

ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH



Service of Prayer and Preaching
November 11th 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 week, our study on Romans includes a passage that has had a profound impact on me personally. “While we will still sinners, Christ died for us.” This is the Gospel. You could not do a better job of summarizing the Christian faith in one sentence than Paul does here. While we were still sinners—hostile to God, living in rebellion against God, gratifying the desires of the flesh. While we were still sinners—living in unbelief, under the authority of sin, and unable to escape death. While we were still sinners Christ died for us. Not as a reward for obedience. Not as a reward for faith. But as a rescue mission to free us from a captor we could not escape. To give us what we could never earn. So that we might avoid the consequences for our sins, Christ died for us.

Christ died for us.

He died for you. Paul includes all people in the “us” here. It makes no difference whether you are considered “good” in the eyes of other people, or whether you are despised by all mankind. Jesus died for you. If you have sinned (and if you continue to sin), Christ died for you. If you will face death and have no way of bringing yourself back from its hold on your body and soul, Christ died for you! Do not leave here this evening without knowing this: when you see Jesus up there on the cross, know that he went there in obedience to the Father, to glorify the Father, and for you and your salvation.

Christ died for others. Just as Christ died for you, he died for others. People you like and people you don’t like. People who have treated you well, and people who have mistreated you. He died for them all. The person taking your order at the drive-through and the person cutting you off in traffic, Christ died for them all.

This evening, we will take a look at some of the implications of the reality that Christ died for you and for all. How it governs our relationships with other people; and how it gives us an indestructible hope in eternal life and the forgiveness of sins.

God bless your time in worship this evening!

-Pastor Duncan

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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 5:1-11

Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. Through him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God. Not only that, but we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.

For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. For one will scarcely die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die— but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Since, therefore, we have now been justified by his blood, much more shall we be saved by him from the wrath of God. For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by his life. More than that, we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

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: Lord God of hosts, stretch forth Your almighty arm to strengthen and protect those who serve in the armed forces of our country. Support them in times of war, and in times of peace keep them from all evil, giving them courage and loyalty. Grant that in all things they may serve with integrity and with honor. Lord, in your mercy;

People: Hear our prayer.

Pastor: Most gracious God, we give thanks for the joy and blessings that You grant to husbands and wives. Assist them always by Your grace that with true fidelity and steadfast love they may honor and keep their marriage vows, grow in love toward You and for each other, and come at last to the eternal joys that You have promised. Lord, in your mercy;

People: Hear our prayer.

Pastor: Almighty God and gracious Father, in Your mercy look on those whose increasing years bring them weakness, anxiety, distress, or loneliness. Grant that they may always know care and respect, concern and understanding. Grant them willing hearts to accept help and, as their strength wanes, increase their faith with the constant assurance of Your love. Lord, in your mercy;

People: Hear our prayer.

Pastor: Heavenly Father, we commend to Your care those who suffer want and anxiety from lack of work. Grant that the wealth and resources of this land be profitably used so that all persons may find suitable and fulfilling employment and receive just payment for their labor. 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.**