



Grace Notes

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Cleaner Together!

It's early March. Spring break is still weeks away. And we have to change our clocks, again! And it's still too cold to ride our bikes or play ball. But one of the worst parts is that the snow has melted! It has melted and revealed a sad, icky layer of litter!

As you will read on page 9 in the letter from Bishop Dr. Imad Haddad, Lent calls us to draw closer to God as well as our neighbors. May we draw closer to both by picking up the trash around our building and on our streets. In doing so, we will return God's beautiful creation to a healthy state of being and share in a more joyful community with our neighbors.

If you can pick up a piece of trash while you're around Mt Zion, it would make these last gray winter days just a bit sunnier for someone else. Thank you so much!



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Pastor Out of the Office

Pastor Tyler will be out of the office
Tuesday, March 10 through Monday, March 16.

If you need Pastoral Care during this time please contact
Pastor Steve Smart

Via cell at 414-750-4709 or

email: pastorsteve@mountcarmelchurch.org.

Please help us welcome Pastor Steve as he presides over our
March 15 worship service.

A reminder that there will be no midweek Lenten service on March 12.

The Leadership Board Meeting will take place as scheduled at
6:00pm on March 16

Coming Soon



Join us for Easter Brunch

Sunday, April 5, at 10:45
in the Fellowship Hall

Let's celebrate our Risen Lord with a feast of
egg bakes, sausage, fruit, rolls and drinks

Bring the whole family
Relax and enjoy the fellowship

March 8 to March 15

Sun March 8	<p>Daylight Savings Time</p> <p>9:30am Worship Service <u>Zoom ID: 841 6597 2335</u> <u>Passcode: 12012</u></p> <p>10:40am Faith Formation Hour</p> <p>5:00pm Confirmation</p>
Mon March 9	<p>6:00pm Property Meeting</p> <p>7:00pm NA 12 Step Group Fellowship Hall</p> <p>7:00pm Knit One, Pray Too</p>
Tues March 10	<p>Noon AA 12 Steps Meeting Upper Room</p> <p>6:30pm Outreach Committee Meeting</p> <p>6:30pm Hands of AA 12-Step Meeting Upper Room</p>
Wed March 11	<p>6:00pm Voices of Zion Choir Rehearsal</p> <p>7:00pm Festival Bells Handbell Rehearsal</p>
Thurs March 12	<p>6:30pm Troop 27 Meeting</p>
Friday March 13	<p>12:00pm Mayfair AA Group</p> <p>6:00pm ACA 12 Step Group Room 100</p> <p>Troop 27 Lock-In</p>
Sat March 14	
Sun March 15	<p>9:30am Worship Service</p> <p>10:30am Faith Formation</p> <p>5:00pm MZY Night</p>
Next Week	Midweek Lenten Service Resumes

Paper Bulletin Usage

“No Paper Bulletin During Lent” challenge update:

Given the previous two week’s paper bulletin usage, or lack thereof, our current projection puts us at having to print just 10 bulletins on Palm Sunday!

Today we’ve printed just 25. Whoa!

Keep up the great work of “going without” paper bulletins this Lent.

Creation thanks your efforts!

Special shout-out to our at-home members who go without paper bulletins every Sunday.



Today’s Volunteers

Altar Care: Linda Havlicek and Lilly Snow

Assisting Minister: Lora Marheine

Lector: Erin McDougal

Communion, bread: Erin M.

Communion, wine: Refilwe Magasa-Bockhorst, Gabby Goll, Lora M.

Ushers: James and Angela Riccaboni

Audio/Visual: Janet McCarthy and Gabby Riccaboni

Acolyte: Francesca and Isabella Riccaboni

Greeters: Irene McCarthy and Dick Hollander

Tellers: Brad Hext and Tom Morgan

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

PRAYER WARRIORS

Help lift up our community’s concerns and thanksgivings

<https://bit.ly/3NmltF2>

Need Prayer?

Submit prayer requests:



pastor@mtzionlutheran.org



414-258-0456



Fill out a prayer card in-person

Happy Birthday, Tosa Cares!

