

November 23 2025



Grace Notes

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Giving Thanks For Today

We welcome Pastor Dan from Pine Ridge Reconciliation Center in South Dakota as our guest preacher during this Sunday's worship service.

We also welcome the opportunity to join with our friends from New Command Korean Church for worship and fellowship.

What a beautiful melding of many different people, traditions, and backgrounds lifting up praise and thanksgivings to our Creator.

We give thanks for our neighbors.
We give thanks for this place.
We give thanks for this day!



mtzionlutheran.org

(414) 258-0456

parishadmin@mtzionlutheran.org

12012 W North Ave

Wauwatosa, WI 53226

Due Sunday, November 23!



Add to the joy and beauty of the season by giving to the altar poinsettia display!

Name _____

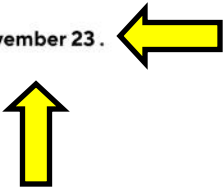
Phone number _____ or Email _____

Given in memory/honor of _____

	Red Qty	White Qty	Pink Qty	Cost Per plant	Total For size
6"				\$15	
7"				\$20	
Total					

- ☐ I have enclosed payment.
- ☐ I will pay online (Select Holiday/Special Service from the drop down menu and put "Poinsettia" in the memo).
- ☐ I would like to bring my poinsettia home.
Circle one I'll likely attend the 4:00pm or 8:00pm service
- ☐ Share my poinsettia with an at-home member.

Please return forms to church office or offering plate by November 23 .



November 23 to November 30

Sun Nov 23	9:30am Faith Formation Hour 10:30am Combined Worship with New Command <u>Zoom ID: 841 6597 2335</u> <u>Passcode: 12012</u> 11:30am Meal with New Command
Mon Nov 24	6:00pm Stewardship Meeting 7:00pm Book Club 7:00pm NA 12 Step Meeting Fellowship Hall
Tues Nov 25	Noon AA 12 Steps Meeting Room 211 6:30pm Hands of AA 12-Step Meeting Upper Room
Wed Nov 26	7:00pm Worship and Pie at Nativity Lutheran on Bluemound
Thurs Nov 27	Thanksgiving Day—Church Office Closed 7:00pm Troop 27 Meeting Room 100
Friday Nov 28	Native American Heritage Day—Church Office Closed 12:00pm Mayfair AA Group 6:00pm ACA 12 Step Group Room 100
Sat Nov 29	
Sun Nov 30	9:30am Combined Worship Service with New Command 10:30am Faith Formation Hour
Next Week	Choirs Resume VBS Planning Meeting Younger Adults Group

We're Invited!



*Ecumenical Thanksgiving Eve
Worship & Pie Fellowship*

Nativity, St Therese, Martin Luther, and St Antony Syro-Malabar

Wednesday , November 26 AT 7 PM

Nativity Lutheran Church
6905 W. Bluemound, Wauwatosa, WI

The Service will commemorate the 1700th Anniversary of the Nicene Creed
The offering will support Milwaukee Homeless Veterans Initiative
Personal items for the veterans will also be collected
Stay for Fellowship and Pie after the Service

This Sunday's Volunteers

Altar Care: Jen, Talula, and Andy Johnston

Assisting Minister: Jenny Hawes

Lector: Erik Peterson

Communion, bread: Erik P.

Communion, wine: Bob Young, John and Lynda Yanny

Ushers: Kurt and Debbie Kleppek

Greeter: Ruth McGill

Audio/Visual: Brenda and Mike Marciniak

Tellers: Ellyn Steinke and Carl and Karen Engelhardt

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

Access the Prayer List

<https://bit.ly/4i9NJ8J>

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.

Living in Troubled Days



Excerpts from Living Lutheran, November 2025

Yehiel Curry, presiding bishop of the ELCA, has issued a pastoral message on living in troubled times. “When I was installed as your presiding bishop, the [preacher proclaimed](#) that in times of division, disruption and fear, God calls us, through love, to lift up one another just as Christ lifts us up,” the message read, in part. “I have taken that to heart and been alert to all the ways in which we, made into God’s own beloved through word and sacrament, testify to that love in daily service and ministry.”

