

ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH



Service of Prayer and Preaching
April 22th, 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!

IT'S A WR@P. Mark your calendar today for our first **Women's Retreat @ Pioneer**, May 1st- 3rd. If you are attending please fill out the form located in the narthex (forms are located in the folder hanging on the door) and return with your payment to Megan Pasquini. Email secretary@zlcb.org with any questions.

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@zlcb.org to volunteer.

Welcome to worship!

This evening, our focus is on the Gospel Lesson from last week, as we look at what it means that Jesus is our Priest. More than that, we take a look at the last words he spoke to his disciples before he was crucified for the sins of the world.

Those of you who were in church last Sunday, or who are familiar with the Gospel of John know that Jesus talked about the importance of unity in the body of Christ—the church—among his disciples. But why? Why is it a problem that there are 41,000 different Christian denominations in the world today? Why was it so important to Christ that his followers remain united?

You might be surprised at the reason Jesus gives for the importance of unity.

Also, we had a very good question from one of our younger members on Sunday that I'm looking forward to answering concerning the beliefs of the Roman Catholic Church about their clergy. There is a significant difference between what Roman Catholics teach about the role and function of their clergy and what we believe, teach and confess about ours. I think you'll find the question interesting and I hope the answer that is given helps you make sense of an important—and somewhat difficult—issue.

God bless your time in worship!

-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, this evening, we focus on the role of Christ as Priest. Going from us to God, Jesus intercedes (prays), offered the sacrifice for sins, and declares us to be clean. Therefore, let us not shy away from our heavenly Father, but approach his throne, asking forgiveness through our Lord Jesus Christ.

People: **Father in heaven, I confess to you that I have sinned and have come up short of the perfect standards you demand. I have been selfish, prideful, lazy, materialistic, rude, and have brought shame to your name in many other ways. Have mercy on me and forgive my sins. Blot out my iniquity and allow me the privilege of a good conscience. I ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.**

Absolution Spoken by the Pastor

People: **Amen.**

The Reading: John 17:20-26

“I do not ask for these only, but also for those who will believe in me through their word, that they may all be one, just as you, Father, are in me, and I in you, that they also may be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me. The glory that you have given me I have given to them, that they may be one even as we are one, I in them and you in me, that they may become perfectly one, so that the world may know that you sent me and loved them even as you loved me. Father, I desire that they also, whom you have given me, may be with me where I am, to see my glory that you

have given me because you loved me before the foundation of the world. O righteous Father, even though the world does not know you, I know you, and these know that you have sent me. I made known to them your name, and I will continue to make it known, that the love with which you have loved me may be in them, and I in them.”

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, and cause us to trust in and rely on him to provide us with all we have and need for this life and the next. 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 a priority in their daily 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 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 our brothers and sisters in Christ who faithfully witness to the resurrection and the love of God in Christ Jesus: that God would strengthen their faith, give them opportunities to witness to his gospel, and that they would be blessed to see him at work in their lives. 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