



A Message from Pastor Bill - Reformation 2024

October 31st is the actual day we celebrate the Protestant Reformation. The Sunday closest is "Reformation Sunday." We remember Dr. Martin Luther and what God set in motion through Luther after he nailed his 95 Theses of protest on the front door of the Castle Church in Wittenberg, Germany.

The narrative of the Protestant Reformation started twelve years before Luther made his protest against the Roman Catholic Church. It wasn't long after a near death experience that Luther found himself on the inside of the St. Augustine monastery. Luther's time as a postulate and a monk became a very dark and depressing time of spiritual despair. Reflecting later upon this time Luther said, "I lost touch with Christ the Savior and Comforter, and made Him the jailor and hangman of my poor soul." Back then, people did not find Christ, because the Gospel was not proclaimed by the Church in the purity that is found in the Word of God.

Christianity at the time was almost totally and completely void of the comfort that comes from knowing Christ as Savior. But Luther found Christ to be his Savior and Comforter as he opened the Scriptures and studied texts like the one read on Reformation Sunday – Romans 3:19-28.

By reading his Bible, Luther discovered that our salvation has absolutely nothing to do with our good works. Luther would relentlessly fast, which he later believed, permanently ruined his health. He went on a pilgrimage to Rome to grow closer to God, and it didn't work. He would go to the confessional booth and confess until he thought of every last sin, a torturous process. Luther understood that no matter how hard he tried to be a good and faithful monk, before God he was still a sinner deserving nothing but the righteous judgment of God.

It wasn't until Luther uncovered the Biblical teaching of salvation as a free gift, apart from the works of the Law, that he found Christ to be his Savior and Comforter. Until then, he never heard the good news of the Gospel.

After the revelation that God's righteousness being given is based on the merits of Christ's works alone and His atoning sacrifice upon the cross, Luther finally found his Savior and Comforter. The old chains of Law were loosed and now Luther was free to serve Christ without fear of God's righteous judgment. He could leave the altar, knowing that the body and blood of Christ present in the bread and wine had totally and completely covered every sin. Luther would now be used to spread the pure message of the Gospel!

Alive in Christ! Pastor Bill



*"for all have sinned
and fall short of the
glory of God, and are
justified by His grace
as a gift, through
redemption that is in
Christ Jesus"*

Romans 3: 23-24

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

A Message from Pastor Mathew

Not long after we celebrate Reformation Day, we come to another special day in the church calendar. We hear a lot about All Saints' Day but we don't do very much with All Souls Day. In fact, you won't find All Souls Day in our Lutheran Calendar in our LBW. Not to be confused with All Saints Day on November 1st, All Souls Day, November 2nd, came about back in the Middle Ages and it was connected with the idea of Purgatory. People would gather for a special mass, offering prayers on behalf of loved ones who had died that they might be released from Purgatory and allowed into heaven. But, during the time of the Reformation, when the belief in indulgences and Purgatory were abolished, All Souls Day fell into the abyss along with them but All Saints remained.

In most modern Lutheran Churches, ours included, we have absorbed the function of All Souls Day into our All Saints' worship by providing an opportunity to remember the faithful departed and light candles in remembrance of their lives in Christ. We must not forget or let this overshadow the true meaning of All Saints Day as a day to remember the heroes of the faith, those in whom we get our best examples of living a faithful life like Abraham, Moses, Elijah and others. Just read Hebrews 11 to get a few examples. By fusing these two days together, we have opportunity to remember those whom we love who have died in the Lord but when those feelings of sadness well up within us, we have yet another opportunity to remember and celebrate those saints of the Bible and throughout history that have imitated Christ for us. They are the fingers that point to Christ.

This is important to us because we come to worship on All Saints' Day, each of us knowing someone we love who has died this past year. This can cause questions to well up in our hearts, questions of uncertainty. They are real questions. When those questions come, remember those fingers that point to Jesus. Remember those saints of old who have told of God and His love for us. Remember the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ given to us by his death and resurrection, the grace that breaks the bonds of death, the grace that is sufficient for every single person, the grace that promises life unending.

