

ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH



Reformation Sunday

October 30, 2011



ANNOUNCEMENTS

October 30, 2011



The **Altar Flowers** have been given to the Glory of God by Steve, Lori, & Megan Gauger in memory of Lori's mom, Jean Populo, and by the Norma & Jim Lynch in memory of Melvin Cisko.

The **Eternal Light** is lit to the Glory of God by Robert Oelschlager in memory of Andy Dames and in celebration of the Reformation.

A **Voter's Meeting** will be held today at 9:15.

Ladies of Zion, you are cordially invited to an **Essentials Baby Shower** for Alissa McLellan on Sunday, November 6th at 3:00 p.m. Please return the RSVP form found in the bulletin by October 30th. For more information, contact Megan Pasquini @ 412-973-1569 or Susan Bishop @ 412-257-5089.

You are invited to attend the **"Wine Down"** celebration hosted by Peace Lutheran Church at Simmons Farm Greenhouse on November 12th beginning at 7:00 pm. If you would like to attend, please RSVP to Kathy Stanis at 724-941-9441 or peacechurchsecretary@verizon.net. Just bring a wine glass per person, a bottle of wine (under \$15) and an appetizer to share (hot, cold, or a dessert). If you have any other questions, contact Wendy Hardy at 724-969-4210 or whardy74@yahoo.com.

Nursery Roll volunteer needed! Nursery Roll is a wonderful program for the family members of Zion who are expecting a new child. Periodically - for the first three years of a child's life - a designated person sends the family materials from the packet to nurture the child's spiritual, emotional, and physical development. This packet provides families with Biblical and age-appropriate ways to talk to their children about Jesus. For more information or if you are interested in volunteering, please contact Katie Gielarowski.

Reformation Sunday

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Welcome to Zion Lutheran Church!

This morning, our study of the Gospel of John focuses on the conversion of Thomas. Thomas wasn't in the room when Jesus first appeared to the disciples. The disciples tell Thomas the good news: they have seen the Lord (the same words used by Mary Magdalene when she came to the disciples in last week's lesson... but I digress). Only this time, the Good News is met with resistance; Thomas will never believe it unless he can see and touch his Lord.

This is a good text for us on Reformation Sunday, that Sunday in the Church Year when we remember and celebrate the "Rediscovery of the Gospel" by Martin Luther in 1517. We remember and celebrate the foundational beliefs of the Reformation and our faith: Christ alone, grace alone, faith alone, and Scripture alone!

What is necessary for someone to have faith? Is it necessary to touch the risen Lord to believe in him? Is seeing him enough? Is it possible to believe in a Jesus we have never seen? The Gospel of John tells us that those who do not see Jesus but believe in him are blessed. How is it possible to believe in someone we have not seen?

In our Epistle lesson, the Apostle Paul answers this question, writing: *And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching? And how are they to preach unless they are sent?* People believe in Jesus when someone tells them about Jesus. Not only touch, and not just seeing is enough to produce faith in the risen Christ; faith comes through hearing.

This morning, we come together to HEAR, to receive the Gospel as it comes to us in word and sacrament. And from here we go out to speak the name of Jesus so that others may hear, come to faith, and be saved!

-Pastor Duncan

Rev. Duncan McLellan, Pastor
Pastor's Phone: 412-667-0967
Website: www.zlcb.org

Darren Elikor, Pastoral Assistant
Office Phone: 412-221-4776
Fax: 412-220-9741

The Divine Service

The Prelude

(please stand)

Processional Hymn: A Mighty Fortress Is Our God 657

Introduction to Worship and Announcements

Opening Prayer

Pastor: Dear Lord Jesus Christ, as we continue to make our way through the Gospel of John, help us to listen to your word, understand your word, believe your word, and apply your word to our lives. In your most holy and precious name we pray.

People: **Amen**

The Invocation

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

People: **Amen.**

Confession and Absolution (Matthew 28:18-20)

Admonition to confess our sins. (Hebrews 10:22)

Pastor: Let us then confess our sins to God our Father,

People: **Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in**

Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.

(Luke 18:13)

The Absolution (spoken by the Pastor)

People: Amen.

(John 20:19-23)

The Hymn of Praise: Glory in Excelsis

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The Prayer of the Church

Pastor: ... Lord, in your mercy,

People: Hear our prayer.

