



Grace Notes

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mtzionlutheran.org

(414) 258-0456

parishadmin@mtzionlutheran.org

12012 W North Ave

Wauwatosa, WI 53226

Forum Schedule

FAITH FORUMS

OCT 26 MATTHEW 3

MATTHEW 4 **NOV 2**

NOV 9 MATTHEW 5

MATTHEW 6 **NOV 16**

NOV 23 JOINT SERVICE
WITH NEW COMMAND

MATTHEW 7 **NOV 30**

DEC 7 CHRISTMAS HAS
A HEART

MATTHEW 8 **DEC 16**

Immigration Forum at Martin Luther

Thursday, October 30 | 6:30 pm - 8:00 pm
Martin Luther Lutheran Church
In person and on zoom

The Immigration and Refugee Ministry Team of the Greater Milwaukee Synod is sponsoring an immigration forum on Thursday, October 30, from 6:30-8:00 pm at Martin Luther Lutheran Church, 9235 W. Bluemound Road, Milwaukee. The event will also be live streamed.

Tim Muth, Senior Staff Attorney at ACLU of Wisconsin Foundation, will be providing an overview of current issues related to immigration enforcement in Wisconsin, covering such topics as:

Where is immigration enforcement happening in Wisconsin today?

How is local law enforcement involved with ICE?

How to prepare for ICE coming to your church, school or place of work.

Know Your Rights in interactions with ICE and Law Enforcement.

All Saints Sunday

We will observe All Saints Sunday on November 2. You are encouraged to share photos of loved ones, neighbors, friends, and colleagues who have passed throughout the last year.

You may send photos to Jessica at parishadmin@mtzionlutheran.org

Or leave your photo at the church.
Please be sure to fill out an information slip and connect it to the photo. If you need the photo back, please indicate that on the slip so Jess can make arrangements to get it back to you.



October 26 to November 2

Sun Oct 26	Reformation Sunday 9:30am Worship service Confirmation 10:40am Faith Formation Hour and RenFormation Faire
Mon Oct 27	7:00pm Book Club 7:00pm NA 12 Step Meeting Fellowship Hall
Tues Oct 28	Noon AA 12 Steps Meeting Room 211 6:30pm Hands of AA 12-Step Meeting Upper Room
Wed Oct 29	12:00pm Brown Bag Bible Study 1:00pm Prayer Warriors 6:00pm Voices of Zion choir rehearsal 6:00pm AA New Beginnings Meeting Room 206 7:00pm Festival Bells handbell rehearsal
Thurs Oct 30	
Friday Oct 31	12:00pm Mayfair AA Group 6:00pm ACA 12 Step Group Room 100
Sat Nov 1	9:00am Women of Heart Bible Study
Sun Nov 2	Daylight Savings Ends All Saints Sunday 9:30am Worship Service 10:40am Faith Formation Hour
Next Week	Community Sunday Dinner

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

Reformation Sunday

Friday, October 31

By the end of the seventeenth century, many Lutheran churches celebrated a festival commemorating Martin Luther's posting of the Ninety-five Theses, a summary of abuses in the church of his time. At the heart of the reform movement was the gospel, the good news that it is by grace through faith that we are justified and set free.



This Sunday's Volunteers

Altar Care: Jessica and Clara Monahan

Assisting Minister: Mavis Roesch

Lector: Liz Anderson

Communion, bread: Liz A.

Communion, wine: Mavis R., Gwen Anderson, Janet McCarthy

Ushers: Kurt and Debbie Kleppek

Greeter: Margie and Kent Spicer

Acolyte: Gwen A.

Audio/Visual: Douglas and Mary Johnson

Tellers: Carl and Karen Engelhardt and Elly Steinke

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

Access the Prayer List

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

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.

Holy Land Accompaniment



Greater Milwaukee Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

October 15, 2025

Dear Pastor Rasmussen:

In March 2026, Bishop Paul Erickson will lead a Holy Land Accompaniment and Solidarity delegation to Palestine. We are writing in the hope that your congregation and/or individual congregants will help make it possible for 4-5 young adults to participate in the delegation. To make this happen, we need to raise \$14,000 as supplement to their share of the cost.

