



December 21 2025

Grace Notes

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Thank You!

This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it."

What a precious, God-given gift this day truly was. The visit from the Mt Zion Christmas Carolers was more than music—it was a beautiful call to gratitude and a gentle reminder to find joy and purpose in the present moment. Your carols filled our home and our hearts with peace, hope, and the true spirit of Christmas.

Linda and I are deeply thankful for each of you, for your time, your voices, and your faithful witness. You blessed us in ways words can scarcely express. May God bless you abundantly as you continue to share His love and light with others.

**With grateful hearts,
Tom and Linda**

More Caroling Pictures on Page 10!



mtzionlutheran.org

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12012 W North Ave


Wauwatosa, WI



December 21 to December 28

Sun Dec 21	<div>9:30am Worship Service Zoom ID: 841 6597 2335 <u>Passcode</u>: 12012</div> <div>10:40am Faith Formation</div> <div>3:00pm Local MZY Mission Trip</div> <div>5:00pm Parent’s Night Out</div>
Mon Dec 22	<div>8:45 Youth Trip Leaves for Father Gene’s Volunteering</div> <div>7:00pm NA 12 Step Meeting Fellowship Hall</div>
Tues Dec 23	<div>Noon AA 12 Steps Meeting Room 211</div> <div>6:30pm Hands of AA 12-Step Meeting Upper Room</div>
Wed Dec 24	<div>Christmas Eve</div> <div>4:00pm Family Worship Service</div> <div>8:00pm Candlelight Worship Service</div> <div></div>
Thurs Dec 25	<div>Office Closed — Christmas Day</div> <div>Merry Christmas!</div>
Friday Dec 26	<div>Boxing Day—Office Closed</div> <div>12:00pm Mayfair AA Group</div> <div>6:00pm ACA 12 Step Group Room 100</div>
Sat Dec 27	
Sun Dec 28	<div>9:30am Worship Service</div> <div>10:30am Faith Formation</div>
	<div>Our Church Administrator, Jess Monahan, will be out of the office from December 25 through January 5. We pray she has a rocking good time around the Christmas tree before curling up with a blanket for several silent nights reading plenty of books.</div>

December 28 to January 4

<p>Sun Dec 28</p>	<p>9:30am Worship Service Zoom ID: 841 6597 2335 <u>Passcode</u>: 12012</p> <p>10:40am Faith Formation</p>
<p>Mon Dec 29</p>	<p>Office Closed</p> <p>7:00pm NA 12 Step Meeting Fellowship Hall</p>
<p>Tues Dec 30</p>	<p>Office Closed</p> <p>Noon AA 12 Steps Meeting Room 211</p> <p>6:30pm Hands of AA 12-Step Meeting Upper Room</p>
<p>Wed Dec 31</p>	<p>Office Closed—New Year's Eve</p> 
<p>Thurs Jan 1</p>	<p>Office Closed — New Year's Day</p>
<p>Friday Jan 2</p>	<p>Office Closed</p> <p>12:00pm Mayfair AA Group</p> <p>6:00pm ACA 12 Step Group Room 100</p>
<p>Sat Jan 3</p>	<p>9:00am Women of Heart Bible Study</p>
<p>Sun Jan 4</p>	<p>9:30am Worship Service</p> <p>10:30am Staff Christmas Party</p> <p>5:00pm Community Meal See page 12</p>
	<p>Pastor Tyler will be out of the office from December 25 through January 1 and again January 6 through January 10th. We pray he has a wonderful holiday break with family and friends and safe travels wherever his one horse open sleigh takes him through a Winter Wonderland.</p>

Our Worship Volunteers

Sunday, December 21

Altar Care: Mavis Roesch and Susan Kenny

Assisting Minister: Jenny Hawes

Lector: Joe Di Giacinto

Communion, bread: Joe D.

