

ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH



*Midweek Service of
Prayer and Preaching*



ANNOUNCEMENTS

MIDWEEK SERMON SERIES! Our midweek series begins TODAY! Over the next five weeks, we will engage a series that takes us through the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, taking us back to the basics. The topics for the five week series are:

1. The Nature of God.
2. The Nature of Man.
3. The Problem.
4. What God Did.
5. Your New Life in Christ.

J@CK! July at Camp for the Kingdom is the name of our Mission Trip for this summer. Mark your calendars for July 27 – August 3rd. We will be going to Camp Pioneer for a week of work, spiritual growth and fellowship. All are welcome and invited to come on this trip! We will have details (including pricing information) in the April Newsletter and in these announcements.

DID YOU KNOW that Zion has a Long Term Planning Committee? We do. And it is getting back together to pray about and attempt to discern what God's long-term plans for our congregation are and how to accomplish them. Please keep the Long Term Planning Committee in your prayers!

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY is on Mondays @ 7:30pm in the Fellowship Hall. They are studying the book **IDOL LIES**. It's not too late to start coming; if you are interested in attending, please contact Alissa McLellan or the Church Office. Next Monday, May 26, they will not be meeting due to the Memorial Day holiday. They will meet back on Monday, June 2 and will be discussing lesson 5.

ZION IS HOSTING a creation seminar the weekend of June 13-15th. We will listen to experts explain the science behind the Creation and explain why contemporary theories about the origins of life are flawed. Invite your friends!

AIR CONDITIONING! Last week, a family that wishes to remain anonymous came forward to offer up to \$20,000 in matching funds toward the purchase of air conditioning for the sanctuary. Please prayerfully consider supporting this project. We would like to have the air conditioning installed before the heat of the summer gets here. (We are, roughly, \$10,000 away from reaching our goal of \$45,000 for the project.)

The Service of Prayer and Preaching

Introduction to Worship

The Invocation

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

People: **Amen.**

Confession of Sins

Vicar: This evening, we will focus on the nature of God. God is holy, demanding perfection from people who he made in his own image and likeness. God is also righteous and just, he does not leave the guilty unpunished. Therefore, let us confess our sins, trusting that God is also merciful and gracious, loving those whom he created.

People: **Sovereign Lord, I confess to you that I have fallen short of your perfect standards, and have failed to do what you have commanded me to do. Forgive my sins and lead me to greater faith and obedience. I ask this in the name of Christ, my Lord. Amen.**

Absolution Spoken by the Vicar

People: **Amen.**

(Please be seated)

The Reading: Romans 11:25-36

Lest you be wise in your own sight, I do not want you to be unaware of this mystery, brothers: a partial hardening has come upon Israel, until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in. And in this way all Israel will be saved, as it is written,

“The Deliverer will come from Zion,
he will banish ungodliness from Jacob”;
“and this will be my covenant with them
when I take away their sins.”

As regards the gospel, they are enemies for your sake. But as regards election, they are beloved for the sake of their forefathers. For the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable. For just as you were at one time disobedient to God but now have received mercy because of their disobedience, so they too have now been disobedient in order that by the mercy shown to you they also may now receive mercy. For God has consigned all to disobedience, that he may have mercy on all.

Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgments and how inscrutable his ways!

“For who has known the mind of the Lord,
or who has been his counselor?”

“Or who has given a gift to him
that he might be repaid?”

For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be glory forever. Amen.

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

Pastor: In peace let us pray to the Lord:

People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: For the peace from above and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: For our brothers and sisters in Christ who labor under adverse conditions, that their faithful witness to the truth of the Gospel would bear the fruit of repentance and faith in the lives of their family, friends and those who persecute them, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: For the government officials, especially for Barak and Tom, that they would diligently discharge their duties with humility and wisdom, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: For those who work to bring justice, peace, health, and protection in this and every place, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: For those who work to bring the gospel of Jesus Christ to the nations, that they would be blessed to see Christ at work through them, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: For patience in affliction, wisdom in difficult situations, faithfulness in moments of despair, and steadfastness amidst trials and temptations, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: For... let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: For the faithful who have gone before us and are with Christ, let us give thanks to the Lord:

People: Alleluia! Amen.

Pastor: Taught by our Lord, and trusting in his promises, we are bold to pray:

People: Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed by 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