

November 16 2025



Grace Notes

IN THIS ISSUE...

Community Meal

[Page 2](#)

Christmas Market

[Page 5](#)

Advent Devotionals

[Pages 6 & 7](#)

LSS

[Page 8](#)

Best Kept Secret

[Page 9](#)



Next Sunday

On Sunday, November 23 we are excited to join our neighbors from New Command Korean Church for a combined worship service. We will also welcome Pastor Dan Johnson from Pine Ridge Reconciliation Center as our guest preacher. It's a worship service you won't want to miss!

Please note the times!

9:30am

Faith Formation

10:30am

Worship Service

11:30am

Meal with New Command
featuring traditional Korean dishes

Mt Zion is encouraged to bring dessert.



mtzionlutheran.org

(414) 258-0456

parishadmin@mtzionlutheran.org

12012 W North Ave

Wauwatosa, WI 53226

Sunday Community Dinner



On November 2, we served chicken parmesan, salad, and cookies to approximately 25 people, including four neighbors from the courtyard apartments. Join us in December for holiday dishes and desserts!

COMMUNITY DINNER

Sunday, December 7

Doors Open at 4:30pm

Meal Served 5:00pm

Please RSVP at

mtzionlutheran.org/signup

or call church at 414-258-0456



November 16 to November 23

Sun Nov 16	9:30am Worship service Zoom ID: 841 6597 2335 <u>Passcode:</u> 12012 10:40am Faith Formation Hour 5:00pm MZY Night
Mon Nov 17	6:00pm Leadership Board Meeting 7:00pm NA 12 Step Meeting Fellowship Hall
Tues Nov 18	Noon AA 12 Steps Meeting Room 211 6:30pm Hands of AA 12-Step Meeting Upper Room
Wed Nov 19	12:00pm Brown Bag Bible Study 1:00pm Prayer Warriors 4:30pm Staff Meeting 6:00pm Voices of Zion choir rehearsal 7:00pm Festival Bells handbell rehearsal
Thurs Nov 20	5:30pm Public Theology Ferch's Crafthouse Grille 7:00pm Troop 27 Meeting Room 100
Friday Nov 21	12:00pm Mayfair AA Group 6:00pm ACA 12 Step Group Room 100
Sat Nov 22	1:00pm Harrison Visitation 3:00pm Harrison Memorial Service
Sun Nov 23	9:30am Faith Formation Hour 10:30am Combined Worship Service with New Command
Next Week	Thanksgiving Day

Commemoration

Elizabeth of Hungary, renewer of society, died 1231

Monday, November 17, 2025

Born in Hungary, Elizabeth was the daughter of King Andrew II. She was betrothed to the son of the Landgrave of Thuringia, and at age four was taken to be raised with him at the Wartburg Castle. Ten years later they were married. After her husband's tragic death when she was 20, Elizabeth dedicated her life to simplicity and service to others. Elizabeth is remembered for her generosity and commitment to the needs of the poor. She is known for her quote, *"How could I bear a crown of gold when the Lord bears a crown of thorns?"*

Sources: sundaysandseasons.com, catholicheroes.com, Britannica.com

This Sunday's Volunteers

Altar Care: Susan Kenny and Lilly Snow

Assisting Minister: Joe Di Giacinto

Lector: Erin McDougal

Communion, bread: Bob Young

Communion, wine: Erin McDougal, Joe Di Giacinto, Gabby Riccaboni

Ushers: Tom Ertel and Cody Di Giacinto

Greeter: Carl and Karen Engelhardt

Audio/Visual: Luke and Shauna Johnson

Tellers: Roy Durrenberg and John Link

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

Access the Prayer List

<https://bit.ly/49ok1Ld>

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.

Christmas Has a Heart



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 2025. The market place will be the Gathering area of Mt. Zion on Sunday, December 7 after worship service. The Mission and Gift List for our guest organizations will be available here in Grace Notes for Project Return, Kids Matter, Reformation Lutheran Church, Outreach for Hope and Father Gene's Help Center.

Part of the excitement of Christmas Has a Heart is the opportunity to meet the people who are involved in the mission, and to hear their stories. Here is an opportunity to support their missions with a financial gift and to encourage each guest in the work they do with God's people. With each financial gift, from small to large, you may receive a card to give to your loved ones, acknowledging the organization and the gift of service, hope and love given.

See how you may participate in the Christmas Has A Heart 2025 Alternative Christmas Market in the insert with your coming Grace Notes.

The Mt. Zion Outreach Ministry Team

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!



Advent Devotionals

How will you look forward to the coming of Christmas?

As we approach Advent, one of the longstanding traditions is to enter a time of extra devotion and prayer as we look forward to the coming of Christ. Just like in Lent as we look forward to the Easter proclamation of Forgiveness (Alleluia!), in Advent we look forward to the proclamation of Christ's return that will bring in the New Creation (Alleluia!!!). How will you look forward to the day when all the prophecies come true, all tears are wiped away, death is no more, and God makes God's home with us forever?

