



A Message from Pastor Mathew

Connection. In a world that often pulls us in a thousand different directions, church is a place where we can find true, meaningful connection—with God, with our families, and with one another.

We've already shared how we're excited to introduce a new Sunday morning event called "ConnectFor" at which connection is at its core. This cross-generational gathering is designed with connection in mind, focusing on four key areas: faith, family, fellowship, and fun. Geared toward families with children up to 5th grade, ConnectFor offers a space for families to grow in faith and build relationships that will support and sustain them in their spiritual journey. If this applies to you, I encourage you to make this a priority in your week, as it's a wonderful opportunity to strengthen the bonds that make our church family so special.

Beyond this, connection also plays a crucial role in how we serve together. One of the models Jesus gives us is sending out His disciples two by two, highlighting the importance of partnership in ministry. As we strive to serve our community and one another, we need people who are willing to step up and lead (not by themselves) — especially in areas like our kitchen ministry, the community clothes exchange, and the NALC Disaster Response packing events. These ministries are vital to our mission, and they will thrive more when we are able to add a second point person to them, uplifting practices of working together, supporting and encouraging one another through united leadership. If you feel called to serve in this way, please let us know. Your willingness to connect with others in service is a powerful witness to our faith.

Finally, as we enter a busy time of year for Zion, I encourage you with three simple thoughts you can focus on as we gather together this fall:

1. An alone person in our gathering is of utmost importance to us. If you see someone standing or sitting alone, please make it a priority to reach out and connect with them. While some people prefer to be by themselves, others will find it a relief and comfort to find connection.

2. Friends can wait. While it's always wonderful to catch up with friends, let's make sure we're first saying hi to those who may be new or feeling disconnected.

3. Introduce a newcomer to someone else. Let's not just greet visitors, but help them make multiple connections by introducing them to others in our church family.

Connection is important, too important to fit in a short newsletter article. So, instead of reading about it, let's be a part of it. I'll be emphasizing it specifically in my September sermons. Let's make this fall a season where we truly connect with one another and with the God who calls us into community.

God's peace,

Pastor Mathew

Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their labor: If either of them falls down, one can help the other up.

Ecclesiastes 4:9

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 Bill

Where's My Mountain? (A follow-up to July message: Faith is a Gift)

I once offered a sermon series on faith and one of the sermon titles was: "How Much Faith to Follow?"

The apostles said to our Lord, "Increase our faith!" (Luke 17:5 ESV). Jesus replied, "If you had faith like a grain of a mustard seed, you could say to this mulberry tree, 'Be uprooted and planted in the sea,' and it would obey you" (Luke 17:6 ESV).

So, the question is "What's with this mulberry tree – what happened to the mountain faith can move?"

Well, the mountain is in Matthew's report. The mulberry tree is Luke's idea. His version is not as energetic, not as optimistic. Matthew is an optimist. Faith can move mountains. Luke sort of lowers the expectations to a mere mulberry tree.

The amount of faith remains the same – faith the size of a mustard seed. But Luke suggests more modest results. This brings me back to my original correction, "It's not how much faith we have been given, but rather what we do with the faith we do have." Not a mountain, but a tree, just one little itty-bitty tree.

This world presents many challenges to our faith. Like the disciples, we each wish for an increased faith. There are so many things to corrode our trust in God. Just getting through a normal week these days, can make us feel as if we've been running a spiritual marathon – and somebody keeps moving the finish line further away.

We understand the disciples' prayer – Increase our faith! Give us the faith that trusts God can work inside of us even when the things outside of us aren't so good.

And how does Jesus answer our prayer? He tells us about mustard seeds and mulberry trees and ...then tells us about duty-bound slaves doing their ordinary jobs, ordinarily, until the Master returns home (Luke 17:7-10).

I haven't moved any mulberry trees this week, let alone mountains. You haven't either, I'm guessing. This is discouraging news, because we all have a mulberry tree or two that we'd like to move.

Even St. Paul tells Timothy, buck it up boy, and "guard the good treasure" of faith (2 Timothy 1:14). It tells us, when it comes to faith, a little is a lot.

The talk about mustard seeds and mulberry trees or mountains, is a way of saying, work with the faith you have been given. Do that – and you will pull on your apron and serve Him.

