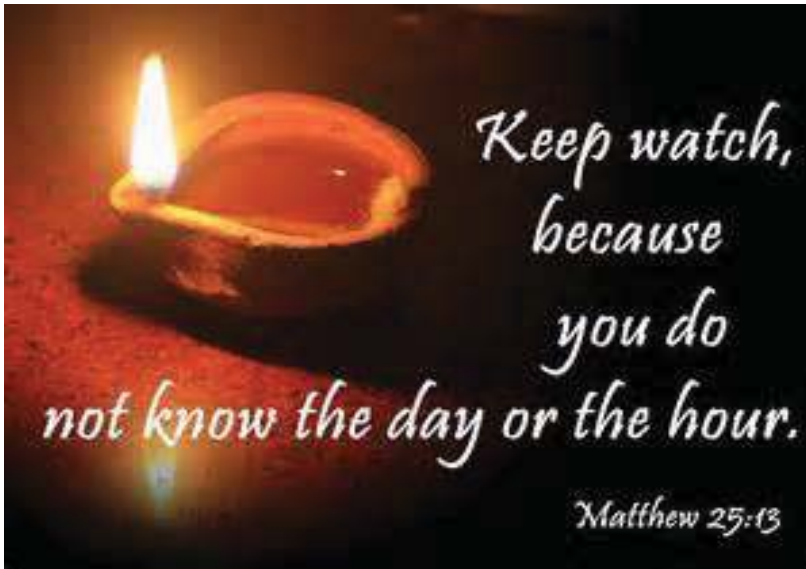


# ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH



*Third Sunday of End Times  
November 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2014*



# ANNOUNCEMENTS

**ALTAR FLOWERS** are given by Gene & Sharon Koop In Honor of their Wedding Anniversary and John & Jean Endler in Memory of Loved Ones.

**ETERNAL LIGHT** is given by Jean & John Endler in Memory of Loved Ones.

**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!

**SUNDAY SCHOOL MEETING** is scheduled for Tuesday, November 25th @ 6:30 pm. Anyone helping, or who would like to help with the Christmas program and February Missions should attend.

**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 14<sup>th</sup>. See Insert for more information and reservation form.

**THANKSGIVING AND ADVENT.** Join us this coming Wednesday for our annual Thanksgiving Eve service at 7:00. We will spend time reflecting on the true meaning of the national holiday, giving thanks to God for his many blessings in our lives. And then continue to 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!

**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](http://www.zlcb.org/sermons)

# Welcome to worship!

“Be Prepared” I was told during my very limited experience with the Boy Scouts of America. But aside from carrying around a Swiss Army Knife and learning how to tie several knots, I’m not sure the motto sunk in. Fast forward twenty (or so) years and I’m working my way through the Pastoral Leadership Institute. They are giving us leadership and ministry structure models to learn at one of their conferences, when a presenter (whose name I unfortunately was not prepared enough to remember), said something I hope to never forget. He said: “never go into a meeting without knowing the outcome.” In other words: Be Prepared.

In our Gospel Lesson this morning, Jesus tells a parable about preparedness. He uses images of wedding feasts and maidens, lamps, sleep, oil and a bridegroom to respond to a series of questions posed to him by his disciples after he made cryptic remarks about the obliteration of the temple in Jerusalem. “Tell us, when will these things be, and what will be the sign of your coming and of the end of the age?” Jesus does not give what we would consider a direct answer to his disciples. He answers with words reserved for the apocalypse before giving three parables. Our Gospel Lesson is the first of the three. Followed by the so-called Parables of the Talents and Sheep and Goats, the major teaching Jesus gives is to be prepared. The Son of Man could come before you expect (the master’s return in the Parable of the Talents), or take longer than you had hoped (the bridegroom’s entrance in the Parable of the Wise and Foolish Virgins). But when he comes, it is best to be ready so that you are not separated like chaff from wheat or like goats from sheep.

“Be prepared.” It’s good advice for anticipating unknown dangers in day-to-day life. It’s even better advice when it has been revealed that the world will face an all-encompassing judgment. “Be prepared.”

This morning, we will look at what Jesus says it means to be prepared for his coming. If you were expecting a light-and-fluffy message in church, I have a feeling you will be disappointed. But if you came expecting to be challenged and encouraged, I think you’ll find a lot to like in what Jesus has to say.

