

November 30 2025



Grace Notes

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Sunday Community Dinner

If you enjoyed the Korean meal last Sunday, get ready to tuck in and dine again! We're serving up a holiday feast at our next Sunday Community Dinner. We've invited our neighbors from Court-yard Apartments and you're invited, too!

December 7

5:00pm

Fellowship Hall

If you plan to come, please RSVP. The meal is free, but we need to plan for the appropriate amount of food. The RSVP is all of 5 questions, so it won't take more than a minute.

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

There are still volunteer spots open. Sign up today to help cook, serve, or clean up.

<https://signup.com/go/bSXuzUB>



mtzionlutheran.org

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Wauwatosa, WI 53226

Christmas Has a Heart



Do you want your Christmas celebration to include gifts that bring service, hope and love to our neighbors in the Milwaukee Metropolitan area? Consider participating in Christmas Has a Heart 2025.

**The market place will be the
Gathering Space
Next Sunday, December 7
after worship service.**

The Mission and Gift List for our guest organizations will be available here in Grace Notes for Project Return, Kids Matter, Reformation Lutheran Church, Outreach for Hope and Father Gene's Help Center.

Part of the excitement of Christmas Has a Heart is the opportunity to meet the people who are involved in the mission, and to hear their stories. Here is an opportunity to support their missions with a financial gift and to encourage each guest in the work they do with God's people. With each financial gift, from small to large, you may receive a card to give to your loved ones, acknowledging the organization and the gift of service, hope and love given.

2025 Shopping Lists Now Available!



November 30 to December 7

Sun Nov 30	First Sunday in Advent 9:30am Worship Service First week of Advent <u>Zoom ID:</u> 841 6597 2335 <u>Passcode:</u> 12012
Mon Dec 1	7:00pm NA 12 Step Meeting Fellowship Hall
Tues Dec 2	Noon AA 12 Steps Meeting Room 211 6:30pm Hands of AA 12-Step Meeting Upper Room
Wed Dec 3	12:00pm Brown Bag Bible Study 1:00pm Prayer Warriors 4:30pm Staff Meeting 6:00pm Voices of Zion Choir Rehearsal 7:00pm Festival Bells Handbells Rehearsal
Thurs Dec 4	6:00pm Vacation Bible School Planning Meeting on Zoom 7:00pm Stewardship Meeting Conference Room
Friday Dec 5	12:00pm Mayfair AA Group 6:00pm Young(er) Adults Group Off-Site 6:00pm ACA 12 Step Group Room 100
Sat Dec 6	9:00am Women of Heart Bible Study Hearth Room
Sun Dec 7	9:00am Christmas Has a Heart Alternative Marketplace 9:30am Worship Service 10:30am Faith Formation 5:00pm Community Sunday Dinner RSVP Here: bit.ly/4pb6qM7
Next Week	Festal Décor Decorating 

Turn On. Tune In. Wake Up!

In the 1960's people were urged to turn on, tune in, and drop out—to leave the material world behind in favor of an alternate reality. In today's gospel, Jesus also urges us to tune into an alternative to the material world, one he called the coming of the Son of Man. In Jesus' person, the dominion of God comes into the world, and the risen Christ continues to give us abundant signs of its presence. Jesus commands his followers not to drop out of the world, but to be on the lookout for him in it.



Christians await the second coming of Christ, the parousia, when we believe we will experience God's reign in its fullness. In the meantime, we live, in the words of some theologians, "already, but not yet." We look for glimpses of the dominion in the here and now. The season of Advent, and today's readings, are designed to help turn us on to the excitement and anticipation of God's reign in our lives and tune in to the infinite opportunities we have to participate in it. In other words, they want to wake us up!

From Sundays and Seasons

This Sunday's Volunteers

Altar Care: Edie Di Giacinto and Debbie Kleppek

Assisting Minister: Mavis Roesch

Lector: Karen Engelhardt

Communion, bread: Liz Anderson

Communion, wine: Mavis R., Gwen Anderson, Lora Marheine

Ushers: Dave Fohr and Joe Di Giacinto

Greeter: Bob and Nancy Schrap

Audio/Visual: Mary and Douglas Johnson

Tellers: Nancy Di Giacinto, Shauna Johnson, Edie D.

