



A Message from Pastor Mathew

During a little league game one afternoon, the coach came up to one of his young players and asked, "Do you understand what being on a team means?" The boy nodded his head in the affirmative. "Do you understand that what matters is that we play together as a team?" Again, the boy nodded yes. "So," the coach continued, "when a strike is called or you're out at first, you don't argue or swear or attack the umpire. Do you understand that?" The boy nodded yes once again. "Good," said the coach. "Now, go over there and explain it to your parents."

* * *

There's a verse in Proverbs that says, "Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old, he will not depart from it." We often attribute this verse to parenting but I prefer to also expand it to the life of the church. As the body of Christ, we are a family. As part of the baptized multitude, our responsibility is outward to our brothers and sisters in Christ. Our discipleship to them is to help them live and share the love of Jesus in the best way possible. We do this by encouraging worship attendance, deepening strong Christian relationships with each other, and even using those relationships to help keep us accountable, as a few examples.

Look around the sanctuary and think about who you have some kind of a connection with. What might you do to try to deepen that connection? Strike up a conversation? Send them a letter or card in the mail? Also, who do you have a connection with that, as you look around the sanctuary, you do not see in the pews? What can you do to try to deepen that connection and bring them back to worship?

I recently asked some members of the congregation to write down all of the names of people they know in the church who they haven't seen in a while that they would be willing to reach out to in even the smallest of ways. Let me tell you, I received an extensive list. I was amazed at the number of people they had some kind of connection with.

Strong ties keep families together and our church family is no different. Building and repairing those relationships will bring a special and right growth. So, yes, train your children in the way they should go, but let's also work to hold onto our brothers and sisters in Christ so that they may not depart from the good news we have in Jesus Christ.

God's peace,

Pastor Mathew



*Happy are those
who hear the joy-
ful call to worship,
for they will walk
in the light of your
presence, LORD.*

Psalm 89:15

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

COE President's Message *by Hal Donachy*

You know when you're having one of 'those days' or weeks even...when things are just not quite working out as you'd hoped...I didn't plan on throwing out my back, or that leading to me breaking a toe either, but it all happened. Our youngest son graduated high school and is soon to be headed out to college- empty nesters! I'm supposed to be rejoicing in his coming-of-age moment, not shuffling around with various minor pains. Growing pains and gains: this guy is beaming and I'm mildly screaming.

It all got me thinking about unity and diversity in the body. The eye's importance over the hand, how could my body ever be the same without one or the other? How will my family be the same without those young men here driving us mildly crazy in their effort to mature and grow, and then which one of us matters most to our family? Then of course, which part of the church at Zion is the most important, and which part of Christ's Church could we get along without (as if we could)?

We had a resignation on the Council recently, Shari Dodge prayerfully and willingly accepted the role of council member after Colin Neill's resignation in favor of a greater role in ministry. A change that will certainly be greater and more fulfilling to each of them. We've also experienced the resignation of our Treasurer, a vital and necessary role for the continuance of Zion. Anita Reck held the position for over 2 years and was a willing and diligent servant for Zion. Rodlyn Checcio also recently resigned as Family Ministry Coordinator, a job that she executed faithfully with joy. And still others have joined ministries and helped along the way in various forms this year. We're grateful and forever blessed due to each of these individuals' willingness to serve. But still the question arises, is one deserving of greater honor than another?

I believe that change is one of God's constants for us all. And although they're growing in a way and not simply going away, I can't help but wonder where is He leading us and what it will mean to us as a family of God? I also think that same question of my own family and my boys as they grow and go. Hopefully we can all agree that each part should have equal concern and need for each other (1Corinthians 12), be it family or church family. I don't necessarily expect a new teenager in my home in the fall, but the same is not so for the leadership opportunities at Zion: we need you to step up to help and to lead us together. Remain prayerful and willing, you belong to God.

