

April 26 2026



Grace Notes

IN THIS ISSUE...

Financial Support

[Page 2](#)

If I Had \$1,000,000

[Page 4](#)

Supporting our Youth

[Pages 6 & 7](#)

Book Club

[Page 8](#)

Summer Outings?

[Page 9](#)



April Showers...

...Brought Heavy flooding!

Did you have flooding or other damage due to the rain and storms in April? Please let Pastor Tyler know. Let Mt Zion know if you would like non-financial assistance.

Do you need financial assistance from the flooding? Fill out this form from our Synod to potentially receive some resources (both financial and non-financial) to help you out:

https://milwaukeeesyndod.org/synod_disaster_relief/



mtzionlutheran.org

(414) 258-0456

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Wauwatosa, WI 53226

April Mission of the Month

The April Mission of the Month was chosen by our Mt Zion Youth! They have chosen to support Pathfinders this month. Pathfinders supports youth who are facing crisis throughout the Milwaukee area.

Youth may be facing homelessness, sexual abuse, trafficking, and mental health challenges. Pathfinders assists each individual without judgement in accessing the services they need to not only survive, but thrive. In 2024 alone, Pathfinders supported over 8,000 youth and young adults. Learn more at: <https://pathfindersmke.org/>

We think it is beautiful that the Mt Zion Youth want to help provide safety, housing, and access to resources to their fellow youth throughout the community. Can we raise \$500 to go toward this amazing ministry?



Thank You for Your Generosity!

Mt Zion's incredible generosity so far this year has been sent to make a difference across town and around the world. Your financial support has gone to so make incredible ministries including:

- \$1,100 Father Gene's Help Center - provides clothing to those in need
- \$1,100 Project Return—supports individuals reentering society from prison
- \$1,100 Reformation Lutheran—partner church serving a low-income area
- \$1,100 Kids Matter - supports Milwaukee foster children and advocacy
- \$1,100 Outreach For Hope—provides various services in the synod
- \$2,814 Tosa Cares Food Pantry – provides food, clothing, and hope
- \$1,130 Lutheran Social Services—supports adoption, mental health, more
- \$136 Lutheran Disaster Response –gives medical aid, food, and shelter
- \$135 ELCA World Hunger— provides healthy food and clean water
- \$450+ Disbursed from Mt Zion's Good Samaritan Fund which supports our neighbors needing emergency assistance

Thank you so much for making such a big difference in God's global village!

April 26 to May 3

Sun April 26	<p>9:30am Worship Service <u>Zoom ID:</u> 841 6597 2335 <u>Passcode:</u> 12012</p> <p>10:40am Faith Formation Hour</p> <p>5:00pm Confirmation</p>
Mon April 27	<p>7:00pm Book Club</p> <p>7:00pm NA 12 Step Group Fellowship Hall</p>
Tues April 28	<p>Noon AA 12 Steps Meeting Upper Room</p> <p>6:30pm Hands of AA 12-Step Meeting Upper Room</p> <p>6:30pm Troop 27 Meeting Room 100</p>
Wed April 29	<p>12:00pm Brown Bag Bible Study</p> <p>1:00pm Prayer Warriors</p> <p>1:00pm Tosa Cares Donation Drop-Offs</p> <p>6:00pm Voices of Zion Choir Rehearsal</p>
Thurs April 30	
Friday May 1	<p>12:00pm Mayfair AA Group</p> <p>6:00pm ACA 12 Step Group Room 100</p>
Sat May 2	<p>8:30am Tosa Cares Donation Drop Offs</p> <p>9:00am Women of Heart Bible Study</p>
Sun May 3	<p>9:30am Sunday Worship Service</p> <p>10:30am Faith Formation Hour</p> <p>5:00pm Community Sunday Dinner</p>
Next Week	Stewardship Meeting

Commemorations

Catherine of Siena, theologian, died 1380

Wednesday, April 29, 2026

This theologian was the first woman among Roman Catholics to receive the title "Doctor [teacher] of the Church." Catherine was a Dominican sister known for her mystical visions as well as her work on behalf of people who were poor and imprisoned.

Athanasius, Bishop of Alexandria, died 373

Saturday, May 2, 2026

Best remembered for defending the teaching that Christ was fully God against those who taught otherwise, Athanasius was an influential church leader around the time of the Council of Nicea. He was banished from Alexandria five times for his forthright views.

Today's Volunteers

Altar Care: Edie Di Giacinto and Linda Havlicek

Assisting Minister: Lora Marheine

Lector: Mavis Roesch

Communion, bread: Mavis R.

Communion, wine: Liz and Gwen Anderson, Lora M.

Ushers: Cody Di Giacinto and Tom Ertel

Audio/Visual: Mike Marciniak and Lilly Snow

Greeters: Kent and Margie Spicer

Tellers: Elynn Steinke and Carl and Karen Engelhardt

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

PRAYER WARRIORS


Help lift up our community's concerns and thanksgivings


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

Need Prayer?

