

# The Christian Light

Volume 19 Number 2

February 2021

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## Free To Repent and Praise

Christ has set us free from the curse of the Law by becoming a curse for us (Galatians 3:13). During Lent we focus on all the things our sins did to Jesus. He took the curse of our sin and carried it to the cross. He did it because he loved us and wanted us to be a part of his eternal family. He wanted us to be set free.

Historically, Lent has also been a season of repentance. To reinforce the serious nature of our sins and what they did to Jesus, the Church has worshipped differently during Lent. The phrase "Alleluia" is has often been omitted during the season. God has not commanded that it be set aside, but the Church has found a benefit in omitting it to reinforce a focus on repentance.

Some of the songs of praise in worship have been set aside for the same reason during the season of Lent. Again, God has not commanded it, but in freedom, many have found it beneficial.

Most of the 19 years I have been here we have sang "Farwell to Alleluia" as the closing hymn of Transfiguration worship. Transfiguration is the last Sunday before Ash Wednesday. This year we will not. Why? We will do it as an exercise of our Christian freedom.

A few years back some of our high school students who attended one of our areal Lutheran high schools attended another WELS

church in Lent where they were still using "Alleluia." This brought up questions in the mind of our members. They were concerned that this congregation was doing something wrong because they used "Alleluia" during Lent. We had taught why we said Farewell to Alleluia but we had not taught well enough that we did not have to say goodbye.

Since that time we have not said Farewell to Alleluia once or twice. We do this so that we are reminded that it is okay to repent and say "Praise the Lord" (the meaning of Alleluia) at the same time. We are free in Christ to worship him in many different ways. However sometimes we can begin to think that something we have not seen in worship before must be wrong. That is why we took a great deal of time to teach the biblical symbolism of the imposition of ashes before we did it the first time. If we did not do this, we may trouble the conscience of those who might think we are doing something wrong. Now that we have seen it and been taught why it is biblically okay it should not trouble us. We may want to do it or not want to participate, that is okay. But now we know it is not "wrong."

The same is true with the phrase "Alleluia" in Lent. Some may prefer to omit it because of the emphasis on repentance. That is okay. But to use it and remember that we can praise the Lord because we are forgiven repentant sinners is okay also. We are free in Christ to worship in either way!

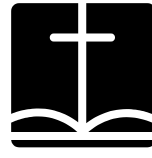


### Our Mission

is to  
**Glorify**  
 God  
 as we  
**Gather**  
 around the  
 Gospel  
 to  
**Grow**  
 in the  
 Gospel  
 and then  
**Go**  
 to others  
 with the Gospel



# Congregational News



## Leadership Team Notes

The Leadership Team met in person in January.

We ended 2020 with 721 members and 562 communicants. In 2002 we had 520 members and 404 communicants. Average weekly worship attendance for the year was 193 in person. Bible class average attendance was 40.

The council granted Sue Pischke's request to transfer to St. Mark's, DePere. The council also received Abbey Marek as a communicant member by way of Adult Confirmation. Welcome Abbey!

The council approved keeping member tuition for school at the current rate of \$1,200. We hope this will help families who are facing uncertainties connected to the pandemic. The council also set non-member tuition at the same amount. We do not want people to join our

church just to receive a break in tuition. With the advent of school choice funding we are able to share Jesus with non-member students in way that does not impact our overall ministry. If we share Jesus with these students and their families who do not have a church home we hope they will consider joining us because of Jesus, not because of finances.

The Leadership Team spent time discussing how it will function moving forward. We plan to spend less time discussing day to day matters that others can handle and then report to us. We plan to spend more time planning ministry and overseeing our Gospel work. In the coming weeks we will share with the congregation how we are organized under our mission statement.

The Treasurer reported the

following December balances:

Income	\$86,207
Expenses	\$63,876
Monthly balance	\$22,330
Fiscal year to date balance	\$227,865
High School	\$3,005
2020 goal	\$12,700
2020 offerings	\$15,577
Synod Mission	\$2,720
2020 goal	\$28,920
2020 offerings	\$26,562

The appeal received \$200 in offerings in December. In December there was \$6,290 in expenses from the appeal account. This account supports the expenses of having a second pastor. The balance in the appeal account is \$47,317.

