

Lion Lutheran Church



Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 20th, 2015

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ALTAR FLOWERS are given by The Klemash Family in Memory of Loved ones.

ETERNAL LIGHT is given by Judith Dames in Memory of Paula, Raymond, Gregory & Andy.

MEN'S BIBLE STUDY is back! Join us for Bible Study and breakfast this Saturday in the Fellowship Hall at 8:00am! Come hungry... for God's Word. And bacon.

OPERATION STARS & STRIPES collections have begun. Please see the insert for more details.

UPCOMING CHURCH TIMES: Remember to join us for church this week. Wednesday Advent service- 7:00 PM, Christmas Eve – 7:00 PM, Christmas Day – 10:00 AM!

YOUTH GROUP will be having an event on Jan. 3rd from 5:00-7:00 PM @ Zion. Join Joe and your friends for a game of Duck Tape Paddle Ball!

CHURCH NURSERY: Is available for kids age 0-2 during the 10:30 Service! The Nursery ("Little Lions") is open during the late service in the lower level of the building. (If you need help locating the nursery, please ask an Usher or Greeter for assistance.)

ADVENT. Our Midweek Advent Services are on Wednesdays in December at 7:00pm as we take a look at the Four Advents of Christ. And come early for...

ADVENT DESSERT. If you are hungry for yummy desserts and a cup of coffee join us before our Advent Service. See you at 6:00pm in the Fellowship Hall.

USHERS NEEDED! Please consider volunteering to be an usher for early or late service for 2016. The sign-up sheet is in the narthex. Contact Larry Zreliak with any questions!

CHILDRENS CHOIR is every Tuesday from 6:00 – 6:45 PM, Kids ages 7-12 are welcome!!

CHILDREN'S CHURCH can use your help! We want to expand Children's Church to twice monthly. If you want to help out with this ministry to our children, please contact Pastor Duncan or the Church Office. We'd love to have you serve!

ADULT CHOIR rehearsals are Tuesdays from 7:00-8:00PM. We are looking to add to our numbers from last year! Do not worry if you can't attend regularly, we can work around just about any schedule!

NEED PRAYER? Stephen Ministers and Elders will be available to pray with or for you following the Service in the Chancel area.

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

Welcome to worship!

This morning our Back to Basics: Practical Applications moves into its second week as we take a look at our life in the church. Last week, we took a look at what it means that we are sinner-saints, living in the Church Militant. Next week, we will take a look at what our life in the world is all about. But today, we take a look at what it means to be a Christian connected to Christ's Church.

For many of us, Church is where we spend a majority of our Sunday mornings. For others of us, a large chunk of our time during the week is spent at church. Some of us live here. Growing up, I spent between one and two hours each week at church on Sunday morning. And, when I was in 7th and 8th grade, two and a half hours on Tuesday evening. (Let that sink in, recent Confirmands.) It wasn't until I became a "summer youth intern" at my home congregation during my first summer break in seminary that I really got to see what goes on at the church during the week. I quickly found out that some of the best ministry happens between weekends. Your church is here 168 hours every week; if all it is to you is Sunday Morning, you're missing out on a lot that your church has to offer; and your church is missing out on what you can offer to advance God's Kingdom through the ministry of the congregation.

This morning, we are going to take a look at what goes on at the church: on Sunday morning and throughout the week. You'll hear what God is doing here at Zion and how lives are being changed and saved not just on Sunday morning, but seven days a week. And, I hope, you will at least consider how you can play a role in what the Lord's Church is doing as it holds out the Gospel of Jesus Christ to the community and to the world.

-Pastor Duncan

Rev. Duncan McLellan, Pastor
Office Phone: 412-221-4776

Pastor's Phone: 412-667-0967
Website: www.zlcb.org



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 Divine Service

(Please take a moment to fill out the Attendance books, located at either end of the pew. 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!)

