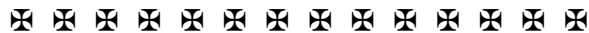


MT. ZION HERALD

September 2026

Volume 33, No.4

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



Lutheran = Evangelical Catholic

Perhaps you've been asked by friends or co-workers what exactly it means that you're a Lutheran. It's not a simple or easy question to answer. In many ways, we're like the "Evangelical" churches. In other ways, we're like Romans Catholics or Eastern Orthodox Christians. Perhaps the best way to answer is to say that we are "Evangelical Catholics." Here's a description put together by my friend and fellow pastor, Larry Beane:

Evangelical

With our Evangelical brothers and sisters, we share several things:

- **The Bible** - We hold the Bible to be God's inspired Word, and it is

our highest authority. We teach the Bible to both young and old, and Bible class is an important part of our life together.



- **The Gospel** - Central to our faith and life is the Gospel: the good news that Jesus died on the cross to redeem us from sin, death, and the devil. That's why our churches were called "Evangelical" 500 years ago.

- **Preaching** - Because of the importance of the cross and the Scriptures, preaching is central to us and to our worship. Our

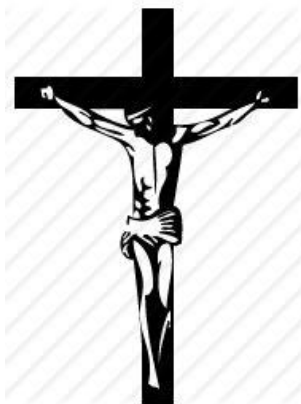
sermons are grounded in the Bible, and our preachers are expected to study the Scriptures in the original languages.

- **Music** - We are sometimes called “the singing church,” with a long history of hymns that are sung by all Christians. We have an organ and hymnals. Our services themselves are sung by the pastor and the people.

Catholic

With our Catholic brothers and sisters, we share several things:

- **Liturgy** - Our Sunday Divine Service is the Mass. As celebrant, I wear traditional priestly vestments. In our parish, we chant, genuflect, make the sign of the cross, ring bells, and on festive occasions, burn incense. Our Masses reflect the old Catholic form: we kneel at the communion rail, often communing on the tongue, with a traditional “east-facing” altar. We believe in reverence and dignity in worship.
- **Sacraments** - We teach that Holy Baptism regenerates and saves. We



confess that Christ is truly present in the Holy Eucharist. We believe in priestly Confession and Absolution. We believe in the divine Presence, that God uses physical means to manifest His true presence with us.

- **Church History** - We see ourselves in Catholic continuity with the apostles, with the early church, and with the medieval church. We confess the ecumenical creeds. We often quote the church fathers and hold the saints in high regard as models of the Christian life. We celebrate traditional feast days and the traditional calendar, including Lent, Eastertide, and Advent. Our readings follow the ancient one-year lectionary. Our parish prays the monastic prayer offices called Matins and Vespers.

If your friends still have questions about Mt. Zion or our church body, just tell them that the best way to see what we are about is to, in the words of our Lord, “Come and see!” (John 1:39). A new adult instruction class will be starting in the fall.

-Pastor Koch

Defender of “Faith” or “The Faith”?

Something very subtle, but also very profound, has transpired in Great Britain. For over 500 years, every English monarch styled himself as “Defender of the Faith.” That faith was, of course, Christianity—for about a thousand years, Catholic; and, for the last 500 years, Protestant (1534)

Thus, every Royal Report described the monarch in power as “Head of the Church of England and Defender of the Faith.”

Until now, that is. According to the recently released report, “His Majesty [Charles] is Supreme Governor of the Church of England and protects the space for Faith within the multi-faith nation.” Thus, Charles has abandoned the traditional title of “Defender of the Faith” in order to become the “Defender of the Faiths.”

On the surface, this seems like a meaningless distinction—the addition of a terminal “s,” changing a singular into a plural.

In reality, it has far reaching consequences. For starters, when faith goes from being singular to plural in a person’s mind, truth gives way to relativism (which is apparently the point here).

Put differently, whenever someone uses the word “faiths,” in the plural, so too

are they conditioning themselves, and their listeners, into believing that no one religion is true—and thus no one religion is worth fighting for, or defending.

After all, if there isn’t one faith, but many, and if all faiths contradict one another—and they all do, to varying degrees—then no faith can be true. This is relativism 101—the total abnegation of truth, and, therefore, *faith*—in the singular. In Islamic jurisprudence, *al-din* (Arabic for “the faith” or “the religion”) is synonymous with Islam. No serious Muslim will ever refer to other faiths as a *din* (or *adyaan* in plural). That is because Muslims only acknowledge one true faith—one *din*: Islam.

