

ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH



SERVICE OF PRAYER
AND PREACHING
APRIL 20TH 2016



ANNOUNCEMENTS

REV. MARK JASA is coming to Zion April 30th. Who is Mark Jasa, and why should you care? Mark and I went to seminary together; he is a Pastor in the Los Angeles area and has a very enjoyable way of doing outreach and evangelism. He is going to give a presentation (and workshop) for us starting at 10:00 in the Fellowship Hall. All are welcome and lunch will be served.

CONFIRMATION. Coming this fall, we will be starting a new Confirmation class for kids 6-8th grade to learn the basics of the Christian faith and become communicant members of the congregation. Look for more information in upcoming newsletters and in this place as we get closer to the summer season!

2.10.66! We've done it twice; will the third time be the charm? Going through all 66 books of the Bible over 10 hours and 2 days. Look for a sign-up sheet in the narthex area as we look at the interest level and possible times for doing a 3rd 2.10.66!

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@zlcg.org)!!

VICARAGE. According to both President Wicher and the Vicarage Department at Concordia, we are getting a Vicar! 23, married, an 18 month old and a second due in June. Beyond that, we'll keep you in suspense. We thank God that he has answered our prayers and continue to pray that we would be a blessing for our Vicar and his family.

Welcome to worship!

Welcome to Worship!

This evening our Bible in a Year readings take us to the opening chapters of Paul's Letter to the Philippians. Paul writes this letter while being imprisoned for his faith. And so it is striking that, in our reading chosen for this evening, he does not take offense at people who are not only unwilling to suffer for the sake of the Gospel, but who are preaching the Gospel for self-centered gain. How important is the motivation of the person who preaches the Gospel, or who speaks the name of Jesus?

We are rightly offended when people use the name of Jesus primarily as a means of self-promotion. But does such an attitude prohibit God from saving people, bringing them to faith in Jesus? Paul says no. A person's motivation behind speaking the name of Jesus is far less important than that the name of Jesus is spoken.

Truth be told, neither you nor I will ever have absolutely pure motives for speaking the name of Jesus and proclaiming the Gospel of Christ. But God's saving work does not depend on the purity of our motivation; it depends on his character and desire to save all people. So, as Paul writes: "Only that in every way, whether in pretense or in truth, Christ is proclaimed, and in that I rejoice."

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

Confession and Absolution

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

People: **Amen.**

Pastor: This evening our focus is on our Bible in a Year reading for today, specifically, what motivates us to do what we do. Far from having pure motives for what we do, we are driven by greed, selfishness, pride and a lack of trust in our heavenly Father. Therefore, let us confess our sins, trusting in the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

People: **Lord Jesus Christ, we confess that we have sinned against you. We should be motivated to do what we do from our love for you and our identity as a forgiven sinner. But we are motivated too often by selfishness, pride, and even unbelief. Have mercy on us. Forgive our sins, and lead us to follow you all the days of our lives. Amen.**

Absolution

People: **Amen!**

The First Reading: Psalm 110

The Lord says to my Lord:

“Sit at my right hand,
until I make your enemies your footstool.”

The Lord sends forth from Zion
your mighty scepter.

Rule in the midst of your enemies!
Your people will offer themselves freely
on the day of your power,
in holy garments;
from the womb of the morning,

the dew of your youth will be yours.
The Lord has sworn
and will not change his mind,
“You are a priest forever
after the order of Melchizedek.”
The Lord is at your right hand;
he will shatter kings on the day of his wrath.
He will execute judgment among the nations,
filling them with corpses;
he will shatter chiefs
over the wide earth.
He will drink from the brook by the way;
therefore he will lift up his head.

The Second Reading: Philippians 1:12-18

I want you to know, brothers, that what has happened to me has really served to advance the gospel, so that it has become known throughout the whole imperial guard and to all the rest that my imprisonment is for Christ. And most of the brothers, having become confident in the Lord by my imprisonment, are much more bold to speak the word without fear.

Some indeed preach Christ from envy and rivalry, but others from good will. The latter do it out of love, knowing that I am put here for the defense of the gospel. The former proclaim Christ out of selfish ambition, not sincerely but thinking to afflict me in my imprisonment. What then? Only that in every way, whether in pretense or in truth, Christ is proclaimed, and in that I rejoice.

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: For... Let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

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 Benediction

Pastor: The Lord bless us and keep us. The Lord make His face shine upon us and be gracious to us. The Lord lift up His countenance upon us and give us peace.

People: **Amen.**