

Zion Evangelical-Lutheran Church of Detroit

The Rev. Mark P. Braden, Pastor

The Rev. Gary W. Schultz, Kantor

Parish Office:

313-894-7450

Facsimile:

313-894-7871

Rev. Mark Braden (home)

313-429-9252

Rev. Mark Braden (cell)

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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 at Zion, please speak with the Pastor before approaching the Altar.

THE DIVINE OFFICE OF MATINS is prayed Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday, and Saturday at 8:45am in the Chapel of the Holy Incarnation in the Rectory.

ADULT CHRISTIAN EDUCATION is taught every Sunday and Wednesday immediately 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 – 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.

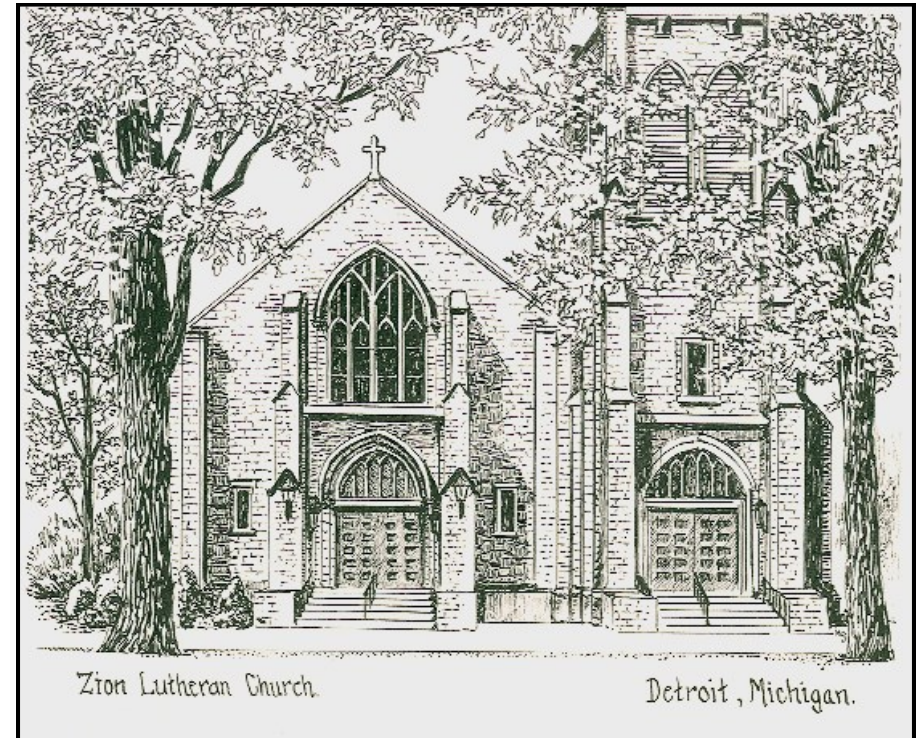
SICK AND HOMEBOUND are visited regularly by the Pastor with the Scriptures and Sacrament. Please contact the Parish Office if you know of any parishioner in need of pastoral visitation.

PARISH OFFICERS DEACONS: William Gramzow, Thomas Habitz, Jr., Eric Russell TRUSTEES: Roderick Atkins, Gregory Gramzow, Paul Snoes; PARISH EDUCATION: Shirley Cross, Alan Kroske, Pamela Ruffin; OFFICERS OF THE VOTERS: Roderick Atkins (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"



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Sexagesima

February 23, 2014

The Implanted Word



Today our Lord plants the seed of Himself in the hearts of all those who hear and receive His preached Word and are fed. We welcome you to this planting and pray that His Gospel may take root in you!

The Theme of Today's Liturgy The Collect provides a summary of the themes of today's Mass: "O God, who sees that we put not our trust in anything we do..." Instead, we place our hopes on, and boast in, Our Lord's grace (His gift of mercy) which is sufficient to see us through all our hardships (*Epistle*). And we have confidence that He will not cast us off forever nor forget us in our affection (*Introuit*). For By His Word preached and publicly read, Our Lord plants the Seed of His saving Word in our hearts, and so by Faith we receive Christ (*Gospel*).

The Sermon Trampled seed. Predatory birds eating good seed. Rocky ground. Lack of water. Thorn bushes that choke out good plants. So it is in this fallen world. The creation is so corrupt that even the disciples don't understand Christ's words. And that corruption has been manifest in you. Your sin has trampled and choked, starved and crushed the Good Seed, which is the Word of God. The holy Seed did not fare well in this world. He was trampled down, hung on the tree of the cross to be devoured. He withered because He who placed the rivers and the seas lacked moisture. He was pierced by thorns. And so too His Word. It is not received by most, although it is the source of true life. The devil comes and takes the Word out of sinful hearts, lest they should believe and be saved. But that Word is stronger than the fallen world. That Word is stronger than sin and death. The Word is sown, men spring up. From the furrows of His back and His wetting of the soil with His holy Blood, does a Good Crop, the Holy Christian Church, spring forth. He who has ears to hear, let him hear! That Word works faith and life where before there was only bad soil. It works faith and life in you. And so it is that by the Gospel, the Sower brings salvation to you by His implanted Word, that you keep it, and bear fruit with patience.

