



A Message from Pastor Mathew

As we enter the fall months, many things around Zion begin to restart. Faith education classes are popping back up on the schedule, opportunities to serve are likewise becoming available, and positions for leadership beckon willing servants. As I continue my newsletter series on qualities of a missional church, these are some of the characteristics I will share this month.

A Church Committed to Missions

I need to be careful any time I use the word mission. Mission can easily reduce down to a mission statement. Mission can be interpreted as those areas of our benevolence where we share beyond doors. Mission can also be trips of service by adults or youth. Mission can be a lot of things and that's probably because mission might be identified as all the ways we live and share the love of Jesus, both internally and externally. But, when I say "missions" the addition of one letter shows I mean something specific. While mission is the whole life of God's people, missions is one part of this bigger role where we live and share the love of Jesus specifically in places where Jesus is not witnessed to. It is establishing witness in unevangelized areas.

What are we doing to bring Jesus where Jesus hasn't reached or has little reach? I'm thinking of the ways that we intentionally place ourselves into our community through our police departments, school districts, and meals on wheels. While we give money and resources, how might we take these outreaches and bring Jesus even more into them? I'm thinking of our prayerful and financial support to Tommy and Madison as they serve as missionaries in Alaska. Bottom line, it's easy to bring Jesus into areas where Jesus already is and it's easy to just have the church's name attached to places where Jesus isn't. But, where can we specifically bring Jesus himself into those places?

A Church with Well-Trained Leaders

One of the things I've learned over the years is that if I really wanted to understand something that was difficult to grasp, I had to teach it. If I wanted to do something I felt I was

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*"Be devoted to
one another in
love. Honor one
another above
yourselves."*

—Romans 12:10

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

A Message from Pastor Mathew (cont.)

inexperienced at, I had to put myself in and do it. Practice it. Identifying and training leaders who can journey and act as agents of change is essential. So, what is a leader exactly? Michael Goheen describe a leader this way, "Leaders are those who follow hard after Jesus and enable others to do so as well. Leaders are those who themselves lead by example in missional engagement and then equip others also to participate in God's mission." Goheen goes on to describe leaders as pacesetters and pioneers.

We have a lot of these at Zion but few take the opportunity to live this out. As we head toward the end of this year, we look for people to serve on ministries, committees, and on our council. Many are asked, few accept. This must change if we are to truly be a missional church. It must start with you. It must start now. I just preached a sermon from Matthew 21 about a father and two sons and the father's calling to work the vineyard. We are good at saying no. Jesus frees us to say yes. Please, let's say yes to being leaders in the Kingdom.

God's Peace,
Pastor Mathew

A Message from Pastor Bill

We're looking for a few good men.

You may recognize that headline as a recruiting slogan of the U.S. Marines. We are also looking for a few good women. It's just that there is currently a critical shortage of men.

But first, allow me to switch topics for a brief discourse. According to a fairly recent article in the Wall Street Journal (Barbara Abbott, November 10, 2023) "Recent research shows that loneliness and social isolation were linked to an increased risk of death from any cause." The study, published in the BMC Medicine Journal tracked people for a decade **before the pandemic** and concluded that "loneliness can be bad for health, contributing to health problems including anxiety, heart disease, and depression." Then Surgeon General, Dr. Vivek Murthy, reporting last May on loneliness and social isolation stated, "that a lacking of social interaction could be as dangerous as smoking 15 cigarettes a day." The uncomfortable distressful feeling of being lonely, overtime, has a negative effect.

Most readers know me as the VIP, meaning the **V**isitation **P**astor here at Zion. As such, I am the keeper of the visitation list, the roster of individuals, who for some reason or other, cannot attend worship on a regular basis. Our mission is to bring church to them, with Bible reading, prayer, and Holy Communion. This is at least on a regular monthly basis, with advanced regular scheduling. My visits have taught me many blessings, but one thing for certain: Many of the Home-bound are **L-O-N-E-L-Y**, even if they won't confess this.

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A Message from Pastor Bill (cont.)

This is why we are looking for a few good men and women. No, you won't need to run an obstacle course or learn to shine boots or brass or stand at attention. We are looking for **"Adopters,"** people who can commit to making contact, at least on a monthly basis with a person on the visitation list. This can be in a variety of ways: phone calls or texts, notes or letters, emails, or even face-to-face visits, if mutually agreeable and convenient. No special skills are required – just the four C's: Christ-like, Conversation, Concern, and Compassion (read Matthew 25:35-46).

Please contact me. I will get you started!

Alive in Christ!

Pastor Bill+

ALTAR GUILD MEMBERS NEEDED

The Altar Guild prepares the altar for communion each week. We are in need of 3 new members. We work in teams and rotate each week. If you are interested in learning more about how we serve or serving with us contact Cheryl Squier @ 412-913-8085 via call or text. Please prayerfully consider joining us.

BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS

Sunday, September 13, 2026



BLESSING OF THE BEASTS

October 2, 2026

6 PM

All owners and their pets are invited to join us in the Zion parking lot for this blessing. In the event of rain, all will be invited to walk or drive up to the portico for a blessing.

