

August 6, 2023



50 Years of God's Grace

Year of Jubilee

MT. ZION

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Evangelical Lutheran Church
Madison Heights, MI

Pastor Tom Naumann
(248) 677-7242

mtzionlutheran.info



50th Anniversary Service

*Liturgist: Pastor Tom Naumann of Mt. Zion Lutheran Church
Organist: Professor David Schaller of Immanuel Lutheran College*

Today's Worship!

Greeting and Prayer

Opening Hymn 790 *Praise to the Lord, the Almighty*

1 Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation!

O my soul, praise Him, for He is your health and salvation!

Let all who hear Now to His temple draw near, Joining in glad adoration!

2 Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things is wondrously reigning

And, as on wings of an eagle, uplifting, sustaining.

Have you not seen All that is needful has been Sent by His gracious ordaining?

3 Praise to the Lord, who has fearfully, wondrously, made you,

Health has bestowed and, when heedlessly falling, has stayed you.

What need or grief Ever has failed of relief? Wings of His mercy did shade you.

4 Praise to the Lord, who will prosper your work and defend you;

Surely His goodness and mercy shall daily attend you.

Ponder anew What the Almighty can do As with His love He befriends you.

5 Praise to the Lord! O let all that is in us adore him!

All that has life and breath, come now with praises before Him!

Let the Amen Sound from His people again; Gladly forever adore him!

The Invocation

We invoke ("call upon") the name of the one true God – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

P In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen!

The Confession and Absolution of Sins

We come before our Holy God admitting that we are sinful and need His forgiveness.

P We have come into the presence of God as recipients of His grace. For fifty years we have enjoyed the proclamation of His Gospel from our pulpits and in our classrooms. Throughout our history He has been faithful to us, providing for all our needs. Yet we must confess to our shame that at times our zeal to hear and to share His Gospel message has faltered.

C Merciful Father in heaven, we do not always receive Your Word with joy. We fail to keep Your commandments to love You above all things and to love our neighbors as ourselves. We indeed deserve Your judgment for our many sins. For this, O Lord, we humbly ask for Your forgiveness. We do not trust in our own merits, for we have none. Rather we trust in the merits of Your dear Son, Jesus, our Lord and Savior!

P The Gospel message of our Savior-God proclaims that Jesus was delivered up for our offenses and raised again for our justification. Our Lord assures us that when we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. Having heard your confession, it is my privilege as a called servant of the Word to announce unto you the forgiveness of your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen!

Anniversary Responsive Reading:

P Lord, you have been our dwelling place in all generations.

C **On this day of anniversary we gratefully remember the blessings of past and present. On this day we pledge ourselves to faithfulness to the God of our salvation in the future.**

P O LORD, our God, how glorious is Your Name in all the earth! You have made us, and You still preserve us with everything we need to nourish our body and bring you to our life.

C **You have done this as our gracious Father in Heaven by Your goodness and love.**

P O LORD, our God, how glorious is Your Name in all the earth! You have freed us lost and condemned creatures from the curse of sin, from the sting of death, and from the slavery to Satan.

C **You made us Your own that we may serve You with a joyful heart.**

P O LORD, our God, how glorious is Your Name in all the earth! You have united us into one family with our Lord Jesus Christ and kept us in the true faith.

C **You fill our lives with rich gifts of the Holy Spirit: An unwavering trust, the love that knows no limit and no end, and the courage that never fails in time of trial and in time of death.**

P Holy and righteous God, on this anniversary of our congregation, we thank You with all our heart that You have so bountifully blessed us for so many years and given us opportunity to glorify Your name and proclaim Your wonderful works from one generation to another.

C We thank You for upholding Your little flock through fortune and misfortune, through times of war and peace, of depression and prosperity; and we thank You especially for those now fallen asleep who served Your Church in the past, who remained faithful to the end, and now have received the crown of life through Christ Jesus.

P Holy and mighty God, on this anniversary of our congregation we praise You for the wonderful work You give Your Church to do, that Your saving Name may be known in all the earth.

C We praise You for the people of the Church whom You prepare for the work of the preaching and teaching ministry. We praise You, O Savior, for the Gospel of salvation which by Your Spirit You have imprinted upon our heart and soul.

P Eternal and most merciful God, on this day of anniversary we pray that You would continue to be with us in the future as You have in the past, and that You keep us in Your saving grace.

