

The Christian Light

Volume 19 Number 9

September 2021

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Family Reunions

When I was growing up we went to family reunions every summer. The Ott and Splinder reunions were on my dad's side. The Floud and Voorhees reunions were on my mom's side. When I was a kid they were a blast. We went to places that we did not visit often and I got to play with people I did not often see. Since I graduated from the Seminary, I do not think I have made it to a single reunion back in Michigan. I miss them.

I do have the privilege of attending a family reunion three times every week. On Thursday evenings and twice on Sunday mornings, I get to gather together around the gospel with my brothers and sisters in Christ. Believers are an eternal spiritual family! We are united by blood, the blood of Jesus. His blood bought us from eternal death. His Spirit unites us as people who share a common faith. We are family!

Just like our physical families, we have all kinds of relatives. Some are like us, some are not. Some think like us, some do not. Some have drifted away from family gatherings. Perhaps they were hurt by a comment made by a family member. Perhaps they were too busy with life to make time for the family gatherings. Perhaps they have been sick and unable to make it. Maybe the

pandemic has them concerned about their health or the health of their family. There are many reasons, both good and not as good, that have led family members to give up meeting together.

Families love each other and are happy to welcome home those who have drifted away. We know that the one thing that is important is that each of us stays connected to Jesus by faith. Therefore it is important that we each feed our faith. It is important that we encourage one another in the faith.

On Thursday, Sept. 23 and Sunday, Sept. 26 we will have a Welcome Home event. We hope to

have our entire family (over 730) join us in worship in person or online. We had a similar event in 2019 that was very well received. The Barnabas Ministry and Leadership Team felt it was time to encourage everyone to come to a family reunion again!

Please join us on Thursday at 7:00 p.m. or Sunday at 8:00 or 10:30 a.m. If you live farther away or are not comfortable being in a crowd at this time, please make sure you have access to a device that can be online at 8:00 a.m. on Sunday. You can join us on Facebook live or on our YouTube channel for virtual worship. Please take the time to greet one another in the comments so that you can encourage those with whom you worship with in Christian love! In whatever way you can, join us!



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

There is falling concrete on the west side of church. The maintenance committee is getting quotes to repair it. The Leadership Team (LT) approved repairs that are not to exceed \$5,000. The Maintenance committee is exploring what other work need to be done on our buildings. The air conditioning unit installation should begin at the end of August. Installation of the playground should begin soon.

Average worship attendance so far this year is 226 in person and 41 online. Membership is at 736 souls.

The Barnabas Ministry did not find anyone who agreed to share Jesus with members yet. They will continue to seek out

those who will help point fellow members to staying close to Jesus. We will send a letter to those who live out of our area in September. It will contain info about WELS churches in their area. The Barnabas Ministry also set the week of Sept. 26 for a *Welcome Home* event.

The LT looked at the Knights Return plan for the school.

The Treasurer reported the following July balances:

Income	\$32,528
Expenses	\$101,980
Monthly balance	\$-69,452
Fiscal year to date balance	\$-69,452
Checkbook balance	\$27,800
Gen. reserve fund	\$185,297
DPI reserve fund	\$14,014

The Treasurer moved \$15,000 from the General Reserve Fund to cover the \$20,000 down payment on the air conditioning units and the \$23,000 spent in July on school improvements and books.

High School	\$2,125
Calendar year total	\$15,056
2021 goal	\$13,786
Synod Mission	\$2,625
Calendar year total	\$31,149
2021 goal	\$29,500

The LT approved a request from the Morrison Fire Department to use our parking lot for training.

Christian Wedding

On Tuesday, Aug. 10 Alex Pischke and Cassidy Levenhagen were united in Christian marriage in a private worship service at Zion. Please pray for God's blessings on Alex and Cassidy's marriage!

Pancake/Porky

The Youth Group will serve a Pancake & Porky Breakfast on Sunday, Sept. 26. We hope you can join us!

Christian Funeral

It has pleased the Lord to call the soul of Paul Westphal to his eternal home. Paul died on July 25. Pastor Enderle led his Christian funeral service on Saturday, July 31 at Ryan Funeral Home in Depere. Please pray that God comfort all who mourn Paul!

Christian Baptisms

On Sunday Aug. 8 Zahne Emil Curtis was baptized in 10:30 worship. Zahne, the son of Jonathan and Ashley Curtis, was born on Jan. 14, 2021.

