

February 8 2026



Grace Notes

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BtCC Gala

Several Mt Zion members were in attendance at the Breaking the Chains 10th Anniversary Gala.

Held at the recently renovated Redeemer Lutheran church in downtown Milwaukee, the event space was packed with supporters and alumni of Breaking the Chains Church!

Several brief testimonies were given by alumni which made it clear what a vital ministry BtCC has become.

We gave thanks for Joe and Joyce Ellwanger who began this incredible ministry 10 years ago and prayed for all those now involved in this life-changing community.

Check out the event being held for Pastor Joseph Ellwanger on page 8!

Mt Zion has been honored to serve as a work-release site for the men from Felmers Chaney Correctional Center.



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News from the RIC Ministry Team

The Reconciling in Christ Ministry Team held their February meeting Monday and here's some of the news from that Zoom meeting.

Reasons to celebrate included:

- ♦ Rev. Char Guiliani, Pastor at Lutheran Church of the Great Spirit, got married! Congratulations, Char and Tara!
- ♦ Cross Lutheran in Burlington is now an RIC congregation!
- ♦ St. Paul's on Wisconsin Ave in Milwaukee, is celebrating 25 years as an RIC congregation!

Attendance and Next Meeting:

- ♦ 7 people were in attendance at the February RIC meeting.
- ♦ Next meeting is the 1st Monday in March - March 2nd - at 6pm. Put it on your calendar!
- ♦ Our goal is to have at least 1 person from every RIC congregation in attendance. We are able to accomplish a lot more when people show up and we can plan and work together.

How did other congregations celebrate RIC Sunday?

Many churches decorated their sanctuary and/or fellowship area and had colorful food. Many also included RIC in the prayers and children's messages.

Some churches celebrate RIC Sunday not on RIC Sunday! They might celebrate it in June during Pride month, or on "Coming Out Day" in October.

And speaking of Pride Month!


Pridefest is June 4-6

The Pride Parade is June 7

Mt Zion has walked in, and cheered on, the Pride parade for many years. We invite everyone from Mt Zion to lace up their walking shoes or plant a folding chair along the route for what is sure to be a dazzling, fabulous celebration!



February 8 to February 15

Sun Feb 8	9:30am Worship Service <u>Zoom ID:</u> 841 6597 2335 <u>Passcode:</u> 12012 10:40am Faith Formation <i>Steve Downs "Utah Rocks"</i> 1:30pm Confirmation
Mon Feb 9	6:00pm Property Meeting 7:00pm Knit One, Pray Too 7:00pm NA 12 Step Group Fellowship Hall
Tues Feb 10	Noon AA 12 Steps Meeting Room 211 6:30pm Outreach Meeting 6:30pm Troop 27 meeting Room 100 6:30pm Hands of AA 12-Step Meeting Upper Room
Wed Feb 11	12:00pm Brown Bag Bible Study 1:00pm Prayer Warriors 6:00pm Voices of Zion Choir Rehearsal 7:00pm Festival Bells Handbell Rehearsal
Thurs Feb 12	7:00pm Stewardship Meeting Conference Room
Friday Feb 13	12:00pm Mayfair AA Group 6:00pm ACA 12 Step Group Room 100
Sat Feb 14	Valentine's Day <i>We love each and every one of our Grace Notes Readers!</i> 
Sun Feb 15	9:30am Worship Service 10:30am Faith Formation—Steve Downs "Utah Rocks" 5:00pm MZY Night
Next Week	Ash Wednesday Services 12:00pm and 6:30pm

Boundless

ELCA Ministries Winter Magazine

<https://resources.elca.org/stewardship/boundless-winter-2026/>



Today's Volunteers

Altar Care: Andy and Jen Johnston

Assisting Minister: Lora Marheine

Lector: Janet McCarthy

Communion, bread: Janet M.

Communion, wine: Sherry Downs and Lora M.

Ushers: Dave Fohr

Audio/Visual: Erik Peterson and Jack Johnston

Greeters: Kent and Margie Spicer

Tellers: Tom Morgan and Brad Hext

Access the Worship Volunteer Schedule at: bit.ly/4jEMCPf

PLEASE PRAY FOR...


*Those concerns and praises
in this week's prayer list*

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

Need Prayer?

Submit prayer requests:

 pastor@mtzionlutheran.org  414-258-0456

 Fill out a prayer card at the Prayer Wall



Lenten Devotionals

Lent, a season of deepening faith with intentional spiritual practices, such as fasting, serving, or abstaining, is rapidly approaching (Lent starts February 18!). One of the most regular spiritual practices people take up is increasing their devotional time with God. Here are some devotionals for you to consider this year. Some you need to purchase; many are available online for free.

