

# ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH



FOURTH MIDWEEK ADVENT  
DECEMBER 23<sup>RD</sup>, 2015



# ANNOUNCEMENTS

**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 Worship!

This evening, we wrap up our midweek series on the Advents of Christ. We've already taken a look at Christ's first advent (his birth celebrated at Christmas), his second advent (his coming at the end of the age) and how he comes into your life. This evening our focus will be on how Christ comes into the world.

Looking around at the social and political landscape, it might be hard to imagine how God could be close at hand and actively involved with the lives of the creatures he made in his image and likeness. And yet this God, this sovereign Lord of all, greatly boasts that he knows the numbers of the hairs of our heads, that not even a sparrow falls to the ground apart from him knowing it, and that before a word is in our mouth or a thought is in our mind, he knows it. So why isn't he doing a better job of running the show? Where is he anyway?

"Seek first the kingdom," Jesus unapologetically commands his disciples. But where? And how? It's not easy to see God at work in the world if you don't know where to look. And tonight we turn to God's Word to see what it says about where we should look to see Christ's advent—his coming—into the world.

God bless your time in worship this evening!

-Pastor Duncan

**Rev. Duncan McLellan, Pastor**

Pastor's Phone: 412-667-0967

Office Phone: 412-221-4776

[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:** 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: *Luke 10:1-9, 17-20***

After this the Lord appointed seventy-two others and sent them on ahead of him, two by two, into every town and place where he himself was about to go. And he said to them, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few. Therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest. Go your way; behold, I am sending you out as lambs in the midst of wolves. Carry no moneybag, no knapsack, no sandals, and greet no one on the road. Whatever house you enter, first say, 'Peace be to this house!' And if a son of peace is there, your peace will rest upon him. But if not, it will return to you. And remain in the same house, eating and drinking what they provide, for the laborer deserves his wages. Do not go from house to house. Whenever you enter a town and they receive you, eat what is set before you. Heal the sick in it and say to them, 'The kingdom of God has come near to you.'

The seventy-two returned with joy, saying, "Lord, even the demons are subject to us in your name!" And he said to them, "I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven. Behold, I have given you authority to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall hurt you. Nevertheless, do not rejoice in this, that the spirits are subject to you, but rejoice that your names are written in heaven."

## ***The Sermon Hymn: Hark the Glad Sound***

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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: The Advent of Our King***

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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