



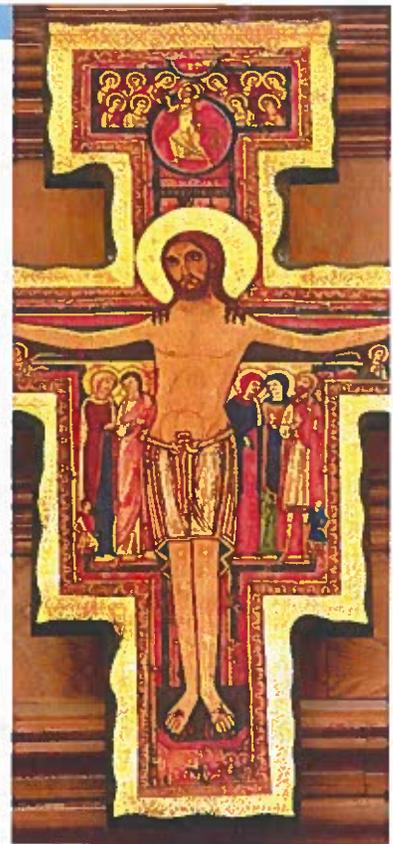
A Message from Pastor Mathew

If you were at the annual congregational meeting or if you read through the annual report packet then you know that Zion has some pretty monumental plans for its ministry year in 2026 and beyond. These plans did not fall into place easily and there were numerous conversations and prayers that led to what ultimately took place. The bottom line, I think, was driven by last year's 225th anniversary. We did not want to look at such a celebration as an opportunity to rest but to launch. And launch we have.

Zion is taking very seriously our intent to grow. And I, for one, am beyond excited to see such a hopeful and encouraging outlook on our future, not just for the future of the church, but for the church right now, today. We, too, can benefit from these efforts in outreach because as we ourselves dwell in and on the Word of God, we too are enriched. I'll pull out a quote from a recent sermon from Luther's Large Catechism. He writes, "such is the efficacy of the Word, whenever it is seriously contemplated, heard, and used, that it is bound never to be without fruit, but always awakens new understanding, pleasure, and devoutness, and produces a pure heart and pure thoughts. For these words are not inoperative or dead, but creative, living words." Truly, the church benefits from outreach not only in its future, but right now too. God be praised!

I can personally say that I've had a blast these past few months getting to know new visitors to Zion, having conversations with them either in my office, out to lunch, or grabbing coffee together. People are hungry for the Word of God and they are hungry for a place in His Church. I see this in people who are changing churches, those who have little church experience, and those who have previously had no real church experience. The Holy Spirit is active and I think we need to be ready for growth, both numerically and spiritually.

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*"The steadfast
love of the Lord
is from
everlasting to
everlasting on
those who fear
him..."*

Psalm 103:17

**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.

(A Message from Pastor Mathew continued from page 1)

In talking about the growth of the church in Corinth, Paul writes about the various leaders who were instrumental in people coming to know Jesus. Here he speaks about where that growth ultimately comes from. Paul writes, "What then is Apollos? What is Paul? Servants through whom you believed, as the Lord assigned to each. I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth. So neither he who plants nor he who waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth. He who plants and he who waters are one, and each will receive his wages according to his labor. For we are God's fellow workers. You are God's field, God's building." (1 Corinthians 3:5-9) Who gives the growth? God does. We all play a part, but God brings that growth. Let's continue to take advantage of the Spirit working in our midst. Let's plant the seed of God's Word, let's water the fertile soil with joy, and let's live and share the love of Jesus each and every day.

God's peace,

Pastor Mathew

COE President's Corner by Anita Reck

Philippians 4:6 "Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God."

The end of January was kind of crazy. In mid-January, Sherry Galland called me (while I was walking in the woods near a friend's house in Cleveland) and told me that she had cut her finger and needed stitches. She wasn't sure she could play at the Saturday worship service. After calling Karen Stoddart and Ed Schillo, so that they could notify Pastor Neal when he arrived for worship, I called Keith Kirchartz and he was gracious enough to come to church to play the organ for the service. Between him and Pastor Neal they revised some things and the service went on with music.

Near the end of January, while I was in Florida, I heard weather reports about a major winter storm (lots of snow!) that was supposed to arrive on the Sunday morning of our scheduled annual meeting. Not only that but the service that Sunday was going to welcome new members, as well as having 3 baptisms. After many telephone calls with the church administrative staff while I was at Disney's Animal Kingdom and Hollywood studios, a decision was made to cancel the annual meeting. It was too great a risk to have people attempt to come during a snowstorm. The office sent out several all-church emails, as well as made telephone calls to those members who do not have email.

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(COE President's corner continued from page 2)

But wait! There's more. I had done nothing about Sunday's service, that would have to be Pastor's call. I knew Pastor was disembarking from his cruise sometime Saturday, but he was going to be in the Pacific Time Zone. As far as I knew, he had no idea that a snow-storm was predicted for Pittsburgh. Between walking around Magic Kingdom and in the Orlando Airport waiting for my flight home, I was finally able to get in touch with him. After several phone calls, he decided it was best to cancel the service too, especially since there was a chance he wouldn't be able to get home that evening as planned. The office was able to send another all-church email and the cancellation was posted on WPXI news.

