

# Zion Evangelical-Lutheran Church

www.ZionDetroit.org



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## Parish Office

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**HOLY MASS** is celebrated every Sunday and Wednesday at 10am, and on holy days as announced. *Wednesday Masses are at 9:30am and 7pm during Advent.*

**COMMUNICANTS** are baptized Christians who have been instructed in and publicly confess the Evangelical-Lutheran Faith. If you desire to commune, please speak with the Pastor before approaching the Altar.

**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.

**ADULT CHRISTIAN EDUCATION** is taught every Sunday and Wednesday following Holy Mass.

**SUNDAY SCHOOL** for children ages 3-12 is from September through May. Lessons are Bible-story based and activities are designed to reinforce the biblical lesson.

**PRIVATE ABSOLUTION** is available on Saturdays from 9:15-10am and by appointment.

**PASTORAL CONSULTATION** based on the Holy Scriptures is available from the Pastor. An appointment is necessary.

**THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY BAPTISM** is for infants and adults, and may be arranged by contacting the Pastor for an appointment.

**COUPLES DESIRING HOLY MARRIAGE** should contact the Pastor before finalizing the wedding date. Biblical 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. Please ask the Pastor for further details.

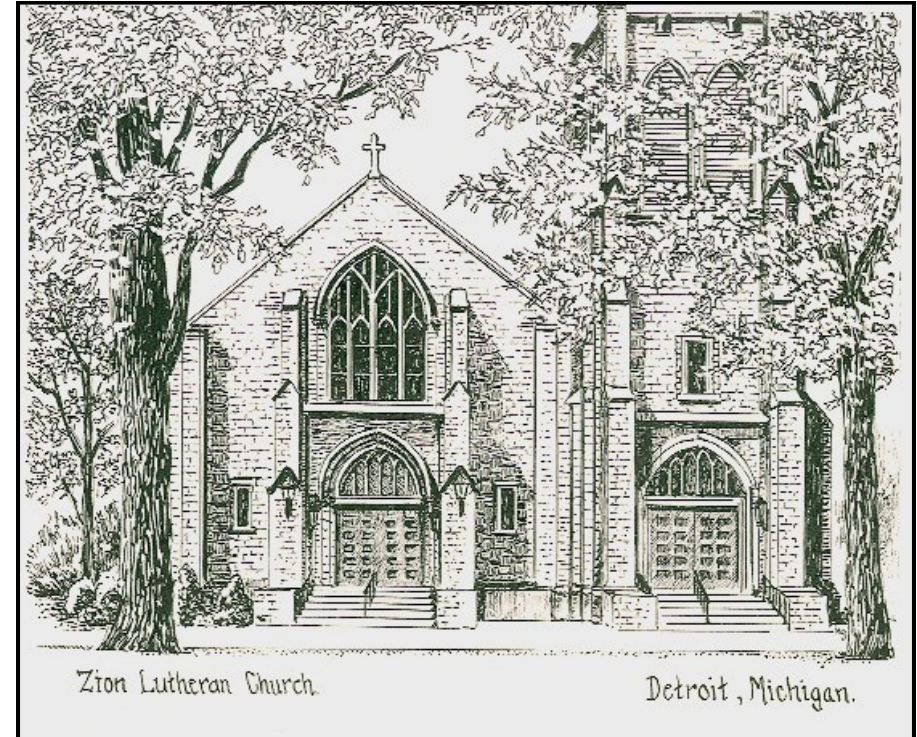
**SICK AND HOMEBOUND** are visited regularly by the Pastor with the Scriptures and Sacrament. Please contact the Parish Office if you know of any parishioner in need of pastoral visitation.

**PARISH OFFICERS** DEACONS: William Gramzow, Thomas Habitz, Jr., Eric Russell TRUSTEES: Gregory Gramzow, 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), Kristi Russell (secretary), Gregory Gramzow (treasurer), Jessica Chavez (financial secretary).

**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.

# Zion Evangelical-Lutheran Church

"THE LORD HAS CHOSEN ZION;  
HE HAS DESIRED HER AS HIS DWELLING PLACE"



**4305 Military Avenue  
Detroit, Michigan 48210-2451  
(313) 894-7450  
www.ZionDetroit.org**

**Gaudete—Third Sunday in Advent  
December 14, 2014**



## Rejoice!

If you feel the weight of your sin, if you are caught up in the stress of life, if you long for rest and peace in the Lord, if you know of no place to turn for comfort —, then enter into the joy of your Lord. For at this Mass He relieves you in your tribulations!