On Sunday Aug. 8 Molly Kaylynn Zeamer was baptized in a private service. Molly, the daughter of Jason and Liz Zeamer, was born on July. 2, 2021.

On Sunday Aug. 29 Easton Phillip Schwister was baptized in a private service. Easton, the son of Eric Schwister, was born on Aug. 2, 2020.

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

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

Sunday Morning Bible Study On September 5 we will look at Hymn 415, *All Depends on Our Possessing*. . On Sept. 12 we will begin a study on Romans 1-8 We meet in the church basement at 9:15 a.m. each Sunday. Join us! The lessons for September are:

We Triumph in the Gospel

God's Wrath Triumphs Over All Who Suppress the Truth

Those Who Keep the Law Will Be Saved

Parenting Bible Study *God's Word – The Foundation for Our Parenting* will begin Sunday, Sept. 12. We meet at 9:15 a.m. in the school commons. This is the same time as Sunday School which we hope will make it convenient for many parents to attend while their children are at Sunday School. This will be a 5-week study with the following topics:

Working Together

A Safety Net (Teaching Discernment)

Discipline

Passing the Baton

Building Relationships

Sunday School We will begin in person Sunday School begin for children age 3 to Grade 6 on Sept. 12 at 9:15 a.m. We need more teachers and helpers. Please talk to Pastor Enderle if you are able to help or if you have suggestions of helpers. Look for information coming soon concerning registration for your children. This year the students will study an overview of the Bible looking at stories from both the New and Old Testament

Sunday Night Book Discussion In September we continue to discuss, *Your Questions, Scriptures' Answers*. 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 begin on Sunday, Sept. 12 at 7:00 p.m. We will meet weekly for Bible Study and activities to follow. Ms. Birner will be joining as an advisor and assistant for the Youth Group. We excited for her involvement

New Life in Christ Class We meet Mondays at 6:30 p.m. or Thursdays at 5:30 p.m. in the Bible Study room in the church basement. This course reviews the basic teachings of the Bible. Please join us whenever you can!

Men's Study continues to meet Monday at 7:00 p.m. Join us for time in the word! We will finish 1 Thessalonians and start 2 Thessalonians. We meet around the bonfire as long as weather allows. We will meet in the church basement if it is raining. We will not meet Sept. 6.

Bible Reading Plan Contact Pastor Enderle with any questions. Please join us in as we grow in God's Word together!

Sept. 2–6 Beating Stress: Devotions From Time Of Grace

Sept. 7–20 God's Gift of Money: Devotions from Time of Grace

Sept. 21–25 Modern Idolatry: Video Devotions From Your Time Of Grace

Sept. 26–30 GOD is Here!: Devotions from Time of Grace

ESL Class We meet Wednesdays at 5:30 p.m. in the pavilion (weather permitting) or in the church basement. New volunteers are welcome. You don't need any experience teaching. Contact Pastor Enderle if you are interested. Please also contact us if you have students who are interested but can't attend on Wednesday. We are receiving more interest in classes and might be able to have a second class.

Wednesday Confirmation Class for students in grades 5-8 who do not attend Morrison Zion Lutheran School will begin on Wednesday, Sept. 1. We will meet in the church basement, 5:00-6:15 p.m. each Wednesday. Students will need a NIV Bible and Luther's Small Catechism.

Worship In August

Notes on Worship

Live stream is Sunday morning worship at 8:00 a.m. on YouTube and Facebook 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/online worship

In September we continue the second half of the Church Year. The focus is on our life in Christ. Our themes for each service in August: **Jesus' Grace is All in All to Us...**

Sept. 2/5	Pentecost 15	...It leads to obedience fro the heart	green
		Sermon: Mark 7:1-8,14,15,21-23	Hymns: 427, 459, 471
Sept. 9/12	Pentecost 16	...It leads us to trust he does all things well at all times	green
		Sermon: Mark 7:31-37	Hymns:238, 235, 353 communion
Sept. 16/19	Pentecost 17	...It leads us to pick up our cross and follow him	green
		Sermon: Mark 8:27-35	Hymns: 422, 453, 428
Sept. 23/26	Pentecost 18	...It leads us to put other family members first	green
Welcome Home event		Sermon: James 3:13-18	Hymns: 472, 486, 510

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

Altar Committee member serving in September: Connie and Gloria Blauert

Choir Invitation

Come, let us sing for joy to the LORD, let us shout aloud to the Rock of our salvation. Psalm 95:1 After a year with limited voices allowed, we're excited to once again invite everyone to come to choir! We're looking forward to seeing everyone back again this fall and welcoming many new voices. Let's keep the music in our church going strong with lots of volunteers! Our choir season will begin on Wednesday Sept. 22. Rehearsals begin at 7:00 p.m. in the church balcony. Even if you can't make it every week, please consider coming to choir. Please join our choir so that we can continue to offer our best praise to God in song.