Submit prayer requests:

 pastor@mtzionlutheran.org

 414-258-0456

 *Fill out a prayer card in-person*

If I Had a Million Dollars

While most of us in our 40s and 50s are no closer to a million dollars than when the 1990s hit BNL song helped us ponder all the wonderful things we would do with so much money, the thought still remains, ["If I had a million dollars...?"](#) what would I do with it?

And the interesting thing I have found on many social media sites is that a lot of people, from different backgrounds and faiths, would choose to put that million dollars back into the community to help others.

So, if I had a million dollars, what would I do?

Do you want to know the most interesting and exciting thing I learned in asking this question? I posed this to Douglas Johnson just before sitting down to write this article and he immediately responded, "Well, if the church had a million dollars in a foundation we could use that to buy the old hotel on the corner of North and Highway 100. We could turn it into a homeless shelter and low-income housing."



Oh. Our. God!!!

Seriously! This is *the same thing I was wanting* to do with a million dollars. How amazing is that? Also, it would be cool to provide free meals out of the attached restaurant and even expand Tosa Cares so it could operate a clothing closet out of the building.

Has this like-minded million-dollar idea deepened my faith?

So, I posed the question from an individual perspective—what would **you** do with a million dollars? But, that's not what God calls us to do. God calls us to live in community with one another. So, what if **we** had a million dollars? What could we do together with collective ideas, resources, time, and finances that would positively impact the people and world around us?

While one person with a million dollars in 2026 would still be considered rich, I'd venture to say that a community re-investing a million dollars into housing, feeding, clothing, and educating perfect strangers would make us all vastly richer. We are called to be a community together and supporting and including every single person makes that community stronger, safer, more prosperous, and more joyful. Perhaps the question needs to be, "If we had a million dollars...what couldn't we do with it?"

"And the king will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did it to me.' *Matthew 25:40*

Jess Monahan

Faithful Earth Day Action

The U.S. Forest Service has announced a sweeping reorganization that would close 57 of its 77 research facilities across the country (including two right here in Wisconsin), consolidate research into a centralized office, and relocate its headquarters from Washington, D.C. to Salt Lake City. These research stations study wildfire risk, forest health, water quality, climate change, and biodiversity, often through long-term experiments that span decades.

While the administration says the changes will improve efficiency and bring leadership closer to the land, scientists, former agency leaders, and communities warn that closing these facilities could disrupt or end critical research. Many fear that relocating staff will lead to the loss of experienced scientists and weaken the knowledge needed to care for nearly 200 million acres of public lands.

The ELCA affirms that caring for creation is a central part of our faith. In *Caring for Creation: Vision, Hope, and Justice* (1993), we are called to serve as stewards of God's earth—protecting ecosystems, preserving biodiversity, and ensuring the wellbeing of all people.

Our church teaches that:

- ♥ Creation is God's gift, entrusted to our care.
- ♥ Sound science is a vital tool for faithful stewardship.
- ♥ Environmental harm often falls most heavily on vulnerable communities.
- ♥ We are called to act in ways that promote justice, sustainability, and the common good.

Forest Service research has long supported these goals by helping us understand how to care for forests, respond to wildfire, protect clean water, and adapt to a changing climate.

Why Lutherans Must Speak Up

- ♥ Faith and Knowledge Together: Caring for creation requires both moral commitment and scientific understanding. Weakening research undermines both. •Stewardship of Creation: Forests are complex, living systems. Without ongoing research, we risk managing them without the knowledge needed to sustain them.
- ♥ Care for Neighbor: Healthy forests protect clean air and water, reduce wildfire risks, and support communities and livelihoods.
- ♥ Responsibility to Future Generations: Long-term research helps ensure that forests remain healthy and resilient for generations to come.
- ♥ Public Trust: Our national forests belong to all people. Decisions about their care should be grounded in knowledge, transparency, and the common good. As Lutherans, we are called to speak out when actions may harm creation and our neighbors. This is a moment for faithful advocacy.

Learn more at Lutheran Office for Public Policy: loppw.org

Supporting our Youth

OUR YOUTH ARE AWESOME!

HEADING TO GLOBAL FINALS

So far this Destination Imagination season Grace has learned about puppet making, electrical circuitry and switches, ancient Egypt, and more, all while spending time with friends she calls family. These incredibly clever girls will represent Tosa in the Destination Imagination Global Finals next month.

There's Grace



If you are able to help support their journey to Globals, please visit:

<https://www.friendsoftosadi.com/>

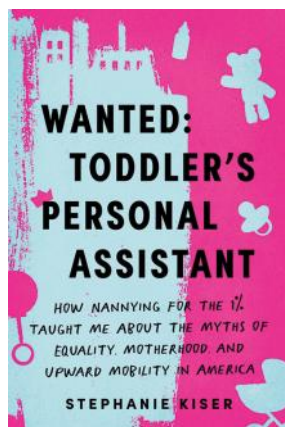
Let's celebrate the world of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics that shapes our future. We appreciate any support!

