

Zion Lutheran Church



*Fifth Sunday in Lent
March 22nd, 2015*



ANNOUNCEMENTS

ALTAR FLOWERS are given by Peter and Barb Fisher in Memory of Loved ones.

ETERNAL LIGHT is given by Janet Oelschlager Family in Memory of Loved ones.

SPECIAL VOTERS MEETING will be held today, March 22nd, between services. We will be discussing Youth Ministry.

CHURCH DIRECTORIES have arrived. Please pick your directory up in the narthex (1 per household).

“ALL IN.” That’s the theme for the upcoming men’s retreat at Camp Pioneer. Mark your calendars for April 16-19th; registration forms and a sign-up sheet are in the Narthex area.

IT’S A WR@P. Mark your calendar today for our first **Women’s Retreat @ Pioneer**, May 1st- 3rd. Planning is underway for this event. Please sign up in the narthex if you are interested in attending! Any questions contact Megan Pasquini or Alissa McLellan or email secretary@zlc.org.

FREE COFFEE FRIDAY! Come join us this Friday in the church parking lot (at 7am), or in the church kitchen (6:30am) for Free Coffee Friday. We’ll be giving away coffee and doughnuts and the good news of Jesus. Hope to see you here, this Friday @ 6:30 or 7:00am!!

BABY BOTTLE CAMPAIGN: Zion is once again supporting the Pregnancy Resource Center of the South Hills through the **Baby Bottle Campaign**. You can help this pro-life ministry by taking a baby bottle from the table in the church narthex and filling it with your loose change or bills. Please return your filled bottle no later than **Sunday, April 19th**. For more information on the ministry of the PRCSH see the insert in your bulletin.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL Volunteer spots are going fast! Stations available are Games and Opening/Closing skits. Crew leader/helper positions are also available. Contact Katie Gielarowski or email secretary@zlc.org

GOT CARE? Life is full of unexpected events that catch us off guard, make us grieve, shake our understanding of how the world works, leave us feeling lonely, or take us to any number of places we simply don’t want to go. If you need the hand of a brother or sister in Christ to help you get through the difficult seasons of life, we can help! Talk to Pastor Duncan or Kristen Neill to see if Stephen Ministry is right for you!

??????? If you have questions about what you heard in this morning’s sermon, or about the topic we discussed, fill out the insert and put it in the Offering Plate. Your question will be answered on Wednesday’s service and posted online.

NEED PRAYER? Stephen Ministers and Elders will be available to pray with or for you following the Service in the Chancel area.

MEN’S BIBLE STUDY continues this week. We’re studying the book of Galatians and it’s not too late to join in the fun. The men meet on Saturday, 8:00am in the Fellowship Hall - Join us! All are welcome; breakfast is on us.

TODAY’S GOSPEL READING AND SERMON will be posted to the ZLCB.org website later today. For an archive of older sermons, visit www.zlc.org/sermons

Welcome to worship!

This morning we are going to take a look at what it means when we confess that we believe in God, the creator of heaven and earth. Having spent last Sunday taking a closer look at who God is and what we mean when we call him "Father," our topic this morning is a bit more controversial and, yes, complex. Theories about the origin of life and the universe abound. Some people say life on earth originated from organic material on comets slamming into a prehistoric earth. Some people say life on earth began when lightning struck pools of a kind of primordial soup. While still others claim, with a straight face, that aliens brought life to this planet. And when it comes to the origin of the universe itself, opinions are even more varied. Is the universe 6,000 or 14,200,000,000 years old? Intelligent people have staked their fortunes and sacred honor defending both, with absolute certainty that they are right. But as we will see from God's conversation with Job, it is folly to think that we can claim to look back in time with absolute certainty, or understand how God causes the created order to function as it does. Advances in technology point to the conclusion that the universe is infinitely complex and ultimately incomprehensible. From telescopes that can peer into the deep recesses of the universe, to microscopes that can give us a glimpse of the invisible, we are becoming more and more aware of the grand scale and minute details of creation. Any fair-minded person with a rational and reasonable mind will conclude that all of this is no accident; that it was planned, designed, and held together by a power far greater than the creation itself. But not only do we confess that God is the creator of the "earth" (that is, the visible creation), but also that he is the creator of "heaven" (that is, the spiritual realm of the heavenly host). He is, in the words of the Nicene Creed, the creator of "all things visible and invisible." We will also spend some time this morning debunking the common notion that angels are chubby kids with wings and harps and take a look at what Scripture says we are to believe about the invisible realities that influence events here on earth.

