

September 7 2025



Grace Notes

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Back in Session

Sunday School will be off and running on September 14! Sunday School departs from worship immediately after communion. Teachers will walk the students up to the second floor for our rotating Sunday School program which teaches Bible stories and lessons through a variety of methods from games, to science, or cooking, and theater!

Voices of Zion and Festival Bells will resume the joyful noise on Thursday, September 10. Choir rehearsal starts at 6:30pm. Bells rehearsal begins at 7:30pm. Both meet in the sanctuary.



mtzionlutheran.org

(414) 258-0456

parishadmin@mtzionlutheran.org

12012 W North Ave

Wauwatosa, WI 53226

Adoption Party!

Come Celebrate our Grace!

Keith and Liz Anderson are thankful to celebrate Grace officially becoming an Anderson through (long awaited) adoption in September. Wishing to share our over-the-top joy, we are inviting our Mt. Zion family, who have been partners in loving and nurturing Grace for the last 6 1/2 years.

We will be celebrating in the
Gathering Space on
Saturday Sept. 20 from 1-7pm.
Come and go as you please.

If you are able to join our happy event, please
RSVP by text to Liz Anderson at 414-704-3051 by
Sept. 15.



Correction: Missing Numbers

In last week's Grace Notes the article "God's Work. Our Hands" neglected to include the phone numbers for the project contacts. Here are those numbers:

To help with Tosa Cares distribution on September 20,
contact Bob Young: (414) 559-0120

To help with Tosa's Green Summit on September 20,
contact Carl Engelhardt: (262) 782-5159

To help with the Outreach for Hope Bike/Run/Walk on September 27,
contact Andy Johnston: (414) 795-9676

September 7—September 14

Sun Sept 7	9:30am Outdoor Worship service
Mon Sept 8	3:15pm Prayer for Safe Schools corner of 120 and North 6:00pm Property Committee Meeting 7:00pm Knit One, Pray Too 7:00pm NA 12 Step Meeting Fellowship Hall
Tues Sept 9	Noon AA 12 Steps Meeting Room 211 6:30pm Hands of AA 12-Step Meeting Upper Room
Wed Sept 10	12:00pm Brown Bag Bible Study 1:00pm Prayer Warriors 1:00pm Tosa Cares Donations Drop Off 7:00pm Stewardship Meeting
Thurs Sept 11	
Friday Sept 12	12:00pm Mayfair AA Group 6:00pm ACA 12 Step Group Room 100
Sat Sept 13	
Sun Sept 14	9:30am Worship Service
Next Week	Adoption Party!

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

Commemorations

Peter Claver, priest, missionary to Colombia, died 1654

Born into Spanish nobility, Claver became a Jesuit missionary, and served in present-day Colombia. His ministry was focused on the enslaved people who arrived there. He gave them food and medicine, learned their dialects, and taught them Christianity.

John Chrysostom, Bishop of Constantinople, died 407

John was a priest in Antioch and an outstanding preacher. His eloquence earned him the nickname "Chrysostom" ("golden mouth"). Appointed bishop of Constantinople, seat of the empire, he criticized corruption in the court. As a result, he was exiled by the empress.

August 17 Volunteers

Altar Care: Liv Juel and Dom Gordon

Assisting Minister: Jenny Hawes

Lector: Karen Engelhardt

Communion, bread: John Yanny

Communion, wine: Mavis Roesch, Lynda Yanny, Jenny H.

Ushers: Suzy Morgan and Dave Nelson

Greeter: Dick Hollander and Irene McCarthy

Audio/Visual: Luke and Shauna Johnson

Tellers: Gary Goll and Jim Goetzinger

Volunteer Schedule: mtzionlutheran.org/pages/member-resources

Access the Prayer List

<https://bit.ly/4I2APJB>

The printed prayer list is updated
every two weeks.



Submit prayer requests

Email: pastor@mtzionlutheran.org

Call: 414-258-0456

Write: on the prayer cards at the
prayer share wall in the
north narthex.

