

ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH



New Year's Eve
December 31st , 2015

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ALTAR FLOWERS are given by the Klemash Family in Memory of loved ones and by Mr. and Mrs. Paul Hayes in Honor of their parents.

ETERNAL LIGHT is given to the Glory of God

OPERATION STARS & STRIPES collections have begun. Please see the insert for more details.

CHURCH NURSERY: Is available for kids age 0-2 during the 10:30 Service! The Nursery (“Little Lions”) is open during the late service in the lower level of the building. (If you need help locating the nursery, please ask an Usher or Greeter for assistance.)

USHERS NEEDED! Please consider volunteering to be an usher for early or late service for 2016. The sign-up sheet is in the narthex. Contact Larry Zreliak with any questions!

CHILDRENS CHOIR is every Tuesday from 6:00 – 6:45 PM, Kids ages 7-12 are welcome!!

CHILDREN’S CHURCH can use your help! We want to expand Children’s Church to twice monthly. If you want to help out with this ministry to our children, please contact Pastor Duncan or the Church Office. We’d love to have you serve!

ADULT CHOIR rehearsals are Tuesdays from 7:00-8:00PM. We are looking to add to our numbers from last year! Do not worry if you can't attend regularly, we can work around just about any schedule!

NEED PRAYER? Stephen Ministers and Elders will be available to pray with or for you following the Service in the Chancel area.

TODAY’S GOSPEL READING AND SERMON will be posted to the ZLCB.org website later today. For an archive of older sermons, visit www.zlcb.org/sermons

Welcome to worship!

Welcome to Worship and Thank You...

...for making worship a priority for you and your family as you prepare to celebrate the coming of the new year, 2016. This evening, we take a look back and a look ahead at the year that was and the year that is to come.

Looking back, we see a world of sin and despair and a struggle in our lives to do what is right, to love God and our neighbor. But we also see the grace of God in our lives and in the world, bringing comfort in the middle of the storms of life, and strength to press on when the going gets rough. We see God at work in our lives and the world to make things look more like they should, undoing the Curse and bringing the Good News of Jesus to the ends of the earth. Looking back we see God at work in a world that is desperate for redemption, forgiveness and peace.

But looking ahead. Looking ahead, what do you see? The book of James is careful to warn us that we should be careful in estimating our ability to predict the future. Truth be told, we do not know what lies ahead for us in 2016, or even with what remains of 2015. But does it matter? If what we believe about God is true, does it matter that the future remains a hazy enigma of possibilities and the fearful unknown? It does not. We know how it ends: Christ returns, raises the dead and gives everlasting life to those who are his. And we know that he has given us the gift of the Holy Spirit, so that we might walk in faith and not according to the flesh all the days of our pilgrimage as we wait for his return.

And so we rejoice for another year of faith and praise God for his promised presence and forgiveness in the year to come!

-Pastor Duncan

Rev. Duncan McLellan, Pastor

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The Divine Service

The Prelude

Please take a moment before the service to fill out the Attendance books.

Introduction to Worship and Announcements

Opening Hymn: Jesus! Name of Wondrous Love 900

The Invocation

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

Confession and Absolution

Pastor: As we look ahead to 2016 and reflect on all that took place in 2015, we see God's grace at work in our lives. We also see the remnants of our sinful nature, leading us down the path of disobedience and sin. Therefore, as we look forward to another year of God's favor and grace, let us confess our sins and ask for God's forgiveness.

People: **Eternal God, we come before you this evening and confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word and deed. You have been kind and good to us, and we have repaid you with disobedience and lives of selfish pride. We ask that you would have mercy on us and continue to forgive us for Jesus' sake. Amen.**

The Absolution (spoken by the Pastor)

People: Amen.

The Prayer of the Church

Pastor: ... Lord, in your mercy,

People: Hear our prayer.

My soul rejoices, my spirit voices—Sing the greatness of the Lord!
For God my Savior has shown me favor—Sing the greatness of the Lord!
With praise and blessing, join in confessing
God, who is solely mighty and holy—O sing the greatness of God the Lord!
His mercy surely shall rest securely
On all who fear Him, love and revere Him—O sing the greatness of God the Lord!

