

Pastor's Pen



**You have come to Mount Zion,
to the heavenly Jerusalem,
the city of the living God.
You have come to thousands upon thousands
of angels in joyful assembly,
to the church of the firstborn,
whose names are written in heaven.**

Hebrews 12:22-23

St. Matthew, Apostle and Evangelist

And when the Pharisees saw it, they said to His disciples, "Why does your Teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?" When Jesus heard that, He said to them, "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. (Matthew 9:11-12)

In the Name + of Jesus. Amen. Jesus not only ate with sinners and tax collectors, He called one of those tax collectors to be an Apostle! That was St. Matthew. The Pharisees just couldn't see how the Lord could have anything to do with people who are so sinful. How about you? Are there people you would never associate with because you figure they are too weird, unpopular, or sinful? What about that little part of you that tells you that you must be better than THOSE sorts of people?

To such sinners and Pharisees as us, the Apostle Matthew preaches Christ. He reminds us of Jesus' words that He didn't come to save healthy people but sick people; not righteous people but sinners. If you're righteous, if you're better than others, odds are you don't need a Savior. Good luck on your own!

But to those who are sinners, who know they judge others, who don't love God more than anything else, who don't love others more than themselves—to such sinners Jesus came to be nailed to the cross. Jesus calls a man whose job was to legally rob people of their income to instead be a preacher and tell people that Christ has paid the debt of sin that they owed. The Lord collected, but He collected from Christ, His only begotten Son, who was crucified to pay the price of our sins.

Now Matthew, who was formerly the guy who said, "Pay what you owe!" is now the Apostle who says "What you owe has been paid!" And so it is from your pastor, a sinner who has been called by Christ to preach the Good News to you: Your sins are forgiven. You are baptized. Christ's body and blood are given for you.

We celebrate St. Matthew because he is an example of a sinner whom the Lord saved, because he was the Evangelist who wrote down this Good News of what Jesus did for you, and because he is an Apostle who proclaimed that Good News to the world. It's the same Good News that tells you that Jesus has come for you and healed you from your sin. In the Name of Jesus. Amen.

***Praise, Lord, for him whose Gospel Your human life declared,
Who, worldly gain forsaking, Your path of suffering shared.
From all unrighteous mammon, O raise our eyes anew
That we in our vocation May rise and follow You. (LSB 518:25)***

Peace.
Pastor Berndt

Calendar of Events for September

- 9 Summary of Christian Doctrine, 7:00pm
- 10 Midweek and Confirmation, 5:45pm
Choir, 7:00pm
- 14 ZIGGY, 4:00pm
Bible Study, 6:30pm
- 15 Board of Discipleship, 1:30pm
Women's Bible Study, 6:45pm
- 16 Summary of Christian Doctrine, 7:00pm
- 17 Midweek and Confirmation, 5:45pm
Choir, 7:00pm
- 21 ZIGGY, 4:00pm
Bible Study, 6:30pm
- 22 Women's Bible Study, 6:45pm
- 23 Quilters, 10:00am
Rebekah Circle, 7:00pm
Summary of Christian Doctrine, 7:00pm

NEW BIBLE STUDY - YOU CAN STILL COME!

A new Bible Class entitled "Summary of Christian Doctrine" began last Tuesday, September 9, @ 7:00pm in the multipurpose room. This class will cover the basics of the faith and will be 12 weeks. This class is primarily for those seeking membership, but all are welcome. Pastor Berndt will be teaching the class. All materials will be provided. Contact the church office if you have any questions.

CONTACTING PASTOR

If you would need to contact Pastor , his preferred email address is:

PastorBerndt@zionwest.org

MIDWEEK CLASSES

Jesus is inviting little children to where He is to give out His Blessings, to give out His Gift and to teach His Baptized Children how to live in Him. Mid-Week is drawing near. We would like to invite you to bring you kids, preschool through 5th grade, to Zion on Wednesday Night from 5:45-6:45for Mid-Week instruction. This is a great time to be in God's House, to hear the Word of the Lord and be with other Christian friends in fellowship.



YOUTH PRESENTATION

The youth will be presenting during the Adult Bible study group on Sunday, the 14th. They will be talking about their experiences at Idaho Servant Adventures and sharing how God is working through the camp to serve the people of the Silver Valley.

1 JOHN BIBLE STUDY

Join us every Sunday between services for a study of the book of 1 John. If you miss a week, you can find Pastor's Bible Study handout online. It is available in the Downloads section of the church website (www.zionwest.org).