## Christian Funerals

It has pleased the Lord to call the soul of Lorraine Zeamer to her eternal home. Lorraine died on Thursday, Jan. 7. Her funeral was at Morrison Zion on Saturday, Jan. 16. Pastor Ott officiated the service.

It has pleased our heavenly Father to call the soul of Ray Siebert to his eternal home. Ray died on Friday, Jan. 22. His Christian funeral was at Morrison Zion on Saturday, Jan. 30. Pastor Enderle officiated the service.

Please pray that God comforts all who mourn Lorraine and Ray's deaths with the confidence that those who die in the Lord are with the Lord!

## Christian Baptisms

On Sunday, Jan. 10 Elijah James Kiley was baptized into Christ in a private service. Elijah, the son of Emmett Kiley and Mackenzie Swanson, was born on Dec. 7, 2020.

On Saturday, Jan. 30 Hazel Rose Massart was baptized into Christ in a private service. Hazel, the daughter of Jordan Massart and Megan Wendt, was born on Dec. 21, 2020.

Please pray for God's blessings on your new brother and sister in Christ and their families!

## Grow and Keep On Growing in the Grace and Knowledge of Jesus

**Sunday Morning Bible Study** In January we will continue our study on *The Fruit of the Spirit*. The remaining lessons in the study are:

- Feb. 7: Faithfulness
- Feb. 14: Gentleness
- Feb. 21: Self-Control.

On Feb. 28 we will begin a study on *Galatians: You're Free Now*. The lessons are:

- |          |  |          |  |
|----------|--|----------|--|
| Feb. 28  | There's a letter in the mail from the apostle Paul | March 28 | Christians are free from the Law                 |
| March 7  | Paul defends his apostleship                       | April 4  | Justified People, keep your freedom              |
| March 14 | The other apostles accepted Paul                   | April 11 | Justified People, you are free to serve the lord |
| March 21 | Not by works, but by faith alone                   | April 18 | Closing Words                                    |

We meet socially distant in the church basement at 9:15 a.m. each Sunday. Join us!

**Sunday School** will provide two options in February. There is an in-person family Bible Study held in church at 9:15 on Sundays. There is also a virtual option for families to do at home together. New lessons will be made available in February. Go to [www.mzluth.org/virtual-sunday-school/](http://www.mzluth.org/virtual-sunday-school/) for all the videos and information. Contact Pastor Enderle for questions or comments.

**Psalms 18:30** We will continue our Sunday afternoon study at noon. Contact Pastor Enderle with any questions. Those 18-30 years old are welcome to join us! We will also have an online study for those 18-30 year-olds who aren't in the area. This will focus on the book "The Lies We Believe."

**Sunday Night Book Discussion** in February we will continue discussing the book, *The Life You Crave: It's All About Grace* by Mike Newman. One copy is available for \$5. Contact Pastor Ott if you would like it (920-362-7118 or ottrr@mzluth.org). We meet at Nickel Funeral Home. Please park in the triangle in front of the funeral home and enter through the glass door. We meet Sundays at 7:00 p.m. Join us!

**Youth Group Bible Study** will meet Sunday at 7:00 p.m. in the Bible Study Room in the church basement. We are discussing the benefits of being a part of the church. 8th graders are encouraged to join us! We are excited to gather together again around the Word with friends!

**Women's Bible Study** will meet Thursdays at 8:00 p.m. in the church basement. If you have any questions please contact Jen Enderle (864-2348). Thanks!

**Men's Study** will meet Monday at 7:00 p.m. in the main church basement. Join us for time in the word and good fellowship! Topics will vary this month.

**Taking God's Word Home** is a work at your own pace personal study for you to use at home alone or with others. Each week we have 3 studies of various formats on next week's readings that you can take home. They will be available at church, at school, online, or we can mail them to you. Use whichever format works best for you and share the others with friends or family!

**Bible Reading Plan** There will be several chances to be in the Bible this month. Go to [mzluth.org](http://mzluth.org) or our Facebook page to join. Contact Pastor Enderle (864-2348) with any questions.

- February 1– 7: Every Good Endeavor - A 7 Day Devotional About Work
- February 8 – 12: Anxiety: Finding Hope and Joy
- February 13 – 16: Time: Colossians
- February 17 – March 2: In Our Place: Lenten Devotions

**ESL Class** English as a Second Language will meet Wednesdays at 5:30 p.m. in the main church basement. New volunteers are welcome to join. The atmosphere is relaxed and fun. Please talk to Pastor Enderle (864-2348) if you are interested.

