

Worship Services

Sundays

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

Wednesdays

6:30pm Evening Prayer

Office Hours

Parish Administrator in the office Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday

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!

Advent Devotionals

This is a project that was developed by the voices of the Mount Zion Youth. During the month of November, we have been reading the texts from the Book of Isaiah – a beautiful yet difficult text to read and dwell in! We realized that even though the writings for Advent from the book of Isaiah were written for a people long, long ago, we have some things in common.



**We hope you enjoy our gift! Advent Blessings to you and...
SHALOM!
Mount Zion Youth**



Our memories of advent included making advent wreaths with candles and kids lighting the wreath during church at Mt Zion with their families. Some of us did that!

Advent is a time of waiting...we are waiting and preparing for Jesus birth at Christmas. The people in the book of Isaiah were waiting for something too. They were waiting for God to fulfill God's promises of bringing them home from Babylon to Judah. The Israelites had been captured by the Babylonian Empire, and although some were allowed to stay in Judah (Israel), others were taken to Babylon. Here they were assimilated into the ways of Babylon where the culture had many gods and different ways of life. The Babylonian capture lasted for about 70 years, enough time for a new generation of people to be born and this caused some problems!

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Note the New Hours!

We were excited to see a few members stop by to collect communion supplies this last Wednesday. If you missed the curbside delivery, we're pleased to announce additional dates!

Upcoming Dates:
Wednesday, December 2
Wednesday, December 16

3:00pm-5:30pm



Simply drive up to the entrance, roll down your window and we will hand you a paper bag with 4 pre-packaged communion cups. If you need a second bag based on your family's size or because you're going to deliver some to a friend or family member, just let us know!

Cards Needed by Dec 1

Breaking the Chains(BtCC) is making an effort for putting together holiday bags for residents in the prison Felmer O'Chaney. We need 90 blank holiday cards with envelopes for residents to send. If you are able to contribute cards, please let Jean Morack know (jeanmorack@gmail.com) 414-257-0248.

Cards may be placed in the large grill at Mt Zion courtyard or dropped off at Jean's (2041 N 107th Street). Place on the bench on front porch.

Volunteer Schedule

Here are the people who are volunteering through December.

Date	AV	Stewards
11/29	Erik & Abbey	Tom Ertel and Gary Goll
12/6	Yannys	Tom Ertel and Gary Goll
12/13	Marciniaks	Morgans and Hexts
12/20	Douglas J	Pete P., John L, & Roy D.
12/27	Erik and Abbey	Engelhardts and Nancy S.

This Week at Mt Zion

Sun November 29	<p>8:30a Traditional Worship youtube.com/mtzionlutheran Meeting ID: 841 6597 2335 password 12012</p> <p>9:40a Faith Formation Hour</p> <p>10:45a Contemporary Worship www.youtube.com/mtzionlutheran Meeting ID 875 7308 8960 password 12012</p> <p>5:00p Confirmation Wartburgseminary.zoom.us/j/6455652349</p>
Mon November 30	<p>12:12p 12 Minutes of Prayer of Facebook</p> <p>7:00p NA 12-steps group alternate location while closed</p>
Tues December 1	<p>10:00a Staff Meeting</p> <p>12:00p AA 12 Steps Meeting continues virtually</p> <p>6:00p Writer's Circle Meeting ID: 82927878248 password: 12012</p>
Wed December 2	<p>12:00p Brown Bag Bible Study on Zoom Meeting ID 84924897122 Password 12012</p> <p>1:00p Prayer Warriors (same login as Brown Bag Bible Study)</p> <p>3:00-5:30 Curbside Communion Carryout</p> <p>6:30p Evening Prayer</p>
Thurs December 3	<p>8:00a Marketing Meeting</p> <p>12:12p 12 Minutes of Prayer of Facebook</p> <p>5:00p Beer and Bible, Wine & The Word Meeting ID: 83564560076 passcode: 12012</p>
Fri December 4	<p>7:00p ACA 12-Step Group Meeting Remotely</p> <p>7:30p Essay 12-Step Group Meeting Virtually</p>
Sat December 5	<p>8:30a Women of Heart Bible Study on Zoom Meeting ID: 849 6940 2756 Passcode: 12012</p>
Sun December 6	<p>8:30a Traditional Worship in-person and on YouTube</p> <p>9:40a Education Hour (Adult Forum, Sunday School, Youth)</p> <p>10:45a Contemporary Worship in-person and on YouTube</p> <p>5:00p Youth Group</p>

Science Tidbits

I've written about the progressive decline in fertility over the years. More and more couples are facing troubling issues in procreation, many of them related to aberrant egg quality due to faulty meiosis. Maturation of the oocyte to form a normal, fertilizable egg is a complicated process involving many moving parts, including brain and ovarian hormones as well as environmental factors. Much research has been devoted to gaining an understanding of how meiosis is regulated in the hopes of devising protocols to alleviate some of the deficiencies in human oocyte development. Because of ethical concerns, most of the work has been carried out in non-human animals, particularly mice.