C We ask You, O LORD, to keep Your little flock firm in the faith and steadfast in our calling so that generations yet unborn may share with us Your gift of eternal life.

P Hear us, O God, and look upon us in Your grace. We bring our petitions to You, not because of any good in us, but on account of Your great mercy. LORD, keep us holy through Your Word. Your Word is truth.

Hymn 582 *God's Word is Our Great Heritage*

God's Word is our great her - i - tage And shall be ours for -
ev - er; To spread its light from age to age Shall be our
chief en - deav - or. Through life it guides our way, In death it
is our stay. Lord, grant, while worlds en - dure, We keep its
teach - ings pure Through - out all gen - er - a - tions.

The Old Testament Reading: *Micah 4:1-7*

It shall come to pass in the latter days that the mountain of the house of the LORD shall be established as the highest of the mountains, and it shall be lifted up above the hills; and peoples shall flow to it, ² and many nations shall come, and say: "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob, that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths." For out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem. ³ He shall judge between many peoples, and shall decide for strong nations far away; and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore; ⁴ but they shall sit every man under his vine and under his fig tree, and no one shall make them afraid, for the mouth of the LORD of hosts has spoken. ⁵ For all the peoples walk each in the name of its god, but we will walk in the name of the LORD our God forever and ever. ⁶ In that day, declares the LORD, I will assemble the lame and gather those who have been driven away and those whom I have afflicted; ⁷ and the lame I will make the remnant, and those who were cast off, a strong nation; and the LORD will reign over them in Mount Zion from this time forth and forevermore.

The Gospel Reading: *Matthew 7:24-25*

"Everyone then who hears these words of mine and does them will be like a wise man who built his house on the rock. ²⁵ And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, but it did not fall, because it had been founded on the rock.

Anthem by the Choir – “Christ Is Our Cornerstone”

The Apostles' Creed

We boldly confess what we believe.

☩ I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven; And is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From there He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Hymn 576 My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less

**1 My hope is built on nothing less Than Jesus' blood and righteousness;
No merit of my own I claim But wholly lean on Jesus' name.**

**Refrain: On Christ, the solid rock, I stand;
All other ground is sinking sand, All other ground is sinking sand.**

**2 When darkness veils His lovely face, I rest on His unchanging grace;
In ev'ry high and stormy gale My anchor holds within the veil. [Refrain]**

**3 His oath, His covenant and blood Support me in the raging flood;
When ev'ry earthly prop gives way, He then is all my hope and stay. [Refrain]**

**4 When He shall come with trumpet sound, Oh, may I then in Him be found,
Clothed in His righteousness alone, Redeemed to stand before His throne! [Refrain]**

THE SERMON: Hebrews 12:22-24

But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to innumerable angels in festal gathering, ²³ and to the assembly of the firstborn who are enrolled in heaven, and to God, the judge of all, and to the spirits of the righteous made perfect, ²⁴ and to Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel.

CELEBRATE! BY GOD'S GRACE YOU HAVE COME TO MT. ZION

PART I: Past Grace

Pastor Emeritus Walter Schaller – Pastor of Mt. Zion 2000-2017

PART II: Present Grace

Pastor Tom Naumann – Pastor of Mt. Zion 2017-Present

PART III: Future Grace

Pastor Dave Naumann – Chairman of CLC Board of Education

Part I Sermon Hymn 648 Glorious Things of You Are Spoken

**1 Glorious things of you are spoken, Zion, city of our God;
He whose word cannot be broken Formed you for His own abode.
On the Rock of Ages founded, What can shake your sure repose?
With salvation's walls surrounded, You may smile at all your foes.**

**2 See, the streams of living waters, Springing from eternal love,
Well supply your sons and daughters And all fear of want remove.
Who can faint while such a river Ever will their thirst assuage?
Grace, which like the Lord, the giver, Never fails from age to age.**

*3 Round each habitation hov'ring, See the cloud and fire appear
For a glory and a cov'ring, Showing that the Lord is near.
Thus deriving from their banner Light by night and shade by day,
Safe they feed upon the manna Which God gives them on their way.*

*4 Savior, since of Zion's city I through grace a member am,
Let the world deride or pity, I will glory in Your name.
Fading are the world's vain pleasures, All their boasted pomp and show;
Solid joys and lasting treasures None but Zion's children know.*

Part II Sermon Hymn 744 *Amazing Grace*

*1 Amazing grace--how sweet the sound-- That saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost but now am found, Was blind but now I see!*