## Worship In February

## Notes on Worship

We will continue to live stream Sunday morning worship at 8:00 a.m. on YouTube. Our page is [www.youtube.com/c/morrisonzionlutheran](http://www.youtube.com/c/morrisonzionlutheran). Share the link with a friend! You can find recordings of all of our worship services on YouTube and Facebook. Resources for worship and an online friendship and communion register are at [www.mzluth.org/online](http://www.mzluth.org/online) worship. If you would like sermons printed and mailed or DVDs please speak with Nancy Pantzlaff. Worship in person is at 7:00 p.m. on Thursdays. On Sunday we worship at 8:00 a.m. and 10:30 p.m. Offerings can be mailed to church (7395 County Road W, Greenleaf, WI 54126).

In February we close the Epiphany season with one of the minor festivals in the church year: The Transfiguration of our Lord. This year we will not say "Farewell to Alleluia." See page 1 for more information on this. On Feb. 17 Ash Wednesday begins the season of Lent. We will impose ashes on the banner as part of our Ash Wednesday worship. Midweek Lenten worship will be at 11:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. this year. Our themes for each service in February is below.

Feb. 4	Epiphany 5	<b>Jesus' glory in our lives, hidden by our weakness</b>	green
	Sermon: Romans 8:28-30	Hymns: 429, 93, 372:2,3	
Feb. 7	Epiphany 5	<b>MLHS Lancer Singers in Worship</b>	green
	Sermon: Guest Pastor from Manitowoc Lutheran High School		
Feb. 14	Transfiguration	<b>Jesus reveals his glory to prepare for his death</b>	white communion
	Sermon: 2 Corinthians 4:3-6	Hymns: 95, 97, 280:2,6	
Feb. 17	Ash Wednesday	<b>A Day of Repentance</b>	black
	Sermon: Luke 18:9-14	Hymns: 738, 396, 383:1,4	
Feb. 21	Lent 1	<b>The Road to Redemption: Turn Around</b>	purple communion
	Sermon: Mark 1:12-15	Hymns: GR738, 200, 204:3	
Feb. 24	Midweek 1	<b>Contrasts of the Cross: Master and Servant</b>	purple
	Sermon: John 13:1-7	Hymns: 746:1-2, 117:1,4,5, 746:3-4	
Feb. 28	Lent 2	<b>Jesus reveals his glory by triumphing over the devil</b>	purple
	Sermon: Mark 8:31-38	Hymns: GR738, 434, 422:2-3	

Consider using the hymns, readings and the sermon text as a personal or family devotion sometime before you join us at worship or online!

Altar Committee members serving in February: Gloria and Connie Blauert

## Worship Committee

We will meet in the church basement on Monday, Feb. 1 at 7:00 p.m.

## Offering Envelopes

Offering envelopes for 2021 are in your mailbox in the basement. Your mailbox may have moved to a new location. If you can't find your name or packet, please contact Nancy Pantzlaff (864-2349).

## Online Worship and Technology Upgrades

New microphones have improved the sound of the choir, piano and organ. The sound level of the congregation's singing and responses will depend on how many people are in attendance and how loud they sing. You won't hear the responses at the same level when we had individuals holding microphones, but the volume will increase as attendance increases. A second camera has also been installed. We hope this will improve the worship experience for those online

## Online Register

Please register your online worship! Text your names and the date to (920) 362-7118 or (920) 949-1038. You can also register online at [www.mzluth.org](http://www.mzluth.org). Registering helps us to know who we are ministering to online. You can also send prayer requests online or by text.

### Food Pantry

We are grateful for our recent donations. We were able to give families additional meat and fresh fruit each month. We served 24 families in January. We have been able to follow social distancing guidelines by using the entire basement versus just the food pantry area. This does involve extra set up and take down. If you are willing to help to set up on the first Saturday of the month at 7:00 a.m. or the Monday following the first Saturday at 5:30 p.m. please contact Linda Bruegge. Food pantry phone is (920)246-5435. Please also have anyone who is in need of assistance with groceries call the food pantry phone number. The items we are always in need of include canned fruit, juice, cereal, tuna, pasta sauce, baking items, laundry detergent, shampoo, toothpaste, toilet paper, and kleenex.

