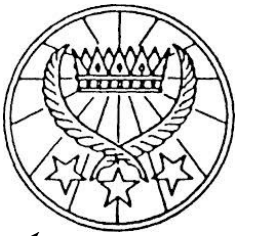


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“Blow the Trumpet in Zion” (Joel 2.15)



Zion Trumpet

Zion Evangelical-Lutheran Church of Detroit

August/September 2018

St. Michael Liturgical Conference -

The annual St. Michael Liturgical Conference will be held, Lord willing, at Zion on Monday, September 24. This will be the 21st St. Michael Conference, my tenth. The theme of this year’s Conference is “The Lord’s Supper”. The Keynote presentation and the three shorter papers will all focus on the the Holy Eucharist - Its



Institution, Celebration, the Celebrant, and Lutheran Communion Hymnody.

The Conference begins with the Solemn Mass at 9:30 a.m., with Father David Petersen, Senior Pastor of Redeemer Evangelical-Lutheran Church of Fort Wayne preaching. As I announced earlier, we are delighted to feature the Rev. Dr. Naomichi Masaki as our Keynote presenter. Dr. Masaki is a Luther scholar, a Professor at our Fort Wayne Seminary, and an accomplished author. Dr. Masaki will present a paper on the Words of Institution, the *Verba Domini*, the Words our Lord spoke as He Instituted the Sacrament of the Altar.

Three shorter papers will focus on the same theme, the Lord’s Supper. Fr. Charles McClean, friend of Zion, author of *The Conduct of the Services*, past Keynote Presenter, who recently celebrated his 50th anniversary of Ordination, will discuss the rubrics attendant to the Consecration. The Rev. Dr. Daniel Reuning, Dean of our seminary chapel for over 32 years, Kantor of Redeemer, Fort Wayne, and Director of the Fort Wayne Bach Collegium, will feature several Communion hymns from his soon-to-be-published hymnal *Te Laudamus*, and discuss their

Continued on Page 2

“Now may the God of Peace Himself sanctify you completely; and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. He who calls you is faithful, who also will do it. Brethren, pray for us.”

1 Thessalonians 5:23-25

In This Issue

St. Michael Liturgical Conference	PAGE 1
The Dormition of the B.V.M.	PAGE 2
Vicar	PAGE 4
Of Deacons, Bishops and Archdeacons	PAGE 4
Standing Notices	PAGE 5
Parish Anniversaries	PAGE 7
Christian Education	PAGE 7
The Annual Voters Assembly	PAGE 7
Enclosures:	
August/September Calendars	

theology and origin. The Rev. Dr. Burnell Eckardt, Pastor of St. Paul Evangelical-Lutheran Church of Kewanee, Illinois, General Editor of *Gottesdienst* magazine, and author of several books on theology and the Lutheran liturgy, will present a paper on the Image of God as it relates to the Incarnation of Christ and the Pastoral Office.

A question and answer session and a Presenters' Roundtable will allow Conference participants to interact with the presenters. The Office of Sext will be prayed at noon, the Office of Solemn Vespers at 4:45 p.m., and the day will end with a reception in the Undercroft, at which Conference participants and presenters will have a chance to mingle and enjoy food and beverages.

Please join us at the Conference! Registration forms are available in the Narthex. Take a few with you and pass them to others you think might be interested. If you're available and would like to volunteer on the day of the Conference, see Fr. Braden.

The Dormition of the B.V.M.

"Dormition" means "falling asleep". The "M" is Mary, of course, the Virgin Mother of our Lord



Jesus Christ. We should not be afraid to use the abbreviation "B.V.M." when we speak of Mary, which stands for Blessed Virgin Mary, a designation taken from Holy Scripture. None other than the Archangel Gabriel pronounces Mary "blessed among women" at the account of the Annunciation in the Gospel of St. Luke, chapter 1, verse 21.

Shortly afterwards, Elizabeth, mother of John the Baptizer, filled with the Holy Spirit, proclaims of Mary "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the Fruit of your womb!" (Luke 1:42) But the designation "Blessed" does not mean that Mary was without sin, she wasn't. The only Immaculate Conception was that of her Son, our Lord. Nor does "Blessed" mean that she was spared physical death, although after the Ascension of Christ Scripture nowhere records the events of her life or death.

While the Lord Christ suffered on the cross, only a few of the faithful remained - Mary and St. John, son of Zebedee, the "Beloved Disciple", are named in the crucifixion account in John 19:26. It is there, having been forsaken by His Father, and so leaving His Father, that the Lord leaves His mother by giving her to St. John, that the Incarnate Son of God fulfill the prophecy in Genesis 2:24, and be made one Flesh with His Holy Bride, the Church. It is there, on Calvary, that the Lord gives Mary to John as his mother, and John to Mary as her son. In a perfect keeping of the Fourth Commandment, even in suffering and death the Lord honors His mother, and by His perfect faithfulness on the cross and His final Utterance honors His Father.

