

The Christian Light

Volume 19 Number 1

January 2021

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“When” Not “If”

On Sunday, Dec. 6 we had a Call Information Meeting in place of Bible Class. There were 64 people who attended. We discussed how a called worker evaluates a call. The called worker looks at the ministry needs at both places to which they are called and seeks to determine where their gifts would best serve God’s kingdom.

I presented what I have learned about the ministry needs in South Dakota. I asked for input on my personal assessment of my gifts for ministry (I see my gifts as preaching, teaching, and leading a congregation to carry out its mission). I then asked some pointed questions about our ministry needs here.

The first was, “Do we need two pastors to carry out our ministry here at Morrison Zion?” From time to time I still hear rumblings that we do not need two pastors. The group that was there expressed overwhelming support for having two pastors in our ministry. They felt we were just beginning to implement new ministry plans but the pandemic derailed a number of those plans. They felt that to carry out the ministry we desire we will need two pastors whenever the pandemic ends.

The second question was, “Has my leadership voice become ‘white noise’ to many in the congregation?” This is a concern I have had for a number of years. Those who

were present felt that my vision for our ministry is still being heard by members.

I was encouraged by their responses, but I was also not surprised. The people who attended are those who have been present and involved with these types of decisions in the past. The people who do not get involved, but prefer to sit back and offer reaction to the decisions others make were not present. For many it is easier to react than to offer input on how to get more Jesus to more people.

One comment that was made has stuck in my head from the moment it was made. Whether I continue my ministry here or a different lead pastor casts a vision, it is vital for our congregation to take this comment to heart. Understanding this comment and living it will drive the ministry of this congregation to the blessings God has in store for it. Ignoring the comment will doom it to limping along as the body of Christ.

A member said (I’m paraphrasing) that this congregation is very difficult to reach. We are resistant to change, perhaps a little hard headed. It takes repeated effort over and over to get us to be involved in sharing the gospel of Jesus with others. Next came what I wrote down, “When we break through that barrier we will need your leadership.” Notice that they did not say “if” they said “when.” This attitude is essential for us to be the members of Christ’s body that he desires us to be!



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

Council Notes

The council met in person in December.

Since we have begun worshipping in person again we have averaged 166 a week in worship. Online worship over the same time has averaged 50. In the same time frame we have averaged 32 each week in our Bible Classes.

The council thanked the Worship Committee for their work decorating the church. We have adjusted the roped off pews to have more seating for Christmas worship.

The council approved the purchase of a fireproof safe so store School Choice documents and other documents we need to preserve.

The council approved the guidelines for the Good Samaritan Fund (see page 5 for the guidelines). A member gave a gift of \$6,000, \$4,500 of the gift will go towards updating technology for online worship (see

page 4). The remainder of the gift is to be used as the council sees fit.

English as a Second Language classes continue. Various Bible Stories are used to help students learn English.

The Treasurer reported the following November balances:

Income	\$193,528
Expenses	\$40,272
Monthly balance	\$153,256
Fiscal year to date balance	\$206,538

The \$99,714.87 we received as a Small Business Administration Loan in April as a part of the CARES Act is included in the monthly income. This loan was forgiven in October and reported as income in November. Even if you remove the loan forgiveness of \$99,714 and the \$76,775 of funds received from the School Choice program, our offerings over the same 5 month period of July to November of this year is

2021 Calendars

2021 calendars are available in the back of church. Thank you to Nickel Funeral Home for providing the calendars.

\$15,000 ahead of last year. We thank the Lord that he has moved his people to support our Gospel ministry in this way!

High School	\$1,580
2020 goal	\$12,700
Calendar year to date balance	\$12,572
Synod Mission	\$2,458
2020 goal	\$28,920
Calendar year to date balance	\$23,842

The appeal received \$200 in offerings in November. In November 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 \$53,407

Christian Funeral

It has pleased our Heavenly Father to call the soul of Carolyn Brunner to her eternal home. Carolyn died on Tuesday, Nov. 24. Her Christian Funeral was at Morrison on Saturday, Nov. 28. Please pray for God's blessings on all who mourn.

Thank You!

Thank you for your expressions of Christian love during this Christmas season! Your love for us in Christ as expressed through gifts, cards, and prayers is a blessing from the hand of God!