Church Band

Attention instrumentalists! It's almost time to brush off the dust, warm up the mouth pieces and get the chops ready to play. We hope to bring the church band back together again this fall. Keep an eye on the upcoming newsletter for rehearsal information. If you would like to play a solo before we begin all together, please contact Mrs. K.

Keyboard Players

We want to encourage our youth to become our future pastors, teachers, and leaders in our church. This also applies to our future music leaders. We are looking for young keyboard players who would be interested in helping lead worship. If you play keyboard or another instrument and are interested in playing for worship please speak to Mrs. K. Our goal is to use the gifts of our members while still making sure worship is done with excellence. As these young musicians lead us in worship, please remember that your words can encourage or discourage these future leaders. If you have concerns please speak directly to Mrs. Kuchenbecker, Pastor Ott, Pastor Enderle.

Worship Committee

Worship Committee will meet on Monday, Sept. 20 at 7:30 p.m. in the church basement.

Online Register

Thank you for letting us know when you worship online. Text your names and the date to 920-362-7118 or 920-949-1038 or register online at www.mzluth.org. Also you can say 'Good Morning from...' in the comments section on Facebook or YouTube so others know that you are worshipping with them! You can also send prayer requests online or by text.

New Volunteer Sign Up

Christians use their gifts and talents to serve and love one another and share the love of Christ with others. We have a volunteer area on our website where you can look for ways to serve others. <https://mzluth.org/volunteer/> You will find different opportunities at different times where you can use your gifts and talents to glorify God. Some of the opportunities include: Food Pantry Volunteers, Live Streaming for Worship, Slides for Worship, and ESL. More will be added over time. Please contact Pastor Enderle with questions. Thank you to all who have volunteered for many different opportunities in the past and those who consider helping and serving in the future.

Food Pantry

Thank you to the Ben Evenson Family for donating a refrigerator to the food pantry. Thank you to Ben Meyer for donating milk coupons and to Cassie Zirbel for providing dairy products, The monthly donations of eggs by various members are also very much appreciated. We have an assortment of garden seeds donated from Home Depot. We will distribute the seeds in September and then put what is left at church. There are vegetable, herb and flower seeds that expire in 2021. We had fewer families in August but we offered them: canned vegetables, canned fruit, soup, juice, cereal, condiment items, mac n cheeses, pasta, pasta sauce, canned meat, snacks, shampoo, soap, toothpaste, toilet paper, bakery items, ring sausage, brats, hot dogs, melon, mini peppers, cheese, butter, milk, and eggs. Thank you everyone for all the donations and work! As you can see when everyone does a little we are able to offer a lot. Anyone who wishes to share excess garden items they should be at school on Saturday, Sept. 4 at 7:30 a.m. or Monday, Sept. 6 at 4:30 p.m. Please make sure to share the food pantry phone number with anyone who is struggling with food insecurity (920) 246-5435. Items always needed include canned fruit, Juice, Cereal, snack items, toilet paper, shampoo, laundry detergent, toothpaste, and baking items.

Soup for Souls

Meals continue to be available at school and at church for all to share the message of Jesus love with others. We still have a few brat and hot dog meals available and recently added some cheesy hash brown and ham meals. Don't forget to include a card with the meal when you deliver it to a friend/neighbor. Donations for this program can be put in the collection basket to assist with supplying meals for this ministry. *A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.* (John 13:34-35)

Scrip

Scrip orders can be emailed or texted to me at any time or sent to school with a student. On-hand scrip orders can be picked up at school or sent home with a student, picked up at the next order date at church, or picked up from my home. Please indicate how you would like to receive your order when you contact me. Thanks! Danielle Ripp (920-621-3196 Dani.pues27@gmail.com)

Scrip order dates:

Sept. 12 church between services

Sept. 26 church between services

Family Game Day

Morrison Zion Church and School families, join us on Saturday, Sept. 18, 2:00-5:00 p.m. for Back to School Family Game Day-Outdoors! It will be on the school playground. Bring your favorite yard/outdoor games! Snacks and drinks will be provided. Join us and meet new families! We hope to see you there!

