

Zion Lutheran Church



Fourth Sunday In Lent
March 6th, 2016

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **ALTAR FLOWERS** are given by Michael & Deborah in Memory of Stanley Sterba and Joyce Wood in Memory of Thomas Wood.
- **ETERNAL LIGHT** is given by Bernice DeBoe in Memory of her parents Anna & Roman Rybarski & Anna & Stanley DeBoe.
- **WHY DO WE DO THIS?** New this week in your bulletin is a “Why do we do this?” explanation for one of the elements of the Service. Have you ever wondered why we have “The Invocation” or speak the words of the Creed? Each week, one of the elements of the Service will be explained so you can know why we do what we do in worship.
- **BIBLE IN A YEAR** readings are available on our church’s website and in your monthly Zion Newsletter. Join us as we read the Bible in a Year in 2016!
- **VOTERS MEETING!** There will be a Voters’ Meeting TODAY at 9:30am to vote on changes to the Constitution and to consider re-entering the Vicarage Program.
- **YOUTH GROUP.** Zion’s Youth will be challenging their athletic abilities in a competitive game of Human Hungry Hungry Hippos! The fun starts TONIGHT at 5:00pm at Zion. Plan on having fun and bringing your friends!
- **BABY BOTTLES.** Zion is once again supporting the Pregnancy Resource Center of the South Hills through the Baby Bottle Campaign. You can help this pro-life ministry by taking a baby bottle from the table in the church narthex and filling it with your loose change or bills. Please return your filled bottle no later than Sunday, April 3rd.
- **LENT MIDWEEK WORSHIP.** The theme for our Wednesday services (7:00pm) in Lent will be the Last Week of Jesus’ Life from the Gospel of Matthew. Come and worship with us!
- **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.)
- **CHILDRENS CHOIR** is every Tuesday from 6:00 – 6:45 PM, Kids ages 7-12 are welcome!!
- **BELL CHOIR.** We are looking to expand our music ministry and need your help! We are in the process of establishing a hand bell choir here at Zion! THE FIRST THING WE NEED TO DO IS BUY HANDBELLS. WHICH, AS YOU MIGHT IMAGINE, ARE NOT CHEAP. If you would like to give to this ministry, please note on the MEMO LINE OF YOUR CHECK (OR, IF YOU ARE GIVING CASH, ON THE OFFERING ENVELOPE) that you would like to give to the hand bell choir. Thank for you for support of the music ministry here at Zion! AND STAY TUNED FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT OUR HANDBELL CHOIR!
- **ADULT CHOIR** rehearsals are Tuesdays from 6:45-7:45PM. 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!
- **MEN’S BIBLE BREAKFAST** is back on at 8:00am down in the Fellowship Hall. Hope to see you there! You don’t need to be a Bible Scholar; but being hungry helps.
- **WOMEN’S BIBLE STUDY** continues this Tuesday at 7:30pm in the Fellowship Hall. Talk to Alissa McLellan if you have any questions!
- **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, we are going to focus on an event from Israel's wilderness wandering that was part of your Bible in a Year reading from last week. But before I tell you what it is, let me ask you: have you ever not done something because it sounded too good to be true? The price of a house, a fantastic job offer, or even the answers to an algebra test... if they are too low, pay too much, or too easy, it's natural to ask: "is this too good to be true?"

In our Old Testament Lesson for this Sunday, God gives his people something that is too good to be true. God's people have (by this point predictably) grumbled against him and against Moses. And so God, in his righteous judgment, sent venomous serpents to bite the people, to lead them to repentance. Now, imagine you were bitten by one of these snakes—sent by God. You feel your strength—your life—slipping away. All of the suggested remedies have failed. And then word gets to you that Moses has been told to make a bronze snake on a pole. There are reports that people who have looked at that snake have gotten better, even fully recovered. Would you go out to look at the snake, or would you say that this is something that simply sounds too good to be true?

