



A Message from Pastor Mathew

In a football game between the large animals and the small animals, the large animals led 49-0 at halftime. As the second half starts, the large animals get the ball. On the first play, the elephant is stopped short. Then the hippo is only able to manage one yard. The giraffe lost two yards. The coach of the small animals was amazed. "Who got those tackles?" he asked. "I did," said the centipede, "all three". "Well, where were you during the first half?" The centipede responds, "I was tying my shoes."

* * *

We are well into football season right now. Compared to other sports like hockey, baseball, or basketball, the football season is rather short despite it taking place over five months. But they only play once per week. In that kind of sport, it's important to be ready to play at all times because you only have 17 games to be ready for the playoffs. Players have to show up and be ready to contribute.

While it seems like the work of the church takes place over a long period of time, we too are called into action. We're called to come ready to participate and contribute. Jesus acknowledges for us in John's Gospel, "We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming, when no one can work." Yes, there is a time coming when we won't be able to do the work our Father in Heaven calls us to do.

How many in our congregation hold back because they think they're not ready to lead a class, to visit someone who can't come to church, to teach Sunday school, to serve in worship? Maybe it's you. Maybe it's someone you know. The reasons can be many, but I can think of no other reason to push participation and contribution to the ministry of our Lord than Jesus' words here as he tells us that the game is on and it's on right now. Let's get in the game together.

God's peace

Pastor Mathew



*As each has
received a gift, use
it to serve one
another, as good
stewards of God's
varied grace.*

1 Peter 4:10

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*

Now may be the second-best time in your life, forever. How many advertisers are telling you that the best time is now...for a new mattress...to invest for your retirement with our firm...to lose weight on our plan...DO IT, NOW! Honestly, now isn't so bad. Sometimes I like to eat now or have some down time now or gather with friends and family now. But even those things didn't start now. We have to make friends to be able to gather with them, work to have down time, or prep a meal or earn money to buy one to eat. My family certainly didn't start now, and I'm so very glad to be part of it now.

There's an old saying that the best time to plant a tree was 20 years ago. The second-best time is now...and this is more of what I'm suggesting. I talked last week with my Bibles and Brews brothers about our efforts in planting seeds in our lives with our actions. Although we're helping each other through 1 Samuel, this reference related much more to **Mark 4**, including: "whoever has ears to hear, let them hear." Isn't this the truth in all of life, we plant seeds with the best of intentions, and we do it now, even though it may have been even better to have done so a long time ago. Moreover, we show love by giving time, our most precious resource. Often, we may attempt to equate giving money in place of giving time, because it works now. Gifts of gift cards instead of giving one another time together. But focused attention is the time where we express our love. While each of us has different amounts of talent, energy, wealth, and personality, we all have exactly 168 hours per week, and as an adult American, an average of 25,550 days. We each choose how we'll use it. May God's will be that it be much more with much more purpose for each of us. Every hour that you give to something is one of your hours that you'll never get back. Watch TV for an hour and that hour is gone forever. Spend that hour with family and friends and it's a seed; Church Ministry, another seed; connecting with someone that's in need: of a friendship, your time, your focused attention or ears to listen, a passerby that just needs a smile and a focused "HELLO"-all seeds worthy of now. **1 John 3-18** "Little children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth."

Your time is the most valuable, precious thing you can offer anyone, ever. The people of Zion still need your help in our church, upcoming are opportunities to serve with the Council of Elders and currently with the Finance Committee. Are you spending your time away, or are you giving it, planting seeds?

Jesus said that the essence of true loving relationships is how much we give of ourselves to another person. This is the case with growing a family, making friends, and certainly giving yourself too.

SERVING HIM
Be the Church

Prayer Concerns

Eric Bedont
Corey Fischer
Zach Glenn
Bill Greiner
Pat Jason
George Langford
Shirley Mosticone
Janice Reed
Glenn Ribblett
Suzanne Roberts
Pat Sheridan

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

Starting October 1, 2023
9 AM
Heritage Room

View R.C. Sproul's video series "Parables of Jesus" followed by discussion.

All are welcome!

New Treasurer

Thanks to Dana Watkins for volunteering his time and talent to serve as Zion's Treasurer.

50th Wedding Anniversary

Congratulations to Dana & Mary Watkins as they celebrate 50 years of marriage.



