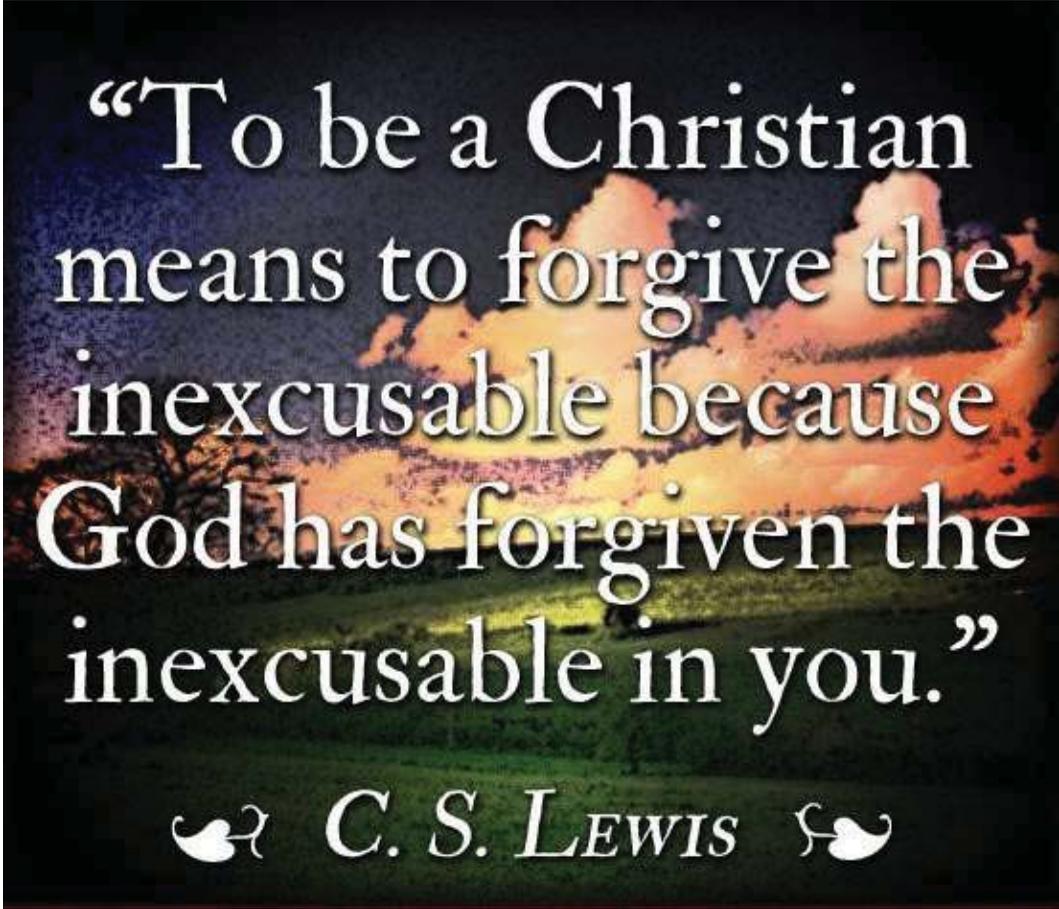


ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH



“To be a Christian
means to forgive the
inexcusable because
God has forgiven the
inexcusable in you.”

✠ C. S. LEWIS ✠

Service of Prayer and Preaching
June 17th, 2015



ANNOUNCEMENTS

YES! We will have Bible Study Thursday morning.

NO! We will not have Free Coffee Friday on Friday or Men's Bible Study on Saturday. Pastor has been summoned to the Eastern District Convention.

NURSERY! Zion will have a staffed nursery for children 3 and under starting in July during the late service. If you are interested in helping out or would like to know more, please contact the church office!

ORANGE OUT. In order to raise awareness for the persecuted church and to pray for our brothers and sisters in Christ, we are going to have another "Orange Out" Sunday, July 19th here at Zion. Wear your orange shirts to worship. If you'd like to purchase our orange "Because of their faith" shirts for the Orange Out, we have a sign-up sheet in the back Narthex area of the church.

JUBILEE SOUP KITCHEN is where we'll be serving June 20th starting at 9am. We'll be serving food to those less fortunate. There is a sign-up sheet in the Narthex area, if you are interested in serving.

FAMILY COOKOUT. We are having a Family Cookout June 27th here at Zion! Starting at 5pm, we'll be grilling out, singing songs, and making s'mores! Bring the whole family; the fun starts at 5! For more information, check out the church website or contact the church office! hope to see you there...

