

ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH



*Service of Prayer and Preaching
January 28, 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 females 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.

CHILDREN’S CHURCH. Was a success! So we’re doing it again next month. Mark your calendar for the last Sunday of February; we’ll be having Children’s Church at the late service for children in Preschool through age 6.

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!

This evening we celebrate the Lord's Supper and explore in greater detail than we did on Sunday the Third Commandment. There were also a couple of questions that were asked on Sunday that we're going to take a look at and answer—good questions that I'm guessing more than one person had on Sunday.

When we think about worship (the Third Commandment), we sometimes think about why we go to worship. And there are plenty of good reasons (reasons we will get to in due course this evening). But have you ever stopped to think about why other people need you in worship? They do. And for some pretty important reasons. Some Christians say that they do not need to come to church to worship, that they can worship God anywhere. (I won't get into why that's a poor view to have... it is... but now is not the time or place.) But those who choose to avoid worshipping with other like-minded believers do their brothers and sisters in Christ a disservice by withholding their fellowship, praise and prayers from them. They withhold their words of faith in speaking the creed. They leave human-sized holes at the communion rail.

Thank you for making worship a priority in your life. Your being here in church on Sunday and again on Wednesday provides a necessary encouragement to my faith. Without you here, my soul would be downcast and doubts would arise. Thank you for your faithfulness to make it to Zion, to sit in the pews, to pray on Wednesday and sing on Sunday. Your fellowship and partnership in the gospel is a gift.

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, before we listen to God's Word and contemplate its meaning for us this evening, let us unburden our consciences and set our minds at rest by confessing our sins to our heavenly Father.

People: **Father in heaven, before I listen to your Word and come before you with the prayers of my heart, I need to confess to you that I have sinned against you in thought, word and deed. I have not done what you have told me to do, and I have also done what is evil in your sight. On account of Christ Jesus my Lord, have mercy on me and forgive me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation and uphold me with your Holy Spirit. Amen.**

Absolution Spoken by the Pastor

People: Amen.

The Reading: Matthew 12:1-8

At that time Jesus went through the grain fields on the Sabbath. His disciples were hungry, and they began to pluck heads of grain and to eat. But when the Pharisees saw it, they said to him, "Look, your disciples are doing what is not lawful to do on the Sabbath." He said to them, "Have you not read what David did when he was hungry, and those who were with him: how he

entered the house of God and ate the bread of the Presence, which it was not lawful for him to eat nor for those who were with him, but only for the priests? Or have you not read in the Law how on the Sabbath the priests in the temple profane the Sabbath and are guiltless? I tell you, something greater than the temple is here. And if you had known what this means, 'I desire mercy, and not sacrifice,' you would not have condemned the guiltless. For the Son of Man is lord of the Sabbath."

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 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 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: 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.

Introduction to the Lord's Supper

The Words of Institution and the Lord's Supper

The Benediction