OCTOBER BAPTISMAL BIRTHDAYS

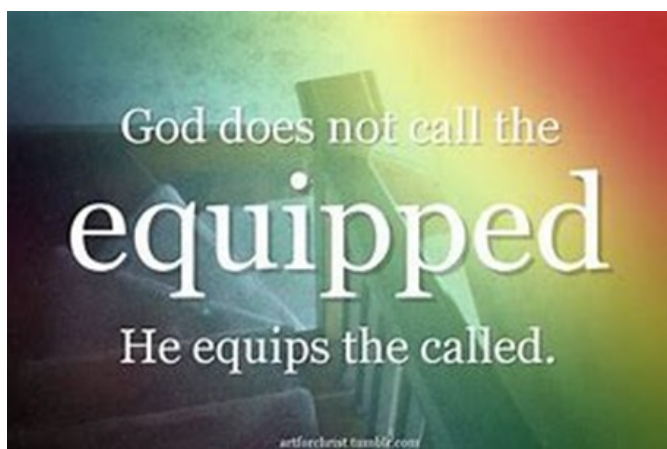
Hayden Lewis	10/08/2005
Joshua Sartory	10/08/2006
Jayden Cleaver	10/11/2015
Charles Eperthener	10/11/2015
Stella Koepf	10/11/2020
Emma Mainarich	10/11/2009
Reed Sopko	10/11/2015
Aiden Donachy	10/15/2005
Jonathan Rankin	10/17/2021
Dylan Bedont	10/18/2015
Molly Hoffman	10/27/2019
Alex Mainarich	10/28/2012
James Mainarich	10/28/2012
Quentin Runevitch	10/30/2022
Brandon Strycula	10/30/2011

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

Finance Ministry *by Jon Galland, Chair*

Tests—we really do not enjoy or look forward to them. If it is a medical test, it can bring much anxiety or dread. Academic tests can make your stomach rumble a bit—especially if it is not one of our favorite subjects. Tests are just not a whole lot of fun. Let us go a bit deeper...have we ever thought to put God to the test? At the onset it seems like a blasphemous thought. But in **Malachi 3:10**, God tells us to do exactly that! Very recently our Discipleship Life-to-Life class wrestled with this thought as we read **Malachi 3:10** which tells us, “Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in My house. Test Me in this, says the Lord Almighty, and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that you will not have enough for it.” How does this verse speak to us today?

First, in reading and understanding Scripture we want to keep the verse in context to examine to whom these words were originally written. The book of Malachi was written only four centuries before Christ and it dealt with the Jews who were returning to Jerusalem and the southern areas of the kingdom. Approximately a century and a half before this writing Judah had been plundered by the Babylonians and their homeland had been looted as the Jews were taken into captivity for seven decades. This was God's judgment upon His own people, yet He was reminding them He would restore their land someday. He was looking to renew His relationship with them and asking them to have full faith in Him.



As our Life-to-Life class discussed this history, we could see that we are called to have that same faith in God's work. Our faith needs to be firmly rooted in Him so that we are excited to see how He will provide. And yes, you are right. This is October and we are heading into stewardship month and beginning to look at how God will provide for Zion Lutheran in the coming new year. Pledge weekend is October 14/15th. But wait, there is more! The focus is just not only on the dollars that will be given, but we prayerfully ask you to see how

God is leading you to share your faith, your time, talents and gifts to bring glory to Him!

Zion Lutheran is now in its third century of pointing others to Jesus Christ! Our church history goes back a very long time to when Brownsville Road was a dusty thoroughfare that carried wearied travelers to and from the south side of a new city on the once western frontier. How is the Lord using you to further His kingdom? How is He leading Zion Lutheran to share His Word with Pittsburgh and throughout the globe? May we allow the Spirit to fully move among us as we await how the Lord will use Zion Lutheran to further His majesty! Thanks be to God!

Youth Ministry *by Amy Donachy*

YOUTH PROGRAM HAD A SWEET KICK OFF FOR NEW SCHOOL YEAR

The Youth ministry held an orientation with an ice cream social to introduce this year's curriculum and calendar of events. We also covered the ministry's philosophy, goals, and strategy. We all want to see teenagers grow in their faith. But how? We're committed to creating a healthy ministry first, because we believe a healthy ministry will create the conditions for teenagers (and our ministry) to grow. To do that, we're pursuing health in six key areas.



DISCIPLESHIP: Everything we do is structured around four key spiritual habits that help people of all ages grow spiritually. These habits are the backbone of our entire strategy!

TEACHING: We teach with teenagers in mind. We have a strategy to teach them in the ways they learn best, based on their stage of development and needs.

ENVIRONMENTS: We have a plan to create a weekly environment for teenagers that is fun and welcoming because our program sets the stage for them to learn and grow.

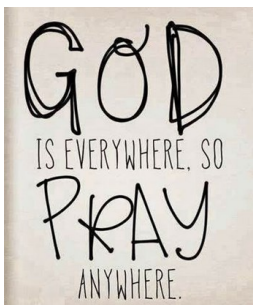
EVENTS: We won't do random events just to fill the calendar this year. Instead, we'll do events that are strategic for students' relationships with others and with God.

FAMILIES: We don't just care about teenagers — we care about the whole family, too. We have a strategy for connecting with and supporting parents and caregivers.