It is the tradition of the Church that after the Ascension of our Lord, Mary went with St. John to

Birthday Anniversaries Baptism Anniversaries

August

5 Sydney Atkins
9 John Chavez
14 Jennifer De Vera
17 Rosell Cross, Jr.
27 Joshua Chavez
28 Robert Werner

September

2 Teri Kelly
2 Alexis Ruffin
15 Ethan Atkins
20 Lois Meriwether
23 Drucilla Huddleston

August

5 Pamela Ruffin
17 Jennifer De Vera
18 Sydney Atkins

September

11 Robert Werner
17 Alexis Ruffin
20 Paul Snoes
26 Shirley Bradley

Marriage Anniversaries

September

8 Rev. and Mrs. Mark Braden
18 Dr. and Mrs. Michael Anderson

Christian Education at Zion

Sunday Adult Study 11:30am | Undercroft
Study of the Gospel of St. John; Coffee is provided; Thanks to those who bring refreshments.

Sunday School 11:30am | Rectory
Children ages 3—grade 8 study the Sunday Gospel lesson and have activities and music designed to enhance the biblical teaching. September-May.

Sunday Youth Study 11:40am | Rectory
Young adults in high school and college who are confirmed meet to study the Holy Scriptures organized around the six chief parts of Christian doctrine.

New Member Class Monday | 7pm | Rectory

Wednesday Adult Study 10:45am | Rectory
Study of the Book of Genesis. Often the group goes out to lunch following the study.

Youth Catechesis Saturday | 10am | Rectory
For children preparing for Confirmation, this class instructs students in the basics of the Christian Faith through *Luther's Small Catechism*.

Adult Catechesis Thursday | 7pm | Rectory
The study of *The True Visible Church* by C.F.W. Walther, this class allows members and guests to study Christian doctrine at a more advanced level.

Men's Group 1 Tue. & 1 Thr. a month | 7pm | Rectory
Study of Martin Chemnitz's *The Two Natures of Christ*.

Women's Group 2 Saturdays a month | 1pm | Rectory
Study of The Book of Proverbs.

The Annual Voters' Assembly

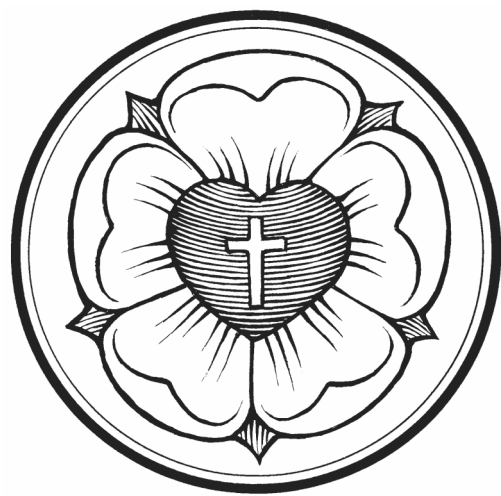
of Zion was held after Mass on Sunday, July 15. Zion has two Voters' Assemblies each year. The May meeting is generally for the approval of the congregational budget, the October meeting for the election of congregational officers. At both meetings the Pastor and all the Boards give reports to the congregation of their activities. The May meeting has been held later for the last few years to allow the Board of Trustees to accurately budget the income and expenses of the upcoming year, hence the July date of this year's meeting.

It is a joy to participate in a meeting of Christians united in peace and amity to do the work of the congregation. We show our love and support for one another by being present and participating. We are afforded opportunities to serve Zion in the various congregational offices. We stand together in making decisions that affect the congregation for years to come. The October Voters' Assembly is scheduled for Sunday, October 28 following Mass. Mark your calendar now and plan to attend to support Zion and your brothers and sisters in Christ. Watch the Bulletin for updates on the upcoming meeting, and for notification of open congregational positions in which you might serve. The 2018-2019 budget, and the minutes from the July Voters' Assembly, are available from the church office.



Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.” Here “bishops” and “deacons” are used together as titles for positions in the Apostolic Church. Deacons served, Bishops oversaw the work of the Church. In 1 Timothy 3:2-13, St. Paul lists the qualifications that men must possess to serve either as Bishop or Deacon. Both positions have their foundations in the Apostolic Church.

