

Daily Bible readings for home devotions; July 17-22, '17

Mon Exodus 3:1-15 The One-and-Only who deserves the name of GOD, *I-AM-WHO-I-AM*, simply dismisses any/all bogus “gods” as unworthy of comparison, for no other deity exists. Case closed. This is the LORD God who revealed Himself to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob—and that’s how Moses should describe Him to the elders of Israel. Stay tuned.

Tues John 21:15-19 Peter’s triple denials were festering in his heart, so Jesus lovingly lanced the abscess. The sore issue: “Peter, are you devoted to Me? Friendly? Companionable? Or what?” The third probe (17) (“Are you even My friend?”) was particularly painful. Jesus assured Peter that during his recovery he would resume shepherd activities.

Wed Acts 9:1-22 A headstrong person needs tough love to knock him off his high horse. During those three days & nights God sent His Spirit to illuminate Saul that Jesus=Messiah, and Saul was totally upset with himself (9) for having been so wrong. He learned how forgiving God can be when Ananias called him “*brother*” and told him Jesus was about to *heal his blindness and fill him with His Spirit*. After some days *with the disciples* (19), Saul was ready to enlighten other blinded Jews.

Thurs Psalm 106:40-48 History lesson: When God’s people defected, God chastened them—and when they repented, God restored them. In tough love He lets rebels suffer consequences (40-43) and brings them to repent (44). We depend on God being merciful to the Nth degree (45), and we praise God for being so generous to us.

Fri Matthew 22:29-32 The Sadducees *didn’t know the power of God* to take souls (still living) into heaven—which they could have known by figuring out what God was actually saying in Exodus 3:6. Those who *don’t know the Bible* don’t know nearly enough about life’s BIG issues.

Sat Acts 20:25-32 Since we should know our limitations, we *take heed to ourselves*, governing our personal quirks and foibles as we serve God and one another (28). Let’s not underestimate threats from others, because even our friends (30) can go wrong theologically. It has happened before, and it can happen again. We stay on guard (31) even as we entrust ourselves *to God and the message of His grace!* May God continue to *build us up in the precious inheritance we share with all the saints!* Praise the Lord!

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Mount Zion Lutheran Church

26689
Northeastern Hwy
Madison Heights, MI
48071

Member
Congregation:



Church of the
Lutheran Confession

Pastor:
Tom Naumann
Office: 248-677-7242
Cell: 920-266-5387

Congregation
President:
Randy Wittorp
Cell: 269-930-4235

Worship 10:00am

6th Sunday after
Pentecost
July 16, 2017

Mount Zion Lutheran Church

Sunday School & Adult Bible Study 9:00am (Sept – May)

Divine Service 10:00am

A Member of the Church of the Lutheran Confession (CLC)

Pastor Tom Naumann

www.mtzionlutheran.info

The 6th Sunday after Pentecost

July 16, 2017

Pre-Service Devotion: Isaiah 61:1-3

“The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me to bring good news to the poor; he has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound; ² to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; ³ to grant to those who mourn in Zion-- to give them a beautiful headdress instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the garment of praise instead of a faint spirit; that they may be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, that he may be glorified.”

The Hymns..... 427:1-3,7 49 52

Today's Order of Service: **Worship Supplement p.12-21**, Omitting p.18-20

Old Testament Reading.....Isaiah 55:10-13

"For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven and do not return there but water the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, ¹¹ so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it. ¹² "For you shall go out in joy and be led forth in peace; the mountains and the hills before you shall break forth into singing, and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands. ¹³ Instead of the thorn shall come up the cypress; instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle; and it shall make a name for the LORD, an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off."

CLC Mission Helpers to Nepal: Seventeen Mission Helpers departed on an evening flight from Chicago on Monday (7/10) on their way to Kathmandu, Nepal where they will be met by Pastor Raju Bhitrakoti, his family, and other pastors and members of the Himalayan Church of the Lutheran Confession of Nepal (HCLCN). These seventeen individuals divided into four teams as they will spend the next three weeks proclaiming the simple Gospel message to approx. 1,500 children in Himalayan villages where HCLCN congregations are located. Pastoral training classes will also be taught among the pastors and Himalayan Bible Institute students of the HCLCN. Your prayers are much appreciated. You can follow along with the Mission Helpers through the trip blog at: <http://2017clcmhtnepal.blogspot.com/>

CLC Call News: Immanuel Lutheran, Mankato MN, has called the Rev. Mark Tiefel, pastor of Redemption Lutheran, Lynnwood WA, to be its second pastor <> Faith Lutheran, Markesan WI, has called Teacher Matthew Thurow, Berea Lutheran, Inver Grove Heights MN, to teach grades 3-5 and serve as principal. <> Messiah Lutheran, Eau Claire WI, has called Teacher Katie Naumann to teach grades 3-4. <> Teacher Ross Kok of St. John's Lutheran, Okabena MN, has accepted the call to Holy Cross Lutheran, Phoenix AZ. <> Immanuel Lutheran, Mankato MN, has called Kayla Wendt, Immanuel Lutheran, Mankato MN, to teach part-time K-6 Music, Spanish and High School Choir.