A famous series of experiments was carried out by Pat Hunt over 20 years ago that brought much attention to the influence of the environment. She discovered dramatic errors of meiosis in mouse oocytes due to leaching of a compound, bisphenol A (BPA), during washing of plastic mouse cages. A shocking detail is that profound reproductive abnormalities due to exposure to this compound persisted over several generations. I even wrote a tidbits some time ago warning of the danger of heating food or baby's milk in plastic containers containing this compound.

Many couples encountering fertility problems have turned to in vitro fertilization (IVF) in the hope of achieving reproductive success. This process involves the stepwise hormonal stimulation of egg development, retrieval of sperm and eggs and fertilization in a petri dish, culturing the successfully fertilized egg(s) until the embryo divides one or more times, and then introducing the embryo back into the woman for development to term. There are many places in this sequence of events where things can go wrong. The first human IVF baby, Louise Brown, was born in 1978 after many trials.

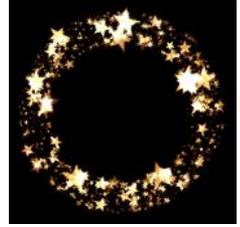
Pregnancy rates were very low in the early days of IVF. One of the biggest challenges was the culture medium used for fertilization and embryo development. After years of painstaking research, it was found that eggs and embryos each have their own unique conditions for optimal development. Furthermore, it was difficult to exactly mimic the environment within the fallopian tubes and uterus by the use of defined culture medium. A revealing study by Richard Schultz showed that only brief culture of embryos in culture medium produced deficits in physiology and behavior in the resulting mice compared to those developing inside the animal.

A former graduate student of mine, Jing Chen, runs the embryo lab in an IVF facility in California. She told me that all of their fertilizations are now carried out by intracytoplasmic sperm injection, or ICSI, instead of the natural way in which sperm binds to the exterior of the egg. This alleviates issues of poor sperm mobility and faulty sperm/egg sperm receptor interaction. She sent me a video of one of her sperm injections. When you click on the video, you will see a fine micro-needle with a sperm near the end of it. Watch the needle penetrate the human egg, after which the sperm will first be sucked up a bit into the needle before positive pressure injects it into the egg. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zTQqS9lVnjl>



Sunday School Corner

Our children were able to make 2 fun projects last week- an Advent Christmas wreath and a star for upcoming Virtual Christmas Pageant. Please hang on to your Advent Wreaths and make sure you have them with you for our weekly worship services. Meditations and devotions can be read all Advent season and your children will have fun lighting the candles on the wreaths they created.



Please remember that there is no Sunday School this week 11/29/2020. Enjoy your Thanksgiving and stay safe/healthy!

We are also starting to plan our Virtual Christmas Pageant. We are looking for as many Sunday School children and families to join us in this first ever Virtual Christmas Pageant on December 20, 2020. If your child/ren and family is willing to be a part of this very special event, please contact me no later than next Sunday November 29th so we can plan accordingly.

Brenda

Peace Not Walls

During the Advent season we often talk a lot about the Holy Land of the past without talking much about the Holy Land of the present. What is going on in Bethlehem today? How are we called to accompany our Palestinian siblings in love, joy, hope, peace, and justice? What does this mean for our own advent journey?

Join ELCA Young Adults and ELCA Peace Not Walls starting Nov 30 for an Advent Pilgrimage in Palestine.

Over the course of the 4 weeks of Advent young adults from the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land will lead us on this pilgrimage through story, education, and theological reflection.

Every Monday of Advent we will share a video reflection and every Wednesday of Advent we will share a written blog post, accompanied by discussion questions and actionable items you can use with small groups.



Register here to receive Advent Pilgrimage in Palestine resources by email and/or to register for our opening educational webinar on **Monday, November 30 8:30-9:30pm EST. And follow at #AdventInPalestine!**

Advent Devotionals 2020

(Continued from page 1)

Advent Week 1 – Isaiah 64:1-9

WELCOME HOME YA'LL!

Isaiah 64 is part of the third book of Isaiah... the book that talks most about God's wishes for Shalom with God's people. God has urged God's people to come home to Judah (Israel) and to live in peace and harmony as a new nation. BUT..... what does this mean?



