



Grace Notes

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Letter from Presiding Bishop Eaton

Dear church,

I write to you today with grave concern. Over the past few days, ELCA leaders and ministry partners have shared with me the immediate impacts of recent executive orders focused on immigration. I have heard about families frightened of being torn apart and from congregations fearful that their churches can no longer offer safety or support to their immigrant neighbors. I have heard from faith partners ordered to stop services to refugees and from businesses upended by workforce disruptions.

Many of us in the ELCA come from immigrant peoples. As Lutherans, we have a long tradition of hospitality, dating back to the end of World War II, of helping displaced Lutheran refugees, assisting subsequent refugee groups and welcoming new immigrants. Our church has long called for compassionate, just and wise immigration reform. ("Toward Compassionate, Just and Wise Immigration Reform" social policy resolution).

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Send Some Love!



Won't you be
my
Zion-tine?

**Adopt an at-home member to
be your "Zion-tine"**

Pick the name of an at-home member from the display in the Gathering Space, then show them some love during February.

**Sweet ideas include:
sending a card,
calling to chat,
coloring a picture to mail
bringing over a meal or cookies**



Call the church office if you need a phone number or mailing address for one of our at-home members.



February 9 to February 16

Sun Feb 9	9:30am Worship service 10:40am Congregational Meeting
Mon Feb 10	3:15pm Prayer for Safe Schools Corner of 120th and North Ave 6:00pm Property Committee Meeting 7:00pm Knit One, Pray One 7:00pm NA 12 Step Meeting Fellowship Hall
Tues Feb 11	Noon AA 12 Steps Meeting Room 211 6:30pm Hands of AA 12-Step Meeting Upper Room 6:30pm Troop 27 Meeting
Wed Feb 12	12:00pm Brown Bag Bible Study 1:00pm Prayer Warriors 1:00pm Tosa Cares Donations Drop Off 4:30pm Stewardship Meeting
Thurs Feb 13	6:30pm Voices of Zion Choir Rehearsal 7:30pm Festival Bells Rehearsal
Fri Feb 14	Valentine's Day 6:00pm ACA 12 Step Group Room 100
Sat Feb 15	8:30am Together in Mission Event
Sun Feb 16	9:30am Worship Service 10:30am Faith Formation 5:00pm MZY Night
Next Week	Spring Primary Election

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

Strengthening Faith Program

Unless otherwise stated, the Faith Forum on Sundays will be led by Pastor Tyler who continues his “Strengthening Faith Program” for adults.

This program helps you walk a faith journey to explore your own spiritual strengths, areas for improvement, and how to live your faith every day. And you won't walk alone. Pastor Tyler has designed this program to be in community with one another. Yes, it will help you personally but also in your interactions with your friends, families, neighbors, and coworkers.

Don't just rush out the door after the sending song on Sundays. Come learn how you can deepen, develop, and demonstrate your faith throughout the week!

(Oh, did we mention this curriculum is FREE for Mt Zion members?)

Today's Volunteers

Altar Care: Jessica and Clara Monahan

Assisting Minister: Mavis Roesch

Lector: Liz Anderson

Communion Asst.: Nancy Di Giacinto, Mavis Roesch, Liz and Gwen A.

Ushers: Kurt and Debbie Kleppek

Audio/Visual: Brenda and Mike Marciniak

Greeters: Dick and Norma Hollander

Tellers: Tom Ertel and Brad Hext

**Your time and talents are a blessing to this congregation.
Thank you to all of our volunteers!**

Volunteer Schedule

[https://www.mtzionlutheran.org/
pages/member-resources](https://www.mtzionlutheran.org/pages/member-resources)

ACCESS THIS WEEK'S PRAYER LIST HERE:

<https://bit.ly/4132SBT>

Prayer Warriors meet
Wednesdays at 1:00pm.

You're Invited!

