

# MT. ZION HERALD

Dec. 2025/Jan. 2026

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*A publication of Mt. Zion Lutheran Church, Greenfield, Wisconsin*



## **Emmanuel, God Is With Us!**

I imagine that for most of you there has been a time when you haven't felt very close to God. In fact sometimes He can seem rather far away and distant. Ironically, for many God seems most out of reach at Christmas, when the joy and peace that everyone else seems to be experiencing eludes us. How do we overcome that distance? How do we experience all that this season was meant to be?

Well, the fact of the matter is that we can't get ourselves closer to God. After all, we're the ones who created the canyon of sin which separates us from Him in the first place. But God has moved closer

to us—all the way, in fact. Joy comes at Christmastime when we are brought to understand that God completely bridged the gap between us and Him in the birth of Jesus. 100% of the distance was covered. God didn't leave us to perish eternally on the other side of the chasm. He humbled Himself to come right down to where we're at, being born as one just like us, to rescue us.

That's the point of the name Jesus was given by the prophet: "Emmanuel, which means, God With Us." God is on our side! He is with us! He is for us! He is among us to show us the way and in fact to be the way across



to the other side. In a world that wars and rebels against God, Jesus Himself is God's gift of "Peace on earth, good will toward men." In Christ God and sinners are reconciled, brought together—as close as could possibly be.

There once was a psychiatrist at a mental ward who wanted to try out a new way of helping his patients. His idea was to live for a while among those mental patients in the hospital where he served, to be with them day and night for an extended period of time. And so he moved in behind the locked door, set up his bed in the ward, and lived the routine of the mental patients day after day. Their schedule became his schedule. Their environment became his environment. He experienced the food and the noise and the smells and everything else that they experienced all the time. He was there to help them with their medicine. He would always be around in the midst of their confusion to give a reassuring smile, to place an arm on the shoulder of even the most unattractive and repulsive person in the ward. And in many cases he literally loved those mental patients back into reality and helped them to find meaning for their life. Down on their level, he was able to raise them up to wholeness and give them a new start.

Isn't that exactly what our "Emmanuel" God did for us? He "moved in with us" so to speak at Christmas and lived with us day in and day out. Our corrupted existence

became His corrupted existence. Our fallen environment became His environment. He experienced many of the ups and downs of life that we go through, including the pain and the troubles. He knows what it's like, because He's been there. He finally went so far as to die just like we do, and in so doing to love us back into a right relationship with our heavenly Father, giving meaning to our existence again. Down on our level, He was able to raise us up to wholeness and give us new life. Emmanuel—God is with us.

In the midst of all of the holiday festivities, we dare

not gloss over the reality of what happened at Christmas. God became a man, a real human baby—no glowing face, no neat and tidy birth—but a full-fledged baby boy, umbilical cord and all, held by a disheveled mother, all tired from the long, first-time labor.

We must cling with all our heart to the real humanity of Jesus. For if He weren't true man, then He wouldn't be our substitute and our Savior. Think of it this way. If you were on death row, about to be executed in the electric chair, but there was a law on the books which said that a willing substitute could die in your place, only another human being, of course, could take your punishment, not some animal for instance. Well, the same thing is true in an eternal sense. Only another true human being can take our place in the receiving the punishment for our sins. That eternal death penalty was carried out on the man Jesus

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Christ instead of us. He was our willing substitute, one just like us. Of course, He is also true God, without sin. And therefore, His sacrifice is unlimited, sufficient to save not just one other person, but all people. His resurrection Easter morning assures us of that.

So on this Christmas day we're not just celebrating the birthday of Jesus, as if that would be necessary. What we're celebrating is that fact that, amazingly enough, true God and true man came together in one person, Jesus. There is no longer any distance between God and man because Jesus is both at the same time for our sake.

If, then, God seems far away from you, perhaps you're looking in the wrong place.

Look again to the One in the manger. Look again to the One on the cross. For as you are joined to the man Jesus by faith, you are also joined to God, with a bond that is closer than any other. He came to be with you till the close of the age in your baptism. And He continues to come to be with you in His body and blood in Holy Communion. More than any other place, the name "Emmanuel" is fulfilled for us in the Sacrament of the Altar. There "God is with us," God is with you. He is closer to you in Christ than you'll ever completely know.

