

# Zion Evangelical-Lutheran Church of Detroit

The Rev. Mark P. Braden, Pastor  
Archdeacon David Stechholz  
Miss Emily Solomon, Cantor

Parish Office: Hours Monday - Friday 9a - 1p 313-894-7450  
Facsimile: 313-894-7871  
Rev. Mark Braden (home): 313-429-9252  
Rev. Mark Braden (cell): 313-404-1883

**HOLY MASS** is celebrated every Sunday and Wednesday at 10am, and on holy days as announced.

**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:** 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.

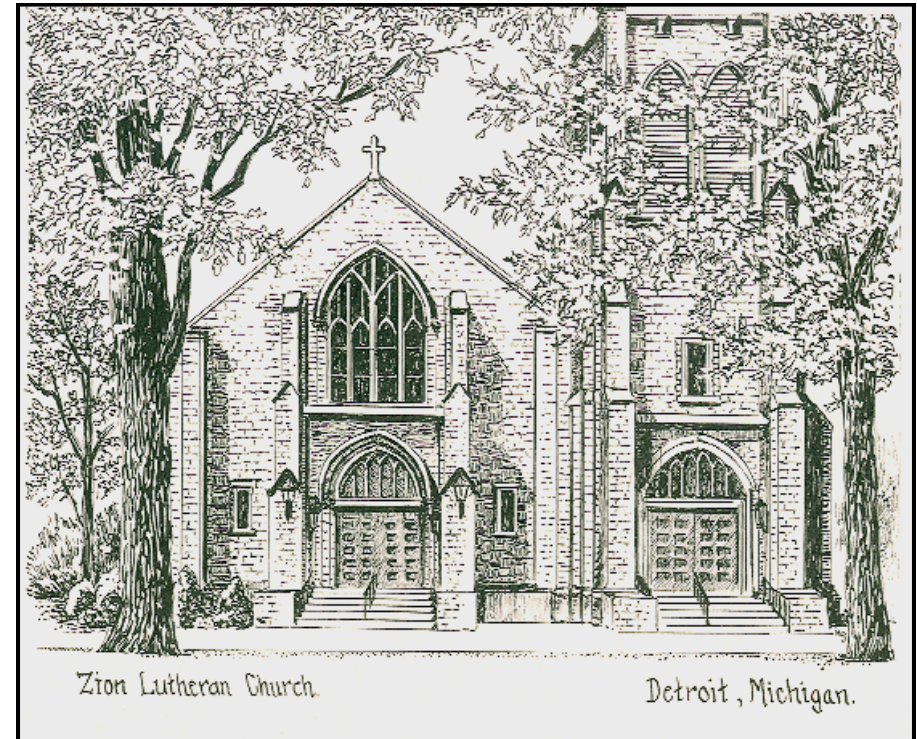
**NEW MEMBERS** are received by Baptism, Confirmation, Transfer or Profession of Faith. Instruction in Luther's Small Catechism and Private Absolution are required for all new members. Please ask the Pastor for further details.

**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., Michael Anderson **TRUSTEES:** Silas Gray, Paul Snoes; **PARISH EDUCATION:** Shirley Cross, Robert Kelly III, Sarah Braden **ENDOWMENT BOARD:** Fr. Mark Braden (chairman) Tom Habitz, Jr., Paul Snoes, Alan Kroske; **OFFICERS OF THE VOTERS:** Thomas Habitz, Jr. (chairman), Alan Kroske (vice-chairman), Pamela Ruffin (secretary), Paul Snoes (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**

**The Rev. Mark P. Braden, Pastor  
FrBraden@ZionDetroit.org**

# Rorate Coeli—Fourth Sunday in Advent

December 23, 2018

The Approaching Joy



The world constantly looks for a God who is near, for heaven on earth. Here it is! In the preaching and Holy Eucharist, Our Lord is at hand. Until you stand before Him, He cannot be any closer than He is now! You are welcomed, then, to take Him to heart as He gives Himself to you.