HAPPY EIGHTEENTH BIRTHDAY TOSA CARES

We are celebrating eighteen years of food and clothing ministry right here at Mt. Zion through Tosa Cares. THANK YOU TO THE PEOPLE OF MT. ZION for the many blessings you have shared with this ministry through those eighteen years.

A LOOK BACK TO THE BEGINNING...

Did you know that in December 2007 the Tosa For Kids food program, working out of the Wauwatosa Police Station, was ending? No one in the community offered to continue this work in the community. The Mt. Zion Outreach Team (Sherry and Steve Downs, Karen and Carl Engelhardt, Tom and Linda Ertel, Pam Hext, Kim Nelson, Peg Pignolet, Jan Rada, Dana O'Brien) responded, "Isn't this what we are called to do- feed the hungry and clothe the naked?" We prayed that God would lead us. That outreach team, Pastor Gary Johnson and the leadership team said yes, it can happen here at Mt. Zion. Mount Carmel and St. Matthew's churches said we will help. Others in the community joined the mission.

Did you know that in February, 2008 Carl Engelhardt, Dick Bachman and Tom Ertel brought the shelving and remaining food from the police station and rebuilt the shelves to begin the ministry here at Mt. Zion? At the same time several Mt. Zion members came forward to form the first Tosa Cares Board of Directors: Dick Bachman, Carl Engelhardt, Tom Ertel, Dawn Driscoll, Linda Ertel and Dave Fohr. Other church representatives and community members completed that first board: CJ Kim, Kathy Roesch, Kathy Refsell, Amy Joannes, and Bob Reinhardt.

Did you know that the first Tosa Cares distribution occurred Saturday, March 22, Easter weekend of 2008, after a 15- inch snowstorm? Four Families came through an unplowed parking lot and received food. God's plan had begun.

**PRAISE BE TO GOD THIS FOOD MINISTRY CONTINUES.
NEIGHBOR TO NEIGHBOR, WE SHARE OUR ABUNDANCE.**

Daylight Savings Stat



Thank you to Douglas Johnson who faithfully goes around the building after every time change to set the new time on the 67 wall clocks and equipment with timers throughout the building.

Adventure to Rain Forest Falls



Dates

June 22-26

Times

Meal 5:00-5:30pm
Program 5:30-8:00pm

Ages

4yo to 5th grade

Ready for Adventure

- CREATIVE GAMES
- AMAZING EXPERIMENTS
- EXCITING SNACKS
- MISSION PROJECT
- NEW FRIENDS

At Mt Carmel Lutheran

8424 W Center Street
Millwaukee

Registration Link

<https://bit.ly/4aIhg7x>
Or scan the QR code!



Adventure to Rain Forest Falls

Welcome to the Tosa Lutheran's first Joint Vacation Bible School

Mt Zion children and good friends: You're invited to participate in the Tosa Lutheran's first Joint VBS! Mt Carmel, Mt Zion, and Martin Luther are working together to put on a VBS program June 22-26 Mon-Fri) at Mt Carmel (8400 Center St). The event will begin at 5p with a meal, and the VBS program will start at 5:30p. Any child, 4yo through 5th grade is welcome!



If you're interested, we encourage you to register today at bit.ly/4alhg7x and feel free to invite a friend to join you! Please try to complete the registration by Easter, both to help us get a sense of numbers and because after Easter we're going to open registration to the community to fill any open seats.

Looking for Volunteers to Help with VBS



All the primary roles that require preparation and presentation are covered - now we're looking for people to step up into all the support roles (including teens)! We need group leaders and helpers who can support a group of children as they move from station to station throughout VBS. We need helpers at the various stations, such as arts and science. If there's any way you can help during VBS, please let us know!

But what if still want to support VBS, but you're not available during VBS or uncomfortable working with children? We also need people who'd be willing to provide some food for the meals we'll be providing (we'll make specific requests after meals are created) and people who can help create or put up decorations. There's a role for nearly everyone.

