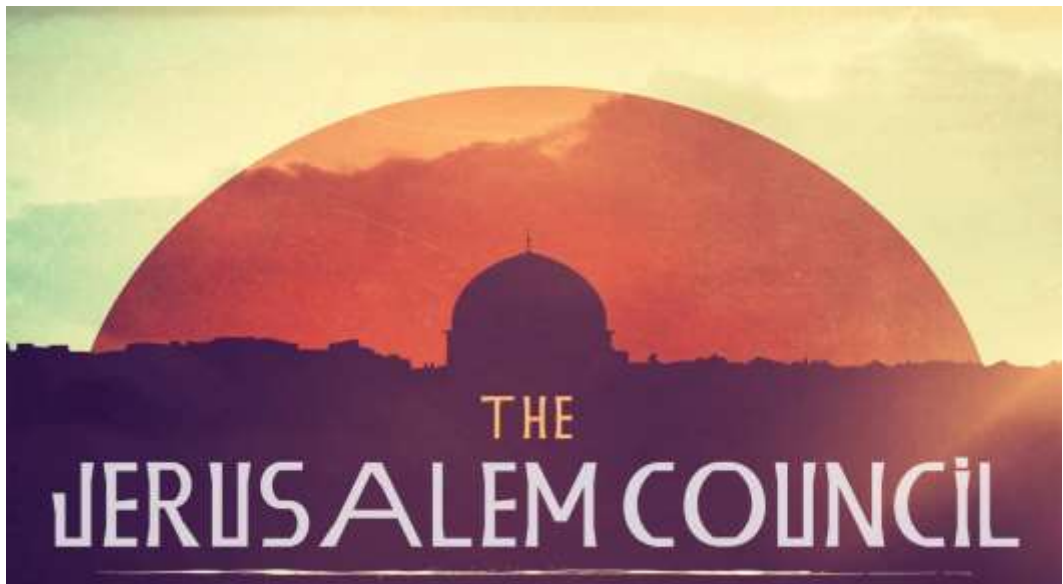


ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH



SERVICE OF PRAYER AND
PREACHING
JUNE 1ST 2016



ANNOUNCEMENTS

FIRE PIT! We have a fire pit. It's a fine fire pit. There's wood to burn and hay bales to sit on. But we can do better! On June 4th, starting at 2pm (when the Car Wash ends), a group of us is going to the back yard to work on the fire pit. Long story short, we are going to make it better. And then we are going to break it in. Join us: June 4th behind the church, 2pm.

CONFIRMATION. Coming this fall, we will be starting a new Confirmation class for kids 6-8th 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 3rd 2.10.66!

CAR WASH! We are going to have our 8th Car Wash here at Zion on June 4th. We'll need people to help out washing, waxing, drying, and cleaning the interiors of the cars we'll get. We also need people to help serve food. The Car Wash begins at 10:00am; set-up starts at 9am. If you want to come earlier than that, you can come to the Bible Study & Breakfast at 8:00am.

CREATION CONFERENCE. Keep an eye out for our second Creation Conference here at Zion in August. We will have a group of scientists and theologians come and present their research and inform us on the truth of the Biblical account of creation. You won't want to miss this conference; a great opportunity to learn and grow in your faith!

Welcome to worship!

It was good to get back in the office after an enjoyable Memorial Day Holiday Weekend. On week's when there's a lot going on at Zion, such as this week (Preschool "Summer Camps" during the day, an Elders Meeting (a big deal for your Pastor—along with shut-in calls), Car Wash, and Fire Pit renovation), I especially appreciate the time I have to spend in God's Word planning and preparing the sermons for Wednesday evening and Sunday morning. Wanting to keep with the theme of preaching on the Bible in a Year reading for the day, I had some difficulty in choosing the text for our consideration this evening. The Bible in a Year reading is Acts 15-16. There's a lot to choose from in this passage, including stories of unlikely conversions (Lydia and the Jailer and his family), as well as strange passages like: "having been forbidden by the Holy Spirit to speak the word in Asia" (16:6). But, in view of the pending Synodical Convention (July 9-14), I think it would be good for us to consider the first church council, and in particular the "action items" that came out of the first Post-Pentecost meeting of the church-at-large.

