

A Message from Pastor Mathew

I've been reading an excellent book that compares the Jewish community of the Old Testament to the missional church as it is called to be today. I am a big fan of the Old Testament, specifically the history of God choosing and working through the family line of Abraham. It was truly fascinating to see how the author of this book translated the calling of the Christian church through the history and workings of the Old Testament. Of course, the author used the life and teachings of Jesus as well as the call to the new and growing church of the New Testament, but everything we are to be and do as the church in the 21st century stems, very beautifully, from the Old.

One of the last questions posed in the book has to do with how these foundations would work, what would they look like, if they were to be fully implemented and supported within the congregations of today? The author gave 13 different examples as to how we could live out this missional identity that is formed from the life and worship of Old Testament Israel.

Because I found these examples to be pivotal for Zion's future as we embark on our next 225 years, I want to take time over the next few months in our newsletter to highlight them for consideration and prayer, one or two of these examples each month. And because it's not just about me, I would love to know if any of these points speaks to you as you read it. I want you to be asking yourself, "how can I participate in helping Zion to exemplify this part of the missional church now and into the future?" Below are the qualities of the missional church that I will be highlighting in the upcoming months. Let us seek to be:

- 1) A church with worship that nurtures our missional identity
- 2) A church that is empowered by the preaching of the Gospel
- 3) A church that is devoted to communal prayer
- 4) A church that strives to live as a contrast community
- 5) A church that understands its cultural context
- 6) A church that is trained for a missionary encounter in its callings in the world
- 7) A church that is trained to evangelism in an organic way

Continued on page 2

*"For I am not
ashamed of the
gospel, for it is
the power of God
for salvation to
everyone who
believes..."*

Romans 1:16

**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

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- 8) A church deeply involved in the needs of its neighborhood and world
- 9) A church committed to missions
- 10) A church with well-trained leaders
- 11) A church with parents trained to take up the task of nurturing children in faith
- 12) A church with small groups that nurture for mission in the world
- 13) A church that seeks and expresses the unity of the body of Christ

As you look these over you may have read some of these and think that we already embody this or that. And, in fact, I believe you are right. But, it does not mean we don't seek to strengthen ourselves in these areas. Let us be prayerful that as we seek to grow and become stronger as a church we might be open to those things the Holy Spirit may be calling us to be and do.

God's peace,

Pastor Mathew

PLEASE JOIN US:

Zion Lutheran Church
Multi-generational Packing Event
in support of the
NORTH AMERICAN
LUTHERAN CHURCH
DISASTER RESPONSE
Sunday, May 17th
10:30 am

Zion Lutheran Church can support the essential ministry of NALC Disaster Response by keeping their warehouses stocked with life-saving supplies so they can act quickly when a natural disaster strikes.

Our budgeted Benevolence funds have provided the supplies for many health kits. **We just need your help assembling them.**

Disaster Response in the NALC isn't just about emergency — it's about being the hands and feet of Jesus.

“Let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth.” —1 John 3:18

COE President's Corner by Anita Reck

2 Chronicles 29:3 *In the first year of his reign, in the first month, he (Hezekiah) opened the doors of the house of the Lord and repaired them.*

Nehemiah 10:39 *For the people of Israel and the sons of Levi shall bring the contribution of grain, wine, and oil to the chambers, where the vessels of the sanctuary are, as well as the priests who minister, and the gatekeepers and the singers. We will not neglect the house of our God.*

We are charged with taking care of God's house. Not only caring for his people, but also the physical building (house) where we worship. Recently, Zion has been doing some work on God's physical house.