Pastor and Paula Ott

Voters' Meeting

The Voters elected the following 2021 leadership team: John Beyer, Hans Herzog, Randy Loppnow, Kurt Voster, and Erv Zeamer. Steve Laabs will also serve on the leadership team as chairman of the school board. Kurt Heling was elected to the school board. The 2021 goal for our High School offerings (equally split between MLHS and FVLHS) was set at \$13,000. The Congregational Mission Offering (CMO) goal was set at \$29,500. These gifts support the WELS.

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:

Jan. 3	Peace	Feb. 7	Faithfulness
Jan. 10	Patience	Feb. 14	Gentleness
Jan. 17	Kindness	Feb. 21	Self-Control
Jan. 24	Goodness		

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

Sunday School will be on hold for January. The next online course will begin in February. If you are behind or haven't tried out the lessons you can find them at www.mzluth.org/virtual-sunday-school/ Please Contact Pastor Enderle with feedback on this ministry. We are reviewing what steps are necessary and when it might be possible to return to in-person Sunday School. Let Pastor Enderle know if you would be interested in being a Sunday School teacher.

Psalm 18:30 We will meet Sunday at noon in the church basement. Contact Pastor Enderle with any questions. Those 18-30 years old are welcome to join us!

Sunday Night Book Discussion On Jan. 3 we will begin our new book, *The Life You Crave: It's All About Grace* by Mike Newman. Limited copies are available for \$5. Contact Pastor Ott if you would like one (920-362-7118 or ottrr@mzluth.org). **Please note:** In January we will 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. Join us!

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!

New Life in Christ Class meets Monday at 6:00 p.m. in the church basement. This Bible Information Class is a great review of the catechism. Join us for as many classes as you can.

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!

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 or our Facebook page to join. Contact Pastor Enderle (864-2348) with any questions.

Jan. 2 –11:	God's Gift: Video Devotions from Time of Grace
Jan. 12–16	Christmas Hope: Devotions from Time of Grace
Jan. 17–26	I'm Struggling, Lord
Jan. 27–31	Time: Video Devotions from Time of Grace

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.

Divine Calls

On Nov. 23 Pastor Ott received a call to serve the dual parish of St. Paul's, Roscoe, SD and St. John's, Bowdle, South Dakota. On Dec. 6 Miss Holzhueter received a call to teach Kindergarten at Trinity Lutheran, Jenera, Ohio. At the time this newsletter is being written neither has come to a decision about these calls. Please pray that God leads Pastor Ott and Miss Holzhueter to the best decision for God's Kingdom.

Worship In December

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. 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. 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).

Jan. 3	Christmas 2	Christmas continues: More gifts are opened	white
	Sermon: Hebrews 2:10-18	Hymns: 56, 34, 36	
Jan. 10	Epiphany 1	Jesus' glory is revealed at his baptism	white
	Sermon: Acts 16:25-34	Hymns: Gathering Rite Baptism, 89, 709	communion
Jan. 17	Epiphany 2	God's glory is revealed in the Word	green
	Sermon: 2 Thessalonians 2:13-17	Hymns: 283, 86, 367	
Jan. 24	Epiphany 3	Jesus reveals his glory through the people he calls to follow him	green
	Sermon: Acts 13:1-5	Hymns: 463, 85, 770	communion
Jan. 31	Epiphany 4	Jesus reveals his glory by triumphing over the devil	green
	Sermon: Hebrews 3:1-6	Hymns: 353, 395, 431	

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 January: Dawn and Richard Tisler

Choir/Band

Thank you to choir members and instrumentalists who enhanced our Christmas worship. We invite all to join us as we continue to proclaim God's love in song in 2021. However, we are still limited to the number of singers we are able to have in the balcony. If you are interested in singing for worship please contact Mrs. K. (brenda.kuchenbecker@mzls.org 920-973-5904) Hopefully we'll be able to have several small choirs. If you would like to play an instrument, keyboard, or have other ideas for our music, please contact Mrs. K

Offering Envelopes

Offering envelopes for 2021 are in your mailbox in the church basement. Your mailbox may have moved to a new location. If you need help getting your envelopes, please ask an usher.

Worship Committee

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

Altar Committee Plans for 2021

On Monday, Jan. 18 the Altar Committee will meet in the church basement at 7:00 p.m. We will plan who will serve in which months for Feb. 2021 through Jan. 2022. If you would like to serve on the Altar Committee, please contact Pastor Ott (362-7118 or ottrr@mzluth.org).

Thank You

Thank you to Elroy Brandenburg for making the manger scenes that were in the windows at church during Christmas. Elroy also made the new tract racks that are in between the entrance doors at church. Thank you for your service to the Lord and his people!

