

ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH



Service of Prayer and Preaching
August 5th 2015



ANNOUNCEMENTS

NURSERY! Zion will have a staffed nursery for children 2 and under during the late service. If you are interested in helping out or would like to know more, please contact the church office!

THE LUTHERAN THEOLOGY OF MARRIAGE, a Bible Study looking at what the Bible says about marriage and how we can live out our callings as single and married children of God continues this Sunday in the Fellowship Hall during the Sunday School Hour. All are welcome to attend!

JOE FAINI, our Director of Youth Ministry, will be installed on August 9th at the 10:30 Service. We welcome Joe and his wife Lindsey to our congregation and pray God's blessing on his work among us, that it might be for the building up of God's Kingdom so that all people may know the Good News of Jesus Christ!

EVENTS COMMITTEE. At last month's Voters' Meeting, the proposal was put forth to form an Events Committee, responsible for events that focus on outreach and fellowship. We will be voting to amend our Church Constitution to give the head of the Events Committee a seat on the Council at the next Voters' meeting. If you would like more information about the Events Committee and the proposed Amendment to the Constitution, please contact the church office.

ROMANS. We will be starting a Bible Study Series on the book of Romans in conjunction with our Wednesday Evening Service of Prayer and Preaching starting in October. Look for more information in the August Newsletter.

Welcome to worship!

This evening, we are taking a one week break from our study of the book of Jonah. We'll wrap things up next week, but for this week, we are going to spend our time together answering most of the questions that were asked on Sunday. I mentioned on Sunday that I had not received many questions lately and challenged the members (and guests) to "stump the Pastor." Well, much to my pleasant surprise, a number of people asked questions... good questions! So as much as I would like to spend time in Jonah this evening, I think it's better for us to get to answering the questions that were asked and wrap up our miniseries on Jonah next week.

So in the little space I have here in the "Welcome to Worship" part of the bulletin, I want to encourage you to ask hard questions of God and of your faith. When it comes to the most important thing in your life, your relationship with God and what you believe about the meaning of life, death, Jesus and things like the forgiveness of sins, the last thing you want to do is bury your head in the sand. Ask tough questions. But also realize that not all of your questions will be answered this side of eternity. Some things God has not revealed to us and we cannot figure out on our own. This is hard to accept, but it is better to accept it than to invent answers where God is silent.

I hope that you will see that the answer to many of the questions you have is found in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus. He is God's revelation of himself, the means of our salvation, and the proof that our hope for eternal life is firmly grounded in truth and reality.

God bless your time in worship this evening.

Pastor Duncan McLellan

Rev. Duncan McLellan, Pastor

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The Service of Prayer and Preaching

(Please take a moment to fill out the Attendance books)

The Invocation

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

Confession of Sins

Pastor: This evening, we continue our mini-series on the book of Jonah. We will see how the Ninevites repented of their sins and called out to God. We will also see how God relented from bringing on them the disaster he had promised. Therefore, let us confess our sins to God, trusting in his mercy for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ.

People: **Father in heaven, you forgave the Ninevites when they repented and called out to you; how much more will you forgive those of us who have been baptized into your name, the name of your Son, and the name of the life-giving Spirit. Therefore, we ask that you would forgive our sins, teach us to trust in you for all good things, and lead us to speak your name. We ask this through Jesus. Amen.**

Absolution Spoken by the Pastor

People: **Amen.**

The Reading: Jonah 4

But to Jonah this seemed very wrong, and he became angry. He prayed to the Lord, "Isn't this what I said, Lord, when I was still at home? That is what I tried to forestall by fleeing to Tarshish. I knew that you are a gracious and compassionate God, slow to anger and abounding in love, a God

who relents from sending calamity. Now, Lord, take away my life, for it is better for me to die than to live.”

But the Lord replied, “Is it right for you to be angry?”

Jonah had gone out and sat down at a place east of the city. There he made himself a shelter, sat in its shade and waited to see what would happen to the city. Then the Lord God provided a leafy plant and made it grow up over Jonah to give shade for his head to ease his discomfort, and Jonah was very happy about the plant. But at dawn the next day God provided a worm, which chewed the plant so that it withered. When the sun rose, God provided a scorching east wind, and the sun blazed on Jonah’s head so that he grew faint. He wanted to die, and said, “It would be better for me to die than to live.” But God said to Jonah, “Is it right for you to be angry about the plant?” “It is,” he said. “And I’m so angry I wish I were dead.”

But the Lord said, “You have been concerned about this plant, though you did not tend it or make it grow. It sprang up overnight and died overnight. And should I not have concern for the great city of Nineveh, in which there are more than a hundred and twenty thousand people who cannot tell their right hand from their left—and also many animals?”

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.

(Please be seated)

The Prayers

For the prayers this evening, you are invited to come to the Communion Rail and kneel.

Pastor: In peace let us pray to the Lord:

People: Lord, have mercy.

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

People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: For the concerns we have in our hearts. Let us pray...

Pastor: Taught by our Lord and trusting in his promises, we are bold to 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 from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen

The Benediction