INTERFAITH
CONFERENCE
OF GREATER MILWAUKEE

Amazing Faiths Dinner Dialogue

6pm Wed. February 26
Brookfield Congregational Church


People of all faiths and no faith, all spiritualities & theologies gather in small groups to share a meal & participate in a moderated discussion using a proven model, evoking deep exchanges about lived experiences & the role of faith &/or spirituality in their lives. Through exploration & dialogue, participants learn about the beliefs & traditions of others within an atmosphere of respect & understanding, & are empowered to stand as witnesses for tolerance & inclusion.

- Practice appreciative listening
- Increase religious literacy
- Build appreciation of diversity
- Engage on a meaningful level
- Increase trust & remove barriers
- Talk about matters of faith & spirituality in a safe environment

<https://tinyurl.com/AFDDinfo>



Register or Learn more at the
link above or QR Code



Bishop's Letter on Immigration

Continued from page 1

Today, recent immigrants, refugees, asylum-seekers and displaced people are members of our congregations, communities and leadership. The presence of newcomers heightens our awareness of issues of relevance to the church so we can take part in faithful deliberation on public policies, like the ones that have come out in recent days. Our church's grave concerns grow out of these experiences with the people being affected.

From these experiences, people in our church have learned that the decision to leave one's home country is not made lightly. Many have arrived fleeing persecution because of how they worship, their political views, or their race and nationality. Political instability, environmental catastrophes and lack of opportunities have also compelled many to seek a more dignified life. Out of our own Lutheran experience of knowing many refugees, we have long stood against exclusionary attitudes and policies toward successive newcomers.



Among the policy changes to which our church's social teaching objects include:

- Orders to suspend all refugee resettlement.
- New and sweeping enforcement priorities.
- The summons of military personnel to the border.
- The decision to revoke special guidance regarding enforcement activity at or near sacred or protected places.

Keeping communities safe and supporting the well-being of all people is a goal shared by the ELCA. Yet it's worth naming that these executive actions are increasing fear and division within our society. Some people, including U.S. citizens, are alarmed about immigration enforcement at churches, schools and playgrounds. Some are afraid to seek care at hospitals or to access essential services.

The ELCA supports the view that nations have the responsibility to protect their borders and safeguard their communities. However, these policies must cause "neither undue repercussions within immigrant communities nor bias against them" ("Immigration" social message, page 7). Just policies include recognition of the humanity of immigrants without status, respect for the dignity of those at the border and refuge for displaced people.

The Scriptures are clear. We are called to see anew the image of God in our immigrant neighbors. Following God's call in Leviticus 19 that is echoed throughout Scripture, the time is now.

Bishop's Letter on Immigration

It is my sincere hope as bishop that various harmful actions will be reconsidered. It is my fervent prayer that we, as church together, will be bold in our witness and actions. ELCA churchwide ministries will continue to provide resources to protect the most vulnerable among us.

Let us together join in:

- ◆ **A Call to Prayer** alongside and for immigrants and sojourners, our communities and for our leaders, that they will act wisely and justly, protect all people and not cause harm.
- ◆ **A Call to Learning**, using resources such as the ELCA social message "Immigration"; the ELCA's strategy for Accompanying Migrants with Protection, Advocacy, Representation and Opportunities (AMMPARO), including "Know Your Rights" information; and companion resources from Global Refuge (formerly Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service) and Church World Service on the policy changes. Join ELCA AMMPARO and Global Refuge for a webinar, "What Now—Resources for Faith Communities after Executive Orders," on Thursday, Jan. 30, 4-5 p.m. Eastern time. Registration is required. Register here.
- ◆ **A Call to Personal Witness** by speaking out against rhetoric that dehumanizes and demonizes anyone made in the image of God, and by promoting accurate information about neighbors and issues of public concern, in the spirit of the Conference of Bishops statement on the need to speak the truth.
- ◆ **A Call to Public Witness**, using the resources of ELCA AMMPARO, ELCA Witness in Society and State Public Policy Offices, and joining with our ecumenical partners as we offer faithful, direct witness to government.

