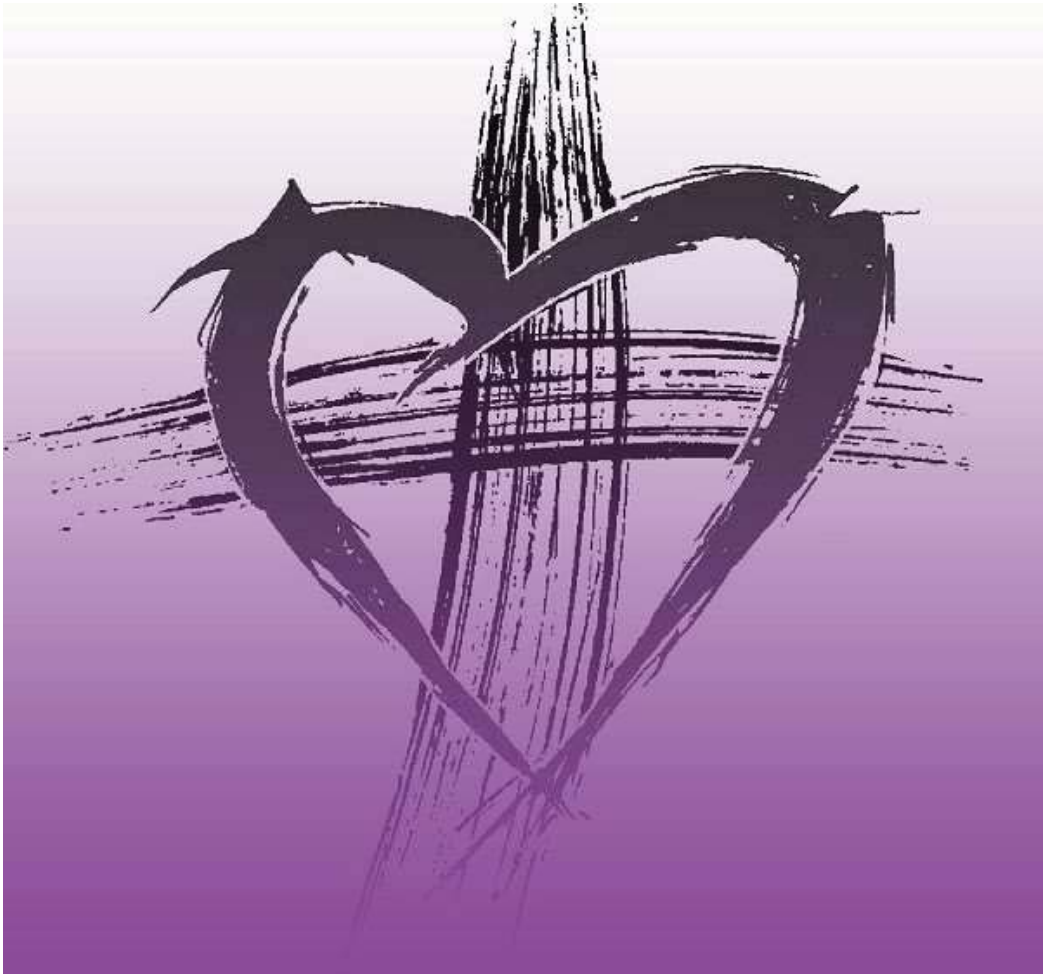


ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH



Ash Wednesday

March 5th, 2014

Ash Wednesday

Welcome to Zion Lutheran Church!

As you enter into worship this evening you notice that the colors upon the altar have changed to purple. As we begin Lent the purple on the altar reminds us of penitence. We are reminded that we are sinners in desperate need of a Savior.

Tonight we come forward for the imposition of ashes. As pastor places the ashes upon our heads, he says, "Remember that thou are dust and unto dust thou shalt return." Through these somber words spoken upon us we recognize our own mortality. We recognize that we will in fact die. For just a moment we focus on what our life would be like without our Savior. That without Jesus there would be no life, only death.

In our Old Testament lesson we hear from the prophet Joel. Joel encourages us to turn away from our sins and put our faith in God. We know that this is easier said than done. After all, we continue to sin much and even delight in our sin. Yet, it is the ashes on our foreheads which remind us what this sin leads too, death! Therefore, we flee sin! We turn to God pleading with him to forgive us! Joel tells us that our God is gracious and merciful; slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love. For those who turn to God for forgiveness God will indeed forgive their sins.

As we enter the season of Lent we are reminded that we are sinners in desperate need of a Savior. We rejoice for the next 40 days in Lent as we watch our Savior make His way to a cross to take away our sins. May God richly bless your worship.

- Vicar David

Rev. Duncan McLellan, Pastor
David Schultz, Vicar

www.zlcb.org
Office Phone: 412-221-4776

Service of the Word

The Prelude

Introduction to Worship

Hymn-sing

While you can choose any of the hymns in the hymnal, please keep in mind the serious and reflective nature of this service and season of the Church Year.

Announcements

(please stand)

Opening Hymn: Jesus, I Will Ponder Now

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The Invocation

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

People: Amen.

Confession and Absolution

Pastor: 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.**

Pastor: 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.**

The Absolution (spoken by the Pastor)

The Meaning of Ash Wednesday

The Imposition of Ashes

During the imposition of ashes, you are encouraged to come forward to have the sign of the cross made in ashes on your forehead. This serves as a reminder both of our mortality, but also of our being sealed in Christ for all eternity.

The Prayers

Pastor: ...Lord, in your mercy.

People: **Hear our prayer.**

(Please be seated)

The Offering

The Reading: Joel 2:12-19

“Yet even now,” declares the Lord,
“return to me with all your heart,
with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning;
and rend your hearts and not your garments.”

Return to the Lord your God,
for he is gracious and merciful,
slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love;
and he relents over disaster.

Who knows whether he will not turn and relent,
and leave a blessing behind him,
a grain offering and a drink offering
for the Lord your God?

Blow the trumpet in Zion;
consecrate a fast;

call a solemn assembly;

gather the people.

Consecrate the congregation;

assemble the elders;

gather the children,

even nursing infants.

Let the bridegroom leave his room,

and the bride her chamber.

Between the vestibule and the altar

let the priests, the ministers of the Lord, weep

and say, "Spare your people, O Lord,

and make not your heritage a reproach,

a byword among the nations.

Why should they say among the peoples,

"Where is their God?"

Then the Lord became jealous for his land

and had pity on his people.

The Lord answered and said to his people,

"Behold, I am sending to you

grain, wine, and oil,

and you will be satisfied;

and I will no more make you

a reproach among the nations.

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God**

Sermon

The Lord's Prayer

Benediction

Pastor: Finally, brothers, rejoice. Aim for restoration, comfort one another, agree with one another, live in peace; and the God of love and peace will be with you. Greet one another with a holy kiss. All the saints greet you. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

People: **Amen!**

The Recessional: Jesus, When in Dust to Thee

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The Postlude

† *Service Participants* †

Pastor:	Rev. Duncan McLellan
Vicar	David Schultz
Organist:	Paula Gardner
Elders:	Jim Neill and Brian Pasquini
Acolyte	TBD
Ushers:	Carl Bauer, Gene Koop, Ron Meier, Jack Oelschlager, and Neil Ackerman, Ross Chilcott and John and Kari Gresh
Altar Guild:	Janet, Marian and Molly Oelschlager