



## A Message from Pastor Mathew

I'm a big fan of short one-liner jokes, dad jokes, and even anti-jokes. Their humor isn't something you have to go searching for. Yet, we're so used to getting out the theoretical map and flashlight to look for a punchline that it can easily be missed. What's blue and smells like red paint? Well, it's blue paint. Or, what's brown and sticky? Now, before you stick your head in the gutter, I'll tell you the answer is a stick. See what I mean? The fact that they don't carry your mind off on a sea of words or misdirection is where the humor comes from. It's so simple, it just makes you chortle a little bit. Even the word chortle, can make you, well, you know.

It can be tempting for us to make more of the basic truth than is actually necessary. For instance, a few weeks ago, as we went through *1 Corinthians*, I remember preaching on Paul's words: "For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and him crucified." When we think of our faith, we agree that Jesus and him crucified are central to that faith. But we can be led to believe that there is more to it than that. Sure, our faith is centralized in the cross, but it's the cross and... this. Or the cross and... that. Filling in the blank, we can turn a Gospel of grace into a Gospel of grace and requirements, as if the cross is only good for you if you do such and such. I will be the first one to say that understanding that the Gospel requires nothing of us is a difficult truth. But, if pure grace required something of us, it wouldn't be pure grace, it wouldn't be grace at all.

Let us keep in mind that the world requires many things of us and has trained us to go looking with maps and flashlights for all that will fulfill them. But, the Gospel of Jesus isn't hidden in a sea of words or misdirection. The punchline is staring us in the face and it is Jesus and him crucified; period. Pure grace that brings a smile to our face.

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*

Busy people make time. (I really should have seen this coming.) I enjoy *polysemous* phrases and the thoughts they can provoke. Words or phrases that have the potential of multiple meanings, like the hook of a great country song, or the deeper meaning of a scriptural verse. When you're happy you enjoy the music, and when you're sad you understand the lyrics. Words that shape us and endure in our memories bringing you to a better place.

Although I wanted to open with asking you how last month went with inviting others to meet Zion, it's a newsletter and you can't answer me, so I'll say keep up the efforts, every day starts fresh. This month I've been very busy indeed. Busy getting schooled in the operations of our church. Busy asking if fundamentally we are operating the way we should be to achieve the goals we've set for ourselves through our strategic plan, mission statement, Church's vision, and God's plan for our lives. I am convinced that Council has many exciting new ideas and opportunities before it to enable Pastor Matthew to help grow and guide Zion this year and beyond. But in short this will be a tough job, and we've got to get busy, individually, and as a group.

My grandparents were a big part of my life. My grandmother was always caring for her family every way she knew how. My apologies to the rest of you grandmothers but mine had the best cookies and Sunday dinners by far. It absolutely defies all understanding because she did not even have 5 ft of countertop space with which to work in her tiny kitchen in North Braddock. My grandfather was then retired, although he was a registered master electrician, vocational ed teacher and president of the teachers' union. They raised my mother, her sister and twin boys with cerebral palsy. With their help and support, my mother, a widow since I was five, put herself through college and embarked on a professional career to support her family properly. Busy lives? - Yes I think so. But just the same, these leaders in my life were always there for me.

These people were not superhuman, they've had common failings just like all of us. That's truly unimportant because the real lessons I learned from them was something they never spoke of, in all of their days. Despite their importance, it wasn't talk of memorizing scripture like *Philippians 2:3-4*, *Proverbs 19:17*, or even *Psalms 40*: "...He inclined to me and heard my cry. He also brought me up." No, what I truly learned from these leaders in my life was that **busy people make time.**

Zion needs you to do this too: get busy and make some time. Honestly resolve to help us with our mission. Come to church, praise and worship God for all that is good comes from Him. Help us bring people closer to Him. Join our mission, find a way to plug in here for a bible study or help with a ministry or committee. One hour or so on average weekly will make a huge impact. Start by sticking around for coffee hour and talking about it with someone you don't know so well. In *The Sacrament of Evangelism*, Jerry Root writes that God is already sovereignly working with everyone that you meet, and that you are a physical manifestation of that work, whether you realize it or not; it's a sacred moment. The hook is: **you make us possible.**

