

The Christian Light

Volume 20 Number 1

January 2022

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What is Most Important For MZLC Right Now?

In January many people take the time to step back and take a look at their lives. Perhaps they see the need to improve their financial plans or the way they take care of their health. The Leadership Team of Morrison Zion Lutheran Church got a jump start on everyone this year.

The Leadership Team met offsite back on Nov. 6 to plan our ministry for the next year and a half. The three areas we felt need the most attention at this point in time at Morrison Zion Lutheran Church are:

1. Increasing member worship in person or online.
2. Discipleship (membership is not a privilege like a country club, it is a responsibility to serve God).
3. Equipping our parents to be faithful Christian parents.

At our most recent Leadership Team Meeting in December we filled out the plan of how we will address each of these issues. Over the next three months in the newsletter we will go into more detail what we plan to do. The Leadership Team is very intent on making sure that we provide leadership in our congregation in these three areas. We have pledged to support one another and hold one another accountable to see to it that these things get done.

With all that being said, there is a very important question that needs to be addressed: What is your role in accomplishing these vital tasks?

Pray for these efforts and get involved. Over the next three months we will let you know ways you can get involved directly and also indirectly. There are many ways that each member can support these incredibly important tasks in our congregation. This month, I want you to focus on one very important thing you can do. It is something almost all of you like to do, in fact, you do it every day. What is it?

Talk.

Talk to your friends and relatives who are members. Talk to them about these three items and discuss why they are important for us. Talk about how they share Jesus and carry out the tasks our God has called us to do. Talk about them so that others know about these three vital areas. The simple truth is that hearing it from you is going to stick with people more than reading it in a newsletter.

I hear very often (even from people that provide articles for the newsletter) that they don't read it. I hear from people that they don't read the announcement sheet or the screens before church. I hear from people that they do not use social media or go to the website. We use all these means to communicate because the gospel of Jesus is the most important message we can share. But we understand everyone does not use each one. But they will listen to you!

So, please talk about these three areas and discuss them. That is not an invite to complain and criticize. It is an invitation to be a vital link in sharing Jesus and his purpose for us with one another!



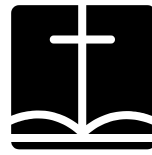
Our Mission

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



**MORRISON
ZION
LUTHERAN**

Congregational News



Leadership Team Notes

The Leadership Team (LT) discussed staffing the Care Committee for Called Workers. All the members of the committee are stepping aside at the end of the calendar year. We will bring names to approach at the next meeting. We are looking at dividing its responsibilities into two groups on the committee. We continue to approach people to serve as counters and a Thursday head usher.

The LT set a call meeting for Jan. 9 after late worship. We will call from the field for a 4K-5K teacher and a 5th-6th grade teacher.

Average worship attendance declined 14% in November. The yearly averaged dropped from 228 in person to 224 in person. When you add in online attendance each week this year we average 34.9% of our membership in worship in person or online. Please continue to encourage

your brothers and sisters in Christ to stay close to Jesus in Word and sacrament!

The LT decided to send the \$3,340 Thanksgiving offering to the WELS Committee on Aid and Relief. They are active in the areas that were recently hit by tornados. They also help individuals who have large medical costs. Two large gifts were recently given to the congregation. The LT was asked to use them were they saw a need. We will give \$1,000 to our Soup for Souls Compassion Ministry. The remainder will go the reserve fund to meet needs that may arise.

The Treasurer reported the following November balances:

Income	\$91,108
Expenses	\$64,128
Monthly balance	\$27,980
Fiscal year to date balance	\$-34,793
Checkbook balance	\$67,859
Gen. reserve fund	\$170,417

DPI reserve fund	\$15,805
High School	\$1,940
fiscal year total	\$7,845
2021-22 fiscal goal	\$16,990
Synod Mission	\$1,315
Calendar year total	\$39,949
2021 goal	\$40,566

John Beyer will step down as the Treasurer at the end of his term. We will develop a job description for a paid position of a bookkeeper who will do the work John is presently doing financially. A member of the LT will work with the Bookkeeper and sign the checks.

Kayla Evenson, (the wife of our member Jeff Evenson), and their children Tenley, Carson, and River were accepted as members by transfer from Trinity, Manitowoc. Welcome Evensons!

The LT discussed roles and timelines for the Three Most Import Areas of Ministry (see page 1).

Public Celebration of a Private Wedding

On Aug. 10 Cassidy Levenhagen and Alex Pischke were united in marriage in a private service at Morrison Zion Lutheran. On Dec. 2 they celebrated their wedding with friends and family at a worship service at Morrison Zion Lutheran. Please pray for God's continued blessings on their life together as husband and wife!

Thank You

Pastor Ott and Pastor Enderle and their families thank you for the cards and gifts we received this Christmas. Your expressions of Christian love are a blessing!