The Holy Eucharist In the Holy Eucharist, Our Lord places not only His Word but His very Self in us. In this way we receive the eternal Word of God – Christ Jesus Himself. His Body and Blood are planted in us and grown up to produce in us the fruits of His own life – faith in God and love for our neighbor.

The Readings Amos 8.11-12; 2 Corinthians 11.19-12.9; St. Luke 8.4-15

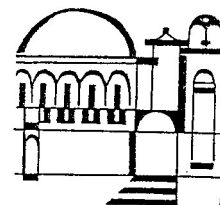
The Prelude Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Thy Word —Jan Bender (1909-1994)

The Postlude Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Thy Word —J. G. Walther (1684-1748)

The Hymns for Today's Mass

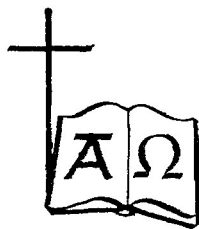
Processional Hymn	366
Chief Hymn	500
Offering Hymn	49
Distribution Hymns	261; 249
Retiring Processional Hymn	52

Prepare for Next Sunday



Quinquagesima March 2, 2014

Jeremiah 8.5-9; 1 Corinthians 13.1-13; St. Luke 18.31-43
Hymns: 6, 524, 409, 421, 316, 375



Music for Sexagesima

Thy Word is rich in blessing The CHIEF HYMN, “May God Bestow On Us His Grace” (# 500), focuses on Our Lord’s Word, rich in blessing as the Gospel (St. Luke 8) proclaims: That which fell on good ground, those hear the Word with a noble and good heart, keep it, and bear fruit with patience, yielding a crop a hundredfold.

This hymn is Martin Luther’s (1483-1546) based on Psalm 67. Luther learned the psalms by heart praying the Divine Office in the monastery. This is evident throughout his writings. He asked colleagues to write hymns based on the psalms, and himself wrote five other Psalm hymns: Psalm 12 (#260), 46 (#262), 124 (#267), 130 (#329), and 14 (“Although the Fools Say With their Mouth”).



Luther invites us to sing of the power of the Word of God—Our Lord Jesus Christ— and in His Holy Scriptures. In stanza two: “Thy people’s pasture is Thy Word, Their souls to feed and nourish.” Christians are fed by Our Lord’s Word as sheep are fed in the pasture. It is proclaimed in the Mass and the Divine Office, studied in Bible class, Sunday School, and catechism class, and meditated upon in daily prayer.

Connecting with the Gospel, stanza three exclaims: “The land shall plenteous fruit bring forth, Thy Word is rich in blessing!” Our Lord, through His Holy Ghost, works faith through His Word, calling sinners to repentance and proclaiming the forgiveness of sins in Jesus. Working faith in the hearts of believers, they confess and spread the faith. This hymn was an attachment to a German translation of Luther’s Latin *Order of Mass and Communion*, published in 1524.

Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Thy Word The DISTRIBUTION HYMN (# 261) is also by Luther. One of the most widely used of Luther’s hymns, it’s original first stanza “Lord, Keep Us in Thy Word and Work, Restrain the murd’rous pope and turk” prayed for deliverance from adversaries both within the church (the papacy) and in the world, the Turk (Islam).

At the writing of this hymn, King Ferdinand of Austria had been recently been defeated by Muslim invaders in Budapest. In the church, European princes loyal to the pope and the Roman Church threatened to eliminate evangelical (Lutheran) proclamation of true doctrine. So today, this hymn remains timely as crumbling society accelerates and the church faces adversaries and false doctrine from outside and within. “Defend Thy Christendom that we, May evermore sing praise to Thee!”