God's peace,

Pastor Mathew

AMEN TO ACTION

Zion has reserved 25 spots for the "Amen to Action" event on Saturday, November 23rd from 8:30 a.m. -12:00 p.m. at Christ Church (UMC), 44 Highland Rd, Bethel Park, PA 15102. If you are interested in helping pack food for your neighbors who are food insecure, please call Zion's church office. No need to register for the event personally. Please dress comfortably and plan to arrive by approximately 8:15 a.m. for a brief volunteer gathering.

See the website below for a recap video of Amen to Action 2023. In 2023, over 1 million meals were packed for our neighbors in 11 locations.

<https://plf.org/a2a/>

In Our Prayers

David Detwiler
Mary Ann Dunlap
Corey Fischer
David Glenn
Casey Hirsh
George Langford
John Reed
Glenn Ribblett
Suzanne Roberts
George Schubert
Sara Smerkar

Eastern Standard Time Returns

Daylight Savings Time ends on Sunday, November 3, 2024. Remember to turn back your clocks one hour on Saturday evening before retiring.

Worship Times

Saturday 5 PM
Sunday 9 AM

Faith Education

10:15 AM

ConnectFor: Families with Children in Pre-K - Grade 5

10:30 A

- ✦ Confirmation Grades 6-8
- ✦ High School
- ✦ Adult

See Zion's Website for small group Bible Study.

Save the Date

Zion's 225th Anniversary Celebration

8/24/2025

NOVEMBER BAPTISMAL BIRTHDAYS

Emma Oeler	11/02/2013
Ian Oeler	11/02/2013
Abigail Dolgos	11/05/2006
Nicholas Garris	11/08/2020
Cassidy Delu	11/12/2016
Shepard Hoffman	11/13/2016
Griffin Buzzelli	11/14/2021
Vanessa Warden	11/21/2010
Mark Morrow	11/20/2011
Alexander Wiskeman	11/23/2011
Emily Schubert	11/29/2009

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

“one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.”

Ephesians 3:5-6

Quilting Ministry

Every Thursday from 10A—3P, the quilters meet in Fellowship Hall. Each person contributes as they are able from cutting patches and tying quilts to sewing. They joyfully work to fulfill God's command to help others in need. The fruits of their labor were displayed during worship services on October 5 & 6, 2024. New workers are welcome!



FALL CLEAN-UP

Saturday, November 9, 9 AM-12N



Please join us to help with various clean-up projects at Zion. Confirmation students are encouraged to come and earn service points. Any amount of time that you can give is appreciated. Please call or email the office to sign-up.

Many hands make light work!

Community Clothes Exchange

**NEXT EVENT:
NOV 23RD
10AM - 2PM**

- *CLOTHES, SHOES, & COATS FOR INFANT - ADULT
- *BRING EMPTY BAGS TO FILL
- *NO DONATIONS ACCEPTED AT EVENT

**HOSTED AT ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH
4301 BROWNSVILLE ROAD
PITTSBURGH, PA 15236**

**CONTACT US AT
FACEBOOK.COM/COMMUNITYCLOTHESEXCHANGE**

FREE!! (top left)

FREE!! (bottom right)

SARRIS CANDY YOUTH FUNDRAISER

It's Christmas Time Again!

Please support Zion's youth by purchasing Sarris candy.

You may pick up an order form in the Narthex. All forms and payments must be returned to the church by November 10th. Please make checks payable to Zion Lutheran Church. Orders will be ready for pick-up at the church on Saturday, December 7, 2024.