In May, the Greater Milwaukee Synod Assembly (GMS) passed a "Resolution of Partnership with Sumud: For Justice in Palestine and Israel." The resolution called for the Synod Council "to designate a Sumud Ministry Team to expand the justice, advocacy, awareness-raising, and service ministries of Sumud . . .". The emerging Sumud Ministry Team is being led by two young adults, Michael Novotny and Dustin Spears who were ratified by the Synod Council to serve as our Synod Ambassadors to Sumud ELCA (see <https://www.elca.org/our-work/publicly-engaged-church/sumud>).

In his Easter Message 2025, the Rev. Dr. Sani Azar, Bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land (ELCJHL), compared the heavy stone blocking entrance to the tomb of Jesus to the deadly stones endured daily by those in Palestine looking for the hope of the resurrection. *"As Palestinians, we face the stones of military occupation, forced displacement, and the inability to move freely. As Palestinian Christians, we face the stones of discrimination, erasure, and, as many of our brothers and sisters leave this land, the risk of extinction as a community."* This is the painful and urgent context in which Bishop Paul will lead the GMS delegation in March.

The GMS delegation to Palestine is a critical opportunity for Michael, Dustin, and other young adult leaders in the Synod's Sumud Ministry Team to experience the struggles and faithful vitality of the Church in Palestine, to develop significant relationships, and to discern how the Sumud Ministry Team can best live out the commitment of the GMS to be in solidarity and accompaniment with our ELCJHL brothers and sisters. Participants in the delegation will be available to share their learnings with congregations upon their return.

To support participation of young adults in the delegation, please make checks payable to Greater Milwaukee Synod, write in the memo: "Holy Land Accompaniment and Solidarity" and send to:

Greater Milwaukee Synod ELCA,
P.O. Box 341695
Milwaukee, WI 53234

QR code for
individual giving



We have a deadline of November 30, 2025, to reach our goal. If donations exceed \$14,000, the surplus funds will be brought by the delegation as a gift to the ELCJHL.

In Christ,


Rev. Jon Jacobs


Rev. Dennis Jacobsen

Signed on behalf of Rev. Alissa Kretzmann Farrar and Rev. David Rebey

Reformation Blessing Sunday

Members from Mt Zion joined with our siblings in Christ at Reformation Lutheran for their Blessing Sunday. We also presented them with a check from the donations raised during September's Mision of the Month.

Thank you for your support!



Christmas Decorations

TOO MANY CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS?

Tosa Cares has the answer for you. We would love to share your holiday decorations with our Tosa Cares families. Bring them with you to Mt. Zion on Sundays and look for the Tosa Cares container on the hallway by the coats or drop off at donation times on Wednesdays 1-3 and Saturdays 10-noon.

SHARING THE SPIRIT OF CHRISTMAS. THANK YOU!

Tosa Cares Thanksgiving Bags

Thanksgiving is a time to be thankful for all that we have and to share some of our "fruits" with families in need of assistance. Every donation, no matter how small or large, will help a family during the holiday season. Please join us in our Thanksgiving bag collection. Your generosity is greatly appreciated.

THANKSGIVING
FOOD DRIVE FOR



Select one item and buy in quantity or select different items from the following list. Please place this bag in the Gathering Space beginning Nov 2 - Nov. 17. Or with a financial gift we will shop for you.

green beans
corn
cranberry sauce
can of fruit and/or jar of applesauce
cream of mushroom soup and other soups
can of sweet potatoes/yams
cake mix and frosting
cornbread mix and other bread mixes
macaroni and cheese
box of potatoes
jelly
cereal
peanut butter
baking item like flour, oil, sugar

Thank you for helping to feed over 380 Tosa Cares families during the Holidays. We are Grateful!

Luther and Tolkien?

Would Martin Luther have been a fan of Tolkien's The Lord of The Rings?

There was once a humble man living in a small backwater town. Then one day they acquired something of great importance that set them on a mission...quest...thing. And though he wished he hadn't found himself in the situation he was in, he knew its importance; this mission was his burden. No one else could bear this for him.

Maybe Martin Luther would have seen himself reflected in the hobbit, Frodo, from *The Lord of the Rings*. After posting his 95 theses, Luther suddenly had a big undertaking trying to reform the church and was just one monk compared to the sprawling catholic church. Thankfully, he didn't go alone. Through it all he had Katie, his wife, just as Frodo had his gardener, Sam. Katie shared the load with Luther through thick and thin, making it possible for him to further share the good news of the Gospel.



