



## A Message from Pastor Mathew

Two pastor friends were standing out on the highway holding signs. One sign read, "The end is near." The other sign read, "Turn back before it's too late." A man drives by and is perturbed at the preachy signs, and thinks, "why don't those crazy preachers do something useful?!"

Twenty yards or so down the road his car goes right into the creek. Kersplash! One pastor turns to the other and says, "do you think our signs should've just said, 'bridge out ahead'?"

Of course those signs should've been different. It wasn't the message or their length. But, the context made a huge difference. When we have an important message to communicate, it is important that we choose our words carefully. Consider how people might hear what you're saying.

We as the Church have an important task of living and sharing the love of Jesus. When we try to get the word out concerning our faith, we don't want to cause misunderstanding. We don't want people to miss the point we're trying to make. If the Good News of the Gospel is to be heard, we need to pray carefully about how that is done, giving a great consideration of the context of our community and culture around us.

As we at Zion work on our strategic communication, we pray that this newsletter will help not only share what the Lord is up to in our midst but also how the Lord can help you to live and share the love of Jesus.

God's peace,

Pastor Mathew

### OUR MISSION: WHY WE EXIST

To bring people into a covenantal relationship with the Lord (Matthew 28:19-20), and to equip them for personal growth and impact (Ephesians 4:11-26).



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### Communications Team

*Cara Mittenzway*

*Carolyn Giovannitti*

*Cheryl Squier*

## Family Ministry *by Laura Brodland*

Family Ministry is the supporting Ministry for PreK through 5<sup>th</sup> grade Sunday School, parent education, and family interaction. The past year was challenging for Family Ministry as Zion found itself without a director for our children and families.

God's presence in our lives was surely evident as volunteers donated much appreciated time and talents to ensure our children were served. THANK YOU to all who helped! God continues to watch over us as Zion prepares to begin the interview process for part-time Family and Youth Coordinators. Each member has the opportunity to serve as a "Helping Hand" to God and our families while supporting our coordinators. If you can serve at a regu-

lar time or for an hour, your time in service would be a blessing (e.g. re-stock & organize the Sunday School supplies; Support Crew for "Special Day(s)"; coordinate snacks for "Special Day(s)"; Help with Parent Forum (NOT TEACH); Substitute or helper crew for Sunday School; Christmas or Easter Special Crew; wash toys or deep clean nursery). Zion members working together on small parts will create the energy to spread **His** good news throughout Zion and our community! Please prayerfully consider sharing a little bit of yourself with "Family ministry" this year! Please keep family ministry in your prayers especially as they work towards selecting a new Coordinator.

### VBS 2022 Monumental Pastor Mathew & "Agape"



## COE President Corner *by Dan Fisher*

I am excited to introduce **Zion's Newsletter** which will be published every other month thru 2022 and monthly starting in 2023. The newsletter will replace the COE President and Pastor quarterly update. We are hopeful that the newsletter will improve communication within the Church and provide you with a wealth of information. Thanks to the communications team.

This year's Vacation Bible School theme was **Monumental!** The 60 attendees learned about God's unwavering love no matter how difficult times are. Zion was transformed into the Southwest USA by a creative VBS team. The decorations included a train traveling thru the Southwest that showed the beauty of God's creation as well as cactuses, a Chuck Wagon and a Prairie Schooner. Pastor Mathew was a master storyteller, teaching the children the story of Joseph and how God was always present in his life with unconditional love. The crafts, snacks, music and games supported the Monumental theme and displayed the creativity of our volunteers. The highlight of the week was the Friday Night Performance followed by tasty Sub-Zero ice cream. Watching the children perform was truly inspirational and you could feel God's presence in their songs. The positive energy flowing throughout the Church was **MONUMENTAL!**

God Bless, Dan

## Prayer Concerns

Bruce Campbell  
Michael Capozzoli  
Corey Fischer  
Judy Kocinski  
Adam Morrow  
Glenn & Phyllis Ribblett  
Bill Savage

If you would like to share a prayer of praise or thanksgiving in a future newsletter, please notify the office.

ZLC

## Baptismal Birthdays

Cecilia Buzzelli – August 17, 2019  
Emily DiGiorno – July 18, 2004  
Tommy Dolgos – July 18, 2004  
Harley Eperthener – August 18, 2013  
Rebecca Gruntz – August 23, 2009  
Adelai Haugh – August 10, 2014  
Brenna Nagel – July 20, 2013  
Claudia Matus – August 16, 2020  
Laira Matus – August 16, 2020  
Christopher Rayburg – August 31, 2008  
Alec Runevitch – July 16, 2016  
Garrett Russen – July 12, 2009  
Elizabeth Schubert – August 17, 2008  
Carmen Sciulli – July 10, 2016  
Giovanni Sciulli – July 10, 2016  
Charles Thatcher – July 31, 2016

Mark your Calendar

**Sunday School starts on September 11th**

Registration will begin on August 1, 2022

[Sunday School | Zion Lutheran Church \(zlcbrentwood.org\)](https://www.zlcbrentwood.org)

## Congratulations 2022 Confirmands

Ashley Dodge,  
Christopher Dodge,  
Maya Lewis  
Savanna Lewis  
Nico Puglin  
Angelia Robinson  
Elizabeth Schubert



## Congratulations 2022 Graduates

Tommy Dolgos  
Mt. Lebanon H.S.

Grant Evans  
Grove City College

Corey Fischer  
Waynesburg University

Leyna Laurent  
Baldwin H.S.

Ryan Jakubek, MBA  
Liberty University

Noah Knerr  
Point Park University

Ben McCrimmon  
N. American Luth Sem.

