

Zion Trumpet

“Blow the Trumpet in Zion” (Joel 2.15)

The Newsletter of

April & May 2009

Zion Evangelical-Lutheran Church

"Why do you seek the living among the dead? He is not here, but is risen!" As the birth of Christ was announced by the archangel to Mary, so now does an angel, a God-sent heavenly messenger, proclaim Jesus' resurrection to the women at the empty tomb. It is the sweet Proclamation for which the world has waited since the fall of man. The age-old curse is removed. Sin, death and the devil are vanquished. Light, Life and Truth reign eternal. He is not dead! Jesus lives! The Gospel of the crucified and risen Christ brings life and forgiveness and salvation to the world. That the salvation He won be applied to you, God gives you faith. Faith apprehends all the blessings of Jesus' atoning death and glorious resurrection, and makes them yours. Believing, His precious death removes your sins. Believing, you are declared righteous before God in His rising to new life. Thanks be to God, the suffering, death and resurrection of our Lord is... for you. The Lord is risen!

As this edition of Zion News is distributed, Holy Week is yet before us. I encourage you to do exactly what faith already desires - to come and receive the Gifts of God at Zion, as frequently as our gracious Lord offers them to us. Our Holy Week schedule is:

Palmarum: Mass - 10:00 a.m. (the Passion according to St. Matthew), with Bible Class and Sunday School following.

Holy Monday - Mass - 10:00 a.m., in the Chapel.

Holy Tuesday - Mass - 10:00 a.m., in the Chapel. (The Passion according to St. Mark)

Holy Wednesday - Mass - 10:00 a.m. in the Chapel. (The Passion according to St. Luke.)

Maundy Thursday - The Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper - 7:00 p.m.

Good Friday - Tre Ore - 12:00 noon till 3:00 p.m. (The Passion according to St. John)
The Stations of the Cross - 7:00 p.m.

Holy Saturday - The Day on which our Lord lay dead in the tomb, no Mass is held.

Easter Sunday - The Vigil of Easter - 6:30 a.m. (Easter Breakfast follows)
The Feast of the Resurrection of our Lord - 10:00 a.m.

Wednesday after Easter - Mass - 10:00 a.m. in the Church

Annual Meeting - All Zion members should be aware of the annual voters meeting, scheduled for Sunday, May 17, 2009 A.M. D. Please mark your calendars, and plan to attend. In addition to our regular business and annual church budget, there are several new initiatives that I am going to propose. I am asking in advance for your support. I will detail some of these initiatives below. I approach them all seeking the Lord's guidance, and praying that His will be done.

Importantly, I am going to ask the congregation to request a Vicar from our Fort Wayne seminary for the 2010/2011 academic year. This is an outstanding opportunity for Zion to assist the Church in preparing men to receive a Divine Call to the Office of the Holy Ministry. It will give a Fort Wayne student the opportunity to be trained, full-time for one academic year, at Zion. I have already prepared a list of duties, and shared it with both the Board of Deacons and the Board of Trustees.

(continued on page 3)

Zion Evangelical-Lutheran

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The Zion Trumpet is the informational and educational Newsletter of Zion Evangelical-Lutheran Church. It communicates the news of Zion while also instructing members in various aspects of the Christian Faith.

The Trumpet is published six times each year. It is free for members of Zion Evangelical-Lutheran Church. Non-members are asked to contribute toward the production and mailing of the Trumpet. Zion also offers ZIONNEWS, a free electronic parish news service.

Zion Evangelical-Lutheran Church is a member of the one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church and affiliated with the English District of The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod.

PASTOR OF ZION CHURCH
Rev. Mark P. Braden

**LAY LEADERS OF ZION CHURCH
FOR 2009**

<u>Deacons</u>	<u>Trustees</u>
William Gramzow	Kay Atkins
Thomas Habitz, Jr.	Gregory Gramzow
Darwin Terry	Robert Murdock

Board of Parish Education

Shirley Cross
Alan Kroske
Victoria Murdock

Officers of the Voters

Roderick Atkins (chairman)
Charles Sherk (vice-chairman)
Linda Grams (secretary)
Kay Atkins (treasurer)
Jessica Chavez (financial secretary)

HOLY EUCHARIST is celebrated every Sunday at 10:00 a.m. and on Major Feasts as announced.

COMMUNICANTS ARE BAPTIZED CHRISTIANS who have been instructed in and publicly confess the Evangelical-Lutheran Faith. If you desire to commune at Zion, please speak with the Pastor before approaching the Altar.

PRIVATE ABSOLUTION is available on Saturday mornings and by appointment only.

PASTORAL COUNSELING 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 & 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.

After preparing the duties and proposed budget, I learned that our Synod does not have enough Vicarages for the men who are ready to serve this year. If the situation isn't reconciled, men who have commended their lives to serving as Pastors, who have completed at least half of their studies, and are prepared to begin their Vicarage, will not be placed. Zion is capable of requesting a Vicar, and in my estimation Zion is the perfect congregation in which to train future Pastors. I will speak more about this at our meeting. I welcome your questions before then.

As you may know, for several years I have traveled to Venezuela to teach at our theological institute there. I have typically gone in the late summer, and taken a team of members with me. Our Missionary in the Dominican Republic, Pr. Ted Krey, has invited me to teach there this summer. Pr. Krey is one of a very small group of Confessional Lutheran Missionaries. By His solid, Confessional Lutheran approach to missions he merits our support. Pr. Krey is in the process of planting a church in a country where there is no LC-MS congregation. He is working to identify local men who can be trained as Pastors. I plan to travel to the Dominican Republic to teach a one or two-week intensive course for these men. The dates are yet to be determined. Pr. Krey invited me to bring a team of members from Zion, who would work on a church project (yet to be determined) while I teach. The team would live and work in the Dominican Republic, among the members of our nascent church there. If you are interested in traveling as a member of the Zion team to support our mission in the Dominican Republic, please contact me. I have asked the Board of Deacons to allocate the "outside projects" mission funds to support this initiative.

