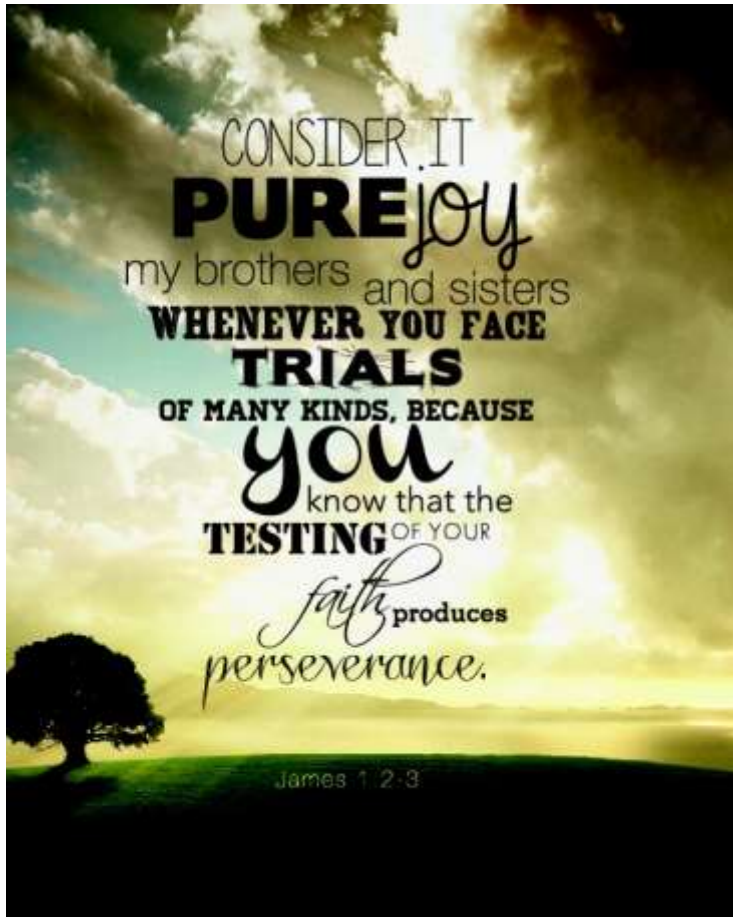


ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH



SERVICE OF PRAYER AND
PREACHING
JULY 27TH 2016



ANNOUNCEMENTS

JAMES AND JUDE! On Wednesday evenings, we will be having a small group Bible Study on the books of James and Jude as part of our Midweek Service. It's not too late to pick up your study guide following the service this evening. We'll be going over the first unit after the service this week!

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!

VICAR JOSHUA will be preaching his first sermon this evening. Of course, we've given him the—ahem—easy task of preaching from the book of James. God bless you, Vicar Joshua, as you bring us the Gospel of Christ this evening!

CREATION CONFERENCE. Keep an eye out for our second Genesis Seminar here at Zion in August (12-14). We will have a group of scientists and theologians come and present their research and inform us on the truth of the Biblical account of creation. You won't want to miss this conference; a great opportunity to learn and grow in your faith!

Welcome to worship!

How did the study go last week? If you didn't go through all 5 days of the study, we'll have plenty of time to catch up tonight, but I'd like to encourage you to keep going! If you weren't here last week, we also have some extra study books. It is such a blessing to come together as God's baptized children to study His Word! When we have God's Word proclaimed and taught, (as we do here at Zion) we also have the assurance that the Holy Spirit is there, doing His work in our hearts and minds, always pointing us to the death of Jesus for our sins and His resurrection for our justification.