-Pastor Koch

## Holy Land Tour Eastertide of 2026!



You don't have to go to the Holy Land to get closer to Christ. We visit the Holy Land every week as we receive Christ in the Sacrament of the Altar. However, there is something very special about meditating on the Scriptures in the very places where the events occurred. I will be leading a tour back to the Holy Land next April. Destinations include Bethlehem, Nazareth, Capernaum, the Mount of Beatitudes, Mt. Carmel, Caesarea Philippi, Qumran, Masada, and of course the temple mount, Gethsemane, and the places of Jesus' trial, death, and resurrection in Jerusalem. We will visit the site of Jesus' baptism at the Jordan River, take a boat trip on the Sea of Galilee, and take a swim in the buoyant Dead Sea. PLUS there is an optional trip extension to Egypt to ascend the Mountain of Moses in Sinai and see the Sphinx and the Great Pyramids of Egypt. If you or someone you know is interested, it only takes a \$500 registration deposit to hold your spot for this tour. Spaces are limited, so you are encouraged to sign up soon. Pick up a brochure in the narthex or go to [registernow.ittworld.com](http://registernow.ittworld.com) and put in the tour code Koch26 to get a downloadable brochure with all the information you need. And if you have any questions, feel free to call me (Pastor Koch) at 414-795-9005. We hope you'll be able to take part in this great experience!

# The Gospels: Who's on the Witness Stand

## Introduction

You can trust your Bibles. The Bible, of course, is the Word of God. Yet, we're called by God "always to be ready to make a reasonable defense to everyone who asks you for the reason for the hope that is in you." (1 Peter 3:15)

When we do this, we can't simply say we trust that the Bible is the Word of God because the Bible tells me so. The Bible does say so, but that's called circular reasoning, which is not the best reasonable defense. Nevertheless, the Gospels are the primary testimony to the life, preaching, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. It is reasonable to hold that what they record is trustworthy, but is it reasonable to believe they're written by those to whom they're ascribed?

It is tradition that the Four Gospels are written by the men whose names they bear: the Apostle Matthew, John Mark (an associate of Peter and Paul), Luke the physician (an associate of Paul), and the Apostle John. (This is a tradition we Lutherans accept.)

It is true that early theologians attributed the books to these authors. Papias (c. 60–130), a student of John, was one such Bishop. Moreover, very early on the four Gospels with Acts were seen as a unit. The manuscripts also almost always bore the names we have today.

But is it reasonable to hold this position, or are we left with blind faith in tradition?

In the shadow of Reformation, not a very Lutheran position to have! Let's take up each Gospel and see how it's not so unreasonable to hold that the traditional Gospel writers really did write their Gospels.

## Matthew

The Gospels tell us that Matthew (also known as Levi) was a tax collector. (Mt 9) This makes Mat-thew a traitor to the Romans in the eyes of his compatriots. (No wonder tax collectors and sinners hung out together.) What a man to call as an Apostle! This reality would hint at a few more facts about Matthew. Matthew was most likely educated, eminently qualified to write a Gospel himself. He also was acquainted with debt and repayment. That paired with the likelihood of hanging out with sinners, highlights the fact that forgiveness figures prominently in the teachings of Christ in Matthew (Mt 5, 6, 7, 9, 18).

Finally, he would've been an expert in money. It is this, combined with all the rest, that gets us to keep holding to Mat-thew as Matthew's author. Of all the Gospels, Matthew's uses the most variety of words when it comes to money: denarius (Mt 18:28); talent (Mt 18:24); didrachma and stater (Mt 17:27); quad-rans (Mt 5:26); assarion (Mt 10:29); gold, silver, and copper (Mt 10:9); and finally, 30 pieces of silver (Mt 26).

## **Mark**

Mark was an associate of both Peter (1 Pet 5:13) as well as Paul (Acts 12; 2 Tim 4:11). Tradition says that he was the clerk for Peter. It is also argued that Mark was the “young ruler” who questioned Jesus (Mk 10) but also fled the garden of Gethsemane after he tried to follow Christ after being He was arrested (Mk 14).

Now, what about his authorship, or that Mark is Peter’s Gospel? It seems Peter needed a clerk. Paul’s Silvanus was Peter’s clerk for his first letter. (1 Pet 5:12) When it comes to Mark’s Gospel, Peter is the first apostle mentioned in that Gospel. This differs from the other Synoptic (same viewpoint) Gospels: Matthew 4, Luke 4. He’s also the last one mentioned by name in Mark 16.

Finally, Mark’s Gospel includes a detail in the raising of Jairus’ daughter that only Peter would know. Besides her parents, Jesus only allowed Peter, James, and John to enter with Him. Matthew (9:25) simply tells us that Christ raised her. Luke (8:54) quotes Jesus’ words, “Little girl, arise.” But Mark (5:41) alone, serving as Peter’s clerk, includes much more: “[He] said to her, ‘Talitha, cumi,’ which is translated, ‘Little girl, I say to you, arise.’”