- Love Outpoured from Augsburg Fortress (ELCA Publishing House): <https://www.augsburgfortress.org/store/product/9798889837305/Love-Outpoured>
- Light from the Southeast Synod of the ELCA: <https://www.elca-ses.org/lenten-devotions>
- 40 Days of Giving from ELCA World Hunger: <https://www.elca.org/our-work/relief-and-development/elca-world-hunger/40-days-resources>
- Body of Christ from ELCA Sumud (for justice in Palestine and Israel): <https://www.elca.org/our-work/publicly-engaged-church/sumud>
- The Work of Imagination from Illustrated Ministries (kid friendly!): <https://store.illustratedministry.com/collections/lent-holy-week-easter>
- Tell Me Something Good from Sanctified Art: <https://sanctifiedart.org/devotionals>
- Many options (one family friendly) from SALT: <https://www.saltproject.org/progressive-church-print-resources>
- Carbon Fast from Climate Stewards: <https://climatestewards.org/resources/carbon-fast-for-lent/>

You can always find past devotions and activities, many of which are still good today, in last year's Grace Notes: <https://www.mtzionlutheran.org/grace-notes/pages/2025>. Go to February 16 and scroll to page 5!

Black History Month Celebration

MICAH's Black History Month Celebration

Join us for a celebration of Milwaukee Youth, past and present, for our Black History Month Celebration. Space is limited. Pre-registration ends February 21st.

Thursday, February 26, 2026 @ 6:00 PM

**Canaan MBC, Beecham Outreach Center, 2964 N 11th St,
Milwaukee, WI 53206**

<https://secure.everyaction.com/fO4uhYRKzEGROdnQrosHjw2>

Winter Market at The Table



**MILWAUKEE
WINTER
FARMERS
MARKET**



January 3-March 28 2026
Saturdays: 9:00am-2:00pm
The Table: 5305 W. Capitol Drive

The Milwaukee Winter Farmers Market provides a venue for the community to access local and regional meats, bread, honey, soaps, juices, baked goods, jewelry, mushrooms, herbal products, preserves, microgreens, clothing and other value-added products throughout the winter months and early spring. In addition, it supports local family businesses & entrepreneurs, and has become a social and educational gathering space.

fondymke.org

Micah's General Assembly

This year, MICAH is starting a General Assembly, a place of gathering for action, political education, and connection.

General Assembly
Monday, February 9th
6pm

Central United Methodist Church, 639 N 25th St, Milwaukee, WI 53233.

General Assembly is open to everyone interested in justice,
so bring a friend!

We invite you to join us for General Assembly on the following dates in 2026.

February 9th at 6pm
April 13th at 6pm
June 8th at 6pm
August 10th at 6pm
October 12th at 6pm
December 14th at 6pm

*MICAH is a Mt Zion ministry partner focused on advocacy and justice work in Milwaukee County.

Crossing the Chasms

This daylong workshop is grounded in the biblical story of The Rich Man and Lazarus and examines the chasms of separation in our communities. Join Rev. Marilyn Miller and Joyce Caldwell, PhD on **March 7 from 9:00 am - 4:30 pm** at [Redeemer Lutheran Church](#) to examine the construction and meaning of racism and the part we all play in upholding and maintaining the system. We will begin to identify steps and opportunities to grow in both understanding and action. Space is limited.



<https://milwaukeeesynod.org/event/crossing-the-chasm-anti-racism-training/>

Conversation with Rev. Ellwanger

As we honor Black History Month in February, we will be celebrating a leader amongst us who has been on this civil rights and human rights journey throughout his ministry and almost all of his living. A true ally, fighting alongside of Black and Brown folks for a very long time.

Black History is Everybody's History.

Joe and Joyce Ellwanger “found me” at Valparaiso University in the mid 1980’s, invited me to Milwaukee, deeply impacting the path my living would take. 36 years later, I am still here. I am still serving. I am still grateful.

I hope some of you will join us as we “reunite” for an evening of conversation, a FREE Soul Food Dinner, Cultural Makers Market, and time of reflection.

Tickets are FREE but you must pre-register at:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/eyes-still-on-the-prize-tickets-1981582102411?aff=oddtcreator>

Venice R. Williams,
Executive Director, Alice’s Garden Urban Farm



EYES STILL ON THE PRIZE

A CONVERSATION WITH
THE REVEREND JOSEPH ELLWANGER
GUIDED BY MINISTER VENICE R. WILLIAMS

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2026
MEQUON PUBLIC MARKET
6300 W. MEQUON ROAD
5:30PM - 8:30PM

Reverend Ellwanger became involved in the Civil Rights Movement, while serving as pastor of St. Paul Lutheran Church in Birmingham, Alabama. He continued his work in Milwaukee as Pastor of Cross Lutheran Church for several decades. We hope you will join us for this evening of an in-depth conversation with Pastor Joe about where we have been and where we are now, book signing for *Strength For The Struggle*, complimentary soul food dinner by Café Wright, Cultural Makers Market, and an opportunity to explore your own place in history. Where do you stand? Where will you stand?

