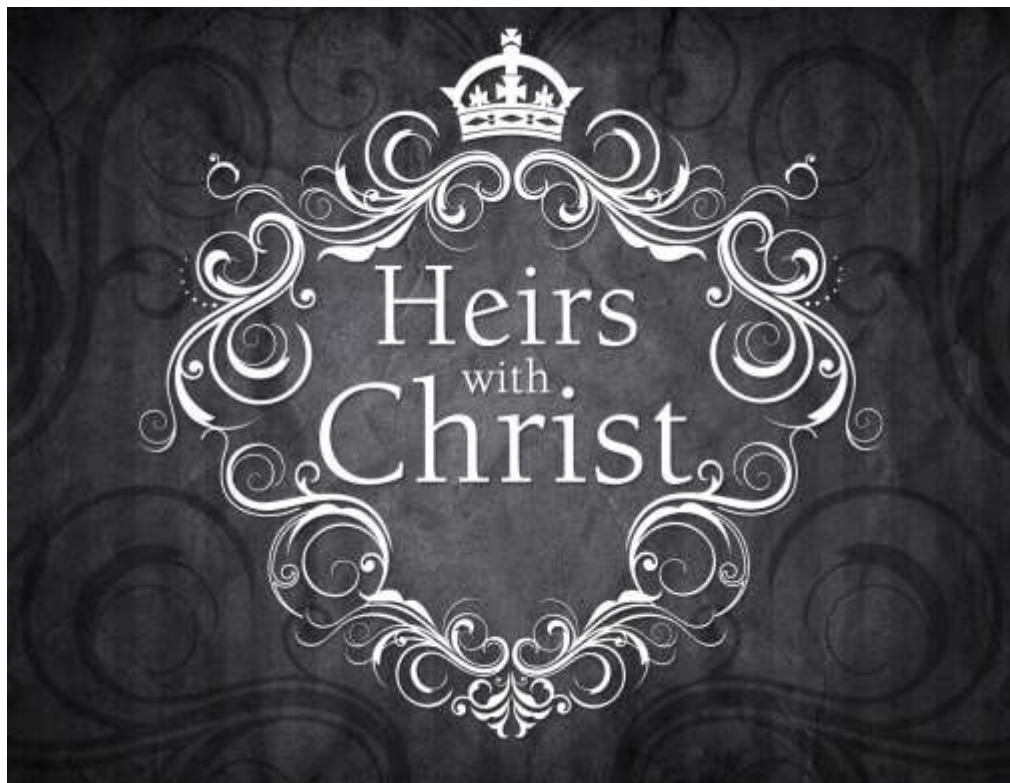


# *Zion Lutheran Church*



*Service of Prayer and  
Preaching*

*April 6<sup>th</sup> 2016*



# ANNOUNCEMENTS

**REV. MARK JASA** is coming to Zion April 30<sup>th</sup>. Who is Mark Jasa, and why should you care? Mark and I went to seminary together; he is a Pastor in the Los Angeles area and has a very enjoyable way of doing outreach and evangelism. He is going to give a presentation (and workshop) for us starting at 10:00 in the Fellowship Hall. All are welcome and lunch will be served.

**CONFIRMATION.** Coming this fall, we will be starting a new Confirmation class for kids 6-8<sup>th</sup> grade to learn the basics of the Christian faith and become communicant members of the congregation. Look for more information in upcoming newsletters and in this place as we get closer to the summer season!

**2.10.66!** We've done it twice; will the third time be the charm? Going through all 66 books of the Bible over 10 hours and 2 days. Look for a sign-up sheet in the narthex area as we look at the interest level and possible times for doing a 3<sup>rd</sup> 2.10.66!

**ADD ME TO THE LIST!** If you are not currently on our email prayer chain and would like to be added to the prayer chain please contact the church secretaries by phone or email ([secretary@zlc.org](mailto:secretary@zlc.org))!!

