



July 19 2026

Grace Notes

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Elections and Civic Engagement

What the ELCA Teaches & How Congregations Can Engage

Tuesday, July 28, 7 - 8 pm
Register on Zoom

Please join the Lutheran Office for Public Policy in Wisconsin for an online webinar focused on why elections matter, what the church teaches, and what you can do.

We'll explore ELCA social teachings, key election information, and resources available from LOPPW and the ELCA. Featured speakers include Greater Milwaukee Area Synod Bishop Paul Erickson and Dr. Joyce Caldwell.



mtzionlutheran.org

(414) 258-0456

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12012 W North Ave

Wauwatosa, WI 53226

Hot Dog!

Incarnation Hot Dog Fundraiser

Don't go out in the heat and grill on July 25 –
Just go to Sendiks on North Avenue in Wauwatosa
And friendly fellow Lutherans will be there from 11:00am to 4:00pm
Ready to do the work for you!
They'll provide the whole family with a great hot dog, brat, and
hamburger/cheeseburger lunch on Saturday, July 25!



The July Mission of the Month

Mt. Zion July Mission School Supplies for Tosa Cares

The opportunity is here once again for our Mt. Zion community to support Tosa Cares in showing all God's children that we care about them having access to supplies that they need to start the school year off on the right foot. Backpacks are already being packed for grades 1-12 as these supplies will be distributed from July 15th through August 27th. How can I help? Great question! You can purchase any of the following supplies and place them in the donation basket in the Gathering Area.

- *Backpacks any size and shape**
- *Packs of lined paper – wide ruled and college ruled**
- *Two pocket folders**
- *Notebooks – wide ruled and college ruled**
- *Wide washable markers, highlighters, thin markers**
- *Small glue sticks**
- *Pens and pencils**
- *Pink erasers and pencil top erasers**



Or Tosa Cares can shop for you. Please write a check and mark in the memo line Tosa Cares school supplies or use the Mt. Zion Online Giving and select Tosa Cares. Thank you for your continued Generosity and share the joy of preparing children for the new school year.

Mt. Zion Outreach

July 19 to July 26

Sun July 19	9:30am Worship Service <u>Zoom ID:</u> 841 6597 2335 <u>Passcode:</u> 12012
Mon July 20	6:00pm Leadership Board Meeting 7:00pm NA 12 Step Group Fellowship Hall
Tues July 21	Noon AA 12 Steps Meeting Upper Room 6:30pm Hands of AA 12-Step Upper Room
Wed July 22	10:00am Pastoral Care Hours Office (<i>Until Noon</i>) 12:00pm Brown Bag Bible Study 1:00pm Prayer Warriors 1:00pm Tosa Cares Donation Drop-Off
Thurs July 23	6:30pm Troop 27 Meeting
Friday July 24	12:00pm Mayfair AA Group 6:00pm ACA 12 Step Group Room 100 6:00pm Young Adult Night Off-site
Sat July 25	
Sun June 26	9:30am Worship Service

Commemorations

Mary Magdalene, Apostle

Wednesday, July 22, 2026

Sometimes called "the apostle to the apostles" because she told them of her encounter with the risen Lord, Mary was a woman of Galilee who followed Jesus throughout his ministry. She was present at Jesus' crucifixion and his burial.

Read more about Mary, her truth, and her impact on the Lutheran church in this article from The Women of the ELCA:

www.womenoftheelca.org/blog/post/marys-truth

Today's Volunteers

Altar Care: Susan Kenny and Lilly Snow

Assisting Minister: Joe Di Giacinto

Acolyte: Gwen and Grace Anderson

Lector: Nancy Di Giacinto

Communion bread: Refilwe Magasa-Bockhorst

Communion wine: Bob Young, Joe and Nancy D.

