

Worship Services

Sundays

8:30am Traditional
9:40 Education Hour
10:45am Contemporary

Wednesday

6:30pm Evening Prayer

Office Hours

Parish Administrator in
the office Tuesday,
Wednesday, Friday

Our Mission

With the assurance of
God's faithfulness, we'll
† nurture disciples,
† extend healing and
compassion, and
† work for justice in our
communities and
throughout the world.

Our Vision

Gathered by the grace
and love of Jesus Christ,
the people of Mt Zion
commit to know God
deeply and to serve God
gladly through the many
and diverse gifts given to
us by the Holy Spirit.

Marks of Discipleship

† **PRAY** daily
† **WORSHIP** weekly
† **READ** the Bible
† **SERVE** at Mt Zion and
beyond
† Be in **RELATIONSHIP**
to encourage spiritual
growth in others
† **GIVE** of my time, tal-
ents, and resources

**ALL ARE
WELCOME!**

MT ZION CHRISTMAS PARTY DECEMBER 18TH 6:30 - 8:00PM

There are so many ways we can't gather this year
and we haven't had a time to be together and
socialize in so long, that we need a
Christmas party!



Check out the list of possible
activities we'll have:

- Christmas greetings.
- Ugly sweater contest.
- Christmas tree contest.
- Drawing context.
 - Have a paper plate ready to play!
- Christmas videos.
- Christmas trivia.



ZOOM INFO:



Meeting ID: 826 8100 4821
Passcode: 12012
**(For those on phone,
call 312.626.6799)**



Save the Date

XMAS

Pageant

Sunday, December 20 at 8:30 and 10:45am
Featuring "Little Star" by Anthony DeStefano

Wednesday Services Cancelled

The Wednesday Evening Service will be cancelled for the foreseeable future (until the pandemic is over). The last Wednesday service for now will be **December, 16 at 6:30pm.**

Volunteer Schedule

Here are the people who are volunteering through December.

Date	AV	Stewards
12/13	Marciniaks	Morgans and Hexts
12/20	Douglas J	Pete P., John L, & Roy D.
12/27	Erik and Abbey	Engelhardts and Nancy S.

This Week at Mt Zion

Sun December 13	<p>8:30a Traditional Worship youtube.com/mtzionlutheran Meeting ID: 841 6597 2335 password 12012</p> <p>9:40a Faith Formation Hour (Adult, Youth and Sunday School)</p> <p>10:45a Contemporary Worship www.youtube.com/mtzionlutheran Meeting ID 875 7308 8960 password 12012</p> <p>5:00p Confirmation Wartburgseminary.zoom.us/j/6455652349</p>
Mon December 14	<p>12:12p 12 Minutes of Prayer of Facebook</p> <p>6:00p Property Committee</p> <p>7:00p NA 12-steps group alternate location while closed</p>
Tues December 15	<p>10:00a Staff Meeting</p> <p>12:00p AA 12 Steps Meeting continues virtually</p> <p>6:00p Writer's Circle Meeting ID: 829 2787 8248 Passcode: 12012</p>
Wed December 16	<p>8:30a Health Clinic at Courtyard [Parking Lot]</p> <p>12:00p Brown Bag Bible Study on Zoom Meeting ID 84924897122 Password 12012</p> <p>1:00p Prayer Warriors (same login as Brown Bag Bible Study)</p> <p>6:30p Evening Prayer</p>
Thurs December 17	<p>12:12p 12 Minutes of Prayer of Facebook</p> <p>5:00p Beer and Bible, Wine and the Word Meeting ID: 835 6456 0076 Passcode: 12012</p>
Fri December 18	<p>6:30p Christmas Party [on Zoom]</p> <p>7:00p ACA 12-Step Group Meeting Remotely</p> <p>7:30p Essay 12-Step Group Meeting Virtually</p>
Sat December 19	<p>8:30a Women of Heart Bible Study on Zoom Meeting ID: 849 6940 2756 Passcode: 12012</p>
Sun December 20	<p>8:30a Traditional Worship in-person and on YouTube</p> <p>9:40a Education Hour (Adult Forum, Sunday School, Youth)</p> <p>10:45a Contemporary Worship in-person and on YouTube</p> <p>5:00p Youth Group</p>



Advent Devotional 2020
Week 3



Advent Blessing to you all!