As a sanctuary denomination, the ELCA proclaims walking with immigrants as a matter of faithfulness. The ELCA does not call for activity contrary to the law but for congregations, leaders and individuals to explore resources addressing how to interpret this memorial to their own contexts. Most of all, I encourage all to discern together how to live our faith, excluding none from God's overflowing love.

God calls us to welcome the stranger and love the sojourner as we love ourselves. I pray for God's grace to increase understanding of and mercy toward immigrants in these days.

In Christ,

The Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton

Presiding Bishop, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Update from Global Refuge

MICAH - February 2025, Mission of the Month

Last week, Grace Notes included an article about the Faith Forum held on January 19 in the Upper Room. Mark Rice, who heads WISDOM's Transformational Justice Campaign spoke to a good-sized crowd, about WISDOM, Wisconsin's state wide arm of the Gamaliel National Network. Gamaliel's function is to unite people of diverse faiths and races to promote justice in areas of politics, the environment, society and economic decisions. It applies faith and values to situations requiring justice. Gamaliel is nationwide, WISDOM is statewide and MICAH (Milwaukee Inner City Congregations Allied for Hope) is WISDOM's outreach in the Milwaukee County area. Mt. Zion is an active member of MICAH and has the distinction of being MICAH's first suburban member many years ago.

Besides Transformational Justice, MICAH works in several areas to promote justice. There is an Education Task Force, a Health Equity Task Force, and a Jobs/Economics/Transportation Task Force. What is great about getting involved with MICAH is that your own interests can determine where you can best serve. The newest work for justice has been MICAH's WE ALL BELONG CAMPAIGN which officially started at a press conference on a very hot August 4th in 2023 at the Martin Luther King Jr. statue on MLK Drive and Walnut. In attendance were MICAH's religious caucus, MICAH members and area religious leaders, including ELCA's Bishop Paul Erickson, who represented the Greater Milwaukee Synod. It was a call to protect democracy, reject white "christian" nationalism and Build the Beloved Community. There have been several rallies since to inform the public about the dangers of white "christian" nationalism. The largest rally was on July 14, 2024 at the Zelazo Center for the Performing Arts at UW-M with over 800 people in attendance. That rally is recorded on YouTube and can be found on the MICAH website. We heard three national speakers, Amanda Tyler, Jim Wallis and Bryan Massingale, who spoke of the glaring differences between Jesus of the Gospel and the teaching of white "christian" nationalism. White "christian" nationalism encourages our more evil natures to ignore Christ and to fear and hate our neighbors and to not tend to all our neighbors' needs. Actually, Christ's message throughout the Gospel teaches us to love the stranger and reflect His kindness. MICAH works to dismantle the lies of white "christian" nationalism and promote justice for all.

Please give as you can to MICAH, this month's Mission of the Month.

Jerry Roesch



My Name is: Dance Abby



Abby's dance team competed at State and placed 4th out of 11! Abby, we have enjoyed cheering you on in your Tosa Dance Team D2 Hip Hop pursuits and look forward to your future endeavors!

Seeking Keyboard Player

Jack's band, "Extra" is looking for a keyboard player for their band. Extra plays classic rock, glam metal and southern rock. Check out their music and contact them for more info via Instagram at [extra.band](#)



Gone Fishin'



Last Saturday, Emmett went ice fishing at Camp Oh-Da-Ko-Ta in Burlington, WI as part of the Cub Scouts, and Mary and Douglas were also present with members of Mt Zion's Scouts BSA Troop 27.



Emmett was disappointed not to catch any fish, but he had a lot of fun trying and also sliding around on the ice! None of our intrepid anglers fell through the ice or, face planted on the ice, or suffered frostbite, and we give thanks our fearless adventurers returned home safely.



Steve's Science Tidbits

Organ Transplants: A Mind of Their Own?

A 1991 film, *Body Parts*, had a ridiculous premise. A man loses an arm in a horrific car accident, and it is replaced by one from a deceased donor with a very dark past. Post-op the man's behavior radically changes to mirror that of the evil donor. A totally absurd, silly plot contrivance, right?

