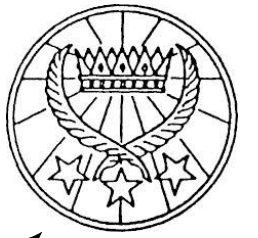


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“Blow the Trumpet in Zion” (Joel 2.15)



# Zion Trumpet

Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church of Detroit

March/April 2017

## Annunciation

by Father Braden

The Feast of the Annunciation of Our Lord Jesus Christ is commonly called the Feast of the Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary. I prefer the former title, as it makes Christ the center of the Celebration, and it was indeed He that was announced to her. This High Feast of the Church celebrates the wonderful proclamation of the miraculous conception and birth of the Christ, which the archangel Gabriel announced to the Virgin Mary.



The inspired, factual account of the events is recorded in the Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the first chapter, verses 26-38. There, in the sixth month of Elizabeth's miraculous pregnancy with John the Baptizer, the same heavenly messenger that promised Zacharias a son appeared to Mary in Nazareth.

At that time, Mary was betrothed to Joseph, a relationship much stronger than what we would call “engagement” today. While Scripture is silent on the process of betrothal that Joseph and Mary underwent, betrothal was typically initiated by the father on behalf of his son, which included the selection of the bride. According to Scripture, Jacob son of Matthan, of the Tribe of Judah, was Joseph's father, (Matthew 1:15) and so would have selected Mary and established her betrothal to Joseph with her father. While the Bible is silent on the name of Mary's father, the apocryphal *Gospel of St. James* names him as Joachim, his wife is named Anne.

The Hebrew word for “betroth” occurs ten times in the Old Testament (see Deuteronomy 28:30). While its only Hebrew meaning seems to be “betroth”, in cognate languages it means “to pay a price”, which means a “dowry” or “bride price” was probably paid (see Genesis 34:12).

*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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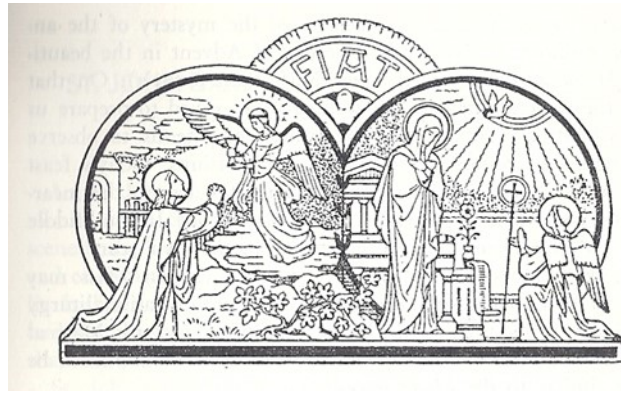
So Mary, betrothed to Joseph, received a heavenly visitor. And the archangel's first Words to her we may know best in Latin: "*have gratia plena Dominus tecum benedicta tu in mulieribus*", or "Hail, full of grace, the Lord is with you, blessed are you among women." While afraid, Mary was comforted by the archangel as he reassured her that she had "found favor with God." (see Genesis 33:10; Luke 2:52)

Angels are messengers, even more so archangels. So the Divinely sent preacher, bearing God's Word and Promise, continued the Annunciation:

*"...behold, you will conceive in your womb and bring forth a Son, and shall call His name JESUS. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Highest; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David. And He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of His kingdom there will be no end."* (Luke 1:31-33)

These Words would be more than any mere mortal could hear. According to the Promise, the Virgin would conceive and bear a Son, which Isaiah too had promised 700 years before (see Isaiah 7:14). The Son the Prophet Isaiah called Immanuel, "God with us", is named "Jesus" by the archangel. "Jesus" is a Name derived from the Hebrew verb "he saved", and is closely related to the name "Joshua". The angel that appeared to Joseph in a dream before his marriage to Mary explained "... you shall call His Name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins." (Matthew 1:21) She would rightly be called θεοτόκος, "God Bearer".

Mary was a virgin. Hearing the Promise, her question to the angel was a natural one: "...how can this be, since I do not know a man?" (Luke 1:34). The archangel replied, teaching Mary that it would be the work of the Holy Spirit, and so the One Who would fill her womb is the Holy One, the Son of God. Her answer to the angel is a model of faith: "Behold the maidservant of the Lord! Let it be to me according to your word." (Luke 1:38)



*This graphic is reproduced from: Parsch, Pius, The Church's Year of Grace, vol II, Septuagesima to Holy Saturday. St. Paul: The North Central Publishing Company, 1962, pg. 398*

Would that each of us might have faith that strong! For by faith in the Virgin's Son, His righteousness and holiness are declared to be yours. It is He, the True Groom, that would pay the Bride Price - He would shed His Own Blood as the cost of purchasing you, His Bride, His Betrothed, the Holy Church. In Him you are declared holy and pure, chaste and innocent. You are the people He saves from sin. He is God with You.

