

ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH



*Service of Prayer and Preaching
February 11th, 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.

ALL IN! The men of the church are going back to Camp Pioneer this April, 16-19th. Along with men from three other congregations in our District, we are going to spend time in fellowship and prayer learning what it means to go “all in” as a Christian man. Look for a sign-up sheet in the Narthex area in the coming months, along with more information about the retreat.

WR@P! The women of our congregation are going to get WR@Ped May 1-3 at Camp Pioneer at the first ever Women’s Retreat @ Pioneer. Join your sisters-in-Christ for fellowship, Bible Study, and time for reflection and relaxing. More information about the retreat will be available soon in your Newsletter and on the Website.

WOMEN’S AND MEN’S BIBLE STUDIES continue this Saturday. 8am for the guys and 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! It’s not too late to come. Please join us.

CHECK OUT Zion’s website and Facebook page! Plenty of videos, things to read, and interactive material await. If you’ve never spent time on both of our internet sites, you’re truly missing out! And if there’s anything you’d like to see us do online, please let Pastor or the church office know!

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! Our FIRST EVER FREE COFFEE FRIDAY is this week! We’ll be getting together to brew the coffee and get set-up at 6:30, and get things going by 7. If you have questions, please contact Pastor Duncan or the Church Office.

Welcome to worship!

I was blown away by the number of questions that came in on Sunday! Well, maybe that's an overstatement. Call it "pleasantly surprised," as the Fifth Commandment hits home with many of us who have had our lives affected by violent crimes, untimely deaths (aren't they all?), or poor decisions plaguing our past. So this evening, while we are still going to go in depth in one area that this Commandment addresses, we are actually going to spend most of our time going over any number of questions that were asked by members of the church on Sunday.

As you saw on Sunday you will see again tonight: the implications of the Fifth Commandment go far beyond simply condemning First Degree Murder and cover things like how we care for the elderly sick, how we handle the abortion issue, and even whether or not we support the death penalty (and, if we do, for which crimes we deem it appropriate).

But zoom out for a minute. It's hard to find the gospel in a discussion about our stance on euthanasia. From a wide-angle perspective, why is this Commandment even necessary? How wicked and depraved and in need of a Savior must we be that God feels the need to COMMAND US not to kill one another? (And, even more to the point, that He originally gave this Commandment to people who were already His—not the idolatrous rabble, or some pagan community; but who still needed to be commanded not to kill one another.) That the Fifth Commandment exists points to the need for a Savior; someone to change who we are in a way that goes beyond what our feeble efforts are capable of doing. We need to be rescued from a sinful nature that sees a benefit to hurting and harming our neighbors. We need Jesus!

-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 Fifth Commandment: You shall not kill. More than simply prohibiting murder, this Commandment prohibits all taking of human life. But more than that, it condemns any hurt or harm we might cause another person, made (as we are) in the image of God. Therefore, let us confess that we have broken this Commandment and ask that God would grant us forgiveness for Christ's sake.

People: **Father in heaven, Your Word is clear: You shall not murder. Yet I have failed to obey even this simple Commandment. My words, especially my thoughts, and even my actions, have hurt and harmed others. I have sought to destroy what You have created in Your image. Therefore, I ask that You would forgive my sins on account of my Lord Jesus Christ. Use me to bring life into a world devastated by sin. I ask this in the name of Jesus. Amen.**

Absolution Spoken by the Pastor

People: **Amen.**

The Reading: *Romans 13:1-7*

Let every person be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God. Therefore whoever resists the authorities resists what God has appointed, and those who resist will incur judgment. For rulers are not a terror to good conduct, but to bad. Would you have no fear of the one who is in authority? Then do what is good, and you will receive his approval, for he is

God's servant for your good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for he does not bear the sword in vain. For he is the servant of God, an avenger who carries out God's wrath on the wrongdoer. Therefore one must be in subjection, not only to avoid God's wrath but also for the sake of conscience. For because of this you also pay taxes, for the authorities are ministers of God, attending to this very thing. Pay to all what is owed to them: taxes to whom taxes are owed, revenue to whom revenue is owed, respect to whom respect is owed, honor to whom honor is owed.

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, especially for police officers, those serving in the military, 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 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