



## *A Message from Pastor Mathew*

### **WORK YOUR PASTOR**

One of the challenges the NALC is facing is a growing number of new churches springing up or joining the denomination, but not enough pastors to care for them. We are in the midst of a pastoral shortage. For one reason or another, not many are hearing the call to this kind of ministry. But I can say that those that have heard the call, myself included, look forward to each day of ministry. Us pastors enjoy the call to ministry and we want to do the work of shepherding our flocks.

This means more than just leading worship and teaching. It's more than presiding over baptisms, officiating marriages and burying the dead. It's being with the people that make up the body of Christ. Paul writes in Romans 12, "rejoice with those who rejoice, mourn with those who mourn." This means that pastoral ministry is even more than just visiting the sick or the homebound but being among everyone.

I wonder if this part of ministry is being lost in the ever-shifting culture. Regardless, you may have noticed one of my goals this year is to reclaim and strengthen this important part of the life of the church. That said, I'm going to be reaching out to you more but at the same time I want you to be taking advantage of my role too.

I remember Pastor Beck mentioning reading an article about all the people you need to contact when one moves from one residence to another. There's a lot on that list. However, one of the missing pieces was calling your pastor or your church to let them know of the address change. It made me think that perhaps these missing pieces aren't limited to a change of address. When do you call your church, or more specifically in this case, your pastor? **See page 6 for a good list** of when to call your pastor that you can keep nearby. I want to hear from you in these situations and more.

Never think I'm too busy to hear from you in any situation. I want to live out Paul's words to rejoice with those who rejoice and mourn with those who mourn. I'm so glad I've gotten to do that among you here at Zion and I look forward to continuing to encourage you to work your pastor.

God's peace,

Pastor Mathew

*The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases; His mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.*

*Lamentations*

*3:22-23*

#### **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

## ***The COE President's Corner - from Anita Reck***

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On Sunday, January 26, the annual congregational meeting to manage the business of Zion Lutheran Church, including the 2025 budget was held.

At the meeting, the 2025 Council of Elders (COE) was introduced (see picture below). There is currently a COE vacancy. If you are interested or would like more information, please contact Pastor Magera or me (President@zlc Brentwood.org).

Pastor Mathew gave an overview of the 2025 goals, and I informed the congregation that Vanguard Cleaning services will be cleaning our church on Monday and Friday nights. Also, the congregation passed a bylaws amendment and consented to the sale of 12 plots at Jefferson Cemetery (see page 6) and approved the 2025 budget.

It was touch and go as to whether we could hold the meeting; we had to call someone to come to the church to make a quorum of 50. The attendees discussed another bylaw amendment to change the quorum required. The proposed amendment will be sent to the COE in writing and will be presented to the congregation at a future meeting.

The Annual meeting is an especially important part of Zion's strategic plan and fiscal ministry. Thank you to all the ministries and committees who prepared reports and to the members who attended the meeting and gave their time to conduct Zion's business.



FRONT ROW: Sarah Reck, Anita Reck (President), Shari Dodge (Secretary), Karen Stoddart

BACK ROW: Denny Oeler, Steele Roberts (Vice President), Pastor Mathew

NOT PICTURED: John Thatcher, Treasurer (Appointed), Alice Carney, Financial Secretary (Appointed)

## In Our Prayers

David Detwiler  
Mary Ann Dunlap  
Corey Fischer  
Casey Hirsh  
Wayne Hizer  
George Langford  
Karen Matalavage  
John Reed  
Glenn Ribblett  
Suzanne Roberts  
Dave Sheridan  
Sara Smerkar  
Sandy Valenson

## NEED FOR WILLING SERVANTS and/or MINISTRY NEEDS

Please note that in the narthex and parking lot entrance there are crosses that are tagged with Zion or Ministry needs. Please let us know if you are able to assist with any of these needs throughout the year.

## FEBRUARY BAPTISMAL BIRTHDAYS

Vienna Demi	February 4, 2023
Shavon McDougald	February 4, 2024
Shaymere McDougald	February 4, 2024
Bella Morrow	February 15, 2015
Justin Thatcher	February 21, 2021
Josiah Pierce	February 28, 2015
Reed Taylor	February 29, 2020

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

**Worship Times**  
**Saturday 5 PM**  
**Sunday 9 AM**

## Faith Education Sundays

**10:15 AM**

**ConnectFor:** Families with Children in Pre-K - Grade 5

**10:30 A**

- + Confirmation  
Grades 6-8
- + High School
- + Adult

**See Zion's Website for small group Bible Study.**



## **Cookbook Fundraiser**

The sale of cookbooks raised \$1100 which will defray the costs of the 225th anniversary





# YOUTH MINISTRY

## FESTA ITALIANA PASTA DINNER



Zion's youth thanks you for your support!

**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

**Why We Trust the Bible**  
By Stephen J. Nichols

**WHY WE TRUST THE BIBLE**  
BY STEPHEN J. NICHOLS

**Community Clothes Exchange**

**NEXT EVENT: FEBRUARY 8TH 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

CONTACT US AT  
[FACEBOOK.COM/COMMUNITYCLOTHSEXCHANGE](https://www.facebook.com/COMMUNITYCLOTHSEXCHANGE)

**FREE!!**



## **ZION TO SELL TWELVE PLOTS AT JEFFERSON CEMETERY**

In the 2024 Zion Lutheran Church Annual Report, there is a report titled Jefferson Cemetery Plots and a plot map. This report provides the history of how Zion came to own these plots and more detailed information about them. At the annual meeting, the congregation approved the sale of these plots at \$800.00 per plot. Jefferson Cemetery currently sells a single plot for \$1270 and is aware that Zion is planning to sell these plots. There is a small deed fee associated with transferring ownership of these plots and a plot maintenance fee paid to Jefferson Cemetery. Other burial fees are not included with the purchase of the plots. The plots will be sold on a first come, first come basis. If you are interested in purchasing one or more of these plots, please contact Pastor Mathew or the church office. Please review Zion's Annual Report page 55-56 for more information.

### **Please reach out to Pastor Mathew or the church office:**

- ✦ Before a hospitalization or surgery.
- ✦ A loved one has died.
- ✦ A new baby is born.
- ✦ A serious illness or diagnosis.
- ✦ Milestone birthdays or anniversaries.
- ✦ A significant life event is occurring.
- ✦ When you get engaged to be married.
- ✦ Relationship/marriage troubles.
- ✦ When you face a difficult decision.
- ✦ When you have a question about your faith. No, your question is not a dumb question.
- ✦ When you are about to travel.
- ✦ When you are celebrating something special.
- ✦ When your address or contact information changes.