DEDICATION OF QUILTS

October 4, 2026

During Sunday Morning Service

On the weekend of October 3-4, the beautiful quilts will be displayed and dedicated before they are sent to Lutheran World Relief and NALC Disaster Relief.

PLEDGE WEEKEND

October 10-11, 2026

Please prayerfully consider how you serve and tithe.

MULTIGENERATIONAL NALC DISASTER RESPONSE PACKING EVENT

ICE CREAM SUNDAE

OCTOBER 11, 2026

Following worship, please join us in serving Christ by assembling kits for children facing crisis. The task is easy and there are jobs available for our littlest angels all the way to our most seasoned saints. Looking forward to serving beside you.

After the packing event on October 11th, stay and have dessert first. We're having an ice cream Sunday, er, sundae. Actually, it's both. It's always fun to get the sweet stuff first. And we'll think about how Jesus is our sweet, sweet savior. Let Pastor Mathew know if you're coming and bring your sweet tooth.

In Our Prayers

David Detwiler
 Mary Ann Dunlap
 Corey Fischer
 Jon Galland
 Dave Glenn
 Marshawna Hill
 John Reed
 Suzanne Roberts
 Peggy Schoch
 Dave Sheridan
 Carol Succop
 Kathleen Waite

OCTOBER BAPTISMAL BIRTHDAYS

Abigail Pierce	October 09, 2016
Jayden Cleaver	October 11, 2015
Charles Eperthener	October 11, 2015
Emma Mainarich	October 11, 2009
Reed Sopko	October 11, 2015
Dylan Bedont	October 18, 2015
Molly Hoffman	October 27, 2019
Kara Luy	October 28, 2012
Alex Mainarich	October 28, 2012
James Mainarich	October 28, 2012
Noah Pierce	October 28, 2018
Brandon Strycula	October 30, 2011

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

Worship

Saturday 5p
 Sunday 9a

Starting 9/8/26
Confirmation Class
 Students grades 6-8
 10:30 AM
 Library

Starting 9/13/26

ConnectFor

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

Adult Class
 Adults of all ages
 10:30 AM
 Zion's Heritage Room

For small group
Bible study,
see Zion website.





Roblox Safety & Online Predators

This presentation helps parents and community members better understand the online environments children are using today, with a focus on Roblox and other social platforms.

Attendees will learn how these platforms work, why they appeal to kids, and how online predators attempt to exploit in-game chat, friend systems, and external apps.

The session will cover common grooming tactics, warning signs that a child may be interacting with someone unsafe online, and real-world examples of how predators move conversations from games to other platforms for violence, sextortion, and more.



Wednesday, October 28th 2026



Zion Lutheran Church

4301 Brownsville Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15236



Event Starts at 6:30 PM

Doors Open at 6:00 PM

INVITING ALL LADIES for a
FREE WOMEN'S SOUP & SALAD BAR
OCTOBER 16, 2026 6-8 PM



Please join us for fellowship, biblical study,
a service activity and some fun!

RSVP by October 11, 2026 to Lane Magera at
LSMagera@gmail.com
or text/call 847-714-3876

If you are interested in helping with food items for the meal,
please let Lane Magera or Cassandra Pierce know.



Please continue to pray for Tommy and Madison Dolgos as they bring the good news of Jesus to Native Alaskans through the Alaska Student Partnership. They have provided Zion with a newsletter regarding their mission and life in Alaska. If you would like to read it, there are copies in the Narthex and side entrance.

YOUTH CHRISTMAS CANDY SALES

During the month of October, the youth will be taking orders and payments for the sale of **homemade Christmas candy** following worship. The cost is \$10 per one pound box of assort chocolate clusters. The Youth will prepare and distribute the candy in November.



YOUTH FALL FESTIVAL
October 17, 2026

Save the date: Details to follow.

ALL SAINTS/HOMECOMING SUNDAY

November 1, 2026

On November 1, during worship, Zion will remember those who have joined the Church Triumphant this past year. If you have a loved one who passed on between November 1, 2025 and October 31, 2026, and would like to include their name in worship, please call the office so we may remember them.

Do you know someone who used to call Zion home but has since moved away or transitioned to a new church home? Do you know someone who you used to see often but now you don't? Do you know someone you'd like to invite to Zion but aren't sure how? On November 1st, Zion will be hosting a Homecoming Sunday. Grab some invitations in the narthex or at the bottom of the stairs, write a note, and give/mail it to someone you'd like to welcome to this celebration. Worship will be at 9am and we'll follow that with a potluck brunch in the fellowship hall. Let's use this as an opportunity to show others what they mean to the Zion community and share once again in those memories of ministry that have made Zion what she is today.

NEW SMALL GROUP—WISDOM & WINE

Ladies, starting October 21, join us every other Wednesday evening for Wine and Wisdom, a women's Bible Study. We'll be studying the Book of Psalms. The first Bible Study on October 21 will meet at Sarah Reck's apartment in Baldwin at 6:30pm. Bring something along to drink. Sparkling beverages will be provided. If you are planning to attend, please text Sarah Reck at 412-477-4966 for her address and more details.

“Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows.”

— James 1:17