THE CALENDAR FOR THIS WEEK

Holy Mass for Sexagesima	Today, 10a, Church
Adult Bible Class.....	Today, 11:30a, Undercroft
Sunday School	Today, 11:30a, Activities Center
Holy Mass commemorating St. Matthias, Apostle	Mon, 10a, Chapel
Matins	Tue, 8:45a, Chapel
Vespers	Tue, 5:30p, Chapel
Holy Mass for Wednesday of Sexagesima	Wed, 10a, Chapel
Bible Class	Wed, 10:45a, Rectory
Matins	Thr, 8:45a, Chapel
Men’s Group	Thr, 7p, Rectory
Matins	Fri, 8:45a, Chapel
Matins	Sat, 8:45a, Chapel
Private Confession and Absolution.....	Sat, 9:15a, Chapel
Youth Catechism.....	Sat, 10a, Rectory
Holy Mass for Quinquagesima	Sun, 10a, Church
Adult Bible Class.....	Sun, 11:30a, Undercroft
Sunday School	Sun, 11:30a, Activities Center

IN OUR PRAYERS David Beens, Edward Brown, Linda Buskirk, Lela Casey, John Chavez, Gladys Cline, Anna Dalton, Martha Draspa, Sandy Frey, Ellen Hayden, Dru-cilla Huddleston, Florine Kaiser, Lawrence Kasner, Eleanor Luka, Earlene Maynarich, Michael Maynarich, Robert Murdock, Margaret Quinkert, Pauline Rivard, and Sylvia Schleif.

THE PSALM FOR THIS WEEK IS PSALM 44. PRAY IT EVERY DAY!

In this Psalm, we recall both the grace of Our Lord and the cross that comes with that grace. In grace He used His strong (right) arm to secure the Promised Land (v. 1-3) by destroying the enemy (vv. 4-8). All this is done not by trusting or relying on our strength, but because of the Lord’s desire (v. 6). But with grace comes a cross which God lays on our back (v. 9), giving us as food to the enemy (vv. 10-12) and making us a reproach and dishonor to our neighbors (vv. 13-16). Nevertheless, our confidence is that the Lord who gained us the victory will not disappoint us, but will arise to be our help (vv. 17-26), even when we are killed all day long (v. 22). And so we do not forget Our Lord (v. 17), but pray for Him to redeem us for His mercies’ sake (v 26).

Today's Announcements

SEXAGESIMA Today is *Sexagesima* Sunday. Sexagesima is from the Latin for "sixtieth." Today is approximately sixty days until Easter.

ST. MATTHIAS, APOSTLE: Monday, February 24, Mass at 10am in the Chapel. Remember this day in your daily prayer at home. Read Acts 1.15-26 and St. Matthew 11.25-30. Pray the Collect on page 90.



ZION IN ENGLISH CHANNELS Zion is featured in the February/March 2014 *English Channels*, the newsletter of the English District of the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod. Fr. Schultz's installation on Nov 17, 2013 is pictured on page 7. Included with Fr. Schultz and Fr. Braden are Zion members James Gramzow and Thomas Habitz; Zion's former vicar, Rev. Sem. Peter Eckardt; and Concordia University students Nathaniel Jensen and Dylan Smith.

BIBLE CLASS Today: This week's study of "A Survey of the New Testament" concludes St. Paul's Epistle to the Romans. Wednesday: "Ministry, Word, and Sacrament: An Enchiridion" by Martin Chemnitz on the topic "Good Works, or New Obedience."

LITURGICAL OBSERVANCES DURING SEPTUAGESIMA During the Septuagesima season, the *Gloria in Excelsis* is omitted from the Mass, "Alleluia" is not used in the Mass or the Divine Office, and the *Benedicamus* is used in place of the *Ite, missa est*.

MEN'S GROUP Thursday, February 27. Meet before 7pm in the Rectory. At 7, we pray Vespers in the Church and then return to the Rectory for study and Gemütlichkeit. Please RSVP to Fr. Braden. For each article of the Augsburg Confession, we are reading the Confession, followed by the Roman Confutation (response), and then the Lutheran Apology (defense) of Christian doctrine. We are in Article 27 (On Monastic Vows). The text of the Confutation is available on-line: <http://bookofconcord.org/confutatio.php>.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

ASH WEDNESDAY Christians mark the beginning of Lent on Ash Wednesday by attending Mass with the Imposition of Ashes. Ashes are placed on the forehead signifying the words at the fall into sin: "For you are dust and to dust you shall return" (Genesis 3.19). Lent is a season of the year to focus on repentance, catechesis, and Our Lord's Passion. The **Ash Wednesday Mass** will be March 5 at **9:30am and 7pm** in the Church. Lent is a good time to begin or increase participation in worship and catechesis. Be sure to invite your friends and family who have not been to Mass in a while, and resolve to attend Mass each Sunday and Wednesday in Lent to receive Christ's gifts in Preaching and His Supper.

WEDNESDAYS IN LENT Join us for additional opportunities for worship during Lent at **9:30am** and **7pm** in the Church. The sermon themes will be based on the Psalm for each week.

Invocabit – March 12	Psalm 25	"Pardon my iniquity, for it is great"
Reminiscere – March 19	Psalm 38	"You will hear, O Lord my God"
Oculi – March 26	Psalm 31	"Be my rock of refuge"
Laetare – April 2	Psalm 34	"Blessed is the man who trusts in Him"
Judica – April 9	Psalm 18	"Your Right Hand has held me up"