## **Luke**

We know the least about Luke. He is called by Paul “the beloved physician.” (Col 4:14) He was a close associate of Paul (Acts 16, Acts 20–21, Acts 27–28; 2 Tim 4:11; Philemon 24). He is traditionally ascribed as the author both of the Gospel and Acts.

There is evidence of both things we know about Luke in the Gospel of Luke. First, that he was a close as-sociate of Paul. Luke’s Gospel co-vers the topic of justification the most, a major preaching point of Paul (cf. Eph 2). Luke includes the Good Samaritan Parable, which Christ preached to shame a self-justifying lawyer (Lk 10), and also the Parable of the unjustified Phari-see and justified tax collector. (Lk 18) Second, Luke was a physician, and thus the Gospel contains the most healing miracles!

## **John**

Finally, we come to John’s Gospel. John consistently describes himself as the “disciple whom Jesus loved.” (Jn 13:23) The closeness of their relationship is evidenced by using Christ’s proper name “Jesus” more than the others. John is the longest lived apostle, dying as an old man. (Rev 1:9) His well-crafted, catechetical and sacramental Gospel bespeaks a man who spent a lifetime considering the preaching of our Lord. Moreover, He would’ve then been younger than his fellow apostles, which could explain his ability to follow Christ without no-tice during His trial and execution, or maybe the brashness of youth!

Due to this sole following, John’s Gospel alone reports the autobiographical eyewitness testimony of Christ’s crucifixion and death. He includes, of course, the piercing of Christ’s side, but there’s another detail worth considering. We know that Christ was crucified with a criminal on His right and left (Mt 27, Mk 15, Lk 23), but John’s Gospel includes the details from a first-person perspective.

Many translations have John 19:18 say something akin to “They crucified Him with two others, one on each side, with Jesus in the middle.” Most literally it is “They crucified Him, and with Him another two—there and there—and Jesus between.”

### **Conclusion**

So, there you have it. We Lutherans accept the tradition that the authors of the Gospels are who they say that they are. It’s not just blind tradition, however, for there are good reasons from the Gospel texts themselves that indicate the reasonableness of this claim.

Former Tax Collector Matthew used the most money terms. Mark, writing for Peter, includes some-thing only Peter heard. Luke,

the physician, includes the most healings. John, the longest lived, though youngest at the cross, confesses what He saw and heard. We aren’t irrational and unreasonable. We hold to history. There’s never an answer to every question we may have about the authors. And there are many who argue over the evidence about who wrote each Gospel, but there is enough to say that what they record is beyond reasonable doubt. But more on that next month! What John says is true of all four Gospels: “These things are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name.” (Jn 20)

Pastor Aaron Fenker

Our Father’s Lutheran Church, Greenfield

## **Pointing to the Rock of Ages**

Not the labor of my hands Can fulfill Thy  
Law’s demands;  
Could my zeal no respite know, Could my  
tears forever flow,  
All for sin could not atone; Thou must  
save, and Thou alone. (LSB 761:2)

While the classic hymn “Rock of Ages” shows up in the Lutheran Service Book in the “Hope and Comfort” section, it can also teach us a valuable lesson about Christian stewardship. If that surprises you, stay with me on this one.

No Lutheran would ever dispute the fact that our work does not save us. Ephesians 2 makes it truly clear that we are dead in

our trespasses and sins and would remain in that state until Christ raises us by grace. There is not a ladder on which we can climb out of the grave that our sins have dug for us. No blood, sweat nor tears will be able to rescue us. We all know this.

Our works do not save us. Christ’s work on the cross of Calvary does! He bore human flesh. He carried the burden of our sin to the cross. His body was beaten, bruised and bloodied for us. He has indeed atoned for us! This is more than enough reason for this hymn to be bouncing around in your head all day today!

But our work has a place. The place is in response to what the Father has done for

us in Jesus. The Rock of Ages, who is Jesus, becomes the foundation on which our lives of faith are built. The Holy Spirit uses the means of grace to make us God's workmanship that Paul talks about in Ephesians 2:10.

Our workmanship does not display our power or prowess. Like the heavens declare the handiwork of the Creator, the works of a redeemed sinner point others to the salvation that is worked only by Jesus alone. Our work is a response to and reflection of a grace and glory that we ourselves could never accomplish or achieve.