This week in our study of Isaiah, we read that God loves justice and hates wrongdoing. God wants us to be active in the world for good. We talked about what it means to be “anointed” for God’s action in the world. When we were baptized, we were anointed with oil on our foreheads. When we receive our affirmation of baptism (or confirmation), we will be anointed with oil again and there will be a special blessing given to us asking that the gift of the Holy Spirit of God be stirred up in us. Some of us have already been confirmed and remember this day!

How do we bring “good news to the oppressed”? Have we had times in our life where we were helping to “bind up the brokenhearted”? How are we working in the world for good for God?

Our conversation stirred up memories in us. **Some of us remember the death of a loved one and how those we love were brokenhearted:**

“I remember when my grandpa died, and my mom cried a lot. She was brokenhearted because she loved him so much. I didn’t do anything because I thought she needed time to cry.”

Some of us talked about how to engage with friends who feel brokenhearted:

“Sometimes it is good to ask friends if they want to talk.”

“I think that when people are feeling broken, they might need space. That happened to me one time – I just needed time to be by myself.”

“It’s hard because people don’t always let you know how they really feel. “

“Maybe it is during the times that we don’t know what to do or what will help, that God steps in.....”

How has God used us as an instrument of God’s action in the world for justice – for good? Here are a few pictures to remind us of ways that God has used us for good:

(Continued on next page)

(“Devotionals” continued from page 4)



Serving at The Ronald McDonald House last Spring– Here we are preparing the food.

...later we got to meet the families staying there and to talk with some of them a bit too!

Mr. Bob's Under the Bridge –

We served an outreach for people experiencing homelessness, we served take-away food, helped disperse clothing and toiletries and had some good conversations about Life!



Holden Village was an opportunity for us to serve ONEANOTHER and build relationships! We hiked together, told funny stories and shared stories of silly stuff we did and even of where we saw God's handprint on the world!

Take a deep breath, settle your heart as you begin to read this text. What do you notice, patterns, words – what is tugging at YOUR heart?

Isaiah 61:1-4 61

The Spirit of the Sovereign LORD is on me, because **the LORD has anointed me to proclaim good news** to the poor. (**God**) **has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted**, to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners,[a] 2 to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor and the day of vengeance of our God, **to comfort** all who mourn, 3 and provide for those who grieve in Zion— to bestow on them a crown of beauty instead of ashes, the oil of joy instead of mourning, and a garment of praise instead of a spirit of despair. They will be called oaks of righteousness, a planting of the LORD for the display of the Lord's splendor. 4 They will **rebuild** the ancient ruins and **restore** the places long devastated; they will **renew** the ruined cities that have been devastated for generations.

We noticed the words about “being anointed.... To proclaim good news... and that we are sent to bind up the brokenhearted... and comfort others.” We were reminded of service projects where we were sent to rebuild, restore, and renew – God uses US! How is God using YOU?!

We Have a Library!

As winter break approaches, kids are going to be home with even less to do than ever before. Or so you think! Consider stopping by the church after school, or during break, to check out some books from our library! Simply come by on a day the office is open and borrow some of our resources to tide you over the holiday break.

We have books and movies

for kids,

and teens

and adults!



Church Library Hours:

Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 3:00 to 5:00pm

If you have questions, or those hours don't work for you, call the church office at 414-258-0456.

How Shiny the Pew



Mt Zion may not have in-person worshipers on Sunday but the sanctuary will have the shiniest pews!

The Esprit dance team volunteered to polish the pews with lemon oil and elbow grease on Saturday! This practice maintains healthy wood that doesn't splinter or warp.