Communion, wine: Jenny H. and Linda Ertel

Ushers: Dave Nelson and Dave Fohr

Greeter: Kent and Margie Spicer

Audio/Visual: Brenda and Mike Marciniak

Tellers: John Link and Roy Durrenberg



Wednesday, December 24 4:00pm

Altar Care:

Assisting Minister: Erik Peterson

Lector:

Communion, bread:

Communion, wine: Erik Peterson

Ushers: James and Angela Riccaboni

Acolyte: Isabella Riccaboni

Greeter:

Audio/Visual: Janet McCarthy and Gabby Riccaboni



Wednesday, December 24 8:00pm

Altar Care:

Assisting Minister: Jenny Hawes

Lector: Janet McCarthy

Communion, bread: Janet M.

Communion, wine: Linda Ertel and Jenny H.

Usher: Dave Nelson

Greeter:

Audio/Visual: Mary and Douglas Johnson



Podcast

Sunday, December 28

Altar Care: Talula, Jen, and Andy Johnston

Assisting Minister:

Lector:

Communion, bread:

Communion, wine: Gabby Goll, Refilwe Magasa-Bockhorst

Ushers: Kurt Kleppek and Debbie Rack-Kleppek

Greeter: Richard Hollander and Irene McCarthy

Audio/Visual: Mary and Douglas Johnson

Tellers: Ellyn Steinke and Carl and Karen Engelhardt



Sunday, January 4

Altar Care:

Assisting Minister: Mavis Roesch

Lector: Liz Anderson

Communion, bread: Liz A.

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

Ushers: Carl and Karen Engelhardt

Greeter:

Audio/Visual: Angella and Jeremy Goss

Tellers:

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



Access the Prayer List

<https://bit.ly/44C1w2B>

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.

Courage House is Moving!



Today is a landmark day. We officially closed on the new Courage House and walked through its doors for the very first time as its stewards. Room by room, we could already feel what this space will become a safer, brighter home for the young people who count on us. Truly, the best holiday gift we could imagine is this new house.



Over the next several weeks, our team will be organizing the move from the old house to the new, preparing every corner so our residents can step into a place built with care, dignity, and Joy. Our target move-in is February, and the work begins now.



If you'd like to help us furnish and prepare the new space, we've created an Amazon Wishlist filled with the essentials that will make this house feel like home. Your support will go directly into the rooms our youth will soon call theirs.

Courage House

<https://www.amazon.com/registries/gl/guest-view/2B1BM0IF2RJFG>

Children's Pageant Rehearsal



Prisoner Gift Bags

On a snowy wintry night on Tuesday, members of the BTCC ministry team met at St. Luke's in Greendale to pack Christmas bags for all the men at the Felmers Chaney Correctional Center. We also had help from volunteers at St. Luke's and Trinity Lutheran South Milwaukee. Over thirty people in total were there to help with our assembly line. Every man incarcerated at FCCC, regardless of whether or not they join us for worship and bible studies, will receive a gift bag next Saturday night when we will be there for our annual Christmas Caroling event. Many of the men there receive no other Christmas gifts or even a card.

This year, our gift bags included: body wash, deodorant, beef sticks, peanut butter and crackers, crackers and cheese, protein bars, chips, candy, a Christmas card signed by our ministry team, and two blank cards to share with a friend or loved ones. For the first time this year, we were also able to include instant coffee, 2 toothbrushes, and toothpaste due to generous new donors.

This work of sharing the love shown to us by Jesus with men in prison would not be possible without the generosity of the following churches, organizations, and individuals:

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|--|
| ♥ Martin Luther Church, Milwaukee | ♥ Holy Cross Lutheran, Menomonee Falls |
| ♥ Mt. Zion Lutheran Church | ♥ St. Bartholomew's Church, Pewaukee |
| ♥ Trinity Lutheran Church, West Bend | ♥ Marquette University Dental School and several local dentists |
| ♥ Trinity Lutheran, South Milwaukee | ♥ Thrivent Action Team Grants provided by Outreach for Hope and Vicki Kuharske |
| ♥ Reformation Lutheran, Milwaukee | ♥ Several anonymous donors |
| ♥ Hephatha Lutheran, Milwaukee | |
| ♥ First Lutheran, West Allis | |
| ♥ Ascension Lutheran, Milwaukee | |

Thanks to everyone for your spirit of generous giving that makes this all possible!.