The people wondered - What does it mean to be "People of God?!"

Does it mean that you have the right genes?

(Are your mom and dad both Jews, Dude?)

Does it mean that you believe the right things?

(So, what do you believe, Dude?)

Should it be business as usual?

(Change is not good, Dude!)

What if we invite everyone to temple?

(Change IS good, Dude!)

The WELCOME HOME mat was not as welcoming as God had wished it would be for God's people! Although these two communities were even of the same roots in their bloodlines, the joining of these 2 communities was NOT SMOOTH and these people struggled to reshape their community.



Question to ponder:

Q: Can we live today in the promises of God? What does that look like in your life? When you have encountered God and God's promises for you? Did that encounter involve change?

Take a deep breath, settle your heart as you begin to read this text. What do you notice, patterns, words – what is tugging at YOUR heart?

Advent Blessings to All!

Isaiah 64:1-9

1 Oh, that you would rend the heavens and come down,
that the mountains would tremble before you!

2 As when fire sets twigs ablaze
and causes water to boil,
come down to make your name known to your enemies
and cause the nations to quake before you!

3 For when you did awesome things that we did not expect,
you came down, and the mountains trembled before you.

4 Since ancient times no one has heard,
no ear has perceived,
no eye has seen any God besides you,
who acts on behalf of those who wait for him.

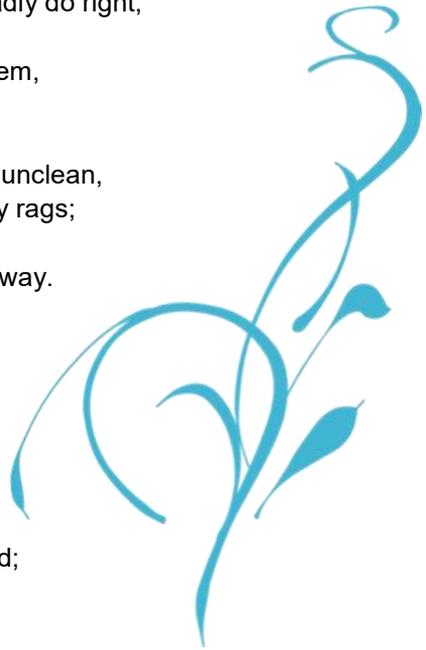
5 You come to the help of those who gladly do right,
who remember your ways.
But when we continued to sin against them,
you were angry.
How then can we be saved?

6 All of us have become like one who is unclean,
and all our righteous acts are like filthy rags;
we all shrivel up like a leaf,
and like the wind our sins sweep us away.

7 No one calls on your name
or strives to lay hold of you;
for you have hidden your face from us
and have given us over to our sins.

8 Yet you, Lord, are our Father.
We are the clay, you are the potter;
we are all the work of your hand.

9 Do not be angry beyond measure, Lord;
do not remember our sins forever.
Oh, look on us, we pray,
for we are all your people.



***We noticed the inclusive nature of the words ALL and THE NATIONS**

Discipleship in a Democracy

Part 2

This past month or so, we've been exploring the idea of discipleship in a democracy, using the new ELCA Social Message on that topic. One of the points in the document that really engaged our conversations was the following statement: "All residents of the United States have a responsibility to make government function well – not to abandon our democracy but to engage it in a spirit of robust civic duty. For Lutherans, this responsibility is lived out as a calling from God, expressed in the discipleship described in our baptismal promises."

Have you ever thought of your engagement in democracy as a calling from God? Most people in the conversation had not. But, as the statement rightly points out, this calling is grounded in our baptismal promises. As baptism, we proclaim that the promises we are making are so that we "may learn to trust God, proclaim Christ through word and deed, care for others and the world God made, and work for justice and peace." All those visions are public activities. To trust God and proclaim Christ through what we do involves bringing tangible good news to people, like providing food to the hungry. But nearly every food ministry in the country, including Tosa Cares, receives aid from the government. For most organizations, that is their primary source of revenue. To proclaim good news requires engaging with the government. To care for others and work for justice and peace even more explicitly connects to the way we practice our civic duty. Suppose if, rather than feeding people after they are hungry we encouraged the government to use funds, just as it does to support food pantries, to provide people this basic necessity of life, as it tries to do through food stamps?

That is just one example of how our baptismal promises lead to a calling from God to engage in a spirit of robust civic duty, one example of how being a Lutheran calls us to participate even more in government than your average citizen. As you think about what it means to practice discipleship in a democracy, I invite you to consider how you live out your calling in baptism "to trust God, proclaim Christ through word and deed, care for others and the world God made, and work for justice and peace."