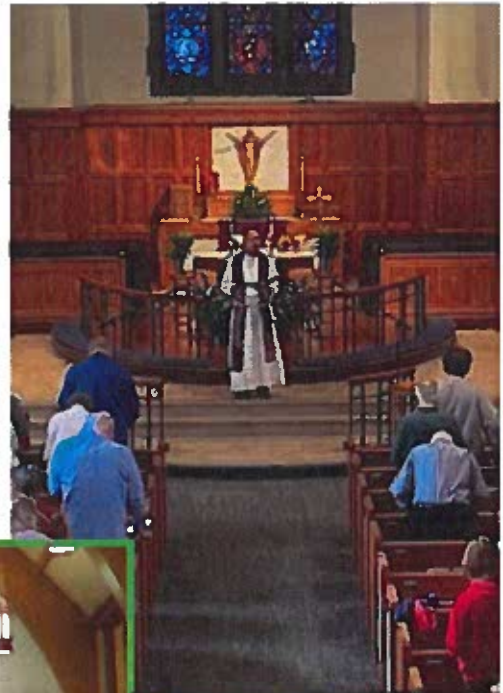
- ✦ In December, an old electrical panel in the kitchen was replaced with a more modern and safer breaker panel.
- ✦ In December, our security camera system was upgraded. Our system was expanded from 8 channels to 16 channels and there is now a 32" monitor in the office which shows 12 of 13 cameras on a rotating basis. In addition to the cameras we already had, cameras were installed outside on the Rt 51 side of the church, in the parking lot entrance canopy, in the third-floor hallway, in Fellowship Hall, and in the entryway area between Fellowship Hall and the stairs to the sanctuary.
- ✦ Our new insurance company notified us that they found water damage near the front stained-glass windows in the balcony. American Restoration Service found significant damage to the caulking on both sides of the roof over the front stained-glass windows and sections where the caulking no longer exists. They have been retained to take out the existing caulking and install new, and re-point some of the grout around the stone. Once that is finished, the walls in the balcony will be repaired and repainted.
- ✦ A committee was formed to review the possibility of changing the front 3-sided sign to a 3-sided digital sign. They have done a lot of work and have made a recommendation; however, COE has delayed making any decision because of the major roof repair work that is needed.
- ✦ Since it has been over a year that we haven't had full a full-time custodian, another committee has been reviewing what the cleaning service does, what volunteers have been able to do, and in what areas we lack volunteers. The COE hopes to act on their report in the April meeting.

All of these things help keep our building in good condition and make it a beautiful, safe place to call home.

PALM SUNDAY and EASTER SUNDAY



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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.

In Our Prayers

Joshua Alukonis
Kevin Barrett
David Detwiler
Mary Ann Dunlap
Corey Fischer
Jon Galland
Marshawna Hill
Casey Hirsh
George Langford
Shaymere McDougald
Glenn Ribblett
Suzanne Roberts
Dave Sheridan

May Adult Education Topics

Sundays—Heritage Room—10:30 am

May 3	The Natures of Christ
May 10	The Presence of Christ
May 24	Blessing and Judgement

MAY BAPTISMAL BIRTHDAYS

Christopher Dodge	May 10, 2008
Noah White	May 11, 2025
Anna Pierce	May 15, 2022
Luke Scholze	May 25, 2019
Dean Langholz	May 30, 2021

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





Community Clothes Exchange



**Saturday, May 30, 2006
10A - 2 P**

If you are interested in helping with this exchange or future ones, contact Lane Magera.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION



On April 25 & 26, the following students received their First Holy Communion.

Dylan Bedont
Trevor Bedont
Cassidy Delu

Shepard Hoffman
Waylon Matus
Brynley Taylor

A vibrant illustration of a tropical rainforest scene. In the center, a waterfall cascades down a rocky ledge. The scene is framed by lush green foliage, including large red and yellow flowers. Several colorful parrots (red, blue, and green) are perched on branches. In the foreground, a cartoon monkey with a surprised expression is looking towards the viewer. The text 'Save the Date!' is written in a white, bold font at the top left. The title 'RAINFOREST FALLS' is prominently displayed in a stylized, colorful font across the middle. Below it, a wooden sign reads 'Exploring the Nature of God'. To the right, the Zion Lutheran Church logo (ZLC) is shown, followed by the text 'Zion Lutheran Church'. The dates 'VBS 2026' and 'June 22-25' are written in large, bold blue letters. At the bottom right, it says 'Registration opens April 19th at zlc Brentwood.org'.

