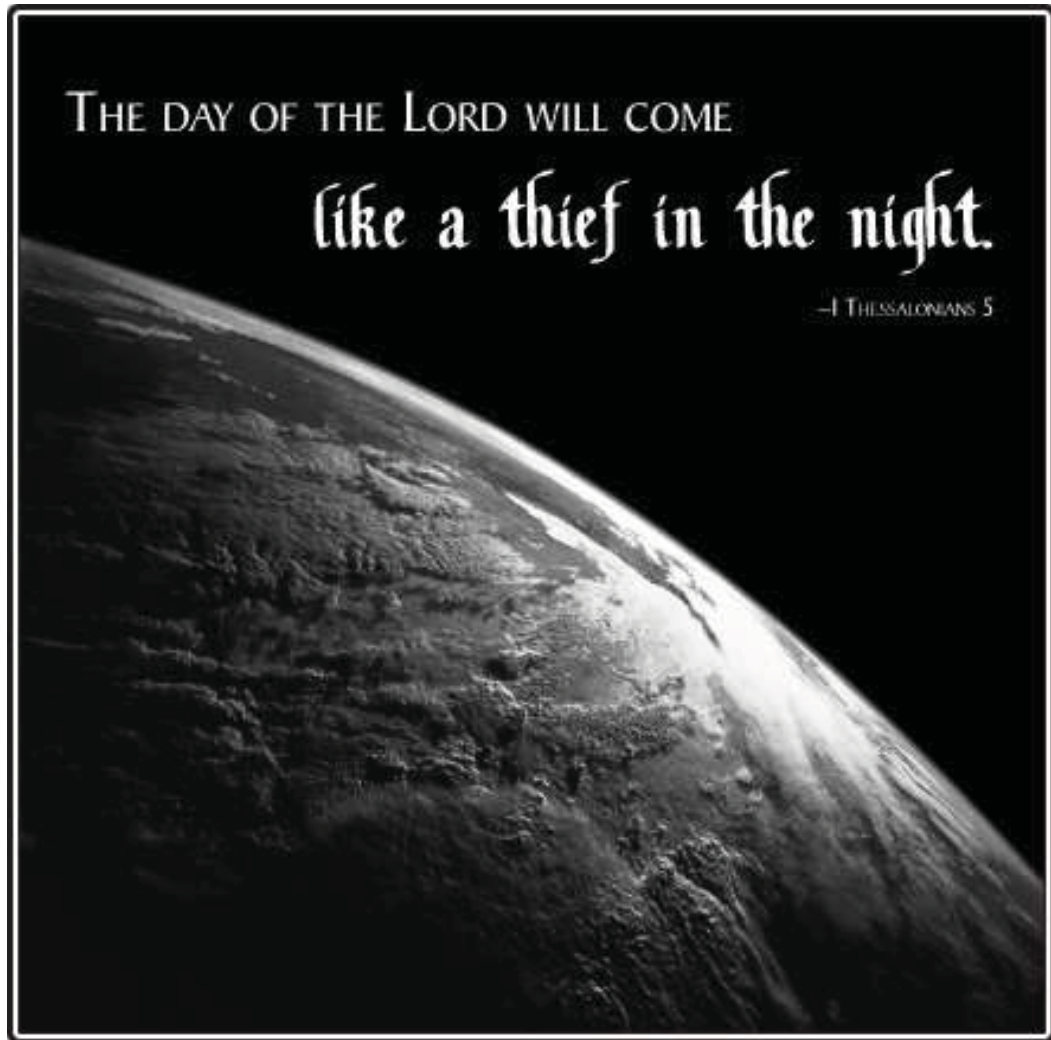


ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH

THE DAY OF THE LORD WILL COME

like a thief in the night.

—1 THESSALONIANS 5



Service of Prayer and Preaching
1 Thessalonians 5:1 -11



ANNOUNCEMENTS

IDEAS, PLEASE! We're looking for ideas for sermon series themes for 2015. If you have a topic, book, doctrine, issue, or area of interest that you would like to hear a sermon (or sermons) on, please let Pastor Duncan know. Thanks!