## Prayer Concerns

Michael Capozzoli  
Corey Fischer  
David Glenn  
Bill Greiner  
Peyton Hill  
Pat Jason  
Karen Matalavage  
Shirley Mosticone  
Phyllis Ribblett  
Suzanne Roberts  
Pat Sheridan  
Karen Stoddart

### Zion's Prayer Circle

Zion's Prayer Circle distributes prayer requests weekly via email, usually on Wednesday. Circle members commit to praying for those included in the email (specific prayer requests, prayer concerns listed in the weekly bulletin, and continued prayer requests). Prayer requests usually remain in the email for 2 weeks unless removal is requested. Anyone can add a prayer request by emailing the Prayer Circle Coordinator, Anita Reck, or by contacting the church office. If you wish to become a **prayer warrior**, please send an email to the church office or to [areck1255@comcast.net](mailto:areck1255@comcast.net)

### MARCH BAPTISMAL BIRTHDAYS

Taylor L. Bommer	March 12, 2005
Nicole L. Gruntz	March 20, 2011
Lukas R. Beuchel	March 3, 2018

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

## THANK YOU

Thank you received from the Baldwin-Whitehall School District Superintendent of Schools for the donation made for students in need.

## FAMILY MINISTRY

### MARCH MADNESS EVENT

**Keep Calm...  
You are on God's Team!**

Families with children **Pre-K thru 5th grade** are invited to join.

**March 19, 2023**

Immediately following the 10:30 Service

Hoops, crafts,  
games, lunch



RSVP to:

Rodlyn at 412-445-9381  
Or familyministry  
[@zlcbrentwood.org](mailto:@zlcbrentwood.org)

## YOUTH MINISTRY

**Sarris Candy Pickup** at  
Zion beginning on  
March 31, 2023.

## LENTEN DEVOTIONALS

### ZION MUSIC MINISTRY

[Music Ministry Devotional](#)

### NALC—LOVED & FREED

[North American Lutheran  
Church \(thenalc.org\)](http://North American Lutheran Church (thenalc.org))

## MID-WEEK LENTEN SERVICES and MEALS



JOIN US ON WEDNESDAYS DURING LENT FOR A MEAL, PRAYER SERVICE  
AND/OR BOOK STUDY.

<b>LENTEN MEALS</b>	6:00 PM	More information and Meal train link at: <a href="#">Events   Zion Lutheran Church (zlc Brentwood.org)</a>
<b>PRAYER SERVICE</b>	7:00 PM	HERITAGE CHAPEL
<b>BOOK STUDY</b>	7:30 PM	LIBRARY "Having a Mary Heart in a Martha World" <a href="#">Small Groups and Studies   Zion Lutheran Church (zlc Brentwood.org)</a>

### Heath and Safety Committee *By Curt Neill*

In 2018 Allegheny County Department of Emergency Services conducted an All-Hazards Assessment of the interior and exterior church campus. Several safety-related recommendations were presented to the COE for review which lead to the formation of an Ad hoc Safety Committee. This committee began meeting in March 2019.

As COVID-19 presented in 2020, this committee collaborated with the COE and Pastor to create a safe means of worshipping and supporting ministries in spite of pandemic restrictions and limitations. At the January 2021 Annual Meeting, the congregation voted to appoint the Safety Committee as an on-going vestry committee.

The Committee goal is to promote the health and safety of our church members through education, training, and Christian vigilance. The committee is principally comprised of the members who have experience in healthcare, building and property safety, security, law enforcement and/or state and federal grant writing. The chairperson is appointed annually by the COE. Some committee activities are: (1) Preparing Zion for unexpected emergencies and incidents, (2) Assisting with general safety measure and accident prevention awareness, and (3) Coordinating training programs for staff, the congregation and the surrounding community.

#### ZION BLOOD DRIVE



**SATURDAY  
MARCH 25, 2023  
10:00 AM—3:00 PM**  
Fellowship Hall

To schedule an appointment, go to  
<https://donateblood.centralbloodbank.org>  
Or call (412) 209-7000

Group code: G0030095

For more information visit [Vitalant.org](https://Vitalant.org)



#### TIME IS BRAIN: Life Saving Stroke Program

**March 30, 2023 (Thursday) 6 PM**  
Fellowship Hall

Presented by:  
**Jennifer Stivason, DNP, RN, CEN**  
Stroke Programmatic Nurse Specialist  
UPMC Mercy

**Register** by calling the church office.