### The Theme of Today’s Liturgy

We rejoice (*Introit*) because there is comfort in the pardon of our iniquity (*Old Testament*). That pardon comes through the Mysteries of God (*Epistle*), the Mysteries that bring Christ to us. Rejoicing, pardoned, we yearn for the coming of our Lord (*Gradual*), knowing that our God will come and save us (*Communio*).

### The Sermon

John came, but men would not hear him. John was taken captive, imprisoned, a sure sign that He was a Prophet of God. He was a forerunner of the Christ in that way too. John came to prepare the Way of the Lord, but the people wanted neither John nor his Divine message. The Word of God stands forever. God said “Thou shalt not!” And yet you have. God said “Thou shall!”, and yet you have not. Repent, for fire and judgment come soon. But hear the Promise of your Savior: “Blessed is he who is not offended because of Me.” Do not forget the signs. Receive the comfort the Prophet promises. Rejoice! There is a glimpse of rose in this violet time. The Glory of the Lord will be revealed as He comes in glory, and all flesh shall see it together.

### The Holy Eucharist

The comfort that Isaiah announces in today’s Old Testament, that faithful preachers deliver in the mysteries of God, and that Jesus points to in His help of the poor and sickly and distressed – that comfort is given to you today in the Blessed Sacrament.

### The Readings

Isaiah 40.1-8; 1 Corinthians 4.1-5; St. Matthew 11.2-10

**The Prelude** Comfort, Comfort, Ye My People — Johann Pachelbel (1653-1706)

### The Hymns for Today’s Mass

Processional Hymn	63 (choir: stanzas 2 & 4)
Chief Hymn	60
Offering Hymn	61
Distribution Music	Choir: “Rejoice in the Lord Always” —H. Willan (1880-1968)
Distribution Hymns	272; 66
Retiring Processional Hymn	75

## The Mass: Pax Domini

The Pax follows the Verba: the Celebrant takes the Chalice in his left hand and holds the celebrant’s host over it in his right hand and turns to face the people. He elevates the elements, keeping the host over the chalice, and declares, “The peace of the Lord be with you always.”

The celebrant had his back to the people during the Sanctus, the Our Father, the Verba, and his own self-communion, as if to hide the face of Christ, who died and thus was hidden from His people; but now when the celebrant turns to them again for this blessing, he is essentially reenacting the resurrection appearance of Jesus to His disciples in the upper room on the day of His resurrection when He said, “Peace be to you.”

The old rubric holding that a bishop uttering the Pax and simply repeating the words of the Lord verbatim (*Pax vobiscum*—peace be with you) made the connection even clearer.

—Burnell F. Eckardt, Jr.,

“The New Testament in His Blood: A Study of the Holy Liturgy of the Christian Church”



### Prepare for Next Sunday

**Rorate Coeli — Fourth Sunday in Advent** “The Approaching Joy”  
**December 21, 2014**

Deuteronomy 18.15-19; Philippians 4.4-7; St. John 1.19-28  
Hymns: 74, “Oh, Come, Oh, Come, Emmanuel” (insert), 57, 95, 69, 58

**On Jordan’s Bank the Baptist’s Cry Announces that the Lord is Nigh**

The message of St. John the Baptizer is expressed well in the PROCESSIONAL HYMN (# 63). Originally in Latin, it is by Charles Coffin (1676-1749), a French university professor.



The choral setting of stanzas 2 and 4 used in today’s Mass is by Kenneth T. Kosche (b. 1947), professor of music emeritus at Concordia University Wisconsin. Dr. Kosche was a professor of Kantor Schultz’s, and directed the Kammerchor, the touring choir in which Kantor Schultz sang while a student at CUW. In this three-part setting, the altos begin the stanza, followed by the sopranos. The basses enter last, and have the melody of the hymn accompanied by a free organ accompaniment.

**Lo, the Lamb, So Long Expected**

**Comes With Pardon Down From Heav’n** The CHIEF HYMN, “Hark, A Thrilling Voice is Sounding” is an anonymous tenth-century Latin hymn, translated by Edward Caswall (1814-1878), an Anglican priest. Of his numerous translations, seven appear in *The Lutheran Hymnal*.

