

# Zion Lutheran Church



First Midweek Advent  
December 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2015



# ANNOUNCEMENTS

**MIDWEEK SERVICES** will continue throughout the season of Advent. Don't forget to come early for our Advent Dinners (starting at 6:00, served in the basement). Our theme for these Midweek Services is: The Advents of Christ. We hope you'll be able to make it out to Zion for our Midweek Services!

**BIBLE IN A YEAR.** Back in 2012, we read the Bible in a year together as a congregation. Due to the overwhelming popularity of that venture, we are going to do it again in 2016. Reading lists will be available on the church's website, Facebook page, in the bulletin and in the monthly newsletter. Sermons will be based on the readings from the week, and Bible studies will give us an opportunity to discuss what we have been reading together. All it takes is 15 minutes each day and you'll read the Bible in a year!

**INTERESTED IN JOINING ZION?** While not necessary for salvation, visible membership in a congregation is, theologically speaking, a good idea. We'd love to have you (and your family) become part of our fellowship! Talk with Pastor Duncan or contact the church office if you are interested in learning more about church membership.

**SUNDAY SCHOOL** for children and adults is offered on Sunday morning, starting at 9:15. We have some incredible and dedicated teachers who would love to share the good news of Jesus with your children! Pastor Duncan leads the adult class in the basement; we are currently studying the Gospel of Mark.

**SMALL GROUP BIBLE STUDY.** Coming in January, we will jump back in to our study of Romans on Wednesday evenings. Come and join us as we study the book of Romans together. The fun starts January 2<sup>nd</sup> at 7:00pm.

**DID YOU KNOW** that Zion supports missionaries to India and the Dominican Republic? Rev. Edward Naumann is working on starting a Lutheran seminary to serve the church in southern India and Sri Lanka. Bill Lohmeyer is working with the local church in the Dominican Republic to develop financially sustainable ministries to ensure long term stability and growth. It is a privilege to support these two missions and be a part of what God is doing in all nations!

# Welcome to worship!

This evening, we begin our Midweek Series on the “Advents of Christ.” We begin this evening by taking a look at Christ’s first advent, the events leading up to his birth from the Gospel of Luke. Come back next week as we take a look at Christ’s second advent, the events leading up to his coming at the end of the age. Two weeks from today, we will take a look at how you experience an advent in your life when Christ comes to you. And for our last midweek service in Advent, we will take a look at how Christ comes into the world today (and what he does when he comes).

Christ’s first coming is what we celebrate at Christmas. That God, when the time had fully come, took on a human nature and became like us in every way (except without sin) in order to do what we could not do, fulfill God’s Law and therefore provide a means of salvation for all people. We celebrate and remember when God acted decisively in history to do something to rescue and save people, originally made in his image and likeness, who had been so corrupted by sin as to have become totally depraved. As we look back to the events surrounding the birth of Christ, we cannot help but ponder and marvel at what his first coming means for us; that we are not abandoned by God as if he was some clockmaker who set the course of the planets and galaxies and watches from a distance as things unfold, but that he is personally and passionately involved with the events of history and the lives of people like you and me.

God bless your time in worship this evening!

-Pastor Duncan

**Rev. Duncan McLellan, Pastor**

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[www.zlcb.org](http://www.zlcb.org)

# The Divine Service

## *The Prelude*

(Please take a moment to fill out the Attendance books. Thank you!!)

## *Introduction to Worship and Announcements*

## *Hymn Sing*

## *The Invocation*

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

People: **Amen.**

## *Confession of Sins*

Pastor: Before we listen to God's Word read and proclaimed, let us confess our sins. Even on a good day, we sin against God with our thoughts, words and deeds and stand in need of his forgiveness. Therefore, trusting in his mercy through Jesus Christ, let us confess our sins to our heavenly Father.

People: **Father in heaven, I ask that you would have mercy on me, forgive me all of my sins and lead me to live a life worthy of the calling I have received as your baptized child. I have done what is evil in your sight and need your help. Have mercy on me, Lord. Amen.**

## *Absolution Spoken by the Pastor*

People: **Amen.**

## *The Prayer of the Church*

Pastor: ... Lord, in your mercy.

People: **Hear our prayer.**

(Please be seated)

**The Reading:** *Luke 1:26-38*

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!" But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be. And the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end."

And Mary said to the angel, "How will this be, since I am a virgin?" And the angel answered her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy—the Son of God. And behold, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month with her who was called barren. For nothing will be impossible with God." And Mary said, "Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word." And the angel departed from her.

## ***The Sermon Hymn: Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus***

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### ***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 Collection of the Offering***

(Please stand)

***The Benediction***

***The Recessional: Comfort, Comfort Ye My People***

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**† *Service Participants* †**

Pastor:	Rev. Duncan McLellan
Music Director:	Mark Killinger
Pianist:	Sandra Quinlan
The Elders:	Mike Sterba & Neil Ackerman
The Greeters:	TBD
The Acolyte:	Elder
Altar Guild:	Janet, Marian and Molly Oelschlager