Across the ELCA, Curry said, he has seen and is grateful for:

- Ministries mobilizing to serve meals and distribute food “amid the harm, chaos and confusion of a government shutdown and the ongoing blocking of food assistance for 42 million people in our nation.”
- Congregations offering “accompaniment and hope as they come alongside neighbors made vulnerable by aggressive and indiscriminate immigration enforcement.”
- Congregations reaching out to federal workers by supplying meals, meeting daily needs, providing gift cards and helping them find work.

“An end to the government shutdown will not immediately resolve food insecurity, so we will keep feeding and supporting our neighbors. The racial profiling and harm to our immigrant neighbors show no signs of diminishing, so we will heed God’s call to show up alongside these neighbors in solidarity. Our broken politics and partisan divisions will not heal by themselves, so we will show up through participation, bridge-building and advocacy.

“No matter what happens next, we must continue to care for all neighbors, especially those who are marginalized...As we do, I am confident that Christ’s grace will be sufficient, freeing us to lift up others and seek justice for everyone.”

Curry invited readers to participate in ELCA ministries including:

- ♥ Take advocacy action at act.elca.org/page/89852/action/1?chain
- ♥ Watch the ELCA Advocacy webinar “Faith Communities and the Realities of Food Assistance.” on [Youtube.com/@ELCAadvocacy](https://www.youtube.com/@ELCAadvocacy)
- ♥ Support Hunger Ministries such as Tosa Cares

Read the full article at <https://www.livinglutheran.org/2025/11/presiding-bishop-curry-issues-pastoral-message-on-living-in-troubled-days/>

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.



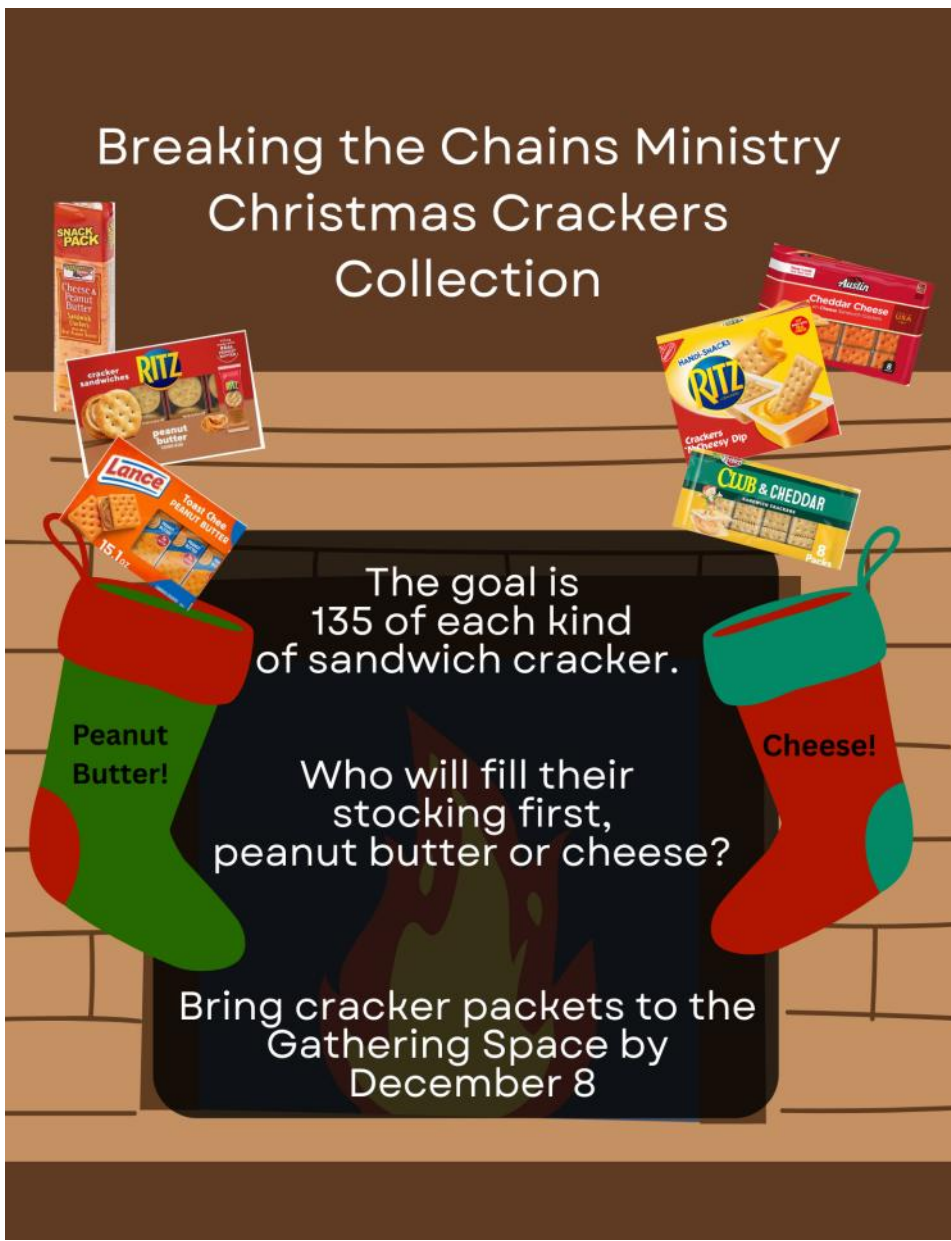
It was again a winner in 2025 of the “Best and Brightest Companies to Work For in the Nation,” and its director, Hector Colon, was named one of Wisconsin’s top CEO’s. Donations that we make to this worthy organization will help in the lives of many people throughout our area.