Each hymnal of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod has featured a different hymn tune with this text. This tune, by an anonymous composer, was first published in Halle, Germany in 1705 in the *Neues Geistreiches Gesangbuch*.

**Rejoice!** Gaudete (Latin: “Rejoice”) is the name of the Third Sunday in Advent, from the first word of the Introit from Philippians 4.4ff. The DISTRIBUTION MUSIC is a choral setting of Philippians 4.4-5 by the English-born Canadian composer Healey Willan (1880-1968). Willan had a large number of choral and organ works published by Concordia Publishing House and was commissioned by the Commission on Worship of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod to write a musical setting of the Mass.



**THE CALENDAR FOR THIS WEEK**

<b>Holy Mass for Gaudete – Third Sunday in Advent</b> .....	<b>Today, 10a, Church Bible Study</b> .....
Sunday School .....	Today, 11:30a, Undercroft
Matins .....	Today, 11:30a, Activities Center
Vespers .....	Mon, 8:45a, Chapel
Matins .....	Mon, 6:30p, Church
Vespers .....	Tue, 8:45a, Chapel
<b>Holy Mass for Ember Wednesday in Advent</b> .....	Tue, 6:30p, Church
Bible Study .....	<b>Wed, 9:30a, Church</b>
<b>Holy Mass for Ember Wednesday in Advent</b> .....	Wed, 10:30a, Rectory
Matins .....	<b>Wed, 7p, Church</b>
Men’s Group .....	Thr, 8:45a, Chapel
Matins ( <i>Ember Friday in Advent</i> ) .....	Thr, 7p, Rectory
Matins ( <i>Ember Saturday in Advent</i> ) .....	Fri, 8:45a, Chapel
Private Confession and Absolution .....	Sat, 8:45a, Chapel
Youth Catechism .....	Sat 9:15a, Chapel
Women’s Group .....	Sat, 10a, Rectory
Adult Choir Rehearsal .....	Sat, 1p, Rectory
<b>Holy Mass for Rorate Coeli – Fourth Sunday in Advent</b> .....	Sun, 8:45a, Rectory
Christmass Decorating .....	<b>Sun, 10a, Church</b>
	Sun, 11:15a, Church

**IN OUR PRAYERS** Jennifer Balaska, Edward Brown, Linda Buskirk, Lela Casey, John Chavez, Gladys Cline, Anna Dalton, Martha Draspa, Susan Edwards, Sandy Frey, Thomas Habitz, Ellen Hayden, Drucilla Huddleston, Florine Kaiser, Lawrence Kasner, Eleanor Luka, Earlene Maynarich, Michael Maynarich, Robert Murdock, Margaret Quinkert, Pauline Rivard, and Julie Snoes;

**GIFTS AND DONATIONS** From Mr. & Mrs. Johnny Williams for the Benevolence Fund.

**THE PSALM FOR THIS WEEK IS PSALM 85. PRAY IT EVERY DAY!**

The favor Our Lord shows to His land is not found in material things, but in freeing those bound in sin and death, by granting forgiveness, and by turning away from His justified anger (v 1-3). Our prayer is that the Lord continue to restore us, that He not lash out in anger but show us His mercy (v 4-7). And, for our part, we will not get caught up in our foolish worry about the stuff we have, but will hear and take to heart the peace He speaks and the salvation He brings (v 8-9). This mercy and righteousness of God is ultimately tied to His Son who is the Truth that springs out of the earth (the Blessed Virgin) and the Peace which brings God’s goodwill to men (v 10-11). His Son Jesus is the good Our Lord gives, the Righteous One who goes before Him, and in whose footsteps we walk in our life and living (v 12-13).



## Today's Announcements



**ADVENT MID-WEEK MASS** Include Wednesday Mass as part of your Advent meditation this year. Join us at 9:30am or 7pm. Information about the sermon series is found on the facing page.

**CHRISTMAS CAROLS OLD AND NEW** The Michigan/Ohio Chorale, under the direction of Erwin Aufdemberge presents "Christmas Carols Old and New" today at 3pm at St. Luke – Clinton Township.

**INSTALLATION AT ANGELICA – ALLEN PARK** The Rev. Fr. Jonathan Sachs will be installed at 4pm today as pastor of Angelica, 8400 Park Avenue, Allen Park, MI 48101.

