

A Message from Pastor Mathew

One of the council's goals beginning this year is to work toward increasing worship attendance. For me, this means engaging people who have built barriers between themselves and church for whatever reason. Last month I touched on one reason I've personally heard that keeps people from coming and how we can speak to it. This month, I'd like to do the same with two more. On top of the power of the Holy Spirit already at work (which we must depend on), the more we can acknowledge the barriers that keep people from coming and speak to how those barriers can come down, the better chance we have of our invitation being accepted.

I hear people say, "I don't come because my kids or grandkids would be too disruptive." You mean, they would be kids? Kids are noisy! They don't sit still, and they expel fluid out of nearly every orifice they have. But let me say this: Jesus didn't say, "Let the little children come to me, just not that one having a meltdown because dad didn't pour the Cheerios the way mom does it." Jesus didn't put any exceptions on this. And if you think your child is preventing you from getting something out of church because they squeal and squirm, think again. God knows you are a parent and if God is God, He's going to find a way to get something into you. We're not going to get out of church what we think we need, we're going to get out of it exactly what God knows we need. Stop placing such high expectations on what you think you need and ask God what He knows you need. Bring your kids and grandkids to worship and know that they will be kids but know also that we love hearing their voices.

I also hear people say, "Everyone seems to have it all together and I really don't." I get that. Why would we want to be around someone who has the perfect lives with the perfect kids and the perfect morals, especially when things for you may be quite the opposite? But, I tell you, in no offense to anyone already here at Zion, we don't have it together. I counsel people all the time with marriage issues, parenting problems, workplace problems, friendship problems, financial stress, medical limitations, physical limitations, you name it. There are people at church each week literally on the verge of breaking. They may put on a happy face and a chuckle but underneath a storm is raging. Yes, church should be a place where we can acknowledge and be vulnerable when it comes to what is eroding us from the inside out and I wish we would. But, the world is such a broken place that it's hard to find a safe place to let go and be our vulnerable selves and it's easy to want to protect ourselves. Ultimately, whatever it is you are going through, you are not out of place here. You may not see it but it's true. We're all here because we want Jesus to put us back together. Jesus rose for the hurting, the wandering, the uncertain. Jesus has a place for you here. You belong here.

I invite you now to pray for those who may have these barriers and pray that you would be given the power to speak to them in Jesus' name.

God's peace,

Pastor Mathew



*Jesus Christ is
the same
yesterday and
today and
forever.
Hebrews 11:3:8*

OUR MISSION: WHY WE EXIST

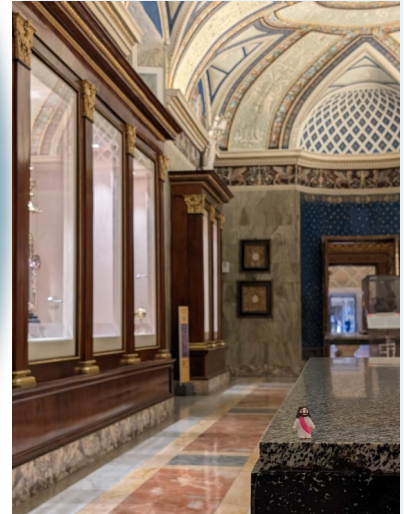
To bring people into a covenantal relationship with the Lord (Matthew 28:19-20), and to equip them for personal growth and impact.
Ephesians 4:11-26

In Our Prayers

Joshua Alukonis
Kevin Barrett
Lynn Broman
David Detwiler
Mary Ann Dunlap
Corey Fischer
Leif Galland
Zack Glenn
Casey Hirsh
George Langford
Karen Matalavage
John Reed
Glenn Ribblett
Dani Richey
Suzanne Roberts
Saundra Schlessman
Shannon Schubert
Sara Smerkar
Judy Workman

SUMMER
Worship Times
Saturday 5 PM
Sunday 9 AM

Little Jesus Traveled to the Vatican



Pastor Mathew's Summer Sermon Series

7/13

Healing of the Blind Man

7/20

Parable of the Sower

7/27

Parable of the Workers in
the Vineyard

“Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer.”

JULY BAPTISMAL BIRTHDAYS

Garrett Russen
Charles Thatcher

July 12, 2009
July 31, 2015

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

FIRST COMMUNION



Top Right: **Calen Jakubek**

Left: **Abigail Pierce**

Bottom Right: **Charlie Thatcher**



2025 Summer Saturday Cookout July 12 following worship

If you are able to assist by bringing a
side dish, please sign up at:

Mealtrain.com/63zr8z

June Summer Cookout Following Saturday Worship



Women of the Word

Zion's Monthly Women's Bible Study. They meet in the Heritage Chapel the 2nd Thursday of each month from 10-11A.

*The Word of God is
alive and active.
Hebrews 4:12*



Community Clothing Exchange Future Dates: 8/30/25; 11/8/25

If you are interested in adding your name to the list of those who may be able to help with the clothing exchange, notify Lane Magera. Help is needed before during and after the exchange.

Worship & Picnic!

Sunday, August 3
South Park -
Black Ashes Grove
11:00 am – 3:00 p.m.



Meats and water will be provided. Please bring something to share.
Last Names A-M --- Bring a side dish
Last Names N-Z ---- Bring a dessert

You are cordially invited

225th Anniversary Celebration of

ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH

4301 Brownsville Rd.
Pittsburgh, PA 15236
zlcbrentwood.org



August 24, 2025

9:00a.m. Worship

11:00a.m. Brunch *

Brunch tickets can be purchased before or after worship
6/8 - 8/4, or call the church office.

Adult \$20 / Child \$10

(not to exceed \$60 per household family)

*Brunch location:

South Hills Country Club

4305 Brownsville Rd.
Pittsburgh, PA 15236



Zion Lutheran Church



Chrismon Ornaments

In honor of Zion's 225th Anniversary, we are seeking volunteers who enjoy sewing to help us make Chrismon Ornaments to adorn our Christmas trees.

If you are interested in sewing some ornaments, please contact Sherry Galland at musicministry@zlcbrentwood.org and she will supply you with a pattern and materials.

ZION'S YOUTH MISSION TRIP



CONFIRMATION



Peyton Hill, Vanessa Warden, Evan Schubert

THRIVENT DAY AT PNC PARK - JULY 27TH



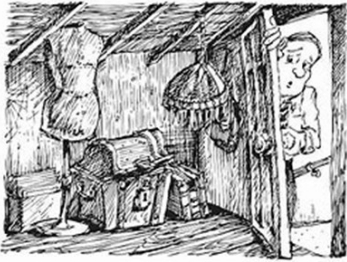
Thrivent, a Lutheran-based financial services company, is putting on a thank you event at PNC Park on Sunday July 27th. Tickets include a lunch buffet put on by Thrivent and seats to the Pirates game that afternoon. Adults are \$30. Youth 3-15yrs are \$20. Children 2 and under are free. Contact Pastor Mathew if you would like to attend.

GRANDMA'S ATTIC (FLEA MARKET)

Saturday, August 2, 2025

8 AM - 2 PM and after Saturday Worship

Donated items may be placed in the Heritage Room beginning Tuesday, July 1st thru Sunday, July 27. Please make sure your items are clean and in working order.



The following items are **NOT** acceptable for donation: clothing, shoes, computers, large furniture

Thanking you in advance as you gather up your donations!

Please stop by on August 2 and see if you can find a treasure.