Call Meeting

The voters will meet in church to extend two divine calls after late worship on Sunday, Jan. 9. We will call a 4K-5K teacher and a 5th-6th grade teacher.

Called Worker News

Miss Holzhueter accepted her call to St. Paul's Lutheran, Livonia, MI. She will move after the school year.

Pastor Ott returned his call to serve Grace Lutheran, La Crosse. He will remain at Morrison.

Thank you to everyone who took the time to talk to Miss Holzhueter and Pastor Ott as they deliberated these calls and for your prayers for God's guidance as they considered their calls!

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

Sunday Morning Bible Study On Jan. 2 we will meet in church at 9:15 a.m. and finish the video study *Here We Stand: The Legacy of Worms, 500 Years Later*. On Jan. 9 we will begin the study *Romans Part 2*. We had planned a different study from NPH, but its publication has been delayed. We meet at 9:15 a.m. We will not meet Jan. 30. The lessons for January are:

Jan. 2: He has given us work to do	Jan. 23: Romans 11
Jan. 9: Romans 9:1-29	Jan. 30: No class
Jan. 16: Romans 9:30-10:21	

Commons Bible Study Bring your kids to Sunday School and join us for “The 4 D’s of Discipleship” Bible Study in the School Commons.

Sunday Night Book Discussion In January we continue to discuss *On Being a Christian: A Personal Confession* by Dr. Henry Hamann. Copies of the book are still available. The cost of each is \$13. We meet at Nickel Funeral Home at 7:00 p.m. Please park in the triangle in front of the funeral home and enter through the glass door. Join us! We will not meet Monday, Jan. 31.

New Life in Christ Class We meet Mondays at 6:30 p.m. in the Bible Study room in the church basement. We will not meet Monday, Jan. 31. Please join us whenever you can!

Rooted This Bible Study for those in their 20s and 30s meets every other week on Monday nights at 7:00 p.m. We will meet Jan. 3, 17 and 31. We hope you can join us!

Men’s Study meets every other Monday at 7:00 p.m. We will meet Jan. 10 and 24 to take a closer look at the readings from weekly worship. Meet us in the church basement and bring your questions as we grow in the Word.

Partnering in the Gospel One of the goals of Morrison Zion is to help members be partners in the gospel. Did you know, in the last 4 years we have averaged over 15 new members each year by transfer or adult confirmation? This is a huge blessing! In order to help engage our members to partner in the gospel and to be involved in the mission of our church, we have an exciting new seminar. This seminar will be held once a month on a Saturday from 10:30 a.m.–1:30 p.m. Lunch is provided along with babysitting. We hope new members and lifelong members will join this seminar as a refresher of what it means to be a Christian and a member of Morrison Zion. All are welcome to join. RSVPs are not necessary but will help us have enough food and materials. The first seminar will be Jan. 29 Please contact Pastor Enderle to join or with questions and look for signups in-person and online to come.

English as a Second Language meets Wednesdays at 5:30 p.m. in the church basement. New students and new volunteers are welcome. You don’t need any experience teaching. Please talk to Pastor Enderle if you are interested in helping or if you have students who are interested but can’t attend on Wednesday. We might have a second class if there is enough interest.

Bible Reading Plan Contact Pastor Enderle with any questions. Go to mzluth.org or our Facebook page to join us in as we grow in God’s Word together!

Jan. 1-5 The Lies of Busyness	Jan. 16-22 In God’s Eyes
Jan. 6-10 Fighting Negative Thoughts	Jan. 23-27 Answering Skeptics
Jan. 11-15 Make an Impact	Jan. 28-Feb 1 Making Sense of Suffering

Sunday School for children aged 3 to Grade 6 meets at 9:15 a.m. at school. Bring your children and join the Bible Study in the School Commons. If you are looking to serve, we would welcome your help. Please talk to Pastor Enderle with any questions.

Yearlong Marriage Devotional The Enderles will lead a yearlong devotional group meant for married couples. We will read the daily devotion book *The Meaning of Marriage – A Couples Devotional*. Newly engaged couples and newly married couples should have received the book for free as a “wedding gift.” Couples can still join this devotional. You can purchase the book on Amazon or speak with Pastor Enderle. We have set up a Facebook and texting group that sends out a reminder and allows for discussion of the devotions.

Worship In January

Notes on Worship

Live stream is Sunday morning worship at 8:00 a.m. on YouTube and Facebook The service is available at any time after that as well. Our page is www.youtube.com/c/morrisonzionlutheran. Share the link with a friend! Resources for worship and an online friendship and communion register are at www.mzluth.org/online worship. You may also register by texting 920-362-7118

In January we conclude the Christmas season, celebrate the Festival of Epiphany with a special candlelight service and begin Epiphany, the season of Jesus revealing himself as the Savior of the world. The themes of each service follows.

