

zcbrentwood.org

ZION NEWS

August 2024



A Message from Pastor Mathew

As we navigate our busy lives, it's easy to forget significant spiritual milestones. One such milestone is our baptism—a sacred event where we were welcomed into God's family, cleansed of sin, and marked with the cross of Christ forever. In the Lutheran tradition, we believe that celebrating baptism anniversaries is a meaningful way to remember and reaffirm our identity in Christ.

Baptism is more than a ritual; it's a divine promise of God's unending grace and love. By celebrating our baptism anniversaries, we take time to reflect on the profound significance of this sacrament. It's an opportunity to remember that, through baptism, we are reborn into a life of faith, hope, and love.

For families, celebrating a baptism anniversary can be a beautiful tradition. Lighting a baptism candle, sharing the story of someone's baptism day, or looking at pictures and memorabilia can help children and adults alike connect with their faith journey. It's a tangible way to teach younger generations about the importance of baptism and to celebrate God's continued work in our lives.

As a congregation, we can support each other in this practice. Did you know that we place baptism anniversaries in this newsletter each month? We even send cards to those newly baptized to help them remember that special day. For those that don't know their baptism date, we celebrate with them during the month in which Pentecost falls because Pentecost was the birthday of the Christian Church, a day when many were baptized.

To be very honest, I have trouble celebrating my own baptism anniversary. I know my baptism month (February) but I can't always remember the day. It's much easier for me to remember things like my birthday, my anniversary, and Star Wars Day. Okay, the last one isn't really that important. But, those days we remember easily are usually surrounded by celebration, dinner out, greeting cards, or presents. Perhaps, to place more importance on our baptism anniversaries, we should begin to treat them like other significant dates and do something to celebrate. We light candles for birthday cakes and sing "Happy Birthday" so why can't we bake a cake, light our baptism candle, and sing "Amazing Grace"? Give it a try next time your baptism anniversary comes around and see how that opportunity to rejoice in the gift of baptism helps to renew your faith and to look with a transformed perspective on the incredible journey God has set before you.

God's peace,
Pastor Mathew



*There is one body and
one Spirit--just as
you were called to
the one hope that be-
longs to your call--
one Lord, one faith,
one baptism,
Ephesians 4:4-5*

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 COE President by Anita Reck

2 Corinthians 9:7 - "Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver."

Summer is here, and we have been experiencing higher than normal temperatures. As I am sure you noticed, there have been times when Zion's air conditioning has not been working at its best.

The Ministry of Property has informed the Council that the air conditioning system will continue to break down often. The entire system needs to be replaced at an estimated cost of \$100,000. Right now, donations for this project are just over \$11,000. To keep you informed, we're tracking these donations on a "thermometer" in the narthex and we still have a long way to go.

Asking for donations and talking about money is not something that the Council likes to do. However, we know how preferable a cool and comfortable church building will be as we gather for worship services and fellowship events.

The COE is asking that each of you, as able, consider giving a little each month to the air conditioning fund, in addition to your regular offering. Your regular offering will continue to fund the church's ministries and routine expenses. We thank each of you for prayerfully considering this request to assure future summer services will be comfortable and cool. And that as Zion celebrates its 225th anniversary in August 2025, we will be able to celebrate in the cool air of a working air conditioner.

THE LIVING WORD OUTDOOR DRAMA FRIDAY, AUGUST 16TH

This outdoor drama for children and adults showcases the life of our Lord and Savior. You'll hear familiar parables, eavesdrop on the plans of the religious leaders, laugh with Jesus as he plays with the children, and be in awe as our Lord makes the ultimate sacrifice for the world he loves. If you want, they'll even let you be in the show as an extra! We'll leave Zion



at 4pm, have a quick dinner in Cambridge, OH before the 7:30pm show, and return around midnight. If you don't want to drive, we can find you a ride. Tickets are \$18 for adults, \$16 for 60+, and \$6 for kids 4-12. Sign up with the church office.

www.livingworddrama.org

In Our Prayers

Kevin Barrett
 Marilyn & David Detwiler
 Mary Ann Dunlap
 Corey Fischer
 Casey Hirsh
 George Langford
 John Reed
 Glenn Ribblett
 George Schubert
 Sara Smerkar

Council of Elders Vacancy

The COE continues to have a vacancy for a member to serve until the end of 2024. Please pray that our Lord will call a faithful leader forward to serve and pray without ceasing for those who serve as our church leaders and for faithful leaders to be called forward.

