

Worship Services

Sundays

8:30am Traditional
9:40am Education hour
10:45am Contemporary

Office Hours

M T W F 9:00am–3:00pm
Thurs 9:00am–noon
or call for an appointment

Our Mission

With the assurance of God's faithfulness, we'll
† nurture disciples,
† extend healing and compassion, and
† work for justice in our communities and throughout the world.

Our Vision

Gathered by the grace and love of Jesus Christ, the people of Mt Zion commit to know God deeply and to serve God gladly through the many and diverse gifts given to us by the Holy Spirit.

Marks of Discipleship

† **PRAY** daily
† **WORSHIP** weekly
† **READ** the Bible
† **SERVE** at Mt Zion and beyond
† Be in **RELATIONSHIP** to encourage spiritual growth in others
† **GIVE** of my time, talents, and resources

ALL ARE WELCOME!

The Christmas Truce



One hundred and five years ago, during the Christmas of 1914, a most unusual and peaceful moment occurred in the muddy trenches of the Western Front of France. While not all participated (particularly French troops who had been occupied by Germany for much of the year) and Russian troops adhered to the Julian calendar so did not celebrate Christmas until January, many seasoned British, German, and Saxon troops observed an impromptu Christmas Truce.

It was reported on Christmas Eve that, “Germans have illuminated their trenches, are singing songs and wishing us a Happy Xmas. Compliments are being exchanged but are nevertheless taking all military precautions” (Source: Smithsonianmag.com). German troops sang ‘Silent Night’ in their native tongue. And while the British troops did not understand the words, they recognized the melody as a Christmas Carol and responded with the carol “The First Noel”. More carols were sung into the wee hours of the morning.

The men who agreed to a ceasefire put their weapons aside in favor of kicking around a football (aka soccer ball). Some men exchanged gifts, traded cigarettes and enjoyed fraternizing with the enemy men they were fighting.

Private Frederick Heath wrote, “How could we resist wishing each other a Merry Christmas, even though we might be at each other’s throats immediately afterwards? So we kept up a running conversation with the Germans, all the while our hands ready on our rifles. Blood and peace, enmity and fraternity—war’s most amazing paradox” (Smithsonianmag)

The next truce would not occur until four years later on Armistice Day of November 11, 1918. The sound of carols being sung on that one winter night in the midst of a war must have been an extraordinary sound to experience.

What Child is This?



The lyrics to the hymn “What Child is This” were written in 1865 by Englishman William Chatterton Dix. Yet, the tune it is set to dates back even earlier than William Shakespeare. The tune is called “Greensleeves” and was essentially a Renaissance version of a pop love ballad by the time Shakespeare mentioned the tune twice in the play, “The Merry Wives of Windsor” (c. 1597).

Dix’s words were set to the tune Greensleeves but it is unclear why. Perhaps it was done because it was an old, familiar English folksong by the 1800s.

Sweater in the Newsletter



Nice work, Sara Bailey, Karen Engelhardt, and Katie Engelhardt! They found the sweater on page 8 in the December 22nd edition of the newsletter.

Now our puppy dog trotted off before we could take our family Christmas card picture! Can you find the dog? He’s wearing an “ugly” Christmas sweater.

Heads up, he’s really good at hiding. 😊

Find the dog in a sweater, email us with where you found it (mzparishadmin@wi.twcbc.com) and we will give you a shout out in the next newsletter! Anyone can play — kids and kids-at-heart!

Xmas or Christmas?

Have you always thought that writing “Xmas” was simply a convenient shorthand way to write “Christmas”?

“Xmas” dates back farther than other modern abbreviations such as “tbh”, “nm”, and “brb”. Xmas goes back. Way back.

X, which also stands for Chi in Greek, is the first letter of “Christ”. Using the letter “X” was a short hand way to write Christ’s name at a time when His name was being widely distributed, but when people were still writing or chiseling everything by hand.

During the 1100s, Christianity looked like “Xianity” and Christmas, was shortened to “Xmas”,

So, whether you prefer to write out Christmas, or abbreviated it to Xmas, Christ is still very much in Christmas.