We become stewards of the treasure that is the Gospel. When we faithfully support the work of the Gospel of Jesus Christ with

our financial support, we are doing the work which points to the One who alone atones. When we come alongside a struggling sister or brother for whom Christ died and we share the stewardship work of compassion and care, we enfold the treasure of God's love and redemption. When we make it a weekly priority to arrange our schedule to be in the Lord's House with other stewards of the Gospel to receive again and again the Gospel's precious gift, we are stewards of the Body of Christ in the congregation that points even more people to Jesus.

We cannot do this. Jesus does it through us. We are simply stewards of this precious treasure!

## Official Acts

+Roger A. Forrest+

November 10, 2025

Funeral: November 14, 2025 at Mt. Zion

## Ladies' Guild News

The ladies extend heartfelt thanks to everyone who donated cash or food for the gathering for the Hope Lutheran Church Food Pantry and all who baked or purchased items from their Fall bake sale.

Their next meeting will be a Christmas luncheon at Meyer's Restaurant in Greenfield on Wednesday, December 10<sup>th</sup> at 11:30 a.m.



## From Missionary Micah Wildauer

14 November 2025

For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain. Philippians 1:21

Dear Fellow Redeemed in Christ,

This past month has been a challenging one for the Wildauer family. As many of you know, we returned to Belize in August after spending some time in the States for home service and congregational visits. Home school had started up and evangelization among Belizeans recommenced. Then on October 8, my wife Robin went to a clinic for yearly screenings and received the recommendation to seek further analysis. Within a week and a half, we received word that Robin was diagnosed with breast cancer.

The Belizean medical system is not fully equipped to treat cancer in the way more developed countries can. In conversation with our Latin American regional leadership, we made the decision to return to the United States as a family and enter the U.S. health care system. We have been in the States for three weeks and Robin has had her initial appointments. Due to the difference in medical systems (metrics, grading, etc.), it is almost like starting from scratch. We do not yet have a full diagnosis nor staging. However, the treatment center thus far has been very helpful in getting Robin into their system and along the right path. Indeed, patience is tested as it feels like we are often waiting for news. However, we know that a full diagnosis and a clear path forward take time. We rely on the Lord's mercy each day. Please add Robin to your personal and congregational prayers. You are also welcome to follow our family updates at Robin's CaringBridge site by searching for her name.

We returned to Bremen, Indiana, where my grandfather's house remains vacant. We have family and wonderful Lutheran congregations nearby who are taking great care of us. I am reminded daily that this is a cross-cultural experience for the children, as a majority of their lives have been outside the United States. They have not truly experienced autumn or winter. They gladly raked leaves the first day they were here, leaves that changed colors! They attended an American high school football game. The kids anxiously awaited their first snow with plans for snow forts (literal, drawn-up designs!) and subsequently were rewarded with an extremely early snowfall of a few inches. Having brought their homeschool materials, they keep busy each day. At the same time, local Amish buggies remind us of Belize. Tortillas are a household staple, even here.

You are welcome to contact Robin or anyone in the family by mail:

Wildauer Family  
515 Poplar Drive  
Bremen, IN 46506

The Office of International Mission understands our situation and has given us this time of leave from the field. It is our intention to return to Belize as soon as the Lord allows. In the meantime, I will continue to teach online classes with our seminary in Santiago, Dominican Republic, so long as time allows. In our absence from the field, please remember the Belize mission in your prayers, those with whom I have had ongoing Bible studies and catechesis, and for our missionary families who are currently there (Burch, Groth, and Flores families).

I asked Robin the other day if I can say that we remain confident in Christ. She asked me why I wouldn't say that. The way forward is not hopeless. There are days of waiting where we feel like we are sheep being led to the slaughter, led on a way which passes through death. But we do not despair or continue without direction. Christ Jesus promises to remain with us in life and death, and nothing can separate us from Him (Romans 8:35-39). Whether we live or die, we belong to the Lord. With the Psalmist (and the writer of Hebrews), we can confidently say, "The Lord is on my side; I will not fear. What can man do to me?" (Psalm 118:6). We have nothing if not belief in Christ.

The hope of Christ's resurrection be with you,

Rev. Micah Wildauer & Family

## **Holiday Service Schedule**

Advent Evening Prayer, December 3<sup>rd</sup>, December 10<sup>th</sup>, and 17<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m.

Christmas Eve Service at 5 p.m.

Christmas Day Service at 10:30 a.m.

New Year's Eve Service at 5 p.m.