Breaking the Chains Church

*Excerpts from “Breaking the Chains: a Church Without Walls”
by Jennifer Stone, Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago*

Next year, Breaking the Chains Church will celebrate its 10th anniversary—a milestone in a ministry that began in one of the least likely of places: inside a correctional facility.



For Pastor David Rebey, MDiv '20, the congregation's current leader, the story is one of persistence, presence, and the power of God to transform lives in unexpected spaces. Many of the men at Felmers O. Chaney Correctional Center are transferred from other prisons for their last few years as they prepare to re-enter society.

Before Breaking the Chains existed, there was no pastoral presence in the facility. That changed when Rev. Joseph Ellwanger, now 92 years old and a civil rights veteran who marched with Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. in Selma, petitioned the Wisconsin Department of Corrections to bring men to worship off-site.

Breaking the Chains' work now extends beyond prison walls. Approved to escort men into the community, David and volunteers lead weekly service projects at churches and nonprofits. These projects aren't just about cleaning carpets or doing maintenance; they're about restoring dignity. "The only thing I require," David says, "is that the sponsoring organization feed the men and sit with them to eat." Many participants have never worshiped with Breaking the Chains before, but after building relationships in the community, some begin attending regularly.

Worship at Breaking the Chains is informal and ecumenical, with men from diverse church backgrounds and some with no church experience at all. David preaches briefly, then invites discussion. Recently, during a study of John 13, a man preparing for release tearfully confessed he felt unworthy of God's love and planned to return to homelessness. Another participant spoke up and told him "I love you like a brother, and you are a precious child of God." That moment sparked a cultural shift. The men began checking in with each other in the halls during the week. "It made me pause and tear up," David says. "God was at work in a hard place."

Breaking the Chains is 100% funded by grants and donations from partner congregations. By sharing their story within the community, they not only gain financial support but also volunteers and ministry partners. Looking ahead, David hopes to bring on Seminary interns to learn about prison ministry and perhaps plant new congregations. "This is a different way of doing church," he says. "We don't have a building or a youth group. But we have a growing community, inside and outside the prison, who call Breaking the Chains their church home."

Read the full article here:

<https://lstc.edu/story/breaking-the-chains-a-church-without-walls/>

Youth Trip Reflections



**Leah's
Reflections**



Let God Guide You

Kevin is a pastel artist who would teach the Lakota tradition through his artwork. But something that I really took away from him was his knowledge in letting God guide you through your life, and show you what your full potential can be. Kevin, unfortunately like many other Lakota Native Americans, had struggled with alcohol and drug addictions, but he shared with us, once he let God into his life, God had showed him the type of person he wants to be.

Indigenous Women

One night we had a lady talk about missing and endangered women. This really impacted my perspective of how little and how slow change happens on the Reservation, and how separated we are from the Lakota Native Americans. She told us countless stories of how young [Indigenous] women were stripped away their rights, and essentially taken advantage of. Something that really sparked my confusion was how the aggressor of many of the women received no consequences and how there was no enforcement of respect towards many women.



Jeep Jokes

But something that I will definitely take away is what Jeeps are made for. Abby, Joey, Gabby, and I were able to spend MANY hours driving together in Abby's Jeep. Being bored out of our minds one of us said to Abby, just to make the trip a little more exciting to go off roading. She responded with "that's what Jeeps are made for".



Youth Trip Reflections



**Ada's
Reflections**

Favorite Experience

Well, I believe that my favorite experience was the stargazing, it was incredible to see so many stars in the sky. When you live in a city it's rare to see more than a couple of stars, but in a place like Pine Ridge you can see an entire sky-full.

Deepest Learning

I think something that really sunk in with me is the fact of how horrible people can each other, and the fact that humans can also be equally kind. It just depends on what you choose to be.



What are Jeeps Made For?

Abby, adventure, looking cool, destruction, and overall awesomeness. CUZ THAT'S WHAT JEEPS WERE MADE FOR!!! 😄😄😄



Mission of the Month

The September Mission of the Month supports our partnership with Reformation Lutheran Church.