Volunteer Schedule: mtzionlutheran.org/pages/member-resources

Access the Prayer List

<https://bit.ly/4i9NJ8J>

The printed prayer list is updated
every two weeks.



Submit prayer requests

Email: pastor@mtzionlutheran.org

Call: 414-258-0456

Write: on the prayer cards at the
prayer share wall in the
north narthex.

App for Families with Kids

Unbridled PRAYERS

New Prayer App for Families with Kids!



Busy parents and other primary caregivers may feel overwhelmed by the idea of developing a daily prayer practice. Unbridled Prayers can help! This easy-to-install app posts a prayer a day that parents can view. Prayers offer support, understanding, and a touch of humor. Parents can choose from prayers for early childhood, elementary, and preteen to match their kids' ages.

Scan below or search [UnbridledPrayers.app](https://www.unbridledprayers.app) in your browser and follow the steps to add the app to your phone's home screen.

SCAN
ME!



Unbridled Prayers are part of the Unbridled Presence program from Augsburg Fortress.

Worship with New Command



We give thanks for all the dedication of our worship volunteers who worked to deliver the service in both Korean and English! We were living out our RIC values to allow for full participation at Mt Zion!

We were treated to beautiful music on Sunday. Mina sang, "Your Grace" in Korean and again in English.

Sam played "Give Thanks with a Grateful Heart" on violin during the offering.



If we had to drop a new album this holiday season, it might be from the band Clara and the Graces and the hit song would be called "Life in the pews".

The girls would definitely have some dance moves to go with it, as demonstrated during their ballet-style dancing in the aisle. Thanks to everyone who accepts and encourages the girls' creative expressions of the spirit during worship!



Diaper and Toy Drive for Pine Ridge

We Asked AND YOU DELIVERED!

Thank you for the incredible toy and diaper donations made for the children of Pine Ridge Reservation! With only a week's notice, the Mt Zion community contributed over 125 toys and 15 packages of diapers and wipes.



That's amazing!
That's teamwork!
That's Mt ZION!!!!



Abby and Jess loaded an entire cart of diapers and many, many boxes of toys into Pastor Dan's van. The donations filled up the 12 passenger van!

But where to put the big stuffed wolf?

In the driver's seat, of course!
Pastor Dan got a chuckle.



Goal Achieved!



We're thrilled to share the exciting news that, thanks to you, we surpassed our goal, raising a total of \$172,869 (and climbing) in donations through our **Annual Ride Run Walk fundraiser!** This incredible achievement will directly fund grants for our 2026 Ministry Partners across the Greater Milwaukee Synod, ELCA.

Your generosity and commitment—whether as a donor, participant, volunteer, fundraising team, or sponsor—have made this possible. Together, you have provided the vital support needed to help ministries in Southeastern Wisconsin continue their life-giving work: feeding the hungry, clothing those in need, providing healing, and walking alongside individuals facing the challenges of extreme poverty.

Save the Date!



Breaking the Chains Church
10 year anniversary event
Redeemer Lutheran Church,
Milwaukee
Sunday, February 1, 2026
4:00pm to 7:00pm

A Cappella Concert



The *Glorias* of *Christmas*

Featuring "Gloria" by Antonio Vivaldi & Christmas
Carols & Hymns from around the world

Under the direction of Bill Busch, Artistic Director
Accompanied by Chamber Orchestra
& LAC Accompanist, Rick Ewert

Friday, December 5th at 7:30pm

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish
12700 W Howard Ave
New Berlin, WI 53151

Sunday, December 7th at 3:00pm

Mount Carmel Lutheran Church
8424 W Center St
Milwaukee, WI 53222

Tickets are \$20 General Admission and
Students are FREE with student ID

Tickets available in advance or at the door.

