

# ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH



*Service of Prayer and Preaching*  
*Genesis 1:1 - 2:3*



# 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!

**NEW DIRECTORY!** It's past the deadline to sign-up to have your picture taken for the new church directory. If you haven't signed-up, someone from church will be contacting you to make sure you're included in the new directory. Say Cheese!

**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.

**ZION'S GOT TALENT.** Do you like to sing? Do other people like it when you sing? Does your shower listen to you sing? There are sign-up sheets in the narthex area for the Adult Choir and Youth Choir at Zion! There's also a place for you to sign-up if you can play a musical instrument (or instruments). We are expanding our music ministry and we want YOU to be a part of it! More information will be available in Zion's monthly newsletter and on-line.

**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.

**MEN'S RETREAT.** We'll be leaving tomorrow (Thursday) at 5:30 from Zion. If you can't leave with us then, directions to camp are available from Pastor. E-mail him. It's not too late to go on MR@P2!

**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@zlcg.org](mailto:pastor@zlcg.org) or [secretary@zlcg.org](mailto:secretary@zlcg.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: Brothers and sisters in Christ: as we prepare to listen to God's Word, profess our faith in him as he has been revealed to us in Scripture, and call upon him with our prayers, let us first confess our sins and receive his forgiveness.

People: **Father in heaven, thank you for giving me both the time and desire to come to church this evening to listen to your word and spend time with you in prayer. But if I were to listen to you now, I would be distracted by my sins and iniquities by which I have offended you and hurt my neighbor. And so, in order that I may worship you with a clean conscience and without distraction, I ask that you would forgive my sins, blot out my iniquities, and remove all that would separate me from you as far as the east is from the west. Have mercy on me, in Jesus' name. Amen.**

*Absolution Spoken by the Pastor*

(Please be seated)

## **The Reading: Genesis 1:1-2:3**

In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. The earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters.

And God said, "Let there be light," and there was light. And God saw that the light was good. And God separated the light from the darkness. God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

And God said, "Let there be an expanse in the midst of the waters, and let it separate the waters from the waters." And God made the expanse and separated the

waters that were under the expanse from the waters that were above the expanse. And it was so. And God called the expanse Heaven. And there was evening and there was morning, the second day.

And God said, "Let the waters under the heavens be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear." And it was so. God called the dry land Earth, and the waters that were gathered together he called Seas. And God saw that it was good.

And God said, "Let the earth sprout vegetation, plants yielding seed, and fruit trees bearing fruit in which is their seed, each according to its kind, on the earth." And it was so. The earth brought forth vegetation, plants yielding seed according to their own kinds, and trees bearing fruit in which is their seed, each according to its kind. And God saw that it was good. And there was evening and there was morning, the third day.

And God said, "Let there be lights in the expanse of the heavens to separate the day from the night. And let them be for signs and for seasons, and for days and years, and let them be lights in the expanse of the heavens to give light upon the earth." And it was so. And God made the two great lights—the greater light to rule the day and the lesser light to rule the night—and the stars. And God set them in the expanse of the heavens to give light on the earth, to rule over the day and over the night, and to separate the light from the darkness. And God saw that it was good. And there was evening and there was morning, the fourth day.

And God said, "Let the waters swarm with swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the expanse of the heavens." So God created the great sea creatures and every living creature that moves, with which the waters swarm, according to their kinds, and every winged bird according to its kind. And God saw that it was good. And God blessed them, saying, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth." And there was evening and there was morning, the fifth day.

And God said, “Let the earth bring forth living creatures according to their kinds—livestock and creeping things and beasts of the earth according to their kinds.” And it was so. And God made the beasts of the earth according to their kinds and the livestock according to their kinds, and everything that creeps on the ground according to its kind. And God saw that it was good.

Then God said, “Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.”

So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.

And God blessed them. And God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth.” And God said, “Behold, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is on the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit. You shall have them for food. And to every beast of the earth and to every bird of the heavens and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food.” And it was so. And God saw everything that he had made, and behold, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all the host of them. And on the seventh day God finished his work that he had done, and he rested on the seventh day from all his work that he had done. So God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on it God rested from all his work that he had done in creation.

## ***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 was 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.

## ***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, that he would bless the men going to Camp Pioneer  
this weekend, and that we would continue to be useful to him for the  
spreading of the gospel. Let us pray.

Pastor: For our families: that we would be good examples for them and that they  
would be led to trust in the Lord for all things, learn about him from his  
word, and fully commit their lives to following him. 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: 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***