**MEN'S GROUP** The Zion Men's Group meets this Thursday, December 18. Meet in the Rectory before 7pm. At 7, we move to the Church to pray Vespers and then return to the Rectory for study and Gemütlichkeit. This month's study continues in the Solid Declaration of the Formula of Concord, Article 2, paragraph 73, "Of Free Will." Please RSVP to FrBraden@ZionDetroit for a count for the food.

**RIDE TO CHURCH NEEDED** Drucilla Huddleston is interested in a ride to church on Sunday mornings. She lives near Ford Road in Dearborn. If it would be possible for you to pick Drucilla up, please contact Fr. Braden.

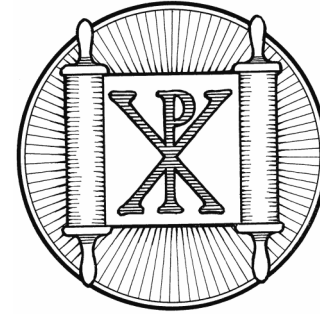
**PLAN TO ATTEND CHRISTMASS MIDNIGHT AND CHRISTMASS DAY** There are three historic Masses to celebrate the Nativity of Our Lord: Christmass Midnight, Christmass Dawn, and Christmass Day. At Zion, we celebrate Christmass Midnight and Christmass Day. These Masses are different, and designed so that Christians attend both in the celebration of the Incarnation of the Son of God. **Mark your calendars and invite family and friends to attend Christmass Midnight and Christmass Day at 10am.**

**CHRISTMASS POINSETTIAS** Donations are now being accepted for poinsettias to adorn the chancel during the Christmass season. Poinsettias are \$7 each. Donation forms are available in the Narthex.



**CHRISTMASS DECORATING** Everyone is invited to help decorate the Church for Christmass next Sunday, December 21, following Holy Mass.

**LUTHERAN WITNESS SUBSCRIPTIONS** The flagship magazine of the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod, *The Lutheran Witness* is a monthly publication that offers news, features, columns, Q&A's, and more. In addition to the print edition, it is available on-line for your computer or tablet. If you subscribe through Zion, the yearly subscription rate is \$9.72. Please submit your payment to the parish office for the 2015 subscription by January 18.



## Advent Mid-Week Mass, 2014 A. + D.

*You search the Scriptures,  
for in them you think you have eternal life;  
and these are they which testify of Me."*

Thus saith the Lord in the Holy Gospel according to St. John, the fifth chapter: "These are they which testify of Me." The Scriptures of which Jesus speaks we call the "Old Testament." The Holy Scriptures testify of Christ. He is the center of both Testaments of Scripture. Moses taught of Jesus. The Prophets of old prophesied of Jesus. He is the fulfillment of all prophecy. All the Scriptures – New and Old – testify of Him.

As the Church prepares for the Feast of the Nativity of our Lord, she does so penitentially. The Church fasts before she feasts. She prepares for celebration. Advent is to Christmas as Lent is to Easter. Advent is a time of heightened prayer, fasting, repentance and preparation.

Patience is a virtue, one the world lacks. True patience requires faith. The world places plastic santas on still green grass at Thanksgiving. It erects decorated trees in November. It starts shopping for gift exchanges in July. It puts well-lit Nativity scenes, complete with Christ Child and Wise Men, on coffee tables in early December.

But the Church is not like the world. The Church waits expectantly, hopefully, prayerfully, Her lamps filled with the oil of faith. She believes what Scripture says. She understands the *Adventus Domini*, the Coming of our Lord. She patiently, progressively lights the candles of Advent, as she awaits the coming of the true Light.

Our focus for Advent midweek Masses this year is on the Epistle or second reading appointed for each Wednesday, two of which are taken from the Old Testament. The sermons for the Advent midweek Masses will have the following themes:

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**Advent III:** Wednesday, December 17

**Isaiah 7:10-15**

"ASK A SIGN FOR YOURSELF ..."

**Advent IV:** Wednesday, December 24

**2 Peter 3:8-14**

"...A THIEF IN THE NIGHT"

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Join us **Wednesdays at 9:30am & 7pm** as we remember the coming of our Lord in the Flesh, receive His gifts as He comes to us in His Grace, and prepare for His Coming in Glory.