Mt Zion youth Abby Peterson has performed as a member of the team for 3 years. She said they wanted to thank Mt Zion for supporting them with practice space when their regular space closed this fall.

After the polishing, the team watched the award ceremony for a recent virtual competition for Badgerette in the Midwest. They received 3rd and 4th place trophies!

Share Your Décor



It could even be an
elf on a shelf
Or a doll in a hall
Or a sloth on a goth

Help us “decorate” for the
Christmas Eve service!
Send us your favorite Christmas
photos from around your house. You
can show off your tree or wreath, pets
in cute sweaters, or everyone in
matching outfits!
Photos will be showcased in the pre-
lude and postlude on the Christmas
Eve pre-recorded service.

Deadline is December 18th!

Send to Jess
parishadmin@mtzionlutheran.org



Christmas joy from
Robyn, Megan,
Jasper and
Phoebe!

CHRISTMAS
EVE

WATCH ON YOUTUBE OR CALL IN TO LISTEN
8:00PM WORSHIP SERVICE

Zoom Meeting ID: 885 2284 0713
Passcode: 12012

Join by phone call at: 312 626 6799

Your Tithe.ly Questions...



Transitioning from Vanco to Tithe.ly for 2021

Do you currently have recurring giving setup using Vanco and SimplyGiving? If you control your own accounts, we encourage you to transition yourself over to Tithe.ly for your 2021 giving. We will be closing our account with Vanco shortly after Easter.

Do you still have questions? Here are some recent questions from others in the congregation regarding the transition:

I already donate automatically through SimplyGiving. At the end of the calendar year, will that automatically continue or will it stop when the clock strikes midnight on 12/31?

Simply Giving donations are not necessarily set to automatically stop as of December 31, 2020. Simply Giving donations may kick in late in December in order to be processed for January. If you are able to login to your Simply Giving account, double check when the next settlement date is scheduled. You still have time to cancel future transactions via SimplyGiving, so your giving would not be doubled up for the new year. If you are unable to login or you need assistance, call or email Parish Admin Jess Monahan and she'd be more than happy to help you confirm cancellation of the SimplyGiving transactions!

What if my giving was setup by Mt Zion?

We'll start contacting those givers in February to transition their accounts over to Tithe.ly.

...Answered!

I already donate automatically through Simply Giving but changed my pledge amount for 2021. What should I do to update my amount for 2021?

Pledges for 2021 have been entered into Tithe.ly. You will need to update your giving amount on your ACH or Credit Card if giving electronically. You can set this new amount up using the Tithe.ly giving page or app. If your giving was set up by Mt Zion, please call Jess, the Parish Admin, at 414-258-0456 or email at parishadmin@mtzionlutheran.org.

Is there a difference between giving online through the website button and using the new Tithe.ly app?

There is no difference between the online button and the app.

If I schedule a regular (like monthly or weekly) automatic payment from my bank account can I cancel it later if I need to?

To setup recurring giving yourself, you'll need to create an account, but after that you'll be in full control. Alternatively, Mt Zion can setup recurring giving for people just like we did with SimplyGiving, but just like SimplyGiving the giver will need to contact the church to make changes (or will automatically be updated based on pledge card). We'll be transitioning people in this scenario group from SimplyGiving to Tithe.ly early in 2021, but we'll contact them first as to the appearance of the charge on their credit card / bank statement.

What is the least costly way for Mt Zion to receive my donation, cash, check, direct bank payment (ACH), or credit card?

Last week's Grace Notes showed the cost comparison between Tithe.ly and Vanco, explaining why we switched. In there, you'll see that credit card is the most expensive, ACH is much less expensive, and as always, cash and checks delivered directly to the church have no surcharge for cashing. Plus, the giver has the option of covering the fees if donating with Credit Card or ACH.