"The greatest among you shall be your servant." Matthew 23:11

AUGUST BAPTISMAL BIRTHDAYS

Trevor Bedont	August 5, 2017
Claudia Matus	August 16, 2020
Laira Matus	August 16, 2020
Elizabeth Schubert	August 17, 2008
Cecilia Buzzelli	August 17, 2019
Harley Eperthener	August 18, 2013
Lainey Buzzelli	August 27, 2023
Olivia Bedont	August 27, 2022
Nathaniel Luy	August 30, 2015
Christopher Rayburg	August 31, 2008

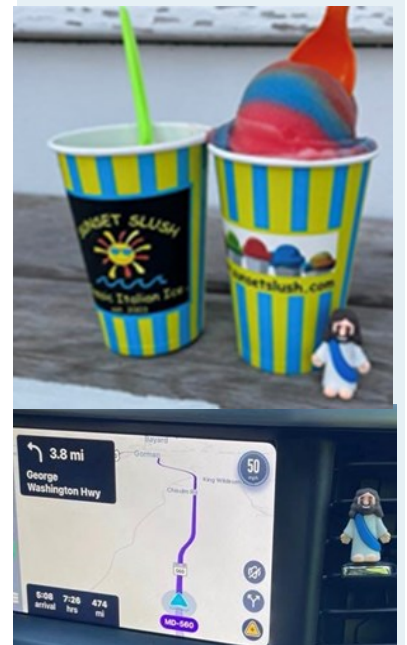
*If we are missing your child's baptism date, please advise the church office.

Mark Your Calendars SEPTEMBER 8 Sunday School & Service Time

On **September 8, 2024**, Sunday School will start and the **Sunday Service time** will change to **9:00 AM**. More information will soon be available in the bulletin, weekly messages and on the website.

"Little" Jesus

At Easter, you may have picked up one of the little Jesus's that were placed around the sanctuary. "Little" Jesus is traveling with the Hoffman family this summer. Jesus is with us as we travel, but if you take "Little" Jesus along, feel free to share a picture for the newsletter.



In-Tents Church Camp, Somerset County

Zion's Youth enjoyed fun, games and campfires, as they grew in their faith at In-Tents camp.



Introducing...

Connect For

10:15a in the Sanctuary



Share - Read - Talk - Pray - Bless



The Ministry of Disciple Life Invites You to Take the Next Step

Vicky Thatcher, Chair

In last month's newsletter, the Ministry of Disciple Life asked if anyone was willing to take the next step to serve alongside Karen Stoddart on the weekly Lenten meals, the Saturday summer cookouts, and Zion's Angel Tree event. Thank you to Joyce Cole for being willing to serve on the Angel Tree event! Servants are still needed for Zion's fellowship events.

- ✦ Serving with Karen Stoddart to oversee one of our fellowship events (weekly Lenten meals or the 2 Saturday summer cookouts) would involve communicating the events with the congregation through the office, determining food needs for the event, and organizing the set up/cleanup. Our fellowship events include weekly Lenten meals and 2 Saturday summer cookouts (one in June and one in July).