It's no wonder, then, that Jesus refers back to this passage when speaking with Nicodemus in John 3. He says that salvation is like looking at the serpent on a pole. Only instead of looking at a carved image to cure the sting of venom, they will look at Jesus as he is lifted up to cure the curse of sin and cause of death. Too good to be true? No. Better than you could ask for or imagine? Absolutely!

God bless your time in worship this morning!

-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: In the Cross of Christ I Glory

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The Invocation

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

People: Amen.

Why do we do this? The words of the Invocation are the name of the Triune God, these words were spoken over us when we were baptized and brought into God's family. The Invocation reminds us that we have the privilege to call on God's Name, sing His praise, receive His gifts of Word and Sacrament, and live in the confidence that our sins are forgiven and we have peace with Him. The Invocation reminds us of the relationship we have with God.

Confession and Absolution of Sins

Pastor: Our help is in the name of the Lord,

People: who made heaven and earth.

Pastor: If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?

People: But with You there is forgiveness; therefore You are feared.

Pastor: Since we are gathered to hear God's Word, call upon Him in prayer and praised, and receive the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ in the fellowship of this altar, let us first consider our unworthiness and confess before God and one another that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, and that we cannot free ourselves from our sinful condition. Together as His people let us take refuge in the infinite mercy of God, our heavenly Father, seeking His grace for the sake of Christ, and saying: God, be merciful to me, a sinner.

People: Almighty God, have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. Amen.

Pastor: Almighty God, merciful Father, in Holy Baptism You declared us to be Your children and gathered us into Your one, holy Church, in which

You daily and richly forgive us our sins and grant us new life through Your Spirit. Be in our midst, enliven our faith, and graciously receive our prayer and praise; through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

People: Amen.

The Prayer of the Church

(Please be seated)

The Service of the Word

Old Testament Reading:

Numbers 21:4-9

From Mount Hor they set out by the way to the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom. And the people became impatient on the way. And the people spoke against God and against Moses, "Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we loathe this worthless food." Then the Lord sent fiery serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many people of Israel died. And the people came to Moses and said, "We have sinned, for we have spoken against the Lord and against you. Pray to the Lord, that he take away the serpents from us." So Moses prayed for the people. And the Lord said to Moses, "Make a fiery serpent and set it on a pole, and everyone who is bitten, when he sees it, shall live." So Moses made a bronze serpent and set it on a pole. And if a serpent bit anyone, he would look at the bronze serpent and live.

Psalm of the Day:

Psalm 66

Shout for joy to God, all the earth; sing the glory of his name;
give to him glorious praise!

Say to God, "How awesome are your deeds!

So great is your power that your enemies come cringing to you.
All the earth worships you and sings praises to you;

they sing praises to your name.” Selah
Come and see what God has done:
he is awesome in his deeds toward the children of man.
He turned the sea into dry land; they passed through the river on foot.
There did we rejoice in him, who rules by his might forever,
whose eyes keep watch on the nations—
let not the rebellious exalt themselves. Selah
Bless our God, O peoples; let the sound of his praise be heard,
who has kept our soul among the living and has not let our feet slip.
For you, O God, have tested us; you have tried us as silver is tried.
You brought us into the net; you laid a crushing burden on our backs;
you let men ride over our heads; we went through fire and through water;
yet you have brought us out to a place of abundance.
I will come into your house with burnt offerings;
I will perform my vows to you,
that which my lips uttered and my mouth promised when I was in trouble.
I will offer to you burnt offerings of fattened animals,
with the smoke of the sacrifice of rams;
I will make an offering of bulls and goats. Selah
Come and hear, all you who fear God, and I will tell what he has done for my soul.
I cried to him with my mouth, and high praise was on my tongue.
If I had cherished iniquity in my heart, the Lord would not have listened.
But truly God has listened; he has attended to the voice of my prayer.
Blessed be God, because he has not rejected my prayer,
or removed his steadfast love from me!

Pastor: In honor of our Lord Jesus Christ, we rise for the reading of the Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 3rd Chapter.

