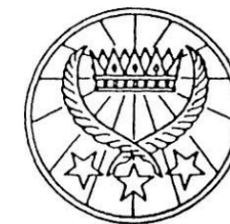


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"Blow the Trumpet in Zion" (Joel 2.15)



# Zion Trumpet

Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church of Detroit

February/March 2018

by Father Braden

**St. Matthias** is only mentioned briefly in Scripture. As the Apostles debate how to replace Judas Iscariot, we read in the Book of Acts "And they proposed two: Joseph called Barsabas, who was surnamed Justus, and Matthias. And they prayed and said, 'You, O Lord, who know the hearts of all, show which of these two You have chosen to take part in this ministry and apostleship from which Judas by transgression fell, that he might go to his own place.' And they cast their lots, and the lot fell on Matthias. And he was numbered with the eleven apostles." (Acts 1:23-26) After his choosing, Matthias is not mentioned again in Scripture. Because of the criteria used in his selection, it is most likely that Matthias was among the 70 (St. Luke 10:1-11) He is apparently present at Pentecost (Acts 2:1 follows his choosing immediately), and receives the Gift of the Holy Spirit with the Eleven. But after that, Scripture is silent on St. Matthias.

The name Matthias is derived from the Hebrew, and means "Gift of God". The name Matthew is derived from the same Hebrew words. In Apocryphal writings, the two men are sometimes confused. The tradition of the church is that Matthias went forward from Pentecost and preached the Gospel in Ethiopia. He is also reputed to have encountered the *anthropophagi*, which quite literally means "man eaters" in Greek. The accounts of St. Matthias' death vary wildly, but all include his martyrdom for the Gospel.

An Alexandrian gnostic heretic, Basilides, claimed to continue the doctrine and practice of Sts. Peter and Matthias. His doctrine (which has been poorly preserved) however, seems to have been a mix of Christianity with Stoic and Platonic philosophy, and included 365

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*I was glad when they said unto me: "Let us go into the house of the Lord."*

PSALM 122: 1

*from the Introit for Laetare*

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heavens and several gods. It is therefore quite unlikely that he accurately represented the Apostolic doctrine of Sts. Peter and Matthias.

The Commemoration of St. Matthias is celebrated on February 24<sup>th</sup> each year. He is commemorated as an Apostle. Because the church counts him a martyr, the color is red. Spoken Mass will be celebrated in the Chapel at 10:00 a.m.

## A number of years ago<sup>a</sup>

Pastor friend handed down to me a well-worn book entitled *Sermons on the Passion of Christ* by Dr. Martin Luther. It is a translation from the German by one E. Smid and one J.T. Isensee, printed by Augustana Press of Rock Island, Illinois in 1956. The source of the sermons isn't disclosed, they don't match the sermons in Luther's Postils. I have enjoyed reading this little book each year as Lent begins. It is a special joy to hear the Blessed Reformer's Lenten preaching as we prepare for the Holy Forty Day Fast.

If you attend our various studies at Zion, you are quite familiar with Luther's preaching, on which I frequently call for devotional texts during Matins and Vespers, Divine Offices which regularly precede our studies. I'd like to share a bit more of Luther's preaching with you here, taken from his opening "Meditation on the benefits accruing from the Passion of the Christ": "To preach the passion of Christ our Lord properly, it is not sufficient to read the narrative to the people, but we must add admonition and instruction, that they may realize and remember why Christ suffered thus, and in what way they are benefited by His passion... (here Luther rails on the poor preaching of the Papists)

If we attentively consider the preaching of the apostles and prophets, we shall find a totally

different method of preaching on the passion of our Lord. They did not waste words on the simple story of the event, but presented it unadorned, pointedly and briefly. But of the meaning of this passion, and how it is effective for us if properly applied - of this they spoke repeatedly and much...

It was indeed a short sermon, if merely the words are counted, when John spoke of Christ: 'Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world.'" But if we carefully meditate upon these words, we shall discover how much they contain for our edification and comfort, if we but receive them in true faith. John calls the Lord a 'Lamb', because he was to be slain, even as a victim is slain. All the sacrifices of heifers, oxen, calves and lambs, which took place under the Old Testament, were but types of that perfect and only efficient sacrifice, which Christ our Savior offered to redeem the whole world through His own blood...

This expression, 'Lamb of God', is further intended to arouse our faith to accept such a sacrifice, which God in His infinite mercy and love has made for our salvation. Indeed, by it we are to be convinced that because God himself ordained this sacrifice, it is really perfect and all-sufficient to accomplish what these words say, namely, to take away the sin of the world." (*Sermons on the Passion of Christ by Dr. Martin Luther, pgs. 6-8*)

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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## Lenten Observance at Zion,

The Holy Forty Day Fast of Lent begins this year on Ash Wednesday, February 14<sup>th</sup>. The Words of the Prophet Joel admonish the chosen people of God to true repentance, not an external repentance to be seen by others, but a tearing of heart in anguish over sin, all the while trusting in God's Gospel Promise. Repentantly, in heightened devotion, each Wednesday of Lent we will receive God's gifts of Word, Sacrament, Liturgy and Preaching at 9:30 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. in the Church. The Wednesday Lenten sermons will focus on questions in the appointed Gospel readings, by which the Lord, the Suffering Servant, leads us to understand the horrible sentence rightly imposed upon sinful men, and the gracious Promise of deliverance in Christ Jesus.