As communicated last month, the Ministry of Disciple Life is responsible for organizing and overseeing the majority of the in-reach and outreach events here at Zion. Currently, we have one person leading each event, but Jesus sent His disciples out "two by two" – to share the burden, as well as to support and encourage each other. We would like to follow Jesus' example by having someone (maybe you) take the next step and join one of Zion's events as a co-leader. You do not need to become a member of the Ministry of Disciple Life. This month, our focus is on the events currently led by Lane Magera. Please prayerfully consider serving with your sister in Christ, Lane, in one of the following areas:

- ✦ Serve with Lane in overseeing the Community Clothes Exchange (CCE) held at Zion four (4) times per year. This would involve communicating the event with the congregation through the office, coordinating the dates with the office and Mattie from the CCE, collecting/ordering new underwear and socks for the event, coordinating Zion members to serve at the event, and coordinating set-up and clean-up with Harold.
- ✦ Serve with Lane in overseeing the NALC Disaster Response Packing Event which is held 1 or 2 times per year, depending on available funding. This would involve communicating the event with the congregation through the office, selecting the type of packing event to be held, ordering the materials needed for the event, and coordinating the set-up and clean-up with Harold.

It is my hope and prayer that the Holy Spirit will move some of you to consider taking a next step in one of these areas! We are the Body of Christ, working *together* to do His work on the corner of Route 51 and Brownsville Road!! For more information, please contact Vicky Thatcher at vlthatcher24@gmail.com

“For we are God's fellow workers....” 1 Corinthians 3:9

Vacation Bible School - SCUBA

June 24-28, 2024



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GRANDMA'S ATTIC FLEA MARKET

SATURDAY,

AUGUST 3 8AM-2PM



Picnic!!!

Sponsored by Music Ministry

Sunday, August 11

12:00-3:00pm

South Park

**WOODLAND CREST
PAVILION**

www.zlcbrentwood.org

♦ Please RSVP by Monday, 8/5 ♦



SCHOOL SUPPLIES

Back to school sales have begun. However, around the world many children cannot go to school unless they can provide their own school supplies. Again, this year in conjunction with Lutheran World Relief, the Zion quilters have made 100 backpacks for school kits. Our prayer is that the congregation will provide the supplies to fill the backpacks. Money donated will be used to buy required items in bulk if possible. Please mark your donation Quilter School Kits. If you prefer to provide supplies, each kit contains four 70/80-page notebooks, five unsharpened #2 pencils with erasers, five ballpoint pens (black or blue ink only-no gel), one each, blunt scissors, 30 centimeter /12 inch rulers, pencil sharpener, 2 ½ "eraser and 24 count box of crayons. Only the items listed can go into the kits. Thank you.



Community Clothes Exchange

**NEXT EVENT:
SEPT 14TH
10AM - 2PM**

* CLOTHES, SHOES, & COATS
FOR INFANT - ADULT 2XL

* BRING EMPTY BAGS TO FILL

* NO DONATIONS ACCEPTED AT EVENT

FREE!!

**HOSTED AT ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH
4301 BROWNSVILLE ROAD
PITTSBURGH, PA 15236**

FREE!!

**CONTACT US AT
FACEBOOK.COM/COMMUNITYCLOTHESEXCHANGE**

The Community Clothes Exchange hosted by Zion made the news with the WTAE article: **Green closet cleanout: 'Community Clothes Exchange'**
It can be found at www.wtae.com/article/pittsburgh-community-clothes-exchange/60849027

WOMEN'S DAYTIME MONTHLY BIBLE STUDY

2nd Thursday 10a-11a

Zion's Heritage Room

All women are welcome and encouraged to join this study focusing on the Epistles in the New Testament and learn to discern where God wants us to serve according to His Will.

If you are interested, please call Zion's office or see Zion's website. The books are available at no charge.



"THE CHOSEN" VIDEO SERIES continues

Wednesdays in August 7:00 - 8:30 PM

Please join the Ministry of Disciple Life for summer "movie night" featuring Season 1 of **The Chosen**. Each episode will be followed by fellowship and discussion. Register to attend on Zion's website.



ZION GOLF OUTING

Sunday, August 4, 2024 1p

Lindenwood Golf Course

Zion members and friends, contact John Thatcher if you are interested in participating.

jhthatcher@verizon.net

