Savior of the Nations, Come! by Father Braden

As this issue of the Trumpet arrives, the paraments are yet violet. They are not the deep violet of Lent, although they reflect that intense hue. But now they are the brighter violet of Advent, as our repentance is tempered by the hope of the Coming of the Promised One, the One who comes in the Name of the Lord, the One to whom faith cries “Hosanna!”, “Save now!”

As we process through these violet days, we glimpse for a moment the rose of rejoicing, and we draw nigh unto the celebration of the Holy Incarnation of our Lord Jesus Christ, the greatest of all Mysteries. The Eternal God, the God who fills heaven and earth, deigned for a time to fill the womb of the Virgin Mary.

The One who is before all things, the Alpha, assumed Flesh in time and was born a Man. Through Him all things were made – He stood at the Father’s side as a Master Craftsman when the stars were hung and the equator traced out, when the seas were given their boundaries and the waters above were separated from the waters below. It was His breath, the breath that gives life, that animated the first man, by which he became a living being.

The same Word came unto His own, but His own received Him not. The earthly betrothed of the Virgin, not wanting to make her a public example, prepared to put her away secretly. But God intervened. The Son of God already growing in the Virgin’s womb, an angel appeared to Joseph and revealed the unimaginable to him:

Matthew 1: 23

“Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and shall bear a Son”

In This Issue
Savior of the Nations, Come! PAGES 1–2
Christmas Schedule PAGES 3–4
Installation of Officers PAGE 4
Anniversary PAGE 4
Birthdays and Anniversaries PAGE 5
December Calendar PAGE 6
January Calendar PAGE 7
“...that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit”.

And more, that angel spoke Words that bring you great hope: “...And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His Name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins.” And so it was that the Lord that rode into Bethlehem in His mother’s womb rode into Jerusalem on the prophesied beast, now not to manger, but to cross. There He saved you from your sins. And as He emptied the womb of His mother, so He miraculously emptied that sealed tomb, leaving death forever buried, leaving your sins entombed, removed from you as far as the east is from the west.

Isaiah prophesied that bright manger scene as he wrote, 700 years before, “The ox knows its owner, and the donkey its master’s crib.” (Isaiah 1:3) But like unto the men of that time, the ones who received Him not, so the men of our time are as the prophet describes “Alas, sinful nation, A people laden with iniquity, A brood of evildoers, Children who are corrupters! They have forsaken the LORD, They have provoked to anger The Holy One of Israel, They have turned away backward.” (Isaiah 1:4)

So as the world hangs candy canes and garlands, the Christ of Christmas is rejected. As the world sings of snowmen and sleighrides, they testify that they receive Him not. The world around us spirals downward into debauchery and lasciviousness, each generation growing worse in its rejection of the Miracle of the Virgin’s Son, the Holy Incarnation.

And yet in mercy, in His great love which knows no limit, He does not forsake us. For “Behold, Daughter of Zion, your King comes!” The Savior of the Nations comes. He is the Coming One, the One whose Advent brings salvation, the One whose final Advent brings the resurrection of all flesh. His forgiveness is for you. His righteousness He makes yours.

His Name is Jesus, for He saves you from your sins. And He does it by coming to you, the Coming One present now, by whose breath the first man received life, who breathed that same breath unto His Apostles giving them the Keys to the Kingdom of Heaven, that when the Called and Ordained Servant of the Word speaks Holy Absolution upon you, it is as if Christ Himself speaks it.

As the Baptist called the multitudes to repentance, so does faith feel true contrition. As we prepare to celebrate His birth, as we await His final Advent, we do so repentantly, expectantly, hopefully, and with the glimpse of rose even joyfully. We live not for this life, but for the next, the life He won for us, the life that cannot be taken away.

“Unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given!” As the violet of Adventite gives way to the bright gold of the Celebration of the Nativity of our Lord, may the same Christ bless you richly by His Word and Holy Sacraments, as He blesses and keeps you steadfast in faith until His final Advent.
The Zion Parish Calendar

**SUNDAY**
- 8:45a Matins
- 9:15a Private Confession and Absolution
- 10a Holy Mass
- 10a Holy Mass (Chapel)
- 7p Vespers
- 7p Adult Catechesis
- 7:30p Men’s Group
- 7p Holy Mass
- 11a Bible Study
- 11:30a Sunday School & Adult Bible Study
- 12p Trustee’s Meeting
- 6:30p Vespers
- 6:30p Men’s Group
- 7:30p Men’s Group
- 10a Holy Mass
- 10a Holy Mass (Chapel)
- 7p Holy Mass (Chapel)
- 12p Trustee’s Meeting
- 6:30p Vespers
- 6:30p Men’s Group
- 7:30p Men’s Group
- 10a Holy Mass
- 10a Holy Mass (Chapel)
- 7p Holy Mass (Chapel)
- 12p Trustee’s Meeting
- 6:30p Vespers
- 6:30p Men’s Group
- 7:30p Men’s Group
- 10a Holy Mass
- 10a Holy Mass (Chapel)
- 7p Holy Mass (Chapel)

**MONDAY**
- 8:45a Matins
- 9:15a Private Confession and Absolution
- 10a Holy Mass
- 10a Holy Mass (Chapel)
- 7p Vespers
- 7p Adult Catechesis
- 7p Holy Mass
- 11a Bible Study
- 11:30a Sunday School & Adult Bible Study
- 12p Trustee’s Meeting
- 6:30p Vespers
- 6:30p Men’s Group
- 7:30p Men’s Group
- 10a Holy Mass
- 10a Holy Mass (Chapel)
- 7p Holy Mass (Chapel)
- 12p Trustee’s Meeting
- 6:30p Vespers
- 6:30p Men’s Group
- 7:30p Men’s Group
- 10a Holy Mass
- 10a Holy Mass (Chapel)
- 7p Holy Mass (Chapel)

**TUESDAY**
- 8:45a Matins
- 9:15a Private Confession and Absolution
- 10a Holy Mass
- 10a Holy Mass (Chapel)
- 7p Vespers
- 7p Adult Catechesis
- 7p Holy Mass
- 11a Bible Study
- 11:30a Sunday School & Adult Bible Study
- 12p Trustee’s Meeting
- 6:30p Vespers
- 6:30p Men’s Group
- 7:30p Men’s Group
- 10a Holy Mass
- 10a Holy Mass (Chapel)
- 7p Holy Mass (Chapel)
- 12p Trustee’s Meeting
- 6:30p Vespers
- 6:30p Men’s Group
- 7:30p Men’s Group
- 10a Holy Mass
- 10a Holy Mass (Chapel)
- 7p Holy Mass (Chapel)

**WEDNESDAY**
- 8:45a Matins
- 9:15a Private Confession and Absolution
- 10a Holy Mass
- 10a Holy Mass (Chapel)
- 7p Vespers
- 7p Adult Catechesis
- 7p Holy Mass
- 11a Bible Study
- 11:30a Sunday School & Adult Bible Study
- 12p Trustee’s Meeting
- 6:30p Vespers
- 6:30p Men’s Group
- 7:30p Men’s Group
- 10a Holy Mass
- 10a Holy Mass (Chapel)
- 7p Holy Mass (Chapel)
- 12p Trustee’s Meeting
- 6:30p Vespers
- 6:30p Men’s Group
- 7:30p Men’s Group
- 10a Holy Mass
- 10a Holy Mass (Chapel)
- 7p Holy Mass (Chapel)

**THURSDAY**
- 8:45a Matins
- 9:15a Private Confession and Absolution
- 10a Holy Mass
- 10a Holy Mass (Chapel)
- 7p Vespers
- 7p Adult Catechesis
- 7p Holy Mass
- 11a Bible Study
- 11:30a Sunday School & Adult Bible Study
- 12p Trustee’s Meeting
- 6:30p Vespers
- 6:30p Men’s Group
- 7:30p Men’s Group
- 10a Holy Mass
- 10a Holy Mass (Chapel)
- 7p Holy Mass (Chapel)
- 12p Trustee’s Meeting
- 6:30p Vespers
- 6:30p Men’s Group
- 7:30p Men’s Group
- 10a Holy Mass
- 10a Holy Mass (Chapel)
- 7p Holy Mass (Chapel)

