

THIRTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

August 30, 2020



ROMANS 12:9-10 "LOVE MUST BE SINCERE."
SINCERE LOVE

ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH
85 East Brandt Boulevard
Landisville, PA 17538

*United in Christ,
we are called to love and serve.*

THIRTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

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CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

God of love, forgive us, for our foolish choices. Hold on to our shaky lives, until we learn to clasp your goodness to our hearts, so we can give it away to those around us. Whisper your grace and hopes to us, until we can stop cursing our enemies, and bless them as our friends. Smooth the rough edges of our arrogance, until we become polished enough to win the gold by being honorable. Then, help us to put aside our stumbling blocks to discipleship, so we can follow Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, as he leads us to your way of denial and life.

Silence for reflection.

In our love for others, we discover God's love for us. In our forgiving of others, we learn once more how deeply God has forgiven us. Friends, this is the good news offered to us! We are God's children, called to be different, called to act different, called to live as new people. Thanks be to God. We are forgiven. Amen.

THE GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

PRAYER OF THE DAY *(based on Romans 12:9-21)*

O God, we thank you for the love you have shown us. Help us so our love is sincere. Give us the strength to hate evil and cling to good; to be devoted to our family in Christ; to be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, and faithful in prayer. Today, minute by minute, let us not be overcome by evil, but help us overcome evil with good. Through your precious Son, Jesus Christ, we pray. Amen!

† THE WORD †

FIRST READING

Jeremiah 15:15-21

A reading from Jeremiah.

O LORD, you know; remember me and visit me, and bring down retribution for me on my persecutors. In your forbearance do not take me away; know that on your account I suffer insult. Your words were found, and I ate them, and your words became to me a joy and the delight of my heart; for I am called by your name, O Lord, God of hosts. I did not sit in the company of merrymakers, nor did I rejoice; under the weight of your hand I sat alone, for you had filled me with indignation. Why is my pain unceasing, my wound incurable, refusing to be healed? Truly, you are to me like a deceitful brook, like waters that fail. Therefore, thus says the Lord: If you turn back, I will take you back, and you shall stand before me. If you utter what is precious, and not what is worthless, you shall serve as my mouth. It is they who will turn to you, not you who will turn to them. And I will make you to this people a fortified wall of bronze; they will fight against you, but they shall not prevail over you, for I am with you to save you and deliver you, says the Lord. I will deliver you out of the hand of the wicked and redeem you from the grasp of the ruthless.

The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING

Romans 12:1-8

A reading from Romans.

Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers. Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. Live in harmony with one another; do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are. Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave room for the wrath of God; for it is written, "Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord." No, "if your enemies are hungry, feed them; if they are thirsty, give them something to drink; for by doing this you will heap burning coals on their heads." Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL READING

Matthew 16:21-28

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 16^h chapter.
Glory to you, O Lord.

From that time on [after Peter confessed that Jesus was the Messiah,] Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and undergo great suffering at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, "God forbid it, Lord! This must never happen to you." But he turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; for you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things."

Then Jesus told his disciples, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it. For what will it profit them if they gain the whole world but forfeit their life? Or what will they give in return for their life? "For the Son of Man is to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay everyone for what has been done. Truly I tell you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom."

This is the Gospel of the Lord. Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

Pastor Barbara Caruana

*Grace and peace to you from God our Father
and our Lord, Jesus Christ.
Amen.*

LOVE MUST BE SINCERE

Scenario 1

A little boy was punished by his father. Later he knelt by his bed to say his prayers and ended with the usual blessings for all the family but one. Then he turned to his father and said, "I suppose you noticed you weren't in my prayer."

Scenario 2

A Mother tells the following story about her three-year-old daughter: “The scenario is that I’ve had a long-hard-rotten day and it’s bedtime for her. I get myself through the story, song, drink of water, and back rub - the usual bedtime routine. I say, ‘You know Abigail, I could sure use a big hug.’ And so she graces me with this wondrous SUPER HUG (as such hugs are called). I’m telling her that was wonderful; the exact best hug that I needed, and I ask if she has any more. Very seriously she says, ‘I have more Mom, I get them from my heart.’ I say, ‘What?’ She says, ‘I have hugs in my heart.’ I ask, ‘Well, could I have another one? I could sure use another if you have enough.’ She says, ‘Sure you can, I can always grow more in my heart.’”

