zlcbrentwood.org
ZION NEWS
November 2026

A Message from Pastor Mathew

This year, I've shared with you some ways that we can seek to be a more missional church. By that, I mean I'm sharing how we can be more about God's mission to redeem and restore all people, more about how we can live and share the love of Jesus both internally and externally in who we are and by what we do. I've got two more this month and one more for December to finish off the year. Remember, if you read anything in these articles this year and discern that you feel called to be a part of something specific, please make that discernment known because the Spirit may be calling you to be a part of something new that God wants to do in this place. Until next month, let's live missionally.

A Church with Parents Trained to Take Up the Task of Nurturing Children in Faith

In the book of Deuteronomy, Moses warns Israel about two things that would prevent them from being a light to the nations. First, idolatry. Second, failing to pass on their faith to the next generation. Part of why I think millennials and Gen Zs are coming back to church now is because they've noticed something missing in their lives that either never existed for them or was never passed along effectively when they were kids. Therefore, it is imperative that we not only teach children about Jesus, but we teach parents how to teach their children about Jesus.

This is a reason we set aside traditional Sunday school and began our ConnectFor ministry, because it intentionally teaches children and families together. What families need to learn in order to compete with the world we live in are things like: worship in the home each day, faith education, a discerning use of technology, understanding our cultural context, and enabling our kids to be members of the body of Christ and not just set aside.

A Church with Small Groups That Nurture Mission in the World

I remember a time before I came to Zion when a number of leaders were trained and small groups were formed. Some continue today and others have completed their mission for their time. Notice how I said that. They didn't die or fail. They served their mission for a time but then that mission came to an end. Since then, other groups have begun. We need groups like these so that we can better live out God's mission.

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That said, there are a few things I think should be a part of every small group: prayer, Bible study, fellowship, and outreach. This last one probably caught you off guard. Outreach prevents small groups from being too inwardly focused. This could be as simple as opening the group to those who are not members of Zion. It could be pooling a few dollars together at Christmastime and donating to a ministry or mission in the area.

Beyond this, a small group can be created for just about any purpose. We can form neighborhood groups that are comprised of people in specific neighborhoods or boroughs. There are action groups that specifically like to do service and put faith active in loving work. There are professional groups, people of similar fields that come together. Interest groups gather around a particular interest, church related or not. The possibilities of creating groups are endless. But gathering together with one another strengthens the body of Christ to live and share the love of Jesus, which further fosters God's mission to redeem and restore all people.

God's peace,

Pastor Mathew

President's Corner *by Anita Reck*

It is hereby resolved that these proposed amendments to the Constitution and Bylaws of congregational meeting in conjunction with the annual council election and ministry affirmations on Sunday, November 22, 2026, immediately following worship. (Note: There will not be a voting meeting on Saturday, November 21, 2026)

Please submit questions/comments to Pastor Mathew pastormathew@zlcbrentwood.org or to Anita Reck president@zlcbrentwood.org prior to November 19, 2026, so that those questions can be addressed at the meeting.

THE PROPOSED AMENDMENTS

Proposed amendment to Bylaws regarding a quorum

Part III - THE ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

2. A quorum for the conduct of business at annual and special Congregation**al** Meetings shall be at least ~~50~~ **40** of the voting members of this congregation.

Proposed amendments to Constitution regarding a quorum

Article 9

PASTOR(S)

9.04. At the conclusion, a vote by way of written secret ballot will be taken to terminate the call of the pastor. Two-Thirds (2/3) of the votes of a quorum of the members ~~**(minimum of 50 voting members are required for a quorum)**~~ voting are required to terminate the call.

Article 12

COUNCIL OF ELDERS

12.01. At that time, the congregation will hear all the evidence and will render a decision by way of a majority vote of a quorum of the voting members present at the congregational meeting ~~**(minimum 50 voting members required for a quorum)**~~ on the matter.

Article 15

DISCIPLINE, RECONCILIATION, AND ADJUDICATION OF MEMBERS

15.04. At that time, the congregation will hear all the evidence and will render a decision by way of a majority vote of a quorum of the voting members present at the congregational meeting ~~**(minimum 50 voting members required for a quorum)**~~ on the matter.

Discussion: Two years ago, members of the congregation at our annual meeting suggested we change the quorum for those meetings. At that meeting, to meet the quorum of 50 members, we had to make phone calls to members who lived close to Zion to see if they could come to the meeting. Last year, we had a potluck brunch during the meeting and were fortunate to have over 60 members attend.

However, the COE has given a lot of thought to attendance at the annual meeting and, therefore, has approved the above amendments to the Bylaws and Constitution for presentation to the congregation.

Proposed amendment to Constitution for Benevolent Memorial Fund mission

Article 5
POWERS OF CONGREGATION

5.04. This congregation shall have a benevolent memorial fund that will operate as specified in this congregation's bylaws and continuing resolutions. The purpose of the benevolent memorial fund is to provide mission work - **any means by which we live and share the love of Jesus, both internally and externally** - beyond the operational budget of this congregation.

Discussion: At its core, the mission of God is simple: God's mission is to redeem and restore all people through Jesus Christ. The Church exists to participate in that mission. Many of us, understandably, hear the word mission and think of mission trips or hands-on service projects. Those are faithful expressions of mission but they're not the whole picture. Mission also includes proclaiming the Gospel, forming disciples, visiting the isolated, welcoming new people, equipping leaders, and staying connected to the wider Church. We are a mission outpost. This church was placed here to advance God's mission here and until God says that mission has been completed, we need to ensure God's mission can take place in our building, in our ministry, and in our outreach.