Looking ahead at the Mt Zion calendar

Thursday, December 26

10:00am Reformation Community Bible Study

Friday, December 27

5:30pm Overeaters Anonymous [Rm 102]

7:00pm ACA 12 steps Group [Rm 212]

7:30pm Essay 12-steps [Rm 210]

Saturday, December 28

9:00am Music Lessons [Upper Room]

Sunday, December 29

9:30am Worship—Hymn Sing [Sanctuary]

11:30am Worship—Korean [Chapel]

Monday, December 30

7:00pm NA 12 steps group [Fellowship Hall]

Tuesday, December 31

10:00am Staff Meeting

12:00pm AA 12 steps group [Rm 211]

Wednesday, January 1 New Year's Day—Office Closed



Thursday, January 2

10:00am Reformation Bible Study [3806 W Lisbon Ave, Milwaukee, WI 53208]

Friday, January 3

5:30pm Overeaters Anonymous [Rm 102]

7:00pm ACA 12-steps group [Rm 212]

7:30pm Essay 12-steps group [Rm 210]

Saturday, January 4

9:00am Music Lessons [Upper Room]

10:00am Chinese American School [Classrooms]

Sunday, January 5

8:30 Traditional Worship [Sanctuary]

9:40am Education Hour

10:45am Contemporary Worship [Sanctuary]

11:30am Worship—Korean [Chapel]

Upcoming Forum Events:

January 5: Forums return for the new year! Stayed tuned for more information.

Voices of Zion

Mount Zion's Choir- Voices of Zion- will reconvene for rehearsals on January 9, 2020 at 7:00pm in the Upper Room and sing for Pastor Tyler's first Sunday at Mount Zion on January 12.

Anyone who is considering singing with Voices of Zion should attend this rehearsal. Not sure about singing? Email Patricia with any questions you might have.

patricis811eby@gmail.com

All are welcome!





Youth Update

Hi MTZ Youth Parents - Thank you for all of your help to make the Live Nativity, bake sale and pastor appreciation brunch go smoothly! The youth had a great time getting together during the Live Nativity helping keep the fires burning and serving hot chocolate. Then, they seemed to enjoy baking and selling cookies to raise funds for the Youth Quake this winter.

On December 14, 4 middle school and 2 high school youth gathered in the downstairs kitchen to bake cookies to raise funds for the youth trip this winter! They mixed ingredients, decorated and washed pots and pans for 2 hours. On Sunday, middle school youth setup 2 tables and sold cookies before and after the Christmas Program raising about \$120. Special thanks to Abby Sumiec for chaperoning the baking and to Brenda and Erin for supplying pots and pans!

Grace Notes Gallery



All of this food was donated by a family of 22. They each gave a \$20 bag of food instead of a gift exchange among themselves.

Weekly Words



Rotation Sunday School

All children are welcome

3yr. to 5th grade

9:30-10:40

Children will be dropped off and picked up at Holy Flicks Theater (2nd floor)

What's coming up next?

Joshua and the Wall of Jericho

Jan 5th- Jan. 19th, 2020



This story will cover how God is with us in every battle we face. God promised the Israelites the land of Canaan and that meant conquering fortified cities. It is the story of how God caused the fall of Jericho and how God asks us to be obedient servants and to do what is right, even when people may make fun of us.

Memory Verse: "Be strong in the Lord and in His mighty power." Ephesians 6:10

Offerings

We ask your children to bring an offering on Sunday. Parents, please empty your loose change out of your pockets every day and give it to your children to give for their offering. The amount is not so important as training your child in the habit of giving and becoming generous. Envelope packets are outside the theater on the table free to take and use.

Tosa Cares

Each week your child is given a sticker to remind them to bring that item for Tosa Cares and those less fortunate.

Remember to register your child/children for this Sunday school year. The registration forms are outside the Theater on the 2nd floor on a table with the offering envelopes, (please take) The start of Sunday school will be immediately after the early church service ends at 9:30 AM and will end at 10:40 AM. Drop off and pickup for 5-5th grade will be at Holy Flicks Theatre. Younger children will join us for our opening time of singing in the theater, but will be released to their parents in the 3 yr old classroom (room 204-205) at the end of class. We begin our morning with singing our praises to God and learning a song for each unit. These songs that we are learning will be performed for the congregation at a later date. Your commitment to our Sunday school program in bringing your children on a regular basis is appreciated. It is my personal goal to build a foundation of knowing who Jesus is that will be with your child throughout their lives.

