



A Message from Pastor Mathew

Eileen and her grandson Josh were enjoying a day at the beach. The ocean was sparkling and majestic. Out of nowhere a monstrous wave swooped in and carried Josh out to sea. Eileen panicked and began to worry. She dropped to her knees and began to pray, "Lord God, please rescue and restore my grandson back to me!" Soon after this, another large wave rolls in and deposits Josh on the beach, safe and sound. Eileen looks up to heaven and mutters, "and where is that expensive hat I bought him?"

* * *

I suppose that's one way to look at the story. Another way would be to give thanks for the gift of life and health. Josh's hat, regardless of how it looked or what it cost, is nothing compared to Josh having been redeemed to his grandmother from the vast salty ocean tomb.

Psalm 106 opens with these words, "Oh give thanks to the Lord, for he is good." God is good. These words speak the truth. But behind these words, they speak another truth. Sure, God is good. But in comparison, looking at our sinful nature, we are not. We can easily be deceived and lose our focus on the Lord. We can easily place our eyes on that which we lack, rather than on the majesty and might of our creator and His gracious faithfulness to us.

The beginning of Lent, which we will enter this month, begins with a stark reminder that God is good but that because of sin, our destiny is the dust from which we came. To admit that God is good is a challenge because with it we must also put ourselves in the right place. To concern ourselves with a hat over the life of our own flesh and blood seems extreme, right? Yet, every day we concern ourselves with much more over our own creator. But thanks be to God that His love meets us here and that rather than letting us wash out to sea, his plan of redemption through Jesus begins as his journey to the cross threatens the waves that aim to take us down to the depths.

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 Mittenzwey

Carolyn Giovannitti

Cheryl Squier

COE President's Message *by Hal Donachy*

Hi everybody! What a prayer-filled and rewarding journey it's been! I must tell you that it's been a whirlwind, having the congregation elect me to the Council of Elders again; and then to be consecutively, unanimously voted in as President. I am truly blessed by all of you, thank you for your confidence. I appreciate your dedication, which has brought us to this point, and I look forward to the many opportunities that working together with you will bring us this year. The first month has been filled with discussions and meetings to gain a more detailed understanding of the church. I have found it rewarding in finding out more about how we are truly blessed with such devoted and enthusiastic members. I commend you for your tireless commitment to Zion's mission. This year we are celebrating 223 years of Zion, we will host the formal installation of our former long-term Pastor, Rev. Dr. Eric Riesen, as the NALS President. We'll look to grow our Family and Christian Life ministries, find more fellowship opportunities that bring us closer as a congregation of individuals, and especially strive to grow our intentional outreach by living missionally. This Council is continuing the hard work of directing and leading Zion, using our strategic plan, and readjusting with the post-pandemic effects we're experiencing. I'm calling on you to join that effort as an individual, as a family, and as a member of the Church. I was amazed to read that there are as many Lutherans in Ethiopia as there are in the US, and that there were more Christians worshiping in communist China than there are worshiping right here at home. I want the change to begin right here with me, and with each of you. I want us to truly become intentional about our gracious efforts to invite people, from all parts of our lives, to meet our church family at Zion Lutheran Church. I can imagine, if my words were to reach you and cause a viral wave of influx of new visitors, like a Facebook wave of new followers of the hottest R&B artist on the charts. The target of our audience would of course be Christ, and the people would find their new church home here. I wish you could see what I imagine we could be, by reaching out more intentionally.

I'm reassured, by your acceptance and acknowledgment, that to get there, it takes me and you, to find a way to connect with **one person, one stray family member, one friend at school, one cashier at the checkout line** that is in need of your appreciation and invitation. **Just one**, to get us started to become sensational. Let's be that one, together, for Christ our Lord.

Prayerfully,

- Hal



ZION VOICES

Tuesdays—7:15pm

Sign up to sing

Contact Sherry Galland, Director of Music
musicministry@zlcbrentwood.org

Come, let us sing for joy to the Lord; let us shout aloud to the Rock of our salvation.

Psalms 95:1

Prayer Concerns

Michael Capozzoli
Marilyn Detwiler
Corey Fischer
Peyton Hill
Pat Jason
Shirley Mosticone
Phyllis Ribblett
Pat Sheridan
Larry Shurtz

ZLC

BAPTISMAL BIRTHDAYS for February

Justin E Thatcher	February 21, 2021
Bella S Morrow	February 15, 2015
Charles T Reed	February 29, 2020

*If we are missing your child's baptism date, please advise the church office.

Women's Bible Study

Focusing on encountering God's peace and being filled with His strength. The study will be in person in the library as well as online via Zoom.

Thursdays 7-8p

1/26-2/16 & 4/20-5/11

ZLC

Youth Ministry



ANNUAL SARRIS CANDY SALE

Benefits the Youth Summer Trip
Order forms can be found at the Sanctuary entrances. **Deadline to order is 2/26/23.**
Order now to support Zion's Youth.

SHROVE TUESDAY PANCAKE DINNER

Hosted by Zion's Youth
Tuesday
February 21
5:30 PM - 7:30 PM
SAVE THE DATE!

STUDIES and SMALL GROUPS

If you are interested in studying the Word or fellowship, see the studies and small groups section of Zion's website to learn more or sign up.

[Studies and Small Groups | Zion Lutheran Church](#)
zlcbrantwood.org

Community Invitation

Brentwood Presbyterian is offering a free hot buffet (dine in or take out) the 2nd Sunday of each month at 4:30 PM beginning 2/12/23.



LENTEN SERVICES

ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE

2/22/23 7 P.M.

Mid-week Lenten services
Heritage Chapel

Wednesdays at 7 P.M.

3/1, 3/8, 3/15, 3/22, 3/29

Benevolent Memorial Fund (BMF) Committee

By John Thatcher

Zion's BMF Committee has worked over the past several months to meet with all the organizations that receive our donations. These organizations include the following recipients: South Park Meals on Wheels (MOW), Bethel Park MOW, Castle Shannon MOW, Brookline MOW, Pleasant Hills Police Department, Baldwin Police Department, Brentwood School District, Baldwin-Whitehall School District and the Community Clothing Exchange. We still have a few more organizations for distribution, but they will occur next month. In all cases, our committee sends our members to meet with the organization, rather than just mailing them a check, so as to develop a relationship between Zion and the key members of each recipient organization.

When we delivered the check to South Park MOW, their commercial freezer had just failed after many years of use. The executive director said our donation could not have come at a better time. Likewise, when we delivered the Aldi Gift cards to the Pleasant Hills Police Department, we met a recipient of the gift cards at their Borough Building. All organizations are very supportive of our program, and appreciative of our giving.



BMF delivery check to the Brentwood Meals on Wheels

left to right—Zion (Pastor, Sandy Valenson) Finance Director for Brentwood MOW, Zion members & MOW volunteers (Nancy Angelo & Carol Succop)

BMF Committee vision: "To know the love of God, and to show the love of Christ."