Part of his good news was *sola fide*. People believed they had to perform acts of service or penance in order to earn God's grace. Yet, Martin Luther tells us that "By faith alone" we receive God's grace. We don't have to do anything but believe. We can't earn God's grace for it is freely given and when we are given grace, we are then free to do acts of love for others in return. I think Luther would like the line in the book when Arwen tries to help Frodo by saying, "What Grace has given me, let it pass to him."

Would Luther have liked Bilbo's tongue-twisting jab at his neighbors or Gandalf's cutting insults toward enemies? Or would Luther have found them too mild-mannered? Luther was known for his many crude insults. You can read through them on the insult generator at ergofabulous.org/luther

Perhaps Luther would have enjoyed Merry's excitement that beer came in full pints in Bree, instead of half-pints he was used to back home. Like hobbits and dwarves, Luther certainly drank his fill of beer, preferring Katie's home brew to all other pints. And, he even sparked a change in how beers were produced between Catholics and Protestants!

What Luther may have liked the most about the book is that, at its heart, the *Lord of the Rings* is about love, community, the greater good, and fairness. Luther was disgusted at the amount of opulence and gold wealth in Rome while people in the streets starved and begged for food. So, it is not difficult to imagine Luther cheering on Frodo when the hobbit casts the one gold ring into the fires of Mordor to destroy it to break the corrupt hold it has over others for the sake of all Middle Earth.

Asking if I believe Martin Luther would like *The Lord of the Rings* is like asking if Hobbits eat second breakfast. Yes.

Jess Monahan

Concert at Mount Carmel



**American Guild of Organists
Milwaukee Chapter and
Mount Carmel Lutheran Church ELCA
present:**

David Cherwien

Hymn and Choir Festival for All Saints

Sunday, October 26, 2025 | 3:00 PM

Mount Carmel Lutheran Church ELCA
8424 W. Center Street | Milwaukee, WI
www.mountcarmelchurch.org

Free will offering received.



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qFyKgo4PVKQ>



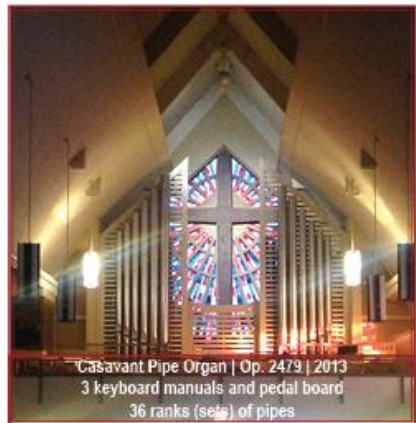
<https://www.youtube.com/live/kCG9VNV9CXy?si=Gf->



Experience the vibrant All Saints' Hymn and Choir Festival with David Cherwien, a talented organist and improviser, alongside the AGO Festival Choir. This event will showcase powerful hymns and songs from "Evangelical Lutheran Worship" and "All Creation Sings", complemented by inspiring organ improvisation. Members of Mount Carmel Church will deliver impactful reflections from "Crossings: Meditations for Worship" and "To God I Give My Melody: Reflections for Worship" by Susan Palo Cherwien. Don't miss this opportunity to celebrate faith and spirituality through music!



Dr. David Cherwien, served as Cantor at Mount Olive Lutheran Church, Minneapolis from 2001-2024, continuing the tradition of creative hymn singing begun and sustained by predecessors Paul Manz and Mark Sedio. From 2001 until 2022 he also served as Artistic Director of the National Lutheran Choir.



CaSavant Pipe Organ | Op. 2479 | 2013
3 keyboard manuals and pedal board
36 ranks (sets) of pipes

Steve's Science Tidbits

Curing Sickle Cell Anemia

Red blood cells are critical for transporting oxygen throughout the body via the hemoglobin molecule. Anemia is a condition caused by a deficiency, or abnormality, of red blood cells that causes oxygen deprivation in tissues.

Symptoms often include fatigue, weakness and shortness of breath. A particularly potent type, sickle cell disease, is an inherited disorder disproportionately present in African Americans and is characterized by abnormal hemoglobin molecules within collapsed, sickle-shaped red blood cells.