God bless your time in worship this morning!  
-Pastor Duncan

**Rev. Duncan McLellan, Pastor**

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Website: [www.zlcb.org](http://www.zlcb.org)

Office Phone: 412-221-4776

Fax: 412-221-4780

# 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:** Ye Watchers and Ye Holy Ones 670

### *The Invocation*

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

**People:** Amen.

### *Confession of Sins*

**Pastor:** Our focus this morning is on Jesus' words to his disciples about the end times. His teaching is straightforward: be ready for his return, because he returns to judge the world. We have been warned of his coming to separate sheep from goats, to reward wise tenants and punish the lazy ones, and to welcome those who have kept their lamps trimmed in expectation of his coming to the proverbial wedding feast. Therefore, in view of his promised coming, let us confess our sins.

**People:** Lord Jesus Christ, it is easy for me to confess with my mouth that you are coming back, but it is harder to practice this belief. I have sinned and, without your grace, deserve nothing but punishment when you return. Therefore, I ask that you would have mercy on me, forgive me all of my sins, and lead me to greater faith and obedience through the influence of your Holy Spirit in my life. Amen.

### *Absolution Spoken by the Pastor*

**People:** Amen.

**Hymn of Praise:** This Is the Feast 155

**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 Prayer of the Church***

Pastor: ... Lord, in your mercy.

**People: Hear our prayer.**

(Please be seated)

## **The Service of the Word**

### **The Old Testament Reading: Isaiah 65:17-25**

“For behold, I create new heavens and a new earth, and the former things shall not be remembered or come into mind. But be glad and rejoice forever in that which I create; for behold, I create Jerusalem to be a joy, and her people to be a gladness. I will rejoice in Jerusalem and be glad in my people; no more shall be heard in it the sound of weeping and the cry of distress. No more shall there be in it an infant who lives but a few days, or an old man who does not fill out his days, for the young man shall die a hundred years old, and the sinner a hundred years old shall be accursed.

They shall build houses and inhabit them; they shall plant vineyards and eat their fruit. They shall not build and another inhabit; they shall not plant and another eat; for like the days of a tree shall the days of my people be, and my chosen shall long enjoy the work of their hands. They shall not labor in vain or bear children for calamity, for they shall be the offspring of the blessed of the Lord, and their

descendants with them. Before they call I will answer; while they are yet speaking I will hear. The wolf and the lamb shall graze together; the lion shall eat straw like the ox, and dust shall be the serpent's food. They shall not hurt or destroy in all my holy mountain," says the Lord.

### **The New Testament Reading: 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11**

Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers, you have no need to have anything written to you. For you yourselves are fully aware that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. While people are saying, "There is peace and security," then sudden destruction will come upon them as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and they will not escape. But you are not in darkness, brothers, for that day to surprise you like a thief. For you are all children of light, children of the day. We are not of the night or of the darkness. So then let us not sleep, as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober. For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk, are drunk at night. But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, having put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. For God has not destined us for wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us so that whether we are awake or asleep we might live with him. Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing.

**Pastor:** In honor of our Lord Jesus Christ, we rise for the reading of the Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew the 25<sup>th</sup> chapter.

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

### **The Gospel Reading: Matthew 25:1-13**

"Then the kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. For when the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them, but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. As the bridegroom was delayed, they all became drowsy and slept. But at midnight there was a cry, 'Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.' Then all those virgins rose and trimmed their lamps. And the foolish said to the

wise, 'Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.' But the wise answered, saying, 'Since there will not be enough for us and for you, go rather to the dealers and buy for yourselves.' And while they were going to buy, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went in with him to the marriage feast, and the door was shut. Afterward the other virgins came also, saying, 'Lord, lord, open to us.' But he answered, 'Truly, I say to you, I do not know you.' Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.

**Pastor:** This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**People:** Praise to you, O Christ.

(Please be seated)

### ***Children's Message*** (10:30)

***Sermon Hymn:*** Come, We That Love the Lord

669

### ***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***

## ***Choir Offertory 10:30 - The Lamb***

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.

