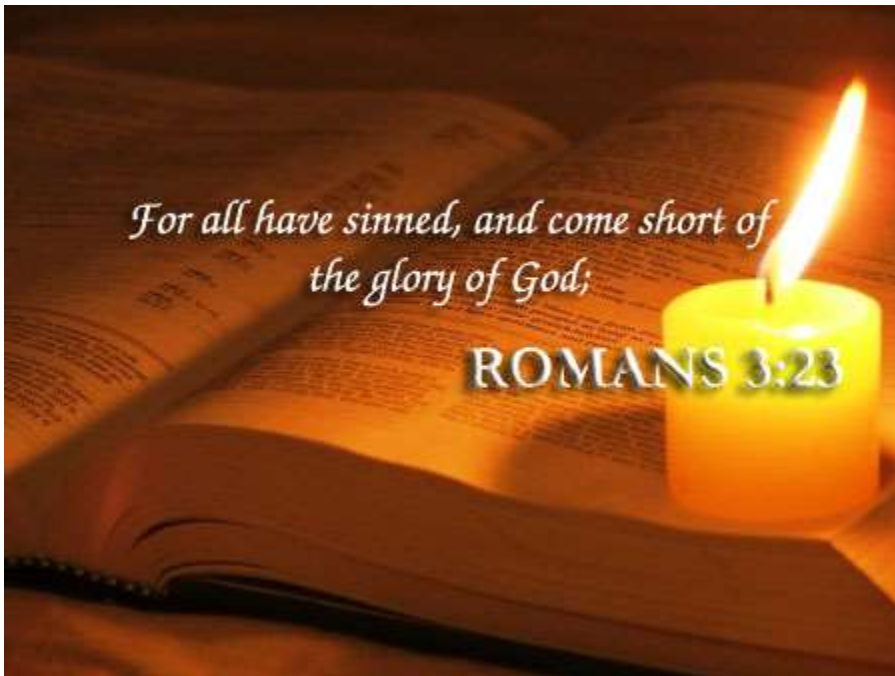


# ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH



Service of Prayer and Preaching  
November 4<sup>th</sup> 2015



# ANNOUNCEMENTS

**GIVING TO MISSIONS!** Did you know that Zion is currently supporting two missionaries? We are supporting Rev. Dr. Edward Naumann who will be starting a Lutheran Seminary serving south India and Sri Lanka. We are also supporting the ongoing work of the Lohmeyer family in the Dominican Republic, creating sustainable ministries and churches. Thanks to your generosity and the Kingdom Fund, we were able to support both of these missions in addition to meeting our ongoing financial responsibilities. Contact Pastor Duncan or the Church Office if you would like to know more about these missions.

**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!

**BIBLE IN A YEAR.** We are reading the Bible in a Year for 2016! Look for a reading list, on-line resources and audio files of the Bible being read in the coming months to help you read through the Bible in a Year! If you've never done it, don't be intimidated! All it takes is 15 minutes (1% of your day) and you can read the whole Bible in one year. Join us!

**APOLOGETICS.** On November 15<sup>th</sup>, we will be having a guest speaker come to speak to us on Sunday morning during the Bible Study hour about apologetics. "Apologetics" is giving a defense of the faith, being able to explain to someone else why you believe what you believe. We will also have an Apologetics Seminar after the 10:30 Worship Service, from noon-2 (lunch will be served). We'll be talking about evolution, creation and the reliability of the Bible. Join us, November 15<sup>th</sup> !!

# Welcome to worship!

This evening, our Midweek Service of Prayer and Preaching focuses on the end of Romans 3 and all of chapter 4. If you've been with us since the beginning of our Romans study, the long wait is over. Finally, at long last, we are going to get some gospel!

Having laid out that all have sinned in that all have broken the Law (even Gentiles who have a law to themselves; their consciences and what God has revealed about himself in the created order), Paul now gives the solution: faith. The Law was given so that people would recognize their need for a Savior; faith is how that Savior is received. In our reading this evening, Paul will show that the righteousness of God was always by faith. He will go back and show the reader how Abraham was saved by faith and not obedience to the Law. (The proof is actually quite easy: Abraham was declared righteous hundreds of years before the Law was given, and the Scriptures clearly say he was declared righteous because of his faith.)