**FRIDAY**
- 8:45a Matins
- 9:15a Private Confession and Absolution
- 10a Holy Mass
- 10a Holy Mass (Chapel)
- 7p Vespers
- 7p Adult Catechesis
- 7p Holy Mass
- 11a Bible Study
- 11:30a Sunday School & Adult Bible Study
- 12p Trustee’s Meeting
- 6:30p Vespers
- 6:30p Men’s Group
- 7:30p Men’s Group
- 10a Holy Mass
- 10a Holy Mass (Chapel)
- 7p Holy Mass (Chapel)
- 12p Trustee’s Meeting
- 6:30p Vespers
- 6:30p Men’s Group
- 7:30p Men’s Group
- 10a Holy Mass
- 10a Holy Mass (Chapel)
- 7p Holy Mass (Chapel)

**SATURDAY**
- 8:45a Matins
- 9:15a Private Confession and Absolution
- 10a Holy Mass
- 10a Holy Mass (Chapel)
- 7p Vespers
- 7p Adult Catechesis
- 7p Holy Mass
- 11a Bible Study
- 11:30a Sunday School & Adult Bible Study
- 12p Trustee’s Meeting
- 6:30p Vespers
- 6:30p Men’s Group
- 7:30p Men’s Group
- 10a Holy Mass
- 10a Holy Mass (Chapel)
- 7p Holy Mass (Chapel)
- 12p Trustee’s Meeting
- 6:30p Vespers
- 6:30p Men’s Group
- 7:30p Men’s Group
- 10a Holy Mass
- 10a Holy Mass (Chapel)
- 7p Holy Mass (Chapel)

**December 31**
- 8:45a Matins
- 9:15a Private Confession and Absolution
- 10a Holy Mass
- 10a Holy Mass (Chapel)
- 7p Vespers
- 7p Adult Catechesis
- 7p Holy Mass
- 11a Bible Study
- 11:30a Sunday School & Adult Bible Study
- 12p Trustee’s Meeting
- 6:30p Vespers
- 6:30p Men’s Group
- 7:30p Men’s Group
- 10a Holy Mass
- 10a Holy Mass (Chapel)
- 7p Holy Mass (Chapel)
- 12p Trustee’s Meeting
- 6:30p Vespers
- 6:30p Men’s Group
- 7:30p Men’s Group
- 10a Holy Mass
- 10a Holy Mass (Chapel)
- 7p Holy Mass (Chapel)

**The Zion Trumpet**

The Zion Trumpet is the informational and educational newsletter of Zion Evangelical-Lutheran Church. It communicates the news of Zion and instructs members in various aspects of the Christian Faith.

The Trumpet is published six times each year. It is free for members of Zion. Non-members are invited to contribute toward the production and mailing of the Trumpet.

Zion Evangelical-Lutheran Church is a parish of the one, holy catholic and apostolic Church is a parish of the one, holy catholic and apostolic Church and is affiliated with the English district of the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod.

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**Christmastide Schedule**

Again this year we enjoy a rich and full celebration of Holy Christmas with daily Mass from the Feast of the Nativity of our Lord through the Sunday in the Octave of the Epiphany. Please set aside time to put away the things of the world, and to receive the Gifts of Heaven that our Incarnate Lord brings us in the Holy Mass:

