

ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH



*First Sunday of Advent
November 30th, 2014*



ANNOUNCEMENTS

ALTAR FLOWERS are given by Andy & Rochelle Thompson in Memory of Rochelle & Andy's Grandparents and The Mance Family in Memory of Loved Ones.

ETERNAL LIGHT is given by Megan Richards in Memory of her father Frank Rilius.

FREE COFFEE FRIDAY! We're looking for designs for our coffee mugs for Free Coffee Friday and we can use your help. Our goal is to remind people of the love of God for them in Jesus as they drive to work. (And, hopefully, throughout the day.) We'll have more information for you in the November Newsletter, but start thinking about what you'd like to see on the Free Coffee Friday coffee cups!

BACK TO THE BASICS. Three years ago we studied the Gospel of John together on Sunday morning here in worship. Two years ago we read through the Bible in a year. Last year we focused on memory passages. This year we added a service of prayer (and preaching). And now we are excited to announce that next year we are going to go BACK TO THE BASICS. We'll spend the year together in worship learning (and re-learning) the basics of the Christian faith. Look for more information in the December newsletter and right here in the Announcements!

NEW MEMBER LUNCHEON is coming soon! If you've joined our church in the last year or so (or if you've been visiting with us for a good bit of time), look for an invitation to come to a free lunch where you can get to know the church leadership.

USHERS NEEDED! Please consider volunteering to be an usher for early or late service for 2015. The sign-up sheet is in the narthex. Contact Larry Zreliak with any questions!

CHURCH CHRISTMAS DINNER & SUNDAY SCHOOL PAGEANT will be the evening of Sunday December 14th. See Insert for more information and reservation form.

ADVENT. Come worship with us on the Wednesdays in December, as we celebrate the season of Advent. We'll have dinners before the service, starting at 6:00. Our theme this Advent will be on the Advent Names of Jesus. Services start at 7:00.

NEED PRAYER? Stephen Ministers and Elders will be available to pray with or for you following the Service in the chancel area.

MEN'S AND WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY will begin in January. We'll both be studying the same thing: Paul's Letter to the Galatians. Men will continue to meet on Saturday at 8:00am; women at a date and time TBA. The study will last for six weeks; fun for the whole family!

THANK YOU from the Food Bank for our generous donation. The monies are used to support the less fortunate in this area.

TODAY'S GOSPEL READING AND SERMON will be posted to the ZLCB.org website later today. For an archive of older sermons, visit www.zlcb.org/sermons

Welcome to worship!

Welcome to the New Year—the New Year of the Church that is. For the past number of weeks, we have been looking at Scriptures that speak of the end of the world, the resurrection of the dead, and the new creation. In other words, we were peeking ahead to the end of our story in Jesus. When we read about the final defeat of death, the wonder of no more pain in life, and the eternal joy in the presence of Jesus in his new creation, we cannot help but eagerly look forward to that Last Day.

And yet, here we are again, at the beginning of the story. In the past weeks, we have looked at the second coming of Jesus, and now we are back to looking at his first coming. To be honest, we feel disappointed and maybe even a bit frustrated because Jesus has not come back yet. The past few weeks allowed us to see the wonderful unveiling of the reign of heaven, and yet we still live in a time where God’s reign feels hidden. It is hard to make the switch to readings for Advent, to the time before Jesus’ incarnation. It is hard because we want the end to happen now.

Paul says in today’s Epistle reading, “Besides this, you know the time, that the hour has come for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we first believed. The night is far gone; the day is at hand.” Paul reminds Christians that though we still live in a dark, sin-filled, dying world, we also live as new creations of Jesus by faith. Christians live constantly at the end of the story while still in the middle of the story. We continue to celebrate the New Year and the first advent of Christ, all the while praying for His second advent. Come, Lord Jesus!

May God bless your time in worship this morning!

-Adam Steinbrenner

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The Divine Service

(Please take a moment to fill out the Attendance books. If you are visiting us this morning and would like to be contacted by the church, please indicate so in the Attendance Book. We are glad you chose to worship at Zion this morning!)

Introduction to Worship and Announcements

Opening Hymn: Prepare the Royal Highway 343

The Invocation

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

People: **Amen.**

Confession of Sins

Leader: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

People: **But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

Leader: Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

People: **Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.**

Absolution

Leader: In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for His sake God forgives us all our sins. To those who believe in Jesus Christ He gives the power to become the children of God and bestows on them the Holy Spirit. May the

Lord who has begun this good work in us, bring it to completion in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.

People: Amen.

***Hymn of Praise:* This Is the Feast**

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Refrain:

This is the feast of victory of our God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us free to be people of God.

[REFRAIN]

Power, riches, wisdom, and strength, and honor, blessing and glory are His.

[REFRAIN]

Sing with all the people of God, and join in the hymn of all creation:

Blessing, honor, glory, and might be to God and the Lamb forever. Amen.

[REFRAIN]

For the Lamb who was slain has begun His reign. Alleluia.

[REFRAIN]

The Service of the Word

The Old Testament Reading: Jeremiah 23:5-8

“Behold, the days are coming, declares the Lord, when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch, and he shall reign as king and deal wisely, and shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. In his days Judah will be saved, and Israel will dwell securely. And this is the name by which he will be called: ‘The Lord is our righteousness.’