The Lord is Coming!

Jan. 2	Christmas 2	Promises kept brings joy to God's people!	white
	Sermon: Luke 21:25-36	Hymns: 707, 34, 28	
Jan. 6	Epiphany Festival A	candlelight service of lessons & carols	white
		Hymns:93, 90, 81, 83, 85	communion
Jan. 9	Baptism of our Lord	Behold!	white
	Sermon: Luke 1:39-51	Hymns: GR19, 23, 703	communion
Jan. 13/16	Epiphany 2	Here in the Dark	white
	Sermon: Micah 5:2-5	Hymns: 65, 54, 67, Here in the Dark, 60	
Jan. 20/23	Epiphany 3	The Glory of the Lord Shines!	white
	Sermon: John 1:1-18	Hymns: 42, 35, 62	communion
Jan. 27/30	Epiphany 4	Promises Kept: Jesus Does the Father's Will	white
	Sermon: Luke 2:41-52	Hymns: 64, 41, 46	communion

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 Vaughn and Richard Tisler

Choir

Thank you to our choir members for their time and dedication to singing praises during 2021. Our choir rehearsals will resume on Wednesday Jan. 12 at 7:00 p.m. in the church balcony. We invite all to join us as we continue to proclaim God's love in song in 2022

Communion Registration

When you commune, please check your name on the sheets in the back of church, by the elevator, or in the basement. Thank you!

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.

Altar Committee to Meet Jan. 17

The Altar Committee serves the Lord by preparing the altar for worship. It changes the cloths on the altar, lectern, and pulpit. It also sets up for communion and cleans up after communion. Right now a group of two serves each month. Each group serves 1-2 times a year. If you would like to serve in this capacity, please join us at a meeting on Monday, Jan. 17 at 7:30 p.m. in the church basement. At this meeting we will review our work and pick our months to serve. Join us!

Thank You

Thank you to everyone who applied for Thrivent Action cards in the past weeks. With these cards we were able to obtain: stamps (mailing invites, sermons, devotions, Christmas card, etc.), congregational Christmas cards, Soup for Souls , items for bags (food pantry, local families in need, children at Christmas worship, those over 80), paper/envelopes for mailings, food pantry supplies, cleaning/hand sanitizer, disinfectant wipes for church and school . Thank you one and all!

Food Pantry

Thanks to all who helped and donated to the food pantry in December. Special Christmas bags were prepared for each child of families who came to the food pantry. Special homemade wash clothes were made and given with donated dish soap. Christmas cookie decorating packs were made for each family. Clothes and toys were donated. Milk, cheese, butter and eggs were also donated to the families. These are also welcome for donations at the food pantry. Each family received a Christmas ham, bag of onions, avocados, oranges, and apples. This is along with all the other items families receive each month.

This is not even taking note of all the donations given by Morrison Zion Lutheran School during their Food Pantry Challenge around Thanksgiving. The Morrison Zion Hoops for Hungry was held on Dec. 17 at the basketball games which also brought in donations of food items and money.

Thank you to everyone for your donations and hard work. Your care and love for others is a blessing and a way to show the love of Jesus. Thank you!

Items always needed are canned fruit, cereal, juice, pasta and pasta sauce, snacks (pudding, fruit snacks, crackers), shampoo, soap, toilet paper, kleenex, toothpaste, laundry detergent and baking items.

In January the pantry will be open on Monday Jan. 3 and Saturday Jan. 8. Please note this is the second Saturday, not the first as is usual. If anyone is in need of assistance please leave a message at (920)246-5435.

Men of His Word Conference

The 13th annual Men of His Word Conference (Theme: More than Conquerors) will be at the Best Western Premier Waterfront Convention Center in Oshkosh on Saturday, Feb 19, 2022. Please go online at www.menofhisword.org to register and get details about schedule, breakout sessions, keynote speaker, cost, etc. Registration is open.

Youth Group News

The 2022 International Youth Rally will be June 28-July 1 at the University of Tennessee in Knoxville. Registration begins in March. Early-bird registration is \$375. Morrison Zion will pay travel costs. There may be some reduction of the registration fee. Those who missed out on the 2020 Youth Rally are still able to attend this rally if interested. Contact Pastor Enderle james.enderle@mzls.org if you are interested in attending.

Mark your calendar for Game Night at Immanuel in Shirley on Jan. 22 at 7:00 p.m. Try out a new game or play an old favorite. Snacks and drinks will be provided. RSVP is not necessary but helpful so we know how many tables to set up. You can send a text to Kelly Ruddat at 920-632-8630.

