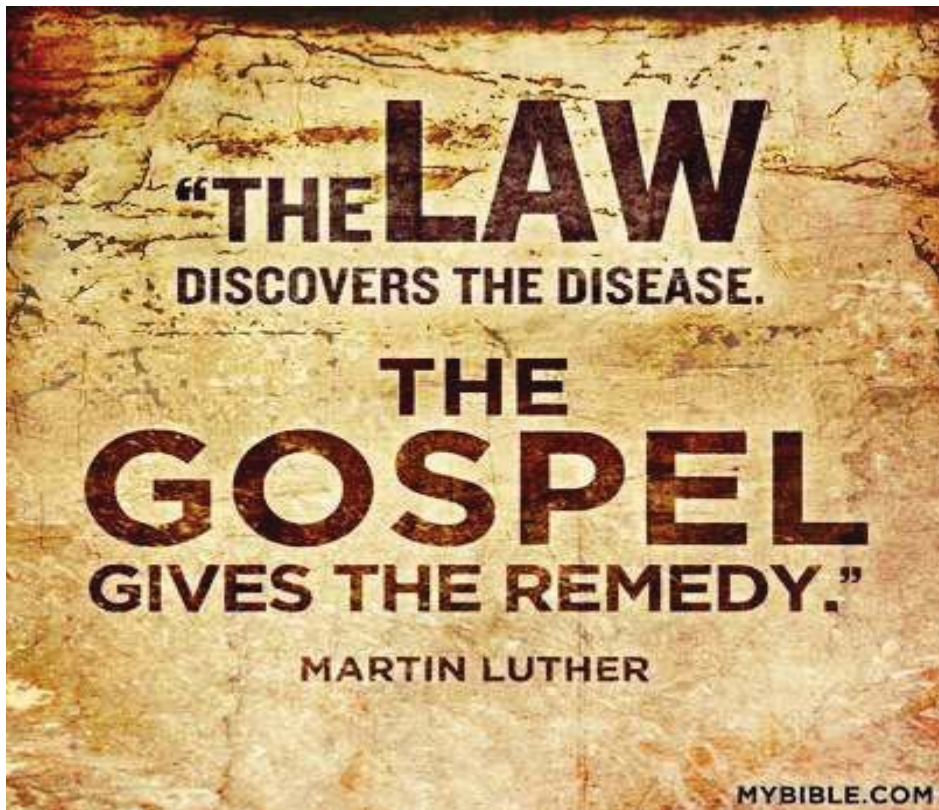


# ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH



*Service of Prayer and Preaching  
January 7, 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** start this Saturday (8am) for the guys and this coming 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!

**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 28<sup>th</sup>... so much so that we're doing it again this month. Look in the ANNOUNCEMENTS section of this Sunday's bulletin to learn more about this alternate worship experience for our 2-6 year-olds during the sermon and offering.

**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 First Midweek Back-to-Basics Service of Prayer and Preaching!

I am excited about the role our midweek services will play in our congregation's year-long emphasis of going Back to Basics. Here's how it works. On Sunday, the sermon (and readings, music and liturgy) will direct us to learn something that is fundamental to the Christian faith as revealed in Scripture. (An outline of the year's topics will be available on the website and on an upcoming insert in Sunday's Bulletin.) On Wednesday, we will pick-up on the previous Sunday's topic and take it a little more in depth. We will also spend time answering the questions that people asked on the previous Sunday.

This evening, we pick up where we left off on Sunday morning: taking a look at God's Word, the Bible. We spent time on Sunday looking at what's in the Bible—the 66 books written over a 1500 year period, all pointing to Jesus. This evening, we will look at a lens many Christians have used to help their understanding of the Bible: Law and Gospel.

We will also look at a series of questions asked on Sunday about the possibility of ongoing divine revelation. Does God still speak to us as He did in Biblical times, or has the inspiration of God ceased after the time of the Apostles?

We've got a lot to do in our time together this evening!

God bless your worship!

-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: This evening, as we begin going “Back to Basics” and look at the distinction between Law and Gospel, we will come face to face with the reality that we have not kept the Law and need to be saved by the Gospel. Therefore, let us confess our sins, trusting in our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

People: **Lord Jesus Christ, we come to you this evening as your people—redeemed by your blood and sanctified by the Spirit that you caused to live within us. Yet we continue to sin. Have mercy on us and forgive us, teach us about you and transform our lowly lives to look like your glorious life. Amen.**

## *Absolution Spoken by the Pastor*

People: Amen.

## **The Reading: *John 5:30-47***

“I can do nothing on my own. As I hear, I judge, and my judgment is just, because I seek not my own will but the will of him who sent me. If I alone bear witness about myself, my testimony is not true. There is another who bears witness about me, and I know that the testimony that he bears about me is true. You sent to John, and he has borne witness to the truth. Not that the

testimony that I receive is from man, but I say these things so that you may be saved. He was a burning and shining lamp, and you were willing to rejoice for a while in his light. But the testimony that I have is greater than that of John. For the works that the Father has given me to accomplish, the very works that I am doing, bear witness about me that the Father has sent me. And the Father who sent me has himself borne witness about me. His voice you have never heard, his form you have never seen, and you do not have his word abiding in you, for you do not believe the one whom he has sent. You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; and it is they that bear witness about me, yet you refuse to come to me that you may have life. I do not receive glory from people. But I know that you do not have the love of God within you. I have come in my Father's name, and you do not receive me. If another comes in his own name, you will receive him. How can you believe, when you receive glory from one another and do not seek the glory that comes from the only God? Do not think that I will accuse you to the Father. There is one who accuses you: Moses, on whom you have set your hope. For if you believed Moses, you would believe me; for he wrote of me. But if you do not believe his writings, how will you believe my words?"

## ***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 suffering from mental illness, that the Lord would grant them wholeness and healing and lead them to believe that their worth is given to them by the God who loves them. 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***