

Unless You Are Born Again



SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT

March 8, 2020

ZION EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Guests. Welcome to Zion. We are glad to have you with us. Please sign our guestbook located in the Narthex. About Holy Communion: We welcome to the Lord's Table all who have repented of their sins and seek to amend their sinful life; all who believe that Jesus is truly present in, with, and under the bread and the wine; and all who believe that through the words "given and shed for you" forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation are given. If this is your confession and you are a member of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod, then come with a thankful heart and join us. See p.329, 330 in the front part of the hymnal for guidance in preparing to receive Holy Communion. *We offer gluten free wafers.* Please talk with an Elder or Pastor before the service if you would appreciate the gluten free. *If you are a visitor and would like to commune, please talk with Pastor Dan before the service.*

AS WE GATHER

That which is born of flesh cannot inherit the kingdom of God, only that which is born of the Spirit, born from above and born anew. With Nicodemus we marvel at Jesus' words. It is hard for us to admit that we cannot save ourselves but must be redeemed from sin and its death. Even more difficult is to see in the baptismal water that power of the Spirit connecting us to Christ's death and resurrection—giving us this new birth. "How can this be?" Nicodemus marvels at Jesus' words and promise, and so are we in awe of God's gracious favor: "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life" (John 3:16).

Altar Guild for March:

Betsy S

920-927-2228

Thank You!

Ringling of the Bell and Opening Announcements

Order of Worship

Opening Hymn

"The God of Abraham Praise"

LSB 798

Invocation

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit. **People: Amen.**

Confession and Absolution

Pastor: From where does my help come?

People: My help comes from the LORD, who made heaven and earth.

A Time of Silent Reflection on those sins heavy on our hearts

Pastor: O almighty God, merciful Father:

People: I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being. Forgive me all my sins and grant me the power of Your Holy Spirit that I may amend my sinful life.

Pastor: Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

Pastor: May the Lord, who has begun this good work in us, bring it to completion in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.

People: Amen.

Salutation

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Prayer of the Day (Unison)

O God, You see that of ourselves we have no strength. By Your mighty power defend us from all adversities that may happen to the body and from all evil thoughts that may assault and hurt the soul; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Old Testament Reading

Genesis 12:1–9

(God's call to Abraham and His promise that Abraham would become the father of a great nation)

Now the LORD said to Abram, “Go from your country and your kindred and your father’s house to the land that I will show you. And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.” So Abram went, as the LORD had told him, and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran. And Abram took Sarai his wife, and Lot his brother’s son, and all their possessions that they had gathered, and the people that they had acquired in Haran, and they set out to go to the land of Canaan. When they came to the land of Canaan, Abram passed through the land to the place at Shechem, to the oak of Moreh. At that time the Canaanites were in the land. Then the LORD appeared to Abram and said, “To your offspring I will give this land.” So he built there an altar to the LORD, who had appeared to him. From there he moved to the hill country on the east of Bethel and pitched his tent, with Bethel on the west and Ai on the east. And there he built an altar to the LORD and called upon the name of the LORD. And Abram journeyed on, still going toward the Negeb.

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Epistle

Romans 4:1–8, 13–17

(Paul describes how the righteousness of Abraham was given to him by grace through faith.)

What then shall we say was gained by Abraham, our forefather according to the flesh? For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. For what does the Scripture say? “Abraham believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness.” Now to the one who works, his wages are

not counted as a gift but as his due. And to the one who does not work but trusts him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is counted as righteousness, just as David also speaks of the blessing of the one to whom God counts righteousness apart from works: “Blessed are those whose lawless deeds are forgiven, and whose sins are covered; blessed is the man against whom the Lord will not count his sin.” The promise to Abraham and his offspring that he would be heir of the world did not come through the law but through the righteousness of faith. For if it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. For the law brings wrath, but where there is no law there is no transgression. That is why it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his offspring—not only to the adherent of the law but also to the one who shares the faith of Abraham, who is the father of us all, as it is written, “I have made you the father of many nations”—in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist.

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Holy Gospel

John 3:1–17

(Jesus tells Nicodemus how to be born anew through water and the Spirit.)

The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the third chapter.

People: Glory to You, O Lord.

Now there was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews. This man came to Jesus by night and said to him, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher come from God, for no one can do these signs that you do unless God is with him.” Jesus answered him, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God.” Nicodemus said to him, “How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother’s womb and be born?” Jesus answered, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do

not marvel that I said to you, 'You must be born again.' The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear its sound, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit." Nicodemus said to him, "How can these things be?" Jesus answered him, "Are you the teacher of Israel and yet you do not understand these things? Truly, truly, I say to you, we speak of what we know, and bear witness to what we have seen, but you do not receive our testimony. If I have told you earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you heavenly things? No one has ascended into heaven except he who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to You, O Christ.

Hymn: "God Loved the World So That He Gave" LSB 571

Sermon

Nicene Creed

Printed on back cover

Prayers of the Church

We Gather our Tithes and Offerings

✠ Service of the Sacrament ✠ We Turn to Page 208

Preface

Sanctus

Prayer of Thanksgiving

The Lord's Prayer

The Words of our Lord - Consecration of the Elements

Distribution of the Lord's Supper

Communion Hymns:

"Lord, Take My Hand and Lead Me"	LSB 722
"Sing Praise to God, the Highest Good"	LSB 819
"All Depends on Our Possessing"	LSB 732
"Salvation Unto Us Has Come"	LSB 555

Post-Communion Service We turn to Page 211

Nunc Dimittis

Post –Communion Collect

Benedicamus and Benediction

Hymn: "Guide Me, O Thou Great Redeemer" LSB 918

Announcements

From the Board of Stewardship and Evangelism:

John 3:16 – "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life." This is perhaps the most well-known and well-beloved verse in the New Testament – and for good reason. This simple Gospel message is the foundation for our whole life, including our new life in Christ. This new life is characterized by thankfulness and devotion to our Father, who has provided for us so lavishly in Christ.

The Pewpoint

THEME OF THE DAY

The Word of the Gospel Opens the Eyes of Faith and Fixes Them on Christ Jesus

The Lord called Abram (Abraham) to leave his home and go to a land that God would show him. He also promised to make of Abram "a great nation," to bless him and make his name great as a blessing to "all the families of the earth"

(Gen. 12:2–3). *“Abram went, as the LORD had told him”* (Gen. 12:4), and in Canaan *“he built an altar to the LORD and called upon the name of the LORD”* (Gen. 12:8). He *“believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness”* (Rom. 4:3). Here the grace of God is manifested, that He *“justifies the ungodly”* (Rom. 4:5), not by works of the Law, but through faith in His promises. He removes all of our sins and lawless deeds through Jesus Christ, the offspring of Abraham in whom all the Lord’s promises are realized. This forgiveness of sins is the Word of the Gospel, the voice of the Holy Spirit, which *“gives life to the dead”* (Rom. 4:17). It opens the eyes of faith to behold Christ Jesus, the Son of Man lifted up on the cross, *“that whoever believes in him may have eternal life”* (John 3:14–15).

Attendance:

Sunday Service: 76 Communed: 70
Lent Service: 46

YES IN CHRIST -- Saying Yes With Our Treasures

Needed per week to make budget: \$2,873

Ash Wednesday Envelopes \$ 685
Plate \$ 51

Sunday Envelopes: \$3,371
Plate: \$120
Steeple Fund \$30

Memorials: Judi Neuberger – General \$40
Judi Neuberger – Steeple Fund \$1,470

Midweek Lenten Services have started
Come and worship with us and don't
forget about the Meal before worship.
We start serving at 6pm until 6:45pm.
Come and enjoy the fellowship.



Mark
Date

Today - Sunday School & Bible Classes
following Worship Services.

Wednesday March 11th Soup Supper 6pm
and Worship at 7pm

Thursday March 12^h – Bell Choir 6pm
Voice Choir 7pm



We received a newsletter from Becky Grossman – Becky is doing missionary work as a translator. We have sent money to her in the past years to help her in her mission work. So, if you would like to see what she is up to I've printed some copies. They are on the tables in the back of church.

Are you interested in putting some flowers on the altar in memory/honor of a loved one/loved ones? The signup sheets are on the tables in the narthex or back of church. Just sign up and we'll let you know more information when it gets closer to Easter on when you should deliver them. **Let's decorate the altar like never before!**





March 2020 Lutheran Witness Magazine has arrived – take one home!

Lenten SOUP Suppers

You can sign up for any Wednesday – all the pages are out there so come and enjoy the evening with food conversation and learning about the path of our Lord. All Lenten Service dates are out there if you want to sign up for something down the line.

**** ALSO ****



There's Sign up sheets for the Easter Breakfast – also if you want to give a monetary donation you are welcome to do that too as Marti has decided that she will be purchasing items to make our breakfast a wonderful meal as usual. Also if there is any chance that you can work on Saturday or Sunday for the breakfast there's sheets for signing up for that too.