Scrip

Scrip order dates:

Jan. 2 commons after early service

Jan. 30 commons after early service

I know there's a big gap between order dates so please feel free to get me orders in between or order online! The sign up code for the RaiseRight App is very easy to use. Simply pull up the app on your phone and present the barcode at checkout! Contact Danielle Ripp at dani.pues27@gmail.com with any questions..

I plan to have a meeting on Scrip in February. If you have any questions or comments, please let me know so I can figure out the answers ahead of time!

Soup for Souls

We recently filled the freezers with new meals that are free and available for all to share, along with cards with messages of love.

If you know of someone who could use some encouraging words and you are unable to get them a meal, please contact Nancy and she will assist with coordinating a meal delivery. Thank you to all who continue support this ministry. "For God so loved the world, that he gave his On and Only Son, that whoever believes in him will not perish, but have eternal life." John 3:16

School News

4K-5K

Miss Holzhueter

4K and 5K have spent the bulk of their time preparing for the Christmas Eve services. They are excited to share the message of their, and your, Savior to many!

Unfortunately, due to COVID and the safety and health of the residents of Wayside Parkview Estates, we were not able to go and sing carols like we have done in the past; however, we had fun making Christmas cards for the residents!

I wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! God's blessings as we end another calendar year and look forward to what God has in store for us in 2022.

4K-5K Enrollment

The registration deadline for 4K & 5K for the 2022-2023 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, 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, thank everyone for the cards, well wishes, and gifts this Christmas. You truly are a blessing to all of us! Thank you!

No School

There will be no school through Jan. 2. Classes resume on Jan. 3.

Grades 1-2

Mrs. Kuchenbecker

The lower grade classroom enjoyed all the activities that came with Christmas. They enjoyed making many projects, reading Christmas books, singing lots of songs and learning their parts for the Christmas Eve service. With all the special celebrations we still managed to do our regular classes. The first graders worked with family facts. The second graders worked hard to master 2 digit addition and subtraction. In Phonics the first graders began a study of long vowel words. The second graders are ready for cursive handwriting. In science we studied light and sound. The kids always look forward to playing in the snow after vacation. From grades 1-2 we wish everyone a very happy New Year.

Thank you for the gifts, cards and well wishes extended to me and my family during the holiday season. I thank God for your love and kindness and for letting me serve in this congregation.

Grades 3-4

Mrs. Muchka

Happy New Year! This year in Christ Light, we will study the Old Testament. We focus our study on the words and promises of God. In Math the third graders are dividing one-digit numbers, and the fourth graders are multiplying multi-digit numbers. In Science we focus on learning on predicting and measuring weather. The class really enjoys conducting lab experiments! In Social Studies we will learn about the importance and effects of the environment on communities in our area and throughout the world. Our class will also learn about the proper use of pronouns in Shurley English. Please keep the third and fourth grade classroom in your prayers as we continue our school year!

Grades 5-6

Miss Birner

In Catechism we are learning about the Third Article focusing on the works of the Holy Spirit. We will also learn about the Israelites journey to the Promised Land.

In Science, we took a small break learning about mixtures and solutions. Instead, students performed small science demonstrations for their classmates that are found on the internet and explained the scientific concepts behind them.

We also just finished reading our first novel, *Where the Red Fern Grows*. Students are now looking forward to the next novel we get to read.

PTA Meeting Jan. 4

Join us at the Parent Teacher Association Meeting on Tuesday, Jan. 4 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.

Winter MAP Testing

All students will participate in the second session of standardized testing Jan. 10-14.

Grades 7-8

Mr. Muchka

Happy New Year from the 7th & 8th grade classroom! The upper graders finished 2021 in strong fashion in the classroom. In Religion we completed a study of Isaiah and Jeremiah, and we are currently studying a series called "God's Answers to My Questions". In Reading, we completed the American classic novel *To Kill a Mockingbird* by Harper Lee. In Social Studies we investigated the Industrial Revolution and the Progressive Era of the early 1900s. In Grammar, the students wrote a series of expository essays

Athletics

Basketball games are ongoing. If you'd like to cheer on the Knights, game schedules are in the school office, or you can check our online school and church calendar. If you're looking for volunteer opportunities, we are always looking for coaches or extra help at home events. Please contact Katie Muchka if you'd like to get involved!

**Morrison Zion Lutheran Church
of Morrison**

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Pastor James Enderle
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Special Festival of Epiphany Worship Service on January 6

On Thursday, Jan. 6 at 7:00 p.m. we will have special Festival of Epiphany worship. The service will be different from the following Sunday.

Epiphany was celebrated in the history of the church long before Christmas was observed. It is a festival that focuses on Jesus revealed as the Savior of all!

The service will begin with a darkened church and a candlelit procession into the church.

There will be numerous Scripture readings and many hymns.

Communion will be a part of worship.

Please make plans to join us for this unique worship event!