Partners in Ministry Program: The 2016 CLC Convention approved the Partners in Ministry Program which is designed to link active CLC called servants who have obligations to repay ILC Student Aid Fund loans with sponsors who agree to provide matching funds for payments on those loans. The donor and recipient would remain anonymous to each other. This program is now ready for implementation. There are about a dozen eligible account holders who will be contacted directly to see if they are interested in participating and would then need to fill out an application annually. While donors may get involved with this at any time, it would be helpful to have the initial slate of donors in place by August 15. Those interested in being donors or those who have questions may contact the ILC Business Manager, Jim Sandeen, [715-836-6622](tel:715-836-6622)/jimsandeen@gmail.com.

CLC Contractors: Our ILC Facilities Manager is seeking contractors within the CLC willing to be on a list available to the Immanuel Maintenance Department. The list could include contractors for roofing/building, electrical, plumbing, concrete, etc., who could be called upon for expertise or to submit bids on large projects to save money for Immanuel. Some of the work would require the contractor to be licensed and bonded. But such a list would still obviously be helpful. Those interested can contact Paul Heinze ([715-456-7194](tel:715-456-7194)/ilcmaintenance@ilc.edu).

The Sermon.....1 Corinthians 3:5-9 (NASB)

What then is Apollos? And what is Paul? Servants through whom you believed, even as the Lord gave *opportunity* to each one. ⁶ I planted, Apollos watered, but God was causing the growth. ⁷ So then neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but God who causes the growth. ⁸ Now he who plants and he who waters are one; but each will receive his own reward according to his own labor. ⁹ For we are God's fellow workers; you are God's field, God's building.*

Only God Makes the Garden Grow

1. By deeply planting faith in hearts
2. By continually watering with His Word

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Announcements

"If the Lord wills, we will do this or that." James 4:15

Next Sunday is the 7th Sunday after Pentecost

10am – Divine Service with Holy Communion

11am – Quarterly Voter’s Meeting

Special Thanks to all the members of Mt. Zion Lutheran Church for so graciously welcoming Pastor Naumann and his wife to your congregation! We are amazed and thankful for all the work that has been put into preparing the parsonage for our coming. The installation service last Sunday was truly uplifting and spiritually encouraging. Thank you to everyone who helped out with the potluck dinner. It was fantastic! We look forward to growing in God’s grace with you in the coming years.

Initial Pastoral Visits: Over the next few months, Pastor Naumann would like to have an initial pastoral visit with each member and/or family of the congregation. The visit will include cordial conversation, a pastoral devotion, discussion about church business at Mt. Zion, and anything else you would like to confer about. In order to help facilitate the scheduling of these visits, please find your name on the membership spreadsheet in the back of church. Make any necessary corrections to name, phone numbers, email addresses, and home addresses. Please make checkmarks under the “Personal Preferences” section of the spreadsheet to indicate days and times when you would be most able to meet. Pastor Naumann will be contacting you soon to schedule a visit.

14th Annual Lower Michigan Youth Camp for Grades 6-12 will be held August 7-10 (Mon-Thurs) at Pigeon Creek County Park in West Olive, MI (near Grand Haven). For more information and an online registration form visit www.redeemerclc.info. Registrations are due no later than Sunday, July 30.

The Psalm of the Day.....Psalm 65:9-13

Pastor: You visit the earth and water it;

Congregation: you greatly enrich it;

P: The river of God is full of water;

C: you provide their grain, for so you have prepared it.

P: You water its furrows abundantly, settling its ridges,

C: softening it with showers, and blessing its growth.

P: You crown the year with your bounty;

C: your wagon tracks overflow with abundance.

P: The pastures of the wilderness overflow,

C: the hills gird themselves with joy,

P: The meadows clothe themselves with flocks,

C: the valleys deck themselves with grain, they shout and sing together for joy.

New Testament Reading.....Matthew 13:1-9,18-23

That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea. ² And great crowds gathered about him, so that he got into a boat and sat down. And the whole crowd stood on the beach. ³ And he told them many things in parables, saying: "A sower went out to sow. ⁴ And as he sowed, some seeds fell along the path, and the birds came and devoured them. ⁵ Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and immediately they sprang up, since they had no depth of soil, ⁶ but when the sun rose they were scorched. And since they had no root, they withered away. ⁷ Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. ⁸ Other seeds fell on good soil and produced grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. ⁹ He who has ears, let him hear."

¹⁸ "Hear then the parable of the sower: ¹⁹ When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what has been sown in his heart. This is what was sown along the path. ²⁰ As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy, ²¹ yet he has no root in himself, but endures for a while, and when tribulation or persecution arises on account of the word, immediately he falls away. ²² As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of the world and the deceitfulness of riches choke the word, and it proves unfruitful. ²³ As for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it. He indeed bears fruit and yields, in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty."