



## A Message from Pastor Mathew

An airliner had just pushed back from the gate and was headed to the runway when the pilot came on the intercom and announced that they would be going back to the gate due to an engine problem. They pulled back in and before long, the pilot emerges from the cockpit and walks out the door to, as everyone thought, investigate the problem. Not more than five minutes later a new pilot walks on, enters the cockpit, the doors close, and the plane pushes back and begins to taxi out to the runway. A passenger asks a flight attendant what happened. The flight attendant said, "The pilot didn't like the sound of the engine, so we got a new pilot."

\* \* \*

You likely realize the problem here. Replacing the pilot doesn't solve the problem. There is a danger for that flight that still remains because nobody thought to deal with what was going on inside the engine.

Jesus notes about the Jewish leaders in Mark 7 as he quotes Isaiah, "This people honors me with their lips, but their heart is far from me." What Jesus is getting at is that despite a finer suit, car, address, diploma, degree, or job, if a person has evil in their heart (and we all do), then unless that person gets a new heart, everything else is just covering up the problem.

We've got an engine problem, but just switching the pilot isn't going to fix it. Just changing our minds about it, just changing something about us, our appearance, our attitude, even our habits of Bible reading and worship, none of that will change anything. We must surrender ourselves to Jesus.

As we live in this Easter season, we rejoice in the God who gives and forgives. As David cries out in Psalm 51, "create in me a clean heart, O God." And the wonderful news is that he most certainly will, and does. That's the loving God we believe in and share with others.

Speaking of our belief in God, I encourage you to consider your summer worship schedule as we dive into our beliefs in a sermon series I'm leading on the Apostles' Creed. We speak these beliefs on our lips quite often, but are our hearts in them? Let's think about this old creed and what its biblical foundation can say about us who are made new in Jesus. It all begins on Pentecost weekend, May 27-28<sup>th</sup>.

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

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## COE President's Message *by Hal Donachy*

Beyond the presence of God in everything everywhere always around me, there is only one thing that I have found as a constant in life so far: change. Correspondingly, as a life-long Pittsburgher, I can tell you that change is one thing Pittsburghers haven't really learned to love. But, just as God is in everything everywhere, change is inevitable.

Ok so we don't always love it, but we're all ready for some change, now and again, when it's for the better. Council is changing things, little or big, almost always. That's much of what we do in our work for you. We're working through some technology matters that relate to most everything from accounting, human resources, information, web presence, Ministry plans, communications and even event planning and hosting. We deal with the change for you and inform you along the way, or when you come to one of our meetings the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday, monthly. I wonder if you are up for change as well?

As the boss of one of my previous bosses said: "Change before you have to."-Jack Welch. I've changed plenty over my life, thankfully. Probably due to that change, I am husband to one of God's most gracious creations and the father of three of the most wonderful young men to walk the earth. Although I endeavored to become an engineer, my undergraduate degree is in accounting; I've held financial roles in corporate accounting, management, corporate real estate and investment management as well as financial staffing. I'm a self-taught real estate investor, home builder and residential developer with an over 20-year track record. All things considered, I don't think He minds my many failures as much as He would mind me hiding my light under a pot or refusing to change to be able to have a light in the first place. So, throughout all the change in my life, whatever skills I've gained and lessons that I've learned, I make myself available to this congregation through my offering of service.

Since joining the council, I've been telling you that Zion needs your help. Even an hour or two in a month will effect change. Presently, your church is in need of your help filling financial leadership roles. It's easy to expect someone else to do it and even feel relieved when you aren't being tapped on the shoulder to be asked, but believe that you are being asked (Ezekiel 22:30). Moreover, Dietrich Bonhoeffer famously noted that "...strong men can bring momentous issues to the fore and make a decision about them, while the weak are always forced to decide between alternatives they have not chosen themselves." And that "One act of obedience is better than one hundred sermons".

In his book The Christian Faith, A Catechism for the Curious, Rev. Dr. Eric Riesen says that "God's call extends over the entirety of our particular lives...We all know Christians who have no serious commitment to the local church. In doing so, they rob the Church of their gifts." I'm truly asking you if you've thought of this before now and if you'll sincerely consider it going forward. Please share the gifts that God has given you, the gift of you for Zion.

As John Maxwell put it: "Change is inevitable. Growth is optional." I add that just as your family at home does, Zion wants your time and your talent, not just your treasure.

## Prayer Concerns

Corey Fischer  
 David Glenn  
 Bill Greiner  
 Joy Hepner  
 Pat Jason  
 George Langford  
 Karen Matalavage  
 Shirley Mosticone  
 Glenn & Phyllis Ribblett  
 Steele & Suzanne Roberts  
 Pat Sheridan  
 Haley Shoemaker  
 Cheryl Squier

## YOUTH FUNDRAISER



To raise money for Youth Ministry, the youth are selling pepperoni rolls.