VOLUNTEERS: If we're going to have a healthy ministry, it starts with our team. We are working on a plan to invest in our volunteers so they can better invest in teenagers.

See our full orientation write-up and our calendar of events on Zion's website youth page. If you are interested in receiving communication including our monthly newsletter, and/or have any questions please send an email to youth@zlcbrantwood.org.

This program is vital to Zion's youth, please support the program, it's leaders and our youth through your prayers.



Youth Craft Fair/Bake Sale — October 22, 2023



The youth will be hosting a craft fair and bake sale following Sunday worship. All youth that participate will share in the proceeds that can be used for future retreats and our summer mission trip. Hoping to see you there.

Adult Mission Trip—October 15-20, 2023

The NALC Mid-Northeast Mission District is offering a mission trip to Kentucky to help rebuild with NALC Disaster Response after tornado damage in 2022. The meal contribution is \$150.00. If you are interested in participating in this Mission Trip, contact Pastor Mathew for more information

Saturday Night Potluck — October 14, 2023



Please join us for a Potluck Dinner and fellowship after the 5:00 PM service. While we have a few volunteers, we could use an additional entrée, dessert and bread or rolls.

Please sign up to share a dish at <https://mealtrain.com/req987> or call Karen Stoddart at 412-580-5814 by October 6.



In an emergency, **minutes matter**. You never know when you might find yourself at the scene of an accident, cardiac arrest, overdose, or other crisis situation. From calling 911 – and knowing what to say – to clearing a path for emergency professionals, even the most basic knowledge and medical care can save lives and improve outcomes.

Tuesday October 17, 2023

6:00 PM to 8:00 PM

Fellowship Hall

Presented by Curt Neill and Cheryl Rickens



Scan the QR code with your cell phone camera to register for the class. Or you can call the church office to register (412) 881-5512

Health and Safety Committee by Curt Neill, Chair

COVID and FLU and Other Respiratory Viruses



It's important to take steps to protect yourself and others against COVID-19, Influenza (flu), and other respiratory viruses in the coming months. Here's what you need to know.

There are several different variants and subvariants of the coronavirus circulating throughout the U.S. None have emerged as the dominant variant as of late August.

How Can I Prevent COVID-19 and the Flu?

The best way to protect yourself and others from COVID-19, the flu, and other respiratory illnesses is by getting vaccinated if you're eligible. Vaccines are or will be available in the coming months for COVID-19, the flu, and Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV). If you're eligible for the vaccines, you can get them at the same time. Contact your personal care physician or pharmacy for more details.

Vaccination is the first step in protection. But there are other things you can do to prevent the spread of COVID-19, the flu, RSV, and other respiratory viruses.

Get tested for COVID-19 and the flu. If you're feeling symptoms of a respiratory illness, get tested for COVID-19 and the flu. If you test positive for COVID-19, you may qualify for treatment with [Paxlovid™](#), an oral medication. If you test positive for the flu, you may qualify for treatment with the antiviral oseltamivir.

- **Stay home if you're sick.** Isolating yourself can protect others from the spread of respiratory illnesses. If you test positive for COVID-19, you should self-isolate for at least five days. It's important to stay home from work or school so you don't get others sick. What might be a mild head cold to us might be quite serious to somebody else. It's important to protect those around us.
- **Wear a mask.** Wearing a mask if you're sick can protect others from the spread of respiratory viruses. If you had COVID-19, you are considered contagious for 10 days. So after your self-isolation ends, you should wear a mask for an additional five days while in indoor public places or while around people at risk of COVID-19 complications. You also can choose to wear a mask even if you're not sick to protect yourself — especially while in crowded public places.
- **Practice Respiratory Etiquette.** Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when you cough or sneeze or cough or sneeze into your upper sleeve, not your hands. Wash your hand or use hand sanitizer after coughing or sneezing. Promptly dispose of your tissues in a waste can.



**ENCOURAGING ZION'S WOMEN TO JOIN US
AT THE MID NORTHEAST MISSION DISTRICT**



Women of the
NORTH AMERICAN LUTHERAN CHURCH

FALL GATHERING

**SATURDAY
NOVEMBER 11TH
9AM - 3PM**

Celebrating Women Veterans

SALEM LUTHERAN CHURCH

26 CLARION ST, SMICKSBURG, PA 16256

\$10 REGISTRATION FEE, RSVP BY 10/22 TO LANE MAGERA

AT LSMAGERA@YAHOO.COM OR (847) 714-3876

CARPPOOLING TO BE DETERMINED BY THOSE REGISTERED

Aloha from Kauai!

Thanks to the Manns
(Ron, Jean, Vicki & Viviana)
for sharing this picture of
their vacation holding up
Zion's Newsletter in Kauai.

