



A Message from Pastor Mathew

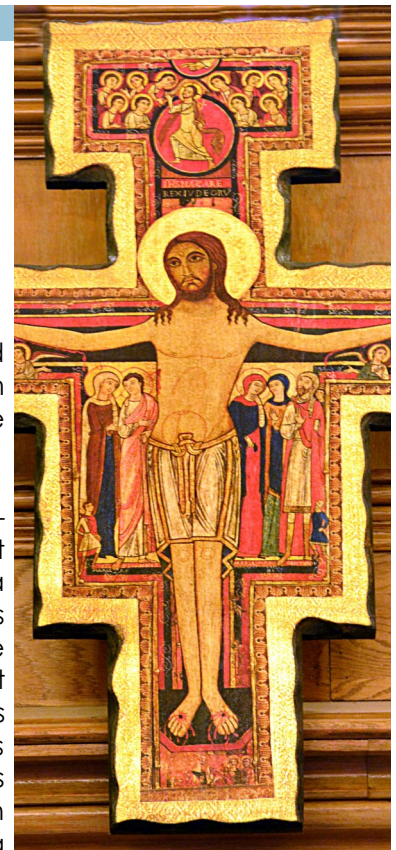
As we prepare to close out the year with only two months to go, I'll wind down my newsletter series on reasons I've heard that keep people from coming to worship. I've got two final reasons to share and ways that we can respond to both of them.

I hear people say, "I believe in God, but I'm just not into organized religion." This one is becoming more common. Under that statement might be a bad experience with church or associating religion as nothing but a bunch of rules. Sometimes these things cloud the real reason church exists and it's not about performing. Rather, it's about anchoring. It's where we are reminded of who we are and who God is. It's impossible to do that apart Law and Gospel, which we are reminded of at church. Church is meant to bring clarity to our chaos. By no means is it perfect. Sometimes we're terrible at being Christians, but again, that's why we're here. Patients in hospitals are usually terrible at being healthy but I'd rather be treated in a hospital than a fishing boat. As such, sinners are anchored in the healing and restoring power of God in Christ Jesus where the means of grace are offered week after week.

Finally, I hear people say, "I've had bad experiences with church people." While sometimes church people can be seen as being too perfect, other times they are seen as not being perfect enough. People will leave church because of the sins of others and will say they, as Christians, should know better. Here's what we can do. I hope this isn't breaking news but church people are broken people. Church pastors are broken pastors. If someone at church has ever made you feel unwelcome, angry, upset, I'm sorry. There are times when we're not like Jesus when we should be. He is always reaching for the broken, the doubting, the searching. And He still is. And we want to be a church that reflects His love, not our mistakes, even though mistakes are made. I understand that hurt may be deep but I pray it does not distract your focus from being on Jesus who calls you to be an active part of His church.

Of course, there are more reasons than the several I've shared over this year. But, the point remains that we need to be able to respond to those reasons and continue to invite, invite, invite. The holidays are coming. Thanksgiving. Christmas. This is a perfect time to save a seat for someone next to you in worship and say, "Hey, I want you to worship with me at Zion. I've got a spot saved just for you." And together we can experience the love of God whose name is Jesus, who receives us as sinners, forgives us, and, renewing us, sends us out to live and share his love with the world once again.

God's Peace,
Pastor Mathew



*"giving thanks
always and for
everything to God
the Father in the
name of our Lord
Jesus Christ"
Ephesians 5:20*

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

"For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them." *Ephesians 2:10*

You may have heard the ad slogan "America Runs on Dunkin'." Well, Zion runs on volunteers! We have a wonderful staff, Pastor, Sherry, Cara, and Carolyn, but most of the activities at Zion are managed by our dedicated volunteers.

In my last President's Corner, I mentioned how Zion's members serve in preparation for and during worship. This month, I am highlighting the many more ways Zion's members serve. I may have missed some activities, but every activity is important to Zion in spreading God's Good News!

- Acolytes
- Air-conditioning and heating
- Baking and cooking for events; Light of Life Mission, and homebound
- Caring for the altar paraments and vessels and setting the altar for worship
- Clearing snow from the sidewalks
- Changing the sign message
- Computer technology issues
- Communion assistants and assistant ministers
- Coordinating the kitchen and ordering supplies
- Coordinating weddings
- Coordinating, chaperoning and supervising youth events
- Counting offerings
- Fellowship teams, preparation and serving
- Grass cutting, lawn work
- Meeting with contractors
- Minor repairs, such as painting, clearing gutters, repairing plaster, replacing/adding electrical switches, among others
- Monitoring Zion's health and safety
- Opening and closing the church
- Picking up litter
- Reading Bible lessons at worship (lectors)
- Resetting tables and cleaning/sweeping Fellowship Hall after events
- **Serving on ministries, committees, the Council of Elders, and as church officers*
- Sound system maintenance and operation during worship
- Supervising events in Fellowship Hall
- Sweeping/clearing the parking lot of debris
- Teaching confirmation, high school, adult classes, and Bible studies
- Ushering
- VBS coordinators, teachers, and helpers

**We are in the process of appointing our ministries and committees for 2026. We are also looking for several people to serve a term on the Council of Elders to be elected this November to begin in 2026. Please prayerfully consider serving for Zion.*

The Council of Elders and the staff thank God for the dedicated members who serve Zion in a variety of ways. They are a blessing to Zion. A huge THANK YOU and WELL DONE to all who serve.