Prelude

Introduction to Worship and Announcements

Opening Hymn: Comfort, Comfort Ye My People 347

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 sing our songs of praise, confess our faith and receive the body and blood of Christ in the fellowship of this altar, let us confess our sins to God, trusting in the Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

People: Father in heaven, I confess to you, and before my brothers and sisters in Christ, that I have sinned against you and against them. You have called me out of darkness into your wonderful light and have given me an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade. You have been good to me and given me what I do not deserve. Forgive me, Father, lead me to put you first in my life and honor you in all that I do. I ask this through Christ, my Lord. 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

(Please be seated)

The Service of the Word

The Old Testament Reading: Nehemiah 8:1-8

And all the people gathered as one man into the square before the Water Gate. And they told Ezra the scribe to bring the Book of the Law of Moses that the Lord had commanded Israel. So Ezra the priest brought the Law before the assembly, both men and women and all who could understand what they heard, on the first day of the seventh month. And he read from it facing the square before the Water Gate from early morning until midday, in the presence of the men and the women and those who could understand. And the ears of all the people were attentive to the Book of the Law. And Ezra the scribe stood on a wooden platform that they had made for the purpose. And beside him stood Mattithiah, Shema, Anaiah, Uriah, Hilkiah, and Maaseiah on his right hand, and Pedaiah, Mishael, Malchijah, Hashum, Hashbaddanah, Zechariah, and Meshullam on his left hand. And Ezra opened the book in the sight of all the people, for he was above all the people, and as he opened it all the people stood. And Ezra blessed the Lord, the great God, and all the people answered, "Amen, Amen," lifting up their hands. And they bowed their heads and worshiped the Lord with their faces to the ground. Also Jeshua, Bani,

Sherebiah, Jamin, Akkub, Shabbethai, Hodiah, Maaseiah, Kelita, Azariah, Jozabad, Hanan, Pelaiah, the Levites, helped the people to understand the Law, while the people remained in their places. They read from the book, from the Law of God, clearly, and they gave the sense, so that the people understood the reading.

The New Testament Reading: 2 Corinthians 9:6-15

The point is this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that having all sufficiency in all things at all times, you may abound in every good work. As it is written,

“He has distributed freely, he has given to the poor;
his righteousness endures forever.”

He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness.¹ You will be enriched in every way to be generous in every way, which through us will produce thanksgiving to God. For the ministry of this service is not only supplying the needs of the saints but is also overflowing in many thanksgivings to God. By their approval of this service, they will glorify God because of your submission that comes from your confession of the gospel of Christ, and the generosity of your contribution for them and for all others, while they long for you and pray for you, because of the surpassing grace of God upon you. Thanks be to God for his inexpressible gift!

Pastor: In honor of our Lord Jesus Christ, we rise for the reading of the Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 6th Chapter.

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

The Gospel Reading: John 6:60-71

When many of his disciples heard it, they said, "This is a hard saying; who can listen to it?" But Jesus, knowing in himself that his disciples were grumbling about this, said to them, "Do you take offense at this? Then what if you were to see the Son of Man ascending to where he was before? It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh is no help at all. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life. But there are some of you who do not believe." (For Jesus knew from the beginning who those were who did not believe, and who it was who would betray him.) And he said, "This is why I told you that no one can come to me unless it is granted him by the Father."

After this many of his disciples turned back and no longer walked with him. So Jesus said to the Twelve, "Do you want to go away as well?" Simon Peter answered him, "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life, and we have believed, and have come to know, that you are the Holy One of God." Jesus answered them, "Did I not choose you, the Twelve? And yet one of you is a devil." He spoke of Judas the son of Simon Iscariot, for he, one of the Twelve, was going to betray him.

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to you, O Christ.

(Please be seated)

Sermon Hymn: O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

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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

Offertory – Come Thou Long Expected Jesus (Adult Choir)

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: As we prepare to receive the body and blood of Christ, proclaim his death until he comes and enjoy fellowship around the supper that bears his name, may the Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

The Words of Institution

Pastor: Let us pray in his name and as he has taught us.

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 Sharing of the Peace

The Agnus Dei (Lamb of God)

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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.

(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

Thy Body, Given for Me, O Savior	619
Thine Forever, God	687
We Give Thee But Thine Own	781

Benediction

People: Amen

<i>The Recessional: Savior of the Nations, Come</i>	332
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Postlude

† *Service Participants* †

Pastor:	Rev. Duncan McLellan
Music Director:	Mark Killinger
The Organist:	Sandra Quinlan
The Elders:	Mike Sterba & Neil Ackerman
The Acolyte:	Matt Liberatore (8:00) Lara Luedeman (10:30)
The Greeters:	Brent & Marianne Miller & Millie Thielet (8:00) Elsie DallaPiazza(10:30)
The Ushers:	Carl Bauer, Gene Koop Ron Meier & Jack Oelschlager (8:00) Loren Luedeman, Vince Kimberland, Jim Oelschlager & Ted Siek (10:30)
Altar Guild:	Janet, Marian & Molly Oelschlager