Thrivent Choice

If you are giving your Thrivent Choice dollars to church or school, thank you! If you have not done this, please consider designating your choice dollars. This needs to be done quarterly. Please call Thrivent if you have any questions.

Amazon Smile

Do you shop using Amazon? Did you know that there is a way that a portion of what you spend can be given back to Morrison Zion? AmazonSmile is set up to give a small percentage of each purchase to a nonprofit organization by using smile.amazon.com. Designate Morrison Zion as your charitable organization and 0.5% of all purchases are donated to our congregation!

Member Spotlight

Say hello to the Laabs family: Steve, Abbey, Henry (7th grade), Madeline (5th grade), and Claire (3rd grade). The Laabs's came to Morrison in 2014. They moved from DePere in order to be closer to their families in Manitowoc. They built a home in Greenleaf and searched for a WELS church. They attended a few services at MZL and felt very welcome. Pastor Ott introduced himself the first time they visited. Soon they toured school with Mr. Humann and enrolled Henry in Kindergarten. Now all the children attend MZL. Amazingly, they are not related in any way to the other Laabs in the area!

Steve and Abbey both graduated from Valders High School. Steve attended UW Madison and graduated with a bachelor's degree in Mathematics with an emphasis on Actuarial Science. He is employed at Humana and focuses on business development for dental and vision insurance programs. Steve enjoys cooking, smoking meat, golfing, playing drums and an occasional woodworking project.

Abbey attended NWTC for Dental Assistant and Dental Hygiene Schooling. She practiced for five years and then stayed home to support the family as the Laabs Household Chief Operating Officer. Abbey enjoys volunteering at school whether it's correcting papers, listening to book reports or helping kids with reading. This school year she will be the new teacher's assistant at school and will assist with cross country.

Steve and Abbey are high school sweethearts and recently celebrated their 15th anniversary with a trip to San Francisco. Abbey couldn't get enough of the sea lions; Steve had enough of the way they smelled! Steve couldn't get enough fun driving a "GOcar"; Abbey was much less amused driving a glorified go-kart

in city traffic! The Laabs's who are not named Steve like to swim in the pool in the summer months. They all enjoy hiking, movies, reading and enjoy traveling.

Steve & Abbey have found many ways to serve the Lord and their fellow Christians at MZL. They convert the service folders from paper to slides so that the service can be on the screens. Steve & Abbey do this so worship might be easier for those who might have their hands full with small children, forgot their glasses or just appreciate focusing on worship without worrying about what page they're on! Additionally, Abbey helps out at school by coordinating the hot lunch program and as a parent helper. Steve helps out by coaching boys basketball and has served on the school board and leadership team for the past few years. These are just small ways they can glorify God with the time and abilities with which they have been blessed.

God has provided Steve & Abbey many opportunities to grow in their faith at MZL. They came from a mission church. They were accustomed to Sunday morning Bible class and were pretty amazed at the different classes offered at MZL on Sunday and throughout the week! They started attending adult Christ Light while the kids were in Sunday School and eventually Steve taught the class. While we're all accustomed to Bible stories as kids, it was interesting to apply God's truths from the traditional Bible stories to adult life. At times they attended Pastor Ott's classes and Men's and Women's studies. It was helpful in getting to know people and dive deeper into different topics. Last year they attended a New Life in Christ class to help them get back to basic Bible truths. Studying core Christian teachings as an adult is a little different than when it's done as a child. Learning from Pastor Ott's life experiences, reflecting on their own and hearing from others was a great way to be reminded how to use the Word as a teaching tool. Another reason for taking the class is that Henry starts confirmation this year and they thought it was a good time for a refresher! As Abbey says, "Yikes, we're getting old!" As you can tell, the Laabs's love being life long learners and what better to study than God's amazing love!

The Laabs's favorite Bible passage is Joshua 1:9, "Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go." Steve's confirmation verse is a good reminder of how God is always there - through good times, challenging times and everything in between. Knowing that God is always there and understanding that his promise of Salvation is independent of what we do or what happens around us gives us confidence; confidence in God's promise of heaven someday, confidence that God's plan is bigger than anything we go through, and confidence that when we stumble, God's forgiveness is sufficient for us!



School News

Remind.com

Sign up to receive messages about school closings and event cancellations using remind.com. To receive messages via text, text @morrisonz to 81010. You can opt-out of messages at any time by replying, 'unsubscribe @morrisonz'.