Pack of 6 -- \$13.00

**Orders and payment are due in full by May 10.**  
Order forms are available at both entrances.

**Pick-up May 18 between 6-8 PM at Zion.**

Contact Kim Rayburg at 412-401-8092 if you require other pick-up options.

## MAY BAPTISMAL BIRTHDAYS

Benjamin Sauer	May 1, 2022
Nico Puglin	May 6, 2007
Christopher Dodge	May 10, 2008
Molly Hedrick	May 12, 2019
Samuel Grice	May 13, 2018
Lucy Hedrick	May 14, 2017
Mya Schneider	May 19, 2019
Brooklyn Nagel	May 21, 2011
Ethan Aultz	May 22, 2010
Garrett Aultz	May 22, 2010
Luke Scholze	May 25, 2019
Shiloh Koeppel	May 27, 2018
Dean Langholz Jr.	May 30, 2021

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

## 50th Anniversary

Congratulations to **Bob** and **Merlyn George** who will be celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary on May 5, 2023,





# Multi-Generational NALC Disaster Packing Event

*Karen Stoddart Chair, Disciple Life Ministry*

Before Palm Sunday Services, the Disciple Life Ministry hosted a NALC Disaster Packing Event. The goal of this event was to gather kitchen supplies to aid those who are in need after tornadoes, storms and other disasters, whether man-made or natural. Young and old alike, joined in this packing event. The children helped gather and assemble the kitchen kits while some of older members manned different stations. 46 members packed 100 kits that will most likely be sent to tornado impacted areas across 7 Midwest and Southern states.

The Disciple Life Ministry thanks all who helped and look forward to you helping us to serve God at the next event.








**“Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!” John 12:13**



**VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL**  
**SAVE THE DATE**  
**June 26-30,**  
**2023**  
Register at [ZLC-Brentwood.org](http://ZLC-Brentwood.org)





## Music Ministry

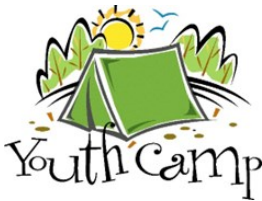


Music can enhance your memory, creativity, and cognitive performance. After only one month of music lessons (in rhythm, pitch, melody and voice), a study at York University showed 90% of children between the ages of 4 and 6 had a significant increase in verbal intelligence! Researcher Sylvain Moreno suggests that the music training had a “transfer effect”, which enhanced the children’s ability to understand words and explain their meaning. Other research found musically trained adult women and children outperformed those without music training on verbal memory tests. Whether an adult or a child, boost your cognitive performance and get involved in music ministry!

## Small Groups and Bible Studies

If you are interested in growing in your faith journey, see Zion’s website for faith education and small groups and studies.

## Middle and High School Youth Summer Trip



Every year Zion’s youth group embarks on a summer trip alternating between mission and camp trips. We are happy to announce that 2023 will be an In-Tents camp trip on July 10-14, 2023. We are hoping for a large youth group to participate in this awesome week of fun and worship.

**Please contact Pastor Mathew for more information and to sign up.**

## NALC Presidential Installation Update

Zion Lutheran Church will host the Installation Service for Rev. Dr. Eric M. Riesen as the President of the Northern American Lutheran Seminary (NALS). A formal invitation has been forwarded via email. If you are interested in attending and have not received an email, please contact the church office immediately. This event is limited by invitation and RSVP.

## Summer Sermon Series

Beginning May 27/28, Pastor Mathew will be preaching on the Apostles Creed pointing out how this foundational creed of Christian faith is relevant to our daily discipleship.

## Time is Brain: Life Saving Stroke Program Presented

Thanks to Jennifer Stivasan DNP, RN, CEN Stroke Programmatic Nurse Specialist UPMC and other volunteers for checking blood pressures and an informative evening.





## Lunch with a Hero Event

Saturday, May 20, 2023  
11:00 AM—3:00 PM  
Fellowship Hall and Parking Lot  
Attendee parking in GBU lot

May 20th is the day before National EMS week. Please stop by Zion for lunch and to meet and recognize some of our local heroes: Baldwin EMS, Brentwood Police, Andy the Ambulance and others.

**Contact the church office to register the number of adults and children who will attend.**

Please support the men and women who serve our community as First Responders and their families through your prayers .

## SUMMER SERVICES

Starting the weekend of May 27/28, **summer services** will be held on **Saturday at 5:00 PM** and **Sunday at 9:30 AM**.

