November 15 2026

Grace Notes

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Pastor's Busy!

If you don't see Pastor Tyler as often as usual in the Narthex after dismissal from worship or in the Gathering Space for socializing and snacks, he's not intentionally ignoring you. He has so many roles he's trying to fill in a short production time. He has to practically run from worship, do a quick change in the sacristy, exit stage right then sprint upstairs for Confirmation class with the youth!

While he believes it is important to visit with people on Sunday morning, Sunday morning was also the best possible time for the Confirmation class to meet. So he is focusing on Confirmation right now.

He still wants to know how you're doing! Stop by the office, give him a call or send an email!

Mt ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH
Joyfully Growing Disciples in Christ

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Leadership Board Highlights

Here are the bullet points from the October 2026 Leadership Board meeting:

- The board unanimously approved moving forward with a new trash and recycling contract with GFL, which could reduce monthly costs. Contact negotiations are ongoing.
- Staffing updates: Ricky Tipton accepted the new custodian position and we are working on improved church signage for visitors and donation drop-offs.
- Financially, the church remains stable, though cash flow is expected to tighten temporarily due to recent building and utility expenses. Solar panels continue to provide significant utility savings.
- The board discussed stewardship and endowment planning, including development of a gift policy and a desire to use portions of the endowment for ministry initiatives that bring joy and strengthen the congregation, rather than only supplementing the budget.

Curious for more Leadership Board insights, budget information and the pastor's report?

Check out the bulletin board in the hall across from the reception desk (around the corner from the Hearth Room).

November 15 to November 22

Sun Nov 15	9:30am **Worship Service** Zoom ID: 841 6597 2335 Passcode: 10:45am **Confirmation** 5:00pm **MZY Youth Night**
Mon Nov 16	6:00pm **Leadership Board Meeting** 7:00pm **NA 12 Step Group** Fellowship Hall
Tues Nov 17	Noon **AA 12 Steps Meeting** Upper Room 6:30pm **Hands of AA 12-Step** Upper Room
Wed Nov 18	8:30am **Health Clinic** Courtyard Apt Parking Lot 12:00pm **Brown Bag Bible Study** 1:00pm **Prayer Group** 1:00pm **Tosa Cares Donation Drop-Off** 6:30pm **Voices of Zion Choir Rehearsal** 7:30pm **Festival Bells Handbell Rehearsal**
Thurs Nov 19	3:45pm **Staff Meeting** 5:30pm **Public Theology** 6:30pm **Troop 27 Meeting**
Friday Nov 20	12:00pm **Mayfair AA Group** 6:00pm **ACA 12 Step Group** Room 100 6:00pm **Young Adult Group** Off Site
Sat Nov 21	9:00am **Tosa Cares Donation Drop Offs**
Sun Nov 22	9:30am **Worship Service** 10:45am **Confirmation** 5:00pm **MZYouth Night**

Commemorations

Elizabeth of Hungary, renewer of society, died 1231
Tuesday, November 17, 2026
Born in Hungary, Elizabeth was betrothed to the son of the Landgrave of Thuringia, and at age four was taken to be raised with him at the Wartburg Castle. Ten years later they were married. She was very generous to the poor, and after her husband's death she lived in cruel hardship until her own death at age twenty-four.

Volunteers for November 15

A/V: Mary and Douglas Johnson
Acolyte: Grace Anderson
Altar Care: Gloria and Kevin Caruana
Assisting Minister: Mavis Roesch
Communion Bread: Liz Anderson
Communion Wine: Jen Johnston, Gwen A., Mavis R.
Greeter: James Riccaboni and Vince Pipia
Lector: Liz A.
Teller: Roy Durrenberg and John Link
Usher: Suzy Morgan and Dave Fohr



Pet Blessings

That Time My Cat Preached the Gospel

The other night, I was wrapped up in a blanket on my soft, warm couch. I had a book, a pillow, and low lights - all the creature comforts I could want. Except for a cat. I really wanted my cat Freya to come cuddle with me where I was most comfortable. But she rarely ever does. She prefers lying on the cold, hard kitchen floor.

The linoleum floor is not exactly the place I would *choose* to go to cuddle with her. But then a question popped into my head as if my own cat shouted it from the kitchen.

"Why can't you come meet me where *I am*?"

And I was floored at the Gospel lesson my cat had just taught me, because this is what Jesus calls us to do.

> *These twelve Jesus sent out with the following instructions: "Do not take a road leading to gentiles, and do not enter a Samaritan town, but go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. As you go, proclaim the good news, 'The kingdom of heaven has come near.' Cure the sick; raise the dead; cleanse those with a skin disease; cast out demons. You received without payment; give without payment.* Matthew 10:5-8

I have heard many conversations at Mt Zion wondering why people don't come from other places to join us in our big, warm church - whether for worship, a meal, or supporting ministries. But what if, like my cat, people rarely ever come to our church because they need us instead to meet them where they are?

When the elderly are sick they're not coming to church. When people are in prison or scared to leave their house they're not coming to church. When children are taking care of younger siblings or sleeping on the street corners, they're not *coming to* church. Yet they're still calling out for love and mercy to meet them where they are. As hard and uncomfortable as those places may be for us, those are exactly the places God calls us to go to grow the church. They are not places we would choose, but they are places we are needed.

Jess Monahan

Less Than a Month Away!