(Please stand)

### **The Service of the Sacrament**

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

**People: We lift them to the Lord.**

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**People: It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

Pastor: It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to you, holy Lord, almighty God. But chiefly are we to give you thanks for your great mercy in sending your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ into our world, to bear our flesh and be our Savior. Therefore with angels and archangels, and all the company of heaven we laud and magnify your glorious name, evermore praising you and saying:

**People: Holy, holy, holy Lord God of power and might: Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna. Hosanna. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

Pastor: Let us 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 Words of Institution***

Pastor: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**People: And also with you.**

### ***The Sharing of the Peace***

### ***The Agnus Dei (Lamb of God)***



*Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.*  
*Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.*  
*Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.*

(Please be seated until it is your time to commune.)

### ***The Distribution***

We welcome to the Lord's Table all who have been baptized in the name of the Triune God, can examine themselves spiritually and believe they receive the true body and blood of the Lord Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of sins and as a profession of their faith. If you hold a profession of faith that differs from that of our congregation, please speak to the Pastor before the start of the service before communing.

- We believe the body and blood of Christ are truly present in the bread and wine.
- We believe Christ offers the forgiveness of sins in the Lord's Supper, but that the Lord's Supper is not necessary for salvation.
- We believe the Lord's Supper remembers the death of Christ and proclaims his death until he returns.
- We believe the Lord's Supper is a statement of unity in the body of Christ; we do not believe it creates that unity.

During the distribution, you are encouraged to sing the Distribution Hymns, pray, or meditate on the words "this is my body... this is my blood, given for you."

The cups at the center of the Individual Communion tray contain diluted wine for those with alcohol sensitivities.

### ***Distribution Hymns***

|                                    |     |
|------------------------------------|-----|
| Almighty God, Your Word is Cast    | 577 |
| The Law of God is God and Wise     | 579 |
| Faith and Truth and Life Bestowing | 584 |

(Please stand)

### ***Prayer of Thanksgiving***

**Pastor:** We give thanks to You, almighty God, that you have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God now and forever.

**People:** **Amen.**

### ***Benediction***

**People:** **Amen**

***The Recessional:*** In Thee is Gladness 818

### † *Service Participants* †

|                 |  |
|-----------------|--|
| Pastor:         | The Rev. Duncan McLellan   |
| Music Director: | Mark Killinger   |
| The Organist:   | Sandra Quinlan   |
| The Elders:     | John Gielarowski and Jim Neill   |
| The Acolyte:    | Nathan Morgan (8:00)<br>Carley Rockovich (10:30)   |
| The Greeters:   | Clara Hayes (8:00)<br>Kristen Neill (10:30)  |
| The Ushers:     | Bill Becker, Shane Bryant, and<br>Barb & Wayne Oechslein (8:00)<br>Sam Dragan, Dan Harris, Vince Kimberland<br>& Richard Quinlin (10:30) |
| Altar Guild:    | Kathleen Conn & Mary Hutula  |

### **Last Week in Worship**

Sunday Worship Attendance (11/16) - 211

Midweek Attendance (11/19) - 14

Offerings (11/16) - \$3,882.00

## Week of Nov. 23 – 30

|                                   |  |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| <p><b>SUNDAY</b><br/>11/23</p>    | <p>8:00 AM – Worship w/Communion<br/>9:15 AM – Bible Study/Sunday School<br/>10:30 AM – Worship w/Communion<br/>11:45 AM – Children’s Choir Practice<br/>12:00 PM – Stephen Ministry</p> |
| <p><b>MONDAY</b><br/>11/24</p>    | <p>8:00 PM – Mon. Night Football &amp; Fellowship @ Pizzaz</p>   |
| <p><b>TUESDAY</b><br/>11/25</p>   | <p>6:30 PM – Sunday School Meeting</p>   |
| <p><b>WEDNESDAY</b><br/>11/26</p> | <p>7:00 PM – Thanksgiving Eve Service</p>  |
| <p><b>THURSDAY</b><br/>11/27</p>  | <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Thanksgiving Day</b><br/>“Give thanks to the Lord for he is good; his love endures forever.” 1 Chronicles 16:34</p>                                    |
| <p><b>FRIDAY</b><br/>11/28</p>    |  |
| <p><b>SATURDAY</b><br/>11/29</p>  |  |
| <p><b>SUNDAY</b><br/>11/30</p>    | <p>8:00 AM – Worship w/ Communion<br/>9:15 AM – Bible Study/ Sunday School<br/>10:30 AM – Worship w/ Communion<br/>11:45 PM – Children’s Choir Practice</p>                              |