

December 4, 2022



Grace Notes

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Alternative Marketplace

**Today
Between Services
Gathering Space**

The Christmas Has a Heart Alternative Market place will take place today from 9:30 to 10:45am. If you're looking for a way to give a meaningful gift, or maybe that person who doesn't want material things, this is the spot to shop! Choose from a variety of local organizations with gifts that fit into any price range.

During CHAH, enjoy Christmas cookies, coffee, and please take a moment to write a Christmas card for our prison ministry.



mtzionlutheran.org

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12012 W North Ave

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From the Pastor

Merry Christmas! Or, more appropriately, Happy Advent!

Shameless plug time: There's a tradition I look forward to every year that I didn't know was so important or beautiful until only recently. That tradition is caroling to the at-home members of our congregation. We don't see carolers on the streets anymore, and I grew up on a farm where we never knew of such things. So I had no idea how wonderful (and exhausting) caroling could be. I know we're all very busy this time of year, and I know many of you have never met any of our at-home members, but I want to invite you to help me bring joy to beloved strangers, friends we never knew. Most of them will not be able to come to worship on Christmas Eve, and this time of year they miss their worshipping community more than ever. Help me bring our worshipping community to them on December 11. We'll provide a light sandwich lunch at Mt Zion after the 2nd service, and then we'll go to 4 homes to sing carols. We won't be able to get to every at home member (apologies!), but who knows, maybe next year we'll have enough carolers to split into groups and hit all 18 at-home families? I know how much they appreciate our love; help me give them some Christmas joy.



I also have some sad news: We have a broken stained-glass window. The protective glass for the big window on the south end of the sanctuary is beginning to crack and break due to the original framing aging poorly. One window broke a few weeks ago (you may have noticed the caution tape outside the south entrance while driving down North Ave), and last week another window broke. But as this second window came crashing down, it took out some of the stained-glass with it. Fortunately, the broken piece is small, roughly the size of my hand. Unfortunately, the protective windows are unable to be replaced until the spring; the caulk won't set properly in cold weather. I know how important those windows are as a source of faith and meditation for our community; I hope more damage can be avoided. We will get the problem addressed as soon as the weather is favorable.



Finally, I want to tell you about my favorite new room at Mt Zion: The library. It's taken awhile, and there's still a little left to go, but that room has finally come together, and I love it. You'll find me up there multiple times a week reading a good book. If you haven't peeped into the library recently, take a look. I'm not saying it's anything special, but like Goldilocks would say, "It's just right."

~Pastor Tyler

December 4 to December 11

Sun Dec 4	8:30a 9:40a 10:45a 3:00p	Traditional Worship Service Faith Formation Hour Contemporary Worship Service Confirmation
Mon Dec 5	7:00p	NA 12 Step Meeting
Tues Dec 6	12:00p 6:30p	AA 12 Steps Meeting Hands of AA 12-Step Meeting
Wed Dec 7	12:00p 12:00p 1:00p 1:00p 4:30p	Tosa Cares Holiday Distribution Brown Bag Bible Study Prayer Warriors Tosa Cares Donation Drop Offs Staff Meeting
Thurs Dec 8	6:30p 7:30p	Voices of Zion Choir Rehearsal Festival Bells Rehearsal
Fri Dec 9	4:00p 7:00p 7:30p	CP Holiday Train Harwood Crossing in Tosa ACA 12 Step Group Room 101 Essay 12-step group [meeting virtually]
Sat Dec 10	8:30a 8:30a	Tosa Cares Donation Drop Offs Women of Heart Bible Study
Sun Dec 11	8:30a 9:40a 10:45a 12:00p 3:30p	Traditional Worship Service Faith Formation Hour Enjoy some Thanksgiving Pie! Contemporary Worship Service Christmas Caroling to homebound members Confirmation

Zoom Worship, Brown Bag Meeting ID: 841 6597 2335
Passcode: 12012

For instructions on calling in to worship, turn to page 5.

Soloist Sunday

We welcome Robert Stuart Mitchell who will be adding his beautiful voice to the closing hymn of the 8:30 service. His solo will be titled, "I Walk with God".

Today's Worship Volunteers

Thank you to our wonderful volunteers who helped with worship.

8:30am

Altar Care: Linda Havlicek
Assisting Minister: Nancy Di Giacinto
Communion Asst.: Nancy and Joe Di Giacinto
Lector: Irene McCarthy
Ushers: Jim and Donna Zarek
Audio/Visual: Mary and John Douglas
Offering Stewards: Gary Goll, Jim Goetzinger, Tom Ertel

10:45am

Assisting Minister: Janet McCarthy
Communion Asst.: Janet McCarthy
Lector: Mavis Roesch
Ushers: Dave Nelson
Audio/Visual: Katie and Tony Frederick
Offering Stewards: Gary Goll, Jim Goetzinger, Tom Ertel

If you would like to support our worship services through one of these volunteer roles, please contact the Worship Volunteer Coordinator:

Nancy Di Giacinto worshipvol@mtzionlutheran.org 414-258-0456

Scripture Readings

For December 4

Romans 15: 4-13 *8:30 only*

Isaiah 11:1-10

Matthew 3:1-12

For December 11

James 5:7-10 *8:30 only*

Isaiah 35:1-10

Matthew 11:2-11

Volunteer Schedule

<https://www.mtzionlutheran.org/>

ACCESS THIS WEEK'S PRAYER LIST HERE:

<http://bit.ly/3VAWvAb>

Prayer Warriors meet
Wednesdays at 1:00pm.