SUMMER OPPORTUNITIES FOR STUDENTS

Intents Lutheran Church Camp Located in Somerset County

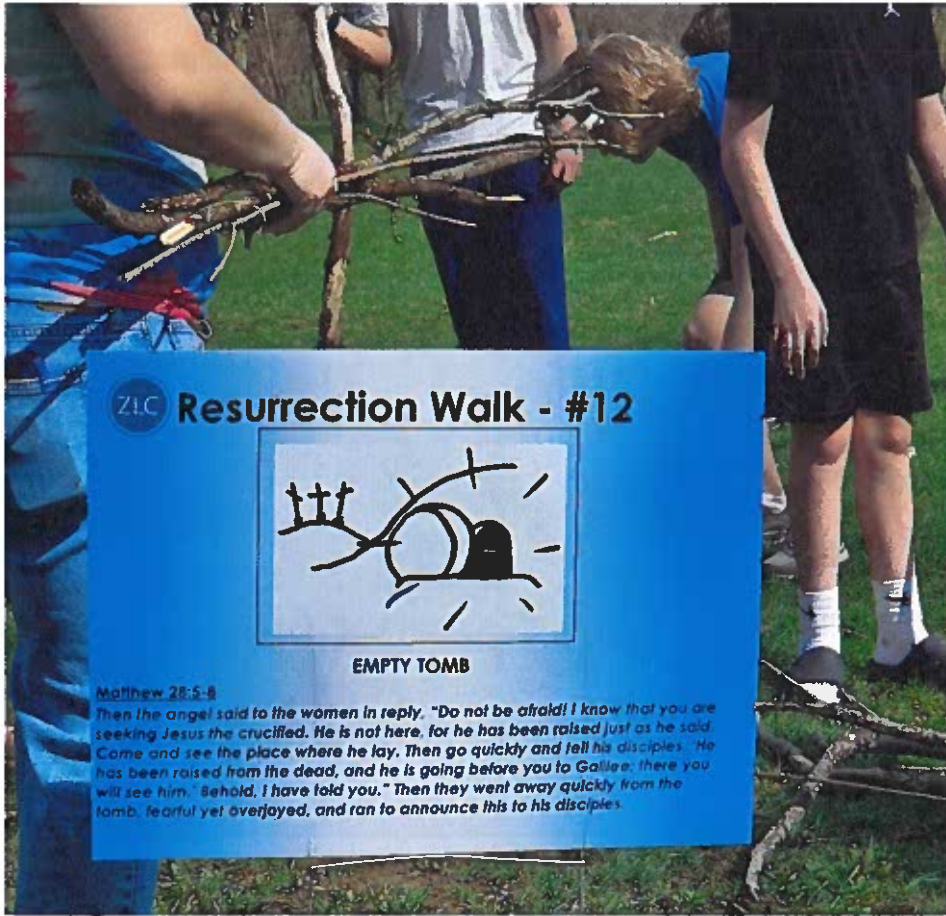
For each camp, we are trying to get a group of students to attend together for a few days of fun, games, campfires, food and Jesus. Reach out to Pastor Mathew for more information.

Grades 3-5

- + A two night elementary camp is being offered (July 20-22, 2026)
- + Cost \$150

Middle School and High School

- + July 13-17, 2026
- + Cost \$250



4/5/26



Thanks from Zion's Community

Dear Zion Lutheran Church,

Thank you for your generous gift of \$492 on 4/7/2026.

Your gift empowers us to bring hope to families in our community by spreading God's love and providing free home furnishing and medical equipment during time of need. We genuinely appreciate your unwavering support. It means the world to us. Without your contribution, we wouldn't be able to make the positive difference we make in our community.

Thank you so much,

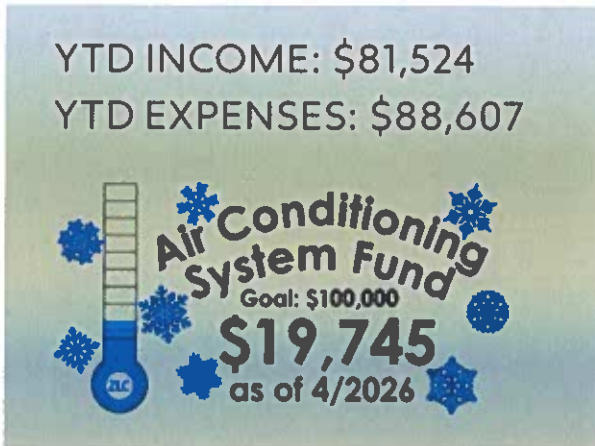
All of us at The Blessing Board

Friends of Bethel-St. Clair Meals on Wheels,

A simple phone call from a client, and we plan, shop, prepare and deliver a nutritious meal Monday through Friday. Two meals, one hot dinner and one cold lunch, are prepared and then delivered by dedicated volunteers.

This year has been tough on us as it has been for most everyone in the community. Just an example, the microwavable trays we use run us \$392+ every two and a half weeks. Your extremely generous donation of \$4,000 is greatly appreciated and will take burden plus much more from the budget. We are currently serving 96 clients.

Thank you too for the prayer.



PUT THIS on YOUR CALENDAR!

Mother's Day
May 10, 2026

Confirmation
May 24, 2026

The graphic features a calendar icon with a red checkmark and the text 'PUT THIS on YOUR CALENDAR!' in a bold, colorful font. Below the calendar icon, the dates for Mother's Day (May 10, 2026) and Confirmation (May 24, 2026) are listed.

See Zion's Facebook page for additional pictures.