5:30PM CULTURAL MAKERS MARKET OPENS
6:30PM CONVERSATION WITH REVEREND ELLWANGER
7:30PM SOUL FOOD DINNER

This event is FREE, limited to 125 attendees.
To register, cut and paste the EVENTBRITE link below.
<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/eyes-still-on-the-prize-tickets-1981582102411?aff=oddtcreator>



Transformational Justice Training



FREE TO ATTEND!
MILWAUKEE
TRANSFORMATIONAL
JUSTICE TRAINING

The Details

SATURDAY, FEB 21, 2026 | 10 AM - 2 PM
WELFORD SANDERS ENTERPRISE CENTER
2821 N VEL R PHILLIPS AVE.
MILWAUKEE, WI 53212

The Agenda

- Gain a comprehensive overview of transformational justice work happening across the state
- Connect with fellow community members and help shape shared priorities — your voice matters!
- Engage in a discussion with legislators about current and pending legislation

The Trainers

REGISTER IN ADVANCE



Your trainers include Mark Rice of WISDOM's Transformational Justice Campaign Coordinator, who brings over a decade of experience building the power of organizations and campaigns led by directly impacted people and Ventae Parrow, WISDOM's Transformational Justice Campaign Organizer.

Steve's Science Tidbits

Notes On Southern Utah

This week I'm presenting a forum on southern Utah, so I thought it appropriate to present several facts, suggestions and bits of information for those of you contemplating a visit to this stunning area of the U.S. It's an area south of Hwy 70, bounded by Hwy 15 on the west, the Colorado border on the east and the Arizona border on the south.

My talk focuses on God's creative beauty—a stunning tapestry of jaw-dropping scenery, present around every bend, seemingly in every nook and cranny. It's a serious photographer's paradise, yet even this amateur's iphone camera captures amazing, unforgettable shots. Sherry and I have visited the area 10 times or so. Each experience is uplifting and unforgettable; a boon to the soul, providing both physical and mental enrichment.

Visiting takes some planning. Most tourists arrive in summer, when the heat may be challenging. Ample water and sunscreen are a must, but one of the most impactful considerations is footwear. Much of the terrain is rocky and/or uneven, so unless you are sticking to paved walkways in the national parks, good hiking shoes/boots with substantial traction are a must. This allows you to reach areas you otherwise wouldn't be able to reach due to steep inclines, loose gravel, rocks or wet, slippery areas. Quite a few years ago, Sherry and I swallowed our pride and morphed from bipeds into quadrupeds (translation: we bought hiking poles). It greatly increases one's hiking confidence. There are countless times where the extra support has prevented nasty falls.

Despite careful planning, there can be unfortunate, unexpected weather snafus. A sudden rainstorm can ruin carefully planned excursions. There are many attractions that are off the beaten (paved) path; a quick, violent storm can wash out roads and make these routes impassable (see pic). Moreover, they can turn slot canyons into death traps.

Even with good weather, some off roads can be challenging to drive on, requiring high clearance vehicles. If you're driving to one of these areas with your own vehicle, you can decide whether it is appropriate for local off roads; you may get good info at national park visitor centers or, better yet, local BLM (Bureau of Land Management) offices that are sprinkled throughout the area. The drive to Moab, UT (in the closest northeast part of this area) is 1400 mi or about 20 hrs by car. If you prefer to fly (the best area major airports are Phoenix and Las Vegas), you'll be renting a car. If you plan on visiting some of these off-road attractions, the rental companies often have strict restrictions to consider.

There are plenty of areas in southern Utah that are user friendly, easily visited with few physical restrictions (ie, the five great national parks). But there are also many areas that aren't for everyone, requiring hiking beyond your comfort zone. I will highlight one—click on the picture or the link below.



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VokCwo8kQQw>

Birthdays & Anniversaries

Birthdays

Mickie R. 2/1	Dean S. 2/9	Harper P. 2/20
Dave F. 2/1	Kate W. 2/9	Michael F. 2/20
Robert J. 2/1	Erica M. 2/11	Margie S. 2/21
Debbie F. 2/2	Gwen A. 2/12	Yvonne K. 2/21
RJ J. 2/2	Dick H. 2/13	Logan W. 2/22
Mara M. 2/2	James H. 2/15	Brian W. 2/24
Loretta B. 2/2	Lynn K. 2/16	Alex H. 2/24
Nancy K. 2/2	Frank B. 2/17	Garret J. 2/25
Natasha P. 2/3	Vince C. 2/17	Joe D. 2/25
Sherry D. 2/6	Jim S. 2/19	Vince C. 2/26
Eliza F. 2/6		Pat G. 2/28

Wedding Anniversaries

Tina and Jim K. 2/17
Andrew and Kelsey F. 2/23

Thrivent Choice Dollars?

Are you a Thrivent member?
Do you have Choice Dollars to direct?
Did you know you can direct those Choice Dollars
to support Mt Zion?



If you haven't directed your Choice Dollars yet,
you have until March 31st to direct them to a non-
-profit of your choice.

After that date, they go away.
So direct them today!

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

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**Church Office
Hours**

Monday — Friday 10:00am — 3:00pm

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