These stories illustrate the sincerity of children. In their innocence, they have a way of surprising us grown-ups with a wisdom that goes far beyond their years.

In his letter to the Romans, Paul describes what sincere love looks like not only within the faith community, but in the world at large.

In today’s story from Romans, we get a clear sense of Paul’s concern for the image of the Church toward the world. He’s seriously concerned with the witness of the Church. Paul’s greatest burden since his conversion was the salvation of Israel. If the Jews were going to accept Jesus Christ as the Messiah and the Son of God, his followers would have to give testimony in their life and death that Jesus Christ is Lord.

Paul uses the image of a body, a living and dynamic organism, to describe the Church of Jesus Christ. There can only be harmony when there is sincere love, caring, and compassion among the members. Sincere and unconditional love among the members were to be the determining factors for the successful witness of the Church.

This all seems so simple, and yet the Church throughout the ages has struggled with being a faithful witness to Jesus Christ. Yes, the Church has had its moments of glory, where Christians have maintained their witness and testimony regardless of the harsh consequences. However, too often the Church has also experienced its moments of shame.

I believe that Paul was on to something when he condemned the pattern of this world and urged a renewal of the heart and mind.

But what is the pattern of this world? When I look at our culture, and my own life, I keep coming back to an issue that I’ve mentioned a few times in sermons. It’s our indifference toward each other and toward our God.

Our culture is quite good at confusing and negotiating the issue, that for Christians, indifference toward each other and toward our God should be non-negotiable. What used to be good or evil is now not-so-bad or not-so-good depending on how the issue affects you. Christian standards are sometimes very hard to distinguish from worldly standards.

Paul gives us quite a list of things to measure our witness for Christ. Eagerness, respect, hard work, reverence, joy, patience, disciplined prayer, generosity, gracious hospitality, openness, empathy, fairness, equality, humility, peacemaking, forgiving, and courage.

So, what about this quote: "Hate what is evil!" How many of us really hate what is evil? Well, I guess we don't like it very much. But you know, "hate" is an extraordinarily strong word. Brothers and sisters, don't we know that evil is keeping us and our fellow Church members in the bondage of sin? Paul has every right to not only urge us - but to command us to detest those things that are detestable to God: Immorality, injustice, addictions, indifference. To hate what is evil means to struggle with all our might against him who wants to keep us in sin and darkness.

Hate what is evil and **cling** to that which is good. When you've found the treasure hang on to it with all your might. This is a bit confusing. Doesn't this go against our Christian belief? Well, not really ... if you look at it this way: "Love is not love until you give it away." The only way to really keep that which is good is to give it away freely and sincerely.

When we cling to that which is good, we open opportunities for each other to use our God-given talents to the glory of God's work.

Paul speaks about our relationships toward each other as brothers and sisters in the Church. As a Church - a body consisting of many parts with different functions - we must be there to offer support to one another.

I wonder sometimes. How well do I know my body? How well do you know your body? How well do you and I take care of each other? Do we know each other's emotional and spiritual pains as well as the physical? Do we cry with the brother and sister in distress? Do we laugh and celebrate with each other in our mountain top experiences? How do we score as the body of Christ here in Zion Landisville? And what exercise routine do we need to follow to get ourselves back in shape?

I think it would include some of the things that Paul speaks about here. Sincere love, an attitude of belonging to Jesus Christ and to each other in the body of Christ. Mutual

submission and accountability. Trust in the righteous judgment of God when someone has done us wrong. And a sincere desire to be a part of each other's lives.

Jesus said, "By this the world will know that you are my disciples - if you have love toward each other." May the signs of our love for God be visible to the world by the way we love one another.

Let it be so. Amen.



APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

Gracious God, we thank you for all you have done for us and for all you continue to do. We thank you for the privilege of work and the pleasure of play, for the love we have received and the love we have been able to give, for the honor of being your witnesses, and for the joy of being your servants.

We pray, O Lord, for unity and peace in your church. Increase our fellowship with one another and our openness to others. Give us the courage to proclaim the saving power of the cross. May your church help bring love, hope, reconciliation, and peace to your world.

We pray for peace in our hearts, for peace in our communities, and for peace in your world, so that, as much as it is possible, we may live in love and at peace with all people.

