



# Zion Evangelical-Lutheran Church

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

Rev. Mark P. Braden  
Pastor

Member of The English District of The Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod

*Cantate*, The Fourth Sunday after Easter  
May 10, 2020 A.M.

Dear Members and Friends of Zion Evangelical-Lutheran Church of Detroit,

In thanksgiving to God, in the Name of ✠ Jesus, in humility and with great joy, Zion Evangelical-Lutheran Church of Detroit announces our plans to resume all Divine Services beginning on Sunday, May 17 at 10:00 a.m. In love for our neighbors, and in respect for our civil government, Zion's suspension of all Services will have spanned almost eight weeks. After prayerful consideration, Zion's Pastor, Parish Council, Board of Deacons, and Board of Trustees have agreed that resuming Services is the proper course of action.

We are aware that the Covid-19 epidemic continues all around us. Detroit is a national "hot spot." At the same time, the number of new cases is down, treatments are being perfected, and the civil "stay at home" Order is progressively being relaxed to allow more public and private activities.

Commending our lives and our souls to the only True God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, we believe that it is time to again join together as a congregation to receive the salvific Gifts of God.

At this point it is our plan to honor the formula given in the Governor's Executive Order 2020-77, which provides as a guideline that buildings of less than 50,000 square feet should limit capacity to a one quarter of the fire marshal's capacity.

We believe that this can be accomplished safely, and will allow most of our members to attend Mass. In addition to limiting the number of members, Zion will also observe the sanitation and social distancing practices that were in place before we suspended Services. An explanation of these measures, and guidelines for those attending Services, are included in the attached document entitled "Worshipping at Zion during the Corona Virus Epidemic".

Zion's Liturgical calendar, which is being restored in full, can be accessed at [www.ziondetroit.org](http://www.ziondetroit.org). Please note that all schedules are subject to change in short timeframes, and please watch for further announcements about the schedule for other Parish activities.

For the health and safety of all those in attendance, two additional measures are being added. First, registration for all non-member visitors is required. This is in keeping with the Eucharistic tradition of announcing intentions to receive Holy Communion and will allow us to be sure that only an appropriate number of people are admitted to any Service.

*Continued* ➤

To register for Mass, contact the church office at [Kris@ziondetroit.org](mailto:Kris@ziondetroit.org), or by calling (313) 894-7450. If the church office isn't staffed when you call, you may leave a message, and we will contact you to confirm your registration. Registration by email is preferred.

Second, the regular Wednesday Mass that had been held in the Chapel of the Holy Incarnation will be moved to the church until further notice. With more seating capacity in the church, individuals and families will have the ability to maintain more distance, and some members may choose to attend the Wednesday Mass as a temporary alternative to the Sunday Mass, if extra personal distancing is desired.

Anyone in attendance who is exhibiting symptoms of potentially infectious illness will be asked to leave the premises, out of concern for the health of fellow parishioners. Those who arrive at Zion without having registered beforehand will be assisted in registering for an upcoming Service, but it will be impossible for us to admit them to a Service for which they are not registered.

Those who are susceptible to the virus due to a weakened immune system, or those who feel that it is simply too early to return to church, should feel free to stay at home until they feel safe in rejoining the congregation in worship. Fr. Braden is available for home Communion upon request.

Trusting fully in God's boundless grace and protection, working together as a congregation, we can do this! May God bless you richly as you receive Holy Absolution, hear the Word of God, and kneel once again at Zion's High Altar to receive the Body and Blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ!

“I will go to the altar of God, to God my exceeding joy!  
Our help is in the Name of the Lord, who made heaven and earth.”  
(Psalm 43:4; Psalm 124:8)



Fr. Mark P. Braden  
Pastor  
Zion Evangelical-Lutheran Church



Mr. Thomas Habitz  
Chairman of the Congregation,  
Zion Evangelical-Lutheran Church