There is enough faith here to know that a little is a lot.
There is enough faith here to do as our Master bids.

Pastor Bill+

Faith
AS SMALL AS A
mustard seed
CAN MOVE
MOUNTAINS

In Our Prayers

Marilyn & David Detwiler
Mary Ann Dunlap
Corey Fischer
Zack Glenn
Casey Hirsh
George Langford
Mary Alice Oeler
John Reed
Glenn Ribblett
Suzanne Roberts
George Schubert
Sara Smerkar
Karen Stoddart

MEN'S RETREAT in the FINGER LAKES

St Paul's Lutheran in West Falls, NY is hosting a men's weekend retreat at the YMCA at Watson Woods in Painted Post, NY. The retreat theme is "Four Men and One Truth: Keeping the Main Things the Main Things." Come for 2 days of biblical study, worship and crazy fun with the guys. See Pastor Mathew for more information.

SEPTEMBER BAPTISMAL BIRTHDAYS

Alexander Reck	September 4, 2011
Lola Hast	September 5, 2021
Peyton Hil	September 13, 2020
Bennett Buechel	September 24, 2016
Bailey Reck	September 25, 2016

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

FALL SERVICE TIME

Starting 9/8/24, services will be as follows:

Saturday 5 PM
Sunday 9 AM

**Save the date for
Zion's
225th Anniversary
Celebration
8/24/2025**

COLLEGE STUDENT ADDRESS REQUEST

If you have a student beginning or returning to college, please provide the church office with his/her school address so that Zion may keep in touch and provide your student with a small gift.

Food Pantry

Many of our neighbors are struggling to put food on the table. If you are able, please consider donating to Zion's food collection bins at the bottom of the stairs by the parking lot entrance. These items are sent to the Stewart Avenue food pantry that serves the Brentwood and Carrick community. While we focus on certain items each month, any contribution is appreciated. THANKS!



Dear People of Zion,

My name is Sherry Galland, and I will be leading our new and exciting educational EVENT called **ConnectFor!** You might know me from the fun we've had learning the music in Vacation Bible School and on Sunday mornings in Sunday School for the last four years! Beginning **SEPTEMBER 8th**, we will learn together through...

**Bible stories • songs • sign language • games • reader's theatre • crafts
media • coloring • creating • drawing • playdoh • and so much more!**

The most exciting part for me is our families will be all together!

While growing in Christ... **THE MISSION of ConnectFor is to:**

To Bless the Child,
Gift the Family,
Every Week at Church,
Every Night in Every Home

- **JOURNAL** - Each household will receive a *beautiful* color journal we will use in ConnectFor and at home!
- **HOME HUDDLES** – As a team, families will lead Home Huddles - time to share, read, talk, pray and bless!
- **INTERGENERATIONAL** - This curriculum is designed to reach all ages and learning styles through Intergenerational time together (**PreK – 5th Grade together with their families!**)
- **LARGE & SMALL GROUP** - Each week we will begin with families in a large group, then break out into smaller groups (with our families) for more fun activities!
- **GROW IN FAITH** - This new format is designed to ready families for confirmation and growth in faith
- **TOGETHER** - we will, "...name and reclaim the home as a church, and your church as a home"

SUNDAYS - beginning 9/8

9:00am Worship

10:15am ConnectFor!

Registration is OPEN on our Website

Please Register by 8/31

Christ's peace,



SHERRY GALLAND, MA CHURCH MUSIC
Director of Music Ministries
musicministry@zlbrentwood.org

"Every age has gifts we need, and every age has needs we gift"

NALC DISASTER RESPONSE

When a natural disaster such as a hurricane, flood, tornado or fire strikes a community in the US, the nearest NALC congregation responds with crisis and religious support from NALC Disaster response.

Immediately the NALC Disaster Response Coordinator, Mary Bates, is contacted so the prayer power of the NALC can be unleashed. The Mission District is also notified to see if the local NALC Disaster Response Team can provide assistance.

NALC Disaster Response has resources and capabilities to assist in early response and long-term recovery. We can open the gates to material resources, networking, counseling, training and volunteers.

Zion can help by stocking the National (Caldwell, OH) and Regional Warehouses with kitchen kits, bibles, quilts, blankets, flood buckets, school kits and gift cards to Home Depot, Lowes and Walmart so they can quickly respond to disasters as they arise.