We pray that our homes, including Zion's house of worship, be places of peace of peace and love, of holiness and hospitality, and of harmony and unity. May we learn acceptance and forgiveness through our loved ones, and let us not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

We pray for all schools, students, and teachers as they begin a new school year in the midst of the lingering coronavirus. Bless students, parents, and teachers with patience and understanding as they all meet the various challenges related to on-line learning, in-school learning, and hybrid learning. May good health be viewed as an awesome gift from God.

We pray for the innocent ones throughout the world – the poor, the hungry, the sick, the meek, and the devastated, that they may not be discouraged by human things but encouraged by what they cannot see. Empower each of us to work on behalf of those in need and the one who will come again in glory.

We also pray for those who are anxious, concerned about the future, those in fear of the unknown, the lonely, the depressed, the betrayed, and those on Zion's Prayer List. Console all in need with the knowledge that you are their ever-present Lord.

Give comfort to all who mourn, especially the family and friends of Jack Small (father of Marie Adams). Give joy to all who are filled with sorrow. We especially give thanks for all who have followed your call and who now rest from their earthly labors.

And now, Lord God, accept these prayers we offer to you in the name of Jesus Christ, the one who came for all humanity and taught us to pray together saying ...

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 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.

† A PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING †

God of all blessings, source of all life, giver of all grace in all things, we want to thank you for the gift of life, for the breath that sustains life, for the food of this earth that nurtures life, and for the love of family and friends without which there would be little happiness in life. We thank you for the beauty of creation of this great Earth, for the joy that the ear may hear, for the unknown that we cannot behold filling the universe with wonder, and for the expanse of space that draws us beyond the definitions of our selves. Everything in our lives, and the life that surrounds us was drawn and created by your own hand. For this, I am grateful. Amen.

† THE SENDING †

BLESSING

May the love of the Father, the tenderness of the Son, and the presence of the Spirit, gladden your heart and bring peace to your soul this day and all days. Amen.

DISMISSAL

United in Christ, you are called to love and serve. Now go and do it!



ANNOUNCEMENTS

RE-OPENING FOR WORSHIP

As of now, we will be resuming in-person worship on Sunday, September 13. Services will be held at 8:30 and 11:00. If necessary, a third service will be added on Saturdays at 3:00. Since only 25 people will be allowed in the church for each service, members must call or text Anne Rankin (717-945-4585) to reserve seating. Seating has been established based on social gathering rules which require people to maintain 6 feet apart and to wear masks. The service will be a simple service with no singing, but it will include communion with individually pre-prepared communion kits. If you need more details about worship or how Zion's re-opening will happen, please email adminzelc@comcast.net.

PARISH FELLOWSHIP EVENTS

The Parish Fellowship Team and Council are working together to come up with some events to bring us together. At this time, the focus is on making sure in-person worship is done smoothly. Hopefully, other congregational gatherings and events will be scheduled as soon as possible.

WIRED WORD SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS

The Wired Word class has continued to meet online throughout the months they could not meet in person because of the pandemic. The link to the class is emailed out each week (usually on Thursday or Friday). Everyone is invited to join the class; if you have questions or need help signing on to Zoom, please contact Joel Janisewski (717-945-9035 or j.janisewski@gmail.com).

PRAYER LIST UPDATE

If there are updates to the prayer list – anyone who should be either added or removed – please email the church office at adminzelc@comcast.net. We always want to be sure the list is current and accurate.

MINISTRY TEAM LEADERS

It is that time of year again to plan to review the current year's budget and to plan for 2021. Please submit your proposed budgets for 2021 to John Hay by Fri., Sept. 11. If you have questions, please contact John (717-742-8831) or jakket0349@comcast.net

LEADERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Looking ahead to 2021...if you are interested in taking on (or learning more about) a leadership role at the church next year, specifically as a Council member, please call or text Anne Rankin (717-945-4585).

CROP WALK 2020

Although it will be happening in a different way than it has in the past, the Crop Walk is still on for this fall! Mark your calendar on Sunday, October 18th to participate in this event to help stop hunger. More information will be coming from the Social Outreach Team about how the Walk will take place this year. Donations collected will support Church World Service and the Lancaster Food Hub.

