

New Year's Eve Worship



Saturday, December 31, 2011

ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH

New Year's Eve

December 31st, 2011

2011 is coming to an end. This has been a good year for Zion Lutheran Church. We have received God's grace in all areas of our ministry. Not only has Christ continued to bless us with forgiveness in Word and Sacrament, but he has also allowed us to enjoy being part of a growing ministry. As we look back on 2011, we see a year blessed by God in many ways.

Our community outreach increased and included supporting the Bridgeville Food Bank, Pittsburgh Community Lutheran High School, Lutherans for Life, Lutheran World Relief, participation in the South Fayette Chili Cook-off, Oktoberfest, paper and aluminum can recycling programs (in conjunction with our Boy Scout troop), and supporting the family of Ian Loewe (a 15 year-old who is fighting cancer for the 3rd time).

We opened our facility up for increased use by the Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts, Lutherans for Life Strawberry Festival, a pair of Central Blood Bank Blood Drives, a spaghetti dinner fundraiser for the preschool, Preschool Summer Camps, a Confirmation Lock-In, and Vacation Bible School.

We improved in the area of financial stewardship as well with a balanced budget, increased weekly offerings, increased giving to the Synod and District, and (arguably most significantly) paying off our mortgage 3 years ahead of schedule.

The preschool increased by 13 children (19% year-to-year) and added afternoon Small Steps classes as well as a Transition program, or "Stepping Stones."

The Youth had a lock-in, a bowling outing, went on a mission trip to Minnesota to work at Lutheran Island Camp in a variety of projects, hiked Mount Marcy, and went ice skating downtown. Look for more youth activities in 2012!

These are but a few of the ways the ministry at Zion Lutheran Church has been blessed in 2011 (and there are many, many more!). Keep Zion in your prayers, as we seek to continue building on our recent successes in 2012!

-Pastor Duncan

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The Divine Service

The Prelude

Introduction to Worship and Announcements

The Invocation

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

People: **Amen.**

(Matthew 28:18-20)

Confession and Absolution

(Hebrews 10:22)

Pastor: As we take a look back on the last year, all of us can see God's grace; his unmerited favor and forgiveness. We also see that we have not always walked with God and chose to do things our own way. As we head into a new year, let us have the slate wiped clean, confessing our sins to God and receiving his forgiveness.

People: **Father in heaven, we thank you for your grace and mercy to us in the year gone by. You have given us more than we deserve and have been gracious to be beyond what we can imagine. Yet we have sinned against you and done what is evil in your sight. Have mercy on us and forgive our sins. Give us an undivided heart that beats only for you. In the name of Jesus, amen.**

(Luke 18:13)

The Absolution (spoken by the Pastor)

People: **Amen.**

(John 20:19-23)

Response to Absolution: Angels from the Realms of Glory 367

The Prayer of the Church

Our prayers this evening will be for those on our prayer list (members and non-members) as well as for good government, peace abroad and peace at home, successful and happy Christ-centered marriages, prosperity and

health, obedience and faithfulness in our walks with Christ, and an increase in the spread of the Gospel to the “ends of the earth.”

Pastor: ... Lord, in your mercy.

People: **Hear our prayer.**

The Service of the Word

The Old Testament Lesson: Isaiah 30:8-17

And now, go, write it before them on a tablet and inscribe it in a book, that it may be for the time to come as a witness forever. For they are a rebellious people, lying children, children unwilling to hear the instruction of the Lord; who say to the seers, “Do not see,” and to the prophets, “Do not prophesy to us what is right; speak to us smooth things, prophecy illusions, leave the way, turn aside from the path, let us hear no more about the Holy One of Israel.”

Therefore thus says the Holy One of Israel, “Because you despise this word and trust in oppression and perverseness and rely on them, therefore this iniquity shall be to you like a breach in a high wall, bulging out, and about to collapse, whose breaking comes suddenly, in an instant; and its breaking is like that of a potter’s vessel that is smashed so ruthlessly that among its fragments not a shard is found with which to take fire from the hearth, or to dip up water out of the cistern.” For thus said the Lord God, the Holy One of Israel, “In returning and rest you shall be saved; in quietness and in trust shall be your strength.” But you were unwilling, and you said, “No! We will flee upon horses”; therefore you shall flee away; and, “We will rise upon swift steeds”; therefore your pursuers shall be swift. A thousand shall flee at the threat of one; at the threat of five you shall flee, till you are left like a flagstaff on the top of a mountain, like a signal on a hill.

The New Testament Lesson: Romans 8:31b-39

What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things? Who shall bring any charges against God's elect? It is God who justifies. Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died—more than that, who was raised—who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us. Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword?

As it is written, "For your sake we are being killed all the day long; we are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered." No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Pastor: The Holy Gospel, according to St. Luke, the 12th chapter.

People: **Glory be to thee, O Lord.**

The Gospel Lesson: Luke 12:35-40

"Stay dressed and ready for action and keep your lamps burning, and be like men who are waiting for their master to come home from the wedding feast, so that they may open the door to him at once when he comes and knocks. Blessed are those servants whom the master finds awake when he comes. Truly, I say to you, he will dress himself for service and have them recline at table, and he will come and serve them. If he comes in the second watch, or in the third, and finds them awake, blessed are those servants! But

know this, that if the master of the house had known at what hour the thief was coming, he would not have left his house to be broken into. You also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.”

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

(Please be seated)

The Sermon Hymn: Wake, Awake, for Night is Flying 516

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 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!

(Please be seated)

The Collection of the Offering

Encouragement to Read the Bible in One Year.

Benediction

Pastor: Now may the God of peace who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, equip you with everything good that you may do his will, working in us that which is pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever.

People: **Amen**

Zion in 2012.

The Recessional: Now Greet the Swiftly Changing Year 896

† *Service Participants* †

The Officiant:	The Rev. Duncan McLellan
Pastoral Assistant:	Darren Eliker
The Organist:	Paula Gardner
The Elders:	David Hutula & Ken Wuerthele
The Greeters:	Bill & Carole Schrag
The Acolytes:	Mitchell Fitzgerald
The Ushers:	Kathleen Conn, Bill Schrag, Janet & Larry Zreliak and Steve Gauger, Dan Harris, Loren Luedeman, & Jim Oelschlager
Altar Guild:	Janet, Marian, & Molly Oelschlager

*The **Altar Flowers** have been given to the Glory of God by the Klemash Family in memory of their loved ones and by Bob & Shelly James in honor of Jordan's 17th birthday.*