### Church Cookout— August 13

We know you're busy during the summer so why not end your Saturday by coming to worship and staying for a cookout? Register for the cookout and sign up to bring a side dish or dessert at [Potluck for August Cookout \(mealtrain.com\)](http://mealtrain.com)

or contact Karen Stoddart at 412-580-5814 and let her know what you are bringing.

### Golf Outing—July 31

Zion members and friends are invited to participate in a golf outing on Sunday, July 31 at Butler's Golf Course in Elizabeth. If you are interested in attending the outing, please contact John Thatcher.

[jhthatcher@verizon.net](mailto:jhthatcher@verizon.net)

### Community Clothes Exchange—August 20

Join Mattie Porter for a Community Clothes Exchange hosted at Zion. Free clothing is available for everyone, sizes infant to XLL.

Zion's Benevolent Memorial Fund will provide new underwear and socks free of charge at the event.

### Music Ministry Picnic—August 21—South Park



All are invited to a picnic at South Park's Woodland Crest Pavilion on Sunday, August 21 from 12:00 -3:00 p.m. Directions: Corrigan Drive to Stone Manse Drive. Parking is available near the pavilion and across the road. There is a playground for the kids. Hamburgers, buns and condi-

ments will be provided. Please bring any additional food, drinks and utensils you wish to have for you and your family. There is no electricity or running water. RSVP by Monday, August 15 at [Picnic Registration - Google Forms](#)



### Music Ministry —Vocal Ensemble Start-up

Watch for a new vocal ensemble to start up this fall! Please, consider joining our music ministry groups: Luther Bells, Angelus Ringers, Vocal Ensemble, special music opportunities. **Rehearsals start up the week of September 11<sup>th</sup>.** If you are interested or would like more information on joining a group, contact Sherry Galland, Director of Music Ministry at [musicministry@zlbrentwood.org](mailto:musicministry@zlbrentwood.org)

### Books and Bags Giveaway Event



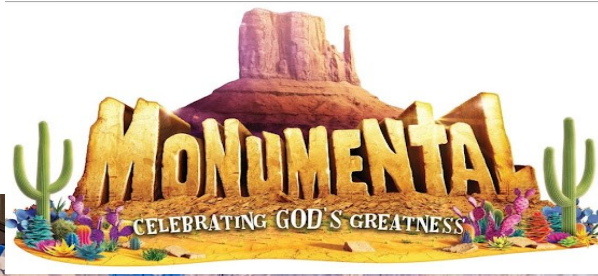
Ministry of Christian Life will be giving away gently used books and handbags as a community event on July 30<sup>th</sup> from 10 am – 2 pm. Please drop off books and handbags in the Heritage Room before July 24<sup>th</sup>. Spread the word about this event with your friends and neighbors! Contact Karen Stoddart at [kastoddart@gmail.com](mailto:kastoddart@gmail.com) with any questions or to volunteer to help make this event a success.

### Grandma's Attic—August 27

Mark your calendar! Grandma's Attic flea market is coming back on Saturday, August 27 from 8a-2p. You may also shop on August 27 and 28 following worship services.

Donated items may be brought into the Heritage Room starting Monday, August 1.





Pictures at: [Vacation Bible School | Zion Lutheran Church \(zlcbrentwood.org\)](http://Vacation Bible School | Zion Lutheran Church (zlcbrentwood.org))

### **A Special Thanks to those who served God during VBS:**

- Lane Magera Co-Chair Planning Committee(PC)
- Dan Fisher Co-Chair PC and Train Conductor
- Amanda Mainarich (PC & Snack Coordinator)
- Sandy Oeler (PC & Arts/Crafts)
- Curt Neill (PC & Games)
- Amy Jakubek (PC & Photography)
- Laura Brodland (PC & Decorations)
- Sherry Galland (Music)
- Carolyn Giovannitti, Harold & Cara Mittenzway (work behind the scenes)
- Ed Schillo (Building Chuch Wagon)
- Ministry of Property (Building Prairie Schooner)
- Donna Puglin (Sub-Zero Ice Cream)
- Pastor Mathew (Master Story Teller)
- To all of the adult and amazing youth leaders who strived to make a safe and fun week for all.
- To you for your financial and prayerful support of VBS.



As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace.

1 Peter 4:10



## Youth Ministry *by Pastor Mathew*



### **Zion's Youth Shining God's Light in Someone Else's Storm**

Zion's Youth Ministry disciples our 6th thru 12th graders by working with various aspects of ministry to these ages, including confirmation for our middle school students, a Sunday school class for our high schoolers, and a number of different youth group events that include time for fellowship, service projects, and fundraisers. It's a slow process recovering our youth ministry after COVID but we have made great strides in reaching our youth with the Good News of Jesus. Last fall began our time getting back together. We now have a youth leadership team, comprised of students representing each grade in the youth group. This team comes together to help plan what the youth group does, suggests topics for faith discussions, and plans devotions. We held a chili cookoff last fall, which we plan to host again. Other activities our youth have participated in are: Shopping for Christmas presents to support the Foster Love Project, Hosting a Shrove Tuesday dinner, and a spring lock-in. The confirmation students went on a retreat to Jumonville in May, and our youth group went on a mission trip to Gatlinburg, TN. Zion's Youth Ministry seeks support from the congregation through prayer and financial contributions so we can be active and serve at Church and in our community and by your partnership in service at events and having faith-based relationships with our students. Please remain in prayer as we seek a Youth Ministry Coordinator. We are hopeful this person will help as the Lord continues to grow this ministry.

A Special Thanks to those that chaperoned the Youth Mission Trip: Pastor Mathew, Brett Gosnell, Catey Gosnell and our junior leaders Justin Sartory and Erin Urbaniak.