FOOD PANTRY UPDATE

The Food Pantry always appreciates the support of Zion and the community. Throughout the summer, they have received a variety of donations from many different groups and organizations in the area, including the food drive sponsored by the Wired Word class. If you would like to donate now, the Pantry is requesting the following items:

Spaghetti & Spaghetti Sauce

1- or 2-pound bags or boxes of rice

Canned kidney beans, vegetables, soup, and fruit

Cereal

THANK YOU NOTE FROM MARIE, JOE, MATT, & MICHAEL ADAMS

“We would like to thank everyone who has called and sent cards & notes after my dad passed away last week. We are so blessed to have such a caring church family at Zion.”

OUTDOOR EVENTS AT NAWAKWA & KIRCHENWALD

Looking to connect with others in a safe but fun way this fall? The Capture the Flag Spectacular and the Fall Foliage Days are still going to happen! The Capture the Flag will be on Sunday, October 4 from 3-5:30pm at Kirchenwald and is for all ages. Plan to stay for the campfire worship following the event. The Fall Foliage Days at both Kirchenwald and Nawakwa are scheduled for Sunday, October 18 from 1-6pm. There will be fall activities, worship, and a picnic supper...all are encouraged to come for the afternoon!

HOSPICE & COMMUNITY CARE LABOR DAY AUCTION

The annual Labor Day Auction for Hospice & Community Care will be held virtually this year over a 2-week period from September 1-15. There will hand-made quilts, jewelry, artwork, vacation get-aways, sports memorabilia, gift cards, used cars, and more! All items will be up for bid at LaborDayAuction.org. Updates and more information about the Auction can be found on that website as well. If you are interested in supporting Hospice, this is a fun and easy way to do so.

PRAYER LIST

FOR HEALING

Sam King
Adele King
Marvin Ruch
Kate Donnan
Barbara Williams
Dave Wise
Kevin Reinhart
Joe Adams
Judie Ingersoll
Lucy Davis
Bill Grove
Kay Crawford
Holly Hoover
Betty Stoner
Don Heartter
Janet & Harry Musselman
Bob Steinmetz (Brother of Diane Gerlach)
Homer Dietz (Brother-in-law of Harry Musselman)
Ron Sahd (Friend of Dave Wise)
Loma Slike (Mother of Sue Wise)
Mike LaFatta (Son-in-law of Bill & Julia Grove)

FOR COMFORT, PEACE, STRENGTH, & SAFETY

For the family and friends grieving the death of Lloyd Jury, twin brother of Floyd Jury.
For the family and friends grieving the death of Jack Small, father of Marie Adams.
Richard and Marilyn Heim
Arlene Miller
Deb McCartney
Marlin Zimmerman
Charlotte & George Potts
Bette Geibel
Jennifer Thompson
Ted Symonds & Family
Residents and Staff of the Phoenixville Care & Rehabilitation Center
Arlene Wise (Sister-in-law of Dave Wise)

Vaun Hile (Father of Lynda Sherwood)

Jennifer Kready (Daughter of Dave & Donna Dumeyer)

FOR PROTECTION FOR MILITARY & FIRST RESPONDERS

Christopher Wright

Chris Andrew

Thom Whitesel

Ryan Stitzel

Doug Kautter

Justin Gorlaski

Corey Landis (Nephew of Jesse & Pat Landis)

David Adams (Son-in-law of John & Kathleen Hay, and husband of Liz)

FOR CELEBRATION

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

August 30 – Katie Donell, Pam Searle, Lyla Swade

August 31 – Joel Janisewski, Savannah Reed

September 1 – Jason Green, Charlotte Potts

September 3 – Adele King, Kim Symonds

September 4 – Alison Long

September 5 – Martin Rosen

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

September 1 – Bob & Cathy Shirk

September 5 – Todd & Cathy Benedict



Connecting with God
Connecting with others
Connecting others with God



Zion's Ministry Leaders

Ministers

Interim Pastor
Dir. of Music & Worship Arts
Parish Administrator
Worship Technology Assistant
Ministry Assistant
Council President
Council Vice President

Members of the Congregation

Pastor Barbara Caruana
James C. Alfieri
Anne Rankin
David Albin
Diane Gerlach
Adele King
David Wise



Sextons

Brian Bourassa (AM)
Tom Miller (PM)

Church Office Phone:

717-898-2911

Parish Administrator's Phone:

717-945-4585

Emergency Phone (Pastor):

717-471-3232

Pastor's Email:

pastorcaruana@comcast.net

Music Director's Email:

zionlandisvillemusic@gmail.com

Office Email:

adminzelc@comcast.net

Visit us on the web at:

www.zionhempfield.net

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