December: Barbara Cooper and Brenda Kalchbrenner

January: April & Ashley Leon, Lisa Michalek

## December Ushers & Communion Assistants Schedule

### Midweek Advent Services – Wednesday Ushers

Dec. 3 – Matt Kalchbrenner

Dec. 10 – Rhett Nowotny

Dec. 17 – Jake Tietyen

|                 |      |                     |                                 |
|-----------------|------|---------------------|---------------------------------|
| Sunday, Dec. 7  | 9 AM | Andrew Brondos      | Communion Asst. – Joe Beiler    |
| Sunday, Dec. 14 | 9 AM | Jacob & Levi Frusti | Communion Asst. – Dan Kohlmeier |
| Sunday, Dec. 21 | 9 AM | Joe Beiler          | Communion Asst. – Dan Kohlmeier |
| Sunday, Dec. 28 | 9 AM | Blake Taylor        | Communion Asst. – Rhett Nowotny |

### Saturday Ushers

Saturday, Dec. 6 5 PM Eric Lawson

Saturday, Dec. 13 5 PM Kyle Wendtland

Saturday, Dec. 20 5 PM Matt Kalchbrenner

Saturday, Dec. 27 5 PM Kyle Wendtland

**Christmas Eve, 12/24** 5 PM Joe Beiler

**Christmas Day, 12/25** 10 AM Jason Leon Communion Asst. – Joe Beiler

**New Year's Eve, 12/31** 5 PM Andrew Brondos

## January Ushers Schedule

|                 |      |                             |                             |
|-----------------|------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Sunday, Jan. 4  | 9 AM | Blake Taylor                | Comm. Asst. – Rhett Nowotny |
| Sunday, Jan. 11 | 9 AM | Jake Tietyen                | Comm. Asst. – Joe Beiler    |
| Sunday, Jan. 18 | 9 AM | Jacob Frusti, & Levi Frusti | Comm. Asst. – Dan Kohlmeier |
| Sunday, Jan. 25 | 9 AM | Jason Leon                  | Comm. Asst. – Dan Kohlmeier |

### Saturday Ushers

|                   |      |                   |
|-------------------|------|-------------------|
| Saturday, Jan. 3  | 5 PM | Matt Kalchbrenner |
| Saturday, Jan. 10 | 5 PM | Eric Lawson       |
| Saturday, Jan. 17 | 5 PM | Kyle Wendtland    |
| Saturday, Jan. 24 | 5 PM | Joe Beiler        |
| Saturday, Jan. 31 | 5 PM | Eric Lawson       |

## Birthdays and Anniversaries

**Happy Birthday to the following Mt. Zion members:**

### **December**

|                  |                   |
|------------------|-------------------|
| 2 <sup>nd</sup>  | Cecilia Halverson |
| 6 <sup>th</sup>  | Katie Halverson   |
| 9 <sup>th</sup>  | Kristine Cline    |
| 10 <sup>th</sup> | Jacob Frusti      |
| 11 <sup>th</sup> | Pastor Koch       |
| 13 <sup>th</sup> | Jane Widenski     |
| 20 <sup>th</sup> | Korben Halverson  |
| 24 <sup>th</sup> | Timothy Grek      |
| 27 <sup>th</sup> | Marion Hintz      |



### **January**

|                  |                    |
|------------------|--------------------|
| 7 <sup>th</sup>  | Beverly Manske     |
| 13 <sup>th</sup> | David Kalchbrenner |
| 17 <sup>th</sup> | Elizabeth Grek     |
| 18 <sup>th</sup> | Jason Leon         |
| 27 <sup>th</sup> | Jack Cline         |

## Baptismal Anniversaries

### December

- 1<sup>st</sup> Lisa Michalek
- 1<sup>st</sup> Bradley Stack
- 1<sup>st</sup> Julie Stack
- 9<sup>th</sup> Douglas Czerwinski
- 16<sup>th</sup> Clara Ellis
- 16<sup>th</sup> Jordan Halverson
- 16<sup>th</sup> James Halverson
- 16<sup>th</sup> Sara Kohlmeier
- 19<sup>th</sup> Cecilia Halverson
- 20<sup>th</sup> Jacob Frusti
- 28<sup>th</sup> Aaron Koch



### January

- 1<sup>st</sup> Phillip Leon
- 1<sup>st</sup> Carol Snodgrass
- 13<sup>th</sup> Jane Widenski
- 16<sup>th</sup> Katie Halverson
- 22<sup>nd</sup> Marion Hintz
- 22<sup>nd</sup> Jeffery Young
- 24<sup>th</sup> Timothy Grek
- 24<sup>th</sup> Coral Taylor
- 26<sup>th</sup> Kristine Cline
- 27<sup>th</sup> Korben Halverson
- 29<sup>th</sup> Sharon Czerwinski

