

ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH



Service of Prayer and Preaching
October 28th 2015



ANNOUNCEMENTS

GIVING TO MISSIONS! Did you know that Zion is currently supporting two missionaries? We are supporting Rev. Dr. Edward Naumann who will be starting a Lutheran Seminary serving south India and Sri Lanka. We are also supporting the ongoing work of the Lohmeyer family in the Dominican Republic, creating sustainable ministries and churches. Thanks to your generosity and the Kingdom Fund, we were able to support both of these missions in addition to meeting our ongoing financial responsibilities. Contact Pastor Duncan or the Church Office if you would like to know more about these missions.

M@P-3! The men are going back to Camp Pioneer this November (12-15th) for a time of prayer, fellowship, Bible Study, worship and recreation. We'll be getting to know Jesus better by taking a look at his parables from the Gospel of Luke. All men are welcome to attend all or a portion of the retreat. More information and a sign-up sheet are available in the narthex area. Hope you can make it!

BIBLE IN A YEAR. We are reading the Bible in a Year for 2016! Look for a reading list, on-line resources and audio files of the Bible being read in the coming months to help you read through the Bible in a Year! If you've never done it, don't be intimidated! All it takes is 15 minutes (1% of your day) and you can read the whole Bible in one year. Join us!

APOLOGETICS. On November 15th, we will be having a guest speaker come to speak to us on Sunday morning during the Bible Study hour about apologetics. "Apologetics" is giving a defense of the faith, being able to explain to someone else why you believe what you believe. We will also have an Apologetics Seminar after the 10:30 Worship Service, from noon-2 (lunch will be served). We'll be talking about evolution, creation and the reliability of the Bible. Join us, November 15th !!

Welcome to worship!

This evening our study on Romans continues as we take a look at the end of chapter 2 and the beginning of chapter 3. Paul is making his case that everyone—Jew and Gentile alike—are under condemnation for their transgressions against the Law. But Paul does more than make a case that we are all criminals in the eyes of God. He makes the case that, not only can't we do what is right all the time, we can't do what is right at any time.

The doctrine of Total Depravity is one that many Christians deny. Many of us do not like to hear that when it comes to our standing with God, we can do nothing to benefit ourselves, but that we can only dig the hole deeper. We don't like to hear that we are by nature sinful and unclean, and that we sin in thought, word and deed. And so I hope that, as we take a look at a text from Romans that powerfully teaches the depravity of people, you will see this doctrine as being an uncomfortable comfort and necessary for us to have complete trust that Christ has redeemed us from the punishment our sins deserve.

Also, (and this has nothing to do with Romans) I want to call your attention to an Apologetics Seminar" that's coming up on the 15th of November. Tony German is going to give a presentation on the fallacy of evolution in the Adult Sunday School Class, and a two hour presentation on how a Christian can defend their faith in a secular climate following the late service, noon-2. Lunch will be served. I hope you are all able to make it, as the presentations are top-notch and focus on the very relevant topic of defending the faith.

-Pastor Duncan McLellan

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ZION EQUIPS, EDUCATES, AND ENCOURAGES BELIEVERS IN CHRIST, SENDING THEM INTO THE WORLD TO SHARE THE GOSPEL.

Zion Lutheran Church 3197 Washington Pike Bridgeville, PA 15017

The Service of Prayer and Preaching

Vespers

Pastor: O Lord, open my lips

People: and my mouth will declare Your praise.

Pastor: Make haste, O God, to deliver me;

People: make haste to help me O Lord.

**People: Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever.**

Amen.

The Reading: Romans 3:1-20

Then what advantage has the Jew? Or what is the value of circumcision? Much in every way. To begin with, the Jews were entrusted with the oracles of God. What if some were unfaithful? Does their faithlessness nullify the faithfulness of God? By no means! Let God be true though everyone were a liar, as it is written, "That you may be justified in your words, and prevail when you are judged."

But if our unrighteousness serves to show the righteousness of God, what shall we say? That God is unrighteous to inflict wrath on us? (I speak in a human way.) By no means! For then how could God judge the world? But if through my lie God's truth abounds to his glory, why am I still being condemned as a sinner? And why not do evil that good may come?—as some people slanderously charge us with saying. Their condemnation is just.

What then? Are we Jews any better off? No, not at all. For we have already charged that all, both Jews and Greeks, are under sin, as it is written:

"None is righteous, no, not one; no one understands;

no one seeks for God. All have turned aside; together they have become worthless;

no one does good, not even one.” “Their throat is an open grave; they use their tongues to deceive.” “The venom of asps is under their lips.” “Their mouth is full of curses and bitterness.” “Their feet are swift to shed blood; in their paths are ruin and misery, and the way of peace they have not known.” “There is no fear of God before their eyes.” Now we know that whatever the law says it speaks to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be stopped, and the whole world may be held accountable to God. For by works of the law no human being will be justified in his sight, since through the law comes knowledge of sin.

Pastor: O Lord, have mercy on us.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Pastor: Teach me Your way, O Lord, that I may walk in Your truth. Unite my heart to fear Your name that I may walk in Your truth.

People: **Your Word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.**

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.

The Prayers

Pastor: Let my prayer rise before You as incense,
People: **and the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice.**
People: **I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have graciously kept me this day; and I pray that You would forgive me all my sins where I have done wrong, and graciously keep me this night. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me.**

Pastor: Heavenly Father, God of all concord, it is Your gracious will that Your children on earth live together in harmony and peace. Defeat the plans of those who would stir up violence and strife, destroy the weapons of those who delight in war and bloodshed, and, according to Your will, end all conflicts in the world. Teach us to examine our hearts that we may recognize our own inclination toward envy, malice, hatred, and enmity. Help us, by Your Word and Spirit, to search our hearts and to root out the evil that would lead to strife and discord, so that in our lives we may be at peace with all people. Fill us with zeal for the work of Your Church and the proclamation of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, which alone can bring that peace which is beyond all understanding; Lord, in your mercy;

People: **Hear our prayer.**

Pastor: Almighty, everlasting God, Your Son has assured forgiveness of sins and deliverance from eternal death. Strengthen us by Your Holy Spirit that our faith in Christ may increase daily and that we may hold fast to the hope that on the Last Day we shall be raised in glory to eternal life. Lord, in your mercy;

People: **Hear our prayer.**

Pastor: Almighty God, unto whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hidden, cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of Your Holy Spirit that we may perfectly love You and worthily magnify Your holy name. Lord, in your mercy;

People: Hear our prayer.

Pastor: Abide with us, Lord, for it is toward evening, and the day is far spent. Abide with us and with Your whole Church. Abide with us at the end of the day, at the end of our life, at the end of the whole world. Abide with us with Your grace and goodness, with Your holy Word and Sacrament, with Your strength and blessing. Abide with us when the night of affliction and temptation comes upon us, the night of fear and despair, the night when death draws near. Abide with us and with all the faithful, now and forever. Lord, in Your mercy;

People: Hear our prayer.

Pastor: Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us 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 from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen

The Benedicamus and Benediction

Pastor: Let us bless the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Pastor: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious to you. The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace.

People: Amen.

Pastor: Let us go forth in peace,

People: in the name of the Lord. Amen.