Or

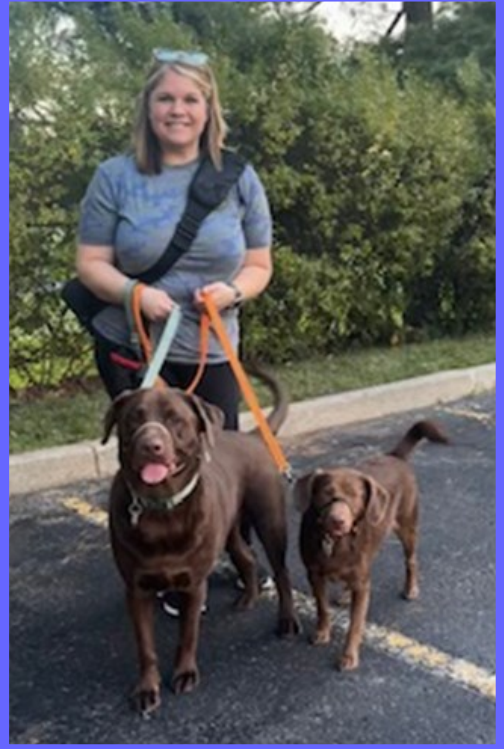
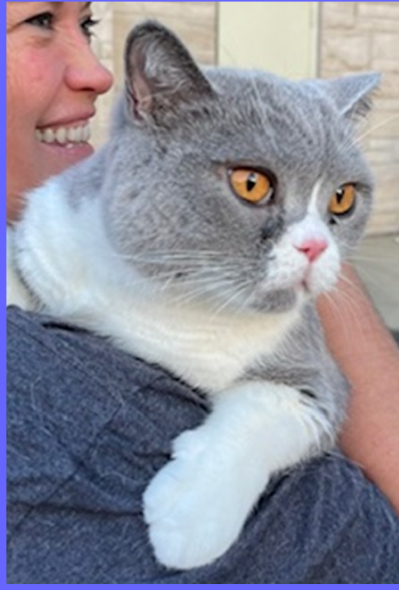
If you prefer, order online at SarrisCandiesFundraising.com by December 7th using **Group ID# 10-1370**. A \$5 flat rate shipping fee will apply.

Orders from family and friends are welcome.

Thank you for supporting Zion's Youth!

BLESSING OF THE BEASTS

October 4, 2024



MINUTES A UPMC Community Initiative **MATTER**

On October 23, 2024, the Health and Safety Committee coordinated a "Minutes Matter" Program. Curt Neill and Cheryl Rickens from UPMC presented and provided hands-on training on cardiac arrest, CPR, choking rescue, methods to stop bleeding, Narcan administration for an opioid overdose and mental health crisis support.

Ten Zion members attended and are now better prepared to intervene should an emergency situation present. The lessons learned were invaluable as the first few minutes after an emergency can save lives. <https://minutesmatter.upmc.com>

THANKSGIVING PIE DRIVE for LIGHT OF LIFE

The Light of Life Mission on the North Side of Pittsburgh is grateful for Zion's provision of the many pies that are required for its Thanksgiving meal. For this year's meal they are in need of 60 pumpkin, 30 apple and 30 cherry pies. These pies are served not only at the mission itself, but also are sent to families served by the mission in housing around the Northside. They serve well over 1000 meals on Thanksgiving. To sign up, see Zion's website or call the church office at 412-881-5512. Kindly provide your pie(s) in disposable pie tins and deliver them to Zion NO EARLIER than Tuesday morning 11/26 and NO LATER than 10:00 AM on Wednesday 11/27.

THANKSGIVING EVE SERVICE

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 27, 2024 -- 7:00 PM

Please join us in giving thanks to our God

Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

SENIOR CHRISTMAS BRUNCH AT ZION

DECEMBER 11, 2024 -- 10:30 AM - 1:00 PM

Calling on Senior Citizens to join us for fellowship, food, music and worship.

Come and let us serve you!

Register on Zion's website or call the church office at 412-881-5512

ADVENT EVENING PRAYER

Heritage Room

Wednesdays, December 4, 11, 18 at 7 PM