If you'd be willing to support our VBS in any way, please sign up in the Narthex or email pastor@mtzionlutheran.org



Pastor Tyler Rasmussen

From Bishop Yehiel Curry

Dear siblings in Christ,

In our Lenten journey, we are reminded of our dependence on God, and we are sustained by hope in the future peace God has promised. As war involving the United States, Israel and Iran intensifies and spreads, we lament how far off that promise seems. We do not know how many people have been killed, but we know the number will continue to grow. Early reports indicate that more than 100 Iranian schoolgirls and several U.S. service members are among them.

The church of Jesus Christ is called to proclaim the peace of God's eternal reign and to work for an earthly peace here and now. The ELCA social message "Living in a Time of Terrorism" states that this earthly peace is a "precious yet fragile good." Its existence depends on leaders who prioritize diplomacy over military engagement and deterrence over war, and on citizens who hold government accountable whenever military action is considered.

With many of you, I am distressed that a robust, public discernment through congressional authorization did not occur prior to the United States' engagement in this war. As Lutherans, we affirm that government and the order that just laws provide are gifts of God for our safety and well-being. This war does not represent the promotion of this just order but rather its failure.

The costs in lives and safety of this failure will be borne by those least able to avoid it — children, families and those without the means to flee. Its deadly toll has been, and will continue to be, paid with the lives of our neighbors, including our siblings in Christ in the Middle East.

This moment underscores the urgent need for robust, well-resourced diplomatic and humanitarian efforts. Our companions in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land have asked our church to pray fervently for peace and safety and to advocate for the dignity and security of all people. ELCA Witness in Society will continue to provide opportunities for this advocacy.

As members of the body of Christ, join me in prayerful, hopeful solidarity with our siblings and neighbors who suffer today.

Together,

- We mourn the rush to war and the combatants and noncombatants who have lost their lives.
- We yearn for creation's fulfillment in "a new heaven and a new earth" where death and pain "will be no more" (Revelation 21:1, 4).
- We strive for justice and peace in all the earth, strengthened by faith in the crucified and risen Lord to persist.
- We trust that, through God who sustains us, our weariness and fear will not overcome us.

**Rev. Yehiel Curry,
Presiding Bishop, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**

Message from Jerusalem

*The Evangelical Lutheran Church
in Jordan and the Holy Land*



الكنيسة الإنجيلية اللوثرية
في الأردن والأراضي المقدسة

Jerusalem
February 28, 2026

A Message to Our Partners from Bishop Dr. Imad Haddad

“They shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore.” (Isaiah 2:4)

In the face of yet another escalation of war in our region, our hearts are filled with deep anguish. As we journey through this Lenten season, a season that calls us nearer to God and closer to our neighbor, we here in the Holy Land are confronted once more with the devastating cost of military aggression. Families are anxious. Communities are unsettled. The fragile rhythms of daily life are again disrupted. This latest war does not stand alone; it imposes yet another layer of pressure, fear, and restriction upon an already burdened people. No people are created to live under the sound of war. War is not the life God intends for humanity.

We must speak with moral clarity: the continued decision to resort to war is a failure of human responsibility before God. Each new escalation tightens the grip of dread, deepens the lived reality of siege, and further constricts the space in which human dignity can breathe. Political calculations and security arguments must never be allowed to eclipse the sacred worth of human life.

From our Palestinian Christian context, we affirm without hesitation: life, not death, is God’s choice for humanity. Yet from this land we call holy, wounded yet steadfast, we refuse the temptation of despair. With the prophet Isaiah, we raise our voice with renewed urgency: *“They shall learn war no more.”* We remain committed to preaching the Gospel of reconciliation entrusted to us, the good news that through Christ, God reconciles humanity to Godself and calls us to the hard and holy work of reconciliation with one another.

Dear partners, we urge you: pray, and pray fervently. But do not let prayer become a substitute for responsibility. Let your prayers be joined with courageous and concrete action. Stand publicly with those who are afflicted. Advocate persistently for a just peace that safeguards the dignity and security of all people. Challenge policy makers whose narratives make endless war appear inevitable.

Steve's Science Tidbits

Flying Parasites

I am continually being surprised by the ingenuity of nature. In biology lab at Marquette, students used to carry out experiments with nematodes. These are microscopic roundworms-- transparent, thread-like invertebrates that are one of the most abundant organisms on earth. They play a critical role in decomposition and nutrient recycling, and many are parasitic.