Outreach Committee

Donate today!
mtzionlutheran.org/give

Fill Stockings this Season

Breaking the Chains Ministry Christmas Crackers Collection



The goal is
135 of each kind
of sandwich cracker.

Who will fill their
stocking first,
peanut butter or cheese?

Bring cracker packets to the
Gathering Space by
December 8

Child Protection Social Message

The prevalence of child maltreatment in the United States is staggering. At least 1 in 7 children has experienced abuse or neglect in the last year, according to the U.S. Centers For Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), though the CDC cautions that abuse and neglect are often unreported.

Recognizing the church's role in addressing this, the ELCA Church Council authorized the develop a social message on child protection and maltreatment, which was adopted on November 12, 2025. Social messages are ELCA teaching documents that draw from existing social teaching but focus direct attention on a particular social issue.

The following are excerpts from the social message

<https://bit.ly/4r9jS4n>

In the Gospels, Jesus warns the disciples of their responsibility for the spiritual harm that can result from mistreatment of children, admonishing them of the consequences should “any of you cause one of these little ones who believe in me to stumble” (Matthew 18:6; see also Mark 9:36-42). Martin Luther, reflecting on his own experiences of physical beatings, observed, “It’s a bad thing if children and pupils lose their spirit on account of their parents and teachers.”

Modern research into “adverse childhood experiences” (ACEs) confirms and broadens our understanding that child neglect and abuse can have significant, long-term consequences that inhibit healthy psychological, emotional, physical, and sexual development. Research has found long-term physical risks of ACEs, too, including higher rates of cancer, heart disease, liver disease, sexually transmitted infections, obesity, smoking, substance abuse, and sleep disturbances.

The ripple effects of trauma caused by abuse and neglect can impact victims of abuse, their families, and the wider community. Moreover, trauma's effects can linger across generations.

Children victimized by abuse also can experience deep spiritual injury, such as guilt, anger at God or the church, and persistent beliefs that God is unfair. This is more likely if the perpetrator is a leader in the church or if church teachings or the Bible is used to justify abuse, maintain secrecy, or deny justice to victims. This risk of spiritual injury points to the importance of supportive pastoral and spiritual care of survivors, which many professional clinicians are not equipped to provide. Care that attends to the spiritual needs of survivors may be able to moderate symptoms of trauma and can be an important step toward healing.

