

ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH



Service of Prayer and Preaching
September 2nd 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!

PASTORS. Our Sunday morning Bible Study for the next month will be on Pastors. What is a Pastor? Who should be a Pastor? And what exactly is the Priesthood of All Believers? We'll be down in the Fellowship Hall for a lively discussion and study of God's Word. Join us!

M@ZE! The Music at Zion Experience had its first meeting last week; this week, we are getting together after Choir Practice here at Zion. Nothing formal, just a get-together of musically-inclined people who want to use their gifts in service to Christ through the worship ministry of the church. If this sounds like something you'd be interested in, join us! Wednesday evening after Choir Practice in the sanctuary!

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 September Newsletter and on the church's website. A sign-up sheet for this study (we need to order books) is in the narthex area.

Welcome to worship!

This evening, as to do so often in Midweek Service of Prayer and Preaching, we are going to take a closer look at the theme from last Sunday, the Sixth Petition of the Lord's Prayer: "lead us not into temptation." We are going to take a look at a story from the book of Genesis about a young man named Joseph and his struggle to resist temptation (as well as what it cost him when he did).

It is all but impossible to go through the day and not be led into temptation by what we see and hear. One of the temptations that is most frequently experienced in our culture is the temptation to commit sexual sin. Fornication, sodomy, adultery and lust are all celebrated by a culture that seems to think human sexuality was invented in the 1960's, and not a part of God's original plan and design for man and woman "from the beginning."

Sadly, many lives have been torn apart and families destroyed by sexual sin of one kind or another. Even children (maybe even especially children) have borne the brunt of the consequences of the bad decisions of their sexually deviant parents.

In our Scripture lesson this evening, we will see the lengths we are to go to resist the urge to sin sexually. Sold into slavery, Joseph had every reason to give into temptation and love his master Potiphar's wife. Giving into her pleas for attention would have let him be seen as the head of the household in the eyes of his fellow servants; she could have even set him free. But he chooses righteousness over sin and obedience over lust. There's a lot we can learn from the example of Joseph, but even more from the example of Jesus who, in every way, was without sin.

God bless your time in worship this evening!

-Pastor Duncan

Rev. Duncan McLellan, Pastor

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Zion equips, educates, and encourages believers in Christ, sending them into the world to share the Gospel.

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: Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

Pastor: Our help is in the name of the Lord,

People: **who made heaven and earth.**

Pastor: I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord.

People: **and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.**

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.**

Absolution Spoken by the Pastor

People: **Amen.**

The Reading: Genesis 39:1-23

Now Joseph had been brought down to Egypt, and Potiphar, an officer of Pharaoh, the captain of the guard, an Egyptian, had bought him

from the Ishmaelites who had brought him down there. The Lord was with Joseph, and he became a successful man, and he was in the house of his Egyptian master. His master saw that the Lord was with him and that the Lord caused all that he did to succeed in his hands. So Joseph found favor in his sight and attended him, and he made him overseer of his house and put him in charge of all that he had. From the time that he made him overseer in his house and over all that he had, the Lord blessed the Egyptian's house for Joseph's sake; the blessing of the Lord was on all that he had, in house and field. So he left all that he had in Joseph's charge, and because of him he had no concern about anything but the food he ate.

Now Joseph was handsome in form and appearance. And after a time his master's wife cast her eyes on Joseph and said, "Lie with me." But he refused and said to his master's wife, "Behold, because of me my master has no concern about anything in the house, and he has put everything that he has in my charge. He is not greater in this house than I am, nor has he kept back anything from me except you, because you are his wife. How then can I do this great wickedness and sin against God?" And as she spoke to Joseph day after day, he would not listen to her, to lie beside her or to be with her.

But one day, when he went into the house to do his work and none of the men of the house was there in the house, she caught him by his garment, saying, "Lie with me." But he left his garment in her hand and fled and got out of the house. And as soon as she saw that he had left his garment in her hand and had fled out of the house, she called to the men of her household and said to them, "See, he has brought among us a Hebrew to laugh at us. He came in to me to lie with me, and I cried out with a loud voice. And as soon as he heard that I lifted up my voice and cried out, he left his garment beside me and fled and got out of the house." Then she laid up his garment by her until his master

came home, and she told him the same story, saying, "The Hebrew servant, whom you have brought among us, came in to me to laugh at me. But as soon as I lifted up my voice and cried, he left his garment beside me and fled out of the house."

As soon as his master heard the words that his wife spoke to him, "This is the way your servant treated me," his anger was kindled. And Joseph's master took him and put him into the prison, the place where the king's prisoners were confined, and he was there in prison. But the Lord was with Joseph and showed him steadfast love and gave him favor in the sight of the keeper of the prison. And the keeper of the prison put Joseph in charge of all the prisoners who were in the prison. Whatever was done there, he was the one who did it. The keeper of the prison paid no attention to anything that was in Joseph's charge, because the Lord was with him. And whatever he did, the Lord made it succeed.

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

You are invited to come to the Communion Rail for prayer.

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 Benedicamus and Benediction

Pastor: Let us bless the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

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.

People: Amen.

Pastor: Let us go forth in peace,

People: in the name of the Lord. Amen.