CHILDREN'S CHURCH. Starting in January, the young children (preschool age and younger) will have a special "Children's Church" in the preschool lobby. "Children's Church" will take place during the late service, starting with the Sermon Hymn and lasting through the Sermon, Creed, and Collection of the Offering. Please let Pastor Duncan or the Church Office know if you would like to know more about Children's Church and how you can volunteer your help!

WHAT'S NEXT? The sanctuary has been renovated, we have air conditioning, and we added a Music Director. What's next for Zion? The next project we have in store is to renovate the kitchen. Look for more information about our Kitchen Refresh in the monthly newsletter, in bulletins (like this one) and on-line.

WOMEN'S RETREAT. Due to popular demand, Zion will be having a women's retreat over the first weekend in May at Camp Pioneer. Details will be available in upcoming monthly newsletters, but mark your calendars for Zion's FIRST EVER Women's Retreat!

MEN'S AND WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY. Starting in January, the women's Bible study and the men's Bible study (currently Saturday @ 8:00am) will both be spending time in the same study on the book of Galatians. Look for more information in upcoming newsletters and in this space. Right here.

THANKSGIVING AND ADVENT WORSHIP. Join us next Wednesday, and the Wednesdays in December, for our Thanksgiving Eve and Advent worship services. Advent dinners start in December at 6:00pm, one hour before our Advent Services begin. Our theme will be the Advent Names of Jesus.

FREE COFFEE FRIDAY. We need your help! Before we can give away coffee and doughnuts, we need a design for the coffee mugs. We're looking for something—a verse or a phrase, along with an attractive design that can go on the coffee cups we'll be using for Free Coffee Friday. You e-mail your designs to Pastor Duncan or the Church Office: pastor@zlc.org or secretary@zlc.org We'll be taking ideas through the end of the year. Thanks for your help and being a part of Free Coffee Friday!!

The Service of Prayer and Preaching

The Invocation

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

People: **Amen.**

Confession and Absolution

Pastor: This evening, we turn our attention to the words of St. Paul from 1 Thessalonians as they teach and admonish us to be prepared for the coming of Christ at the end of the age. With his return in mind and our sins in full view, let us ask the Lord to forgive us and prepare us for his coming.

People: **Lord Jesus Christ, prepare me for your coming. Forgive my sins and lead me by the power of your Holy Spirit to amend my ways and live under His controlling influence. Have mercy on me, my family, my loved ones and my enemies, that you would find us ready when you come. Amen.**

Absolution Spoken by the Pastor

(Please be seated)

The Reading: 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers, you have no need to have anything written to you. For you yourselves are fully aware that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. While people are saying, "There is peace and security," then sudden destruction will come upon them as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and they will not escape. But you are not in darkness, brothers, for that day to surprise you like a thief. For you are all children of light, children of the day. We are not of the night or of the darkness. So then let us not sleep, as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober. For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk, are drunk at night. But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, having put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. For God has not destined us for wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us so that whether we are awake or asleep we might

live with him. Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing.

Sermon

(Please stand)

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 the Lord would continue to guide and direct all that we do in his name, sanctify and bless the work we do in His name, and lead us to a greater understanding of the mystery of our union with him. Let us pray.

Pastor: For our families: that they would be prepared for the Day of the Lord and that you would lead us to greater faith and obedience as we look forward to your coming. Let us pray.

Pastor: For our friends and acquaintances: that our witness to them in word and deed would be used by the Holy Spirit for the glory of God. Let us pray.

Pastor: For people we know who are ill: especially Colin, Harry, Iola, Janet, Jack, Florence, Jim and Norma, Megan, Scott, Gloria, Marian, Tom, Sarah and Michael, Galdys, Joyce, and Dorothy, that the Lord would grant them healing from their afflictions. Let us pray.

Pastor: For the unemployed: that the Lord would open doors of gainful employment so that they might use their gifts in service to others and provide for their daily bread. Let us pray.

Pastor: For those who grieve: that the Lord would strengthen their faith in him, the forgiveness of sins and resurrection unto eternal life, and that he would turn their mourning to joy in his time. Let us pray.

Pastor: For our brothers and sisters in Christ who faithfully witness to the resurrection and the love of God in Christ Jesus. Let us pray.

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