**VICARAGE.** At our last Voters' Meeting, we approved funding for the 2016-2017 Vicarage Program. Due to a decline in Seminary enrollment, there are a number of congregations who applied for Vicars who will not get them. Please pray that the Lord chooses to send Zion a Vicar to help with our ministry, and so that we can be blessed to help prepare a man for the Office of the Public Ministry!

Happy 92nd Birthday Millie Thielet from Marianne & the Webmaster

# Welcome to worship!

This evening, Joe is going to talk with you about something both he and I think should be an even higher priority here at Zion: kids. What's a kid? For our purposes, it's anyone who is living under the authority of their parents. Children. Youth.

What does it mean that kids should be a higher priority? We are already committed to loving kids and sharing the love of Christ with them. We have an excellent preschool to teach young ones about Jesus. We have Sunday School, VBS and Confirmation to teach our young people the Scriptures. We have a youth choir, are going to the National Youth Gathering, and have a staff person whose sole responsibility is to lead our youth to and work with them as they grow in their faith. Isn't that enough? No. And Joe's going to tell you why.

With all that we could be doing, does it make sense to commit so much to our kids? It absolutely makes sense. Kids today face challenges that are unique literally in human history. Can you imagine how hard it is to face the challenges and temptations of all that are out there without knowing the love of God in Christ, and without having people you trust who can help you make wise decisions? It's not easy.

So, how do we become a church that loves and cares about kids? That's what Joe is going to begin to share with you this evening! 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

## *Confession and Absolution*

Leader: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

People: **Amen.**

Leader: Brothers and sisters in Christ, before we listen to the Word of God read and proclaimed, and before we offer our prayers of thanksgiving and supplication to our Heavenly Father, let us first consider our unworthiness to do both and ask God for mercy to help us in our time of need.

People: **Father in heaven, I come before you at the end of another day of your grace and favor. I should be able to come before you with a joyful heart, but instead, I come to you as one burdened by my sins. Look upon me in mercy and, for the sake of Christ, forgive me. Renew a steadfast spirit within me, and lead me to greater faith and obedience. I ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.**

## *Absolution*

Leader: Jesus Christ was given to die for you, and for His sake, God forgives you all of your sins. To those who believe in Jesus Christ, He gives to the power to become children of God and bestows on them the Holy Spirit. May the Lord who began a good work in you bring it to completion in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.

People: **Amen!**

## **The First Reading: Galatians 4:1-7**

I mean that the heir, as long as he is a child, is no different from a slave, though he is the owner of everything, but he is under guardians and managers until the date set by his father. In the same way we also, when we were children, were enslaved to the elementary principles of the world. But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the

law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God.

### **The Second Reading: John 20:19-23**

On the evening of that day, the first day of the week, the doors being locked where the disciples were for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you." When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you." And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you withhold forgiveness from any, it is withheld."

### **The Third Reading: Mark 2:1-12**

And when he returned to Capernaum after some days, it was reported that he was at home. And many were gathered together, so that there was no more room, not even at the door. And he was preaching the word to them. And they came, bringing to him a paralytic carried by four men. And when they could not get near him because of the crowd, they removed the roof above him, and when they had made an opening, they let down the bed on which the paralytic lay. And when Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, "Son, your sins are forgiven." Now some of the scribes were sitting there, questioning in their hearts, "Why does this man speak like that? He is blaspheming! Who can forgive sins but God alone?" And immediately Jesus, perceiving in his spirit that they thus questioned within themselves, said to them, "Why do you question these things in your hearts? Which is easier, to

say to the paralytic, ‘Your sins are forgiven,’ or to say, ‘Rise, take up your bed and walk’? But that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins”—he said to the paralytic— “I say to you, rise, pick up your bed, and go home.” And he rose and immediately picked up his bed and went out before them all, so that they were all amazed and glorified God, saying, “We never saw anything like this!”

### ***The Message: Why Kids.***

(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***

Leader: 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.**

Leader: 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.**

Leader: 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 and the glory forever and ever. Amen**

### ***The Benedicamus and Benediction***

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

**People: Amen.**