Ushers: Rick Pearson and Cody Di Giacinto

Audio/Visual: Luke and Shauna Johnson

Greeters: Irene McCarthy and Liz Anderson

Tellers: Roy Durrenberg and John Link

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

PRAYER WARRIORS

Help lift up our community's concerns and thanksgivings

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

**Need Prayer?
Submit prayer requests:**

 pastor@mtzionlutheran.org

 414-258-0456

 Fill out a prayer card in-person

Fireside Chat with Bishop Curry

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Conversation and Connection with Presiding Bishop Yehiel Curry: A
Special Leadership Circle Fireside Chat

When: Thursday, August 6
12:00pm

Where: Zoom Meeting

On Thursday, August 6, join us for a special opportunity to hear from Presiding Bishop Yehiel Curry and learn more about his vision for our church. He is excited to join Leadership Circle members for this virtual event!

During this event, you will hear the presiding bishop talk about our shared mission and the deep connections that sustain and inspire ELCA members across the expressions of the church. We invite you to submit questions in advance when you register at the link below. We hope you can join us – we're looking forward to connections and conversation!

Registration page closes 9:00am Tuesday, August 4.

The Leadership Circle unites faithful supporters of ELCA ministries. You can find more about the Leadership Circle at

[ELCA.org/LeadershipCircle](https://elca.org/LeadershipCircle)

Prison Ministry

Why write to prisoners?

Writing to someone in prison lets them know they are not forgotten. Many inmates have no visitors or contact from relatives. Mail may be the only contact one has with the “outside”. Letters and mail can provide a reason to think and “live” beyond the prison’s culture.

“We, as people of faith, are commissioned by Christ to love and care for those in prison which is reason enough to do so. Very often, the absence of love and thus the pursuit of filling that void is what creates the trajectory toward incarceration.” (prisoncongregations.org)

The American prison system is harsh. Letters from the outside by people who care not only provide hope to someone while they are incarcerated but can help set someone on the road to healing, hope, and restoration. Men and women who exit prison will reenter society and become our co-workers, college classmates, and neighbors. Strong ties to the community can help reduce recidivism (a return to prison), improve family relations, and assist formerly incarcerated to complete school or find jobs and contribute to society.

Mt Zion Administrator, Jess Monahan, has never sent a letter to prisoner, but Jean Morack, PJ Boylan, and Pastor Tyler have inspired her to take a bold step forward toward the better world she believes is possible. Jess is setting a goal to write one prison ministry letter this summer. Would you like to join her and start with one letter? Yes? Then be sure to check out the Prison Ministry bulletin board in the Gathering Space for more information including how to address a letter and suggestions for what to write.

What happens when we write to prisoners?



When you write a letter to a prisoner, remove a piece of this picture located on the prison ministry bulletin board. Discover what happens when we write to prisoners.

We Are America

On the heels of celebrating the diversity of our LGBTQIA+ siblings, let us now celebrate the rich tapestry of Americans who have helped America realize it's first birthday and 250 more! Each week in July, Grace Notes will feature just some of the marginalized groups who have helped shape America into the country we all call home.

Women and the American Prison System

The King's Passengers

Between 1718 and 1776, nearly 60,000 convicts were shipped from England to the American Colonies. Called, "The King's Passengers", these convicts served a dual purpose of alleviating England of an expanding prison population and provided cheap labor for the growing tobacco industry, mostly in Maryland and Virginia. One such prisoner was Sarah Wilson who was sent to America around 1768. She was convicted of theft and fraud committed fraud and posed as other people all across England. Posing as others did not stop once she escaped her sentence. Throughout the Carolinas and Virginia, she convincingly claimed she was the sister of Queen Charlotte, the wife of King George!

(thehistorypress.co.uk)



This is not Sarah Wilson. This is Queen Charlotte.

Eliza Cobb and Martha Gault

These two women highlight the stark differences of how convicted females have been treated based on skin color from the post-reconstruction era until recently. Eliza Cobb, a black woman, endured years of abuse and harassment. At some point, she was raped, became pregnant, and after the baby died, was accused of and convicted of infanticide, despite circumstantial evidence.