And we know that in all things
God works for the good
of those who love him,
who have been called
according to his purpose.
Romans 8:28

ZION TREASURER

Zion is looking to fill the volunteer position of Treasurer as soon as possible.

If you are interested, please contact Hal Donachy at president@zlcbrrentwood.org

North American Lutheran Church (NALC) Convocation

Every other year, NALC meets in convocation to worship our Lord, collaborate and address business. The 2023 Convocation will be held in Oklahoma City during the week of August 7th. An important business item this year, is the election of a new bishop. In addition to Pastor, Lane Magera & Donna Evans have agreed to go as 2 voting delegates to represent our congregation.



NALC Disaster Response

Home Depot, Walmart and Lowes gift cards are being collected to help disaster victims rebuild their lives following hurricanes, tornadoes and wildfires. Donated gift cards should be placed in the offering plate. They will be delivered at the upcoming NALC Convocation. **Thank you!**

Prayer Concerns

Family of Sandy Coreno
 Family of Phyllis Ribblett
 Family of Charmaine Barker
 Family of Helen Kuhn
 Corey Fischer
 David Glenn
 Bill Greiner
 Joy Hepner
 Pat Jason
 George Langford
 Karen Matalavage
 Shirley Moticone
 Suzanne Roberts
 Pat Sheridan
 Jean Sontag

Summer Worship Sermon Series (Sat @5p, Sun at 9:30a.)

An Old Creed for a New People

Pastor Mathew will continue to lead us through a sermon series on the biblical foundation of the Apostles' Creed, how the faith we profess reflects the Word of God that is the norm and source of faith, and how Jesus is the center of what we believe and how we live.

JULY BAPTISMAL BIRTHDAYS

Garrett Russen	July 12, 2009
Alec Runevitch	July 16, 2016
Brenna Nagel	July 20, 2013
Charles Thatcher	July 31, 2016

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



Picnic!!!

Sponsored by
Music Ministry

Sunday, August 13

12:00-3:00pm

South Park
WOODLAND CREST
PAVILION

www.zlcbrentwood.org

RSVP by Monday, 8/7



GRANDMA'S ATTIC/FLEA MARKET

SAVE THE DATE: Saturday, August 5, 2023

Donated "Treasures" will be accepted between July 3-28
and can be left in the Heritage Room.

Please assure that the donated items are clean
and in working order.

ITEMS **NOT** ACCEPTED: Clothing, Shoes, Computers, Large Furniture
If you have questions, please contact Sandra Schlessman at 412-655-1178.

SHARE YOUR SUMMER FUN WITH YOUR ZION FAMILY

Whether you are travelling to the zoo, a local museum, the beach or another country, please take your newsletter along and take a picture with someone holding up the Zion Newsletter. Please forward your pictures to the Zion Office (office@zlcbrentwood.org). The pictures will be posted on Zion's Facebook page and/or the newsletter so that we can share in your summer fun.

BENEVOLENT MEMORIAL FUND (BMF) update *Submitted by John Thatcher, Committee Chair*

At the June 10th and 11th worship services, John Thatcher delivered a presentation to briefly discuss the history and nature of the BMF Committee and the activities we have been conducting.

Key points of this presentation were:

