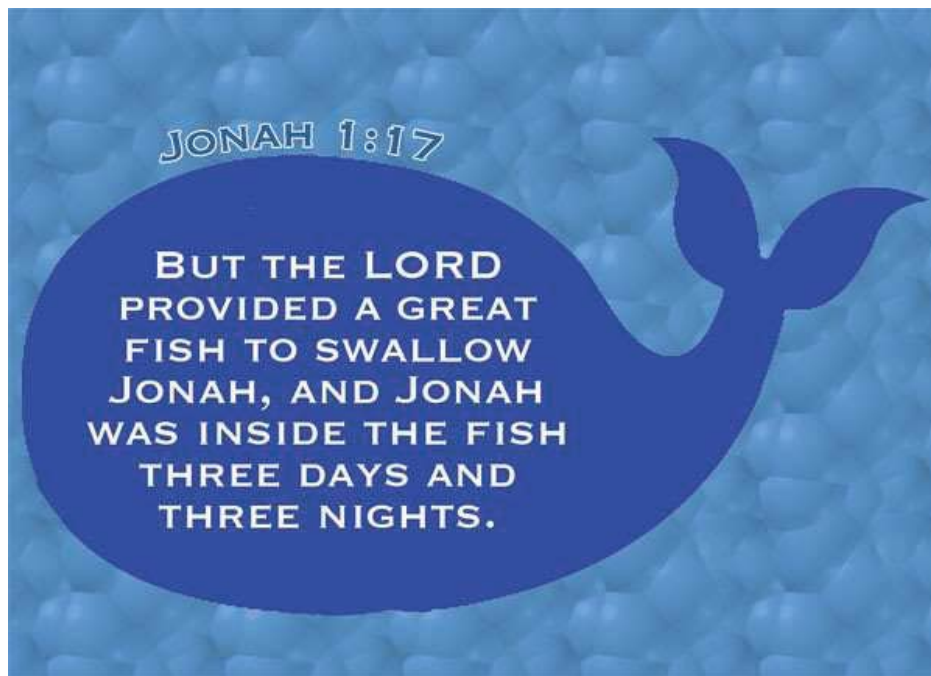


ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH



Service of Prayer and Preaching
July 15th, 2015



ANNOUNCEMENTS

NURSERY! Zion will have a staffed nursery for children 2 and under starting this Sunday, July 19th 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.

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...

EVENTS COMMITTEE. At last month’s Voters’ Meeting, the proposal was put forth to form an Events Committee, responsible for events that focus on outreach and fellowship. We will be voting to amend our Church Constitution to give the head of the Events Committee a seat on the Council at the next Voters’ meeting. If you would like more information about the Events Committee and the proposed Amendment to the Constitution, please contact the church office.

ROMANS. We will be starting a Bible Study Series on the book of Romans in conjunction with our Wednesday Evening Service of Prayer and Preaching starting in October. Look for more information in the August Newsletter.

Welcome to worship!

This evening, we are going to veer off our intended course a bit to take a look at the book of Jonah.

JONAH!? Why in the world would we look at the book of Jonah?

Well, for a couple of reasons, actually. First, I've never done a sermon series (or even Bible Study series) on the book of Jonah, so it's kind of a 10-Year-Anniversary gift to myself. Second, last Sunday we began our unit on prayer and spent a bit of time looking at the prayer of the Ninevites and how God responded by doing for them more than they could have imagined. We've already looked at the other prayers I mentioned in that sermon (the prayer of Moses when the Golden Calf was made, the prayer of Jesus which led to Lazarus being raised from the dead, the prayer of Hezekiah when the Assyrians were about to destroy Jerusalem, and the prayer of Elijah when he confronted the 450 prophets of Baal), but we have not yet looked at Jonah in general (or the prayer of the Ninevites in particular) together.

So for the next four weeks (or so), we are going to work our way through the book of Jonah. We'll hopefully get through one chapter each week (depending on how many questions are asked on Sunday morning; none were asked last week, so we've got plenty of time to begin looking at the book of Jonah this evening).

I'm looking forward to this impromptu mini-series on Jonah! There are a lot of twists and turns to this short and unique book that I think will do more than just keep your attention; I think you will be challenged—but ultimately encouraged—by what we discover as we spend time in Jonah.

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 begin a mini-series on the book of Jonah. Called by God to be a Prophet, Jonah rebels and attempts to flee from the God who fills heaven and earth. We, too, have turned our back on God, trusting in our own wisdom and will instead of trusting in his Word. Therefore, let us confess our sins that we might receive mercy and grace to help us in our time of need.

People: **Father in heaven, I confess to you that I have sinned. You have given me so much that I might be a blessing in the lives of my family and friends and even the stranger on the street. But I have used the gifts you have given me selfishly. I ask that you would have mercy on me, forgive my sins, and lead me to follow you all the days of my life. I ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.**

Absolution Spoken by the Pastor

People: **Amen.**

The Reading: Jonah 1

Now the word of the Lord came to Jonah the son of Amittai, saying, "Arise, go to Nineveh, that great city, and call out against it, for their evil has come up before me." But Jonah rose to flee to Tarshish from the presence of the Lord. He went down to Joppa and found a ship going

to Tarshish. So he paid the fare and went down into it, to go with them to Tarshish, away from the presence of the Lord.

But the Lord hurled a great wind upon the sea, and there was a mighty tempest on the sea, so that the ship threatened to break up. Then the mariners were afraid, and each cried out to his god. And they hurled the cargo that was in the ship into the sea to lighten it for them. But Jonah had gone down into the inner part of the ship and had lain down and was fast asleep. So the captain came and said to him, "What do you mean, you sleeper? Arise, call out to your god! Perhaps the god will give a thought to us, that we may not perish."

And they said to one another, "Come, let us cast lots, that we may know on whose account this evil has come upon us." So they cast lots, and the lot fell on Jonah. Then they said to him, "Tell us on whose account this evil has come upon us. What is your occupation? And where do you come from? What is your country? And of what people are you?" And he said to them, "I am a Hebrew, and I fear the Lord, the God of heaven, who made the sea and the dry land." Then the men were exceedingly afraid and said to him, "What is this that you have done!" For the men knew that he was fleeing from the presence of the Lord, because he had told them.

Then they said to him, "What shall we do to you, that the sea may quiet down for us?" For the sea grew more and more tempestuous. He said to them, "Pick me up and hurl me into the sea; then the sea will quiet down for you, for I know it is because of me that this great tempest has come upon you." Nevertheless, the men rowed hard to get back to dry land, but they could not, for the sea grew more and more tempestuous against them. Therefore they called out to the Lord, "O Lord, let us not perish for this man's life, and lay not on us innocent blood, for you, O Lord, have done as it

pleased you.” So they picked up Jonah and hurled him into the sea, and the sea ceased from its raging. Then the men feared the Lord exceedingly, and they offered a sacrifice to the Lord and made vows.

And the Lord appointed a great fish to swallow up Jonah. And Jonah was in the belly of the fish three days and three nights.

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