



A Message from Pastor Mathew

Qualities of a Missional Church, Part 3

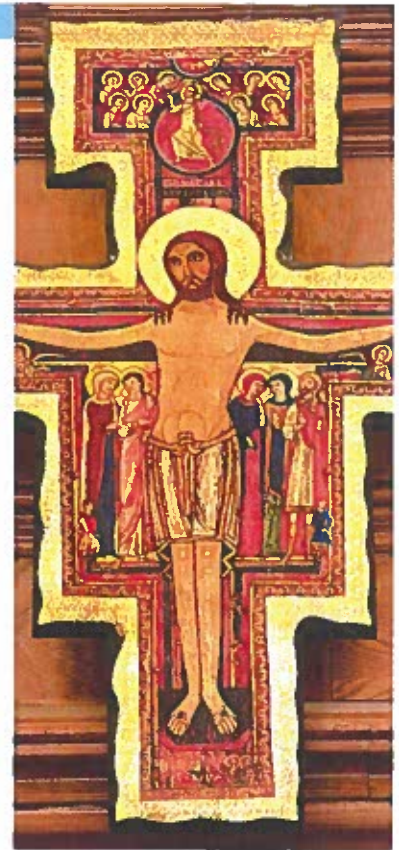
Sometimes the word mission can be misunderstood in the church. Simply put, the mission of God is to redeem and restore all people. When we as a congregation live into that mission as agents of Jesus in the world, we are called missional. The past few months, I've shared different qualities of a missional church and I continue this month with two more. Overall, these qualities I share are ones that we may already embody but there may also be ones which we might not embody quite yet. As always, I encourage you to read through these and prayerfully consider the part you may be called to play in seeing these qualities lived out at Zion.

A Church That Understands Its Cultural Context

One thing we should observe about the culture around us is that it is not Christian nor is it neutral. The way of the world does not really make room for God. Fortunately, God makes room for the world. Though the world around us falters, God continues to uphold His creation by His grace. A missional church understands the tension between the culture and the Church and allows that tension to better establish its footing. How we resolve the tension is important. We must live in solidarity with the mission field in which we are planted and be at home there. At the same time, we must be clear in our separation from culture as well. We must be at odds with the culture so as to live as a counterculture community but also a relevant part of it. We should therefore keep our eyes open for the cultural currents around us so that we might be able to best live as the church within them.

A Church Trained for a Missionary Encounter in Its Callings in the World

This quality of a missional church directly comes as a result of the one above. In essence, as we realize the cultural differences between two competing stories, the Church responds in



"And He said to them, 'Go into the world and proclaim the gospel to the whole world.'"

Mark 16:15

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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intentional witness and service in the world. Where our missionary encounters take place are in our vocations, the places ordinary people live ordinary lives i.e. home, work, school, family/friend gatherings, politics, the economy, etc. Rather than using heavily researched tactics, the goal is for people to embody their Lord in everything they do, to live and share the love of Jesus wherever they go. While someone might quickly raise their hand to do this rather than evangelize, living and sharing the love of Jesus in a culture that has a direction of its own is no easier. Embodying Jesus in our vocations requires suffering, prayer, and community. We must not only embody Jesus in our vocations but we must also get support from others as we do or we will become exhausted and discouraged.

Putting these two together, a missional church not only recognizes the difference between the church and the culture but also provides opportunities for people to distinguish between them, be trained in missionary encounters, and receive support upon returning from the mission field. Let's pray that God helps us to live out our mission here at Zion in such ways to support the mission of God in the world.

God's peace,

Pastor Mathew



A Message from Pastor Beck

The "You" in Preaching

Herman Sasse, 20th Century German, Lutheran confessional theologian, once put his finger on a perennial weakness of preaching. The sermon is not mere information. The preacher must dare to speak the biblical "you," in both Law and Gospel. "You killed the Author of Life (Peter addressing Jews, Acts 3:15)" "Your holy cities have become a wilderness." (Isaiah's lament, Isaiah 64:10) "You are the man." (Nathan to David, 2 Samuel 12:7).

And the Gospel must be proclaimed the same way: "Today is born for you a savior." "Your sins are forgiven." (Jesus to lame man, Matthew 9:2) "You are raised with Him in Baptism." (St. Paul, Colossians 2:12). "I go to prepare a place for you." (Jesus speaking, John 14:2)

Preaching is, alas, a finger-pointing business. It takes courage to preach the damnation of the Law and skill to preach the sweetness of the Gospel to sinners so accused. The Bible is packed with Christ's full and free forgiveness, ready to be dished up by the preacher.

Get out your Bible and take notice how many times "you" or "your" appears in Peter's sermon, (Acts 3). I counted 19 with crossed-eyes. This is a very good preaching example.

I do like a little humor (emphasizing a point) or a rhetorical surprise, even a short illustrative story, but I can not preach *about* Law and Gospel. I must preach Law in all of its condemnation and Gospel in all of its sweetness.

Alive in Christ
Pastor Bill+

P.S. After a second or third read through of a sermon, I often strike the leading "y" from "your," leaving "our." I'm in there too!