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL: Crew leader and helper positions are still available. We are also looking for help in the nursery. Contact Katie Gielarowski or email secretary@zlcg.org to volunteer.

Welcome to worship!

This evening, we take another look at the Gospel Lesson from last Sunday, the Parable of the Unforgiving Servant. On Sunday, we saw what this parable meant for us as individual Christians; this evening we will take a look at what it says about how we should do our mission and ministry as a church.

The Christian Church has a strong history of being a place of forgiveness, grace and love. But it also has a nasty habit of twisting the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ into something it is not. In Christ's church, forgiveness and grace comes before obedience and sanctification.

This evening, we will take a look at how we can be a church that leads with forgiveness—both to the members of the church as well as to the people in our community, our visitors and guests.

We've got a lot to cover this evening at our Service of Prayer and Preaching. I'm glad you are here! God bless your time in worship.

-Pastor Duncan

Rev. Duncan McLellan, Pastor

Pastor's Phone: 412-667-0967

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www.zlcb.org

The Service of Prayer and Preaching

(Please take a moment to fill out the Attendance books)

The Invocation

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

People: **Amen.**

Confession of Sins

Pastor: This evening, our focus is on the Gospel Lesson from last Sunday: the Parable of the Unforgiving Servant. Like the servant in the parable, we have been forgiven much; more than we could ever hope to repay or earn. And yet we have been stubborn in demonstrating this lavish grace and forgiveness in the lives of the people we know, as well as the stranger on the street. Therefore, let us confess our sins, trusting in the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ to forgive us.

People: **Lord Jesus Christ, you taught your disciples to practice forgiveness because they had been forgiven much. We confess that we have been quick to find fault in others, but slow to forgive. Have mercy on us, be patient with us, and allow the Holy Spirit to be the controlling influence in our lives. We ask this in your name and according to your will that all would be saved. Amen.**

Absolution Spoken by the Pastor

People: **Amen.**

The Reading: Matthew 18:21-35

Then Peter came up and said to him, "Lord, how often will my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? As many as seven times?" Jesus said to him, "I do not say to you seven times, but seventy-seven times.

“Therefore the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his servants. When he began to settle, one was brought to him who owed him ten thousand talents. And since he could not pay, his master ordered him to be sold, with his wife and children and all that he had, and payment to be made. So the servant fell on his knees, imploring him, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.’ And out of pity for him, the master of that servant released him and forgave him the debt. But when that same servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii, and seizing him, he began to choke him, saying, ‘Pay what you owe.’ So his fellow servant fell down and pleaded with him, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you.’ He refused and went and put him in prison until he should pay the debt. When his fellow servants saw what had taken place, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their master all that had taken place. Then his master summoned him and said to him, ‘You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. And should not you have had mercy on your fellow servant, as I had mercy on you?’ And in anger his master delivered him to the jailers, until he should pay all his debt. So also my heavenly Father will do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother from your heart.”

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.

(Please be seated)

The Prayers

For the prayers this evening, you are invited to come to the Communion Rail and kneel.

Pastor: In peace let us pray to the Lord:

Pastor: For our congregation: that we would recognize our need to seek and save the lost with the good news of Jesus Christ and that we would practice the unconditional forgiveness we have received. Let us pray.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: For our families: that the Lord would bless them in every way, that their faith in Christ would grow daily, and that they would make time in God's word and prayer a priority in their lives. Let us pray.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: For our friends and acquaintances: that they would come to know Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord, and that God the Holy Spirit would make us bold to speak the name of Jesus to those walking in darkness, giving us the words to say at the proper time. Let us pray.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: For our enemies: that we would be reconciled to each other by the peace of God that passes all understanding so that our witness to them in word and deed would bear the fruit of repentance and faith. Let us pray.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: For people we know who are ill: that the Lord would demonstrate his authority over sickness through restoring them to health. Let us pray.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: For those who govern: that they would faithfully discharge the duties of their office with wisdom and integrity, that we would live in peace and freedom. Let us pray.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: For the work of the Holy Spirit in our lives: that we would practice the kind of forgiveness we have received so that the name of God would be glorified in this age. Let us pray.

People: **Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor: For our Sunday School and VBS: that our young people would learn the truth of the Gospel and God's Word, grow in their faith in Christ and be firmly committed to their Lord. Let us pray.

People: **Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor: For our witness in the world: that we would not be afraid to speak the name of Jesus, give the reason we have for the hope that is in us, and be used by God to share the good news of Jesus for all people. Let us pray.

People: **Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor: For the concerns we have in our hearts. Let us pray...

Pastor: Taught by our Lord and trusting in his promises, we are bold 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