All my worry, all my anxiousness about Sherry's finger, Saturday's worship music, the snow-storm coming when the annual meeting was scheduled, I needed to remember that God was in charge.

Sherry's finger was taken care of and she was back playing the organ on Sunday, everyone was notified about the annual meeting cancellation. Both Pastor and I returned home safely Saturday night and Pastor conducted a livestream service on Facebook and YouTube on Sunday morning. Zion welcomed the new members on Sunday, February 1. The annual meeting on February 8 was well attended. Our members brought food for a wonderful potluck brunch buffet during the meeting and we were able to conduct the annual business of Zion. On February 15, Zion celebrated the baptism of 3 people.

Praise be to God that he took care of Zion amid all of the craziness.

Deuteronomy 31:8 "It is the Lord who goes before you. He will be with you; he will not leave you or forsake you. Do not fear or be dismayed."

PICTORIAL DIRECTORY—PHOTO MAKEUP SESSIONS

If you have not had your photo taken for our upcoming directory, you have another opportunity. Photos will be taken in the Fellowship Hall after worship services on:

Saturday, March 7, 2026

Sunday, March 8, 2026

Other options are to email a photo to the office or send one via US mail to be included in the directory.



**Lenten Midweek
Prayer Services**
Wednesdays
February 25 – March 25
11a.m.-Heritage Room



Join Pastor Mathew For
**The Meaning
Of Jesus'
Sacrifice**
Wednesdays IN LENT
11:30 A.M. in the Library

Lenten Sermon Series

The Decalogue, The Ten Commandments
They seem so simple and yet our continued mistakes are what put Jesus on the cross. Pastor will lead us through the Ten Commandments showing us what led to Calvary and just how far Jesus would go to redeem us.

Psalms, Patter and Prayer at Panera
Fridays during Lent, 12:00—1:00 PM
Panera, Caste Village
All are welcome to one or all sessions.

**Easter Week
Services**

Maunder Thursday
April 2, 2026
7 P.M.

Good Friday
April 3, 2026
7 P.M.

Saturday
No services

Easter Sunday
8 A.M.
10:30 A.M.

**Spring/Easter
Cookies for the
Homebound**

Please consider baking 2 dozen or more cookies for Zion's homebound. Kindly drop cookies off in the kitchen by Sunday, March 15, 2026, so they may be packaged and delivered by Pastor Bill. Please NO NUTS/NUT PRODUCTS due to allergies.

Sign up at :
Mealtrain.com/
v6vwmg

In Our Prayers

Joshua Alukonis
Kevin Barrett
Lynn Broman
David Detwiler
Mary Ann Dunlap
Corey Fischer
Daniel Fowler
Jon Galland
Marshawna Hill
Casey Hirsh
George Langford
Glenn Ribblett
Suzanne Roberts
Karen Stoddart

Worship Times
Saturday 5 PM
Sunday 9 AM



Faith Education
10:30 A

ConnectFor
Families with children in
pre-K—5th grade

Confirmation
6th-8th grade

High School

Adult

See Zion's Website or
the worship bulletin for
more information about
faith education and
small group bible study.

Word & Sacrament Magazine

This publication put out by the North American Lutheran Seminary (NALS) is a seasonal magazine featuring articles about our seminary, denomination, and discipleship. The latest edition is available in the narthex.

To subscribe go to: thenals.org

MARCH BAPTISMAL BIRTHDAYS

Lukas Buechel	March 3, 2018
Noah Beebout	March 9, 2008
Grace Douglass	March 12, 2023
Simon Pratt	March 16, 2025

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



ZION'S YOUTH MINISTRY

Adults—\$10.00
Children—\$6.00



MARDI GRAS PANCAKE DINNER

Come and support this
Youth Fundraiser
Saturday, March 7
6:00 - 8:00 p.m.



SARRIS

Easter Candy Sale

To benefit the Zion's Youth

Orders will be ready for pick-up at the church beginning March 28, 2006.

Zion's Annual Congregational Dinner & Potluck Brunch (2/8/2026)

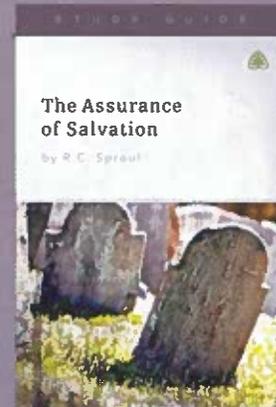


ADULT CLASS IN THE HERITAGE ROOM

Join us in on Sundays at 10:30 a.m. to view the video series and discuss

"The Assurance of Salvation"

By Dr. R.C. Sproul



March 1—Four Kinds of People—Phil Dodge
March 8—False Assurance—Phil Dodge

March 15—Gaining True Assurance—Phil Dodge
March 22—The Source of Full Assurance—Jack Reck

NALC Lenten & Easter Devotional 2026

THE UNSHAKEN Cross

"May this devotional deepen reflection and strengthen your trust in Christ during this season of repentance and hope." — NALC

This devotional is available for download in black and white or in color at:

Thenalc.org

On January 15, 2026, we received a thank you from Randal A. Lutz, Superintendent of Schools at Baldwin Whitehall School District, for our \$4,000 donation to help students in need.