-Pastor Tyler



What is Tithe.ly?

We are transitioning to a new online giving provider. When you give online, you'll see a new giving provider starting December 6.

Below is an example of how you'll give using Tithe.ly

The screenshot shows the Tithe.ly giving interface for Mt Zion Lutheran Church. The church name and address (Wauwatosa, WI 53226-2040) are at the top. The giving amount is set to \$5.00. A dropdown menu for 'To:' is open, showing options: Regular Offering, Please Choose, Regular Offering, Mission of the Month, Endowment, Youth, Memorial / Honorarium, Holiday / Special Service, TOSA Cares (highlighted), MICAH, ELCA World Hunger, and Lutheran Disaster Response. Other options include 'Recurring Giving' (checked), 'Every 2 Weeks', 'Anywhere USA', 'United States', and a 'Give \$5.00' button.

Will I still be able to give using Vanco and SimplyGiving?
Yes, but only until Easter. The Vanco link will remain at the bottom of the Mt Zion giving page until we are able to transition everyone over to Tithe.ly.

A Sensory Story for Thanksgiving

Giving Thanks

A beautifully set Thanksgiving table, heirloom linen tablecloth with slightly yellowed lace edged napkins, China plates that find their way to the table only a few times a year, gleaming polished silverware, and treasured fragile stemware for adults only, meet the eye before a bountiful dinner adorns the beautiful setting.



And the smells: golden roasted turkey, baked cinnamon apples, luscious warm yeasty bread, spiced cider, to name a few; definitely a blessing for the senses.

The sights and smells of Thanksgiving – especially the sweet creamy pumpkin pie – are familiar to so many.

But when I was little, not old enough to help with much - (Oh, maybe before going to bed I would help with emptying a loaf of bread so it would be stale in the morning which seemed an odd thing to do) I would be awakened before it was dawn by the sounds of my mother in the kitchen. Curling up in bed, pulling the blanket to my chin, I would listen to all of the sounds and envision the sights, smells and tastes that were to come.

The *shrrrt* sound of the knife running through the stale bread and the chop, chop of the same knife slicing through the onion and celery, the sizzling of the meat in a frying pan, and the gentle squeek of cabinet doors opening to find just the right bowl. Then everything scraped into the bowl followed by a dull thud of a wooden spoon stirring.

There is quiet except for the squish, squish sound as the bowl of stuffing finds its way inside the turkey; then listening really hard, I can almost hear the *sssssss* *ssssss* back and forth as the turkey cavity is sewn together. The rattle of the foil means I will soon hear the sound of the oven door open and moments later shut again. It will be hours before the golden-brown stuffed turkey will be outside the oven again.

A new *shrrrt* sound, this sound softer and rhythmical, then the *spssssshh* of water and plop sounds. It will be a while before the bubbling water brings softness to the potatoes and I am looking forward to the *whrrrrr* of the mixer to mash them.

Snap, snap, snap go the ends of the beans. Crackle, pop, pop, the cranberries sing their tune.

The brightness of the daylight fills the room; the rest of the house is stirring awake and sounds of laughter, and the babble of familiar family voices fill the air.

How fortunate we are to have so many blessings for which to give thanks.

Patricia Eby
Writer's Circle

Nov/Dec Birthdays and Anniversaries

Birthdays

Alexandra H. 11/23
Jelani S. 11/23
Robyn D. 11/26
Barb M. 11/27
Gail R. 11/29
Emma C. 11/29
Angela S. 11/29
Debbie K. 11/30
Brenda F. 11/30
Kenneth S. 12/1
Bradley S. 12/6
Lorre G. 12/8
Kelly R. 12/9
Kay C. 12/11
Perrie D. 12/13

Ellie Y. 12/14
Angella G. 12/16
Mick C. 12/21
Forrest D. 12/21
Mark S. 12/21
Caroline W. 12/21
Liz C. 12/23
Mark J. 12/24
Jennifer J. 12/24
Jean M. 12/28
Heather T. 12/28
Linda R. 12/31
Nancy D. 12/31
Susan M. 12/31

Wedding Anniversaries

John and Lynda Y. 11/27
Kent and Margie S. 11/28
Jean and John M. 12/19
Derrick and Michelle G. 12/29

Scripture Readings for This Week

Isaiah 64:1-9 Psalm 80:1-7,17-19

1 Corinthians 1:3-9 Mark 13:24-37

Scripture Readings for Next Week

Isaiah 40:1-11 Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13

2 Peter 3:8-15a Mark 1:1-8



This Week's Prayer List



<https://bit.ly/2UZkV9u>



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