The first church council took place in Jerusalem and resulted in sending apostles and leaders in the church along with a letter to Antioch, Syria and Cilicia. The letter addressed several issues that popped up in the early church: eating food sacrificed by idols, that still had its blood in it or that was killed in a dangerous (or cruel) way; and sexual immorality. We are going to look at two things this evening: why were these issues in the early church and how can we apply the church's teaching on these issues to our lives 2,000 years later.

There's a lot of ground to cover this evening as we take a look at the first Church Council from Acts 15.

God bless your time in worship!

-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

Pastor: O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth will declare Your praise.

Psalm 51:15

People: **Make haste, O God, to deliver me. Make haste to help me, O Lord.**

Psalm 70:1

All: *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.*

First Reading: Acts 15:12-29

The whole assembly became silent as they listened to Barnabas and Paul telling about the signs and wonders God had done among the Gentiles through them. When they finished, James spoke up. “Brothers,” he said, “listen to me. Simon has described to us how God first intervened to choose a people for his name from the Gentiles. The words of the prophets are in agreement with this, as it is written:

“After this I will return and rebuild David’s fallen tent. Its ruins I will rebuild, and I will restore it, that the rest of mankind may seek the Lord, even all the Gentiles who bear my name, says the Lord, who does these things”—things known from long ago.

“It is my judgment, therefore, that we should not make it difficult for the Gentiles who are turning to God. Instead we should write to them, telling them to abstain from food polluted by idols, from sexual immorality, from the meat of strangled animals and from blood. For the law of Moses has been preached in every city from the earliest times and is read in the synagogues on every Sabbath.”

Then the apostles and elders, with the whole church, decided to choose some of their own men and send them to Antioch with Paul and Barnabas. They

chose Judas (called Barsabbas) and Silas, men who were leaders among the believers. With them they sent the following letter:

The apostles and elders, your brothers,
To the Gentile believers in Antioch, Syria and Cilicia:
Greetings.

We have heard that some went out from us without our authorization and disturbed you, troubling your minds by what they said. So we all agreed to choose some men and send them to you with our dear friends Barnabas and Paul—men who have risked their lives for the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore we are sending Judas and Silas to confirm by word of mouth what we are writing. It seemed good to the Holy Spirit and to us not to burden you with anything beyond the following requirements: You are to abstain from food sacrificed to idols, from blood, from the meat of strangled animals and from sexual immorality. You will do well to avoid these things.
Farewell.

Second Reading: Psalm 1

Blessed is the one
 who does not walk in step with the wicked
or stand in the way that sinners take
 or sit in the company of mockers,
but whose delight is in the law of the Lord,
 and who meditates on his law day and night.
That person is like a tree planted by streams of water,
 which yields its fruit in season
and whose leaf does not wither—
 whatever they do prospers.

Not so the wicked!

They are like chaff
that the wind blows away.

Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment,
nor sinners in the assembly of the righteous.

For the Lord watches over the way of the righteous,
but the way of the wicked leads to destruction.

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.**

Psalm 141:2

Pastor: My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God, my
Savior; for he has regarded the lowliness of His hand-maiden.

People: **For behold, from this day all generations will all me
blessed. For the Mighty One has done great things to me,**

and holy is His name; and His mercy is on those who fear Him from generation to generation.

Pastor: He has shown strength with His arm; He has scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts. He has cast down the mighty from their thrones and has exalted the lowly.

People: He has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich He has sent empty away. He has helped His servant Israel in remembrance of His mercy and He spoke to our fathers, to Abraham and to his seed forever.

Luke 1:46-55

Pastor: ...Lord, in Your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: O God, from whom come all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works, give to us, Your servants, that peace which the world cannot give, that our hearts may be set to obey Your commandments and also that we, being defended from the fear of our enemies, may live in peace and quietness; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

Pastor: Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:
All: *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*

Matthew 6:9-13

The Benediction

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.

Numbers 6:24-26

People: Amen.