**February 14<sup>th</sup> - Ash Wednesday** - The Imposition of Ashes

Sung Mass at 9:30 a.m. and 7:00 p.m.

**Invocabit, February 21<sup>st</sup> - Ember Wednesday**

"Who is my mother, and who are my brothers?", *Matthew 12:38-50*

**Reminiscere, February 28<sup>th</sup> - "Are you able to drink the cup?"** *Matthew 20:17-28*

**Oculi, March 7<sup>th</sup> - "Are you still without understanding?"**

*Matthew 15:1-20*

**Laetare, March 14<sup>th</sup> - "Who sinned, this man or his parents?"**

*John 9:1-38*

**Judica, March 21<sup>st</sup> - "For which of those works do you stone Me?"** *John 10:22-38*

Make our midweek Masses a central part of your family's repentant preparation for the celebration of Holy Easter!

# We live at once in the Kingdoms of the left and the Right.

As a baptized Christian, redeemed by Christ, I am a subject of His Heavenly Kingdom, the Kingdom of love and grace, the Kingdom that has no end. That Kingdom comes to me when God gives me His Holy Spirit. But as a resident of Dearborn, a Michigander, a citizen of the United States of America, I am also a subject of the kingdom of the left, of civil government. Civil governments come and go, nations rise and fall, all men go the way of dust. Still, as a Christian, I must render unto Caesar what is Caesar's. And as such, I have civic duties. Based on a summons I received a few weeks ago, it has pleased the civil authorities to call me to those duties - I have received a notice to appear for jury duty at the Frank Murphy Hall of Justice in Detroit on Wednesday, February 21<sup>st</sup> at 7:45 a.m.

As you see in the schedule of Lenten mid-week Masses above, my civic duties conflict with my vocation as Pastor. After conferring with our Board of Deacons, it is my plan to fulfill my civic duties. That seems to us a better solution than me going to jail. As such the Rt. Rev. Dr. David Stechholz, our Bishop Emeritus of the English District, has graciously agreed to stand in for me at the 9:30 a.m. Mass in the Church on Wednesday, February 21<sup>st</sup>. Thanks in advance to Bishop Emeritus Stechholz! If you're available, please attend the Mass and receive God's Gifts from the hands and lips of our dear Bishop Emeritus. It is my hope, *Deo volente*, to preach and celebrate the same day at the 7:00 p.m. Mass.

# The Feast of the Resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ,

Holy Easter, is April 1<sup>st</sup> this year. *Palmarum*, Palm Sunday, falls on March 25<sup>th</sup>. The Holy Week calendar is included in this issue of the Trumpet. Please plan now to join us for the daily Masses to be celebrated that week. As has been Zion's tradition for many years, on Holy Saturday, the day on which our Lord lay lifeless in the tomb, no Services are held. Mass will also be celebrated daily the week after Easter. Watch the Sunday Bulletin for the schedule of daily Masses.

## From the Epistle for Ash

**Wednesday:** "...For the day of the LORD is great and very terrible; Who can endure it? 'Now, therefore,' says the LORD, 'Turn to Me with all your heart, With fasting, with weeping, and with mourning.' So rend your heart, and not your garments; Return to the LORD your God, For He is gracious and merciful, Slow to anger, and of great kindness; And He relents from doing harm." (Joel 2:11-13) May we, as Christ's Holy Church, redeemed by His Precious Blood, do as the Prophet exhorts, and repentantly, prayerfully, expectantly, prepare for the glorious celebration of Holy Easter!



**Birthday Anniversaries**  
 March  
 8 Carol Matschikowski  
 14 Sarah Braden  
 19 Pamela Ruffin  
 30 Anthony Atkins  
 30 Rhetta Dillon

April  
 21 Barbara Bryant  
 23 William Gramzow  
 25 Fr. Brian Westgate

**Baptism Anniversaries**  
 March  
 27 Julie Snoes  
 28 Lois Meriwether

April  
 9 Anthony Spicer  
 11 Robert Kelly III  
 19 Fayth Atkins

**Marriage Anniversaries**  
 March  
 3 Richard & Janet Schulz  
 20 Carlton & Margaret Alford



**HOLY MASS** is celebrated every Sunday and Wednesday at 10am, and on major feasts as announced.

**THE DIVINE OFFICE MATINS:** M-Th & Sa at 8:45am (except when there is a morning Mass) in the Chapel of the Holy Incarnation in the Rectory; **VESPERS:** Thursday at 6:30pm in the Church.

**COMMUNICANTS** are baptized Christians who have been instructed in and publicly confess the Evangelical-Lutheran Faith. If you desire to commune at Zion, please visit with the Pastor before approaching the Altar.

**PRIVATE CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION** is available on Saturday morning 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).