**If you have more questions or concerns,
please call Jess Monahan at 414-258-0456**

Christmas Has a Heart



An Alternative Christmas Market

Do you want your Christmas celebration to **include gifts that bring service, hope and love to our neighbors in the Milwaukee Metropolitan area**? Consider participating in Christmas Has a Heart 2020. It will be presented differently this year since there can't be a physical market space. Instead, the Shopping List for our guest organizations will be available here in Grace Notes.

Part of the excitement of Christmas Has a Heart is the opportunity to meet the people actually involved in the mission, and we don't want you to miss that. Each organization will share a short video to be shown during worship in December so you can "meet" some of the people involved and hear directly from Kids Matter, MICAH, Outreach for Hope, Project Return, Reformation Lutheran Church, and Tosa Cares.

See how you may participate in the Christmas Has A Heart 2020 Alternative Christmas Market in the insert with your Grace Notes.

The Mt Zion Outreach Ministry Team

HOW TO DONATE

1. Donate online.
2. Mail donation directly to organization(s).
3. Send donation(s) through Mt Zion. Include donation designations.



Sponsored by the Outreach Ministry Team of Mt Zion Lutheran Church





UN MIGRANT DAY 2020:

A Webinar Celebrating Black Migrants

DECEMBER 18, 2020 | NOON TO 1 PM

SIGN UP TO RECEIVE ZOOM LINK:

milwaukee-synod.org/event/2020-un-migrant-day/

PARTICIPANTS INCLUDE...

- **Bishop Paul Erickson**, Greater Milwaukee Synod, ELCA
- **Pastor Kelly Nieman Anderson**, Chair GMS Immigration Task Force
- **Pastor Albert Starr**, Director ELCA Ethnic Specific and Multicultural Ministries
- **Pastor Lamont Wells**, President of the African Descent Lutheran Association
- **Ms. Giovana Oaxaca**, ELCA Migration Policy Director

Grace Notes Deadline Changing!

Beginning in January, the deadline for the Grace Notes will be Tuesday each week. This will be done so that the Grace Notes can be compiled, edited, printed and folded, stamped, and in the mail by Wednesday. *This* is being done so that our members who receive Grace Notes through the mail can receive them on Friday, the same time as those receiving them through the ENews.

So, as an example, the deadline for anything needing to be printed in the Sunday, January 10 edition will need to be submitted to Jess by Tuesday, January 5. If you have questions, contact Parish Admin, Jess Monahan.

Tax Advantage Opportunity

Are you aware that there is a special tax advantage opportunity this year to encourage charitable giving of at least \$300.00? The CARES Act passed by Congress last March will allow those who do not itemize on their taxes to deduct up to \$300 on next year's taxes for gifts made to charitable organizations like Mt. Zion Lutheran Church. The deduction is only for gifts of cash made in calendar year 2020.

Learn more: <https://www.irs.gov/newsroom/special-300-tax-deduction-helps-most-people-give-to-charity-this-year-even-if-they-dont-itemize>

Many of you have already given more than \$300 and for that we are grateful. The pandemic has taught us that there is tremendous need right now—in our congregation, in the community, and around the world. Every gift and every giver strengthen our shared ministries to nurture faith, care for our community, and share God's Good News throughout the world. Thank you for giving!

To qualify for the CARES Act deduction and to allocate funds as designated above, gifts must be received at the church by December 31, 2020. You may send your check to 12012 W. North Avenue, Wauwatosa 53226 or donate online to www.mtzionlutheran.org/donate.

(Questions should be directed to your Tax Accountant or Financial Planner).

Stewardship Team

WANTED



Reward: \$15/hr



Black Bart" the legendary snowblower is once again loose in Wauwatosa. Can you help us find him? We are looking for someone to blow our sidewalks and shovel our entrances after each snowfall this winter.

Have you seen this person?

Contact the nearest US Marshal's Office:

marydouglasjohnson@gmail.com

Science Tidbits

Coincidence or Divine Intervention?