The Feast of the Annunciation is usually observed on the 25<sup>th</sup> day of March. This date is exactly nine months before Christmas, the Feast of the Nativity of our Lord. March 25<sup>th</sup> falls on a Saturday this year. In years in which Easter falls earlier, if March 25<sup>th</sup> falls after *Judica* Sunday, the Feast of the Annunciation is not celebrated during Passiontide, Easter, or the Octave of Easter. These penitential and high holy days are liturgically "stronger", and prevent other observances. In such a year, Annunciation is observed on the first "free" day, Monday after Low Sunday (*Quasimodogeniti*).

Join us, won't you, for the celebration of this glorious Feast? The Feast of the Annunciation of our Lord Jesus Christ will be celebrated with a sung Solemn Mass at Zion on Saturday, March 25<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m. in the Church.

## Lent

**Lent** begins this year on Ash Wednesday, March 1<sup>st</sup>. Our midweek Lenten Masses will be celebrated every Wednesday of Lent at 9:30 a.m. and 7:00 p.m.

whole treasure lies on which you are to stand and rely, for [the words] were really spoken to you. "My body was given; My blood was poured out" (says Christ). Why? So that you should only eat and drink it? No, but "for the forgiveness of sins." that is what affects you specifically, and everything else that happens and is said serves only the purpose of your sins being forgiven. But if it serves for the forgiveness of sins, then it must also be good for overcoming death. Where sin is gone, death is also gone, and hell besides. Where these are gone, all misfortune is also gone, and all happiness must be there.

There, there is the great treasure. Look up to that, and abandon the nonsense that the universities discuss and worry about, such as how the body of Christ is present and hides under such a small form. Turn your eyes away from the miracle and cling to the Word. Strive to have the benefit and fruit of the Sacrament, namely, that your sins are forgiven you.

For that reason you must prepare yourself in such a way that the words affect you. That happens when you feel your sins biting and frightening you, when you are being attacked by the flesh, the world, and the devil. Here you are angry and impatient. Now greed and worry about your livelihood attack you, etc. As a result, you have many stumbling blocks constantly; sometimes even coarse [sins] come along so that you fall and your soul is injured. Then you are a poor, miserable person, afraid of death, despondent, and unable to be happy. Then there is plenty of time and reason for you to go to confession and lament your need before God and say: "Lord, You have instituted and left us the Sacrament of Your body and blood so that there we would find the forgiveness of sins. I feel that I need it. I have fallen into sin. I am in fear and despair. I am not bold to confess Your Word. I have these weaknesses and those, so many of them. Therefore, I now come so that You can heal, comfort, and strengthen me," etc.

For That reason I have said that we should give the Sacrament to no one unless he knows, first, how to say that this is his condition, namely, that

he says what he is lacking and desires to receive strength and comfort through the Word and the sign. Whoever cannot use the Sacrament in that way should remain away and not do as those who miserably torment themselves at this time [of year], when they go to the Sacrament and yet do not at all know what they are doing.

After you have received the Sacrament, then go forth and practice your faith. The Sacrament helps you to say: "There I publicly have the words that my sins are forgiven, and I have taken the public sign of it into my mouth. I can testify about it, as I have also confessed it publicly before the devil and all the world." Now when death and a bad conscience attack you, you can support yourself on it, defy the devil and sin, strengthen your faith, make your conscience happy toward God, and so become better day by day. Otherwise you would remain indolent and cold; and the longer you remained away, the more unprepared you would be. But if you sense that you are unprepared, weak, and without faith, where will you become strong other than here? If you wait until you first become pure and strong, then you will never come to it, and the Sacrament will not help you at all.

This is the true use of the Sacrament, by which the conscience is not tormented but comforted and made cheerful."

*Excerpt from Luther's sermon on Confession and the Sacrament, 1524. Luther's Works American Edition, volume 76, Edited by Benjamin T. G. Mayes and James L. Langebartels. St. Louis: Concordia Publishing House, 442-444.*



### 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

### Marriage Anniversaries

#### March

3 Richard & Janet Schulz  
 20 Carlton & Margaret Alford

#### April

8 Anthony & Susan Spicer

## DLS in Concert

The spring season begins for the Detroit Lutheran Singers on Sunday, March 26 with 2 concerts in the Detroit metro area. The first concert is an afternoon appearance at Bloomfield Hills Baptist Church. That evening the choir will sing at First English Evangelical Lutheran Church in Grosse Pointe Woods. The other 2 concerts are the following weekend. Saturday evening on April 1 is the concert at Antioch Lutheran Church in Farmington Hills, followed by a concert on Sunday, April 2 in the afternoon at Cherry Hill Presbyterian Church in Dearborn.