### Soup for Souls

Meals continue to be available at school and church for all congregation members to use when sharing the message of Jesus love with others. This month, the Soup for Souls program is supplying a meal and showing Christian love to the residents of Wayside Parkview Estates. On Feb. 7 a meal will be delivered to the residents, along with a handmade card with a message of love and a devotion on Living in the Light. Thank you to Cathy Gawrych for leading the Thrivent Action Team for the meals at Parkview Estate.

### Divine Calls Returned

Both Pastor Ott and Hannah Holzhueter returned the calls that were extended to them. They will continue their ministries here at Morrison Zion. Thanks you for your prayers and input!

### Virtual Men of His Word Conference

Since our regular in-person MOHW Conference was cancelled due to COVID-19 safety concerns, our MOHW Committee is planning a Virtual MOHW Conference to be held on Saturday, April 17, 2021 with the theme, "Separated yet United." More details will be communicated as they become available. Hoping to see you on April 17. Save the date!



### Scrip

Michelle will be at church from 9 to 9:15 on the first and third Sunday of the month.

#### Scrip order dates:

Feb. 7 9:00-9:15 a.m.

Feb. 21 9:00-9:15 a.m.

Contact Michelle Laabs with questions (619-0626 [micjer.laabs@gmail.com](mailto:micjer.laabs@gmail.com)) or drop orders off in the school office.

## School News

### 4K & 5K Registration

The registration deadline for 4K & 5K for the 2021-2022 school year was Feb. 1. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Principal Rick Muchka at 864-2349. If you wish to learn more about the Wisconsin Parental Choice Program, please also reach out to Mr. Muchka.

### Teachers Conference

The Northern Wisconsin District Teachers Conference scheduled for Thursday and Friday, Feb. 11-12, has been cancelled due to COVID-19. There will not be school held on these days.

### COVID-19

The School Board decided to adopt the CDC and Brown County Health Department policy of a 10-day quarantine period for close contacts who are not living with a person who has tested positive for COVID-19. If you have any questions, feel free to contact Mr. Muchka or any one of the School Board members.

### PTA Meeting

A PTA Meeting was held on Tuesday, Jan. 5. Topics that were discussed were COVID-19, the Wisconsin Parental Choice Program, and winter athletics. The next PTA Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, May 4, at 6:30 p.m.

### 4K-5K

Hannah Holzhueter

What a comfort it is that our God is still the same when the world around us is constantly challenging us to doubt that.

4K continues to learn the letters and sounds of the alphabet, along with numbers. They look forward to centers with 5K, working on iPad skills, and learning to take turns, follow directions, and listen other friends in their center group.

5K began reading sight words along with easy-reader books. They are excited to put their memorization and letter sounds knowledge to work with reading and decoding texts. They are working on skills like graphing for math and are finally enjoying what they've been looking forward to in science – studying penguins! They also had a second round of nationalized testing in math and reading, and in my opinion, the class has done well with their scores.

It has been difficult to exclude some of our center toys this year. Recently, Picasso Tiles (magnetic building flat blocks) were donated to our classroom. They are easy to clean, and the students have loved creating things with them. Their favorite thing to build so far is our church!

For Bible Time, we have made it to the story of Jesus choosing his disciples Peter and Andrew, and how they were no longer fishermen, but now “fishers of men.” Each student made a fishing pole with fish as a reminder that we too can “fish for men” and share the love of Jesus with the world.

Please continue to pray for the health and safety of Morrison Zion Lutheran School. We are so blessed that the pandemic has had minimum impact in terms of having to completely shut the school down. Praise the Lord for in-person learning!

### Grades 1-2

Brenda Kuchenbecker

Love one another. What a wonderful message at Valentine's and all year through. We focused on Jesus' love for all through his parables and miracles. We looked at ways that we can show that same love to others. In math the first graders worked with time, skip counting and measurement. The second graders worked with money, temperature, and time. In phonics the second graders worked with contractions and suffixes. The first graders worked with long vowels. In grammar they worked with verbs and adjectives. We studied the states of matter and did some fun experiments including blowing up a balloon with baking soda and vinegar, microwaving ivory soap, and making dancin' raisins. We began a reading challenge for the third quarter. The kids are diving into books to move along a map in hopes of earning prizes along the way to reach the fishbowl and win a stuffed fish. Please encourage them in their reading and keep them in your prayers as they learn and grow in God's love every day.

