



## A Message from Pastor Mathew

Normally, I start my articles with a facetious story as an appetizer to a larger truth. This month, however, I want to share something that happened to me. Some of you may know that I promote our NALC church camp in Hooversville, PA and was absolutely excited to take students to the youth and the elementary camps this summer. It's led by pastors in our district. Part of the campfire experience involves a different pastor each night sharing how they became a pastor. On my night to share, I like to give the kids a part to play. When I give the signal, they say together, "I've got you." That was and is a voice I continue to hear from God as I navigate the ups and downs of ordained ministry. Anyway, every time I gave the signal, the kids would say their part but this one little girl named Avery would always come in a second or so late and in the cutest voice I can only describe as "city diva", she'd say, "I Gah'chu!" She did this each time I gave the signal. It was so genuine and passionate. It made me laugh but it also became the voice I feel like I hear when I need that assurance.

Everyone in the church, local and global, has those up and down moments in their lives as disciples of Jesus. We struggle with a variety of faith challenges, logistical challenges, money, fears, and anxieties. We even struggle with the continual refining of the church whether that be a spiritual refining or a physical refining in the number of people who call the church their home. Again, this is both global and local. But the church is a living organism. It breathes. Just as our bodies change as we breathe, so does the church as the breath of the Holy Spirit moves through it. Sometimes it looks like when the church is exhaling and getting smaller that it will only keep getting smaller. Only if we think we cause the church to breathe will that be true. But, if we have faith in the work of the breath of God, that life-giving Holy Spirit, we know that breathing is a constant movement, a continual expansion and contraction. And if we just surrender to the work of the Holy Spirit, we can together say the words God speaks to us, just like Avery did, "I Gah'chu!" Let that breath move you and give you life as you participate within and bring the good news, the invitation, the welcome to be a part of the body of Christ.

God's peace,

Pastor Mathew



*For those who are  
led by the Spirit of  
God are the children  
of God.*

*Romans 8:14-16*

### **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*

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As you likely know, Zion Lutheran church is run chiefly by its congregational members as servants of Christ. Those people that we in leadership attempt to recognize for their efforts and commitment to creating and fostering the many wonderful things in our church, from the quilters to Disciple Life to Finance and beyond. Yes, we also have paid staff that are called and hired for specific roles. But simply consider our various Chairpersons and their ministry members, and all that is asked of them and all that they accomplish for us: Curt, Dana, Merlyn, B.J., Amy, Stephen, Laura, John, Rodlyn, Margie, Jon, Laura, Vicky, Anita, Alice (to name a few requires to not name so many but there are many others as well.) As a church, we are wearing these folks out by depending on them for multiple roles while too often we take a bit of sideline approach.

Most specifically and crucially, **Zion needs a Treasurer** to help steward, and that person may be you. Honestly, do you have an hour or two free this month, every month? Really, do you? I can just hear it now: "He can't be serious, not me" "What's going on with this guy" "Afterall, not just anyone can do that job" "I certainly can't do it" "I know you're not talkin to me." "Now's just not the right time" "ask again later" "my sources say no" (OK that may be a little like the *Magic 8 Ball*, but you get the message.) I agree though, there are legitimate reasons to not have the time available. **Well to be clear, if you think I may be talking to you- I AM.**

In simplest of terms, Zion's Council has reworked the duties of the accounting and bookkeeping, allowing us to use more professional and administrative help and enabling the role of the Treasurer to be substantially less burdensome. In fact, the job will likely only require about an hour monthly to verify check signatures, approve payroll, and confirm that bank balances agree with the reporting. Additionally, the Treasurer will work with the Finance Committee to assist with Zion's annual budget, which is largely similar to running the budget for your home but with more help. That sounds too simple to be true, but it is that simple and that's a fact.

As I expressed last month, every part of the (Church) body is the most important part. I don't ever, and I am not in any way diminishing any of Zion's ministries. There are, however, some that we cannot get along without, and the office of the Treasurer is one of those that has the potential of harming all things Zion, if left vacant. Please search your heart and consider this opportunity to serve. All of our ministries are righteous and in need of you. I hope the scripture verses I've been offering have been a blessing to you, especially as I offer of these two: **Mark 10:45** and **1 Peter 4:10**. Blessings and prayers to each you.



### Prayer Concerns

Corey Fischer  
Bill Greiner  
Joy Hepner  
Pat Jason  
George Langford  
Shirley Mosticone  
Janice Reed  
Glenn Ribblett  
Suzanne Roberts  
Pat Sheridan

## GRANDMA'S ATTIC/FLEA MARKET



**8:00 AM—2:00 PM**  
**Saturday**  
**August 5, 2023**  
Fellowship Hall

You never know what  
treasure awaits you.