It is my hope to bring the St. Michael Liturgical Conference back to Zion this year. This important conference is a wonderful way for Zion to reach out to the church at large and offer a day-long conference on the Holy Liturgy. The conference is tentatively scheduled for Monday, September 28, 2009 A.M. D. Preparing for Lent and Holy Week has occupied most of my time, but I have done some advance planning for the conference. I have already spoken with a Seminary faculty member from St. Louis that I hope will agree to be our key-note presenter. Two sec-

tional presenters have already come forward. If you have helped with St. Michael in the past, and would be willing to again, please see me. If you have never helped with the conference, but are willing to, please see me. I hope to convene a meeting shortly after Easter to begin putting the conference together.

I came to Zion with the intention of reaching out to the local Hispanic community. I would like to begin this as soon as possible. Some years ago I prepared a Christian English as a Second Language curriculum, which I have used before as an Hispanic outreach. It is my hope to begin ESL classes, and a Spanish language Service, at Zion. I will need the support of the congregation, and a small group of volunteers, to get the ESL initiative off the ground. If you are interested in helping, there is one important qualification - you must speak English (no Spanish necessary!). If you speak English, and desire to participate, please see me.

Wednesday Mass - Our Wednesday 10:00 a.m. Mass will continue in the Chapel after the octave of Easter.

Confirmation - On the Feast of Pentecost, with the Lord's help and according to His will, our 2008/09 Zion Confirmation class will be confirmed. Please keep Sarah Braden in your prayers. If your child is nearing the age for First Communion or for Confirmation, please see me about beginning instruction next fall.

Choir - At this writing, our Zion Choir is practicing for Holy Week. Since this is the April-May issue, I'd like to take a moment to thank the choir, and the Director, Mr. Allen Kerkes, for the musical beauty and theological contribution they bring to our Holy Week Services.

Pastor's Study - With the help of many of our members, we have made a lot of improvements in the Pastor's Study and our church office in the basement of the Rectory. These improvements include a deep cleaning of the walls and floors, newly painted ceilings, a repaired closet and relocated thermostat, the furnace room door has been replaced, new furniture in the study, and some new art work. Most of my library is now on the book shelves, although some additional sorting is necessary. I would like to personally

thank everyone who worked carrying furniture, cleaning, painting, or refinishing the floors. I welcome all Zion members to drop by and see the progress.

Church Sign - With the support of the Board of Trustees, we are in the process of procuring and installing a new church sign. Even an examination from afar of our current sign points to our need for a new one. It may take a few months to accomplish, but I hope to have the new sign installed soon.

Zion Website - The Zion website has been maintained by a volunteer for many years. When our webmaster recently un-volunteered, Zion identified a Fort Wayne seminarist with web site development experience to be our new webmaster. Recent upgrades and changes to the site include the addition of Installation pictures, the repair of many broken links, the re-ordering of the home page menu, and several other "house keeping" items. A new sermon archive, a database that will store all of the sermons I preach at Zion, is already functioning and soon to be made available to the public. The database will allow users to access the sermons soon after they are preached. Shortly after the sermon archive is made available, we will work on a special page for theological papers and studies. In addition to the upgrades, we are working to correct the existing information on our site. If you have any comments about our site, or suggestions, drop me an email. You can use the link on our Zion site to do so.

Sunday School - Thanks to our Board for Parish Education, we have Sunday School every Sunday after Mass. The children are lead in a study of the appointed Gospel reading for each Sunday. I encourage all Zion parents to bring their children to Sunday School. I would also like to publicly thank our teachers, who volunteer their time. Thank you!

Bible Class - Our Bible class continues every Sunday morning after Mass. At this writing, we have worked through a short study on the life of St. Paul, and have engaged in a close study of the first chapter of the Book of Romans. Each class includes a section of the Small Catechism, with

plenty of time to answer questions. All Zion members are encouraged to attend.

Thrivent Congregational Representatives - Pardon my newness, but I don't know who our Thrivent congregational representatives are. I do know we need to identify two people who are willing to serve as such in the upcoming year. It won't require a lot of work, it doesn't bring great fame, and to my knowledge there is no salary. I do know that we need our congregational representatives to make application as soon as possible for some available Thrivent funds. Zion will need the funds to support our St. Michael Liturgical Conference. If you are currently our Thrivent congregational representative, or would consider serving as such, please contact the church office.

Church Cleaning Thank You - Many thanks to all the members who turned out on Saturday, April 4th to clean the church and polish the silver in preparation for Holy Week. Your hard work is greatly appreciated, and it really showed! Thanks also to our church floor crew, who stripped and waxed the slate floors in preparation for Holy Week. The floors look great!

In the Sixteenth Psalm, God makes a Promise through His servant David. A thousand years before the suffering and death of our Lord, David writes of his Son and Lord "For You will not leave my soul in Sheol, Nor will You allow Your Holy One to see corruption." Although He died and was buried on Good Friday, although lifeless on Holy Saturday, our Lord took up His life again before sunrise on Sunday. The garden tomb wasn't His. It was borrowed. The tomb is empty. Christ is risen!