## Happy Anniversary to the following couples!

### December

- 27<sup>th</sup> Gabriel & Rebekah Frusti (17 years)



### January

- 21<sup>st</sup> Michael & Katie Halverson (14 years)

## Address Changes

Mrs. Marion Hintz  
3939 S. 92nd Street  
Room 462  
Greenfield, WI 53228

## Daily Bible Readings December

|   |   |
|---|---|
| <p>Dec. 1 Is. 7:10—8:8<br/>1 Pet. 3:1-22</p> <p>Dec. 2 Is. 8:9—9:7<br/>1 Pet. 4:1-19</p> <p>Dec. 3 Is. 9:8—10:11<br/>1 Pet. 5:1-14</p> <p>Dec. 4 Is. 10:12-27a, 33-34<br/>2 Pet. 1:1-21</p> <p>Dec. 5 Is. 11:1—12:6<br/>2 Pet. 2:1-22</p> <p>Dec. 6 Is. 14:1-23<br/>2 Pet. 3:1-18</p> <p><b>2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday<br/>in Advent</b> Is. 24:1-13<br/>1 John 1:1—2:14</p> <p>Dec. 8 Is. 24:14—25:12<br/><i>Obad. 1-21</i><br/>1 John 2:15-29</p> <p>Dec. 9 Is. 26:1-19<br/>1 John 3:1-24</p> <p>Dec. 10 Is. 26:20—27:13<br/>1 John 4:1-21</p> <p>Dec. 11 Is. 28:14-29<br/>1 John 5:1-21<br/><i>2 John 1-13; 3 John 1-15</i></p> <p>Dec. 12 Is. 29:1-14<br/>Jude 1—25</p> <p>Dec. 13 Is. 29:15—30:14<br/>Rev. 1:1-20</p> <p><b>3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday<br/>in Advent</b> Is. 30:15-26<br/>Rev. 2:1-29</p> <p>Dec. 15 Is. 30:27—31:9<br/>Rev. 3:1—22</p> <p>Dec. 16 Is. 32:1-20<br/>Rev. 4:1-11</p> | <p>Dec. 17 Is. 33:1-24<br/>Rev. 5:1-14</p> <p>Dec, 18 Is. 34:1—2, 8—35:10<br/><i>Micah 1:1—7:20</i><br/>Rev. 6:1-17</p> <p>Dec. 19 Is. 40:1-17<br/>Rev. 7:1-17</p> <p>Dec. 20 Is. 40:18—41:10<br/>Rev. 8:1-13</p> <p><b>4<sup>th</sup> Sunday<br/>in Advent</b> Is. 42:1—25<br/>Rev. 9:1—12</p> <p>Dec. 22 Is. 43:1-24<br/>Rev. 9:13—10:11</p> <p>Dec. 23 Is. 43:25—44:20<br/>Rev. 11:1-19</p> <p><b>Christmas Eve</b> Is. 44:21—45:13, 20-25<br/><i>Daniel 10:1—12:13</i><br/><i>Isaiah 48:1-22</i><br/>Rev. 12:1-17</p> <p><b>Christmas Day</b> Is. 49:1-18<br/>Matt. 1:1-17</p> <p>Dec. 26 Is. 49:22-26; 50:4—51:8,<br/>12-16<br/><i>Matt. 1:18-25</i></p> <p>Dec. 27 Is. 51:17—52:12<br/>Matt. 2:1-12</p> <p><b>1<sup>st</sup> Sunday<br/>after Christmas</b> Is. 52:13—54:10<br/>Matt. 2:13-23</p> <p>Dec. 29 Is. 55:1-13<br/>Luke 1:1-25</p> <p>Dec. 30 Is 58:1—59:3, 14-21<br/>Luke 1:26-38</p> <p>Dec. 31 Is 60:1-22<br/>Luke 1:39-56</p> |
|---|---|

# Mt. Zion Vocational Directory



We are compiling a list of Mt. Zion members who would be willing to be a resource for fellow members with a skill or expertise God has given them. (Examples would be plumbing/electrical/ carpentry, college financial aid, health/medical, etc.) Please return this form to the office by December 15<sup>th</sup>.