## The Theme of Today's Liturgy

The anticipation for Our Lord's coming now reaches its zenith. Our prayer is that the "earth open and bring forth salvation" (*Introit*). For when Our Savior comes with His grace, we are speedily helped by His mercy and satisfaction (*Collect; Alleluia*). Is it any wonder that we are to rejoice and be anxious for nothing (*Epistle*)? For the Lord is at hand and near to all that call upon Him in truth (*Gradual*). The Baptizer prepares us for His coming by confessing clearly who He is (*Gospel*). So "let the skies pour down righteousness" –for the Righteous One is here!

## The Sermon

It seems right on this violet Advent day, this day on which we prepare to celebrate the Holy Nativity of God Enfleshed, this day on which, like every day, we prepare for the final Advent of our Lord; it seems right that John was in Bethabara, the "house of preparation", for we find ourselves in the same place – preparing. Another Prophet of the Old helps us in our preparation. He prays "Rain down you heavens, from above, and let the skies pour down righteousness." Righteousness comes from above, yet in the very next sentence he says "Let the earth open and bring forth a Savior." So the Righteous One from above came down from heaven, but earth must open to bring forth the same Savior – the God who reigns from the highest heaven came as Savior through the earthly womb of the Virgin, and then that Savior fulfilled all Prophecy when the earth opened, as earthquake and stone revealed that He left that sealed earthy tomb and came forth from the depths of the earth your Savior.

## The Holy Eucharist

The Lord is at hand in the Blessed Sacrament of His Body and Blood. So why are we anxious? Let us instead rejoice, confess Him as our Help and Salvation, and welcome Him as He comes to us in His Holy Supper.

## The Readings

Deuteronomy 18:15-19; Philippians 4:4-7; St. John 1:19-28

## The Hymns for Today's Mass

Processional Hymn	74
Chief Hymn	62
Offering Hymn	57 (stanzas 1-4)
Distribution Hymns	57 (stanzas 5-7);56
Retiring Processional Hymn	64

No. 4092

Fourth Week in Advent

Dec 23-30

## THE CALENDAR FOR THIS WEEK

Holy Mass for Rorate Coeli – Fourth Sunday in Advent..... Today, 10a, Church  
Church Decorating.....Today, 11:30a, Church  
Matins.....Mon, 8:45a, Chapel  
Christmass Midnight .....Tue, 12a, Church  
Christmass Day .....Tue, 10a, Church  
Holy Mass spoken for St. Stephen, Protomartyr .....Wed, 7p, Church  
Holy Mass spoken for St. John, Apostle and Evangelist .....Thr, 7p, Church  
Adult Catechesis.....Thr, 8p, Rectory  
Holy Mass spoken for Holy Innocents..... Fri, 10a, Chapel  
Holy Mass spoken for the Fifth Day of Christmas .....Sat, 10a, Chapel  
Holy Mass for Sunday in the Octave of Christmass.....Sun, 10a, Church  
Bible Study..... Sun, 11:30a, Undercroft  
Sunday School.....Sun, 11:30a, Rectory

**IN OUR PRAYERS** Michael Anderson, Gloria Bailey, Nellie Bolton, Linda Buskirk, Lela Casey, Gladys Cline, Anna Dalton, Fr. Erich and the Fickel family, Henry Frey, Nancy Gramzow, Latoya Davis Gray, Drucilla Huddleston, Florine Kaiser, Lawrence Kasner, Richard Kelly, Erika Phares and the Phares family.

**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 \$10.80. If you already receive Lutheran Witness, your subscription will automatically renew. All new subscriptions need to be in the office by January 24<sup>th</sup>, 2019.

## THE PSALM FOR THIS WEEK IS PSALM 19. PRAY IT EVERY DAY!

At the beginning of Psalm 19, it seems as if it is about the creation's praise of the Creator (v 1-6). However, it is about preaching—the preaching of the heavens and the preaching about the Lord's law (v 14). The center of this preaching is not rules, but the Bridegroom and Strong Man (Christ) who comes out of His chamber and comes for the whole world (v 5). And the preacher, ultimately, is St. John the Baptizer whose preaching converts the soul, makes the wise simple (v 7), and drives us to confess our secret faults (v 12). It is quite fitting, then, that we pray this Psalm on these last few days before Christ Mass. Through it, St. John once again prepares our hearts and minds for the coming of the Son.