Reformation Lutheran is located across from Washington Park near 40th and Lisbon.

Our partnership with Reformation has supported clean-up projects, as shown in the upper photo during God's Work Our Hands. It has helped fund the SONshine pantry which helps provide cleaning and household supplies needed in the community. Our support has gone to the SALT Youth summer program. And we've simply enjoyed meals and fellowship together to strengthen connections between congregations.



SAVE THE DATE

OCT. 23
6:30PM TO
8:30PM

REGISTRATION COMING SOON

MICA'S 2025 PUBLIC MEETING

Deaf Awareness Month

September is Deaf Awareness Month!



Did you know? The ELCA has a Deaf Ministry, called The Evangelical Lutheran Deaf Association (ELDA).

Below are a few excerpts from the ELDA Director, Rev. Beth Lockard writing for the ELDA summer newsletter. You might even notice a few places and names that are familiar!

Recently, I travelled up to the Milwaukee, WI area for a retreat with my ELCA team. We met at a beautiful camp called Lutherdale. It would be the perfect place for an ELDA conference! After that retreat, I met with Steve Smart, a new graduate from Wartburg Theological (Lutheran) Seminary in Ohio. Steve is an ASL interpreter and used to own an interpreter agency. He will become ordained in the ELCA July 12 and installed at Mount Carmel Lutheran Church in Milwaukee. I have invited him to our ELDA Conference near Orlando next summer. Steve hopes to be involved in Deaf Ministry in some way.

While at the retreat, I spoke with the ELCA planning team for the National Youth Gathering where Pr. Lori Fuller spoke last summer. This event will happen again on June 28--July 2, 2027 in Minneapolis. I emphasized ELDA's ideas for making the event more Deaf-friendly. This new team of coordinators will try hard to do this. Because it will be in the same city as Bread of Life Deaf Lutheran Church, I hope they will be able to locate Deaf youth to attend. Each of our ministries should consider any of our high school youth as potential participants.

You can learn more on their website or Facebook page!

www.eldadeaf.org

Steve's Science Tidbits

Beavers to the Rescue

In 2020, the East Troublesome fire swept through 200,000 acres of northern Colorado's spruce and fir forests, burning everything in its path; everything, that is, except beaver ponds. Just prior to the fire, a study out of the University of Minnesota reported that beaver ponds and canals irrigate the surrounding areas so completely that plants become fireproof, creating oases that act as a safety net for wildlife escaping fires. Said Emily Fairfax, the head researcher, "There are entire rivers that are basically unaffected by the fire, because it's just beaver dams the whole way. Everything is full of life: the reeds are growing; the pine needles are still on the trees." In a follow-up analysis in 2004, Fairfax concluded beavers "can be part of a comprehensive fire-mitigation strategy."



For years beavers were hunted either for their pelts or to eliminate a perceived nuisance, nearly to extinction. But they have made a comeback, currently numbering 10-15 million throughout North America, and are now poised to become important ecological tools to address the fallout from increasingly devastating fires.

The resurgence of beavers in the West has been linked to many positive changes in the countryside. Their ponds accumulate rainfall and snowmelt and gradually release it. The water seeps into floodplains, hydrating the soil and refilling aquifers. A 2022 study reported that the average beaver pond stores more than a quarter million gallons of surface water and over 600,000 gallons of ground water. Their presence helps maintain a slower, sustained flow of water, mimicking the function of a melting snowpack.

An important finding was made in Oregon in the Columbia River system. A facility had been built to capture heavy metals, nitrates and pesticides that continually run off streets and into local rivers. At the same time, they were battling an "infestation" of beavers in the area whose dams were wreaking havoc on the water flow at the facility. Eradication of the pests was futile as they kept coming back. Resigned to their presence, some tests were conducted to analyze water downstream of the dams. Test results showed the beaver dams were better at removing contaminants than the water quality facility itself minus the beavers.

