

# ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH



THIRD MIDWEEK ADVENT  
DECEMBER 16<sup>TH</sup>, 2015



# ANNOUNCEMENTS

**MIDWEEK SERVICES** will continue throughout the season of Advent. Next week we will NOT be having a dinner. Please come and enjoy Desserts, Coffee and fellowship (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!

Welcome to Midweek Advent Worship!

This evening, our Advent Series (“The Advents of Christ”) continues as we take a look at the Advent of Christ in your life. Two weeks ago we re-familiarized ourselves with Christ’s first coming and the events leading up to his miraculous virgin-birth. Last week, we took a look at what Christ’s second coming at the end of the age will be like. And next week we will take a look at how Christ continues to come into the world today. But tonight, our focus is personal, how Christ comes to you.

The passage we’re using for this evening’s service was first taught to me by the Young Life Area Director for Fredericksburg, VA in late 1996. I was going through Young Life Leader training and he gave us the challenging of memorizing 1 Thessalonians 1. I didn’t memorize it, but I, along with other Young Life Leaders (and Leaders in training) studied it in depth. I’m glad we get to spend time in this passage tonight, as it outlines the ways in which Christ comes to us today.

I want to spend this “Welcome to Worship” giving you a little bit of background information on the passage, so we can jump into the text when it comes time for the sermon. 1 Thessalonians was either the first or second letter Paul wrote (Galatians possibly having been written earlier), which makes it (possibly) the earliest written book in the New Testament. The church at Thessalonica is largely doing well. Paul is writing to encourage them in their Christ-centered faith; it is an upbeat letter, and one that I hope you will find encouraging as well!

God bless your time in worship this evening!  
-Pastor Duncan

**Rev. Duncan McLellan, Pastor**

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# 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:** This evening our focus will be on Christ's advent in your life, how he comes to you and what happens when he does. We need Christ to come into our life, to forgive our sins, give us hope, and lead us to greater faith and obedience. Let us, therefore, ask Jesus to come to us, trusting in his mercy to grant us forgiveness and help us in our time of need.

**People:** **Lord Jesus Christ, I ask that you would come into my life, forgive my sins and help me to put you first in my life. Send the Holy Spirit to lead me into all truth and give me a heart that beats only for you. I ask this, trusting in your mercy, and in your name. 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: 1 Thessalonians 1**

Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy, To the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ: Grace to you and peace.

We give thanks to God always for all of you, constantly mentioning you in our prayers, remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ. For we know, brothers loved by God, that he has chosen you, because our gospel came to you not only in word, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction. You know what kind of men we proved to be among you for your sake. And you became imitators of us and of the Lord, for you received the word in much affliction, with the joy of the Holy Spirit, so that you became an example to all the believers in Macedonia and in Achaia. For not only has the word of the Lord sounded forth from you in Macedonia and Achaia, but your faith in God has gone forth everywhere, so that we need not say anything. For they themselves report concerning us the kind of reception we had among you, and how you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God, and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, Jesus who delivers us from the wrath to come.

***The Sermon Hymn: The Night Will Soon Be Ending***

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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***

***Offertory - M@ZE - I Celebrate the Day***

(Please stand)

***The Benediction***

***The Recessional: O Bride of Christ, Rejoice***

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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