Last Week in Worship

Sunday Offering (12/13) - \$4,751.00

Online Offering - \$1,385.00

Wednesday Offering (12/9) - \$583.00

Wednesday Offering (12/16) - \$847.00

Sunday Worship Attendance (12/13) - 227

Wednesday Attendance (12/16) - 78

~Online giving is now available by going to the Zion web site: www.zlcb.org~

Week of Dec. 20th - Dec. 27th

SUNDAY 12/20	8:00 AM – Worship w/Communion 9:30 AM –Adult Bible Study (Mark) & Sunday School 10:30 AM – Worship w/Communion – Sunday School
MONDAY 12/21	
TUESDAY 12/22	7:00 PM – Adult Choir Practice
WEDNESDAY 12/23	6:00PM – Advent Dessert & Coffee 7:00PM – Advent Service
THURSDAY 12/24	7:00PM – Christmas Eve Worship
FRIDAY 12/25	10:00AM – Christmas Day Worship
SATURDAY 12/26	
SUNDAY 12/27	8:00 AM – Worship w/Communion 9:30 AM –Adult Bible Study (Mark) 10:30 AM – Worship w/Communion & Children’s Church

Operation: Bags of Love



Help support our troops!

Help the Sunday school children collect donations for
Operation: Bags of Love!

Our troops need our donations and prayers!

What our troops desperately desire are snack items and words of encouragement from us. So, our mission will be to collect specific snack items, putting them into bags, adding God's love with letters and cards, and shipping them off... Operation: Bags of Love!

Please help us collect the following items:

- Ramen Noodles
- Drink Mix Singles (Propel, Coffee, etc.)
- Snack sized packages of Granola Bars
- Snack sized packages of Jerky or Slim Jims
- Chewing Gum
- Monetary donations to help with shipping costs (*make checks payable to Zion Lutheran church and label "OSS"*)
- Write a Letter of Encouragement to a soldier. Must be written on provided letterhead.
- Draw a Picture on our Operation: Bags of Love drawing page.
- Pray for our troops.
- Help Sunday school kids assemble items on February 7th at 9:15am.

(Letterhead and drawing pages are available in the Narthex, school lobby and on the Sunday school tab at www.zlcb.org.)

Thank you for your donations!
~Zion Lutheran Sunday school

For more information about Operation: Stars and Stripes, Inc., please visit their website at www.operationstarsandstripes.com.



Calling All Zion Artists

Zion will be having an artists' exhibit in the Fellowship Hall January 16th 2016. Paintings, drawings, sculptures, photography, ceramics, fiber art, art-form jewelry, and more may be submitted. It may be current or past original works of art. Art show entries will be accepted from members of Zion.

To further enjoy this event, there will be a reception cocktail party Saturday, Jan. 16th from 7pm - 10pm.

We know Zion's got talent, now lets see it!

Zion Artist

Submit the entry forms (below) and photos of you artwork (if possible) by Saturday, January 9 at the latest via email: Fisher396@comcast.net - you will receive a confirmation email in return (or talk to Barbara Fisher). You may also leave this information in the Secretary's office.

Artwork may be delivered to the Secretary's office Saturday January 9th. Latest date to drop off is Tuesday, January 12th.

Up to three works of art will be displayed, depending on the number of entries and space available.

	Artwork 1	Artwork 2	Artwork 3
Artist Name			
Title of Work			
Medium			
Size			
Weight			
Price, If For Sale			

YOUTH UPCOMING EVENTS

What's Next?



When?

**Jan. 3 @ Zion
5-7:00pm**

Zion Youth Group Schedule

	Event:	Where:	Time:
1/3	Duck Tape Paddle Ball	Zion	5-7:00pm
1/24	Blow Dart Battle	Zion	5-7:00pm
2/7	Flight Trampoline Park	Bridgeville	5-7:00pm
2/21	Minute to Win it Night	Zion	5-7:00pm
2/6	Hungry Hungry Hippos	Faini's	5-7:00pm
2/20	Glow in the Dark Dodgeball	Zion	5-7:00pm
3/3	Youth Group	Zion	5-7:00pm
3/17	Faini Family Dinner Night	Zion	5-7:00pm
4/1	Movie Night	Zion	5-7:00pm
4/15	Slip n Slide Kickball	Zion	5-7:00pm
4/29	Ultimate Frisbee	Zion	5-7:00pm
5/12	Flag Football	Zion	5-7:00pm
5/26	Night Games	Zion	5-7:00pm

LCMS Youth Gathering!!!

July 16-20 in New Orleans!