******If you or someone you know is interested in being nominated for 1 of the 3 open COE positions, please email Pastor or me by Thursday, November 6. Elections will be held the week-end of November 22-23, 2025.

In Our Prayers

Joshua Alukonis
Bob Ammon
Kevin Barrett
Lynn Broman
David Detwiler
Mary Ann Dunlap
Corey Fischer
Zack Glenn
Marshawna Hill
Casey Hirsh
George Langford
Glenn Ribblett
Suzanne Roberts
Shannon Schubert
Jim Schumacher
Dave Sheridan

Worship Times
Saturday 5 PM
Sunday 9 AM

**First Sunday
of Advent
11/29/2025**

See Zion's Website for
small group Bible Study.



FOOD INSECURITY

If you or someone you know is having a hard time putting food on the table as a result of the government shutdown, please notify Pastor Mathew.

We can help!

Also, please consider picking up an item or 2 for the Stewart Avenue Food pantry and place in the bin near the parking lot stairs.

FALL BACK TIME CHANGE

Remember to
turn your clocks
back 1 hour be-
fore retiring on
Saturday night.



NOVEMBER BAPTISMAL BIRTHDAYS

Emma Oeler	11/02/2013
Ian Oeler	11/02/2013
Nicholas Garris	11/08/2020
Cassidy Delu	11/12/2016
Shepard Hoffman	11/13/2016
Mark Morrow	11/20/2011
Vanessa Warden	11/21/2010
Emily Schubert	11/29/2009

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

THANKSGIVING EVE SERVICE

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 27, 2025-- 7:00 PM

Please join us in giving thanks to our God.
A pie social will be held afterwards in Fellowship Hall.

*"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*

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 80 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 on Tuesday, 11/25/25 from 9 AM - 3 PM or on Wednesday 11/26 until 10 AM

WORKDAY VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

November 22, 2025 Start time 9 A.M.

Serve with the Ministry of Property for a few hours or all day to decorate the outside of the church (lights, wreaths and nativity) and to rake leaves as we prepare for the celebration of Christ's birth.



Senior Christmas Brunch
Let us serve you!

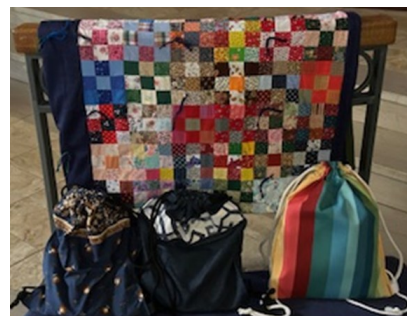
Wednesday, Dec. 10
10:30am – 1:00pm

RSVP on the website or
call the church office
(412) 881-5512

The poster features a large, intricate white snowflake on a dark blue background. At the bottom, there are four small images: a plate of food, a bunch of grapes, a cup of coffee, and a collection of colorful Christmas cookies.

QUILTING MINISTRY

The quilters are a small group of women who meet on Thursdays throughout the year to make these beautiful quilts and bookbags that bring warmth and school supplies to so many. This year they were able to send 99 quilts and 98 backpacks to Lutheran World Relief and 12 quilts, 3 throws and 2 baby blankets to NALC Disaster Relief. The fruits of their labor were displayed during worship services on October 4th and 5th and were blessed during the Sunday morning service. Each person contributes as they are able either cutting patches, sewing or tying quilts. New workers are always welcome!



Amen to **ACTION**

November 15th 8:30 AM - 12N

Zion has reserved 25 spots at Christ Church (UMC),
44 Highland Road, 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 8:15 AM for a brief volunteer gathering.

If you would like more information about *Amen* to **ACTION**,
see website: <https://plf.org/a2a/>

SITUATIONAL AWARENESS and SAFETY TRAINING

September 30, 2025



The Brentwood Police presented an excellent program on how to increase situational awareness related to potential threats, how to assess risks and the appropriate response should such an event arise. The program ended with a bang when the police fired a gun (not real bullets) in the vestibule so that the program attendees could hear what an actual gun shot would sound like within the church.

