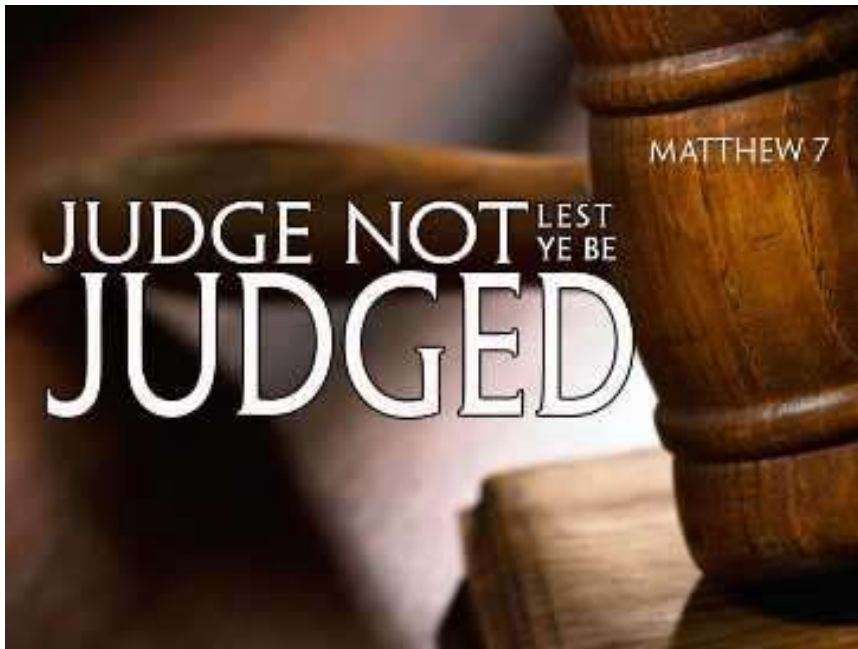


ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH



SERVICE OF PRAYER AND
PREACHING
AUGUST 24TH 2016



ANNOUNCEMENTS

JAMES AND JUDE! On Wednesday evenings, we will be having a small group Bible Study on the books of James and Jude as part of our Midweek Service. It's not too late to pick up your study guide following the service this evening. We'll be going over the first unit after the service this week!

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 for our 3rd 2.10.66. September 2nd 6-9pm and the 3rd from 10-5.

CONFIRMATION is coming! 6-8th graders, this is for you! Our Parent Meeting is scheduled for 8/29 at 7:00pm with the first Confirmation Class scheduled for 9/12 at 7:00pm. Look for more in September's newsletter, on-line and in the worship bulletin.

VICAR'S CHOICE. He can talk. He can preach. But can he teach? Come and find out this Sunday at 9:30 in the Fellowship Hall/ Basement/ Undercroft and listen to Vicar Joshua teach Bible Class. Topic is To Be Determined, but should be more than interesting.

Welcome to worship!

The Difficulty and Danger of Judging Others

This evening, our focus is on the last few verses of James 3 and most of James 4. There's a lot in this passage that we could talk about: wisdom from God (which Vicar touched on last week), the things for which we should (or should not) pray, and the role of sorrow in the life of the Christian just to name a few. And then there is what we are going to talk about: the difficulty and danger of judging others. Or, maybe more accurately, the fine (yet well-defined) line between discerning and condemning.

I have no idea how "they" figure this stuff out, but I've heard it said that the most quoted verse in the Scriptures is "judge not, lest ye be judged." I'm not sure I buy it. But I'm pretty sure you've heard that verse before, which speaks to its popularity at some level. Of course this quote is often misused to coerce Christians into endorsing sin. It makes sense in a libertine, relativistic culture, Jesus' words to refrain from judging would be popular.

There are bad reasons not to judge (turning a blind eye to sin being at the top of the list); but what are the good reasons? Several, it turns out. This evening we are going to take a look at why Christians should be careful to judge others, the role of discerning good from evil, and how to carefully confront and brother or sister in Christ when they have erred.

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

Pastor: The Lord Almighty grant us a quiet night and peace at the last
People: Amen.

Pastor: It is good to give thanks to the Lord, to sing praise to Your name, O Most High.
People: To herald Your love in the morning, Your truth at the close of the day.

Psalm 92:1

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: James 4:1-12

What causes quarrels and what causes fights among you? Is it not this, that your passions are at war within you? You desire and do not have, so you murder. You covet and cannot obtain, so you fight and quarrel. You do not have, because you do not ask. You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, to spend it on your passions. You adulterous people! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God. Or do you suppose it is to no purpose that the Scripture says, "He yearns jealously over the spirit that he has made to dwell in us"? But he gives more grace. Therefore it says, "God opposes the proud, but gives grace to the humble." Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded. Be wretched and mourn and weep. Let your laughter be turned to mourning and your joy to gloom. Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will exalt you.

Do not speak evil against one another, brothers. The one who speaks against a brother or judges his brother, speaks evil against the law and judges the law. But if you judge the law, you are not a doer of the law but a judge. There is only one lawgiver and judge, he who is able to save and to destroy. But who are you to judge your neighbor?

Second Reading: Matthew 7:1-6

“Judge not, that you be not judged. For with the judgment you pronounce you will be judged, and with the measure you use it will be measured to you. Why do you see the speck that is in your brother's eye, but do not notice the log that is in your own eye? Or how can you say to your brother, ‘Let me take the speck out of your eye,’ when there is the log in your own eye? You hypocrite, first take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take the speck out of your brother's eye. Do not give dogs what is holy, and do not throw your pearls before pigs, lest they trample them underfoot and turn to attack you.”

Message

(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.

The Prayers

Pastor: In peace let us pray to the Lord:

People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: For the gift of divine peace and pardon, with all our heart and with all our mind, let us pray to the Lord:

People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: For the holy Christian Church, here and scattered throughout the world, and for the proclamation of the Gospel and the calling of all to faith, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: For this nation, for our cities and communities, and for the common welfare of us all, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: For seasonable weather and for the fruitfulness of the earth, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: For those who labor, for those whose work is dangerous or difficult, and for all who travel, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: For all those in need, for the hungry and homeless, for the widowed and orphaned, and for all those in prison, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: For the sick and dying and for all those who care for them, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: For... let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: Finally, for these and for all our needs of body and soul, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

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 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.

Numbers 6:24-26

People: **Amen.**