CHRISTMAS CAROLING

Sunday
December 13
After Worship

We will carpool from church and visit several at-home members in their houses. We will sing songs and share the joy of the holiday season with those members who are unable to come to church on a regular basis.
Wear your most festive family-friendly holiday attire! We will have some accessories and lyric sheets available.

A Joyful Worship Service

Combined Worship Service
With New Command Korean Church
Sunday, November 29
10:30am

Share music, communion, and the Gospel with our neighbors



Community Meal
Sunday, November 29
11:30am

Friends, neighbors, and newcomers are welcome to join!

MTZ Youth are Awesome!



Introducing the 2026 State High School Soccer Champs!

Congrats to Jacob and his entire team on this incredible accomplishment!



Photo: Milwaukee Journal Sentinel

Talula participated in a 5K this weekend through Girls on the Run.

Way to go!









Clara performed in her first viola concert with the Milwaukee Youth Symphony Orchestra.

Moccassin Game

Think of a time when you and a stranger wanted the same thing. Did you argue about it? Did you fight over it? Did you play a game to settle the debate over who should get it?

The story of the moccassin game goes that two hunters, one Ojibwe and one Dakota were going after the same elk. To settle the dispute over who would get the elk, the men created a game of chance. They hid a bead inside one of four moccassins and the other had to guess which moccassin it was in to win.

The game spread and was played by men of the Ho-Chunk, Potawatomi, Menominee, Ojibwe, Sauk, Dakota, and Iowa nations.

The moccassin game is still played today. Four players from each team sit on the opposite end of a blanket on the ground. One player hides the bead (or token) while teammates play music to try to distract the other team. While many teams are still comprised of only men, in this video from Menominee Nation News, you can see games can have men, women, and kids. https://bit.ly/4sYHoCH



Child's Play

Yes, children have always had abundant energy. And parents of all cultures have tried to find ways to wear them out so they'd fall asleep.

Throughout tribes in Wisconsin, "Mothers would encourage their youngsters to roll" birchbark hoops "just before dark so they would tire and sleep well." (Milwaukee Public Museum).

With the cold months coming, cabin fever and screens might make it difficult for modern kids to get their pre-bed wiggles out. Perhaps parents could use a hula hoop rolled down the hall to serve the same purpose now?

Steve's Science Tidbits

Bird Wars: Battling the Sparrow Horde

I have a bone to pick with house sparrows. We have numerous birdfeeders in our backyard that are designed to attract a wide variety of birds. But this can be difficult if one aggressive species is present in overwhelming numbers. Enter the house sparrow.

Before 1851, sparrows were restricted to Europe and Asia. But then Nicholas Pike got the ingenious idea to introduce small groups of English sparrows into Brooklyn, New York to combat an inchworm problem. The rest is history. Soon they were multiplying like…well, sparrows, and it didn't take long for them to spread like wildfire across the country. And now they can be found everywhere.

Sparrows have a long history of conflict with humans. In 18th century Europe they were considered serious agricultural pests and farmers were ordered to kill them to protect the crops. Taxes were lowered in Russia based on how many sparrow heads were turned in. Even Chairman Mao in China directed a national campaign against them.

My beef with sparrows is that they come into our yard in massive numbers and aggressively displace other more desirable birds from our feeders. For example, we have a feeder with nyjer seed, a popular food for goldfinches, chickadees and nuthatches. An AI overview states that "House sparrows typically dislike the taste and texture of nyjer seed." Proof that you shouldn't believe everything AI tells you, house sparrows devour our nyjer seed, and in bully fashion crowd out these other birds. Case in point: The top picture shows our nyjer feeder with 7 sparrows. But I have discovered what is (to me) a miraculous solution. It's called the "magic halo."



Who would have thought that sparrows have an "Achilles heel." It seemed too good to be true, but I read that if you dangle thin wires along the sides of the feeders, the sparrows are petrified of the wires and will avoid the area, but not other birds. So I tried it.



The bottom picture shows the modified feeder. If you look carefully, you can see there are 8 wires hanging down that are clamped to the sides of the top half-dome protector and are weighed down with metal bolts. Note that the feeder now has three goldfinches eating seed in peace with no sign of sparrows. Problem solved!

Steve Downs

Birthdays and Anniversaries

Birthdays

David W. 11/1
Sharon R. 11/1
Niko A. 11/2
Beth F. 11/2
Janice G. 11/2
Judy H. 11/3
Mary J. 11/3
Brian C. 11/4
Jason F. 11/5
Emmett J. 11/8
Katy M. 11/8
Kyle F. 11/8
Erin M. 11/9
Andrew F. 11/10
Bob C. 11/12
Linda H. 11/13
Mike K. 11/15
Jean W. 11/15
Gabby G. 11/16
Jacob B. 11/17
Elena B. 11/17
Amy K. 11/17
Jelani S. 11/23
Krista H. 11/26
Scott B. 11/30
Brenda F. 11/30
Debbie R. 11/30
David K. 11/30

Anniversaries

Brenda and Mike M. 11/2
John and Anna K. 11/14
Jill and Tom A. 11/16
Tom and Mary C. 11/21
Ellyn and Wayne S. 11/26
Kent and Marge S. 11/28

From the ELCA Foundation

MAKE THE MOST OF YOUR GENEROSITY BEFORE DEC. 31

New tax law changes create fresh opportunities to support the ELCA while potentially increasing your tax benefits through thoughtful year-end giving strategies.

https://bit.ly/4AwxpqR

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
Stop by in-person, call 414-258-0456,
or email parishadmin@mtzionlutheran.org