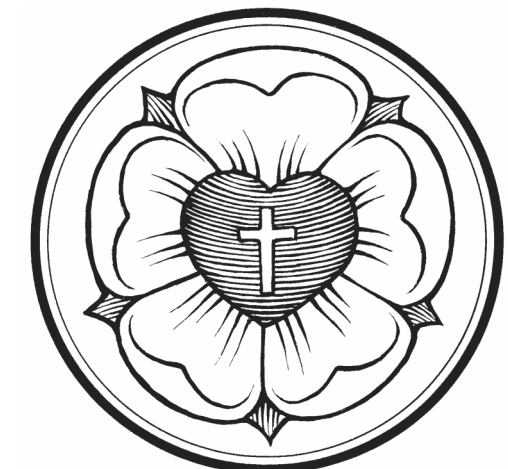


congregations got together and sent them money to buy a van for the church to use. The year before we sent them some computers and a tablet. But I have been unable to see them, so it was wonderful to have such a reunion!

Many of the men that I had as students are now Pastors. One is the President of the Venezuelan Lutheran Church. Many of you remember Sergio Maita, the Venezuelan Pastor that lived in our home, and in the Rectory, as he worked on an advanced theological degree at our Fort Wayne seminary. Fr. Maita is now a professor at the seminary in the Dominican Republic, so he was also able to enjoy a reunion with the Pastors from his home country.

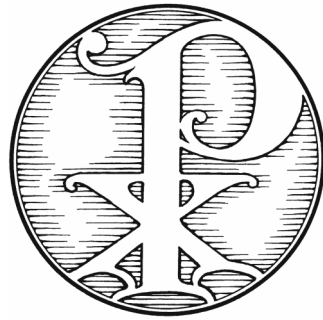
I flew in on a Monday, arriving very late at night. We traveled to a local hotel to drop off a visiting Pastor from Florida, and then to the house where I was staying. The night would be short, late to bed and early to rise! The first day we met was dedicated to a "Foro", the Spanish word for "forum". It began at 8:00 a.m. Present were the Venezuelan Pastors, the President of the ILV, and several area and regional leaders from the LC-MS.

Each of the Pastors presented on the state of their congregations, and their communities, and brought to the table their most pressing needs. The President of the ILV, Fr. Miguelángel Perez, gave a "State of the Church" presentation to the group. In short, the Venezuelan church



faces many great challenges. Venezuela is suffering the ravages of a political system called "socialism". Their money is without value, their store shelves are empty, medicine is unavailable, and electricity and water are frequently unavailable. One of the Pastors recounted that his city has been without electricity or water for 40 days. Our brothers and sisters in Christ are suffering horribly.

Zion sent a financial gift, and I was able to present it to the President of the ILV in a short ceremony. Our Regional Director also provided the men with some financial support. That night all the Pastors were taken shopping. Many bought shoes, which aren't available in Venezuela. Many bought clothing and daily necessities. Our LC-MS staff in the Dominican Republic purchased basic medicines for the Pastors to take back to their families and their members. The LC-MS provided an individual bag for each Pastor that included a clerical shirt and necessary supplies. The Pastors were very thankful, and asked me to extend their thanks to all the members of Zion. Their letter (see facing page) of thanks to our congregation was read (and translated) during Bible Class after Mass on Sunday, May 26. / Here is the translation:



To Zion Lutheran Church:

The grace and peace of our risen Lord, Jesus Christ, be with you.

We give thanks to God for the fellowship we have had even over such a distance, and for your constant prayers for which we are grateful, you have been a blessing to us in Venezuela.

We have received from you not only your prayers, but also physical blessings which help us as Pastors continue in the Ministry of Christ Crucified in the midst of a nation which suffers because of sin.

We desire to extend to you our gratefulness and brotherly love, because we know that, even though we don't know you personally, you offer of your physical and spiritual gifts to care

for us by permitting your Pastor, Fr. Braden, to teach in the Dominican Republic.

May our Gracious God continue unifying our hearts through His Word and Sacraments, and may we continue together in the proclamation of Christ Crucified wherever God takes us, trusting always that where He takes us He will continue to sustain us in faith and readiness.

Signed by the Administrative Council of the Venezuelan Lutheran Church

At that time I also gave a slide show about the trip.

Here is a photo of the Venezuelan Pastors who attended, taken on a rooftop overlooking the



dormitory of the new seminary in Palmar Arriba:

The second and third days of our time together I lectured on the Book of Revelation as the source of hope for the Church living under the cross. I led from the Greek (of course), translating into Spanish, showing the men the wonderful promises of deliverance and salvation God gives through this very special Revelation, the Revelation of Jesus Christ to Saint John.

We enjoyed a Brazillian style barbecue the second night. The third night I was able to spend some



IGLESIA LUTERANA DE VENEZUELA

RIF: J-00019136-0

...un Señor, una fe, un bautismo, un Dios y Padre de todos, el cual es sobre todos, y por todos, y en todos. Ef. 4:5,6

República Dominicana
Santiago de los Caballeros; Mayo 16, 2019

Iglesia Luterana Zion
Presente.-

Que la gracia y la paz de nuestro Señor resucitado, Jesucristo sea con ustedes.

Damos gracias a Dios por la confraternidad que tenemos a pesar de la distancia y por sus oraciones constantes las cuales agradecemos, pues han sido de bendición para nosotros en Venezuela.

Hemos recibido de ustedes no solo de sus oraciones, sino también de sus bendiciones físicas las cuales ayudan a que podamos como pastores llamados continuar el Ministerio del Cristo Crucificado en medio de una nación que sufre a causa del pecado.

Deseamos extender a ustedes nuestro agradecimiento y amor fraterno pues sabemos que, aun cuando no nos conocen personalmente, ofrecen de sus dones físicos y espirituales para cuidar de nosotros al permitir a su pastor, Fr. Braden enseñar en República Dominicana.

Que nuestro Buen Dios siga uniendo nuestros corazones a través de su Palabra y Sacramentos y podamos juntos seguir en la proclamación del Cristo Crucificado a donde Dios nos lleve, confiando siempre que donde sea que él nos lleve seguirá sosteniéndonos fiel y oportunamente.

"Y aquel que da semilla al que siembra, y pan al que come, proveerá los recursos de ustedes y los multiplicará, aumentándoles así sus frutos de justicia, para que sean ustedes enriquecidos en todo, para toda generosidad." 2 Corintios 9:10-11

Pr Miguelángel Pérez

Pr Eduardo Flores

Pr Luis Coronado

Pr Francisco Cabarcas

Pr Abel García

Pr Juan Silva

Pr Raimundo Brito

Pr Félix Zamora

Pr Michael Ventura

Pr Alcides Franco

Pr Eleazar Mendoza

Pr Omar Martínez