*2 The Lord has promised good to me, His Word my hope secures;
He will my shield and portion be As long as life endures.*

*3 Through many dangers, toils, and snares I have already come;
His grace has brought me safe thus far, His grace will lead me home.*

*4 Yes, when this flesh and heart shall fail And mortal life shall cease,
Amazing grace shall then prevail In heaven's joy and peace.*

*5 When we've been there ten thousand years, Bright shining as the sun,
We've no less days to sing God's praise Than when we'd first begun.*

Part III Sermon Hymn 686 *Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing*

*1 Come, Thou Fount of ev'ry blessing, Tune my heart to sing Thy grace;
Streams of mercy, never ceasing, Call for songs of loudest praise.
While the hope of endless glory Fills my heart with joy and love,
Teach me ever to adore Thee; May I still Thy goodness prove.*

*2 Here I raise my Ebenezer, Hither by Thy help I've come;
And I hope, by Thy good pleasure, Safely to arrive at home.
Jesus sought me when a stranger, Wand'ring from the fold of God;
He, to rescue me from danger, Interposed His precious blood.*

*3 Oh, to grace how great a debtor Daily I'm constrained to be;
Let that grace now, like a fetter Bind my wand'ring heart to Thee:
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it; Prone to leave the God I love.
Here's my heart, O take and seal it, Seal it for Thy courts above.*

*4 Oh, that day when freed from sinning, I shall see Thy lovely face;
Clothed then in the bloodwashed linen, How I'll sing Thy wondrous grace!
Come, my Lord, no longer tarry; Take my ransom'd soul away;
Send Thine angels soon to carry Me to realms of endless day.*

The Offering of Thankful Hearts

In tangible evidence of our gratitude, we offer the Lord the gift of our money, remembering that He has first given to us that we might have to give to Him. If you wish to give your church offering electronically, you can do so by using the CashApp on your mobile device. The church's \$cashtag is "\$clcmztzion". While the usher brings the offering plate forward we sing the following hymn verse

*(WS 788:1): **Lord, You love the cheerful giver Who with open heart and hand
Blesses freely, as a river That refreshes all the land.
Grant us, then, the grace of giving With a spirit large and true
That our life and all our living We may consecrate to You.***

Anniversary Prayer & The Lord's Prayer

The Benediction

The blessing given by God for His people (Numbers 6:24-26)

Closing Hymn 54 (TLH): *Guide Me, O Thou, Great Jehovah*

***1 Guide me, O Thou great Jehovah, Pilgrim through this barren land.
I am weak but Thou art mighty; Hold me with Thy powerful hand.
Bread of heaven, Feed me till I want no more.***

***2 Open now the crystal fountain Whence the healing stream doth flow;
Let the fiery, cloudy pillar Lead me all my journey through.
Strong Deliverer Be Thou still my Strength and Shield.***

***3 When I tread the verge of Jordan, Bid my anxious fears subside;
Death of death and hell's Destruction, Land me safe on Canaan's side.
Songs of praises I will ever give to Thee.***

WELCOME TO OUR 50th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION!

It is wonderful to have former members of Mt. Zion and other visitors come and share in our thanksgiving to God for His marvelous blessings of grace upon our congregation!

Following today's service everyone is invited to stay for a celebration meal.

Food will be served in the basement. Seating will be outside.

As you dish up, be sure to take time to view our historical displays and photos.

Commemorative coffee mugs are available for \$8/each. T-shirts are \$12/each.

Thank you to all those who have been involved in the planning and preparation of today's celebration. We especially thank the guest preachers and organist and their families for coming long distances to be with us. Professor David Schaller serves at Immanuel Lutheran College in Eau Claire, WI. Pastor Emeritus Walter Schaller is retired and lives in Eau Claire. Pastor Dave Naumann serves St. John's Lutheran Church in Clarkston, WA and Peace Lutheran Church, Orofino, ID.

