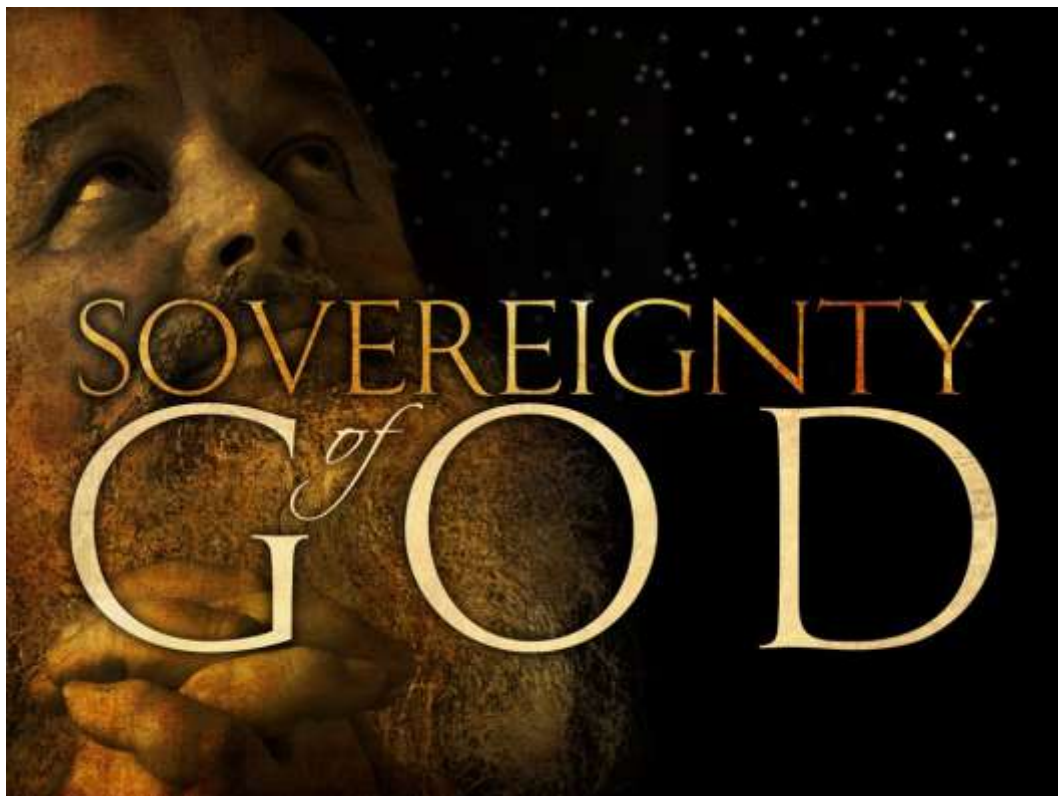


Zion Lutheran Church



Service of Prayer and Preaching
January 6th 2016



ANNOUNCEMENTS

2.10.66 This Friday (6-9pm) and Saturday (**9am-3:30pm**), we will be going through the entire Bible! Learn the basic themes that run through Scripture, the key verses and main teachings. 2 days, 10 hours and all 66 books of the Bible, this Friday and Saturday @ Zion! If you're thinking about coming, there's a sign-up sheet in the narthex area. Hope to see you there!

ART SHOW. Zion's first-ever art show will be here next Saturday evening (refreshments will be provided). Come and enjoy, or come and show your art for your Zion family.

VOTERS' MEETING. On January 24th we will be having a Voters' Meeting in between the services to vote on changes to our church's Constitution (to help it better reflect the ministry and mission we are doing). The proposed changes to the Constitution are available in the narthex area and online.

THURSDAY MORNING 9:00AM Pastor Duncan will be on radio station KFUO. Tune in to listen to our Pastor talk his way through the first half of Romans 1. (Maybe he learned something through our study of Romans after all ☺)

ADD ME TO THE LIST! If you are not currently on our email prayer chain and would like to be added to the prayer chain please contact the church secretaries by phone or email (secretary@zlc.org)!!

Welcome to worship!

This evening we begin the second half of our study on the book of Romans. It's been a while, so you are forgiven if you don't have all your Romans knowledge on hand as we begin our study of Chapter 9.

The book of Romans is considered by many to be the most important book in the whole of Scripture. In it, Paul gives a systematic presentation of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, connecting themes like God's Old Covenant promise with the New Covenant in Jesus, the role of the Law and Circumcision, and the personal (and universal) implications of the death and resurrection of Jesus. This evening, our text explores the seemingly complicated and easy-to-misunderstand world of God's sovereignty and predestination. So for those of you who are planning on coming to our Small Group study following the service, you'll no doubt be in for quite a conversational (controversial?) treat.

When it comes to all things Predestination, it's important to notice that this doctrine (or attribute of God) is always used in service to the Gospel, to reassure people of their salvation; never to get people who are questioning their salvation to move away from faith in Christ. (In the two lines we've got left for this intro...) It's important for us to use Predestination in the same manner that the Apostles did: to reassure people of God's grace and mercy in Christ, not to create confusion or doubt.

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 9:14-24

What shall we say then? Is there injustice on God's part? By no means! For he says to Moses, "I will have mercy on whom I have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I have compassion." So then it depends not on human will or exertion, but on God, who has mercy. For the Scripture says to Pharaoh, "For this very purpose I have raised you up, that I might show my power in you, and that my name might be proclaimed in all the earth." So then he has mercy on whomever he wills, and he hardens whomever he wills.

You will say to me then, "Why does he still find fault? For who can resist his will?" But who are you, O man, to answer back to God? Will what is molded say to its molder, "Why have you made me like this?" Has the potter no right over the clay, to make out of the same lump one vessel for honorable use and another for dishonorable use? What if God, desiring to show his wrath and to make known his power, has endured with much patience vessels of wrath prepared for destruction, in order to make known the riches of his glory for vessels of mercy, which he has prepared beforehand for glory—even us whom he has called, not from the Jews only but also from the Gentiles?

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.