The Detroit Lutheran Singers' Spring series is presenting concerts based on the Psalms. These settings paint an intimate picture of love, exultation, prayer, and praise. Composers for hundreds of years have used these words to carry their musical expressions. Enjoy the music of Bach, Mozart, Bernstein and others.

Tickets are \$15 general admission, \$10 seniors and students over 12. They will be available at the door, but may be purchased in advance online at [www.detroitlutheransingers.com](http://www.detroitlutheransingers.com).

### Baptism Anniversaries

#### March

27 Julie Snoes  
 28 Lois Meriwether

#### April

9 Anthony Spicer  
 11 Robert Kelly III  
 19 Fayth Atkins

Sun. March 26th 3:00 p.m.  
 Bloomfield Hills Baptist Church  
 3600 Telegraph Rd., Bloomfield Hills

Sun. March 26th 7:00 p.m.  
 First English Evangelical Lutheran Church  
 800 Vernier Rd., Grosse Pointe Woods

Sat. April 1st 7:30 pm.  
 Antioch Lutheran Church  
 33360 W 13 Mile Road, Farmington Hills

Sun. April 2nd 3:00 pm.  
 Cherry Hill Presbyterian Church  
 24110 Cherry Hill St., Dearborn

## From the Deacons

by Tom Habitz

On January 10, Tom Habitz, Jr. made a presentation on mission opportunities within a changing City of Detroit to the North-South Detroit combined circuitwinkel of the English District-Missouri Synod. The pastors meeting was hosted by Risen Christ, Plymouth.

Tom spoke about the shifting demographics of Detroit, the growing downtown and midtown areas, and some of the current political dynamics. A rich discussion followed, prompted by questions from pastors from mostly suburban congregations about how the church can best serve the expanding cadre of young professionals moving to the city.

Key takeaways were that a post-church culture is taking hold within this movement; our English congregations are largely not geographically positioned within the areas of growing population; and that there opportunities to reach many young people who will continue to reside in Detroit through campus ministry.

## Luther on the Sacrament

“So many see how we are to understand and be certain about the words of the Sacrament. It all depends on this. We must all know, understand, and cling to these words with faith, so that we can defend ourselves and drive back the enemies. If you want to go to the Sacrament, then listen to the words and cling to them, for that is where the

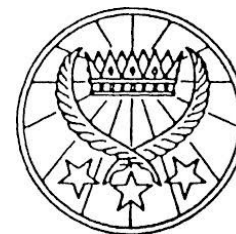
The **Zion Trumpet** is the informational and educational newsletter of Zion Evangelical-Lutheran Church. It communicates the news of Zion and instructs members in various aspects of the Christian Faith.

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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in the Church. This year the sermon themes will focus on the Psalms appointed for the Wednesdays of Lent. Our Ash Wednesday Masses will be sung, the midweek Masses that follow will be spoken, with the chief hymn led *a capella*. Plan to make our midweek Masses part of your repentant preparation for the celebration Holy Easter. Our midweek Masses and sermon themes are as follows:

**March 1st - Ash Wednesday** – Imposition of Ashes - Sung Mass at 9:30 a.m., 7:00 p.m.

**Invocabit, March 8th – Ember Wednesday** - “Redeem Us, O God” – Psalm 25

**Reminiscere, March 15th** - “O Lord, do not rebuke me” – Psalm 38

**Oculi, March 22nd**– “Deliver me in Your righteousness” – Psalm 31

**Laetare, March 29th** – “I will bless the Lord” – Psalm 34

**Judica, April 5th** – “You have delivered me from the violent man” - Psalm 18

## Colombia

I have been working in Colombia for just under four years. In that time the Missionary that we support in Medellín has successfully relocated the Mission to a high-traffic area just alongside a large residential area. The Mission congregation is growing slowly, thanks be to God! In my last few trips we have identified a small group of Colombian Pastors who desire to form a conservative, Confessional Lutheran church body. Last summer I visited with a representative from our Synod, who gave them some organizational help. Last month I spent a week in Bogotá, the capital, presenting a conference on the Augsburg Confession. While attendance at the conference was modest, the conference was “streamed” through the internet, and on Thursday morning we had 1240 “visits” to the conference site!

I have submitted a report of my work to the Synod, and to the Luther Academy, on whose behalf I went. I see many wonderful possibilities in Colombia. Please keep our Mission there, and the nascent Confessional Lutheran church there, in your prayers. I hope to return to Colombia this summer.

# Venezuela

For several years I taught in Venezuela. Three years ago, when invited to return to teach a class in San Félix, I learned that American citizens could no longer visit Venezuela without a special visa. When I tried to obtain the special visa, I was told that they were unavailable, which is to say that there was no way for me to enter the country. Not too long thereafter, American relations with Venezuela took a turn for the worse. I have been unable thus far to return to Venezuela, where I have many colleagues and friends, and where have worked in a number of the churches.