**Grades 3-4**

Katie Muchka

We pray that you're having a wonderful winter! In Christ Light the class is studying the New Testament. We are focusing on the work Jesus did preaching, teaching, and healing. We want to follow his example and share God's word and the love of Jesus with everyone we meet. In Math the third graders are working on writing number sentences and expressions. The fourth graders are busy solving long division problems. In Science we are studying unique ways both plants and animals survive in their environments. Through our study we will see that all plants and animals are an amazing part of God's wonderful creation. This year the third and fourth graders are studying Wisconsin State History. We are currently learning about European settlers immigrating to Wisconsin. Both the third and fourth graders are studying narrative writing in Shurley English. The class will also be learning to punctuate quotes. We pray the members of our church, school, and community are staying healthy, and are finding peace and comfort in the words and promises of our loving God. Please keep our third and fourth grade class in your prayers as we continue the school year! !

**Grades 5-6**

Sophia Birner

So far this year we have done some exciting things in 5th and 6th grade. In catechism, we finished up The Ten Commandments and are moving on to study The Conclusion. We will also learn about many different parables that Jesus told and how they apply to us today in Christ Light.

In science, we have done plant dissections. We started by breaking apart seeds to learn about the embryo inside. Then, we dissected a flower in order to identify the different parts of a plant that are necessary for plant reproduction.

We have also learned about characterization and conflict in our reading class. Students will make short skits to show their understanding of conflict between characters and changes a character may go through as a story develops.

**Grades 7-8**

Rick Muchka

Brrr? It sure is getting cold out there! But the cold weather hasn't slowed down the upper graders and their learning. "In Christ Light class we just finished our study on what God's Word says about controversial issues in society. We are now studying the book of Acts and Paul's letters." In Reading we are learning about non-fiction in literature. In Geography, we are learning about Europe and Russia. In Grammar, our students are utilizing more technology to write persuasive essays. It is pretty amazing to see the students using their gifts and abilities in a variety of ways.

Continue to keep our students, parents, and teachers in your prayers as we continue to serve Him in the classroom with our gifts, talents, and abilities.

**School Choice Application Period**

The window for applications into the School Choice program begins on February 1, 2021. All families who wish to participate in the program will need to apply, even if they are already a part of the program this year. Contact Mr. Muchka with any questions



Luke 9:48

**Morrison Zion Lutheran Church  
of Morrison**

Church: 7395 County Road W  
Greenleaf, WI 54126  
Pastor Randy Ott  
Pastor James Enderle  
www.mzluth.org  
School: 7373 County Road W  
Greenleaf, WI 54126  
Principal Rick Muchka  
Phone 864-2348 (Church)  
864-2349 (School)  
Pastor Ott 362-7118 (mobile)  
Email: ottrr@mzluth.org  
Pastor Enderle 920-949-1038 (mobile)  
Email james.enderle@mzls.org



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THE CHRISTIAN LIGHT  
FEBRUARY 2021



**Our Mission**

is to  
**Glorify**  
God  
as we  
**Gather**  
around the  
Gospel  
to  
**Grow**  
in the  
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and then  
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**Lent Begins February 17 with Ash Wednesday**

Lent is a 40 day journey of repentance and prayer, or reflection and renewal. The season begins on Ash Wednesday on Feb. 17. We will have a special service with communion and the Imposition of Ashes on a banner as a part of our worship.

The Sundays are islands of refreshment where we focus on Jesus' travels and ours on The Road to Redemption.

This year our midweek worship will focus on "The Contrasts of the Cross." We will explore the paradoxes in Jesus' life as he accomplished our redemption. We will worship at 11:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. Because of the pandemic we will not have meals this Lenten season. The themes of our weekly midweek worship this year follow:

**Contrasts of the Cross**

Feb. 24	Master and Servant
March 3	Joy and Sorrow
March 10	Peace and Trouble
March 17	King and Captive
March 24	In the World and Of the World

Join us as we explore all of the paradoxes that Jesus was willing to go through for you!