

## *A Message from Pastor Mathew*

### **Qualities of a Missional Church, Part 2**

As we seek to be representatives of Jesus in the 21<sup>st</sup> century, there are certain qualities a missional church should embody as it seeks to live and share the love of Jesus each day. Last month, I touched on two. This month, I will do the same. As you read through these qualities over the coming months, I encourage you to consider the part you play in helping these qualities to be visible here at Zion. That said, let's continue looking at the qualities of a missional church.

#### **A Church Devoted to Communal Prayer**

Prayer seems pretty obvious for a church and it is something we do. But, we should not lose it nor underestimate its power. You see, it is easy to bring people into the church by means of outreach tools, marketing techniques, and attractive ministries, but that doesn't necessarily mean that the community that gathers will embody the power of the Gospel. To enhance our prayers, I found insight from C.J. Miller who describes the difference between what might be called maintenance prayer and frontline prayer. Maintenance prayer is essentially what we do in worship, we pray in such a way to maintain the existing life of the congregation. Frontline prayer could be done in worship or in a prayer meeting setting. Frontline prayer longs for God to be acting in the congregation in specific life-changing ways. It believes strongly that God can act in these ways and it expects change to occur. We probably realize how prayer can become more mechanical in practice or even a second thought. A strong missional church will and should prioritize prayer and model it for others.

#### **A Church Striving to Live as a Contrast Community**

What exactly is a contrast community, you ask? It is one that is an attractive alternative that lives in contrast to western culture. I'm starting to get into what this looks like in my summer

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*“Let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.”*

*Matthew 5:16*

#### **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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sermon series on grace. In a culture like the one Zion is placed in, it is important that we live in such ways that show we live counter to it, finding our hope in Jesus who is not just a personal value of our people but who is part of the overall story of humanity.

Of course, living in a counter culture does not mean that we become oblivious to what is going on around us. The Bible even tells us to be in the world but not of it. We must address concerns in our community in ways that embody the Gospel. We want to strive to be a generous and simplistic community as we live in a consumer world. We want to strive to be a people who exercise self-less giving in a world of selfishness and entitlement. We want to be a community with a deep confidence that the story of Christianity is the story of the entire world. Doing so, we want to be a community of joy and thanksgiving as we experience God actively working in a secular world.

Overall, these two aspects of a missional church support the first two I covered last month and I encourage all of us to do our best to make sure that we give each their proper priority at Zion and in our lives.

God's peace,

Pastor Mathew



**SUMMER SERMON SERIES**

The Big Relief: The urgency of grace for a worn-out world.  
Based on a book by David Zahl

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

**Genesis 8:22** *While the earth remains, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night, shall not cease.*

**Song of Solomon 2:12** *The flowers appear on the earth, the time of singing has come, and the voice of the turtledove is heard in our land.*

Summer is here and Zion's summer activities are in full swing!

Vacation Bible School, Rainforest Falls, was June 22 through 26 and was an enormous success. Through VBS, we teach our members' children, as well as neighborhood children, about Jesus. Over 25 youth and 10 adults volunteered their time to serve VBS as leaders, and in the snack, crafts, and helper roles. A huge thank you to them and a special thank you to members of the property ministry for their building skills and to Dan Fisher for his years of service as VBS coordinator. Zion could not have VBS without them!

Saturday evening, June 13, after 5pm worship was our first fellowship cookout of the season! Join us again on July 11. Zion will supply the meats, breads and condiments for these Saturday evening cookouts. If you are able, please bring a dish for a pot-luck meal. If you are unable to bring a dish, please come anyway, ALL ARE WELCOME!

A worship service honoring our country's 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary and those who serve in our armed forces will be held on Friday morning, July 3<sup>rd</sup>. Thank you to our veterans and those who currently serve. Refreshments will be provided following the service.

August 22 brings Zion's annual Grandma's Attic. If you would like to donate items, you may bring them to Zion starting July 1st, Monday through Friday, 9am to 3pm. Please no clothing, shoes, electronics, or large furniture. Come shop for treasures!

Our second annual Outdoor Worship and Pot Luck is at South Park on Sunday, August 30, at Black Ash Pavilion. More details to come in the bulletin and Monday emails.

If you aren't able to join us during the summer, Zion has plenty of fall/winter events planned, including Saturday/Sunday worship, ConnectFor, Sunday Adult Education Classes, another Packing Event, Thursdays and Fridays Bible Studies, Bible and Brews Thursday evenings, Thursday morning Quilters, and much more.

Zion's bulletins, Monday emails, and monthly newsletters will have much more information.

Follow us on Social Media for updates and VBS pictures.

Facebook: [zlcbrrentwood](#)

Instagram: [@zlcbrrentwood](#)

Website: [zlcbrrentwood.org](http://zlcbrrentwood.org)

## In Our Prayers

Kevin Barrett  
David Detwiler  
John Drankno  
Mary Ann Dunlap  
Corey Fischer  
Jon Galland  
Sherry Galland  
Marshawna Hill  
Glenn Ribblett  
Suzanne Roberts  
Dave Sheridan  
Carol Succop  
Chuck Wingert

## Community Clothes Exchange

Free and open to the  
community

Hosted at Zion Lutheran  
Church

Saturday  
August 15, 2026  
10:00 AM—2:00PM

Bring shopping  
bags to fill.

If you are interested in  
volunteering to set-up,  
clean-up or during  
the exchange  
contact Lane Magera.