The Service of the Word

The Old Testament Lesson: Genesis 15:1-6

Abraham saved by faith.

After these things the word of the Lord came to Abram in a vision: "Fear not, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great." But Abram said, "O Lord God, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?" And Abram said, "Behold, you have given me no offspring, and a member of my household will be my heir."

And behold, the word of the Lord came to him: "This man shall not be your heir; your very own son shall be your heir." And he brought him outside and said, "Look toward heaven, and number the stars, if you are able to number them." Then he said to him, "So shall your offspring be." And he believed the Lord, and he counted it to him as righteousness.

Choir Anthem (10:30)

The New Testament Lesson: Romans 10:10-15

Faith comes through hearing.

For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved. For the Scripture says, "Everyone who believes in him will not be put to shame." For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; for the same Lord is Lord of all, bestowing his riches on all who call on him. For "everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved."

How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching? And how are they to preach unless they are sent? As it is written, "How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news!"

Pastor: The Holy Gospel, according to St. John the 20th chapter.

People: **Glory to Thee, O Lord!**

The Gospel: John 20:24-31

The conversion of Thomas.

Now Thomas, one of the Twelve, called the Twin, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see in his hands the mark of the nails, and place my finger into the mark of the nails, and place my hand into his side, I will never believe."

Eight days later, his disciples were inside again, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here, and see my hands; and put out your hand, and place it in my side. Do not disbelieve, but believe." Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."

Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.
People: (sing) Praise be to thee, O Christ!

(Please be seated)

The Children's Message (10:30)

The Sermon Hymn: Hark, the Voice of Jesus Crying 826

Sermon

(Please stand)

The Creed: Nicene Creed 158

(Please be seated)

The Collection of the Offering

(Please stand)

The Service of the Sacrament

Pastor: This morning, Christ comes to us with his body and blood to forgive our sins, strengthen our faith, and give a visible sign to the unity we have in him. In doing so, he has given us an opportunity to proclaim his death until he comes. As you remember his death and look forward to his return, may the Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Let us pray:

People: **Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed by 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, 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

God Himself Is Present	907
Come Unto Me, Ye Weary	684
Father Welcomes	605

(Please stand)

Post-Communion Canticle 164

*Thank the Lord and sing His praise; tell everyone what He has done.
Let all who seek the Lord rejoice and proudly bear His name.
He recalls His promises and leads His people forth in joy with shouts of thanksgiving.
Alleluia, alleluia.*

Benediction

Pastor: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

People: Amen!

The Recessional: Holy, Holy, Holy 507

† Service Participants †

The Officiant:	The Rev. Duncan McLellan
Pastoral Assistant:	Darren Eliker
The Organist:	Paula Gardner
The Elders:	Tom Erbrecht & Jim Neill
The Acolytes:	Joshua Gielarowski & Sydney Harris
The Greeters:	Joan Kovach and Brian & Megan Pasquini
The Ushers:	Bill Becker, Brent Miller, Barb & Wayne Oechslein and Neil Ackerman, Charles LaJeunesse, Brian Pasquini, & Lois Sauro
Altar Guild:	Marianne Miller, Mary Hutula, & Judy Meier

OCTOBER is Pastor Appreciation Month!

October is set aside as a time to honor and say thank you to the men who do more than any others to inspire us to grow in our relationship with God through Jesus Christ. The writer of Hebrews encourages us to recognize the ongoing sacrifice of Christian pastors, teachers, and mentors in our lives ... Remember your leaders, those who spoke to you the word of God. Consider the outcome of their way of life, and imitate their faith - Hebrews 13:7.



Here at Zion, we would like to extend a heartfelt "Thank You to Pastor Duncan". You work vigorously, often neglecting personal needs, to give us comfort and direction.

So take some time out of your busy schedule this month to thank Pastor for his spiritual leadership over this past year.

One way you can show your appreciation to Pastor is by participating in one of the many Bible studies and fellowship activities: Sunday morning @ 9:15 AM, Monday morning @ 6:00 AM, Men's Monday night football @ 8:30 PM, Alissa's Tuesday night Women's study @8:00 PM, Wednesday night @ 7:00 PM, or Thursday morning @ 10:00 AM. These are great opportunities to study God's word and enjoy great fellowship.

So take this opportunity to show your appreciation and join one of these studies.