These sickle cells are unable to deform while transiting blood capillaries, which causes serious vessel blockages. Problems usually develop within the first half-year of life and lead to severe bouts of joint pain, swelling in hands and feet, bacterial infections, dizziness and stroke, and the problems intensify with age. All major organs are affected by the disease, and life expectancy is decreased. Symptoms can be touched off by anything that causes blood vessels to constrict, including physical and mental stress, cold, dehydration and high altitude.

In the past, all that has been available are drug palliatives that provide modest relief from attacks or transfusion of healthy hemoglobin from blood donors. However, a recent report on NPR recently detailed a near miracle reversal of the condition using a gene-editing technique called CRISPR.

Victoria Gray is a 37-year-old mother and sickle cell patient who was suffering from unpredictable attacks of intense pain. She was often rushed to the hospital to receive pain meds and blood transfusions. It was so bad she often couldn't get out of bed and was unable to finish school or hold a job.

CRISPR is a recent advancement in molecular biology editing that can remove mutated, faulty genes and/or add normal functioning genes in a cell's genome. Victoria was a guinea pig for the first attempt in treating sickle cell disease using CRISPR technology. In the case of Victoria Gray, bone marrow stem cells were removed and genetically modified using CRISPR and billions of these treated cells were then infused back into her body. This modification was designed to direct fetal hemoglobin production in the infused cells in the hopes that it would compensate for Victoria's defective hemoglobin.

Thus far, it seems as if her symptoms have been reversed. When Victoria was later invited to speak at a conference on gene editing, she told the audience of gathered scientists, "The life that I once felt like I was only existing in, I am now thriving in. I stand here before you today as proof that miracles still happen — and that God and science can coexist."

Since her treatment, 75 additional patients have been similarly treated for sickle cell disease or the closely related beta thalassemia. Of 44 beta thalassemia patients, 42 no longer require transfusions, while all 31 sickle cells patients are free of symptoms.

Two concerns: (1) It is not known if the turnaround will prove to be permanent or only temporary; and (2) the treatment is extremely expensive (perhaps costing millions), alas not yet ready for prime time.

Steve Downs

Birthdays & Anniversaries

Birthdays

Shauna J. 10/1	Bill L. 10/11	Amanda C. 10/21
Linda E. 10/2	Judith M. 10/13	Jeff C. 10/21
Joanne B. 10/2	Vivian T. 10/14	Irene M. 10/21
Adam F. 10/3	Shirley B. 10/15	Elizabeth F. 10/22
Joey H. 10/4	Kristin W. 10/16	Dorothy S. 10/23
Arlo J. 10/6	Amy F. 10/17	Paul Z. 10/24
Zach P. 10/8	Carl E. 10/18	Brian D. 10/24
Chuck W. 10/8	Karen B. 10/19	Mari D. 10/26
Lexi G. 10/9	Ellie W. 10/19	Jack J. 10/30
Brenda M. 10/10	Justin V. 10/20	
Jason B. 10/11	Kent S. 10/21	

Wedding Anniversaries

Brendan and Jess M. 10/9	Jeremy and Angella G. 10/24
Jen and Andy J. 10/13	Lori and Brian J. 10/26
Katie and Tony F. 10/22	Beth and Jonathan F. 10/30
Jeff and Julie B. 10/22	

Prison Ministry



PJ Boylan was recently featured in an article on TMJ4 discussing her struggle to send a book to Antwan Robinson. PJ has written back and forth with Antwan for over ten years and recently tried to send him a book. While PJ sent the book through an authorized vendor, the book was twice denied for Antwan. What were the reasons the book was withheld?

Find the answer(s) in the full article by Ryan Jenkins here: <https://www.tmj4.com/about-us/lighthouse/wisconsin-woman-challenges-prisons-book-ban-after-warden-blocks-humorous-gift>

PJ, thank you for your continued commitment to social justice issues and for your unwavering connection with Antwan over the past decade.

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

Anna Kissel, President
president@mtzionlutheran.org

Kevin Burke, Vice President
vp@mtzionlutheran.org

Joe Di Giacinto, Treasurer
treasurer@mtzionlutheran.org

Mike Marciniak, Secretary
boardsecretary@mtzionlutheran.org

Chasity Brimeyer
Andy Johnston

Dave Nelson

Linda Havlicek
Bob Young



**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
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