



### *A Message from Pastor Mathew*

Over the past few months, I touched on some of the reasons people give for staying away from church and how we can respond when somebody gives those reasons. I'm being honest when I say we are going to hear them more and more. I share with you yet another one of those reasons and how we can respond to it. And this one might even be one you can relate to.

I hear people say, "Sunday is my only day to sleep in," and being very transparent, they are probably not wrong. Our weeks are full. They are full of school, sports, work, and appointments. I had to laugh when I was starting to write this. My daughter is in the Baldwin High School band and one of the fundraisers for the music program is hoagies. While raising funds so Skye can participate is important, I refuse to participate in this fundraiser for one reason. The parents make the hoagies on Saturday mornings before dawn and Saturdays are MY only day to sleep in. So, let me just say, I know what people mean when they're talking about sleep.

But here's the thing: grumbling about getting up to make and sell sandwiches is different than grumbling about getting up to receive grace. Hoagies feed a fundraiser. Worship feeds your soul. Hoagies build up a music program. Worship builds up your faith, your family, your foundation for life even when it doesn't feel like it. Hoagies would cost me sleep and give me a sandwich. Worship might cost me sleep but it gives me something eternal. We all need rest. That is especially true in today's culture. But sometimes, the rest we need most isn't sleep. It's remembering who we are, who God is. Church is not another thing to do. It's where you get a chance to breathe again.

Someone confessed to me not long ago they may have had their eyes closed during church. As my internship supervisor has told me and others, God still speaks to you when your eyes are closed. If this hour in church was the time your eyes got heavy and it was the only time you had to just relax, church is a good place to do it. Never doubt the Spirit's ability to reach you. Jesus tells us that when we are weary and burdened, we should go to bed. Actually, no, he didn't say that. Those are the words we put in his mouth. In reality, he says when we are weary and burdened, we should come to him for rest. Let's get some quality rest in worship this weekend.

God's peace,  
Pastor Mathew



*"Rejoice always,  
pray without ceas-  
ing, give thanks in  
all circumstances;  
for this is the will  
of God in Christ  
Jesus for you."*

*1 Thessalonians*

*5:16-18*

#### **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*

## *COE President's Corner by Anita Reck*

### **1 Peter 4:10**

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

You may have noticed some additional worship participants listed in the bulletin. In addition to the usual ushers, communion assistants, lectors, and acolytes, etc., we now list Openers/Closers, Church Sign, and Grass Cutting. Without a full-time custodian, Zion's members are serving in these areas.

Openers/Closers (both Saturday and Sunday) arrive to the church early, unlock the parking lot entrance doors and the main entrance doors on Rt. 51 and turn on all the lights both in the sanctuary and downstairs. They make sure the cross is in the proper place for that service and that there are collection plates on the altar. They also stay until everyone has left the building, making sure all lights are off, all area doors are closed, and all outside doors are locked. Please be respectful of their time and exit the church after service within a reasonable amount of time.

The Church Sign volunteers replace the message each week on our 3-sided sign board on Rt. 51. You may see them after service on Sunday or Monday morning, going in and out of the main entrance doors with handfuls of letters. If you are driving by along Brownsville or Rt. 51, give them an encouraging "honk."

The Grass Cutting volunteers, of course, cut the grass around the church, usually once a week, April through October. The main area that needs to be cut is along the Rt. 51 side. These volunteers keep our church landscape looking nice.

Each of these are important areas of service and all could use additional volunteers. Openers/Closers need to have access to a church key fob and some extra time on Saturday or Sunday before and after worship. The Church Sign volunteers give 1 to 2 hours a week for a month. Pastor Mathew provides the messages; you need to put the letters in all three sides of the sign. And finally, Grass Cutting is just what it says. There is a small electric lawnmower at the church, or you could bring your own. If you cut your grass at home, you could cut the grass at Zion.

Please prayerfully consider serving in these areas. Many hands make light work.

*Rendering service with a good will as to the LORD and not to man.*

*Ephesians 6:7*

## **North American Lutheran Church (NALC) Mission Convocation**

*August 3-8, 2025      Omni William Penn Hotel Pittsburgh      By Pastor Bill*

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This convocation celebrated a defining milestone in the life of NALC: 15 years of faithful ministry and mission and 10 years of theological formation through the North American Lutheran Seminary (NALS). Centered on the theme "Running with Endurance: Fixing our Eyes on Jesus" (Hebrews 12), the week brought worship, learning and fellowship through the many events and the Mission Convocation itself.

Below list some events and highlights:

**Lutheran Theologians for the Church:** 4 theological papers were delivered and discussed.

**Faith Formation Festival Topics:** Music in Christian Education, Special Needs Ministry, Youth Ministry in the 21st Century

**Vacation Bible School:** Offered to parents who brought their children.

**WNALC** (Women of the NALC): The Reverend Patti Morlock was the guest speaker and 7 dedicated women were elected the WNALC Executive Council.

