

# ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH



SERVICE OF PRAYER AND  
PREACHING  
MAY 18<sup>TH</sup> 2016



# ANNOUNCEMENTS

**FIRE PIT!** We have a fire pit. It's a fine fire pit. There's wood to burn and hay bales to sit on. But we can do better! On June 4<sup>th</sup>, starting at 2pm (when the Car Wash ends), a group of us is going to the back yard to work on the fire pit. Long story short, we are going to make it better. And then we are going to break it in. Join us: June 4<sup>th</sup> behind the church, 2pm.

**CONFIRMATION.** Coming this fall, we will be starting a new Confirmation class for kids 6-8<sup>th</sup> 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 3<sup>rd</sup> 2.10.66!

**CAR WASH!** We are going to have our 8<sup>th</sup> Car Wash here at Zion on June 4<sup>th</sup>. We'll need people to help out washing, waxing, drying, and cleaning the interiors of the cars we'll get. We also need people to help serve food. The Car Wash begins at 10:00am; set-up starts at 9am. If you want to come earlier than that, you can come to the Bible Study & Breakfast at 8:00am.

**PITTSBURGH LUTHERAN.** The Pittsburgh Lutheran is a monthly publication that informs the LCMS community of southwest Pennsylvania what other congregations are doing. This month is the first month that the Pittsburgh Lutheran has been edited and published by an intrepid and talented team from Zion!

# Welcome to worship!

This evening, we are going to take a look at the last passage of your Bible in a Year Reading for today, John 10:22-42. Jesus has just healed a man born blind and for once, encounters resistance for something he did. (In John's Gospel, Jesus' actions are usually appreciated; his teaching is usually rejected or questioned.) He has taught that he is the gate and good shepherd. These teachings are accepted by some and rejected by others. At this point, a person would be forgiven for thinking that Jesus would want to dial back the rhetoric, do some healings to boost his popularity, or maybe spend some time off in the wilderness teaching his disciples away from the increasingly disenchanted crowds. But this is not what Jesus does.

In our text, Jesus goes to the Temple—the belly of the beast—and begins elaborating on his teaching that the temple-based religious elites had already rejected. Jesus teaches that he is the one who gives his sheep eternal life, that God is his Father, and that he and the Father are one. Gutsy move Jesus, but what's it mean for us?

One of the major themes in John's Gospel is the relationship between Jesus and God (his Father). The overall teaching in John is that when you see Jesus, you see God. In fact, it's hard to find a chapter in the Gospel where this theme doesn't come to the surface in one way or another.

But why does it matter? Other than conversations about the nature of the Trinity, Christology and Soteriology, why does it matter that when we see Jesus we see the Father—we see God?

I'm looking forward to preaching on why it matters that when we see Jesus we see God. I think you'll like what you find too!

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 and Jesus' statements about himself from the Gospel of John. When you see Jesus, you see God. You see a God who is perfect and without sin. But you also see a God who is compassionate and kind. Therefore, let us confess our sins to God, trusting in his mercy through our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

**People: Lord Jesus Christ, thank you for revealing the Father to us. We ask that you would have mercy on us in our sinful condition. We cannot do what the Law demands and have brought shame on ourselves by our disobedient and faithless lives. Forgive our sins and lead us to greater faith and obedience. Amen.**

## *Absolution*

**People: Amen!**

## **The Reading: John 10:22-42**

At that time the Feast of Dedication took place at Jerusalem. It was winter, and Jesus was walking in the temple, in the colonnade of Solomon. So the Jews gathered around him and said to him, "How long will you keep us in suspense? If you are the Christ, tell us plainly." Jesus answered them, "I told you, and you do not believe. The works that I do in my Father's name bear witness about me, but you do not believe because you are not among my sheep. My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand. My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all, and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father's hand. I and the Father are one."

The Jews picked up stones again to stone him. Jesus answered them, “I have shown you many good works from the Father; for which of them are you going to stone me?” The Jews answered him, “It is not for a good work that we are going to stone you but for blasphemy, because you, being a man, make yourself God.” Jesus answered them, “Is it not written in your Law, ‘I said, you are gods’? If he called them gods to whom the word of God came—and Scripture cannot be broken—do you say of him whom the Father consecrated and sent into the world, ‘You are blaspheming,’ because I said, ‘I am the Son of God’? If I am not doing the works of my Father, then do not believe me; but if I do them, even though you do not believe me, believe the works, that you may know and understand that the Father is in me and I am in the Father.” Again they sought to arrest him, but he escaped from their hands.

He went away again across the Jordan to the place where John had been baptizing at first, and there he remained. And many came to him. And they said, “John did no sign, but everything that John said about this man was true.” And many believed in him there.

## ***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***

**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 Benediction***

Pastor: The Lord bless you and keep us. 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.**