-Sherry

Ministry Schedule D

	Dec. 22 Sunday 8:30 am	Dec. 22 Sunday 10:45 am	Dec. 24 Tues 4:00pm	Dec. 24 Tues 9:00pm	Dec. 29 Sunday 9:30 am
ACOLYTES	Leah Cervionke		Belinda Felber & Maya Smith		
ALTAR CARE	Edie DiGiacinto		Ellyn Steinke	Wendi Hall	Nancy DiGiacinto
ASSISTING MINISTERS	Tom Ertel	Sara Baily	Sara Baily	Janet McCarthy	Cynthia Rigbs
COMMUNION DEACONS	Jim and Donna Zarek		Tom/Linda Ertels and Jim/Donna Zareks	Wendi Hall, Andrea Cockerham	Chris Kress and Nancy Schumacher, Lynda Yanny
GREETERS	Marika Moore and Matt Czervionke	Pat Campbel & Jack McDougal	Marika Moore and Matt Czervionke	Norma and Dick Hollander	Linda and Steve Haecker, & Brent Fogel
LECTORS	Wendi Hall	Erik Peterson	Lora Marheine	Sherry Downs	Pete Peterson
NURSERY	unstaffed nursery available	unstaffed nursery available	unstaffed nursery available	unstaffed nursery available	unstaffed nursery available
USHERS	Jim Stuczynski Roger and Nancy Schumacher	Dave and Vicki Nelson	Liz Casper, Steve and Linda Hacker	Irene McCarthy, Dorothy Snead, Andrea Cockerham, Dick Hollander	Tom & Pat Morgan, Roger & Nancy Schumacher
OFFERING STEWARDS <u>MONDAY</u>	4TH WEEK: Nancy Schumacher / Carl & Karen Engelhardt				4TH WEEK: Nancy Schumacher / Carl & Karen Engelhardt
AUDIO/VISUAL	Lynda Yanny	The Marciniak Family	Ethan Cervionke	Abby Sumiec	Janet McCarthy

our Church work! Thank you!

Dec. 22- Jan. 19, 2020

	Jan. 5 Sunday 8:30 am	Jan. 5 Sunday 10:45 am	Jan. 12 Sunday 8:30 am	Jan. 12 Sunday 10:45 am	Jan. 19 Sunday 8:30 am	Jan. 19 Sunday 10:45 am
		Belinda Felber	Maya Smith		Leah Cervionke	
nto	Ellyn Steinke		Edie DiGiacinto		Norma Hollander	
y	Andrea Cockerham	Erik Peterson	Linda Ertel	Janet McCarthy	Chris Kress	Erik Peterson
nd ch- ny	Douglas and Mary Johnson		Gail and Rich Robinson		Chris Kress and Wendi Hall	
ve nda	Kent and Margie Spicer	Sandra Echols	Vince & Barbara Pipia	Brenda Fogal	John and Lynda Yanny	Pat Campbel & Jack McDougal
n	Chris Kress	Sara Bailey	Gail Robinson	Lora Marheine	Rich Robinsin	Janet McCarthy
ery	unstaffed nursery available	unstaffed nursery available	unstaffed nursery available	unstaffed nursery available	unstaffed nursery available	unstaffed nursery available
an, y	Jim & Donna Zarek, Suzy Morgan	Dorothy Snead & Jim Yee	Roy Durrenberg, Carl and Karen Engelhardt	Lauren and Jesse Campbell	Roy Durrenberg Larry Seefeld Suzy Morgan	Dorothy Snead
ch- en	1ST Week Tom Ertel/Jim Goetzinger/ Gary Goll		2ND WEEK: Tom & Pat Morgan / Brad & Pam Hext		3rd WEEK: Pete Peterson/John Link/ Roy Durrenberg	
y	The Johnson Family	Peterson Family	Ethan Cervionke	The Peterson Family	Abby Sumiec	The Marciniak Family

The First Rockefeller Tree

The first Christmas tree at Rockefeller Center was erected by a demolition crew in 1931 during the Great Depression. The tree was twenty feet tall and decorated with garlands made by the construction worker's families. There were not lights on this first tree. It would not be until two years later a taller tree was put in place and adorned with lights.

According to the Rockefeller Center website,

This picture shows the construction

workers lining up to receive their paychecks on Christmas Eve.



A Note from Pastor Josh

My time at Mount Zion has been blessed by many experiences as an interim pastor. But probably the most significant event that shapes my week is gathering for the Brown Bag Bible Study on Wednesday at noon(ish) and following the Bible study with prayer for our community. When I was the visiting pastor at Holden Village in 2017, I began weekly Bible Study and community prayer and it became a strong source of strength for the week. One of the reasons I wanted to be a solo pastor in a congregation was to get the chance to learn to trust the rhythm of our churches lectionary and dive into this scripture with others in a congregation week to week. At Mount Zion, there was an existing group I could do that with and the results were impactful on my life as a pastor and my practices as a Christian.