Every so often, we hear stories of events that defy logic and seemingly go beyond the concept of coincidence. I recently came across one such story in the July/August Reader's Digest that I would like to pass along. A woman was doing some gardening in her yard early one evening when she felt a terrible blow to her neck. Reaching up, she was horrified to feel an arrow protruding from her neck, and in a state of shock ran screaming into the house, where her husband calmed her down and called for an ambulance.

It turns out the arrow came from a young man across the alley practicing with a hunting bow. He shot the arrow in the opposite direction, but it ricocheted 180 degrees and flew over several fences and through numerous trees to hit the woman.

At the hospital, they gave her a CT scan to determine where the arrow was lodged. Incredibly, it had traversed a small gap (less than a quarter inch) between the carotid artery and jugular vein, and there was no bleeding. She went into surgery to remove the arrow.

The next morning, the doctor came in to her room to explain what he had done in surgery, then dropped a bombshell about the CT scan. It showed a brain tumor. They thought that it was benign, but it was in a very difficult location for surgery. A second opinion revealed that the tumor was progressing across the midline of her brain and, if it progressed further, would surely lead to a massive stroke. Thus, it needed to be removed.

The surgery was successful and, after recovery, she had an MRI each year to ensure that the tumor had not grown back. Things were uneventful for a few years, but then, after her yearly MRI, she was called in to consult with her doctor. There was still no tumor, but they had found a brain aneurysm, a dangerous thinning of an arterial wall. It was fortunate she happened to be having the MRI, because aneurysms are not usually diagnosed until they rupture, normally a fatal event.

So it was back into the OR yet again. It turned out to be a challenging surgery, because the aneurysm was so fragile and was likely to rupture at any minute, but the doctor successfully repaired the artery.

If she had not been shot by that arrow, she would have died from a brain tumor, stroke or burst aneurysm. Throughout the ordeal, she had been showered with prayer, both in person and online. When she went out for daily chores, people she didn't even know came up to her to give hugs and relate how they had been praying for her. And during it all, she never considered herself lucky, but rather, blessed. It was a faith-strengthening experience for all. [pic shows arrow tip embedded in neck]



Steve Downs

The Back Pew

Taking a moment to appreciate some of the to the clever seasonal church signs out there! Wantagh Memorial Congregational Church, in New York, is apparently crushing it! Their sign has gone viral. The Pastor uses the sign to engage with people beyond social media by connecting with those who pass by on the street. More info: <https://wmcc1845.com/>

If you have an idea for our sign, please send it to
marydouglasjohnson@gmail.com



December Birthdays and Anniversaries

Birthdays

Kenneth S 12/1
Bradley S. 12/6
Lorre G. 12/8
Kelly R. 12/9
Kay C. 12/11
Perrie D. 12/13
Ellie Y. 12/14
Angella G. 12/16
Mick C. 12/21
Forrest D. 12/21
Mark S. 12/21

Caroline W. 12/21
Liz C. 12/23
Mark J. 12/24
Jennifer J. 12/24
Baby Jesus 12/25
Jean M. 12/28
Heather T. 12/28
Linda R. 12/31
Nancy D. 12/31
Susan M. 12/31

Wedding Anniversaries

Jean and John M 12/19
Derrick and Michelle G.
12/29

Scripture Readings for This Week

Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11 Psalm 126

1 Thessalonians 5:16-24 John 1:6-8,19-28

Scripture Readings for Next Week

2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16 Luke 1:46b-55

Romans 16:25-27 Luke 1:26-38



This Week's Prayer List



<https://bit.ly/3a1sOnE>



Mt Zion Staff

Pastor

The Reverend Tyler D. Rasmussen
pastor@mtzionlutheran.org

Sunday School Superintendent

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Contemporary Worship Leader

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Youth Ministry Coordinator

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Douglas Johnson (volunteer)
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Leadership Board

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Ian Koenig

Janet McCarthy

Jeremy Goss

Robyn Di Giacinto

Jean Morack

Mike Marciniak

Doug Dralle

Erik Peterson

Katie Frederick

Debbie Kleppek

Mavis Roesch



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