

ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH



Service of Prayer and Preaching
April 29th, 2015



ANNOUNCEMENTS

INTERESTED IN JOINING? We are having a New Member Instruction Weekend (we'll think of a more catchy name for it, we promise) June 12th and 13th. If you are interested in joining Zion or want to know more about what we believe, mark your calendars and look for more information in this space, the church's website and the May Newsletter!

ORANGE-OUT. By now, you've all heard and seen pictures and videos of the violence being done to Christians in the Middle-East. In order to show our support for the persecuted church, we are having an "Orange-Out" at church on May 17th, where our "Back to Basics" focus will be on the "One Holy Christian and Apostolic Church." We ask that you dress in orange on that day. Orange is the color worn by our brothers-in-Christ when they are martyred for their faith. If you do not have orange clothing, we are going to order orange tee-shirts with "Because of their faith" printed on the front, and a large black cross on the back. There's a sign-up sheet in the entryway to the church. The cost is \$10 with proceeds going to support the persecuted church through LCMS World Mission.

CAR WASH. Come on out Saturday 5/30 to Zion's Annual End of Spring Car Wash! We'll be washing and detailing cars for free from 10-2 in the church parking lot. We can use your help washing, vacuuming, drying, spritzing and spraying, grilling and serving. Oh, did I forget to mention that in addition to getting a free car wash and detail, you'll also get something to eat while you wait? Absolutely! Mark your calendars and come out to Zion on Saturday, May 30th!

FREE COFFEE FRIDAY! Come join us this Friday in the church parking lot (at 7am), or in the church kitchen (6:30am) for Free Coffee Friday. We'll be giving away coffee and doughnuts and the good news of Jesus. Hope to see you here, this Friday @ 6:30 or 7:00am!!

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL: Crew leader and helper positions are still available. We are also looking for help in the nursery. Contact Katie Gielarowski or email secretary@zlc.org to volunteer.

Welcome to worship!

You had a ton of questions! Last Sunday, there were a number of you who asked good questions about the topic for the week, Christ as King, as well as questions relating to the Old and New Testament lessons. We even had questions asked by people through the church's website.

So, in order to get to all of the questions for this week, I chose not to put together a traditional sermon. I think you'll find, however, that there is some good law and even better gospel in the answers to the questions that were asked.

But more than coming to a greater understanding of what is in Scripture, we are also offering God our prayers this evening. Shortly after we worship, former Vicar David Schultz, his wife, Jenna, daughter Leah, and their baby-on-the-way will find out where they will be going after graduation. We give thanks to God for being part of his pastoral formation and ask for God's continued blessings in the lives of his family. Also, we continue to pray for the persecuted church, that it would bear witness to the love of God in Jesus Christ for all people, as well as for God to grant them relief from their suffering and an end to persecution. We will also pray for the upcoming women's retreat at Camp Pioneer, that it would go well with them and that through the study of God's Word, their faith would be strengthened.

There's a lot to do this evening—and even more to be blessed by. God bless your time here at Zion this evening!

-Pastor Duncan

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, Scripture is clear that even those who are living under the controlling influence of the Holy Spirit mess up and, all too often, sin. These sins, left unchecked, would erode our most precious faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, let us confess our sins to God, trusting in his mercy for the sake of his Son Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

People: **Almighty God, we confess that we have all sinned against you, against each other, and against our neighbors. Not only have we hurt ourselves and others, but we have dishonored you. Therefore, we ask that you would forgive us. Set us on the right path and teach us to live our days in faith and obedience. We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.**

Absolution Spoken by the Pastor

People: **Amen.**

The Reading: Luke 23:26-43

And as they led him away, they seized one Simon of Cyrene, who was coming in from the country, and laid on him the cross, to carry it behind Jesus. And there followed him a great multitude of the people and of women who were mourning and lamenting for him. But turning to them Jesus said, "Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me, but weep for yourselves and for your children. For behold, the days are coming when they will say, 'Blessed are the barren and the wombs that never bore and the breasts that never nursed!' Then they will begin to say to the mountains, 'Fall on

us,' and to the hills, 'Cover us.' For if they do these things when the wood is green, what will happen when it is dry?"

Two others, who were criminals, were led away to be put to death with him. And when they came to the place that is called The Skull, there they crucified him, and the criminals, one on his right and one on his left. And Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do." And they cast lots to divide his garments. And the people stood by, watching, but the rulers scoffed at him, saying, "He saved others; let him save himself, if he is the Christ of God, his Chosen One!" The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him sour wine and saying, "If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!" There was also an inscription over him, "This is the King of the Jews."

One of the criminals who were hanged railed at him, saying, "Are you not the Christ? Save yourself and us!" But the other rebuked him, saying, "Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? And we indeed justly, for we are receiving the due reward of our deeds; but this man has done nothing wrong." And he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." And he said to him, "Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in Paradise."

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 Spirit of God would protect our doctrine and life together, that both may agree with the Word of God, so that we might walk in true faith and obedience. Let us pray.

Pastor: For our families: that the Lord would bless them in every way, that their faith in Christ would grow daily, and that they would make time in God's word and prayer a priority in their lives. Let us pray.

Pastor: For our friends and acquaintances: that they would come to know Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord, and that God would make us bold to speak the name of Jesus to those walking in darkness. Let us pray.

Pastor: For our enemies: that we would be reconciled to each other by the peace of God that passes all understanding so that our witness to them in word and deed would bear the fruit of repentance and faith. Let us pray.

Pastor: For people we know who are ill: that the Lord would demonstrate his authority over sickness through restoring them to health. Let us pray.

Pastor: For those who govern, that they would faithfully discharge the duties of their office with wisdom and integrity. Let us pray.

Pastor: For those who put themselves in harm's way on behalf of others, and all whose work is dangerous: that our God would keep them safe and give them the skills to do their job well. Let us pray.

Pastor: For the persecuted church: that God would grant them boldness to speak the name of Jesus, surround them with his divine protection, and lead those who persecute them to saving faith in Christ. Let us pray.

Pastor: For the Schultz family and all who receive calls to serve in the Pastoral Office this evening, that they would joyfully receive what has been given, and that the Lord would bless their ministry, protect their families, and allow them the privilege of seeing him at work in their lives. Let us pray.

Pastor: For the upcoming women's retreat: that those who attend would have their faith in Christ as Savior and Lord strengthened, and that God would grow

and mature the bonds of fellowship that the women enjoy with each other.
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