Therefore, the Benevolent Memorial Committee and the Finance Committee have suggested an amendment to the Constitution, Article 5, Powers of Congregation, which establishes a benevolent memorial fund. There has been much discussion among these committees and the Council of Elders regarding the use of this fund. Defining the term "mission" in Article 5.04 to include how Zion's mission encompasses more than mission trips/service project in the wider community would allow those funds to be used in more situations than how we currently think of "mission." This use would be determined on a case-by-case basis on the recommendation of the Finance Committee and the Benevolent Memorial Committee with approval by the Council of Elders.

Therefore, the Council of Elders has approved the above amendment to Constitution for presentation to the congregation.

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*).

IN OUR PRAYERS

Martha Baylor
Mary Ann Dunlap
Corey Fischer
Jon Galland
Dave Glenn
Marshawna Hill
Judy Kocinski
John Reed
Suzanne Roberts
Peggy Schoch
Dave Sheridan
Carol Succop
Kathleen Waite
Alice Weiser

NOVEMBER BAPTISMAL BIRTHDAYS

Emma	Oeler	2013-11-02
Ian	Oeler	2013-11-02
NICHOLAS	Garris	2020-11-08
CASSIDY	Delu	2016-11-12
SHEPARD	Hoffman	2016-11-13
Mark	Morrow	2011-11-20
Vanessa	Warden	2010-11-21
Emily	Schubert	2009-11-29

Worship

Saturday at 5 PM
Sunday at 9 AM

Confirmation Class
Students grade 6-8
10:30 AM in Library

ConnectFor
Families & Children
Up to 5th grade
10:30 AM

High School Class
Students grade 9-12
10:30 AM
3rd Floor Youth Room

For **Small Group Bible Study**
see Zion's website

New Small Group
Wisdom and Wine
Every other Wednesday
evening at 6:30 PM
Text Sarah Reck for more
information (412) 477-4966

And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful.

Colossians 3:15

POTLUCK BRUNCH

November 1, 2026 following morning worship on all Saints/Homecoming Sunday

There will not be a coffee hour or education following morning worship. Instead, we will be having a Potluck Brunch and Fellowship. Please bring a dish of your choice to share(breakfast, lunch, snacks…..) Crockpot plugs, refrigerator and oven are available prior to worship to keep your food at the right temperature as needed.

ALTAR GUILD

The Altar Guild is seeking 3 new members to help with preparing the altar for worship each week. We work in teams of 2 and your team can decide which date/time works best for you. The time commitment is approximately 1 hour every 6 weeks. Please prayerfully consider if you will join us. For more information, please text Cheryl Squier at 412-913-8085 or leave a message in the church office and I will reach out to you.

THANKSGIVING PIE DRIVE FOR LIGHT OF LIFE RESCUE MISSION

The Light of Life Mission on the North Side of Pittsburgh is always grateful for Zion's assistance in providing the large number of pies that are needed for its Thanksgiving meal. Zion has committed to providing 80 pies of any variety this year. Homemade or bought pies should be is a disposable pie tin and delivered to Zion between Tuesday morning 11/24 and Wednesday 11/25 **no later than 10 AM.** There will be an insert in the bulletin for you to let us know how many pies you can provide. THANKS!

CHRISTMAS COOKIES FOR ZION'S HOMEBOUND

Please consider baking 2 dozen or more cookies for our homebound. Cookies can be dropped off in Zion's kitchen by Wednesday, November 25 so that they may be packaged and delivered by Pastor Bill during his December visits. Please NO NUTS/nut products due to allergies. Please use meal train to let us know what you will be baking or call the church office. (https://mealtrain.com/g5m35e)

FREE COMMUNITY CLOTHES EXCHANGE

Saturday, November 7, 2026 - 10AM – 2PM

All are welcome to come and find new clothes. Donations will not be accepted at this event. Please share information about the event. If you are able to volunteer to help set up, support, or clean-up in 2 hour shifts, contact Lane Magera at LSMagera@yahoo.com or 847-714-3876.

THANK YOU FROM CENTER FOR HOPE

Dear Friends,

On behalf of everyone at the Center for Hope thank you for your generous donation of $367.00 towords Community Support. This Support directly strengthens our ability to address our mission.

"To empower individuals and families in their community by providing food, clothing, school supplies, and other resources to help them break free from poverty and step into lives of independence"

Because you rose to the challenge to help address food insecurity, our food pantry is able to meet the growing need with dignity and care. Every bag of groceries distributed, every family fed, and every child who goes to bed with a full stomach is a testament to your kindness and commitment to making a difference.

We are deeply grateful for your partnership. You are helping us not only meet urgent needs, but also to build a community where no one has to face hunger alone.

Sue Otto — Director

Rev. Dr. Derek Davenport — Chairman, Board

"Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Jesus Christ" Thessalonians 5:18



Women's Soup and Salad Bar
October 16, 2026



Quilt Dedication
October 4, 2026



Youth Fall Festival
October 17, 2026



Health & Safety Presentation

Roblox Safety & Online Predators

October 18, 2026

Presented by Pennsylvania State Police



Multigeneralional NALC Disaster Response Packing Event
October 11, 2026



*See Faceboook page for more pictures.