As the church grew, additional positions were necessary for the work of the Gospel. In the late fourth century, the title of Archdeacon, or “head deacon”, was used. The Archdeacon was above most clergy, but below the Bishop. It was usually a title of honor, bestowed in the administration of the Christian diocese. Although the use of the title Archdeacon varied significantly over the years, in German “Protestant” parishes the title was conferred on the *Unterpfarrer*, or “Senior Assistant Pastor”. As our Thursday night Adult Catechesis group reads through C.F.W. Walther’s *True Visible Church*, Walther, the first President of the



Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, frequently cites August Pfeiffer, a 19th century Lutheran Archdeacon, Professor and Superintendent.

Deacons, Bishops, and Archdeacons... what does this all have to do with Zion? At the annual Voters’ Assembly held on Sunday, July 15th, the Zion Board of Deacons announced that the Rt. Rev. Dr. David Stechholz, Bishop Emeritus and President Emeritus of the English District, would be inducted as Archdeacon of Zion on Sunday, August 5, 2018 A.M. Zion has enjoyed a relationship with Bishop Emeritus Stechholz for many years, as he served as Bishop and President of our district, and made frequent episcopal visits to Zion. Since his retirement, he and his wife Janet have joined Zion, and have been very active in the congregation. Their son Andrew has been an active Zion member for many years. Bishop Emeritus Stechholz has recently served regularly as liturgical Deacon for the Mass, and has filled in for me in my absence by preaching and celebrating when I was away.

Zion is using the term Archdeacon in the sense explained above as used by the German churches. It is a liturgical, not an administrative position. It is a title of honor conferred on a man who possesses the necessary Scriptural qualifications as outlined by St. Paul, an ordained man, a Bishop Emeritus, who is committed to the Ministry of the Gospel at Zion, and who serves in the liturgical position of Deacon in the Mass.

I am thankful for the help and support that Archdeacon Stechholz has given Zion over the years, and I look forward to his service to Zion in this new capacity.

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.

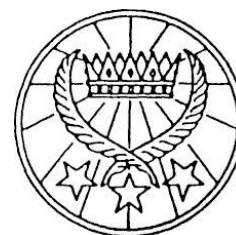
The **Trumpet** is published six times each year. It is free for members of Zion. Non-members are invited to contribute toward the production and mailing of the **Trumpet**.

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

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Ephesus, where John served as Bishop of the Churches of Asia Minor (see Revelation, chapters 2 and 3). Traditions vary on Mary’s physical death. Early Church Fathers like St. Ambrose of Milan (d. 397) and St. Epihanianus (d. 403) make no mention of the “Assumption of Mary”, a later tradition that holds that she was assumed, body and soul, into heavenly glory. Some traditions dating to the fourth century, over 300 years after the Ascension of our Lord, say that on the way to her burial in Jerusalem, the body of Mary was assumed. Still other traditions purport that three days after her death Mary’s body was raised and she was assumed into heaven. Other traditions claim that the Apostles, having witnessed Mary’s death and burial (as ancient art depicts), opening Mary’s tomb after three days, found it empty.

The dates of these supposed events vary widely, even in the earliest accounts, from three years after the Ascension to fifty years after the Ascension. The accounts are dubious at best. That has not stopped the Eastern and Romish churches from asserting



Mary’s Assumption, although the details and historic dates of the observances vary. Ultimately the Eastern church arrived at the *Koimesis*, or “falling asleep” of Mary, still generally asserting her assumption after death.

Nothing is impossible with God. Mary is clearly the “God Bearer”, the chosen Virgin who by the mysterious work of the Holy Spirit conceived and gave birth to the Promised Messiah, the Divine Child, Jesus Christ. That miracle the Scriptures clearly record, and we celebrate the events on March 25th (The Annunciation) and December 25th (The Nativity of our Lord, Holy Christmas). It is in accord with the Analogy of Faith, the sum total of all the clear passages of

Scripture, that Mary died a normal human death.

The Commemoration of that event, although the date is nowhere recorded in Scripture, is observed among us every year on August 15th, as Zion celebrates The Dormition of Mary with a special Mass. This is the same day that the Romish church celebrates the "Assumption of Mary". It is good and right, and yes, salutary, to receive God's Gifts on that date each year and to boldly and rightly proclaim, in the face of the uncertain traditions of fallen men, the salvation and eternal life that faithful Mary had, as we too have it: by God's grace through faith in Jesus Christ; and to remember in thanksgiving Blessed Mary and the Blessed One that was conceived of the Holy Ghost of the Virgin Mary and was made Man, Whom God brought forth from her for the life of the world. Join us, won't you, at 7:00 p.m. on August 15 for the Feast of the Dormition of Mary.