**Your Name** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone Number** \_\_\_\_\_

**E-mail Address** \_\_\_\_\_

**Skills or Services**

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**Specific Area(s) of Expertise**

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**Mt. Zion Lutheran Church**  
**Church Council Meeting**  
Tuesday, November 18, 2025

Following the Budget and Nominating Committee meeting, Vice-President Blake Taylor called the meeting to order at 7:45 p.m. 8 members were present.

**Secretary's Report:** The minutes from the October 2025 meeting were accepted as printed.

**Treasurer's Report:** Andrew Brondos presented a printed report. The suggestion was made to rename "Window Fund" to "New Window Fund". The report was accepted as amended.

**President's Report:** President Scott McIntosh presented the slate of nominees for council positions to be presented to the voters in December.

**Pastor's Report:** Pastor Koch reported that the adult instruction class will end next week, and two men will be accepted as new members.

Thanksgiving Eve and Midweek Advent services will be held at 6:30 p.m. The Advent services will be preceded by a light supper at 5:30 p.m.

We will be studying 1st Corinthians in Sunday morning Bible Class.

This year's Sunday school program will be held at Mt. Zion on Sunday, December 21, at 3:00 p.m. This will be a joint service with Our Father's.

Rev. Eric Skovgaard has stepped down as 1st Vice President of the South Wisconsin District because he has been appointed to fill the vacancy created by Rev. John Wohlrabe's decision to step down as synodical 6th vice president.

**Membership Changes:** None reported

**Board Reports**

**Elders:** No report

**Trustees:** Michael Halverson reported that he and Bill Halverson did some repairs to the roof above the chancel area. He stated that the next big project will be to work on painting the exterior of the church. He will get bids on the project. It was stated that there would need to be some prep work before the painting begins.

**Finance:** No report

**Education:** See Pastor's report.

**Outreach:** No report

**Old Business:** None

**New Business:** Pastor Koch stated that our website is overdue for an update. There is a confessional Lutheran layman who creates websites for congregations. For \$795, we can have him update our site. It was moved, seconded, and passed that we should go forward with this. The funding will come from gifts and memorials.

With no other new business presented, the meeting was adjourned at 8:08 p.m.

Pastor Koch closed the meeting with the Collect for the last Sunday of the church year.

Respectfully submitted,

Sara Kohlmeier  
Secretary

Upcoming Meetings for 2025

Voters' Meeting - 12/14

## **Upcoming Events**

### **Church Decorating**

Saturday, December 13<sup>th</sup>  
9:00 a.m.

### **Annual Voters' Meeting**

Sunday, December 14<sup>th</sup>  
10:20 a.m.

### **Sunday School Christmas Program**

(Joint program with Our Father's)  
at Mt. Zion  
Sunday, December 21<sup>st</sup>  
3:00 p.m.

### **Baby and Wedding Showers**

We thank God for the gifts of marriage and children. Rhett and Michelle Nowotny are expecting their first child in January. Rachel Taylor and Zach Koch will be married at Mt. Zion in March. Care Team would like to bless these young families with a gift card shower!

If you would like to participate, please purchase a gift card, put it in a card or enveloped marked with the names of the recipients and turn it in to the office by January 12<sup>th</sup>. Suggestions for gift cards would be Amazon, Target, etc.

Please keep these fellow members of Mt. Zion in your prayers as they prepare for new stages in their lives.