As we come together this evening we will be taking a look at James 1:1-15. James lays out two distinct paths, both using the imagery of children. In Chapter 1 verses 3 and 4, testing of faith *produces* steadfastness, and once steadfastness "*grows up*" (ESV "have its full effect"), it reaches completion. The other path is described in terms of conception and birth, continuing with the language of children. Wicked desires *conceive* and *give birth* to sin, which *grows up* and *brings forth* death. In the sermon tonight we will fill in the gaps. We are on the first path, that of faith which leads to the crown of life! But we also must take James' words about sin seriously. As we worship together and study the Word of our God, we will see that even in the midst of the harshest trial, God does not abandon those who have faith in Jesus, but uses such trials to draw them closer to Him.

God bless your time in worship this evening!

-Vicar Joshua

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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

Pastor: O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth will declare Your praise.

Psalm 51:15

People: **Make haste, O God, to deliver me. Make haste to help me, O Lord.**

Psalm 70:1

All: *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.*

Reading: Psalm 57

Be merciful to me, O God, be merciful to me, for in you my soul takes refuge;
in the shadow of your wings I will take refuge, till the storms of destruction
pass by.

I cry out to God Most High, to God who fulfills his purpose for me.

He will send from heaven and save me; he will put to shame him who tramples on me.

Selah

God will send out his steadfast love and his faithfulness!

My soul is in the midst of lions; I lie down amid fiery beasts—the children of man,
whose teeth are spears and arrows, whose tongues are sharp swords.

Be exalted, O God, above the heavens!

Let your glory be over all the earth!

They set a net for my steps; my soul was bowed down.

They dug a pit in my way, but they have fallen into it themselves. Selah

My heart is steadfast, O God, my heart is steadfast!

I will sing and make melody!

Awake, my glory! Awake, O harp and lyre! I will awake the dawn!

I will give thanks to you, O Lord, among the peoples; I will sing praises to you
among the nations.

For your steadfast love is great to the heavens, your faithfulness to the clouds.

Be exalted, O God, above the heavens!
Let your glory be over all the earth!

Reading: James 1:1-15

James, a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ,
To the twelve tribes in the Dispersion:
Greetings.

Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.

If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him. But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea that is driven and tossed by the wind. For that person must not suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord; he is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.

Let the lowly brother boast in his exaltation, and the rich in his humiliation, because like a flower of the grass he will pass away. For the sun rises with its scorching heat and withers the grass; its flower falls, and its beauty perishes. So also will the rich man fade away in the midst of his pursuits.

Blessed is the man who remains steadfast under trial, for when he has stood the test he will receive the crown of life, which God has promised to those who love him. Let no one say when he is tempted, "I am being tempted by God," for God cannot be tempted with evil, and he himself tempts no one. But each person is tempted when he is lured and enticed by his own desire. Then desire when it has conceived gives birth to sin, and sin when it is fully grown brings forth death.

Message

(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 was 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: Merciful God, we humbly implore You to cast the bright beams of Your light upon Your Church that we, being instructed by the doctrine of the blessed apostles, may walk in the light of Your truth and finally attain to the light of everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

People: **Amen.**

Pastor: Almighty God, You have called Your Church to witness that in Christ You have reconciled us to Yourself. Grant that by Your Holy Spirit we may proclaim the good news of Your salvation so that all who hear it may receive the gift of salvation; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

People: **Amen.**

Pastor: Lord Jesus Christ, before whom all in heaven and earth shall bow, grant courage that Your children may confess Your saving name in the face of any opposition from a world hostile to the Gospel. Help them to remember Your faithful people who sacrificed much and even faced death rather than dishonor You when called upon to deny the faith. By Your Spirit, strengthen them to be faithful and to confess You boldly, knowing that You

will confess Your own before the Father in heaven, with whom You and the Holy Spirit live and reign, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

Pastor: Gracious Lord, we give You thanks for the day, especially for the good we were permitted to give and to receive. The day is now past, and we commit it to You. We entrust to You the night and rest in Your peace, for You are our help, and You neither slumber nor sleep. Hear us for the sake of Your name.

People: Amen.

Pastor: ...Lord, in your mercy.

People: Hear our prayer.

Pastor: Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

All: *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*

Matthew 6:9-13

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.

Numbers 6:24-26

People: Amen.