Online Worship and Technology Upgrades

Technology upgrades have been made for our online worship. Previously, if the choir was singing it was difficult to hear them on the video. New microphones were installed which will improve the sound of the choir, piano, organ and the congregation's singing or responses. Please bear with the technology team as we adjust to this new equipment. Some members have donated gifts to offset the costs of these upgrades. We thank them for their kindness to the work of the kingdom. If you are interested in helping with technology or donating to this ministry please speak with the pastors or the leadership team.

Online Register

We are thankful people worship with us online. There is a new way to register your online worship! Text your names and the date to (920) 362-7118 or (920) 949-1038. You can also fill out the Online Register at <https://www.mzluth.org/>

Food Pantry

We were not able to have an Advent breakfast with families this year but were able to give them many extra items. They each received a decorated grocery bag with a ham, potatoes, rolls, butter, milk, cheese, oranges, apples; a gift bag with an ornament, Christmas tray, cookie mix, and placemats with advent activities. Thank you to all who put this together.

Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows (James 1:17). We served 27 families in December. If you know anyone struggling please have them contact the food pantry for assistance with groceries.

The items needed are juice, canned fruit, pinto beans, tuna, baking items, pasta, pasta sauce, cereal, shampoo, toothpaste, toilet paper, Kleenex, and laundry detergent.

Share Christ's Love!

The Soup for Souls ministry has meals and homemade cards available for you to take to a friend/neighbor to share the love of Jesus! The meals are located in the freezers at church and school. Thank you to Jeff & Cassie Zirbel for using a Thrivent Action Team card to help get prepared meals.

Thank You!

Thank you to all for the prayers, support, patience and kindness extended to us during Mark's battle with covid. We are thankful that God is helping Mark as he works to regain his strength. He still has effects from the long stay in the hospital. We pray that God continues to bless his healing. Thank you for the kindness shown to us for Christmas. We are humbled by the love showered on us by all of you. Morrison is truly a blessing for our family. We're so thankful that God placed us in such a loving church family! Mark, Brenda, Kaitlyn, & Leah Kuchenbecker

Good Samaritan Fund Established at Morrison Zion

In December the Council established a Good Samaritan Fund. The guidelines are below.

Name

The name of this fund is the Good Samaritan Fund, based on Luke 10:25-37. Like the Good Samaritan in Jesus' parable we wish to help people in need.

Purpose

The specific purpose of the Good Samaritan Fund is to offer financial assistance to those who have any type of medical needs in our congregation and outside of it.

History

This Fund was established in late 2020. A member of Morrison Zion gave a substantial gift to the congregation in thankful response to God's blessings. This

member offered a suggestion (but made no demands) that it might be used to help people with medical needs because of the pandemic. The Church Council at the time agreed that this would be a good idea for our congregation and thus established this Fund.

Oversight

- The Leadership Team has full authority to oversee how this Fund is invested and distributed.
- The Leadership Team shall report the balance of the Fund and total distributions since the last meeting to the voters at the annual meeting.
- Specific distributions will remain anonymous to the voters at the discretion of the

Leadership Team.

- The Fund shall be audited by the Audit Committee Annually. They will have access to all distributions of the Fund.

Guidance

- The Fund may be used to help members or nonmembers who have any medical needs (including counseling).
- The Fund may receive gifts.

The Fund shall continue until such a time that all of its funds have been distributed, or it is no longer deemed wise to have such a fund. Any remaining funds at the ending of this Fund shall be placed into the General Fund of the congregation

Scrip

Merry Christmas & a Happy Healthy New Year! Thank you for the kind encouraging words and gifts that were given to me throughout the year! We will start back up on Jan. 17, if you need anything between then you can contact Michelle Laabs and arrange pick up.

Scrip order dates:

Jan. 17 church 9:00-9:15 a.m.

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

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

Money earned using the scrip program:

2014	\$8,855	2018	\$14,350
2015	\$8,394	2019	\$18,989
2016	\$11,116	2020	\$7,303
2017	\$13,612		

School News

4K & 5K Registration

The registration deadline for 4K & 5K for the 2021-2022 school year is quickly approaching. Parents wishing to enroll their children for the upcoming year should notify MZLS by **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.

Thank You

From the faculty and staff, we would like to thank everyone for all the cards, well wishes, and gifts this Christmas season. You truly are a blessing to all of us! Thank you!

Classes Resume

Classes resume on Monday, Jan. 4.

