

ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH



*Service of Prayer and Preaching
January 14, 2015*



ANNOUNCEMENTS

BACK TO BASICS. We are going Back to Basics here at Zion for 2015. On both Sunday morning and Wednesday evening services, the focus will be on the core beliefs of our Christian faith. If you miss a Sunday (or Wednesday) service, the messages are available on our website.

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 or contact the church office if you are interested in learning more about church membership.

WOMEN'S AND MEN'S BIBLE STUDIES continue this Saturday. 8am for the guys and Tuesday (7:30pm) for the women. If you haven't signed-up for the study yet, don't worry! We ordered extra books and would love to have you join us! It's not too late to come. Please join us.

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.

CHILDREN'S CHURCH. We had a blast on December 28th... so much so that we're doing it again this month. We'll be giving our 2-6 year olds a place to go all their own (with singing and crafts) during the Sermon and Offering during the Late Service on January 25th.

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! Look for the sign-up sheet on the Narthex bulletin board. If you have questions, please contact Pastor Duncan or the Church Office.

Welcome to worship!

Welcome to our Midweek Service! We've got a lot of ground to cover this evening as we answer a couple of very thoughtful (and difficult) questions from last Sunday and take a closer look at the First Commandment.

Usually when you hear a sermon on the First Commandment (You shall have no other gods before me.), you end up listening to a list of potential other-gods that you might have in your life; things like money and power, sex and sports, a career and the purchasing of unnecessary things. Those lists are fine and good (and we would probably be wise to consider what things—good and bad—are taking the place God has reserved for himself in our lives), but I want to avoid giving you what you've already heard. Instead, this evening I want us to focus on what the First Commandment would have meant for those who heard it first: the Israelites, under the leadership of Moses, who had just been rescued from Pharaoh and set free from slavery in Egypt.

Also, a head's-up for the next two Sundays. In between services (9:30), we usually have Bible Study and the children go to Sunday School. But for the next two Sundays, we have something different for the adults. This Sunday, Mike Chilcoat (the Regional Director for Young Life) will be here and tell us about how Christ is making himself known in the high schools in the greater Pittsburgh region. Then, on the 25th, we will have a Voters' meeting in between the services, where we will present some significant ideas to move ministry forward here at Zion. I hope you are able to come to both meetings, as I think you'll like what you hear and what will be discussed.

-Pastor Duncan McLellan

Rev. Duncan McLellan, Pastor

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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: Brothers and sisters in Christ, before we listen to God's Word and contemplate its meaning for us this evening, let us unburden our consciences and set our minds at rest by confessing our sins to our heavenly Father.

People: **Father in heaven, before I listen to your Word and come before you with the prayers of my heart, I need to confess to you that I have sinned against you in thought, word and deed. I have not done what you have told me to do, and I have also done what is evil in your sight. On account of Christ Jesus my Lord, have mercy on me and forgive me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation and uphold me with your Holy Spirit. Amen.**

Absolution Spoken by the Pastor

People: Amen.

The Reading: Exodus 20:1-6

And God spoke all these words, saying, "I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery. You shall have no other gods before me. You shall not make for yourself a carved image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. You shall not bow down to

them or serve them, for I the Lord your God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children to the third and the fourth generation of those who hate me, but showing steadfast love to thousands of those who love me and keep my commandments.”

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 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 firmly convinced of the truth of the Gospel and commit themselves to following in the faith handed down to us by the Apostles and Prophets. 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.... Let us pray.

Pastor: For those who have upcoming medical tests and procedures: that the Lord would demonstrate Himself the Great Physician of body and soul by quickly and completely restoring them to health. 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