**Fourth Sunday in Advent** – December 24, Sung Mass in the Church at 10:00 a.m.

**The Nativity of our Lord, Midnight** – Sung Mass in the Church at 12:00 a.m.

**The Nativity of our Lord** – Sung Mass in the Church at 10:00 a.m.

**St. Stephen, Proto-Martyr** (12/26) – Spoken Mass in the Chapel at 10:00 a.m.

**St. John, Apostle & Evangelist** (12/27) – Spoken Mass in the Church at 7:00 p.m.

**The Holy Innocents, Martyrs** (12/28) – Spoken Mass in the Church at 7:00 p.m.

**Fifth and Sixth Days of Christmas** (12/29, 30) – Spoken Mass in the Chapel at 10:00 a.m.

**Sunday in the Christmas Octave** (12/31) – Sung Mass in the Church, 10:00 a.m.

**The Circumcision of our Lord** (1/1) – Sang Mass in the Church at 10:00 a.m.

**The Holy Name of Jesus** (1/2) – Sung Mass in the Church at 10:00 a.m.

**The Tenth Day of Christmas** (1/3) – Spoken Mass in the Chapel at 10:00 a.m.

**St. Titus, Bishop & Confessor** (1/4) – Spoken Mass in the Church at 7:00 p.m.

Continued on page 4
The Twelfth Day of Christmas (1/5) - Spoken Mass in the Chapel at 10:00 a.m.
The Epiphany of our Lord (1/6) - Sung Mass in the Church at 10:00 a.m.
Holy Family, Sunday in the Epiphany Octave (1/7) - Sung Mass in the Church
at 10:00 a.m.
The Baptism of our Lord (1/13) - Sung Mass in the Church at 10:00 a.m.

Installation of Officers Zion is richly blessed with faithful members who serve our parish. It is
a joy to work with them, and I sincerely appreciate their efforts on behalf of the smooth operation of the many
facets of our life on Zion’s campus. Each year at our Annual Meeting in October we elect new and returning
officers, who are installed into their positions in early January. I extend my sincere thanks to those who have
served in the past year, and I look forward to accomplishing our parish goals together with the new officers
in the upcoming year, Deo volente. Watch the Sunday Bulletin for the announcement of the Installation of the 2018 officers of our congregation. Please keep them in your prayers, and support them in their work.

Anniversary
As we move from 2017 into the Year of our Lord 2018, we remember that we are still in our 135th Anniversary
year of the founding of Zion. I am daily thankful for all those faithful members and Pastors that came before,
upon whose shoulders we stand, who laid the solid foundation upon which we build, which the Holy Spirit
working through them brought, for the true Foundation and Cornerstone is Christ Jesus. (Acts 4:10-12; 1 Corinthians 3:11) Were we established on anything or anyone else, we would be but sinking sand.

And as we move from 2017 into the Year of our Lord 2018, I celebrate my ninth anniversary as Pastor of Zion.

Each day of Christmastide is a unique Celebration, taken together we enjoy the fulness of the blessing of the Holy Incarnation of our Lord Jesus Christ. Join us, won’t you, as we receive God’s Gifts? And join us as we ponder that which passes our understanding, and yet benefits and blesses us beyond measure: the Mystery of the Holy Incarnation of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Birthday Anniversaries
December
2 Jessica Chavez
14 Theodore Krey
17 Kathleen Atkins
19 Fayth Atkins
20 Revelle Cross
20 Roselle Cross III
25 Thomas Habitiz, Jr.
27 Janet Schulz
January
2 Alexandria Atkins
2 Natalie Balaska
8 Nancy Gramzow
23 Anna Dalton
23 Judith Donnell
23 Richard Schultz
25 Rose Atkins

Baptism Anniversaries
December
15 Paula MacMunn
29 Theodore Krey
January
17 Janet Schulz
20 Alexandria Atkins
25 Rose Atkins

Holy Mass is celebrated every Sunday and Wednesday at 10am, 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, please visit with the Pastor before approaching the Altar.

The Divine Office is prayed in the Chapel of the Holy Incarnation in the Rectory. Matins: Daily 8:45am (except when there is a morning Mass); Vespers: Thursday 6:30pm.

Private Confession and Absolution is available on Saturday from 9-11am or by appointment.

Pastoral Consultation based on the Holy Scriptures is available by appointment.

The Sacrament of Holy Baptism is for infants and adults, and may be arranged by contacting the Pastor.

 Couples desiring Holy Marriage should contact the Pastor before finalizing the wedding date. Bible 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. Visit with the Pastor for further details.

The Sick and 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, Jubilare Deo Women’s Choir, St. Seraphim Prayer Guild, Society of St. Samuel (Altar Boys), Usher Club, Zion Endowment Board.

Deacons William Gramzow, Thomas Habitiz, Jr., Michael Anderson Trustees Silas Gray, Paul Snoes, Kevin Wiedelman, Parish Education: Shirley Cross, Robert Kelly III, Sarah Braden Officers of the Voters: Thomas Habitiz, Jr. (chairman), Alan Kroske (vice-chairman), Pamela Ruffin (secretary), Kevin Wiedelman (treasurer), Jessica Chavez (financial secretary).