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50 Years of God's Grace at Mt. Zion

- July 1973 Three CLC (Church of the Lutheran Confession) congregations in Upper Michigan were concerned about the spiritual welfare of their members who had moved to the Detroit area. A 6-day visit from pastors James Sandeen of Calvary, Marquette, Jonathan Schaller of St. Paul's, Green Garden, and Gene Rutz of St. Peters, Stambaugh, determined that 16 families and 4 other individuals were interested in beginning a new church in the area.
- Nov. 1973 Mt. Zion congregation formally organizes. Services are held at Hickory Hollow Apartments in Wayne. Baptized membership: 23 souls.
- Dec. 1973 Pastor Paul Tiefel Jr. of Redeemer, Sister Lakes, accepts the call to serve as Mt. Zion's part-time pastor.
- June 1974 Mt. Zion is officially accepted into membership in the CLC. Services are primarily conducted by Pastor Tiefel, with the occasional substitution from Pastor Sandeen and Pastor Carl Brandle (Gethsemane, Saginaw). Members attend from Flint, Jackson, Monroe, Lansing, Pontiac, and Dearborn.
- July 1976 Pastor John Klatt accepts the call to serve as Mt. Zion's first full-time pastor. Services are held at various places: a school in Canton, a hall in Northville, a hall in Plymouth. Baptized membership: 28 souls.
- Aug. 1983 Pastor Klatt accepts the call to Prince of Peace, Hecla, SD. Pastor Paul Tiefel once again accepts the call to serve Mt. Zion part-time. Baptized membership: 9 souls.
- July 1991 Pastor Tiefel accepts the call to Messiah, Eau Claire, WI. Pastor Mark Bernthal of Gethsemane, Saginaw, accepts the call to serve Mt. Zion part-time. Baptized membership: 17 souls.
- Jan. 1994 Pastor Leroy Dux accepts the call to serve Mt. Zion as full-time pastor. Services are held in the community room of the Huntley Square apartment complex in Beverly Hills.
- Sept. 1997 Mt. Zion congregation withdraws its membership from the Church of the Lutheran Confession in connection with the controversy that had arisen in the CLC regarding self-esteem. Sometime thereafter, Pastor Dux resigns his call for personal reasons.
- June 2000 Mt. Zion reapplies for membership in the CLC and is accepted.
- Aug. 2000 CLC Missionary-at-Large Walter Schaller is sent to Mt. Zion to explore mission opportunities in Metro Detroit. Services are held in a Weight Watchers facility in Royal Oak. Baptized membership: 27 souls.

- June 2001 Mt. Zion takes over conducting monthly services in the Cleveland area for several Ohio/Pennsylvania families (this had previously been the ministry of Gethsemane, Saginaw, MI).
- Aug. 2004 CLC Board of Missions releases Pastor Schaller from his missionary-at-large call. Mt. Zion calls Pastor Schaller to be its full-time pastor.
- June 2005 Mt. Zion applies for and is granted full status as a domestic mission congregation under the CLC Board of Missions. Mt. Zion begins receiving monthly subsidy payments which are decremented annually.
- Nov. 2008 Mt. Zion, using a Church Extension Fund from the CLC, purchases its first permanent church building at 26689 Northeastern Hwy in Madison Heights. The basement is renovated to serve as the parsonage and Pastor and Kathy Schaller move in. Baptized membership: 27 souls.
- July 2009 Mt. Zion is given church furniture (altar, pulpit, lectern) by First Lutheran of Faulkton, SD. These were originally crafted in the 1950s by Pastor Leland Grams from walnut cut on his home farm near Markesan, WI.
- July 2015 Pastor Walter Schaller retires. Mt. Zion begins calling for a replacement full-time pastor. In the meantime, Pastor Schaller serves as Mt. Zion's vacancy pastor.
- July 2017 Pastor Walter Schaller formally retires and ILC seminary graduate Tom Naumann is installed as full-time pastor. He and his wife, Ashley, move into the church basement parsonage. Baptized membership: 27 souls.
- Oct. 2018 Thanks to God's blessing of both increased membership and offerings, Mt. Zion is able to offer Pastor Naumann a housing allowance. The Naumanns purchase a home and move out of the church basement. Baptized membership: 37 souls.
- April 2021 Mt. Zion begins making plans to open a Christian Day School so that its children might learn daily about their Savior and receive a quality education. A Board of Christian Education is formed.
- Jan. 2023 Thanks to God's continued financial blessings, Mt. Zion becomes a self-supporting congregation, ending 18 years of status as a subsidized domestic mission under the CLC Board of Missions.
- Jan. 2023 After learning that our current building is unfit to serve as a state-approved non-public school, Mt. Zion decides to sell its current building and find a new facility to house both church and school with the intent of opening the school in Sept. 2024.
- Aug. 2023 Mt. Zion celebrates 50 years of God's grace upon the preaching and teaching of His Word in Metro Detroit. Baptized membership: 50 souls.