Continued on next page

Child Protection Social Message

Continued from page 6

While this church recognizes with gratitude the work many are doing to care for, educate, nurture, and protect children, this social message also recognizes with lament the Christian Church's own responsibility for the spiritual injury of survivors of child abuse and the harm caused by child maltreatment. We hear the voices crying out for the ELCA to follow the example of Christ in welcoming and caring for children with love and safety. The ELCA recognizes that, too often, the Christian Church has:

- Failed to recognize the fullness of the image of God in children.
- Failed to welcome and care for children as Jesus would have us.
- Allowed racism and white supremacy to justify abuse under the guise of "child protection."

Basic commitments of the ELCA for child protection include reporting suspected abuse or neglect as well; trauma informed ministry; and countering violence with peace by creating safe spaces free of intimidation.

Mt Zion has a two-adult policy where an activity involves children and runs background checks on everyone involved with child programming. We take great care in what appears on our social media, including our livestreams. And Mt Zion recognizes that the church is one part of the integral "village" it takes to raise a child.

Public Policies which can further protect children include:

- ♥ Living wages, paid family leave, paid sick leave which allow parents and caregivers the resources and time to care for children, which in turn reduces the risk of neglect or abuse
- ♥ Support for families and children with disabilities
- ♥ Effective child trafficking laws and support for migrant children
- ♥ Gun violence prevention legislation

In concluding this message, we reflect on the words of Paul: "For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord" (Romans 8:38-39).

This church's public witness will be guided by this promise. We will speak with vulnerable children when they can speak, and we will speak on their behalf when they cannot find the words. We will establish policies and practices to prevent harm, and we will accompany victims as they seek healing. We will support justice for all children, and we will exercise the sacred responsibility to which God calls the Christian Church, to nurture and protect these precious gifts.

Book Club

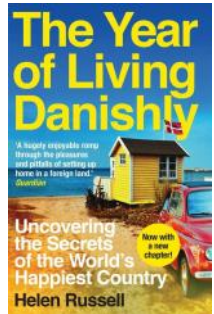
Book Club

Monday, November 24

7:00pm in the Hearth Room

The Year of Living Danishly

Helen Russell



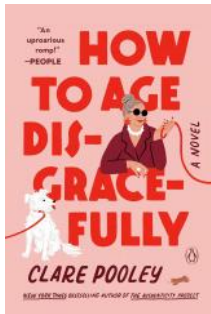
When she was suddenly given the opportunity of a new life in rural Jutland, journalist and archetypal Londoner Helen Russell discovered a startling statistic: the happiest place on earth isn't Disneyland, but Denmark, a land often thought of by foreigners as consisting entirely of long dark winters, cured herring, Lego, and pastries. What is the secret to their success? Helen's journey shows us where the Danes get it right, where they get it wrong, and how we might just benefit from living a little more Danishly ourselves.

Hosts: Mary and Douglas Johnson



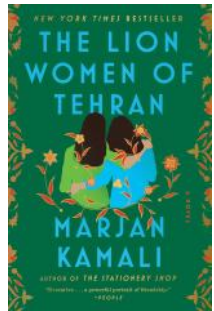
December

No Meeting
Grab a book from
the Mt Zion Library!



January 26

How to Age Disgracefully
by Claire Pooley



February 23

Tosa's All City Read
Lion Women of Tehran
by Marjan Kamali

Save the Date: Christmas Caroling!



h, Come All Ye Faithful

for Christmas Caroling
Sunday, December 14

Lunch at 11:30

Leave church at Noon

will carpool to

at-home member houses

Most caroling indoors

Dress in festive attire



courage+

One of our regular Mission's of the Month, Courage+, is looking for help fulfilling the Christmas wishlists of over 300 households.



Few things in childhood top the feeling of receiving your holiday wishlist. Barely sleeping, flying down the stairs, and tearing open the bags and boxes filled with goodies meant so much more than “just” the gift itself. The doll you’d been dreaming of, the skateboard you couldn’t stop asking your parents for, the chatter in school in the weeks leading up to the holiday break over who asked for what; all of that fueled the magic of the holiday season. Your present was more than your new favorite toy—it was a reminder of how loved you are. Those wishlists, those moments, those will live with you for the rest of your life.



For the sixth year in a row, Courage+ is making the spirit of that moment our quarterly service project. Courage House residents and team members have gone around our neighborhood with wishlist letters for 300 households. With your help, Courage Fam, we can grant the wishes for our Mitchell Street and Clark Square neighbors.

