

A Message from Pastor Mathew

Qualities of a Missional Church

Last month, I spoke about a book I had been reading which traced the history of the Christian church through the structures of the Old Testament Jewish culture and how those same structures are what identify the Christian church today. To live as a missional church today that is rooted in the biblical story is very important as churches struggle with becoming too much like the world in which they are placed. To remain focused on that missional identity, I noted 13 qualities of a missional church that I would highlight over the next several months and I encourage you as I share them to consider the part you play in helping these qualities to be visible here at Zion. So, what makes a missional church?

Worship that Nurtures our Missional Identity

Clearly, worship is already a part of our life together. But, of everything we do, worship is by far the most important thing we do. Theologian Leslie Newbigin would agree with this. Pastor John Piper would also say that the sole purpose of the church is worship. But the reason we are involved in anything else is because there are still others out there who do not know the Lord. Still, at its center, and at our center should be weekly worship. Worship is what tells the story of the world. It tells the story of the world and that it is ultimately rooted in the death and resurrection of Jesus. It is the primary place where the Bible narrates the world for the Christian community, and it is the place where we find our place in that story. Make weekly worship your top Christian priority.

Empowered by the Preaching of the Gospel

I will be very honest in saying that preaching sermons is the most fun and most terrifying thing I do as a pastor. It's fun because I love doing it. It's terrifying because I don't want to say anything that would offend the One for whom I am speaking, nor do I want to lead anyone astray by preaching a false gospel. If only you understood that struggle. That aside, the importance of

*“Continue
steadfastly
in prayer,
being watchful
in it with
thanksgiving.”
Colossians 4:2*

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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good preaching is as such: it is a powerful means by which God's people are nurtured. Preaching the scriptures that cradle Jesus equips us for our missional calling to be a distinct people in the world, a calling that laid out in the Old Testament, that is fulfilled in Jesus, and that is exemplified in the New Testament growth of the church. If preaching does not cause you to want to go out and join Jesus on His mission to redeem and restore all people, then sermons are not doing their job, or enough attention is not being paid to them. You might fear I put my emphasis on the latter of those statements. However, my fear is in the former.

Overall, these two aspects of a missional church are paramount to everything we are and do. Let's do our best to make sure that we give each their proper priority at Zion and in our lives.