Pastor David

Christmas Has a Heart

We had a wonderful turn out for our Christmas Has a Heart Alternative Marketplace. While we raised over \$3,000 on that day alone, perhaps the best part was the community, the connections we forged in just about an hour. Representatives from Kids Matter, Father Gene’s, Project Return, and Outreach for Hope were able to share stories and hear ideas.

There is still time to submit your shopping list for CHAH. Please consider how you are able to help these incredible organizations and drop off your shopping list by December 28th.

December’s Mission of the Month supports Christmas Has a Heart



Buying Holiday Groceries?

MEIJER HOLIDAY CAMPAIGN

THROUGH DECEMBER 27

Purchase a SIMPLY GIVE card
At Meijer Supermarket checkout
and donate to Tosa Cares!

Double match day- SATURDAY, DECEMBER 13
Each \$10 card purchased will be matched by
Meijer \$20 = \$30

MEIJER WAUWATOSA
11111 W. BURLEIGH



Fa La La La Let's Eat!



YOU'RE INVITED!

Triangle Dinner

Who:

You'll be assigned
a small group to
plan a meal with.

When:

A date & time
coordinated with
your group.

Groups change every few months, so
you get to meet new people within the
MTZ Congregation!

Contact Anna Kissel
(kisselannam@gmail.com) if you're
interested.

Oh What Fun It Is To Sing!



Diane's smile lights up the room and Shelly joyfully holds his gift bag as everyone crowds around for the group photo.



Karen is seated in front of her partner, John, after a delightful medley of songs and smiles.



Krista joins Grace on a comfy couch in her building's lobby. Both ladies sport great eyeglasses. Blue looks good on you, Krista!



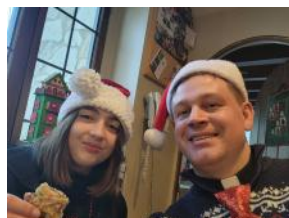
Tom enjoys the sense of community and the giggles of the kiddos while he continues to recover from his ankle surgery.



Grace and Niko aren't giraffes, they're wearing reindeer costumes! Of course!



Linda and Jerry sharing a lyrics book next to Gloria.



Gwen taking a cookie break with Pastor Tyler!

Interfaith Lunch at Noon

INTERFAITH
CONFERENCE
OF GREATER MILWAUKEE

Amazing Faiths Lunch Dialogue

Noon on Monday, December 29 2025

Cudahy United Methodist Church

5865 S Lake Dr, Cudahy, WI 53110

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.

<https://tinyurl.com/AFDDinfo>



Register or Learn more at the
link above or QR Code

- 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



Community Meal



COMMUNITY DINNER

Sunday, January 4

Doors Open at 4:30pm

Meal Served 5:00pm

Note:
It's **AFTER**
The Packer's Game
so please join us!



RSVP so we can plan for food.

Scan this QR code or call

414-258-0456

The meal is free, but donations are appreciated.



Christmas Concert

Nativity Evangelical Lutheran Church
6905 W. Bluemound Rd, Wauwatosa

Saturday, December 27th
2:00pm

Traditional Concert featuring organist, tenor, and narrator
Concert is free, but a freewill offering will be gratefully received.



Deck the Halls (and Sanctuary)



Thank you to the many volunteers who came out to help decorate for Christmas! The church looks lovely and your time and energy made a difference to the festal décor team!