*All Scripture quotations from The New Revised Standard Version
Thanks to Pastor Matthew Harrison for these ideas.*



In Our Prayers

Family and friends of Kevin Barrett
Maria & Steve Clancy
David Delwiler
Mary Ann Dunlap
Corey Fischer
Jon Galland
Sherry Galland
Ken Garver
Marshawna Hill
John Reed
Glenn Ribblett
Suzanne Roberts
Dolly & Ken Rosier
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.

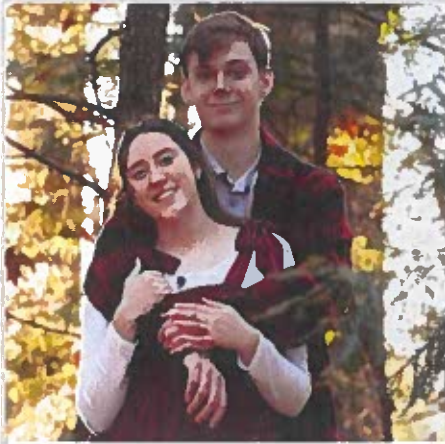
Note: clothing dona-
tions are not accepted
at the exchange.

AUGUST BAPTISMAL BIRTHDAYS

Trevor Bedont	August 05, 2017
Camden Langholz	August 11, 2024
Claudia Matus	August 16, 2020
Laira Matus	August 16, 2020
Elizabeth Schubert	August 17, 2008
Harley Eperthener	August 18, 2013
Olivia Bedont	August 27, 2022
Nate Luy	August 30, 2015

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





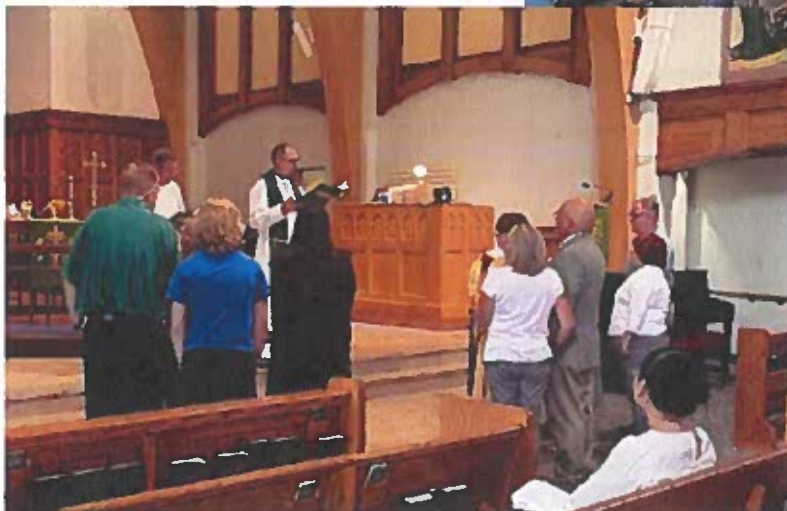
Tommy and Madison Dolgos are currently serving with **Alaska Student Partnership**. If you would like to partner with them in their service, here are some ways you can help:

Website for donations:
<https://dolgos.aksp.org/>

Gear Registry:
<https://www.amazon.com/registries/gl/guest-view/A2FJUWQ7Z7XP>

Thru Thrivent EIN for Alaska Student Partnership: 84-2821164

*Welcome
to our Church*



WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Marion Batchler
 Luc and Leah Lavella
 Caitlin Nobile



Zion Lutheran Church

GRANDMA'S ATTIC FLEA MARKET

SATURDAY,
AUGUST 22ND
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 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 9AM—2PM.

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





VACATION BIBLE SCHOOLE JUNE 22-25, 2026

See Zion's Facebook Page
for more pictures



CONNECTFOR INFORMATION COMING SOON!

IN-TENTS LUTHERAN CHURCH CAMP

See more pictures on Zion's Facebook page



Worship in the Park & Church Picnic

11 am | Sunday, August 30th

Black Ashes Pavillion in South Park

Zion will provide meats and water. If you are able, please bring something to share.
Last Names **A-M** bring a **dessert**.
Last Names **N-Z** bring a **side dish**.

NOTE: NO SUNDAY 9AM SERVICE on AUGUST 30th.
Saturday August 29 Service will be held at 5p.

ZION QUILTERS REQUEST FOR SCHOOL SUPPLIES

The Zion Quilt Ministry has completed 100 school kits for Lutheran World Relief. Please help the quilters fill these backpacks with school supplies for children that live in parts of the world where they can only attend school if they bring their own supplies.

Monetary donations will be used to purchase bulk school supplies. Checks should be made payable to "Zion Lutheran Church" and indicate "School Kits" on the envelope and/or check. If you prefer to purchase supplies yourself, here is what is needed.

****See sample kit in narthex**

- | | |
|--------------------------|----------------------------------|
| ✦ 70 page notebooks | ✦ Ballpoint pens (blue or black) |
| ✦ Blunt scissors | ✦ 2 1/2 inch eraser |
| ✦ Ruler | ✦ 24 count crayon box |
| ✦ Unsharpened #2 pencils | ✦ Pencil sharpener |