

ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH



*Second Midweek Advent
December 11th, 2012*



ANNOUNCEMENTS

MIDWEEK SERVICES will continue throughout the season of Advent. Don't forget to come early for our Advent Dinners (starting at 6:00, served in the basement). Our theme for these Midweek Services is: Advent According to the Gospels. We will be hearing how the evangelists Matthew, Luke and John handled the time before the birth of Christ in their gospel accounts.

PRAYER: Two years ago, we read through the Bible in a year together. This year, our focus has been to memorize passages of Scripture that teach the basics of the Christian faith. Next year, our focus is going to be prayer. There will be Wednesday evening services through 2014 focusing on prayer and preaching (starting 1/8 @ 7:00pm). As Scripture says: "the prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective." And Christ our Lord says: "If you believe you will receive anything you ask for in prayer."

Interested in 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, Vicar David or contact the church office if you are interested in learning more about church membership.

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 going to begin a three week unit that will parallel what you are hearing at the midweek service: Christmas (and Advent) according to the Gospels.

Welcome to worship!

As you gather into the sanctuary this evening you will notice that the Advent wreath now has two candles lit. With each candle lit we get closer and closer to Christmas. The church longs for the day when all the candles are lit and we can celebrate the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

We focus once again on the Advent of the Gospels. We hear this evening from the Gospel according to Luke. The Angel Gabriel comes to Mary and tells her that she will give birth to a son. This son will be called the son of the Most High and he will be given the throne of King David. Surely, this must have been a lot for Mary to hear and to contemplate. After all, Mary was a virgin and it didn't make sense that she could be pregnant. However, after hearing the angel's message Mary responded confidently in faith.

Often times we are confronted with the Gospel and told to trust. At times the story can appear not to make any sense. Nevertheless, we are called to trust God and to respond in faith. We continue to trust in His plan and His will for our lives.

This Advent season our faith continues to grow with each promise we hear of the coming Savior. Like Mary, our only response is faith! Our anticipation and excitement is abounding. The church cries out, "Rejoice, Rejoice, Emmanuel shall come to thee!"

-Vicar David

Rev. Duncan McLellan, Pastor
David Schultz, Vicar
Darren Eliker, Pastoral Assistant

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The Divine Service

The Prelude

(Please take a moment to fill out the Attendance books. Thank you!!)

Introduction to Worship and Announcements

Hymn-sing

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 will listen to the angel announce to Mary that she would give birth to the Christ. Like Mary, our spirit rejoices in God our Savior. Our spirit also rejoices in sin and every kind of evil. Therefore, let us confess our sins to God our Father.

People: **Almighty God, I confess to you that, in addition to rejoicing in the coming of your Son, my Lord Jesus Christ, I have also rejoiced in sin. I have ignored the good that you have created me to do and have willingly chosen to do what I know is wrong. Have mercy on me and forgive my sins. Allow me to rejoice in your salvation with my whole heart. I ask this confidently and in the name of Jesus my Savior. Amen.**

Absolution Spoken by the Pastor

People: **Amen.**

The Prayer of the Church

Pastor: ... Lord, in your mercy.

People: **Hear our prayer.**

(Please be seated)

The Old Testament Reading: *Jeremiah 33:14-18*

“Behold, the days are coming, declares the LORD, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David, and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. In those days Judah will be saved, and Jerusalem will dwell securely. And this is the name by which it will be called: ‘The LORD is our righteousness.’

“For thus says the LORD: David shall never lack a man to sit on the throne of the house of Israel, and the Levitical priests shall never lack a man in my presence to offer burnt offerings, to burn grain offerings, and to make sacrifices forever.”

The Gospel Reading: *Luke 1:26-38*

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin’s name was Mary. And he came to her and said, “Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!” But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be. And the angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.”

And Mary said to the angel, “How will this be, since I am a virgin.”

And the angel answered her, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy—the Son of God. And behold, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month with her who was called barren. For nothing will be impossible with God.” And Mary said, “Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word.” And the angel departed from her.

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

(Please stand)

The Benediction

The Recessional: Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates

† Service Participants †

Pastor:	Rev. Duncan McLellan
Vicar:	David Schultz
Pianist:	Paula Gardner
The Elders:	Frank Vallelunga and Ken Wuerthele
The Greeters:	TBD
The Acolyte:	Elder
Altar Guild:	Janet, Marian and Molly Oelschlager