Multigenerational Packing Event Sunday 9/29 10:30am

**Come help assemble
school kits for
NALC Disaster Response!**

**Zion's benevolence has funded the
necessary items for the school kits
that will help those in need and
we need YOU to help us assemble!**

**Adult participation will be needed at
every station. All of our generations are
requested to join our work together as
the hands and feet of Jesus as well as
building relationships with each other.**



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**

Quarterly Drive of New Unopened Packages of Socks, Underwear & Bras

The Ministry of Disciple Life is sponsoring a drive for NEW unopened packages of socks, underwear and bras to support our outreach partnership with the Community Clothes Exchange that is hosted by Zion quarterly. Donations from toddler through adult 2XL can be dropped off in the marked container by the parking lot stairs by September 10th.



Angelus Ringers & Zion Voices

**Rehearsals are TUESDAYS, beginning
September 10 – 6:00 & 7:15p.m.**

If you are interested in ringing handbells or singing, please contact Sherry Galland, Director of Music Ministries via email at music_ministry@zlcbbrentwood.org or call the music office at (412) 882-6767.

AMEN TO ACTION

Zion has reserved 25 spots for the "Amen to Action" event on Saturday, November 23rd from 8:30 a.m. -12:00 p.m. at Christ Church (UMC), 44 Highland Rd, Bethel Park, PA 15102. If you are interested in helping pack food for your neighbors who are food insecure, please call Zion's church office. No need to register for the event personally. Please dress comfortably and plan to arrive by approximately 8:15 a.m. for a brief volunteer gathering.

See the website below for a recap video of Amen to Action 2023. In 2023, over 1 million meals were packed for our neighbors in 11 locations.

<https://plf.org/a2a/>

*Women's Weekly
Evening Bible Study*

**Focusing on the Sermon on the Mount.
This study will be in person in the library
as well as online via Zoom.
Join us by signing up on the website or
calling the office to register
and pick up your free book.**

*Thursdays 7-8pm
9/5~10/24*

ZLC

NOTE: For additional ways to connect to a study or small group, see Zion's website.

GRANDMA'S ATTIC and BAKE SALE



Thanks to Sandra Schlessman and her team for their efforts in coordinating Zion's annual Grandma's attic.

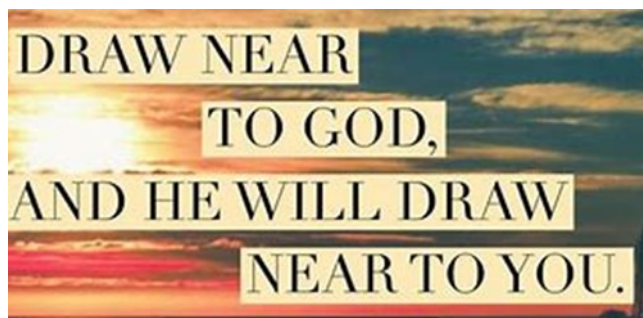
From Sandra:

With your many donated treasures and our dedicated volunteers, our Grandma's Attic was a huge success, raising \$2,589.65. (Grandma's Attic - \$2,234.65, Bake Sale - \$355) This year we included a bake sale headed by Barb Warden and we thank her and ALL the outstanding Zion bakers for their baked goods which sold out! The monies raised this year will go to completing the money needed to update the 2nd floor bathroom & towards Zion's 225 Anniversary celebration next year on Sunday, August 24, 2025.

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.



JAMES 4:8

CONNECTING at ZION'S ANNUAL PICNIC - SOUTH PARK



ZION'S GOLF OUTING

Zion Lutheran hosted our annual golf outing at Lindenwood Golf Course in Peters Township on August 4, 2024. We had four groups competing as a three person scramble. Each golfer contributed \$20 to the event, to be donated to a Zion ministry of choice. This year's winners were Ron Mann, Harold Mittenzwey and John Thatcher with a team score of 78. The \$240 proceeds were given to Zion for the new air conditioning fund.



ADULT CLASS IN THE HERITAGE ROOM

Join us in the Heritage Room on Sundays at 10:30 a.m. to view the video series and discuss

Moses and the Burning Bush
By R.C. Sproul