“Therefore, behold, the days are coming, declares the Lord, when they shall no longer say, ‘As the Lord lives who brought up the people of Israel out of the land of Egypt,’ but ‘As the Lord lives who brought up and led the offspring of the house of Israel out of the north country and out of all the countries where he had driven them.’ Then they shall dwell in their own land.”

The New Testament Reading: Romans 13:8-14

Owe no one anything, except to love each other, for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. For the commandments, "You shall not commit adultery, You shall not murder, You shall not steal, You shall not covet," and any other commandment, are summed up in this word: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfilling of the law. Besides this you know the time, that the hour has come for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we first believed. The night is far gone; the day is at hand. So then let us cast off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light. Let us walk properly as in the daytime, not in orgies and drunkenness, not in sexual immorality and sensuality, not in quarreling and jealousy. But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

Leader: In honor of our Lord Jesus Christ, we rise for the reading of the Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew the 21st chapter.

People: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

The Gospel Reading: Matthew 21:1-9

Now when they drew near to Jerusalem and came to Bethphage, to the Mount of Olives, then Jesus sent two disciples, saying to them, "Go into the village in front of you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied, and a colt with her. Untie them and bring them to me. If anyone says anything to you, you shall say, 'The Lord needs them,' and he will send them at once." This took place to fulfill what was spoken by the prophet, saying,

"Say to the daughter of Zion, 'Behold, your king is coming to you, humble, and mounted on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a beast of burden.'"

The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them. They brought the donkey and the colt and put on them their cloaks, and he sat on them. Most of the

crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. And the crowds that went before him and that followed him were shouting, "Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest!"

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to you, O Christ.

(Please be seated)

Sermon Hymn: The Church's One Foundation

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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.

(Please be seated)

The Collection of the Offering

If you are visiting with us this morning, know that your presence here means far more to us than any gift of money you could make; please do not hesitate to let the plate pass you by.

Choir Offertory 10:30 - Bethlehem Wind

The Prayer of the Church

Leader: In peace let us pray to the Lord:

Leader: For our congregation: that the Lord would continue to guide and direct all that is done 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. Lord, in your mercy:

People: Hear our prayer.

Leader: For the season of Advent: that we would rejoice in remembering first coming of Christ as we patiently wait for his second coming. Lord, in your mercy:

People: Hear our prayer.

Leader: 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. Lord, in your mercy:

People: Hear our prayer.

Leader: For people we know who are ill: especially Colin, Harry, Iola, Janet, Jack, Florence, Jim and Norma, Megan, Scott, Gloria, Marian, Roxanne, Tom, Sarah and Michael, Galdys, Joyce, and Dorothy, that the Lord would grant them healing from their afflictions. Lord, in your mercy:

People: Hear our prayer.

Leader: 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. Lord, in your mercy:

People: Hear our prayer.

Leader: 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. Lord, in our mercy:

People: Hear our prayer.

Leader: For our brothers and sisters in Christ who faithfully witness to the resurrection and the love of God in Christ Jesus, that they would be strengthened in their faith and be blessed to see the

Holy Spirit working through them to make an eternal difference in the lives of others. Lord, in your mercy:

Leader: 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.**

Benediction

People: Amen

The Recessional: O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

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† *Service Participants* †

Leader:	Adam Steinbrenner
Music Director:	Mark Killinger
The Organist:	Sandra Quinlan
The Elders:	John Gielarowski and Jim Neill
The Acolyte:	Josiah Ackerman (8:00) Chris Yellig (10:30)
The Greeters:	Bernice DeBoe (8:00) Rose Steranko (10:30)
The Ushers:	Bill Becker, Shane Bryant, and Barb & Wayne Oechslein (8:00) Sam Dragan, Dan Harris, Vince Kimberland & Richard Quinlin (10:30)
Altar Guild:	Kathleen Conn & Mary Hutula

Last Week in Worship

Sunday Worship Attendance (11/23) - 214

Offerings (11/23) - \$4,725.00

Week of Nov. 30 – Dec. 7

SUNDAY 11/30	8:00 AM – Worship w/Communion 9:15 AM – Bible Study/Sunday School 10:30 AM – Worship w/Communion 11:45 AM – Children’s Choir Practice
MONDAY 12/1	7:00 PM – Trustees Meeting 8:00 PM – Mon. Night Football & Fellowship @ Pizzaz
TUESDAY 12/2	7:15 PM – Board of Education Meeting
WEDNESDAY 12/3	6:00 PM – Advent Dinner 7:00 PM Advent Service
THURSDAY 12/4	10:00 AM- Bible Study 7:00 PM – Choir Practice 7:30 PM – Elders Meeting
FRIDAY 12/5	6:30 PM – Bowling @ AMF Mt. Lebanon Lanes
SATURDAY 12/6	8:00 AM – Mens Bible Breakfast
SUNDAY 12/7	8:00 AM – Worship w/ Communion 9:15 AM – Bible Study/ Sunday School 10:30 AM – Worship w/ Communion 11:45 PM – Children’s Choir Practice