

# ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH



SERVICE OF PRAYER AND  
PREACHING  
JUNE 8<sup>TH</sup> 2016



# ANNOUNCEMENTS

**JAMES AND JUDE!** We are just a few weeks away from our Midweek Study of James and Jude, two of the New Testament's "minor characters." Look for sign-up sheets in the narthex area for the study guide we'll be using for our small group discussion. Looking forward to having you on board!

**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!

**PITTSBURGH LUTHERAN!** Look for more information about Zion in the upcoming edition of the Pittsburgh Lutheran. A big shout-out/ tip-of-the-hat to our team who has taken on the responsibility of publishing and improving this valuable communication resource for the LCMS congregations in the greater Pittsburgh Area! Way to go team!

**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!

This evening we follow our Bible in a Year Readings back to the Old Testament and the book of Joshua. When we left the Old Testament several months ago, we had just finished reading the Pentateuch (the five books of Moses, Genesis-Deuteronomy). After forty years, the Israelites have finally reached the Promised Land. Moses had passed the baton of leadership onto Joshua. Joshua had proved his faithfulness in truthfully reporting what he saw on a reconnaissance mission into the Promised Land. God rewards his faithfulness by exempting him from the curse that was put on all men who left Israel over 20 years old; he was one of two men over 60 years old allowed to enter the Promised Land.

In our text, God's people face their first obstacle in conquering the Promised Land, as the Lord had commanded them to do: the well-fortified city of Jericho. Spies are sent into the city. They are given refuge by the most unlikely of people: a prostitute names Rahab. She recognizes that God is with the Israelites and provides shelter to the spies in return for their promise that when God gives the Israelites victory over her people, she and her household will be kept safe.

Fast forward to the New Testament, and the faith of Rahab is memorialized by both the author of Hebrews and the Gospel of St. Matthew.

What exactly was it about the faith of Rahab that deserves such recognition? What does her faith say about God and about us today? Stay tuned as we take a look at Joshua 2 and the faith (and actions) of Rahab! 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.***

## Reading: Joshua 2

And Joshua the son of Nun sent two men secretly from Shittim as spies, saying, "Go, view the land, especially Jericho." And they went and came into the house of a prostitute whose name was Rahab and lodged there. And it was told to the king of Jericho, "Behold, men of Israel have come here tonight to search out the land." Then the king of Jericho sent to Rahab, saying, "Bring out the men who have come to you, who entered your house, for they have come to search out all the land." But the woman had taken the two men and hidden them. And she said, "True, the men came to me, but I did not know where they were from. And when the gate was about to be closed at dark, the men went out. I do not know where the men went. Pursue them quickly, for you will overtake them." But she had brought them up to the roof and hid them with the stalks of flax that she had laid in order on the roof. So the men pursued after them on the way to the Jordan as far as the fords. And the gate was shut as soon as the pursuers had gone out.

Before the men lay down, she came up to them on the roof and said to the men, "I know that the Lord has given you the land, and that the fear of you has fallen upon us, and that all the inhabitants of the land melt away before you. For we have heard how the Lord dried up the water of the Red Sea before you when you came out of Egypt, and what you did to the two kings of the Amorites who were beyond the Jordan, to Sihon and Og, whom you devoted to

destruction. And as soon as we heard it, our hearts melted, and there was no spirit left in any man because of you, for the Lord your God, he is God in the heavens above and on the earth beneath. Now then, please swear to me by the Lord that, as I have dealt kindly with you, you also will deal kindly with my father's house, and give me a sure sign that you will save alive my father and mother, my brothers and sisters, and all who belong to them, and deliver our lives from death." And the men said to her, "Our life for yours even to death! If you do not tell this business of ours, then when the Lord gives us the land we will deal kindly and faithfully with you."

Then she let them down by a rope through the window, for her house was built into the city wall, so that she lived in the wall. And she said to them, "Go into the hills, or the pursuers will encounter you, and hide there three days until the pursuers have returned. Then afterward you may go your way." The men said to her, "We will be guiltless with respect to this oath of yours that you have made us swear. Behold, when we come into the land, you shall tie this scarlet cord in the window through which you let us down, and you shall gather into your house your father and mother, your brothers, and all your father's household. Then if anyone goes out of the doors of your house into the street, his blood shall be on his own head, and we shall be guiltless. But if a hand is laid on anyone who is with you in the house, his blood shall be on our head. But if you tell this business of ours, then we shall be guiltless with respect to your oath that you have made us swear." And she said, "According to your words, so be it." Then she sent them away, and they departed. And she tied the scarlet cord in the window.

They departed and went into the hills and remained there three days until the pursuers returned, and the pursuers searched all along the way and found nothing. Then the two men returned. They came down from the hills and passed over and came to Joshua the son of Nun, and they told him all that had happened

to them. And they said to Joshua, "Truly the Lord has given all the land into our hands. And also, all the inhabitants of the land melt away because of us."

## ***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.**