Same with those Christians of a bygone era. During their perennial wars with Islam, Christians saw Muslims not as members of “just another religion” but as deluded followers of a *false prophet*.

Anyone who thinks otherwise—as in virtually every Westerner today, who says things like “your truth is your truth, and my truth is my truth”—has already abandoned the notion of truth altogether and become a relativist. For this newly engineered mentality, truth is always in the eye of the beholder.

Thus, if King Charles has gone from defending “*the* Faith,” to defending

Whenever someone uses the word “faiths,” in the plural, so too are they conditioning themselves, and their listeners, into believing that no one religion is true—and thus no one religion is worth fighting for, or defending.

many faiths, so too has he gone from saying “truth exists”—and thus deserves to be defended—to saying “no truth exists.”

Put differently, if there are now other faiths to be defended in Britain, that means there’s absolutely nothing special—nothing objectively true—about the
(adapted from an article by Raymond Ibrahim)

Christian faith. It’s just what *some* people believe—and people can believe whatever they want.

We Christians confess *the* faith, the one true faith in Christ, who alone is the Way, the Truth, and the Life (John 14:6).

Stewardship in the First Commandment

LCMS Stewardship Ministry

The greatest gift that Martin Luther gave to us was his Small Catechism. The word “enchiridion” is part of the original title of this work. This is the Greek word for “handbook.” The Small Catechism is a handbook of the Bible. All the basic knowledge that a Christian needs to understand the faith and live a godly life has been taken from the Bible and distilled into this beautiful little book of Christian piety.

Luther starts with the 10 Commandments.

The First Commandment:
You shall have no other gods.

What does this mean? We should fear, love, and trust in God above all things.

We have a God above us. He is the Lord God and we are not. He is Almighty and in control. He is righteous and good. And therefore, we should fear Him.

This God is also our heavenly Father. He wants us to be saved. He does not want us to suffer His just wrath. He has

provided salvation for us in His Son, Jesus Christ. And therefore, we should love Him. Our heavenly Father will never leave us nor forsake us. He has promised as much — and the Bible shows us that He always keeps His promises. So, we should trust Him.

In the Large Catechism, Luther explains how money and possessions form one of the greatest temptations against the First Commandment:

This I must unfold somewhat more plainly, that it may be understood and perceived by ordinary examples of the contrary. Many a one thinks that he has God and everything in abundance when he has money and possessions; he trusts in them and boasts of them with such firmness and assurance as to care for no one. Lo, such a man also has a god, Mammon by name, i.e., money and possessions, on which he sets all his heart, and which is also the most common idol on earth. He who has money and possessions feels secure and is joyful and undismayed as though he were sitting in the midst of Paradise. On the other hand,

he who has no doubts and is despondent, as though he knew of no God. For very few are to be found who are of good cheer, and who neither mourn nor complain if they have not Mammon. This [care and desire for money] sticks and clings to our nature, even to the grave. (LC I 5–9)
 These words of Dr. Luther should call us to repentance; sometimes, we live and act like we don't have a Father in heaven. We

seek our comfort and peace outside of His gracious promises. But we do have a Father in heaven. He does love us. All His promises are true. And the Lord will surely provide. If that is our belief, then our outward lives will reflect this belief in our acts of generosity and mercy. We will see money and possessions not as gods but rather as tools for doing God's work.



Ladies Guild News

The next meeting of the Guild will be on September 15, 2026. All ladies are invited. Watch for information regarding the Fall food drive and bake sale.

September Ushers & Communion Assistants Schedule

Sunday, Sept. 6	9 AM	Joe Beiler	Communion Asst. – Rhett Nowotny
Sunday, Sept. 13	9 AM	Brayden Nicholoso	Communion Asst. – Dan Kohlmeier
Sunday, Sept. 20	9 AM	Andrew Brondos	Communion Asst. – Joe Beiler
Sunday, Sept. 27	9 AM	Jacob Frusti	Communion Asst. – Dan Kohlmeier

Saturday Usher

Saturday, Sept. 5	5 PM	Blake Taylor
Saturday, Sept. 12	5 PM	Kyle Wendtland
Saturday, Sept. 19	5 PM	Matt Kalchbrenner
Saturday, Sept. 26	5 PM	Eric Lawson



September: Sara Kohlmeier

New Congregational President

A special Church Council meeting was held on Sunday, August 23, 2026, for the purpose of electing a new president, following the resignation of Scott McIntosh due to health reasons at our June voters' meeting. Mr. Joseph Beiler was elected to fulfill the vacated term until the next election in December 2027. Thank you for your willingness to serve!