Breaking the Chains Crew

We give thanks to our Breaking the Chains work crew who performed various maintenance duties on Thursday, December 18th to prepare our church for Christmas celebrations. The work crew helps out around Mt Zion, as well as Tosa Cares, once a month. We are honored to be a work—release site for these men as they prepare to return to society. We enjoy the energy, stories, and humor they bring to this place.



Mary, Mother of Revolution

Recently I read that Mary was a voice of revolution. So often, it seems, we don't even think of Mary speaking at all, suffice to say she might utter, "Let God's will be done" to an angel during a Christmas Pageant. Then she quietly fades into the background of the Nativity tableau. So, what did she say and when, that was so revolutionary? Let's look at her "Magnificat" or Song of Praise found in Luke 1:46-55.

In the Magnificat, Mary not only lifts up words of praise, she throws down a spiritual gauntlet. While visiting Elizabeth (who is also pregnant) Mary states, "My spirit rejoices in God my Savior," and then later declares, "He has brought down the powerful from their thrones" and, "He has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty". She's issuing a manifesto that her unborn child will favor caring for the poor and needy over the interests of the wealthy and powerful.

As Lutherans, we don't really praise Mary like our Catholic siblings, but can we take a moment to appreciate how badass this teenager was? She was not only unwed while pregnant (which was risky at the time), but she was talking about toppling rulers and taking care of the community. The very rulers and community, which would have likely ostracized her, if not legally punished her, for being who she was.

Yet, Mary is so often depicted as docile and quiet, gently sitting with her eyes downcast or reverently thoughtful. But what if Mary was depicted for a 21st century in a manner befitting her revolutionary words? As a boots wearing, pregnant brown-skinned protester holding a megaphone in the freezing streets of some US city, her breath visible while shouting God's warning to the elites, the politicians, the billionaires with the same message she gave 2,000 years ago?



Suddenly, for me anyway, Mary transforms from a background character kneeling meekly by her baby's side to a central figure holding the hands of the hungry and homeless. Crying out with refugees praying to save their babies from wars waged by insecure kings. Walking next to Eliabeth who is experiencing her own unplanned pregnancy. Flanked by Joseph and Zechariah who demonstrate support through humility and equality.

Mary is not merely a womb, but a pivotal, powerful young woman full of courage, wisdom, kindness, and joy.



Images created using artificial intelligence

Birthdays & Anniversaries

Birthdays

Mick C. 12/21	Xavier H. 12/31	Madeline E. 1/14
Carrie T. 12/21	Stella S. 12/31	Angela R. 1/16
Caroline W. 12/21	Angelina G. 12/31	Curt P. 1/17
Mark S. 12/21	Linda R. 12/31	Jim G. 1/18
Dudley R. 12/21	Nancy D. 12/31	Morgan R. 1/18
Tom C. 12/23		Abby S. 1/19
Bob Y. 12/23	Cody D. 1/3	Ben S. 1/21
Mark J. 12/24	Aaron P. 1/4	Emma W. 1/21
Jen J. 12/24	Val K. 1/5	John M. 1/22
Chasity B. 12/25	John P. 1/5	Kelsey L. 1/23
Jesus C. 12/25	Kristin F. 1/7	Lauryl P. 1/24
Heather T. 12/28	Mascon S. 1/8	Caleb S. 1/25
Jean M. 12/28	Roy D. 1/9	Tom M. 1/31
Khloe L. 12/20	Bryce R. 1/13	
DeAnn B. 12/30	Isaac R. 1/13	

Wedding Anniversaries

Jean and John M. 12/19
 Mary and Douglas J. 1/8
 Ian and Lynn K. 1/10

Did you Spot the Penguin?



Just for fun, did you catch all 10 penguins in this edition of the Grace Notes (not counting the one here)?

Answers available in the January 11 Grace Notes.

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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Dave Nelson

Linda Havlicek
Bob Young



**Church Office
Hours**

Monday — Friday 10:00am — 3:00pm

Stop by in-person, call 414-258-0456,
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