- ♦ **Fun fact:** Did you know that Advent **isn't** about getting ready for Christmas? WHAT?!?! We're not looking forward to Jesus' birth, but for Christ's return! So why does Advent end with Christmas? Because the first Nativity is a sign for us of the coming Nativity, when the new creation begun at the Resurrection will be brought to completion as Jesus returns and brings heaven to earth.

Advent Worship

Our friends and partners in ministry at Martin Luther Lutheran Church (9325 W Bluemound) are offering a midweek Advent worship service.

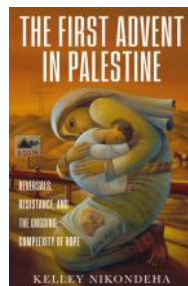
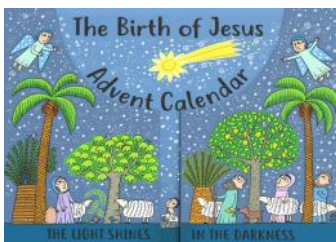


Advent @ Home

Many places put out lots of Advent resources - devotionals, calendars, and activities. Some are kid and family friendly; others are adult-oriented. Some are for purchase, but many are free online.

No matter what you're looking for, check out one of these recommended Advent resources:

Continued on the next page



Advent Devotionals

Continued from page 6

Kid and Family Friendly

- ♦ Families' Celebrate <https://bit.ly/4hZGVe7>
- ♦ Birth of Jesus Advent Calendar <https://bit.ly/43tSsfD>
- ♦ ELCA World Hunger Advent Calendar <https://bit.ly/47G9ppK>
- ♦ Issa Flies from ELCA Sumud - a Christmas flipbook for Children <https://bit.ly/488zGwS>
- ♦ Illustrated Ministries - Includes coloring pages, family practices, youth, children, and calendar illustratedministry.com/thewilltodream
- ♦ Episcopal Relief - Weekly craft ideas <https://bit.ly/4qTH4DE>

Video

- ♦ ELCA Leadership Circle - Final video will be of Presiding Bishop Yehiel Curry <https://bit.ly/4p4TLK2>
- ♦ Lutheran Summer Music - Advent in music! smacademy.org/acal

Justice-Focused

- ♦ First Advent in Palestine <https://bit.ly/43opIF8>
- ♦ ELCA Sumud (Justice for Palestine and Israel) <https://bit.ly/4pal7P7>
- ♦ ELCA World Hunger - Weekly study with videos, a winter health kit activity, and Advent calendar <https://bit.ly/4nPZa6Q>

General

- ♦ Humble and Holy Devotional <https://bit.ly/4qNy9DM>
- ♦ Luther Seminary <https://bit.ly/3LWKjdu>
- ♦ Bread for the World <https://bit.ly/3WSonmg>
- ♦ Lutheran Church in Australia - Christmas carol flipbook www.ltm.org.au/flipbk/advent-2024/



Additional Links available on our website:

mtzionlutheran.org/news/advent-2025

In addition, see our [post from last year](#) for even more Advent resources!

Lutheran Social Services



“For more than a century, Lutheran Social Services of Wisconsin and Upper Michigan (LSS) has stood at the forefront of urgent community needs, responding with courage, compassion, and conviction. Built on a legacy of faith in action, we remain nonpartisan and unwavering in our belief in the infinite worth of every person.” This is how LSS sums up their mission on their website: <https://www.lsswis.org/about/our-story/>

LSS is our Mission of the Month, and during services this month, we are seeing some videos telling about the work that LSS is doing.

It all began in 1882, when a Lutheran pastor in central Wisconsin responded to the needs of his isolated community. There he established a home for orphaned children and elderly individuals, beginning by serving five people in need of connection and belonging. Today, LSS has grown into a vital social services agency supporting individuals and families across every stage of life, serving over 30,000 people annually in Wisconsin and Upper Michigan.

LSS programs and services “flexibly meet people where they are, ensuring that a child in need of a safe home, an individual facing addiction, a family navigating disability services, or a refugee building a new life all receive the specialized support they deserve.” They are working to assist people dealing with the opioid epidemic, and to expand mental health care, address the housing crisis, and foster accessibility and independence at any stage of life.



It was again a winner in 2025 of the “Best and Brightest Companies to Work For in the Nation,” and its director, Hector Colon, was named one of Wisconsin’s top CEO’s. Donations that we make to this worthy organization will help in the lives of many people throughout our area.

Outreach Committee

Donate today!
mtzionlutheran.org/give

Best Kept Secret

For many years an evolving group of Mt Zion women and a few friends have been meeting on the first Saturday of each month for mutual care and support as well as being uplifted through some Bible time. They call themselves "Women of Heart." Having spent the last 14 months exploring Richard Rohr's Divine Dance, they are all done dancing with the Holy Spirit and ready to start a new adventure using the spiral-bound book *Psalms: An All-in-One Study on God's Song Book* by Tracy M.. Sumner. The text highlights 30 key Psalms, and includes observation, interpretation, and application along with thoughtful questions to guide our discussion. All Mt. Zion women (and friends!) are invited to join this fulfilling, supportive sisterhood on whatever first -Saturday-of-the-month mornings you are available.



The next gathering is Saturday, December 6, at 9:00 A.M. in the Hearth Room where a xerox of the day's discussion will be available. Feel welcome. Show up for a hug and open hearts.