Birthdays and Anniversaries



Happy Birthday to the following Mt. Zion members:

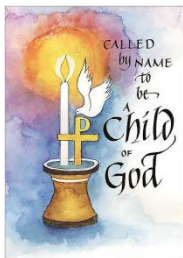
September

1 st	Brenda Kalchbrenner	13 th	Phillip Leon
2 nd	Daniel Kohlmeier	14 th	Eric Lawson
5 th	Judith Beiler	14 th	Carolyn Nicholson
5 th	Rhett Nowotny	15 th	Taylor Madson
10 th	Laura Koch	18 th	Gabriel Frusti
10 th	Molly Kosbab	20 th	Matthew Kalchbrenner
13 th	Gladys Hakala	23 rd	Parker Rice

Baptismal Anniversaries

September

1st Cary Stelloh
1st Luke Wieting
2nd Madelyn Grelk
9th Kevin Ernst
9th William Halverson
9th Jill Widenski
12th Ethan Lawson
16th April Leon



21st Jodie Awe
23rd Daniel Kohlmeier
26th Gladys Hakala
26th Jeremy Tietzen
27th Ralph Mankse
29th Gabriel Frusti
30th Molly Kosbab

Happy Anniversary to the following couples:

September

3rd Richard & Jane Widenski (49 years)
13th Bill & DiAnna Halverson (13 years)
17th Daniel & Tracy Roehrdanz (21 years)
24th Henry & Shirley Boehlke (49 years)



Wedding Shower

We thank God for the gift of marriage! We would like to bless Jordan Halverson and Taylor Madson as they prepare for their marriage in October by showering them with gift cards to Target, Amazon, Visa, etc. in order to purchase items needed for this new stage of life. They are also registered at Amazon ([here](#)) and Target ([here](#)), if you would like to purchase something from their registry. If you would like to participate, please purchase a gift card, put it in a card or envelope marked with their names, and turn it in to the office by **September 1st**. Thank you for helping to support this young couple. Please keep them in your prayers as they prepare for married life.

If you have any questions, please contact Sara Kohlmeier (414-573-9683 or mountziongreenfield@gmail.com).



New Members

Jim and Lana Hertel

Transferred from Hales Corner's Lutheran Church
(through action of Voters' Assembly on 6-14-2026)

Official Acts

+Scott R. McIntosh+

Died: July 31, 2026

Funeral: August 14, 2026

Mt. Zion

Taylor Madson

Baptized: July 26, 2026

Confirmed: July 26, 2026

Directory Changes

Blake & Coral Taylor

Megan Taylor

450 W Swan Cercle, Apt 3205

Oak Creek, WI 53154

Jim and Lana Hertel

3915 W Southland Dr.

Franklin, WI 53132

(414) 704-4318 - Jim

(414) 940-8296 – Lana

Sara Kohlmeier

New email: sjkohlmeier@gmail.com

Brad & Julie Stack

936 N 164th Dr

Goodyear, AZ 85338

Joan Ringe

6545 S. Whitnall Edge Road

Franklin, Wi 53132

Cell phone 262-933-1433

Thank you!

Dear members of Mt. Zion,

Thank you for providing many supplies for our Congolese students once again! The tables are full at Our Father's Lutheran School and ready for children to receive what they need to help them be successful in school. We would not be able to provide for them without your help. Thank you so much!

In Christ, Laura Koch



Our Father's Lutheran Church
6023 S. 27th St., Greenfield, WI 53221

Dear Saints of Our Fathers, Mt Zion, Grace, and Risen Savior,

Peace be with you!

I am so glad to take this opportunity to personally thank you for your combined donation of \$88 to the Immigrant Mission Field Network collected during your combined Ascension Day service on May 14, 2026. It's not easy starting programming when you are a new organization, a new Recognized Service Organization of the LCMS, and are still working to build a reputation and put on events for the sake of the mission fields in the synod. I really value every gift; it's a partnership in the work of recognizing the central role of diaspora immigrant communities in the life of missions in the synod. There's so much opportunity for more and better collaboration in engaging these many mission fields, and your encouragement means a lot. I pray the Lord would open many doors for the IMFN to serve the synod's needs in 2026 and beyond. I pray the IMFN can continue to be of service to Milwaukee area congregations in your life together in the synod's communion.

