

# ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH



Service of Prayer and Preaching  
September 23<sup>rd</sup> 2015



# ANNOUNCEMENTS

**BAPTISM!** Over the next four weeks, we'll be taking a look at examples of Baptism in the book of Acts. This week, we'll look at the Baptism of Simon, a "magician." Next week, we'll take a look at the Baptism of an Ethiopian Eunuch by Philip (Acts 8:26-40). Two weeks from today, we'll take a look at the Baptism of Paul (Acts 9:1-19). And lastly, the Baptism of Cornelius, a Gentile (Acts 10:34-48).

**PASTORS.** Our Sunday morning Bible Study for this month is 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; 9:30 on Sunday right here at Zion!

**M@P-3!** The men are going back to Camp Pioneer this November (12-15<sup>th</sup>) for a time of prayer, fellowship, Bible Study, worship and recreation. We'll be getting to know Jesus better by taking a look at his parables from the Gospel of Luke. All men are welcome to attend all or a portion of the retreat. More information and a sign-up sheet are available in the narthex area. Hope you can make it!

**M@ZE.** Making their official debut, the Music @ Zion Experience will be playing a couple of songs for us at the beginning and end of the service. Thanks, M@ZE!!!

**BIBLE STUDIES.** We've got a number of Bible studies here at Zion throughout the week. Starting on Sunday, we've got an Adult Bible Class in the Fellowship Hall. On Tuesday from 7:30-8:45, the women have a study of the three letters of John in the Fellowship Hall. There is a Bible Study for everyone on Thursday morning at 10:00am in the Conference Room. And on Saturday at 8:00am, the men are studying the history before, during and after the Reformation... breakfast in.

# Welcome to worship!

This week, we begin our four-week midweek series on Baptism. Last weekend, our Sunday series on Baptism started with taking a look at the command Christ gave his disciples (among which you are numbered) to baptize and teach. This coming Sunday, we are going to look at what Baptism does (this sermon could get a bit long). The Sunday after that, who Baptism is for (this sermon could be very short). And, lastly, we'll take a look at what other Christian denominations have to say about baptism. During our midweek services, we'll take a look at how the early church (from the book of Acts) practiced baptism.

This week, we'll take a look at the baptism of Simon the Magician from Acts 8:4-13. Next week, the more familiar baptism of the Ethiopian eunuch by Philip will be our subject material. And the weeks after that will have us studying the baptism of Saul (or Paul) and a number of unnamed Gentiles.

Also this week, we will have the M@ZE (Music @ Zion Experience) play a couple of songs at the beginning and end of our time together. We're thankful to God for the musical gifts he has given to his people, and their desire to use them in service to Christ through the ministry of the church!

There's a lot going on during our time together at the Midweek Service of Prayer and Preaching! Glad you are here...

-Pastor Duncan McLellan

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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

*PreService Music w/ M@ZE;*

*Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing*

1. Come Thou Fount of every blessing, Tune my heart to sing Thy grace;  
Streams of mercy, never ceasing, Call for songs of loudest praise  
Teach me some melodious sonnet, Sung by flaming tongues above.  
Praise the mount! I'm fixed upon it, Mount of God's unchanging love.
2. Here I raise my Ebenezer; Hither by Thy help I'm come;  
And I hope, by Thy good pleasure, Safely to arrive at home.  
Jesus sought me when a stranger, Wandering from the fold of God;  
He, to rescue me from danger, Interposed His precious blood.
3. O to grace how great a debtor Daily I'm constrained to be!  
Let that grace now like a fetter, Bind my wandering heart to Thee.  
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it, Prone to leave the God I love;  
Here's my heart, O take and seal it, Seal it for Thy courts above.

## *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: Acts 8:4-13**

But the believers who were scattered preached the Good News about Jesus wherever they went. Philip, for example, went to the city of Samaria and told the people there about the Messiah. Crowds listened intently to Philip because they were eager to hear his message and see the miraculous signs he did. Many evil spirits were cast out, screaming as they left their victims. And many who had been paralyzed or lame were healed. So there was great joy in that city. A man named Simon had been a sorcerer there for many years, amazing the people of Samaria and claiming to be someone great. Everyone, from the least to the greatest, often spoke of him as “the Great One—the Power of God.” They listened closely to him because for a long time he had astounded them with his magic. But now the people believed Philip’s message of Good News concerning the Kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ. As a result, many men and women were baptized. Then Simon himself believed and was baptized. He began following Philip wherever he went, and he was amazed by the signs and great miracles Philip performed.

### ***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 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 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.**

### ***Jesus Sat with His Disciples***

Jesus sat with His disciples on a mountainside one day;  
As the crowds of people gathered, He began to teach and say:  
“Blessed are the poor in spirit, heaven’s kingdom they will share.  
Blessed are the sad and mourning, joy and comfort will be theirs.

“Blessed are the meek and humble, all the earth to them is willed.  
Those who hunger to be holy, they are blessed and will be filled.  
Yes, the merciful are blessed, mercy will to them be shown.  
And the pure in heart are blessed, they have eyes for God alone.

“Blessed are God’s sons and daughters, making peace where there is strife.  
Blessed are the persecuted, who for righteousness lose life;  
Their reward is great in heaven, in the kingdom up above  
So be glad to share My suffering and rejoice to know My love.”