Book Club

Book Club
Monday, April 27
7:00pm
Hearth Room

Wanted: Toddler's Personal Assistant

By Stephanie Kiser



When Stephanie Kiser moves to New York City after college to pursue a career in writing, she quickly learns that her entry-level salary won't cover the high cost of living - never mind her crushing student loan debt. But there is one in-demand job that pays more than enough to allow Stephanie to stay in the city: nannying for the 1%. Stephanie comes to understand more about what really happens behind the closed doors of Park Avenue million-dollar apartments—and that money doesn't guarantee happiness.

Host: Jean Morack



May Meeting:

May 18th at 7:00pm

Boat Baby by Vicky Nguyen

Books for the 26-27 year will be picked at the May meeting.

****Note, that will be the 3rd Monday to avoid meeting on Memorial Day.**

Summer Outing

Summer Plans?

Mt Zion wants to put together a summer outing or two, but we need help deciding which event to plan!

Below are some ideas.

What sounds exciting to you?

Pool party

Picnic at Firefly Grove Park

Milwaukee Milkmen Baseball Game

Day Hike

Brewery Tour

Vote for your top choices,

<https://forms.gle/NeihTJugHMTwSfRW6>



Steve's Science Tidbits

Demon Rodents from the Underworld

It's Spring, and bird activity in our yard is increasing by leaps and bounds. I think it started with robins, followed by nuthatches, gold- and house-finches, bluejays, red wing blackbirds, grackles and three kinds of woodpeckers—downey, red-bellied and hairy. All because we started putting food in our feeders again.

This is all well and good to a point—until the demon rodents appear. Actually, one in particular. Squirrels have an IQ of about 3,000 and are brilliant problem solvers. When they get a taste of spilled bird food on the ground and figure out where it came from, they are highly motivated and unbelievably relentless in their pursuit of what they want.

I have previously written about squirrels and birdfeeders in our yard. Last year, they tried everything under the sun, but, because of a baffle on the pole, were never successful. They can climb up any pole no matter how thin, but they couldn't get past the baffle.

This year saw a new and improved squirrel set its sights on the peanut feeder. It spent a long time sizing up the situation, climbing up adjacent poles, getting stuck under the baffle and climbing to the top of a barberry shrub, all to no avail. Then it went one step further than last year's squirrels, and it's a step I had been dreading.



Did you know squirrels can jump straight up 4-6 feet and jump horizontally 8-10 feet? You have probably observed some of their amazingly acrobatics. This squirrel realized it would have to use some of those gifts to reach the peanuts. I watched from our kitchen window as the light bulb went off in its head and it embraced a different tactic.

Remember, they can climb up just about anything. Well, the bugger climbed up the corner of our house, braced itself and jumped off. Too low, because it flew underneath and past the baffle. Right then I knew it was only a matter of time. Learning from that first mistake, it returned to climb a couple feet higher, then jumped off again.

This time it landed right on top of the baffle, which unintentionally served as a convenient landing spot, about 10 feet from the house. From there it was an easy scamper up the pole to the peanuts. Problem solved.

Steve Downs

Birthdays & Anniversaries

Birthdays

Kathryn K. 4/1	Samantha K. 4/7	Steve D. 4/21
Michael F. 4/2	Erik P. 4/10	Jennifer V. 4/23
Andy J. 4/2	Rondi R. 4/13	Ryan F. 4/23
Siena K. 4/2	Sue S. 4/16	Anna K. 4/25
Clara M. 4/3	Griffin S. 4/18	Gloria C. 4/26
Rick P. 4/3	Liv J. 4/19	Mary J. 4/28
Amy R. 4/3	Lora M. 4/19	Sheree H. 4/28
Lisa K. 4/6	Matt C. 4/20	Wayne S. 4/29
Jessica M. 4/6	Kara P. 4/20	Janet M. 4/30
	Nancy S. 4/20	

Anniversaries

Kevin & DeAnn B. 4/1
 Natasha P & Michael F. 4/15
 Erik and Jessica P. 4.21

Everyone is Invited!

Everyone is invited to participate in the Friday night dinner and worship for Synod Assembly. If you're interested, be sure to register today!



Collaboration

God Has Called Us to Work Together

2026 Greater Milwaukee Synod Assembly

Friday Evening Events - Open to the Public!

Friday, May 29 @ Brookfield Conference Center

5:15 pm Keynote Dinner (\$50/Ticket for General Public)

(Dinner is already included for registered Assembly participants.)

7 pm Worship (FREE + No Registration Required)



Keynote Speaker: Tia Richardson

Companion Synod Guests:

Bishop Elias Kitoi Nasari, Meru

Bishop Guadalupe Cortéz, El Salvador

Pastor Christian Chavarria, El Salvador

Learn More + Buy Dinner Tickets:

tinyurl.com/GMSAssembly2026

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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boardsecretary@mtzionlutheran.org

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

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