In our labs, we used nematodes that were raised on agar plates. Their primary mode of transportation, which should come as no surprise, was crawling along the agar, as that is what worms are wont to do. I never fathomed that they had another mode.

I was surprised to read that some parasitic nematodes are jumpers. I thought I was misreading the text because, after all, nematodes have no legs. So how do they do this? It seems they bend or coil themselves and then push off forcefully into space. Incredibly, they can jump up to 25 times their body length!

Even more surprising is that something the size of a pinhead can jump up and land on a fruit fly or other insect passing by that they can then parasitize. What's so amazing is that these are moving targets, and, because of wind, gravity and air resistance, the miss frequency should be high, but it's surprisingly low. They have no eyes, so how do they know when to coordinate their jump and in what direction?

The answer has to do with static electricity, which acts as an ally of the nematode. The worms are uncharged, but recent research in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences reveals that the mere beating of insect's wings generates a significant amount of positive charge to pull the airborne worm toward itself. Apparently, the worm senses the nearby charge and merely needs to jump in the air. It doesn't have to be precise; even if it's in the wrong direction, the powerful charge still draws it in, a veritable "tractor beam." A successful landing means the inevitable deposition of worm eggs in the doomed host.

Without the positive charge, the jump would surely fail, resulting in the death of the worm; they'd quickly dry out, starve or become hunted themselves. Thus, the worms have co-evolved jumping behavior with a dependency on static electricity.

These are the latest results in the interesting field of electrostatic ecology. Back in 2013, researchers discovered that bees sense electric fields around flowers that guide their foraging behavior. Also, it was shown that spider webs bulge outward when positively charged insects fly by, which helps to ensnare them. Finally, ticks fall out of trees in response to positive charge that builds in furry animals below. It is thought that many more interactions of electrostatic effects in ecosystems are waiting to be discovered.

Click on the link below to watch a 6 sec video of a nematode leaping onto a fly. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=k_8ysQIMPLk

Steve Downs

Birthdays & Anniversaries

Birthdays

Darian M. 3/1	Jerry R. 3/6	Shelly S. 3/18
Ray S. 3/1	Kim N. 3/7	JerryLene H. 3/18
Ruth M. 3/1	Charlotte B. 3/8	Mike W. 3/19
Madilynn W. 3/2	Karen P. 3/9	Suzy M. 3/20
John L. 3/3	Clare F. 3/9	Jacob S. 3/24
Sue M. 3/3	Deb S. 3/11	Anna J. 3/27
Noah F. 3/4	Jeff B. 3/11	James R. 3/27
Dick M. 3/4	Larry S. 3/12	Alexis H. 3/28
Louise H. 3/4	Regina B. 3/12	Donna W. 3/29
Emma F. 3/4	Kelly S. 3/12	Tracie J. 3/30
Luke J. 3/4	John W. 3/13	Michael F. 3/31
Ian K. 3/4	Connor F. 3/15	Kevin C. 3/31
Becky P. 3/5		Abby S. 3/31

I AM Worthy

Join us at the **2026 Gathering in Des Moines, Iowa!**

July 16-19, 2026



July 16-19, 2026 • des moines, iowa

The theme for the 2026 Triennial Gathering is “I Am Worthy,” based on Psalm 139:14: “I am fearful and wonderfully made.” This statement serves as a reminder of God’s promise to be with us, even in times of devastation and division. By repeating the phrase “I am worthy,” we can recognize the Holy Spirit’s ongoing work in our lives. This practice of self-affirmation opens up opportunities for healing and restoration within ourselves, our church, society, and the world. When we declare, “I am worthy,” we align ourselves with God’s promises. There is great power in our resolve!

<https://www.womenoftheelca.org/new-triennial-event-page>

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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The Reverend Tyler D. Rasmussen
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Andy Johnston

Dave Nelson

Linda Havlicek
Bob Young



**Church Office
Hours**

Monday — Friday 10:00am — 3:00pm

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