Vicar Several years ago the Zion Church Council agreed that Zion would request a Vicar every second year, the years in between used to save money to allow for the Vicar's salary and benefits. Three Vicars served Zion under this agreement: Ryan Beffrey, now Ordained and serving as Pastor of Epiphany Evangelical-Lutheran Church of Dorr, Michigan; Peter Eckardt, now Ordained and serving as Associate Pastor of Immanuel Evangelical-Lutheran Church of Alexandria, Virginia; and Winston Grieser, now Ordained and serving as Pastor of Abiding Faith Evangelical-Lutheran Church of Florence, Kentucky.

Due to a severe and unplanned reduction in income from the charter school, we have not

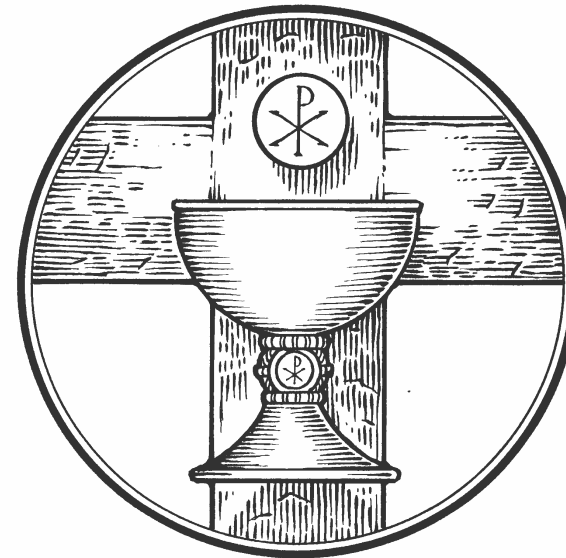
had a Vicar since Vicar Grieser. Two consecutive years we have attempted to bring a Vicar from our new seminary in the Dominican Republic, but acquisition of an American visa seemed to be an insurmountable obstacle. After Vladimir Mendoza (a seminarist in the Dominican Republic) was denied a visa to come to Zion and serve here, the seminary suggested a second candidate. Our church council has decided that the budget is too tight in the upcoming year to afford a Vicar, a decision I support completely. If sufficient funds are available in the 2019-2020 budget year, the Council will revisit the question.

Of Deacons, Bishops and Archdeacons

The noun "deacon" first appears in Holy Scripture in the twentieth chapter of the Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 26th verse, where we read: "...whoever desires to become great among you, let him be your servant." The word "servant" is the English translation of the Greek word δίακονος (*diakonos*). Even those who don't read Greek can see the word "deacon" in those letters.

The noun "deacon" in the New Testament is from a family of words that denote "service". The work of a deacon is to serve others. Consider the Lord's admonition to His disciples in Matthew 23:11: "he who is greatest among you shall be your servant." Again here the English word translated "servant" is "deacon" in the original language of the New Testament. Now read John 2:5 and see if you can find the word "deacons" translated into English as "servants".

The Lord uses the word "deacon" soon afterwards in the Gospel according to St. John. In John 12:26 He says: "...If anyone serves Me, let him follow Me; and where I am, there My servant will be also."



Where Christ is, there the deacons of Christ are found. Which brings us to an important group of deacons in the New Testament, found in the Book of Acts. In Acts 6:3-6, the Apostles chose seven men of good reputation, full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom, to assist them in their ministrations so that the Apostles could focus on preaching the Word of God. It is in this sense - Christian men that assist by serving - that Zion uses the title "deacon" for the laymen of our parish that assist the Pastor in the spiritual work of his office, although the original Deacons as named in the Book of Acts were ordained.

Later in the Book of Acts, in St. Paul's farewell address to the elders of the Ephesian Church, he admonishes them "Therefore take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood. (Act 20:28)" The word "overseers" is commonly translated "bishops". Consider how St. Paul uses the same word in his introduction to the Epistle to the Philippians: "Paul and Timothy, bondservants of Jesus Christ, To all the saints in Christ Jesus who are in Philippi, with the bishops and deacons: Grace to you and peace from God our

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 9-10am 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, Jubilate Deo Women's Choir, St. Seraphim Prayer Guild, Society of St. Samuel (Altar Boys), Usher Club, Zion Endowment Board.

DEACONS William Gramzow, Thomas Habitz, Jr., Michael Anderson **TRUSTEES:** Silas Gray, Paul Snoes, **PARISH EDUCATION:** Shirley Cross, Robert Kelly III, Sarah Braden; **OFFICERS OF THE VOTERS:** Thomas Habitz, Jr. (chairman), Alan Kroske (vice-chairman), Pamela Ruffin (secretary), Paul Snoes (treasurer), Jessica Chavez (financial secretary).