There is something about gathering around Scripture and prayer with those who genuinely want to know more about God, themselves and the world seen through God's eyes. When we show up expecting to learn and see things in new ways, the Spirit shows up too and over these last months, the Spirit has shown up and led us to a deepening of our faith and hundreds of epiphanies about what God is saying in our texts. I will always be grateful for my experience on Wednesday afternoons at Mount Zion. I really experienced it as the heart of the community. Not everyone is aware of its work on Sunday mornings, but the work it does in the middle of the week keeps the gospel and a love of Scripture circulating. If you are not a part of a Bible study, currently, I invite you to join the curious, courageous, caring Bible interpreters that gather at Mount Zion every Wednesday at noon and for prayer at 1pm. **-Pastor Josh**

Science Tidbits



As a boy, Isaac Watts displayed a literary genius. At the age of 5, he was learning Latin; at 9, Greek; at 11, French; and at 13 Hebrew. He developed into an accomplished scholar of theology and philosophy and published many volumes of his writings that greatly influenced English thinking during the late 17th and early 18th centuries. While still in his teens, Watts became upset with the style of Psalm singing in churches that was prevalent at the time, and one Sunday, when he vocalized his disgust, his father responded with, “Well then, young man, why don’t you give us something better to sing?”

The 18-year-old accepted his father’s challenge, composed a hymn, and the congregational response was enthusiastic. So, for the next two years, he produced a new hymn for them each Sunday. He published a book of 210 of these hymns in 1707, and this was the first real hymnal in the English language. He wrote 600 hymns throughout his lifetime, including “Oh God, Our Help in Ages Past” and “When I Survey the Wondrous Cross.”

Watts wrote the text for what may be the most popular of all Christmas hymns, “Joy to the World,” which was a paraphrasing of the verses in the last half of Psalm 98. But the hymn wouldn’t exist in its present form if it were not for Lowell Mason, an American choir director, composer and public school educator. In 1836, using Handel’s oratorio, *The Messiah*, as a musical source, Mason lifted different phrases from the numbers “Comfort Ye” and “Lift Up Your Heads” to fit the words of Watts’ “Joy to the World.” The final tune became known as “Antioch.”

Thus, a collaboration between three individuals made possible one of the most joyous hymns in all of Christendom. Psalm 98 is a song of rejoicing of how God has protected and nurtured his chosen people. Watts gave these verses a New Testament perspective, expressing praise for the salvation that began when God became incarnate as Christ. Watts had initially titled his text, “The Messiah’s Coming and Kingdom.”

-Steve Downs

Scripture Readings for this Week

Isaiah 63:7-9 Psalm 148

Hebrews 2:10-18 Matthew 2:13-23



Mission of the Month for December

As in past years, our mission for this month is Random Acts of Kindness.

Throughout the year we receive numerous requests for assistance, personal requests as well as requests from numerous agencies.

The money we receive in December is used to fund some of this assistance. Your money is used to help those much less fortunate than ourselves. This list is endless, and unfortunately the money is not. Your contribution matters!

Memorials and Honorariums

In Memory of Doris Jackson

Jerry and Mavis Roesch

In Memory of Carol Libecki

Steve and Sherry Downs

Joe and Chris Kress

Yvonne Kops

Accessibility Update

Mt Zion has a wheelchair available for those members or visitors who need to use it while in our building. It is located behind the circular desk next to the elevator off of the Gathering Space.



Please note, this is a change from its previous location underneath the coat racks near the washrooms. The wheelchair has been moved to provide access to the mobility aide closer to the main entrance as well as to free up more coat racks spaces for coats. Thank you for your cooperation.

December Birthdays & Anniversaries

BIRTHDAYS

Kenneth Schmidt 12/01
Molly Sumiec 12/06
Bradley Stelzer 12/06
Kelly Richards-Parker 12/09
Kay Cucinello 12/11
Perrie Dralle 12/13
Ellie Yellick 12/14
Emma Burke 12/16
Troy Marciniak 12/17
Maverick Surges 12/18
Mick Cucinello 12/21
Christina Dralle 12/21
Caroline Westrick 12/21
Liz Casper 12/23

Jennifer Johnston 12/24
Jean Morack 12/28
Heather Townsend 12/28
Member Khloe Lewis 12/30
Eliot Eschenbacher 12/30
Linda Roberts 12/31
Nancy Di Giacinto 12/31
Angelina Goll 12/31

ANNIVERSARIES

John and Jean Morack 12/19
Derrick and Michelle Grosenick
12/29

What Do Christmas Trees Look Like in Other Parts of the World?

Christmas Trees in South Africa

Christmas is a summer holiday in South Africa. Although Christmas trees are not common, windows are often draped with sparkling cotton wool and tinsel.

Christmas Trees in Spain

A popular Christmas custom is Catalonia, a lucky strike game. A tree trunk is filled with goodies and children hit at the trunk trying to knock out the hazel nuts, almonds, toffee, and other treats.



Christmas Trees in Greenland

Christmas trees are imported, as no trees live this far north. They are decorated with candles and bright ornaments.

(Source: <https://www.history.com/topics/christmas/history-of-christmas-trees>)

Mt Zion Staff

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