- ◆ The BMF was created in 1963 when the Gumbel family from Clairton (Zion members at the time) donated almost a half million dollars as part of their estate planning. In response, the BMF committee was created for the purpose of distributing these funds. In the past, this extremely generous donation has been used for college tuition to members, camperships, loans for church building improvements and donations to a wide variety of external benevolent organizations. Today, this fund has well over a million dollars in assets, with a portion of the interest being used for our yearly benevolence donations.
- ◆ Within recent years, our committee, in collaboration with Council, has re-focused our giving to support organizations within 20 minutes of Zion. Current recipients include \$4,000 to each of the Meals on Wheels programs in Brentwood, Castle Shannon, Brookline, South Park and Bethel Park.
- ◆ Other recipients include providing \$2,000 worth of Aldi gift cards to the Police Departments in Whitehall, Pleasant Hills, Jefferson Hills and Baldwin, to be distributed to members of their respective communities that their department deems appropriate. In Brentwood, the gift cards are provided directly to the Council members, for their discretion as to which community members are in need of this support.
- ◆ We also give \$5,000 to Brentwood School District and \$5,000 to Baldwin Whitehall School District, so that their officials can discern those children and families that are in need.
- ◆ We provided \$3,600 this year to the Discipleship Life committee, so they can purchase new socks and underwear to be distributed to members of our community during the Community Clothing Exchange four times a year
- ◆ Each Fall, we provide around \$500 to purchase vegetables for the Light of Life Rescue Mission, in addition to the pies that Zion prepares and delivers.
- ◆ An example of God's grace was when we delivered a \$4000 check to the South Park Meals on Wheels, operating out of Grace Lutheran Church, on a day when their freezer had broke. The executive director didn't know where she was going to find the \$2400 needed to buy a new one.

The BMF Committee requests that Zion's members in the process of estate planning, please consider Zion Lutheran Church or the BMF within your asset distribution. Since 1963, we are grateful for the many significant donations and bequests that have contributed significantly to Zion's mission. We currently donate between 40,000 - \$45,000 per year at the current level of our fund balance. With new additions, we hope to deliver even more of these funds out into our community to show God's grace is present and alive within Zion. Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Committee Members: John Thatcher, Hal Donachy, Alice Carney, Steele Roberts, Cheryl Tracey, Sandy Valenson, Kevin Langholz, Jon Galland, and Rich Schubert



SECOND SATURDAY COOKOUT July 8

Whether you attend Saturday or Sunday worship, join us for fellowship and a cookout following the Saturday Worship Service on July 8th. The meats will be provided by the Ministry of Disciple Life. If you would like to contribute a side dish or dessert, let us know by entering your information on the meal train sign-up sheet (<https://mealtrain.com/6vl9gk>) or by contacting

Karen Stoddart at 412-580-5814.



★ CONGRATULATIONS GRADUATES! ★

★ On June 11, 2023, Zion honored the following graduates:

- ★ Sarah Capozzoli Central Bucks High School
- ★ Aiden Donachy Peters Township High School
- ★ Natalie DiGiorno Carlow University
- ★ Carly Kaminski Robert Morris University (Masters)
- ★ Suzanne Tunder Virginia Tech
- ★ Erin Urbaniak Youngstown State University



FATHER'S DAY

JUNE 18, 2023



Faith of Our Fathers, Living Still....



ATTENTION: PARENTS

Zion's Youth ministry wants you to have some time for yourselves on **Saturday, July 15th from 6-10 PM.** Drop off your children (3 years old through 5th grade) at the church and enjoy yourselves.

Sign up online at zlbrentwood.org/events

GOLF OUTING

**Sunday, July 30
at 1:30 PM
Lindenwood Golf
Course**

Contact John Thatcher
at
jhthatcher@verizon.net



SPECIAL COMMISSIONING And RECEPTION for Colin Neill

Colin Neill has accepted the position of Director of Student Ministries at St. Stephen's Anglican Church in Sewickley. As he prepares for his next step in ministry, please join your Zion family for a special commissioning and reception for Colin on Sunday, July 16th. Zion has been a supporter of Colin through his seminary studies and we are excited to see God's plan unfold for him.

**JULY 4, 2023
Independence Day**

A PRAYER THAT GOD'S WILL MAY BE DONE IN OUR NATION

Lord... remind us today that You have shown us what is good in what You require of us; to do justly, to love mercy and to walk humbly with our



God. We ask that as a people, we may humble ourselves before You and seek Your will for our lives and for this great nation. Help us in our nation to work as never before to strengthen our families and to give our children hope and a moral foundation for the future. So may our desire be to serve You, and in so doing,

serve one another. This we pray in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

by Billy Graham