Kind regards,

Rev. Dr. Matthew Buse
Executive Director, Immigrant Mission Field Network

Daily Bible Readings

(Readings in italics are optional extended readings.)

Sept. 1	1 Kings 18 :1-19 Eph. 1 :1-23	Sept. 16	2 Chron. 35:1-7, 16-25 <i>Zeph. 1:1—3:20</i> Col. 3:1-25
Sept. 2	1 Kings 18:20-40 Eph. 2:1-22	Sept. 17	2 Chron. 36:1-23 <i>Philemon 1-25</i> Col. 4:1-18
Sept. 3	1 Kings 19:1-21 <i>1 Kings 20:1—22:53</i> Eph. 3:1-21	Sept. 18	Neh. 1:1—2:10 <i>Hag. 1:1—2:23</i> 1 Tim. 1:1-20
Sept. 4	2 Kings 2:1-18 Eph. 4:1-24	Sept. 19	Neh. 2:11-20; 4:1-6 1 Tim. 2 :1-15
Sept. 5	2 Kings 2:19-25; 4:1-17 Eph. 4:25—5:14	Trinity 16	Neh. 4 :7-23 1 Tim. 3:1-16
Trinity 14	2 Kings 4:8-22, 32-37 Eph. 5:15-33	Sept. 21	Neh. 5:1-16; 6:1-9, 15-16 1 Tim. 4 :1-16
Sept. 7	2 Kings 4:38—5:8 Eph. 6:1-24	Sept. 22	Neh. 7 :1-4 ; 8 :1-18 <i>Ezra 1 :1—10 :19</i> 1 Tim. 5 :1-16
Sept. 8	2 Kings 5:9-27 Phil. 1:1-20	Sept. 23	Neh. 9 :1-21 1 Tim. 5:17—6:2
Sept. 9	2 Kings 6:1-23 <i>2 Kings 6:24—8:29</i> Phil. 1:21—2:11	Sept. 24	Neh. 9:22-38 <i>Neh. 10:1—13:31</i> 1 Tim. 6:3-21
Sept. 10	2 Kings 9:1-13; 10:18-29 <i>2 Kings 13:1—18:8</i> Phil. 2:12-30	Sept. 25	Mal. 1:1-14 Matt. 3:1-17
Sept. 11	2 Chron. 29:1-24 Phil. 3:1-21	Sept. 26	Mal. 2 :1—3 :5 Matt. 4 :1-11
Sept. 12	2 Chron. 31:1-21 Phil. 4:1-23	Trinity 17	Mal.3:6—4:6 Matt. 4:12-25
Trinity 15	2 Chron. 32:1-22 <i>Hos. 1:1—14:9</i> Col. 1:1-23	Sept. 28	Deut. 1:1-18 Matt. 5 :1-20
Sept. 14	2 Chron. 33:1-25 <i>Jonah 1:1—4:11</i> Col. 1:24—2:7	Sept. 29	Deut. 1 :19-36 Matt. 5 :21-48
Sept. 15	2 Chron. 34 :1-4, 8-11, 14-33 <i>Nah. 1:1—3:19</i> Col. 2 :8-23	Sept. 30	Deut. 1:37—2:15 Matt. 6:1-15

Iron Sharpens Iron

A Christian Men's Retreat

Mark your calendars! A Christian Men's Retreat, "Iron Sharpens Iron," will be held at Luther Memorial Chapel & University Student Center (3833 N. Maryland Ave. in Shorewood), October 16-17, 2026. This retreat is open to all men and will provide an opportunity to enjoy fraternal conversation, fellowship and enrichment in God's Word. Cost is \$50. University students attend free of charge. Meals provided. Please scan QR code to learn more and to register.



Rev. Ralph Tausz



Rev. Michael Larson



Rev. Dr. Thomas Pietsch



Rev. Jack Gilbert



Rev. Peter Bender



Rev. Brian Rohde

Scan to Register

Cost: \$50



IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT

(adapted from St. John Lutheran, Indianapolis' Facebook post)

We wanted to make sure everyone is aware of our policy regarding children in church:

If your kids are loud, please still come to church.

If you're running late because getting everyone out the door was a battle, please still come to church.

If your toddler won't sit still, please still come to church.

If your baby needs to eat, please still come to church.

If your child asks questions at the least convenient time, please still come to church.

If someone cries, drops a toy, needs a snack, or has to make their third trip to the bathroom, please still come to church.