Be sure to use your sermon outline insert to help you along with this morning's message; we've got a lot to cover!

God bless your time in worship.

-Pastor Duncan

Rev. Duncan McLellan, Pastor

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The Divine Service

(Please take a moment to fill out the Attendance books. If you are visiting us this morning, please indicate so in the Attendance Book. We are glad you chose to worship at Zion this morning!)

Introduction to Worship and Announcements

Opening Hymn: My Song Is Love Unknown

430

The Invocation

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

People: Amen.

Confession of Sins

Pastor: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

People: **But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

As you prepare to confess your sins, think back over the last week. The hurtful words, the loveless deeds, and the unhealthy thought you have had and done; and leave them all at the foot of the cross.

Pastor: Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

People: **Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.**

Absolution Spoken by the Pastor

People: Amen.

*Glory be to Jesus, who in bitter pains poured for me the lifeblood from His sacred veins!
Grace and life eternal in that blood I find; blest be His compassion, infinitely kind!
Blest through endless ages be the precious stream which from endless torment did the
world redeem!*

*Abel's blood for vengeance pleaded to the skies; but the blood of Jesus for our pardon
cries.*

*Oft as earth exulting wafts its praise on high, angel hosts rejoicing make their glad
reply.*

*Lift we, then, our voices, swell the mighty flood; louder still and louder praise the
precious blood!*

The Prayer of the Church

Pastor: ... Lord, in your mercy.

People: Hear our prayer.

(Please be seated)

The Service of the Word

The Old Testament Reading: Job 38

Then the Lord answered Job out of the whirlwind and said: "Who is this that darkens counsel by words without knowledge? Dress for action like a man; I will question you, and you make it known to me. "Where were you when I laid the foundation of the earth? Tell me, if you have understanding. Who determined its measurements—surely you know! Or who stretched the line upon it? On what were its bases sunk, or who laid its cornerstone, when the morning stars sang together and all the sons of God shouted for joy? "Or who shut in the sea with doors when it burst out from the womb, when I made clouds its garment and thick darkness its swaddling band, and prescribed limits for it and set bars and doors, and said, 'Thus far shall you come, and no farther, and here shall your proud waves be stayed'? "Have you commanded the morning since your days began, and caused the dawn to know its place, that it might take hold of the skirts of the earth, and the wicked be shaken out of it? It is changed like clay under the seal, and its features stand out like a garment. From the wicked their light is withheld, and their uplifted arm is broken.

“Have you entered into the springs of the sea, or walked in the recesses of the deep? Have the gates of death been revealed to you, or have you seen the gates of deep darkness? Have you comprehended the expanse of the earth? Declare, if you know all this. “Where is the way to the dwelling of light, and where is the place of darkness, that you may take it to its territory and that you may discern the paths to its home? You know, for you were born then, and the number of your days is great!

“Have you entered the storehouses of the snow, or have you seen the storehouses of the hail, which I have reserved for the time of trouble, for the day of battle and war? What is the way to the place where the light is distributed, or where the east wind is scattered upon the earth? “Who has cleft a channel for the torrents of rain and a way for the thunderbolt, to bring rain on a land where no man is, on the desert in which there is no man, to satisfy the waste and desolate land, and to make the ground sprout with grass? “Has the rain a father, or who has begotten the drops of dew? From whose womb did the ice come forth, and who has given birth to the frost of heaven? The waters become hard like stone, and the face of the deep is frozen. “Can you bind the chains of the Pleiades or loose the cords of Orion? Can you lead forth the Mazzaroth in their season, or can you guide the Bear with its children?

Do you know the ordinances of the heavens? Can you establish their rule on the earth? “Can you lift up your voice to the clouds, that a flood of waters may cover you? Can you send forth lightnings, that they may go and say to you, ‘Here we are’? Who has put wisdom in the inward parts or given understanding to the mind? Who can number the clouds by wisdom? Or who can tilt the waterskins of the heavens, when the dust runs into a mass and the clods stick fast together? “Can you hunt the prey for the lion, or satisfy the appetite of the young lions, when they crouch in their dens or lie in wait in their thicket? Who provides for the raven its prey, when its young ones cry to God for help, and wander about for lack of food?