Beavers continue to expand their range, and as they do, so man has had to learn how to live in harmony with them. On the flip side, introduction of beavers can totally transform an area that has essentially dried up. Such a place was Birch Creek in southern Utah that had dried to a trickle by the late 1990s. First, 26 beaver dam analogs were built in the next several years that mimicked the effect of the real thing, resulting in the formation of small ponds. Later, beavers were introduced, and they proceeded to construct their own dams. Four-to-five years later, more than 200 beaver dams spanned Birch Creek and beaver-dug canals were everywhere; Cutthroat trout populations had exploded; and the creek stayed wet deep into the summer as water seeped from the saturated floodplain.

Steve Downs

Birthdays & Anniversaries

Birthdays

Jessica R. 9/1	Gary G. 9/15	Jena N. 9/21
Sara B. 9/3	Misty S. 9/16	Tina K. 9/21
Grace C. 9/4	William F. 9/16	Brent D. 9/21
Talula J. 9/4	Ron V. 9/16	Jordan T. 9/24
PJ B. 9/5	Marja K. 9/17	Abby P. 9/24
Elizabeth M. 9/6	Nora P. 9/17	Karen E. 9/26
Dave B. 9/7	Jessica P. 9/18	Francesca R. 9/27
Dave N. 9/7	Mike M. 9/18	Joey S. 9/28
Dan S. 9/8	Michael B. 9/18	Pete P. 9/28
Dave M. 9/12	Charlotte W. 9/19	Johnathan F. 9/29
Devin T. 9/14	Joe D. 9/19	Mavis R. 9/30
Carter D. 9/15	Michele M. 9/20	
	Robyn Z. 9/21	

Wedding Anniversaries

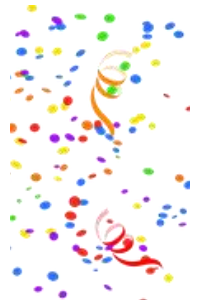
Dick and Judy M. 9/3	Kira and Kelvin S. 9/23
Mary and Robert J. 9/4	James and Angela R. 9/26
John and Lauryl P. 9/6	Donna and John W. 9/27
Vicki and Dave N. 9/8	Rich and Rondi D. 9/27
Jim and Pat G. 9/17	Dawn and Joe D. 9/29
Bob and Nancy S. 9/20	

Exec Leadership Board

Congratulations, Prayers, and Blessings
for our new 2025-2026 Mt Zion Officers!



President: Anna Kissel
Vice President: Kevin Burke
Secretary: Mike Marciniak
Treasurer: Joe DiGiacinto



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

Pastor
The Reverend Tyler D. Rasmussen
pastor@mtzionlutheran.org

Parish Administrator
Jess Monahan
parishadmin@mtzionlutheran.org

**Director of Choirs
and Contemporary Music**
Danielle Lawson
choirs@mtzionlutheran.org

Director of Traditional Music
Mark Schroeter
music@mtzionlutheran.org

Office Volunteers
reception@mtzionlutheran.org

Worship Volunteer Coordinator
Nancy Di Giacinto (volunteer)
Janet McCarthy (volunteer)
worshipvol@mtzionlutheran.org

Maintenance
Jasmine Pruitt
maintenance@mtzionlutheran.org

Sunday School Superintendent
Brenda Marciniak (volunteer)
sundayschool@mtzionlutheran.org

Social Media
Douglas Johnson (volunteer)
socialmedia@mtzionlutheran.org

Website
website@mtzionlutheran.org

Leadership Board

Linda Havlicek, President
president@mtzionlutheran.org

Dave Nelson, Vice President
vp@mtzionlutheran.org

Joe Di Giacinto, Treasurer
treasurer@mtzionlutheran.org

Mike Marciniak, Secretary
boardsecretary@mtzionlutheran.org

Abby Sumiec

Kevin Burke

Anna Kissel



**Church Office
Hours**

Monday — Friday 10:00am — 3:00pm

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

**12012 West North Avenue
Wauwatosa, WI 53226
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parishadmin@mtzionlutheran.org**



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