

ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH



FIRST SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS
DECEMBER 27TH, 2015

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ALTAR FLOWERS are given by Jack & Jacque Oelschlager in Memory of their parents John & Myrna Oelschlager and William & Winifred Russell and by Sarah Erbrecht.

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

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

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.)

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!

Welcome (back) to Worship!

Thank you for choosing to make worship a priority in your life. With all you have going on, no doubt it would have been easy to make an excuse why you could not make it to worship this morning. But you didn't. You know that coming together with your brothers and sisters in Christ is important; it is a priority in your life because you know that it is here the Lord comes to you in Word and Sacrament to give you what you need to live out your calling as salt and light

This morning, our Back to Basics focus for 2015 comes to an end. It's been enjoyable to go through the basics of the Christian faith with you this year; I hope your understanding of the Christian faith has increased, and your faith in Christ has been strengthened through our time together and the work of the Holy Spirit through the Word.

Now, in our last Back to Basics session (before we start Bible in a Year midway through the week), our focus is on what your role as a Christian is in the world. From the youngest in our church to the oldest, God has a use for us in the church (which you heard about last week) and in the world. Every one of us has been given skills and abilities that God can work through to make an eternal difference in the lives of others. Despite your weaknesses and imperfections, God can use you to bring Christ to people. This morning, I hope you will come away from your time in worship fully convinced that no matter where you are in life, you have a role to play in God's salvation history!

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

Rev. Duncan McLellan, Pastor
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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: Go Tell It on the Mountain

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The Invocation

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

People: Amen.

Confession of Sins

Pastor: This morning, as we prepare to hear the Word of God read and proclaimed, receive the body and blood of Christ in the fellowship of this altar, and respond to the grace of God with our prayers and songs of praise, let us first consider our unworthiness and confess our sins to God, trusting in his mercy through our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

People: Father in heaven, you have been good to me, providing me with my daily bread and all that I need to sustain this body and life. You sent your only son into the world to die on the cross for my sins and conquer death in his resurrection; you have made more than adequate provision for me to live eternally with you in your kingdom. But I have chosen to rebel against you and have sinned in thought, word and deed. Have mercy on me. Forgive my sins and teach me to walk in obedience all the days of my life. I ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.

Absolution Spoken by the Pastor

People: Amen.

My soul rejoices, my spirit voices—Sing the greatness of the Lord!
For God my Savior has shown me favor—Sing the greatness of the Lord!
With praise and blessing, join in confessing
God, who is solely mighty and holy—O sing the greatness of God the Lord!
His mercy surely shall rest securely
On all who fear Him, love and revere Him—O sing the greatness of God the Lord!

His arm now baring, His strength declaring—Sing the greatness of the Lord!
The proud He scatters, their rule He shatters—Sing the greatness of the Lord!
Oppression halted; the meek exalted.
Full are the hungry; empty the wealthy—O sing the greatness of God the Lord!
Here is the token all that was spoken
To Abraham's offspring God is fulfilling—O sing the greatness of God the Lord!

The Prayer of the Church

(Please be seated)

The Service of the Word

The Old Testament Reading: Genesis 1:26-31

Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth."

So God created man in his own image,
 in the image of God he created him;
 male and female he created them.

And God blessed them. And God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth." And God said, "Behold, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is on the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit. You shall have them for food.

And to every beast of the earth and to every bird of the heavens and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food.” And it was so. And God saw everything that he had made, and behold, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

The New Testament Reading: 2 Corinthians 4:1-12

Therefore, having this ministry by the mercy of God, we do not lose heart. But we have renounced disgraceful, underhanded ways. We refuse to practice cunning or to tamper with God's word, but by the open statement of the truth we would commend ourselves to everyone's conscience in the sight of God. And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. For what we proclaim is not ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, with ourselves as your servants[c] for Jesus' sake. For God, who said, “Let light shine out of darkness,” has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. But we have this treasure in jars of clay, to show that the surpassing power belongs to God and not to us. We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed; always carrying in the body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be manifested in our bodies. For we who live are always being given over to death for Jesus' sake, so that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our mortal flesh. So death is at work in us, but life in you.

Pastor: In honor of our Lord Jesus Christ, we rise for the reading of the Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 9th Chapter.

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

The Gospel Reading: Matthew 9:35-38

And Jesus went throughout all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom and healing every disease and every affliction. When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest."

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

(Please be seated)

Sermon Hymn: Angels from the Realms of Glory

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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

M@ZE

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 in the fellowship of this altar, let us all together pray the prayer our Lord has given 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 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)

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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

| | |
|------------------------------|-----|
| Lord Jesus, Think on Me | 610 |
| Thine Forever, God of Love | 687 |
| O Jesus, King Most Wonderful | 554 |

Benediction

People: Amen

The Recessional: See amid the Winter's Snow 373


Postlude

† Service Participants †

| | |
|-----------------|---|
| Pastor: | Rev. Duncan McLellan |
| Music Director: | Mark Killinger |
| The Organist: | Sandra Quinlan |
| The Elders: | Mike Sterba & Neil Ackerman |
| The Acolyte: | Josiah Ackerman (8:00) Anna Gresh (10:30) |
| The Greeters: | Shane & Sandy Bryant (8:00) Darren, Jennifer & Adam Elikier(10:30) Carley Rockovich & Mason Thompson |
| The Ushers: | Carl Bauer, Gene Koop, Ron Meier & Jack Oelschlager (8:00) Kathleen Conn, Bill Schrag, Janet & Larry Zreliak (10:30) |
| Altar Guild: | Janet, Marian & Molly Oelschlager |
| M@ZE: | Lindsey Faini, Jesse Carter Jim Oelschlager, Josh Snyder |

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

Week of Dec. 27th – Jan. 3rd

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|----------------------------------|--|
| 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 |
| MONDAY 12/28 | |
| TUESDAY 12/29 | 6:30 PM – Sunday School Meeting |
| WEDNESDAY 12/30 | 7:00 PM – Service of Prayer and Preaching |
| THURSDAY 12/31 | 10:00 AM – Bible Study 7:00 PM – New Year’s Eve Service |
| FRIDAY 1/1 | Happy New Year!  |
| SATURDAY 1/2 | |
| SUNDAY 1/3 | 8:00 AM – Worship w/Communion 9:30 AM –Sunday School & Adult Bible Study 10:30 AM – Worship w/Communion 12:00 PM – Board of Education Meeting 5:00-7:00 PM – Duck Tape Paddle Ball Youth event |



When?
 Jan. 3 @ Zion
 5-7:00pm

Happening Next Week!!

There will also be an informational meeting about the LCMS Youth Gathering following the late service next week, January 3, 2016. All youth and their parents should stick around for the meeting even if you are only 1% interested in this awesome trip! You won't want to miss it.

Be sure to check out the revised Schedule for the next few months!

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 |
| 3/6 | Hungry Hungry Hippos | Faini's | 5-7:00pm |
| 3/20 | Glow in the Dark Dodgeball | Zion | 5-7:00pm |
| 4/3 | Youth Group | Zion | 5-7:00pm |
| 4/17 | Faini Family Dinner Night | Zion | 5-7:00pm |
| 5/1 | Movie Night | Zion | 5-7:00pm |
| 5/15 | Slip n Slide Kickball | Zion | 5-7:00pm |
| 5/29 | Ultimate Frisbee | Zion | 5-7:00pm |
| 6/12 | Flag Football | Zion | 5-7:00pm |
| 6/26 | Night Games | Zion | 5-7:00pm |

LCMS Youth Gathering!!!
July 16-20 in New Orleans!

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.