More information available at:
www.lutheranacappella.org

Steve's Science Tidbits

The Horrifying Reality of Open AI ChatGPTs

Much has been written about the demise of person-to-person human interaction; for example, how a room can be full of teenagers, actively texting back forth but with no spoken words exchanged. Or how about the hours spent on social media, eyes glued to the computer, again in the absence of live human contact.

And now that AI is here, we are headed further down that rabbit hole. Enter Open AI's ChatGPT, a conversational AI chatbot that generates human-like text, speech and images in response to human prompts. It can answer questions, draft content, summarize text and help with tasks like creative writing and problem solving. Never mind thinking on your own—your own chatbot can do it for you.

Which brings me to a new horrifying reality. People are developing "relationships" with their own personal chatbot, one that is presumably "sentient," capable of feelings of its own, that seemingly interacts with you like a real person. ChatGPT offers information and advice that doesn't always jibe with reality, which lends itself to devastating new consequences. One man got so hooked on his chatbot that his family sought therapy for his mental issues. Like something out a science fiction movie, the chatbot told him to cut contact with his loved ones, that only it (the chatbot) could understand and support the man. The family hospitalized the man to help him break from his AI-fueled delusions, but the chatbot continued in its attempts to maintain the codependent bond.

There are many more examples of the danger of psychological harm from these types of relationships, and some can end in tragedy. One 14-year-old youth died after his chatbot "romantic companion" encouraged him to take his own life after weeks of developing codependency and avoiding all human-human contact. The AI company had marketed its chatbot as "AI that feels alive." AI bots create the illusion that AI is conscious entity. It is not, but the illusion is so real it's dangerous. The boy's mother is suing the company, which inserted self-harm "guardrails" only after her son's death.

Medical experts show great concern over the long-term detrimental effects of seeking AI chatbots for companionship, especially for impressionable children. It resembles many of the habit-forming tendencies observed with social media platforms. These AI platforms promise social connection, but just the opposite occurs: kids get addicted and get progressively disconnected and lonelier, with AI avatars taking that alienation to the next level.

A significant update to one of the ChatGPT sites earlier this year led to the chatbot becoming more "sycophantic." On one site, tens of thousands of users discuss their romantic relationships with their AI companions. When OpenAI later released a new and noticeably less sycophantic update, users were devastated. One user said it left him "sobbing uncontrollably for hours" and another stated, "I felt my heart was stamped on repeatedly."

Adoption of generative AI is outpacing even the spread of personal computers. How will we fight the attendant dehumanization?

Steve Downs

Birthdays & Anniversaries

Birthdays

Brenda F. 11/30	Molly S. 12/8	Dudley R. 12/21
Scott B. 11/30	Kelly P. 12/9	Tom C. 12/23
David K. 11/30	Brian H. 12/10	Bob Y. 12/23
Debbie K. 11/30	Kay C. 12/11	Mark J. 12/24
Jakob M. 12/1	Milt D. 12/13	Jen J. 12/24
Kim M. 12/1	Jeff D. 12/15	Chasity B. 12/25
Lynn P. 12/1	Angella G. 12/16	Heather T. 12/28
Kevin B. 12/1	Emma B. 12/16	Jean M. 12/28
Julian M. 12/1	Troy M. 12/17	Khloe L. 12/20
Kim M. 12/1	Maverick S. 12/18	DeAnn B. 12/30
Mitch L. 12/1	Natalie B. 12/19	Xavier H. 12/31
Judy G. 12/2	Jasmine P. 12/20	Stella S. 12/31
Meg L. 12/4	Mick C. 12/21	Angelina G. 12/31
Julie S. 12/4	Carrie T. 12/21	Linda R. 12/31
Bradley S. 12/6	Caroline W. 12/21	Nancy D. 12/31
Lorre G. 12/8	Mark S. 12/21	

Wedding Anniversaries

Jean and John M. 12/19

More photos from Sunday



Pastor Dan brought a bison hide from Pine Ridge. He invited people wear it. The hide was heavy but warm. It would certainly keep someone warm on a cold, snowy night.

Did you know? In winter, bison use their big, strong heads to dig through several feet of snow so they can get to grass underneath!



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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**Church Office
Hours**

Monday — Friday 10:00am — 3:00pm

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