Grades 1-2

The lower grade classroom enjoyed making lots of Christmas decorations in December. The first graders worked on addition and subtraction in math. The second graders worked hard to master 2 digit addition and subtraction. In Phonics the second graders practiced many 2 syllable words while the first graders studied short vowel words. The second graders began cursive handwriting too. In science we completed our study of rocks. The kids had fun as they learned the properties of sand, silt, pebbles and rocks. They even tried their hand at making sand sculptures and clay projects. In January we'll study the properties of matter.

The kids always look forward to playing in the snow after vacation. From grades 1-2 we wish everyone a very happy and healthy New Year.

4K-5K

Hannah Holzhueter

Although this past year was a year that no one predicted, it still was a gift from God. I am thankful for the opportunities that God has given both the church and school to give him glory, regardless if both places were closed for a while, church was online, and classes were taught virtually.

In December, 4K and 5K was a bit different. We normally take a good amount of time each day to practice Christmas Eve recitations and songs, but we were done with practices already by the first week in December! However, my students were just as excited to share the message of the Savior with all. This year we even had actions with one of our recitations! I cannot begin to tell you how much my students bring up not only the words and actions, but they also show application skills – understanding what they have learned, and not just repeating big words from the bible. I pray that we can do this more often so that they truly understand the message of Christmas in an age-appropriate way.

4K is continuing to focus most of their learning on letters names, sounds, and numbers. 5K is starting to get into sentence writing and reading, and they are officially reading books! It is always exciting to see them recognizing their sight words on random posters, books, and videos that we have around school.

For bible time, we just started delving into the New Testament. In the afternoons for devotion, we have enjoyed the children's advent devotions. On one day, the devotion was the exact same bible story we had earlier that day! My students love the picture ornaments that go along with the story, and the fact that every devotion speaks about our Savior, baby Jesus!

May God bless and keep you. I am praying for your physical, emotional, and especially your spiritual health. Please continue to keep my students, and Morrison Zion Lutheran School in your prayers. Happy New Year!

Brenda Kuchenbecker

Grades 3-4

Katie Muchka

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! We are so very thankful for all of the many blessings that God has showered upon us. We are especially thankful for the gift of Jesus, our Savior born on Christmas! 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 single digit division. The fourth graders are busy solving multi-digit multiplication problems. In Science we are studying how both plants and animals get their energy. 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 coming to Wisconsin during the lead rush of the 1820s. Both the third and fourth graders are studying persuasive writing in Shurley English. The class will also be learning to use conjunctions to join parts of a sentence. 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

Over the last couple of weeks, 5th and 6th grade have been writing their very own fiction story. Students drafted their stories, perfected them, and are now getting ready to share their stories with the class. We have genres that range from "Cookie Wars" to "K Potatoes" to "Knoxemburg."

In science, 5th and 6th grade has been learning about photosynthesis and cellular respiration. We even used a "dissecting tool" (a paper clip) to pull out the xylem of a celery plant. 7th and 8th grade students are going to be making Rube Goldberg Machines to complete a simple task in a complex way.

We are also continuing to grow in God's word as we go through the last two commandments in catechism and learn about Christ's life in our Christ Light class.

Parent Teacher Association Meeting

Join us on Tuesday, Jan. 5 at 6:30 p.m. as we discuss the ministry and mission of Morrison Zion Lutheran School. All parents are encouraged to come and share their thoughts and opinions as we move our school forward together.

Winter MAP Testing

All students will participate in the second session of standardized testing the week of Jan. 11-15.

Grades 7-8

Rick Muchka

Happy New Year from the 7th & 8th grade classroom! The upper graders finished 2020 in strong fashion in the classroom. In Religion class they are currently studying a series called "*What about...*" which discusses some difficult topics. In Reading, we completed the novel "A Christmas Carol" by Charles Dickens. In Social Studies, we studied the Great Lakes and the national parks of the United States. In Grammar, the students wrote a series of expository and persuasive essays.

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.

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Continue to Save

Please continue to save Box Tops for Education, canceled stamps, tabs from soda cans, and old eye glasses. All items can be turned into the school office or in the library area of the church basement.

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
JANUARY 2021

Join Us As We Focus on *The Fruit of the Spirit*

Spend any time on social media at all and you will see a need for an increase in...

- ...Love
- ...Joy
- ...Peace
- ...Patience
- ...Kindness
- ...Goodness
- ...Faithfulness
- ...Gentleness
- ...Self-control

These are the Fruits of the Spirit we are studying Sunday mornings at 9:15 in the church basement.

Join us and inject some of God's fruit into your spiritual diet!