If your child doesn't know all the words, all the prayers, or exactly when to sit and stand, please still come to church.

If you feel like you spent the entire service managing your children and heard approximately 12% of the sermon, please still come to church.

If Sunday morning feels messy instead of peaceful, please still come to church.

If you're worried your children are distracting the people around you, please still come to church.

Because children do not learn how to be part of the Church by staying home until they can sit quietly.

They learn by being here.

They learn the hymns by hearing us sing them.

They learn the prayers by hearing us pray them.

They learn to worship by watching us worship.

They learn that church is home because we make room for them here.

The wiggles, whispers, dropped crayons, crying babies, and little voices are not interruptions to the life of the Church.

They are evidence that the Church is alive.

So bring the babies. Bring the toddlers. Bring the big kids. Come late. Sit in the back. Sit in the front. Step out when you need to and come right back in. Just come.

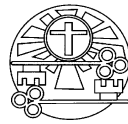
Children are not simply the future of the Church. They are part of the Church right now. And there is a place for them here at Mt. Zion.

FRANK & ERNEST® by Bob Thaves



Treasurer's Report for July 2026			
Beginning of Month Balance Retained In Checking: \$59,286.91			
Receipts		Expenses	
Plate Offerings	\$139.00	Salaries/Wages	\$6,877.06
Weekly Envelopes	\$5,736.00	FICA	\$384.34
Electronic Offerings	\$9,014.94	Utilities	\$879.82
Communion/Altar	\$38.63	Pension & Insurance	\$3,167.16
Missions	\$100.00	Car Allowance	\$307.70
Buck of the Month	\$116.00	Church & Parsonage Maintenance	\$3,943.08
New Window Fund	\$50.00	Adult Education	\$52.26
Germany Tour	\$4,751.65	Dues, Subscriptions, & Fees	\$242.78
Interest for July	\$0.53	Office Supplies	\$290.76
		Postage	\$109.61
		Guest Pastor	\$600.00
		Prepaid Expenses	\$926.18
Total Receipts for July 2026:	\$19,946.75	Total Expenses for July 2026:	\$17,780.75
Restricted Funds in Checking as of 7/31/26			
Communion/Altar	\$296.65	Congolese Outreach	\$500.00
Missions	\$2,140.19	Mt. Zion Care Team	\$359.48
Gift & Memorial	\$25,202.13	Pastor's Home Equity Fund	\$3,575.00
Buck of the Month	\$2,474.76	New Window Fund	\$1,210.00
Outdoor Painting Fund	\$0.00	Water Fountain Fund	\$2,350.39
Germany Tour	\$16,750.31		
Operating Fund as of 7/31/26			
	Beginning of Month Balance	\$59,286.91	
	Receipts	\$19,946.75	
	Expenses	-\$17,780.75	
	End of Month Balance	\$61,452.91	
	Restricted Funds	\$54,858.91	
	Actual Operating Funds	\$6,594.00	
Year-To-Date Change in Account Balance as of 7/31/26			
	Year-To-Date Receipts	\$192,865.23	
	Year-To-Date Expenses	-\$151,983.51	
	Change in Account Balance	\$40,881.72	
Submitted by Andrew Brondos, Treasurer, on 8/22/26			

September 2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1 Joshua	2 Hannah	3 Gregory the Great, Pastor	4 Moses	5 Zacharias and Elizabeth Divine Service –5 pm
6 Divine Service – 9 am	7 Labor Day	8	9	10	11	12 APOR Life Walk – Beautiful Savior, Mequon Divine Service –5 pm
13 Divine Service– 9 am New Member Welcome – 10:15 am Sunday School – 10:20 am Voters' Meeting – 10:30 am	14 Holy Cross Day	15 Ladies' Guild – 1:00 pm	16 Cyprian of Carthage, Pastor and Martyr	17 First Communion Instruction – 6:30 pm	18	19 Buck of the Month Divine Service –5 pm
20 Buck of the Month Divine Service – 9 am Sun. School & Bible Class -10:20 am	21 Matthew, Apostle and Evangelist Newsletter Deadline	22 Jonah	23	24 First Communion Instruction – 6:30 pm	25	26 Divine Service –5 pm
27 Divine Service – 9 am Sun. School & Bible Class -10:20 am	28	29 St. Michael and All Angels	30 Jerome, Translator of Holy Scripture			Private Confession & Absolution: Sat. 4:15-4:45 or Sun. 8:15-8:45 or by appointment

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

www.MountZionGreenfield.org