

ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH



*First Midweek Advent
December 3rd, 2014*



ANNOUNCEMENTS

MIDWEEK SERVICES will continue throughout the season of Advent. Don't forget to come early for our Advent Dinners (starting at 6:00, served in the basement). Our theme for these Midweek Services is: The Names of the Christ: Immanuel, Jesus and Lord.

BACK TO BASICS: In 2015, our theme in worship will be Back to Basics. We will focus on the fundamentals of our faith, why we believe what we do, and how to live out our faith in the world. Please join us for worship in 2015 as we go BACK TO BASICS.

Interested in Joining Zion? While not necessary for salvation, visible membership in a congregation is, theologically speaking, a good idea. We'd love to have you (and your family) become part of our fellowship! Talk with Pastor Duncan, Vicar David or contact the church office if you are interested in learning more about church membership.

Sunday School for children and adults is offered on Sunday morning, starting at 9:15. We have some incredible and dedicated teachers who would love to share the good news of Jesus with your children! Pastor Duncan leads the adult class in the basement; we are currently studying the book of Genesis.

MEN'S/ WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY. Coming in January, the Men's Bible Breakfast and Women's Bible Study will both be doing a study of the book of Galatians. Look for a sign-up sheet in the Narthex area; we'll need to order the materials soon, so the sooner you sign-up the better!

FREE COFFEE FRIDAY. Are you interested in being part of our new community outreach? Can you give 2 hours of your time once every month? If so, then please prayerfully consider signing up to help out with Free Coffee Friday! More information is available in the December Newsletter. Look for a sign-up sheet in the Narthex area in the next week or so. If you have questions, please contact Pastor Duncan or the Church Office.

Welcome to worship!

God is with us.

Immanuel is the first of three names given to the Christ that we are going to consider during our midweek Advent worship services. God is with us. Do you believe it? And if you do, what does it mean? Does God's promised presence comfort you, fill you with joy, or maybe cause just a little fear?

It's one thing for God to be with you when you come to worship him at church; it's quite another thing for God to be with you when he'd rather be looking the other way.

What does it mean that God is with us... with you?

This evening, we're going to look at what God's promised presence meant for God's people before Christ came into the world, what it meant for those to whom he came, as well as what it means for us.

Next week, we'll look at the name given to the Second Person of the Trinity, the Christ—Jesus, which means "the Lord saves." The week after that, we'll take a look at the name "Lord," given to Jesus and professed as the earliest statement of faith by the church.

God bless your time in worship!

-Pastor Duncan

Rev. Duncan McLellan, Pastor

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The Divine Service

The Prelude

(Please take a moment to fill out the Attendance books. Thank you!!)

Introduction to Worship and Announcements

Opening Hymn: Lift Up Your Head, Ye Mighty Gates 341

The Invocation

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

Confession of Sins

Pastor: This evening we will consider what it means for us that Jesus, the Christ, is called “Immanuel”—God is with us. While the idea of the abiding presence of God in our lives can fill us with hope, joy and peace, it can also fill us with fear as we consider our sins. Therefore, in view of the reality of “Immanuel,” let us confess our sins.

People: **Almighty God, your word teaches that you are with us. I ask, therefore, that you would have mercy on me and not count my sins against me. Forgive me and, by the power of your Spirit, give me the privilege of an obedient life of faith toward you and love toward my neighbor. I ask this in the name of the one who is God with us, Jesus the Christ.**

Amen.

Absolution Spoken by the Pastor

People: Amen.

The Prayer of the Church

Pastor: ... Lord, in your mercy.

People: **Hear our prayer.**

(Please be seated)

The Old Testament Reading: *Isaiah 7:10-17*

Again the Lord spoke to Ahaz, “Ask a sign of the Lord your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven.” But Ahaz said, “I will not ask, and I will not put the Lord to the test.” And he said, “Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary men, that you weary my God also? Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel. He shall eat curds and honey when he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. For before the boy knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land whose two kings you dread will be deserted. The Lord will bring upon you and upon your people and upon your father's house such days as have not come since the day that Ephraim departed from Judah—the king of Assyria.”

The Gospel Reading: *Matthew 1:18-23*

Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, “Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: “Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel” (which means, God with us).

The Sermon Hymn: O Jesus King Most Wonderful

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Sermon

(Please stand)

The Apostles' Creed

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

And 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 buried.

He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead.

He ascended into heaven

and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.

From thence 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.

(Please be seated)

The Collection of the Offering

(Please stand)

The Benediction

The Recessional: Beautiful Savior

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† Service Participants †

Pastor:	Rev. Duncan McLellan
Music Director:	Mark Killinger
Pianist:	Sandra Quinlan
The Elders:	Frank Vallelunga and Ken Wuerthele
The Greeters:	TBD
The Acolyte:	Elder
Altar Guild:	Janet, Marian and Molly Oelschlager