His arm now baring, His strength declaring—Sing the greatness of the Lord!
The proud He scatters, their rule He shatters—Sing the greatness of the Lord!
Oppression halted; the meek exalted.
Full are the hungry; empty the wealthy—O sing the greatness of God the Lord!
Here is the token all that was spoken
To Abraham's offspring God is fulfilling—O sing the greatness of God the Lord!

The Old Testament Lesson: Ecclesiastes 12:1-8

Remember also your Creator in the days of your youth, before the evil days come and the years draw near of which you will say, "I have no pleasure in them"; before the sun and the light and the moon and the stars are darkened and the clouds return after the rain, in the day when the keepers of the house tremble, and the strong men are bent, and the grinders cease because they are few, and those who look through the windows are dimmed, and the doors on the street are shut—when the sound of the grinding is low, and one rises up at the sound of a bird, and all the daughters of song are brought low— they are afraid also of what is high, and terrors are in the way; the almond tree blossoms, the grasshopper drags itself along, and desire fails, because man is going to his eternal home, and the mourners go about the streets— before the silver cord is snapped, or the golden bowl is broken, or the pitcher is shattered at the fountain, or the wheel broken at the cistern, and the dust returns to the earth as it was, and the spirit returns to God who gave it.⁸ Vanity of vanities, says the Preacher; all is vanity.

The New Testament Lesson: James 4:13-17

Come now, you who say, "Today or tomorrow we will go into such and such a town and spend a year there and trade and make a profit"— yet you do not know what tomorrow will bring. What is your life? For you are a mist that appears for a little time and then vanishes. Instead you ought to say, "If the Lord wills, we will live and do this or that." As it is, you boast in your arrogance. All such boasting is evil. So whoever knows the right thing to do and fails to do it, for him it is sin.

Pastor: The Holy Gospel, according to St. John the 21th chapter.

People: **Glory to Thee, O Lord!**

The Gospel: John 21:15-19

When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon, son of John, do you love me more than these?" He said to him, "Yes, Lord; you know that I love you." He said to him, "Feed my lambs." He said to him a second time, "Simon, son of John, do you love me?" He said to him, "Yes, Lord; you know that I love you." He said to him, "Tend my sheep." He said to him the third time, "Simon, son of John, do you love me?" Peter was grieved because he said to him the third time, "Do you love me?" and he said to him, "Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Feed my sheep. Truly, truly, I say to you, when you were young, you used to dress yourself and walk wherever you wanted, but when you are old, you will stretch out your hands, and another will dress you and carry you where you do not want to go." (This he said to show by what kind of death he was to glorify God.) And after saying this he said to him, "Follow me."

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: **(sing) Praise be to thee, O Christ!**

(Please be seated)

The Sermon Hymn: Across the Sky the Shades of Night

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Sermon

(Please stand)

The Creed: Nicene Creed

I believe in one God, The Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth
And of all things visible and invisible. And in one Lord Jesus Christ,
The only-begotten Son of God, Begotten of His Father before all worlds,
God of God, Light of Light, Very God of very God, Begotten, not made,
Being of one substance with the Father, By whom all things were made;
Who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven. And was incarnate by
the Holy Spirit of the Virgin Mary And was made man;
And was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried.
And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven
And sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both
the living and the dead, Whose kingdom will have no end.
And I believe in the Holy Spirit, The Lord and giver of life,
Who proceeds from the Father and the Son, Who with the Father and the Son together is
worshiped and glorified, Who spoke by the prophets.
And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for
the remission of sins, And I look for the resurrection of the dead
And the life of the world to come. Amen.

(Please be seated)

The Collection of the Offering

(Please stand)

Pastor: Now may the God of peace who brought again from the dead
our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of
the eternal covenant, equip you with everything good that you
may do his will, working in us that which is pleasing in his
sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever.

People: Amen!

The Recessional: The Ancient Law Departs

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† *Service Participants* †

Pastor:	The Rev. Duncan McLellan
Music Director:	Mark Killinger
The Organist:	Sandra Quinlan
The Elders:	John Gielarowski and Frank Vallelunga
The Acolyte:	Elder
The Greeters:	Ushers
The Ushers:	Carl Bauer, Gene Koop, Ron Meier and Jack Oelschlager
Altar Guild:	Vince Kimberland, Ted Siek Janet, Marian & Molly Oelschlager