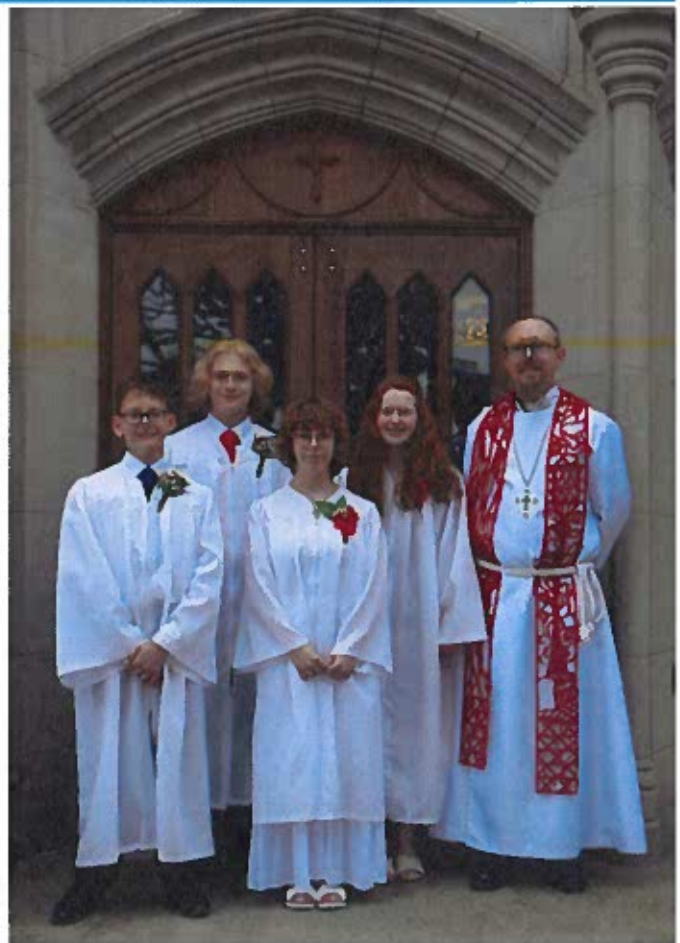
God's peace,

Pastor Mathew

CONFIRMATION
May 24, 2026

Ian Oeler
Leif Galland
Emma Oeler
Kara Luy
Pastor Mathew

***God's blessings to
Zion's Confirmands.***



A Message from Pastor Bill

Signs

They have long been etched in my visual memory from our yearly jaunts to Florida. Two adults, five kids and two Labrador Retrievers, (Bonnie and Clyde) in a large motor-home rambling southward on I-95 . These were the signs for "South-of-the-Border," a huge travel plaza, somewhere between North and South Carolina. It advertised ice cream parlors, gaming arcades, and knick-knack stores by the hundreds. I think the motto was, "*You bring it (money) and we'll get it.*" For miles before the exit, billboards tantalized the kids, "*Heeey Kids! If you bug them now, they'll stop.*" Animated cacti, larger-than-life cartoon characters and Ferris Wheels beckoned travelers to what was surely paradise – at least to young ones who had been cooped up for hours and had four weeks of allowance in their pockets.

Signs have their effect on us – drawing us forward, making us eager for the future, drawing us toward a reality. In John's Gospel, that we were reading in Easter, Jesus performs "signs" – turning water into wine, raising Lazarus, and above all, dying and rising. These signs reveal who Jesus is and who sent Him, signs that draw us to dwell with our God.

This past year Zion has seen signs of God's work among us, signs that God will use and bless this congregation. We are living in a changed an ever-changing culture – one in which the church, as an institution, is no longer the center of family life. Church schedules no longer dominate the family schedule. We struggle with this new reality and mourn what is lost, but there is little chance of going back to what once was. Focusing on yesterday is not productive.

And yet, we believe that **Jesus Christ** is still and always the center of our lives. This Easter we celebrated that Jesus is risen – He is now alive, and is still at work, no matter what! We desire Zion to minister to that reality. Over the summer months, we should look for more signs, words, and images that we hope will guide Zion into a new era of ministry. Keep your eyes peeled and your prayer life active!

Alive in Christ!

Pastor Bill+

MANUP MEN'S CONFERENCE 2026

June 6, 2026 7:30 AM—3:00 PM

Victory Family Church

A one-day conference to help men lead with strength at home, in their church and in their community. For more information visit: manuppittsburgh.org

SUMMER Worship Times

Saturday 5 PM
Sunday 9 AM

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

SUMMER SERMON SERIES The Big Relief

Pastor Mathew will spotlight the most important and urgent need in a world rocked by internal and external storms:

GRACE

In Our Prayers

Joshua Alukonis
Kevin Barrett
David Detwiler
Mary Ann Dunlap
Corey Fischer
Jon Galland
Sherry Galland
Marshawna Hill
George Langford
Shaymere McDougald
Glenn Ribblett
Suzanne Roberts
Dave Sheridan
Geoff Wagner
Chuck Wingert

SAVE THE DATE

Grandma's Attic (Flea Market)
Saturday, August 22, 2026

More information will soon be available.

JUNE BAPTISMAL BIRTHDAYS

Waylon Matus	June 18, 2017
Evan Schubert	June 18, 2011
Leif Galland	June 30, 2012

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



NALC Women's Spring Gathering May 2, 2026



MULTIGENERATIONAL PACKING EVENT



May 17, 2026

Senior Brunch May 13, 2026



Save the Date!

ZLC Zion Lutheran Church

VBS 2026
June 22-25

Registration opens April 19th
at zlc Brentwood.org

RAINFOREST FALLS
Exploring the Nature of God

A variety of volunteers are needed. Please contact Dan Fisher if you are able to assist for a day or all week or if you have any questions (danfish169@gmail.com).

On Friday evening, the children will present a special program. All are welcome.

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

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION

April 25 & 26



Welcome to the Lord's Table

Waylon Matus
Shepard Hoffman
Cassidy Delu
Trevor Bedont
Dylan Bedont
Brynley Taylor

SATURDAY NIGHT COOKOUT

June 13, 2026

Following Saturday service around 6 P.M.

First Fellowship Cookout of the Season

Please Join Us!

Zion will supply the meats, breads & condiments. If you are able, please bring a side dish to share. With or without a side dish, please join us. ALL ARE WELCOME.