There are a number of applications and "deep thoughts" that this understanding of faith and salvation can have; life-changing applications and "deep-thoughts." One of them has to do with the reason we come to worship and read our Bibles. If we are saved by grace through faith in Christ (and we are!) then the main reason we come to church and read our Bibles (and pray, and have family devotions, and seek out Christian fellowship) is not to be told how to live a better life, but to find Christ, to hear, see and read his name. To give our faith something to grab onto; to tell us what Christ has done, is doing and will do for us. Our focus in worship, in our devotional life, in our prayers is no longer on us, but is on the Son of God, who loved us and gave himself for us. The result of believing that our salvation is a gift received by faith is that our whole life focuses not on us, but on Jesus.

God bless your time in worship this evening!

-Pastor Duncan

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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

## *Vespers*

Pastor: O Lord, open my lips

**People: and my mouth will declare Your praise.**

Pastor: Make haste, O God, to deliver me;

**People: make haste to help me O Lord.**

**People: Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever.**

**Amen.**

## **The Reading: Romans 3:21-31**

But now the righteousness of God has been manifested apart from the law, although the Law and the Prophets bear witness to it—the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction: for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith. This was to show God's righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over former sins. It was to show his righteousness at the present time, so that he might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.

Then what becomes of our boasting? It is excluded. By what kind of law? By a law of works? No, but by the law of faith. For we hold that one is justified by faith apart from works of the law. Or is God the God of Jews only? Is he not the God of Gentiles also? Yes, of Gentiles also, since God is one—who will justify the circumcised by faith and the uncircumcised through faith. Do we then overthrow the law by this faith? By no means! On the contrary, we uphold the law.

Pastor: O Lord, have mercy on us.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

Pastor: Teach me Your way, O Lord, that I may walk in Your truth.  
Unite my heart to fear Your name that I may walk in Your truth.

**People: Your Word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.**

## ***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***

Pastor: Let my prayer rise before You as incense,

**People: and the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice.**

**People: I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ,  
Your dear Son, that You have graciously kept me this day;  
and I pray that You would forgive me all my sins where I  
have done wrong, and graciously keep me this night. For  
into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and  
all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe  
may have no power over me.**

Pastor: O God, You justify the ungodly and desire not the death of the sinner. Graciously assist us by Your heavenly aid and evermore shield us with Your protection, that no temptation may separate us from Your love in Christ Jesus. Lord, in your mercy;

**People: Hear our prayer.**

Pastor: Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hidden, cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of Your Holy Spirit that we may perfectly love You and worthily magnify Your holy name. Lord, in your mercy;

**People: Hear our prayer.**

Pastor: Almighty, everlasting God, Your Son has assured forgiveness of sins and deliverance from eternal death. Strengthen us by Your Holy Spirit that our faith in Christ may increase daily and that we may hold fast to the hope that on the Last Day we shall be raised in glory to eternal life. Lord, in your mercy;

**People: Hear our prayer.**

Pastor: Almighty God, our heavenly Father, without Your help our labor is useless, and without Your light our search is in vain. Invigorate our study of Your holy Word that, by due diligence and right discernment, we may establish ourselves and others in Your holy faith. Lord, in your mercy;

**People: Hear our prayer.**

Pastor: Abide with us, Lord, for it is toward evening, and the day is far spent. Abide with us and with Your whole Church. Abide with us at the end of the day, at the end of our life, at the end of the whole world. Abide with us with Your grace and goodness, with Your holy Word and Sacrament, with Your strength and blessing. Abide with us when the night of affliction and temptation comes upon us, the night of fear and despair, the

night when death draws near. Abide with us and with all the faithful, now and forever. Lord, in Your mercy;

**People: Hear our prayer.**

Pastor: Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us 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.**