Our Family Pets

Financial burdens affect everyone, including our family pets. Sadly, many pets have been abandoned due to the current economic conditions. Some pets have been heartbreakingly surrendered to shelters, while others have met more horrific treatments.



During these difficult times, if you are having trouble keeping and feeding your pet, please reach out for help. Tosa Cares occasionally receives pet foods and other animal-related items. You can also check out the [humaneworld.org](https://www.humaneworld.org/en/resources/having-trouble-affording-your-pet#food) website for resources on how to find pet food or cover vet expenses <https://www.humaneworld.org/en/resources/having-trouble-affording-your-pet#food>



If you must give up your pet, please find loving ways to do so. See if a friend or neighbor could take them in. Look into a humane shelter. If all else fails, give church a call. We could probably house a cat or bird for a while. Please don't just leave them out in the cold.



Our pets are amazing gifts from God. Let's work together to care for all creatures, great and small.

Steve's Science Tidbits

The Iowa Miracle

There is a good reason human gestation takes 38-40 weeks. The human body is full of complex organ systems each of which requires a minimal amount of time for complete maturation. For example, our brains are relatively large when compared to other mammals, and this requires increased time for development. Even with this long in utero incubation period, human babies when born are altricial, meaning they are helpless and cannot survive on their own without parental assistance. Thus, any reduction in the gestation period puts the baby at increased survival risk.

Babies born before the 39th week have a greater chance of breathing problems, low blood sugar and other issues that often lands the baby in neonatal intensive care. The survival rate for babies is (on the average) 80% when born at 28 weeks, 70% at 27 weeks, 60% at 26 weeks, 50% at 25 weeks, 40% at 23-24 weeks, 20% at 22 weeks and practically nonexistent at 21 weeks. Even if preemies survive, they can be saddled with lifelong complications.

A little over a year ago in Iowa, an expecting mother, Molly, was facing a potential crisis. She had a condition called incompetent uterus, which means the lower portion of her uterus weakens and opens too soon during pregnancy and can lead to premature birth. In fact, this is exactly what happened to her earlier pregnancy the year before, and she lost her baby after only 18 weeks of gestation.

The doctors told Molly she had to hold on for at least the 21st week if there was any chance for saving the baby. Unfortunately, her waters broke before the deadline, so she was rushed to the hospital where doctors worked around the clock to minimize contractions and prevent the birth. The baby boy, Nash, held on just long enough and was delivered less than 10 hours after he surpassed the 21-week mark.

Nash was immediately evaluated to see if he was big enough. Sometimes babies born at 21 weeks are too small for even the tiniest breathing tubes and intravenous lines, but they were luckily able to intubate the baby. He weighed just 10 ounces, less than a can of soda, yet Nash was big enough for their smallest equipment.

Although the neonatal team was able to quickly stabilize Nash, he faced a lengthy list of health issues. They simulate an environment like that of the mother's womb, yet his development was full of challenges. For several nights at a time his vital signs would drop because of his immature heart and lungs. He underwent surgery for a perforated bowel, a procedure with a 30-40% mortality rate at most hospitals. But after 189 days in the hospital, Nash was finally able to go home in January 2025.

Iowa has one of the best neonatal centers in the country. As a testament to their care and expertise, Nash now holds the record for the world's most premature baby.

Steve Downs

Birthdays & Anniversaries

Birthdays

David W. 11/01	Emmett J. 11/08	Robert E. 11/16
Sharon R. 11/01	Kyle F. 11/08	Gabby G. 11/16
Janice G. 11/02	Katy M. 11/08	Jacob B. 11/17
Niko A. 11/02	Erin M. 11/09	Elena B. 11/17
Beth F. 11/02	Andrew F. 11/10	Amy K. 11/17
Mary J. 11/03	Elmer B. 11/10	Jelani S. 11/23
Judy H. 11/03	Bob C. 11/12	Krista H. 11/26
Brian C. 11/04	Linda H. 11/13	Brenda F. 11/30
Melissa S. 11/05	Pam K. 11/14	Scott B. 11/30
Jason F. 11/05	Mike K. 11/15	David K. 11/30
Shelly R. 11/07	Jean W. 11/15	Debbie K. 11/30

Wedding Anniversaries

Mike and Brenda M. 11/02	Ellyn and Wayne S. 11/26
John and Anna K. 11/14	John and Lynda Y. 11/27
Jill and Tom A. 11/16	Kent and Margie S. 11/28
Tom and Mary C. 11/21	

Stewardship Pledge Cards

Thank you to everyone who has submitted their 2026 pledge cards. If you have not submitted your pledge card yet, please turn them in as soon as you're able. The pledge cards help us prepare the annual budget.

Submit your cards



During worship



Through the mail
12012 W North Ave



[Online](https://mtzionlutheran.org)
mtzionlutheran.org

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
Wauwatosa, WI 53226
(414) 258-0456
parishadmin@mtzionlutheran.org



mtzionlutheran.org
facebook.com/mtzionlutheran
instagram.com/mtzionlutheran
youtube.com/mtzionlutheran