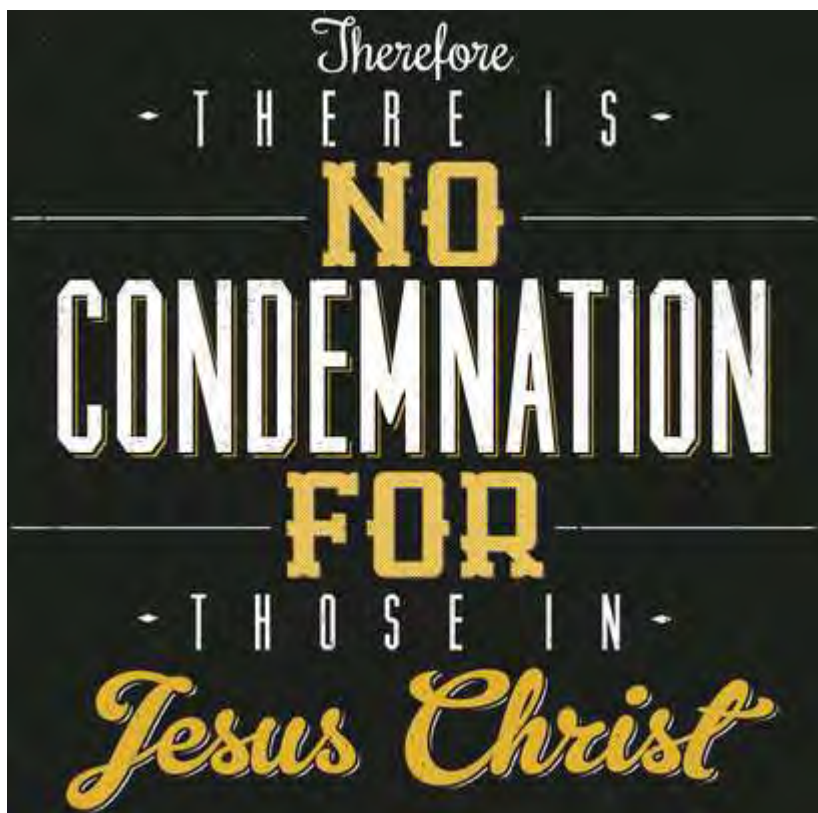


Zion Lutheran Church



Service of Prayer and Preaching
November 18th 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.

ADVENT services start in Advent. It's coming up faster than you think! Next week we've got our Thanksgiving Eve Service and then the week after that, ADVENT! This Advent our theme is... wait for it, wait for it: ADVENT. More specifically the Advents of Christ. But wait, you say, there is only Christ's First Advent (leading up to Christmas) and Christ's Second Advent (when he comes at the end of the age), but there are four midweek Advent services. Ah, but there are more Advents than that; at least two more that I can think of. Come to our midweek Advent Services, starting December 2nd.

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!

ADVENT DINNERS. In a hurry, but want to come to Advent Services? Join us for dinner before our Advent Services. Starting at 6pm, we'll be having dinner together in the Fellowship Hall. Join us! If you want to help serve, contact the church office!

Welcome to worship!

This evening our study of Romans continues! This is our last Romans Study before we enter the season of Advent. We've got a Thanksgiving Eve Service next Wednesday and then our Advent Series on the "Four Advents." We'll be back to our Romans study in January.

We've got a lot to cover this evening. Our focus during the service is Romans 8:1-11. These are some of the most difficult words Paul writes in all of Romans. And some of the most important. "Therefore," he begins, "there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus." When someone asks you what it means that Jesus died on the cross, you could answer them with these words. Because of Christ, we are not condemned by a holy God for the sins we have committed. We are forgiven and do not need to fear divine punishment.

But Paul has more to say. He goes on to talk about how we have been come out from under the ownership and control of the flesh (and sin, which leads to death) and are now under the controlling influence of the Holy Spirit (which leads to faith and righteousness). As Luther wrote in the Bondage of the Will (and I am paraphrasing here): "Man's will is like a beast standing between two riders. If God rides, he wills and goes where God wants; if Satan rides, he wills and goes where Satan wants. But he does not determine who his rider will be; God and Satan decide who will have and hold him."

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 8:1-11

There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. For the law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death. For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do. By sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and for sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. For to set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. For the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God, for it does not submit to God's law; indeed, it cannot. Those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

You, however, are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if in fact the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. But if Christ is in you, although the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the

dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit who dwells in you.

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: ... 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 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.