**Note:** clothing dona-  
tions are not accepted  
at the exchange.

## INDEPENDENCE DAY WORSHIP JULY 3, 2026 @ 11 A.M.

Join us for a special worship service as we celebrate our nation's 250th birthday by giving thanks to God for the land we call home and for those who have answered the call to protect and serve our nation, our state and our community. Refreshments provided following the service.

## JULY BAPTISMAL BIRTHDAYS

Garrett Russen	July 12, 2009
Evelyn George	July 13, 2025
Charles Thatcher	July 31, 2016

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



# JUNE SUMMER COOKOUT



**NEXT COOKOUT**  
Saturday July 11, 2026  
Following 5p service - 6 PM  
**ALL ARE WELCOME!**  
Meat, bread and condiments provided.  
Side dishes to share are welcome.





Zion Lutheran Church

# GRANDMA'S ATTIC FLEA MARKET

SATURDAY,  
AUGUST 22<sup>ND</sup>  
8 AM TO 2 PM



- ✦ FLEA MARKET will be open following Saturday Worship.
- ✦ For those donating items, please follow the guidance below.
  - \* Items may be dropped off between Wednesday, July 1— Sunday, August 16.
  - \* Items must be clean and in working order.
  - \* Donated items NOT accepted: clothing, shoes, computers, large furniture.
- ✦ VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: If you would like to help set up the week of August 17, help the day of the sale or have any questions please call Sandra Schlessman at 724-782-0083.
- ✦ Don't forget to stop by to look for your treasure!

## Bake Sale at Grandma's Attic

Seeking bakers to donate delicious homemade treats to sell at Grandma's Attic.

Requested items/Best Sellers: Pies, cakes, muffins, breads, and home-made cookies bagged by the dozen.

Please drop off treats to the church by Friday, August 21 between 9 AM—2 PM.

If you have any questions, please contact Barb Warden at 724-519-5509



### MISSIONARIES TO ALASKA

Tommy & Madison Dolgos will be bringing the Good News of Jesus to Native Alaskans through the Alaska Student Partnership. Please join us after worship on Sunday, July 12 to speak with Tommy & Madison about their upcoming missionary service.

### GLOW GOLFING OUTING

Saturday, July 25

3 Lakes Golf Course in Penn Hills

A light shines in the darkness (your golf ball). Join in for some fun, fellowship and the challenge of golfing in the dark. The darkness levels the playing field.

Cost—\$40 (includes a glow-in-the-dark golf ball and a \$5 credit to the snack bar. Contact Dan Fisher or Harold Mittenzwey if you are interested.

## SUMMER OPPORTUNITIES FOR STUDENTS

In-Tents Lutheran Church Camp Located in Somerset County

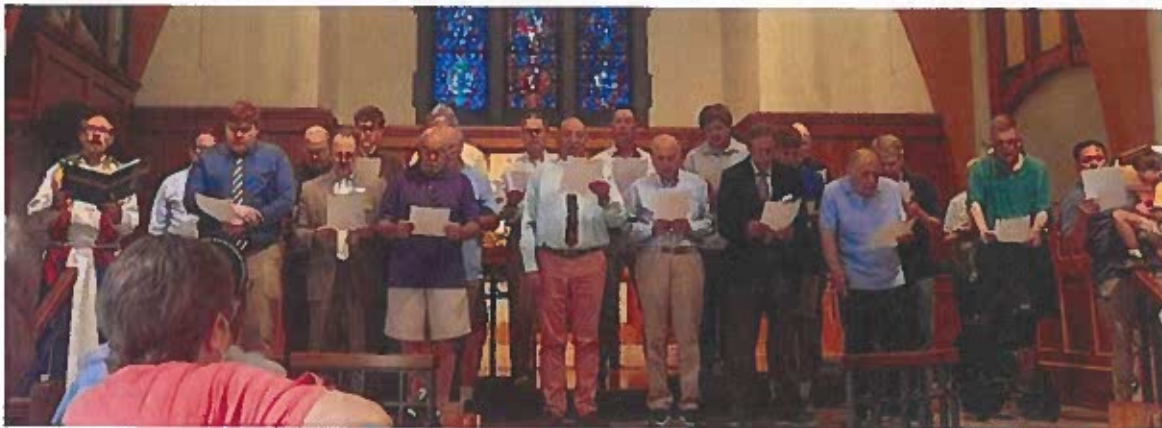
For each camp, we are trying to get a group of students to attend together for a few days of fun, games, campfires, food and Jesus. Reach out to Pastor Mathew for more information.

### 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



Father's Day June 21, 2026 - Faith of Our Fathers

# Worship in the Park & Church Picnic

11 am | Sunday, August 30th  
Black Ashes Pavillion in South Park

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## THANK YOU NOTES RECEIVED FROM MEALS ON WHEELS

Dear Pastor Mathew of Zion Lutheran Church,  
Thank you for your very generous gift of \$4,000. I'm sorry this note is so late. Our client list has grown exponentially. In May, we served 110 clients and made over 5,000 meals! Last year at this time we were doing half that many. God bless each and every one of you. Thank you from the bottom of my heart.

Love, Pam Mason, SPMOW

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Friends of Bethel-St Clair Meals on Wheels,

It has been reported that 1 out of every 4 seniors goes hungry each day. Many older members of our communities suffer from chronic physical disabilities, illnesses or simply advancing age. ....

.....This year has been tough on us as it has been for most everyone in the community. But God has blessed us with friends from Zion Lutheran Church. Your extremely generous check of \$4,000 will help us through those tough times. This past month, we have served 104 clients in need each week. We ask a small donation from each client but serve those that cannot pay even a small amount because of your donation.

Thanks again, and May God Bless All of You!!

Dorothy Vandruff, Manager