A recent article in *Psychology Today* addresses this idea. Kristy, a 54-year-old woman received a life-saving heart transplant. She knew nothing about the heart donor, but after the operation, when she regained consciousness, she relayed to her husband the strong feeling that she had the heart of a mid-30s woman who had a rough upbringing in a rural area. Recovery for the heart recipient went well, and some months later she found out who the donor was: a rural 37-year-old woman.

Is it possible for biographical information or even aspects of one's personality to be transferred from one individual to another through the heart? There is a famous case from 1988 where Claire received a heart-lung transplant from an 18-year-old man. During the post-surgery recovery, she told those in the room, "I'm dying for a beer right now!" As soon as she had said this, she was both surprised and embarrassed, since she had never liked beer. And that's not all, because other food preferences changed. She now loved green peppers, which she had previously hated, and chicken nuggets, which was her first meal after the operation.

Years later Claire found the man's obituary in the newspaper and eventually met the man's family. She asked them if he liked green peppers. His sister responded, "Are you kidding? He loved them. But what he really loved was chicken nuggets."

These stories are rare but have been around since the first heart transplant in 1967. A 1992 study of heart recipients in Vienna found three out of 47 patients reported a profound change in personality. In 2000 another study documented 10 recipients whose personalities shifted toward that of their donor.

A psychiatrist told about one patient who thought she was going crazy. She started having memories of being hit by a car and even felt the impact on her left side. She told him she had had a heart transplant two years previously. She later returned after finally meeting the donor family and relayed that her donor was a small boy who ran into an alley while playing tag and was hit by a car on his left side.

One 9-year-old boy received the heart of a 3-year-old girl. After the operation he developed a fear of water and a profound sadness that he attributed to his donor. The boy didn't know anything about the donor, but his parents told researchers she had drowned in her mother's boyfriend's pool.

Can memories be transferred from one individual to another? I've written recently about individual cellular memory. Can some of the cells transferred during transplant surgery carry along memories? More research awaits.

Steve Downs

Birthdays & Anniversaries

Birthdays

Mickie R. 2/1	Dean S. 2/9	
Dave F. 2/1	Kate W. 2/9	Margie S. 2/21
Robert J. 2/1	Erica M. 2/11	Logan W. 2/22
Nancy K. 2/2	Gwenivere A. 2/12	Brian W. 2/24
Loretta B. 2/2	Dick H. 2/13	Alex H. 2/24
Debbie F. 2/2	James H. 2/15	Garret J. 2/25
RJ J. 2/2	Lynn K. 2/16	Joe D. 2/25
Mara M. 2/2	Frank B. 2/17	Kristin M. 2/25
Natasha P. 2/3	Jim S. 2/19	Kathryn M. 2/25
Sherry D. 2/6	Harper P. 2/20	Vince C. 2/26
Eliza F. 2/6	Michael F. 2/20	Pat G. 2/28
	Yvonne K. 2/21	

Wedding Anniversaries

Tina and Jim K. 2/17

Andrew and Kelsey F. 2/23

Italian Dinner Fundraiser



Luther Memorial invites you to our Annual Spaghetti Dinner on Tuesday, February 18th from 5PM - 7PM.

All proceeds go to Jefferson Elementary School in West Allis. Over 70% of the students there are living in poverty and eligible for free breakfast and lunch. Thank you for your support to help children in poverty at our neighborhood school.

Orders are available by reservation/pre-order only and must be placed by 5 pm February 17. Curbside pick up at Filippo's Italian restaurant 6915 W. Lincoln Avenue

Dinner includes spaghetti with meat sauce, salad, Italian bread, and cannoli. Vegetarian sauce is available on request Dinner

Adults - \$12.00

Children ages 10 and under - \$5.00

Children ages 2 and under. No charge

To pre-order and choose a time for pick up Call 414-2 55-4417 or email: ss43bob@yahoo.com.



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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The Reverend Tyler D. Rasmussen
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Anna Kissel



Church Office

Hours

Monday — Friday 10:00am — 3:00pm

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or email parishadmin@mtzionlutheran.org

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