

ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH



Service of Prayer and Preaching
July 8th, 2015



ANNOUNCEMENTS

NURSERY! Zion will have a staffed nursery for children 2 and under starting in July during the late service. If you are interested in helping out or would like to know more, please contact the church office!

ORANGE OUT. In order to raise awareness for the persecuted church and to pray for our brothers and sisters in Christ, we are going to have another “Orange Out” Sunday, July 19th here at Zion. Wear your orange shirts to worship. If you’d like to purchase our orange “Because of their faith” shirts for the Orange Out, we have a sign-up sheet in the back Narthex area of the church.

FAMILY COOKOUT RESCHEDULED We are having a Family Cookout July 19th here at Zion! Starting at 5pm, we’ll be grilling out, singing songs, and making s’mores! Bring the whole family; the fun starts at 5! For more information, check out the church website or contact the church office! hope to see you there...

Pastor on the Radio: Pastor Duncan will be on KFYO this coming Friday, July 10th at 9:00am to discuss Acts 14 and 15. Listen live or online at <http://www.kfyoam.org/>

Welcome to worship!

This evening, we reexamine the parable of the Prodigal Son. One of the most well-known of the parables, this story told by Jesus teaches us about the faithfulness of God, the unfaithfulness of his people, and even the misunderstanding many people have about what it means to be a child of God. Needless to say, there's a lot of ground to cover this evening.

When called upon to preach this text, the preacher is faced with a number of difficulties, not the least of which is the familiarity the congregation feels for the text; they've heard it before. How can you say something new and interesting without making stuff up? Preachers usually respond by focusing on the Father instead of the prodigal son. But may I suggest that there is just as much we can learn from the lifestyle of the stay-at-home son as we do from the son that went astray?

And so our focus this evening will be on the other son. What was he doing while his brother took his share of the estate and squandered his wealth in reckless living? What was his reaction when his brother came home and to the generosity of his father? There is a lot we can learn from the behavior and attitude of the other brother.

I'm excited to explore this part of the text with you this evening! God bless your time in worship...

-Pastor Duncan

Rev. Duncan McLellan, Pastor

Pastor's Phone: 412-667-0967

Office Phone: 412-221-4776

www.zlcb.org

The Service of Prayer and Preaching

(Please take a moment to fill out the Attendance books)

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 reexamine the parable of the Prodigal Son. We see in this parable the love and faithfulness of God contrasted against our selfishness and pride. Therefore, let us confess our sins, trusting in our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

People: **Lord Jesus Christ, I confess to you that I have sinned. Some of my sin I know, some I do not, but all is known by you. Therefore I ask that you would forgive my sins, restore me to a right relationship with you, and use me to grow your kingdom through speaking your name and living out my calling as salt and light. I ask this in your name—the only name given to men by which we must be saved. Amen.**

Absolution Spoken by the Pastor

People: **Amen.**

The Reading: Luke 15:11-32

And he said, "There was a man who had two sons. And the younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the share of property that is coming to me.' And he divided his property between them. Not many days later, the younger son gathered all he had and took a journey into a far country, and there he squandered his property in reckless living. And when he had spent everything, a severe famine arose in that country, and he began to be in

need. So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him into his fields to feed pigs. And he was longing to be fed with the pods that the pigs ate, and no one gave him anything.

“But when he came to himself, he said, ‘How many of my father’s hired servants have more than enough bread, but I perish here with hunger! I will arise and go to my father, and I will say to him, “Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son. Treat me as one of your hired servants.”’ And he arose and came to his father. But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and felt compassion, and ran and embraced him and kissed him. And the son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’ But the father said to his servants, ‘Bring quickly the best robe, and put it on him, and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet. And bring the fattened calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate. For this son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found.’ And they began to celebrate.

“Now his older son was in the field, and as he came and drew near to the house, he heard music and dancing. And he called one of the servants and asked what these things meant. And he said to him, ‘Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fattened calf, because he has received him back safe and sound.’ But he was angry and refused to go in. His father came out and entreated him, but he answered his father, ‘Look, these many years I have served you, and I never disobeyed your command, yet you never gave me a young goat, that I might celebrate with my friends. But when this son of yours came, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fattened calf for him!’ And he said to him, ‘Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. It was fitting to celebrate and be glad, for this your brother was dead, and is alive; he was lost, and is found.’”

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 Prayers

For the prayers this evening, you are invited to come to the Communion Rail and kneel.

Pastor: In peace let us pray to the Lord:

Pastor: For our congregation: that we would recognize our need to seek and save the lost with the good news of Jesus Christ and that we would practice the unconditional forgiveness we have received. Let us pray.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: For our families: that the Lord would bless them in every way, that their faith in Christ would grow daily, and that they would make time in God's word and prayer a priority in their lives. Let us pray.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: For our friends and acquaintances: that they would come to know Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord, and that God the Holy Spirit would make us bold to speak the name of Jesus to those walking in darkness, giving us the words to say at the proper time. Let us pray.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: For our enemies: that we would be reconciled to each other by the peace of God that passes all understanding so that our witness to them in word and deed would bear the fruit of repentance and faith. Let us pray.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: For people we know who are ill: that the Lord would demonstrate his authority over sickness through restoring them to health. Let us pray.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: For those who govern: that they would faithfully discharge the duties of their office with wisdom and integrity, that we would live in peace and freedom. Let us pray.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: For the work of the Holy Spirit in our lives: that we would practice the kind of forgiveness we have received so that the name of God would be glorified in this age. Let us pray.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: For the upcoming retreat at Camp Pioneer and Orange Out, that they would be used by our Lord to strengthen the faith of those who participate, and be used as a witness to the world of the love of God in Christ Jesus. Let us pray.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: For our witness in the world: that we would not be afraid to speak the name of Jesus, give the reason we have for the hope that is in us, and be used by God to share the good news of Jesus for all people. Let us pray.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: For the concerns we have in our hearts. Let us pray...

Pastor: Taught by our Lord and trusting in his promises, we are bold to pray:

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.**

The Benediction