Our church in Venezuela, planted over 50 years ago by LC-MS Missionaries, is suffering greatly. Because of the Venezuelan system of government and the downturn in oil prices, the people lack the very staples necessary for daily living. Incredible inflation has left the Venezuelan currency worthless, not even the airlines will accept it.

Daily needs like chicken, rice, *harina de pan* (a special flour used for making *arepas*, a Venezuelan favorite), toilet paper, and medicine are largely unavailable to the people. Waiting in a long line to get into a grocery store frequently results in empty shelves.

Our Pastors and members in Venezuela are struggling. I haven't identified a reliable way to get help to the churches there, corruption and theft are rampant. Venezuela does not have a postal system *per se*. My luggage was ransacked twice on my last few trips to Caracas and Maracay, and several items of value were stolen as the bags passed through the Venezuelan airport. Relief trucks bearing food and supplies are being robbed by gangs as they cross the border.

A number of Venezuelan Pastors emailed me during the recent Colombian conference, indicating they were watching the conference online. They are hungry for solid, Confessional Lutheran theology. I do communicate with them via email. Perhaps for now that is the best we can do.

While there is no resolution in sight, with God nothing is impossible. Please pray for the Pastors and churches and people of Venezuela.

## The Feast of the Resurrection of Our Lord

Palm Sunday falls on Sunday, April 9<sup>th</sup> this year. Our Passiontide, *Triduum*, and Eastertide schedule is as follows:

Sunday, April 2<sup>nd</sup> - **Judica**, Mass at 10:00 a.m. in the Church

Sunday, April 9<sup>th</sup> - **Palmarum**, Mass at 10:00 a.m. in the Church

Monday, April 10<sup>th</sup> - **Holy Monday**, Mass at 10:00 a.m. in the Chapel

Tuesday, April 11<sup>th</sup> - **Holy Tuesday**, Mass at 10:00 a.m. in the Chapel

Wednesday, April 12<sup>th</sup> - **Holy Wednesday**, Mass at 10:00 a.m., Chapel

Thursday, April 13<sup>th</sup> - **Chrism Mass**, Mass at 9:30 a.m. in the Church

**Maundy Thursday**, Mass at 7:00 p.m. in the Church

Friday, April 14<sup>th</sup> - **Good Friday, Tre Ore** at 12:00 noon with Holy Communion, Church

**Stations of the Cross** at 7:00 p.m. in the Church

Saturday, April 15<sup>th</sup> - **Holy Saturday**, silence in the Church.

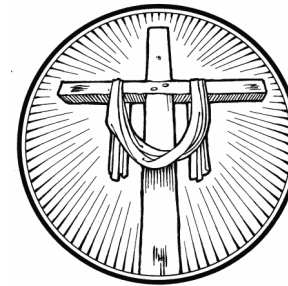
Sunday, April 16<sup>th</sup> - **The Great Vigil Mass**, 6:30 a.m. in the Church, Breakfast follows

**The Resurrection of our Lord** - 10:00 a.m., Church

Monday, April 17<sup>th</sup> - Saturday, April 22<sup>nd</sup> - Daily Mass for Easter Octave

Sunday, April 23<sup>rd</sup> - **Quasimodogeniti**, Easter I, Mass at 10:00 a.m., Church

Mark your calendars now, and plan to join us for the solemn Mysteries of the Holy *Triduum*, and the joyous Celebration of the Resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ!



## St. Mark Conference

A regular guest and presenter at our St. Michael Liturgical Conference is the Rev. Fr. Charles McClean. Fr. McClean is a friend and mentor, one of the last students of Dr. Arthur Karl Piepkorn. Fr. McClean hosts an annual theological conference in the congregation where he serves, Our Savior Evangelical-Lutheran Church in Baltimore, Maryland. Fr. McClean has graciously invited me to present a paper at the St. Mark conference this year. The conference is held this year on Tuesday, April 25<sup>th</sup>, the Feast of St. Mark, Evangelist. Our travel plans aren't set quite yet, but I hope to be driving to the conference with Fr. Joel Baseley, Pastor of Emmanuel Dearborn, who is also invited to present a paper. The theme of this year's conference is the Office of the Holy Ministry. If you are interested in attending, contact the church office.



**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, Kevin Wiedelman; **PARISH EDUCATION:** Shirley Cross, Robert Kelly III, Sarah Braden **OFFICERS OF THE VOTERS:** Thomas Habitz, Jr. (chairman), Alan Kroske (vice-chairman), Pamela Ruffin (secretary), Kevin Wiedelman (treasurer), Jessica Chavez (financial secretary).