**Tour of the North American Lutheran Seminary:** Shuttle tour offered.

**Braaten-Benne Lectures in Theology:** This year's lectures focused on the vital intersection of mission and apologetics. In our culture that is increasingly skeptical of the Gospel, the lectures explored the New Testament's understanding of the "world" on one hand, the necessary renunciation of the world as the domain of sin and the devil (John 12:31; 14:30; 1 John 5:19) and on the other, God's deep love for His creation and His redemptive mission within it (John 3:16-17). Attendees were invited to discover how the Church can faithfully stand against the spirit of the age while still engaging the world for the sake of the Gospel always with eyes fixed on Jesus and hearts rooted in His truth.

**Break-out Sessions:** Valuable information was provided about NALC resources (NALS, Raising Pastors in the Congregation, Life-to-Life Discipleship, Stewardship, Church Planting, World Missions and Youth Ministry).

**Elections and Business Meeting:** The results of the election of the Executive Council, NALS Board of Regents and the Court of Adjudication can be found at the website above.

**Our Task:** We will receive the full text of the approved amendments along with instructions for the ratification process. To be ratified, at least half of NALC congregations must participate in the vote, and two-thirds must vote in favor. Congregations will have 6 months to hold a congregational meeting and report their vote.

**Worship:** Worship was vibrant and sermons delivered by The Reverend Dr. Dan Selbo, Bishop of NALC and The Reverend Dr. Jukka Kääriäinen, new President of NALS were compelling.

**Zion Presence:** Zion was well represented at the convocation with the official voting delegates, volunteers, presenters and worship leaders. Pastor Mathew (clergy, volunteer), Lane Magera (delegate, Zion Volunteer Coordinator, WNALC delegate, Mission District Volunteer Planning Committee), Jon Galland (delegate), Sherry Galland (delegate), Dr. Alex Pierce (theologian, Braaten-Beene lecturer), Dr David Luy (theologian). In addition to those listed above the following Zion members served as volunteers (Vicky Thatcher, John Thatcher, Laurie Miller, Anita Reck, Jack Reck and John Reed). Cassandra Pierce, Karen Stoddart and Sherry Galland attended the WNALC gathering. Lastly, Zion's musicians produced many joyful noises during worship; keyboardist (Sherry Galland), brass and percussion group (Pastor Mathew, Dr. David Luy, Joe Robinson and Cassie Robinson). **A heartfelt thanks to Zion members who gave of their time to assure a successful convocation in our home town.**

A full report can be found at:

<https://thenalc.org/en-us/2025/08/14/lutheran-week-2025-archive/>



## ***CLASSES STARTING SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 7th, 2025***



All families with children PreK-5th grade can register at the link on Zion's homepage.  
Contact Sherry Galland, Director of **ConnectFor** with any questions at  
musicministry@zlcbrantwood.org or direct line (412) 882-6767,

### ***CONFIRMATION MINISTRY (Fellowship Hall)***

Led by Pastor Mathew and Gary Topolosky

The middle school students will be immersed in a majority of the Small Catechism this year including time with the Ten Commandments, the Apostles Creed and the Lord's Prayer.

### ***HIGH SCHOOL CLASS (Youth Room)***

Led by David and Pam Luy, the class will begin looking into the books of Luke and Acts with some detours along the way to connect themes with our everyday living grounded in our beliefs and worship.

### ***BACKPACK and EDUCATOR BLESSING***

On Sunday, September 7, Pastor Mathew will conduct a backpack blessing during worship. Students of all ages are encouraged to bring their backpacks or school bag to participate. There will also be a blessing for all educators.

***“Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and  
puts them into practice is like a wise man  
who built his house on a rock.” --Matthew 7:24***

## In Our Prayers

Joshua Alukonis  
Kevin Barrett  
Lynn Broman  
David Detwiler  
Mary Ann Dunlap  
Corey Fischer  
Joy Hepner  
Marshawna Hill  
Casey Hirsh  
George Langford  
Glenn Ribblett  
Suzanne Roberts  
Saundra Schlessman  
Shannon Schubert  
Jim Shumacher

### **ADULT EDUCATION HOUR (Heritage Room)**

Led by Jack Reck

As Christians, we are given the privilege and responsibility of communicating with the Creator and Sustainer of the universe. Yet many Christians neglect prayer. In this series, Dr R.C. Sproul demonstrates that intimate communication with God is at the heart of our relationship to Him. Through Christ, we are accepted by God and enabled to call upon Him as our Lord and Father.

### **SEPTEMBER BAPTISMAL BIRTHDAYS**

Alexander Reck  
Peyton Hill  
Bennett Buechel  
Bailey Reck

September 4, 2011  
September 13, 2020  
September 24, 2016  
September 25, 2016

### **Worship Times**

**Saturday 5 PM**

**Sunday 9 AM**

See Zion's Website for small group Bible Study and Christian education.