The New Testament Reading: 1 Timothy 4: 1-5

Now the Spirit expressly says that in later times some will depart from the faith by devoting themselves to deceitful spirits and teachings of demons, through the insincerity of liars whose consciences are seared, who forbid marriage and require abstinence from foods that God created to be received with thanksgiving by those who believe and know the truth. For everything created by God is good, and nothing is to be rejected if it is received with thanksgiving, for it is made holy by the word of God and prayer.

Pastor: In honor of our Lord Jesus Christ, we rise for the reading of the Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 1st chapter.

People: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

The Gospel Reading: John 1:1-13

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through him, and without him was not anything made that was made. In him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light.

The true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

(Please be seated)

Children's Message (10:30)

Sermon Hymn: We Praise You, O God

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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

If you are visiting with us this morning, know that your presence here means far more to us than any gift of money you could make; please do not hesitate to let the plate pass you by.

(Please stand)

The Service of the Sacrament

Pastor: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said, "Take, eat; this is My body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me." In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given

thanks, He gave it to them, saying: “Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.”

Pastor: As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord’s death until He comes.

People: **Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

People: **Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven; give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.**

Pastor: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

People: **And also with you.**

The Sharing of the Peace

The Agnus Dei (Lamb of God)

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Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

(Please be seated until it is your time to commune.)

The Distribution

We welcome to the Lord’s Table all who have been baptized in the name of the Triune God, can examine themselves spiritually and believe they receive the true body and blood of the Lord Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of sins and as a profession of their faith. If you hold a profession of faith that differs from that of our congregation, please speak to the Pastor before the start of the service before communing.

- We believe the body and blood of Christ are truly present in the bread and wine.
- We believe Christ offers the forgiveness of sins in the Lord’s Supper, but that the Lord’s Supper is not necessary for salvation.
- We believe the Lord’s Supper remembers the death of Christ and proclaims his death until he returns.
- We believe the Lord’s Supper is a statement of unity in the body of Christ; we do not believe it creates that unity.

During the distribution, you are encouraged to sing the Distribution Hymns, pray, or meditate on the words “this is my body... this is my blood, given for you.”

The cups at the center of the Individual Communion tray contain diluted wine for those with alcohol sensitivities.

Distribution Hymns

Soul, Adorn Yourself with Gladness	636
Have No Fear, Little Flock	735
Praise and Thanksgiving	789

(Please stand)

Benediction

People: Amen

<i>The Recessional: Praise to the Lord, the Almighty</i>	790
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† *Service Participants* †

Pastor:	The Rev. Duncan McLellan
Music Director:	Mark Killinger
The Organist:	Sandra Quinlan
The Elders:	Rob Oelschlager & Peter Fisher
The Acolyte:	Josiah Ackerman (8:00) Carley Rockovich (10:30)
The Greeters:	Jack & Jacque Oelschlager (8:00) Darla & Carley Rockovich (10:30)
The Ushers:	Josh Gielarowski, Dale Miller Barb & Wayne Oechslein (8:00) Ross Chilcott, Sam Dragan Dan Harris & Chuck LaJeunesse (10:30)
Altar Guild:	Janet, Marian & Molly Oelschlager

Last Week in Worship

Sunday Worship Attendance (3/15) – 237

Wednesday Attendance (3/18) – 45

Offering (3/15) – \$5,055.00

Wednesday Offering (3/11) - \$ 641

Week of March 15th – March 22nd

SUNDAY 3/22	8:00 AM – Worship w/Communion 9:15 AM – Sunday School 9:30 AM – Voters Meeting 10:30 AM–Worship w/Communion 11:45 AM – Children’s Choir Practice
MONDAY 3/23	
TUESDAY 3/24	
WEDNESDAY 3/25	7:00 PM – Lenten Service 7:45 PM – Post Service Fellowship
THURSDAY 3/26	10:00 AM – Bible Study 7:00 PM – Choir Practice
FRIDAY 3/27	7:00 AM – Free Coffee Friday 6:30 PM – Bowling @ AMF Mt.Lebanon
SATURDAY 3/28	8:00 AM – Men’s Bible Breakfast
SUNDAY 3/29 PALM SUNDAY	8:00 AM – Worship w/ Communion 9:15 AM – Bible Class & Sunday School 10:30 AM – Worship w/ Communion & Children’s Church 11:45 PM – Children’s Choir Practice