If you, your friends, your office, or anyone you know is looking to spread the joy this holiday season, please consider supporting one of these neighbors by visiting the spreadsheet below. All details are included at the top of the sheet- be sure not to miss anything!

www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/2TLLHVT2NN3R0?ref_=wl_share

Learn more about Courage+ and how they open doors and provide for LGBTQ+ youth in Milwaukee at: [Courageplus.org](https://courageplus.org)

Midwest Champs!



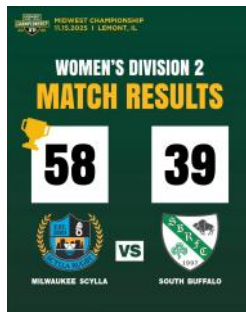
Liv and Dom Juel
are celebrating Scylla Rugby's
championship victory against
South Buffalo.

Congratulations!!!



There are 15 players on
a side at any given time.

Each rugby match is 80
minutes long. The goal
is to score more points
than the other team.



Scylla Rugby is open to
all and no experience is
required to start.

Check out their website:

[http://scyllarugby.com/
joinScylla/](http://scyllarugby.com/joinScylla/)

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
mtzionlutheran.org

Steve's Science Tidbits

It Leaves You Wondering

Today as I write this, it is mid-November, and everywhere I look are the vestiges of a once flourishing photosynthetic system. We spent much of yesterday raking up those vestiges and depositing them on the street for eventual pickup. It got me to thinking how amazing the system really is—that a tree produces thousands of leaves each spring that produce all the food necessary for its survival, then sheds them in the fall to conserve water and energy as it enters into a state of torpor during the winter months, much like hibernating mammals. Then, the following spring leaves reappear and the cycle starts all over again.

You might wonder where a deciduous tree gets the resources necessary to carry out the energy-intensive process of leaf growth in the spring. Over winter, these deciduous plants “bank” nutrients, especially nitrogen and carbon, in their roots, trunk and branches that are then remobilized come spring to produce new foliage. In cold climates, tree metabolism slows greatly to conserve these resources. The outer bark helps insulate the trees from reduced temperatures. The cells within, in response to shortening days, break down starches into sugars that act like antifreeze to lower the freezing point of the cell sap and prevent the cells from bursting. The changes in leaf color in the fall are a sign the trees have begun their transition into the inactive state.

During the growing system, the center of photosynthetic activity is, of course, the leaves, and a critical resource is water. It provides the electrons and hydrogen ions that, combined with carbon dioxide and sunlight, produce the food needed for survival. One of the most intriguing aspects of tree physiology is transpiration, or the process by which water reaches all leaves. The leaves don't take up water directly from the air; rather, water is taken up by the roots through a phenomenon called transpiration pull. Openings in the leaves, called stomata, allow for evaporation of the water within. This produces a negative pressure that pulls up water through straw-like water transport structures called xylem. It is amazing that a simple process like evaporation can produce enough pull to draw water out of the ground and transport it upward against gravity, sometimes hundreds of feet.

The importance of photosynthesis is easily understood, but what about this dead leaf matter we deal with in the fall? Is it more than just an annoyance to be dealt with when we'd rather be indoors watching football? Or should it be considered a blessing that gets us off our sofas to get a little badly needed exercise?

Turns out these leaves are multifunctional, benefitting the environment in many ways. As leaves decompose, they break down into humus and release important nutrients back into the soil. They provide a covering mulch that suppresses weeds, prevents soil erosion and retains moisture. In addition, they provide shelter, nesting material and food for a wide variety of animals.

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	

MZY Trip



The GMS Youth Task Force is organizing a trip to the American Black Holocaust Museum for synod youth + youth leaders (6th-12th grade) over Martin Luther King, Jr. Weekend. At no cost to you!

Join us on January 17th from 1p to 4p for a guided tour and group debrief of the American Black Holocaust Museum.

Message Pastor Tyler if you have any questions.

If you are / your youth is interested in going, please **RSVP by December 8.**

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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Joe Di Giacinto, Treasurer
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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
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parishadmin@mtzionlutheran.org



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