



A Message from Pastor Mathew

I'm not sure how many people make New Year's resolutions but I imagine those who don't make their choice because resolutions are difficult to keep. When it comes to a New Year's Resolution, a typical resolution is some kind of "do" or "do not" such as losing weight, eating healthier, spending less money, giving more to church or charity. They are ironically both specific and broad at the same time. For this reason, it is easy to break a resolution. Look at what I mean. If you said you wanted to travel to Hawaii before year end, that's great. But, if you don't plan how you are going to get there, you likely won't make it. The Pacific Ocean presents a fairly large barrier that you would have to plan to cross.

The best resolutions or the resolutions that are easier to keep are "becoming" resolutions that describe the process. In these, you point out where you are starting from and set out a process to get you to where you are going. In fact, you may not even have an end goal and the resolution may just be a process and nothing else.

Faith works the same way. We can resolve to read the Bible every day, go to worship every Sunday, give 10% as an offering and many other things but if there is no process, these types of resolutions are difficult to keep.

As we get into 2024, I want us to think about how being a disciple of Jesus is more than being told to do this or that. Being disciples of Jesus is more than reading the Bible every day, going to church every Sunday and giving 10%. Being a disciple is about learning and becoming disciples and passing that on before you pass on.

We hear from *John 15* Jesus telling us, "If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples."

I do not want our faith to be stagnate and bland. I want our faith to be continually worked on and vibrant. It would be useless of me to be here and not strongly encourage a deeper examination of our faith and work on getting us out of our comfort zones.

With that said, my prayer for each and every one of us this year is to consider what that next step is in your discipleship and to work on not just doing the work of disciples but becoming disciples. I want you to work on learning faith skills and spiritual disciplines that can connect you better to each other, to God and to yourself. May that be a resolution you can get to work on this year.

A blessed New Year to you,

~ Pastor Mathew



*But grow in the grace
and knowledge of our
Lord and Savior
Jesus Christ. To Him
be the glory both
now and forever.*

2 Peter 3:18

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

Council of Elders Appointments and Officers 2024

COE President: Hal Donachy

COE Vice President: Steele Roberts

COE Secretary: Shari Dodge

Zion Treasurer (annual appointment): Dana Watkins

Zion Financial Secretary (annual appointment): Alice Carney

BMF Committee member (3 year appointment): John Thatcher

BMF Committee member (3 year appointment): Charlie Wingert

Welcome to Zion's New Members



Dr. David & Pam Luy and
Kara, Nate & Seth



Jamie Kuhn

Not Pictured: Dr. Alex & Cassandra Pierce and Matthew, Josiah, Abigail,
Noah & Anna



Prayer Concerns

Family of Bill Savage

Kevin Barrett
Corey Fischer
Bill Greiner
Pat Jason
George Langford
Jennifer Meyer
Shirley Mosticone
Glenn Ribblett
Pat Sheridan
Ed Sontag
Sandy Valenson

Zion's Health & Safety Committee

The committee is requesting input for Health and Safety topics for 2024 programs/education. If you have any ideas, please contact one of the committee members: Curt Neill, Ryan Jakubek, Denny Oeler, Linda Vietmeier, Cheryl Squier or Dan Fisher (COE liaison).

JANUARY BAPTISMAL BIRTHDAYS

Cassandra Robinson	January 8, 2006
Benjamin Grice	January 10, 2016
Savanna Lewis	January 13, 2007
Laura Thatcher	January 14, 2018
Alexandra Gosnell	January 18, 2009

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

Counting Team Members Needed

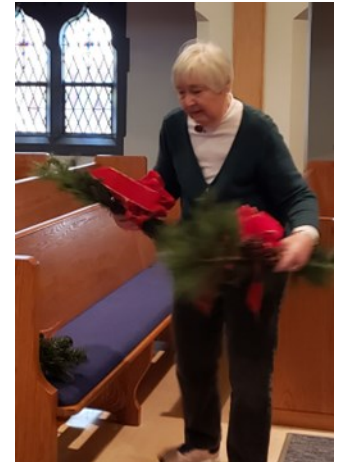
Zion is in need of 1 member for one of our counting teams. If you are able to serve by staying after the Sunday Service once a quarter, please contact the church office.

Altar Guild

The Altar Guild prepares the altar and chancel areas of the sanctuary so that all who attend Communion services can experience the gift of grace. There are currently 4 teams and Zion would like to add a fifth team. The rotation frequency depends upon the number of teams. If you are interested in serving our Lord as member of the Altar Guild, please contact Cheryl Squier clsquier@comcast.net or the church office.

SERVE
BE the church

A Special thanks to Zion's Christmas Decorating Crew!



Zion's Youth serving by gift shopping for children who have to go into foster care. See more pictures of Youth in action and enjoying Karaoke on **Zion's Facebook page**.



Children's Service Christmas Eve



Thank you to those who donated a gift to brighten someone's Christmas via the Angel Tree Program and to Karen and Shari for delivering the gifts!



Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven.
Matthew 5:16



Benevolent Memorial Fund (BMF) by Dan Fisher

The BMF funds given to the Baldwin-Whitehall School District were deposited in a dedicated fund exclusively used by the social workers. The social workers distribute the funds to the students and families in need of purchasing school supplies, clothing, and providing meals. Thirty-Two (32 %) percent of students are economically disadvantaged. My daughter is an elementary school teacher in the district and she has shared that students have benefited from our donations.

The school district holds a community day at the high school. There, students and families get to see what services are available to them, learn about the diversity of the district and the community. Teachers from the district are stationed in various booths to provide information, answer questions, and help the children with different activities. School supplies and personal items are provided for the students and families at no charge. Our donations have been used to help offset the cost of these materials and some food at no cost for the attendees. I witnessed students of my daughter interacting with her, building a positive relationship. This day also provides the opportunity for parents to speak with teachers, answering questions and providing guidance for the students and their families in a relaxed and informal environment.

This past fall, I was able to speak with one of the social workers at the community day. She thanked me for the donation and told me the positive impact that it has made. It is my understanding that if there are any unused funds at the end of the year, the money remains in the dedicated account but the social worker told me, they use and need every dollar that is donated during the year.

Our donations have made a positive impact!

Your Attendance is important!

ZION'S ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

JANUARY 28, 2024

Immediately following the Sunday Worship

Annual reports due to church office by Wednesday, January 10, 2024



Celebrating at the
Senior Christmas Brunch

Enjoyed by all! See more pictures on Zion's Facebook page.