Native Re-Telling of Christmas

FAMILY FAITH NIGHTS

STARTING JANUARY 4

6:00PM

1ST WEDNESDAY OF EVERY MONTH

IF YOU ARE A FAMILY WITH CHILDREN YOUNGER THAN HIGH SCHOOL AGE, YOU ARE INVITED TO OUR FIRST FAMILY FAITH NIGHT!

WHY YOUNG FAMILIES?

We know that parents are often unable to participate in any of our faith formation activities. Our hope is this will both be a space that parents can find support and that families can grow together in faith. To do that, some months we'll have whole-family activities and other months we will let the children watch a movie and give the parents some much-needed adult time.

CHECK THIS OUT!

WE WOULD WELCOME SOME VOLUNTEER BABYSITTERS WHO WOULD BE WILLING TO HELP WITH THE YOUNGEST CHILDREN.



Science Tidbits

How Cellphones Have Changed Adolescence

The iGens (iGeneration; a term coined by psychology professor Jean Twenge for people born between 1995 and 2012) are unique in the history of mankind. They are far different from any previous generation, because, for the first time, they have spent their entire adolescence with a smartphone. They are constantly immersed in technology that makes available instant communication potential wherever they may be and access to internet social media sites.

Dr. Twenge tells how she phoned a 13-year-old iGen girl who, of course, answered on her personal cellphone. The girl told her that she spent her summer holed up in her room talking with her friends on her smartphone. She further commented, "I think we like our phones more than we like actual people." Carrying this to an extreme, iGens have often been seen in a room together while communicating with each other solely through texting. When teaching at Marquette University, I found it surreal that, when class was over, every student synchronously pulled out his/her smartphone and was immediately swallowed up in it.

Our two children are Millennials, born in the early 1980s. They spent their childhood in live, in-person social interactions without the use of any "technological instruments" other than perhaps the family landline. Summers were spent outdoors with their friends, exploring, creating and riding bikes. I am glad they weren't born with a cellphone or tablet in their hands.

Indeed, iGens were born into a more individualistic culture than previous generations, with emphasis on self instead of groups. They have grown up with smartphones, are well versed in Instagram accounts before high school and cannot recollect a time before the internet. Millennials also had access to the internet, but it wasn't readily accessible to them at all hours of the day.

The smartphone has changed every aspect of teenagers' lives, not only socially but also in terms of mental health. iGens are less social. While about 56% of high school seniors dated in 2015, for Boomers and Gen Xers, that number was 85%. iGens are less likely to go to parties, drink alcohol or fall prey to car accidents. Although they are better off in terms of physical safety, there are negative consequences. Evidence is compelling that the co-incident rise of the smartphone and social media have helped make iGens' lives seriously unhappy. Rates of teen depression and suicide are significantly higher since 2011, and much of this change can be traced to their phones.

iGens also seem hesitant to gain independence from their parents. Most Boomers had their driver's license by age 18 (I secured mine much earlier than that, shortly after my 16th birthday). A 21-year-old student in San Diego recently confessed that he didn't get his license until his mom said he had to because she couldn't afford to keep driving him to school.

[Being a Boomer, I was slow to embrace cellphones; yet sadly, even I am not immune to their inexorable siren call.]

Steve Downs



Birthdays & Anniversaries

Birthdays

Isaiah B. 12/1	Angella G. 12/16	Carolyn B. 12/27
Jakob M. 12/1	Emma B. 12/16	Jean M. 12/28
Mitch L. 12/1	Troy M. 12/17	Heather T. 12/28
Julian M. 12/1	Maverick S. 12/18	Eliot E. 12/30
Kevin B. 12/1	Merry C. 12/18	Khloe L. 12/30
Lynn P. 12/1	Natalie B. 12/19	DeAnn B. 12/30
Kim M. 12/1	Jasmine P. 12/20	Susan M. 12/31
Meg L. 12/4	Lucy F. 12/20	Linda R. 12/31
Carolyn B. 12/5	Mark S. 12/21	Stella S. 12/31
Bradley S. 12/6	Mick C. 12/21	Nancy D. 12/31
Lorre G. 12/8	Dudley R. 12/21	Angelina G. 12/31
Molly S. 12/8	Caroline W. 12/21	
Kelly R. 12/9	Forrest D. 12/21	
Kay C. 12/11	Tom C. 12/23	
Perrie D. 12/13	Liz C. 12/23	
Milt D. 12/13	Mark J. 12/24	
Ellie Y. 12/14	Jennifer J. 12/24	
Jeff D. 12/15	Jesus C. 12/25	

Wedding Anniversaries

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

All are Welcome Here



This year, Mt Zion opened our doors to Shri Satya Sai Baba of Milwaukee, who had outgrown their former space at Gethsemane Lutheran. Last week, the group held a celebration for what would have been the 97th birthday of Sathya Sai Baba, an Indian guru who helped establish free hospitals and clinics, schools, and ways to provide drinking water. For the celebration, the children created a paper garland, prepared songs, and made posters highlighting climate care and social well-being concerns. One woman made a great, big garland out of grapes and other produce. A hot, almond based Karak Chai (tea) was served and boxed meals were sent home at the end of the night.

At Mt Zion we are
 Joyfully growing disciples in Christ
 so that
 Everyone we meet comes to know themselves as a reflection of
 God's image, worthy of life and love
 by prioritizing
Faith Community
Hospitality Justice

Mt Zion Staff

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Sherry Downs
Joe Driscoll



**Church Office
 Hours**

Monday — Friday 10:00am — 3:00pm

Stop by in-person, call 414-258-0456,
 or email parishadmin@mtzionlutheran.org

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