To receive messages via email, send an email to morrisonz@mail.remind.com. To unsubscribe, reply with 'unsubscribe' in the subject line.

Thank You

Thank you to all who helped volunteer for school cleaning this summer. The school looks great! Your time and generosity are greatly appreciated.

Thank you to Brad Hassemer, Jeff Zirbel, and the Cemetery & Grounds Committee for maintaining our school building and campus over the summer!

Gift Received

The school received \$4,000 from the Isadore Mednikow Educational Trust Fund. We used the funds to purchase Science resources for the classroom.

Basketball Coaches

We need a B Team Boys (grades 5-6) basketball coach.

No previous coaching experience is needed. Two basketball practices are held during the week. Games are on Friday evenings. Contact Katie Muchka if you are interested. Thank you for considering this opportunity to serve!

Grades 1-2

Mrs. Kuchenbecker

Another summer has come and gone and its back to school we go! We welcome 8 first graders and 5 second graders into Mrs. Kuchenbecker's classroom. We look forward to another exciting year! We're learning the Old Testament beginning with creation. We're studying plants in science and will take a nature hike to collect leaves. Math begins with number recognition and place value and we of course, are jumping right into reading! Thank you to everyone who helped get our classroom ready for the year! Thank you for all of the donations to make our room fun! Remember, our classroom is your classroom! We would love for you to stop and visit us or even read us a book or two. Keep us in your prayers as our new school year gets under way.

Grades 3-4

Miss Birner

Welcome back to school! It is a blessing for us to be back in the classroom. I pray that everyone had a safe and blessed summer! This year in Christ Light, we will study the Old Testament. We will focus on the words and promises of God. In Math, both grades will work with number patterns and place value. In Science, we will focus on the various body systems, and the ways that we can keep our bodies safe and healthy! We will learn about communities in our area and throughout the world in Social Studies. Our class will also learn the rules of both capitalization and punctuation in Shurley English. We have also begun working on our class play! Please keep the third and fourth grade classroom in your prayers as we begin our school year!

Athletics

The students at Morrison Zion are blessed to start the sports seasons! We begin the year with volleyball and cross country. If you'd like to cheer on the Knights, game schedules can be picked up in the office, or you can check our online calendar. If you're looking for volunteer opportunities, our athletic program is always looking for coaches or extra help at home events. Please contact Katie Muchka if you'd like to get involved!

Volleyball Help Needed

Jen Enderle will coach A-team volleyball this season. She is Pastor Enderle's wife. They have three kids (Isaiah - 4K at Morrison Zion, Onycha - 2.5 yrs old, and Elisha - 3 months old). She is looking for an assistant, especially someone to help at games, but who could also attend a few practices to know the girls and the flow of how we will plan to play in games. Also, if you (or someone in your family) are willing to help with her kids on game evenings and/or for practices, please contact her. There are some times that we could use an extra hand, and Eli loves being held :) Thanks so much, Contact Jen at 920-372-3818 or draegejm@gmail.com .

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
SEPTEMBER 2021



Our Mission
is to
Glorify
God
as we
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around the
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and then
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Welcome Home Event Set For September 23 and 26

Welcome Home is meant primarily as a celebration of our Christian family. How great would it be to have a packed church... to see smiling faces you haven't seen in a while... to shake the rafters with the joyful singing of that many saints. However, *Welcome Home* also serves as a great opportunity for those who have stopped going to church to come back.

Maybe it is someone you know: a sibling, a son, a friend, someone you used to serve with on some church committee. You know this individual has not been in church for a long time. They might not realize it, but they are harming themselves spiritually. In love, might you reach out to them and encourage you to come with you the week of *Welcome Home*. Assure them no one is going to look down on them for having been absent. We will simply be happy to have them back home. Welcome home!

However, maybe it is you who have stopped coming. Again, it happens. *Welcome Home* is the perfect time to come back. Jesus has things to say to you—good news... the gospel! He wants you to know the peace and security you only have by dwelling in his home. Welcome home!

So, can you please set aside either Thursday, Sept. 23 at 7:00 p.m. or Sunday, Sept. 26 at 8:00 or 10:30 a.m. to join us in person? Or plan to join us online at 8:00 a.m. on Sept. 26 on Facebook live or our YouTube channel. If you have something going on that day, have it start after worship. Again, we want to have 100% of Morrison Zion's members present on that day—one big family, knit together by Christ's grace.