### **Zion Quilters Request for School Kit Supplies**

In many parts of the world children cannot go to school unless they bring their own school supplies. The Zion Quilters have completed 100 backpacks and are in need of your help to fill these bags with the required school supplies. They are asking for monetary donations that will be used to purchase school supplies in bulk. If you are able and willing to make a donation, please indicate "SCHOOL KITS" on your envelope or check. If you prefer to purchase supplies to donate, on your own, check the list in the narthex. In October, the assembled school kits will be delivered to the LWR ingathering place. 100 students will be blessed by your donations.



# Women's Weekly Evening Bible Study

Focusing on Walking by Faith, not by Sight.

This study will be online via Zoom.

Join us by signing up on the website or  
calling the office to register  
and pick up your free study book.

Thursdays 7-8pm  
9/11-11/6



## Zion Lutheran Church Grandma's Attic Flea Market

4301 Brownsville Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15236

(in Brentwood, next to South Hills Country Club)

412-881-5512 ✿ [zlcbrentwood.org](http://zlcbrentwood.org)



If you are able  
to help set up  
the week of  
September 8 or  
on the day of  
the sale, con-  
tact Sandra  
Schlessman at  
724-782-0083.

### Bake Sale

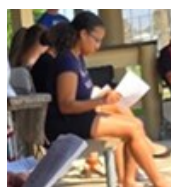
Calling all bakers to make sweet treats to sell at Grandma's Attic. Best Sellers include: pies, muffins, breads and homemade cookies bagged by the dozen or 1/2 dozen.

**Please drop off to the church on Friday, September 12 between 9AM and 2 PM.** Contact Barb Warden if you have questions at 724-518-5509.



## Sharing Joyful Noise in South Park

### Outdoor Worship -- August 3, 2025



# SERVANTS NEEDED

## ALTAR GUILD

**A special thanks to Mary Severson, Charlanne Ammon and Dani Richey who have faithfully served the Lord and Zion for many years as Altar Guild members.**

The Altar Guild serves the Lord and Zion by preparing the altar for communion each week. Currently, we have 3.5 teams, with one of these teams being a husband and wife team. We are praying that the Holy Spirit will stir 3 persons' hearts to join the Altar Guild before this fall to allow for training new members prior to January 1, 2026.

The Altar Guild works in teams of 2. The team decides if they want to work together for each task or divide the tasks. The rotation depends upon the number of teams. At this time, the rotation is 2 weeks out of every 8 weeks. It takes on average 1 hour to set up communion at a time chosen by your team, 5 minutes between services to replenish as needed and 15 minutes after Sunday service to put away the ciboriums and chalices and clean-up. On occasion the teams may have to set up during the week for a funeral or wedding. The teams are great with trading weeks with each other or covering for each other as needed.

If you are interested in joining our team or you have questions, contact Cheryl Squier @ [clsquier@comcast.net](mailto:clsquier@comcast.net) or 412-913-8085 or the church office.

## KITCHEN COORDINATOR

Starting November 1, Zion will need someone to serve as the coordinator for the Kitchen Ministry. Responsibilities include making sure there are enough helpers for any church-sponsored event, checking food inventory for expiration dates, helping, and setting up for Lenten Meals, Saturday Night Cookouts, and various other events on the church calendar. The coordinator does not need to be at all these events, but makes sure there are volunteers willing to facilitate set up and clean up activities. Responsibilities also include making sure the kitchen is neat, and all materials are in their correct places. The kitchen is currently well organized, and the coordinator is someone who can continue this particularly important task. We currently have someone who has accepted the responsibility of ordering supplies for the kitchen through the church office, but is not available many months to coordinate the overall Kitchen Ministry.

If interested, or need other questions answered, please contact Karen Stoddart or the church office.

The Ministry of Disciple Life.

*“Encourage one another and build each other up, just as you are doing.”  
1 Thessalonians 5:11*



## CELEBRATING ZION - 225 YEARS





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## **Situational Awareness and Safety Training**

**Tuesday, September 30, 2025 ---6 PM**

**Fellowship Hall**

Empowering individuals to identify potential threats, assess risk, and take appropriate action to avoid or mitigate dangerous situations.

Did you know that Zion has developed a safety plan and taken actions to address potential safety concerns? Join us to learn what is in place at Zion and how to be better prepared to protect yourself should a dangerous situation pre-

**STAY ALERT!**  
**BE SAFE!**

Presented by:  
**Brentwood Police Department**  
Zion's Health and Safety Committee

Register by contacting the church office.

The August 30, 2025 Clothes Exchange provide clothing to over 120 persons or families. Thanks to all who supported this community effort.