Martha Gault, a white woman, was convicted of beating a man with a pipe in 1923 while her male accomplice stole the car of the man she had beaten. The evidence against Gault was straight forward.



Continued on the next page

We Are America

Yet, Gault's request for clemency was "predicated on the necessity to 'rehabilitate her womanhood' and that a beautiful, young white woman must have been led astray by a bad male influence. (digitalcommons.liu.edu). Meanwhile, Eliza Cobb's requested for clemency focused on her the disfigurement (from years of abuse) and how her "monstrous", unwomanly, appearance made her deserving of pity and compassion. This portrayal of Cobb became typical for how people viewed black women post slavery. "Perceived ugliness was one attribute that defined Black women's deviance from the category 'woman'. Not only did it invalidate black womanhood, it also 'justified their imprisonment and assault.'" "If Black women inhabit the grey area between their race and gender, it is easier to subjugate them. This grey area makes Black women harder to defend."

There is much more to unpack in this part of our history than we can cover here, so please visit the links to learn more about black women in prison, reproductive justice, and the lease convict system.

https://digitalcommons.liu.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1051&context=post_honors_theses

<https://www.arcadia.edu/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/compass-may-2018-black-women-convict-lease.pdf>

<https://southernspaces.org/2017/womans-work-jim-crow-modernity-and-remaking-carceral-state/>

<https://sites.bc.edu/historicalcommons/2022/02/10/the-fraught-relationship-between-reproductive-justice-and-state-power/>

Do you notice this kind of discrimination based on race, gender, and femininity in our modern media coverage? How can we help change the narrative?

Incarcerated Students

The Education Preparedness Program offered through Marquette University initially blended, "Students from Marquette and the Milwaukee Women's Correctional Center". Ten years on, it continues to meet a rising demand to offer higher education for current and formerly incarcerated men and women. Programs now run at five correctional facilities throughout Southeastern Wisconsin including Racine. "At the Racine Correctional Facility alone, 200 incarcerated people applied for 40 available seats this spring."

(today.Marquette.edu). Students within correctional facilities say the classes support morale and mental health with one student saying, "More classes [like this] should be introduced that would allow humans to undergo positive growth." The classes impact students at Marquette as well and program an opportunity for dialogue and understanding.

<https://today.marquette.edu/2025/11/marquettes-prison-to-college-program-how-and-where-its-making-a-difference/>

Steve’s Tidbits



Steve Downs

Birthdays & Anniversaries

Birthdays

Kyle C. 7/1
Vince P. 7/1
Jeff P. 7/1
Hadley P. 7/2
Tony F. 7/3
Tyler R. 7/4
Carole S. 7/5
Tom E. 7/6
Lorna S. 7/8
Gabby R. 7/8
David Y. 7/8

Teagan L. 7/8
Ellyn S. 7/11
Anne M. 7/11
Kevin S. 7/14
Lilly S. 7/15
Bella B. 7/18
John R. 7/19
Tyler F. 7/19
Norm W. 7/19
Mary C. 7/20

Lynda Y. 7/21
Hunter F. 7/21
Jase F. 7/21
Keston S. 7/23
Callie S. 7/23
Michael C. 7/23
Jeff K. 7/23
Don S. 7/25
John Y. 7/28
Hayden P. 7/29
Douglas J. 7/31

Anniversaries

Jeff and Marja K. 7/1
Luke and Shauna J. 7/6
Steve and Sherry D. 7/7
Chasity and Scott B. 7/16
Joe and Nancy D. 7/27

Contribute to the Newsletter!

Do you have something to add to the Grace Notes?

A thought on any of the articles from this week or an inspirational story that knocked your socks off? Maybe you have a picture of something beautiful or your kid being silly you'd like to share to brighten someone else's day?

Send it over to Jess at parishadmin@mtzionlutheran.org

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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