Deliberation

Avoid = Run

Deny = Hide

Defend = Fight



A special thanks to the Brentwood Police Department for supporting this program.

SERVANTS NEEDED

Counter: The teams count on Sundays following worship. If interested in serving as a counter, please contact the church office.

Altar Guild Member: Members honor our God and serve Zion by setting up the altar for communion each week. Contact Cheryl Squier at clsquier@comcast.net or the church office if interested.

FREE COMMUNITY CLOTHING EXCHANGE

November 8, 2025 10 AM - 2 PM

All are welcome to find new clothes. Donations will not be accepted at the event. If you are able to volunteer to help set up, support or clean-up in 2 hours shifts, contact Lane Magera at LSMagera@yahoo.com or 847-714-3876.

SARRIS CANDY YOUTH FUNDRAISER

It's Christmas Candy Time Again!



You may pick up an order form in the Narthex. All forms and payments must be returned to the church by November 16th. Please make checks payable to Zion Lutheran Church. Orders will be ready for pick-up at the church on Saturday, December 13, 2025.

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!

ANGEL TREE

Each year Zion supplies Christmas presents for seniors in our neighborhood nursing homes through the Angel Tree program; seeking out those who have no family contact. To show we care, please take a tag from the trees in the narthex or parking lot entryway. When you take a tag, sign your name on the sign-up sheet by the name you have selected, then shop for the requested gift. Please return wrapped gifts by Monday, December 1, 2025 with the original tag on them. Place your gifts in the Heritage room or if locked, in front of the Heritage room doors.



CHRISTMAS COOKIES FOR ZION'S HOMEBOUND



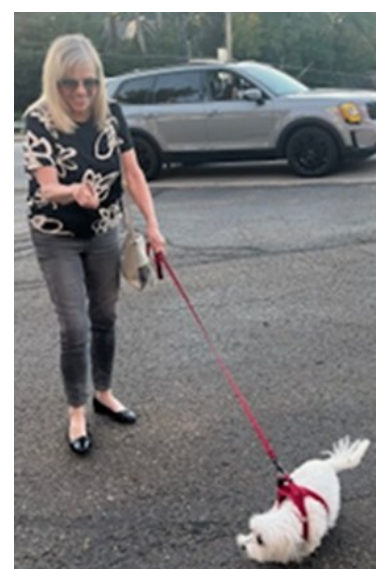
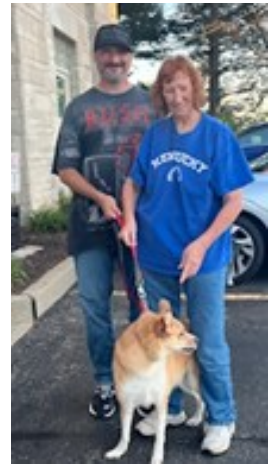
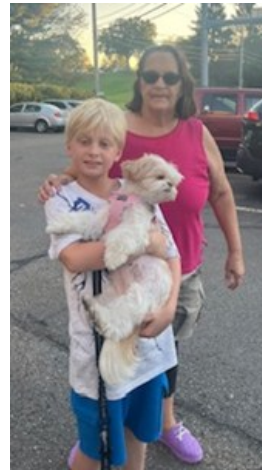
Please consider baking 2 dozen or more Christmas cookies for Zion's homebound. Kindly drop off in the kitchen by Wednesday, 11/26/2025 so they may be packaged and delivered by Pastor Bill during his December visits. NO NUTS/NUT PRODUCTS due to allergies. Sign up with the kind of cookies you will be baking on the meal train or call the office.

<https://mealtrain.com/q2ky>

BLESSING OF THE BEASTS

October 4, 2025

Pastor Neal blessing the beasts of Zion's community.



FALL YOUTH MINISTRY ACTIVITIES



September Treats
at Sugar and Spice

October Afternoon
at Trax Farm



ADULT EDUCATION SCHEDULE for NOVEMBER 2025

The Lord's Prayer, Led by Jack Reck **Teaching Series by Dr. R. Albert Mohler, Jr**

When the disciples asked Jesus how to pray, little did they know that they would be given a model for prayer that would be used for generations. Prayer is central to our relationship with God, and our prayer life is directly affected by what we believe about God.

Tentative Schedule of Classes

Session 1: November 2, Teach Us to Pray

Session 2: November 9, Two Models of Prayer

Session 3: November 16, Our Father

Session 4: November 23, A Holy Name

Session 5: November 30, The City of God

Please join us on Sundays in the Heritage Classroom at 10:30 AM.

“The LORD is near to all who call on him and to all who call on him in truth.”

Psalms 145:18 ESV



Thank you Clarence Richey and Linda Vietmeier for serving the Lord by taking pictures of our members for our new pictorial directory.