| Treasurer's Report for October 2025                 |                            |                                 |              |
|---|----------------------------|---------------------------------|--------------|
| Beginning Balance Retained In Checking: \$40,585.58 |                            |                                 |              |
| Receipts  |                            | Expenses                        |              |
| Plate Offerings                                     | \$690.00                   | Salaries/Wages                  | \$11,388.92  |
| Weekly Envelopes                                    | \$5,230.00                 | F.I.C.A.                        | \$750.37     |
| Electronic Offerings                                | \$8,912.65                 | Utilities                       | \$771.09     |
| Communion/Altar                                     | \$54.00                    | Pension & Insurance             | \$3,073.14   |
| Missions  | \$20.00                    | Car Allowance                   | \$461.55     |
| Buck of the Month                                   | \$48.00                    | Continuing Education            | \$393.58     |
| Flowers   | \$40.00                    | Church & Parsonage Maintenance  | \$321.50     |
| Thrivent  | \$25.00                    | Sunday School                   | \$57.43      |
| Reformation   | \$10.00                    | Worship Supplies                | \$411.03     |
| Interest  | \$0.24                     | Dues, Subscriptions, & Fees     | \$568.77     |
|   |                            | Office Supplies                 | \$1,268.09   |
|   |                            | Postage                         | \$5.22       |
|   |                            | Guest Pastor                    | \$150.00     |
|   |                            | Pastor's Home Equity Fund       | \$13,300.84  |
| Total Receipts for October 2025                     | \$15,029.89                | Communion/Altar                 | \$194.25     |
|   |                            | Missions                        | \$2,000.00   |
|   |                            | Total Expenses for October 2025 | \$35,115.78  |
| Restricted Funds in Checking as of 10/31/25         |                            |                                 |              |
| Communion/Altar                                     | \$0.00                     | Mt. Zion Care Team              | \$251.83     |
| Missions  | \$4,406.50                 | Pastor's Home Equity Fund       | \$650.00     |
| Gift & Memorial                                     | \$6,786.17                 | Window Fund                     | \$1,160.00   |
| Buck of the Month                                   | \$1,379.76                 | Front Entrance Fund             | \$0.00       |
| Congolese Outreach                                  | \$500.00                   |                                 |              |
| Operating Fund as of 10/31/25                       |                            |                                 |              |
|   | Beginning of Month Balance |                                 | \$40,585.58  |
|   | Receipts                   |                                 | \$15,029.89  |
|   | Expenses                   |                                 | -\$35,115.78 |
|   | End of Month Balance       |                                 | \$20,499.69  |
|   | Restricted Funds           |                                 | \$15,134.26  |
|   | Actual Operating Funds     |                                 | \$5,365.43   |
| Submitted by Andrew Brondos (Treasurer) on 11/18/25 |                            |                                 |              |

# December 2025

| SUNDAY   | MONDAY          | TUESDAY   | WEDNESDAY  | THURSDAY   | FRIDAY   | SATURDAY   |
|--|-----------------|-----------|--|--|--|--|
|  | <b>1</b>        | <b>2</b>  | <b>3</b><br>Advent Supper<br>5:30 pm<br><br>Evening Prayer<br>6:30 pm  | <b>4 John of Damascus, Theologian &amp; Hymnwriter</b> | <b>5</b>   | <b>6 Nicholas of Myra, Pastor</b><br><br>Divine Service<br>5 pm                                      |
| <b>7 Ambrose of Milan, Pastor &amp; Hymnwriter</b><br><br>Divine Service<br>9 am<br>Bible Class & Sun. School<br>10:20 am  | <b>8</b>        | <b>9</b>  | <b>10</b><br>Ladies' Guild Luncheon @ Meyer's<br>11:30 am<br><br>Advent Supper<br>5:30 pm<br>Evening Prayer<br>6:30 pm | <b>11</b>  | <b>12</b>  | <b>13 Lucia, Martyr Christmas Decorating 9 am</b><br><br>Divine Service<br>5 pm                      |
| <b>14</b><br>Divine Service<br>9 am<br><br>Sun. School<br>10:20 am<br><br>Annual Voters' Mtg.<br>10:20 am  | <b>15</b>       | <b>16</b> | <b>17 Daniel the Prophet &amp; the Three Young Men</b><br>Advent Supper<br>5:30 pm<br>Evening Prayer<br>6:30 pm        | <b>18</b>  | <b>19 Adam &amp; Eve</b>   | <b>20 Katharina von Bora Luther</b><br><br>Buck of the Month<br>Divine Service<br>5 pm               |
| <b>21 St. Thomas, Apostle</b><br>Buck of the Month<br>Divine Service<br>9 am<br>Bible Class & Sun. School<br>10:20 am<br>Sunday School<br>Christmas Program<br>-3 pm | <b>22</b>       | <b>23</b> | <b>24</b><br><br>Christmas Eve Service<br>5:00 pm  | <b>25</b><br>Christmas Day Service<br>10:30 am         | <b>26</b><br>St. Stephen, Martyr   | <b>27 St. John, Apostle &amp; Evangelist</b><br><br>Divine Service<br>5 pm                           |
| <b>28 The Holy Innocents, Martyrs</b><br>Divine Service<br>9 am<br>Bible Class & Sun. School<br>10:20 am   | <b>29</b> David | <b>30</b> | <b>31 Eve of the Circumcision &amp; Name of Jesus</b><br><br>New Years' Eve Service<br>5:00 pm                         |  |  | <b>Private Confession &amp; Absolution:</b><br>Sat. 4:15-4:45<br>Sun. 8:15-8:45<br>or by appointment |

**Mt. Zion Lutheran Church  
3820 W Layton Avenue  
Greenfield, WI 53221-2038**

**[www.MountZionGreenfield.org](http://www.MountZionGreenfield.org)**