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

Gospel Reading:

John 3:1-15

Now there was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews. This man came to Jesus by night and said to him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher come from God, for no one can do these signs that you do unless God is with him." Jesus answered him, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again[b] he cannot see the kingdom of God." Nicodemus said to him, "How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother's womb and be born?" Jesus answered, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not marvel that I said to you, 'You must be born again.' The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear its sound, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit."

Nicodemus said to him, "How can these things be?" Jesus answered him, "Are you the teacher of Israel and yet you do not understand these things? Truly, truly, I say to you, we speak of what we know, and bear witness to what we have seen, but you do not receive our testimony. If I have told you earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you heavenly things? No one has ascended into heaven except he who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life."

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to you, O Christ.

(Please be seated)

Sermon Hymn: We Praise You and Acknowledge You, O God 941

Sermon

(Please stand)

The Nicene Creed

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth
and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God,
begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light,
very God of very God, begotten, not made,
being of one substance with the Father; by whom all things were made;
who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man;
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.
He suffered and was buried.

And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures
and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father.

And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead,
whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified,
who spoke by the prophets.

And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,
and I look for the resurrection of the dead
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

(Please be seated)

***Offertory – Reverence (10:30) I Stand Amazed in the Presence
The Collection of the Offering***

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)

163

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

Let Us Ever Walk with Jesus 685

Have No Fear, Little Flock 735

For Me to Live is Jesus 742

Benediction

People: **Amen**

The Recessional: Oh, for a Thousand Tongues to Sing

528

Postlude

† *Service Participants* †

Pastor:	Rev. Duncan McLellan
Music Director:	Mark Killinger
The Organist:	Sandra Quinlan
The Pianist:	Lindsey Faini
The Elders:	Bill Bishop & Peter Fisher
The Acolyte:	Matt Liberatore (8:00) Lara Luedeman (10:30)
The Greeters:	Brent & Marianne Miller & Milly Thielet (8:00) Vince & Ginny Kimberland(10:30)
The Ushers:	Brian Pasquini, Dale Miller (8:00) Wayne & Barb Oechslein Ross Chilcott, Sam Dragan (10:30) Dan Harris & Chuck LaJeunesse
Altar Guild:	Janet & Marian Oelschlager
Nursery:	Megan Pasquini & Marian Oelschlager

Last Week in Worship

Sunday Worship Attendance (2/28) – 195

Wednesday Attendance (3/2) – 41

Sunday Offering (2/28) - \$3,911.00

Online Offering (2/22-2/26) - \$865.00

Lenten Offering (2/24) - \$240.00

Bell Choir Donations (2/28) - \$75.00

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

Week of March 6th – March 13th

SUNDAY 3/6	8:00 AM – Worship w/Communion 9:15 AM – Sunday School & Voters Meeting 10:30 AM – Worship w/Communion 5:00 PM – Youth Event – Hungry Hungry Hippos
MONDAY 3/7	7:00 PM – Trustees Meeting
TUESDAY 3/8	6:00 PM- Children’s Choir 6:45 PM – Adult Choir 7:30 PM – Women’s Bible Study
WEDNESDAY 3/9	7:00 PM – Lent Service
THURSDAY 3/10	10:00 AM – Bible Study 7:30 PM – Council Meeting
FRIDAY 3/11	
SATURDAY 3/12	8:00 AM – Men’s Bible Breakfast
SUNDAY 3/13 Food Bank Collection	8:00 AM – Worship w/Communion 9:15 AM – Sunday School & Adult Bible Class 10:30 AM – Worship w/Communion & Children’s Church 11:45 AM – Board of Education Meeting 12:00 PM – Stephen Ministry Meeting



"TO TELL YOU THE TRUTH, I'M NOT EVEN THAT HUNGRY...
BUT WHEN I SEE THOSE MARBLES, I JUST LOSE IT,"



Zion Youth Group

Hungry Hungry Hippos



When? **Sunday, March 6**

Time? **5-7:00pm**

Who? Anyone in Middle or High School

Where? Zion Lutheran Church

3197 Washington Pike, Bridgeville, PA

Questions?

Contact Joe Faini:

youth@zlcb.org