### Summer Worship Sermon Series

#### 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.

“For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”  
*Mark:10:45*

### AUGUST BAPTISMAL BIRTHDAYS

Trevor Bedont	August 5, 2017
Adelai Haugh	August 10, 2014
Claudia Matus	August 16, 2020
Laira Matus	August 16, 2020
Elizabeth Schubert	August 17, 2008
Harley Eperthener	August 18, 2013
Olivia Bedont	August 27, 2022
Christopher Rayburg	August 31, 2008

\*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](http://www.zlcbrentwood.org)  
RSVP by Monday, 8/7

### **School Kits for Lutheran World Relief**

Many children around the world cannot go to school unless they provide their own supplies. The Zion Quilters have made 100 backpacks to provide these children with school kits. Their prayer is that the congregation will provide the supplies needed for these kits either thru a monetary donation or by donating needed items.

Checks should be made out to Zion Lutheran Church with "LWR School Kits" written on the envelope and/or check.

#### **Items Needed for School Kits**

4-70/80 page spiral notebooks	1-blunt scissor
5-blue or black pens (no gel),	1-2 1/2 inch eraser
5-#2 unsharpened pencils with eraser	1-12 inch ruler
1-box of 24 count crayon	

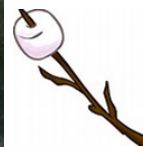
Please place donated items in the designated bins in the narthex or near the downstairs entrance. Thank you for helping children in need to attend school.

The Quilters are in need of a volunteer with an appropriate vehicle to transport the boxes containing quilts to Zelenople the first week in October. If you are able to assist, please contact a quilt ministry member or the office.

# Zion's Youth Learning about God's Light In-tents Camp 2023



See more pictures on Zion's facebook page.



## Vacation Bible School (VBS) - Babylon June 16-30, 2023

Fifty-three participants learned all about Daniel & the Lion's Den and God's love for everyone. Children visited 5 stations each day: Arts & Crafts, Palace Playground (games), Royal Market-place (snacks), Daniel's Adventures, and Celebration Music.

The week ended with a Closing Ceremony on Friday at 6:00 PM. The children shared what they learned by singing for family and friends followed by a highlight video. Following the closing, Sub Zero ice cream was enjoyed by all.

Special thanks to everyone who worked so hard to make VBS a success! We couldn't have done it without you!





## Community Clothes Exchange

Saturday, August 19, 2023

10 AM—2 PM

Hosted at Zion Lutheran Church



- \* Clothes, Shoes & Coats for Infant—Adult 2XL
- \* Bring Empty Bags to Fill
- \* No Donations accepted at Event

[Facebook.com/Communityclothesexchange](https://www.facebook.com/Communityclothesexchange)

### NEW SOCK, UNDERWEAR AND BRA DRIVE TO SUPPORT THE COMMUNITY CLOTHES EXCHANGE

Please bring only NEW UNOPENED PACKAGED ITEMS:  
Sizes Toddler—Adult 2X to Zion by **8/16**



## BENEVOLENT MEMORIAL FUND (BMF) update

*Submitted by John Thatcher, Committee Chair*

The BMF Committee is reaching out to the recipients of our BMF giving from Zion, to get feedback as to specifically how the donations are being used. Gary Topolosky is a member of Zion and a school director for Brentwood School District (BSD). He spoke with BSD officials, and received the following update:



The first \$5,000 (donation from Zion's BMF fund) was used to help students with active negative (school lunch) balances. This wiped out all active student debt for 318 students. The second \$5,000 was also used to help students with negative account balances, and wiped out the debt for another 208 students.

Our BMF Committee is committed to supporting the Brentwood School District, Baldwin Whitehall School District, Meals on Wheels programs, the Community Clothing Exchange, and other groups within our community. We ask that members of Zion consider BMF thru regular donations, as well as when estate planning so that we can continue to serve our community.



## In-Tents Camp for Elementary

One of Zion's elementary students and one youth leader attended the elementary student session of In-Tents Camp. Thru games, crafts and prayer, they learned about finding God's Light.

**SEE MORE PICTURES ON ZION'S FACEBOOK PAGE**



## SPECIAL COMMISSIONING AND RECEPTION For Colin Neill



On Sunday, July 16, 2023, Zion held a special commissioning for Colin Neill who has been called as the Director for Student Ministries at St. Stephen's Anglican Church in



Sewickley. During the commissioning, there was a period of laying on hands in prayer for Colin. A coffee hour reception followed.

