

The Christian Light

Volume 21 Number 2

February 2023

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Why Worship? We Come for Strength

The headline reads: “Strength training get stronger, leaner, healthier.” We are often told that by staying fit, we reduce the risk of injury, boost stamina, control weight, and develop strong bones.

Perhaps we don’t think often enough about spiritual strength training. What if the headline read: “Spiritual strength training made easy”?

Like physical strength training, the spiritual version has its benefits too. We can better resist temptations, boost our spiritual energy, build endurance, and have comfort and courage.

Does that sound important? It does, but how can any believer get these benefits? Jesus encourages every believer, “Be faithful even to the point of death, and I will give you the crown of life” (Revelation 2:10). How can we gain a stronger faith that will enable us to endure to the end?

God has made spiritual strength training easy. He has provided a tool that will strengthen our faith. The tool is the gospel—the message that God loves us and sent Jesus to suffer, die, and rise again for us. Paul said the gospel is the “power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes” (Romans 1:16). It is his power because he works through it, not only to create faith within us but also to nurture and strengthen it throughout life.

Spiritual strength training means a regular dose of the gospel. How can we get that? We can find time in our sched-

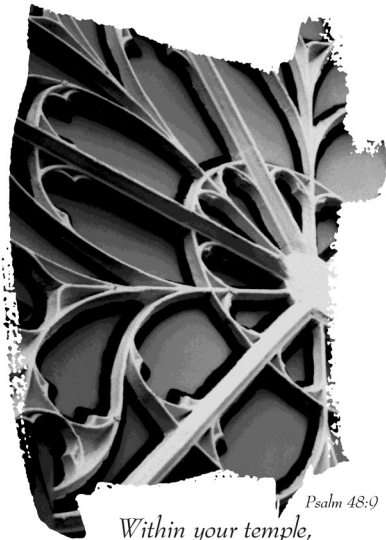
ules to read the Bible and devotional literature. But one other way is to come to the Lord’s house regularly.

In the Lord’s house, we hear about the Savior’s work for us. We listen to readings from Scripture—readings from the epistles, gospels, and Old Testament. We sing words that emphasize the Savior’s love for us. We also receive the Lord’s body and blood in Holy Communion. While we are in God’s house, the Holy Spirit works to strengthen us through the gospel.

God doesn’t promise to give spiritual strength in any other way. We can’t expect him to come in a blinding light to give us strength. Nor should we expect to gain strength by staying away from the Lord’s house and his gospel. When we abandon the gospel, we isolate our faith from the one thing that will keep it

strong—the gospel.

So often we make excuses not to come into God’s house. But it is one place where we can receive a regular dose of the gospel. The truth is that no one will have spiritual strength without the gospel. That’s the way God works. That what he promised. So we come into the Lord’s house for strength.



Psalm 48:9
 Within your temple,
 O God, we meditate on
 your unfailing love.



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) began a study on Jesus' Mission for his Church at its January meeting. We looked at *Jesus' Mission: Save the Lost*.

The LT discussed the plans for two areas of our main emphasis for 2023: Develop a Mission Mindset and Serve Jesus in Love. Plans to Equip Christian Parents will be sent to the LT by Fe. 7. We will follow up monthly on how the plans are being carried out.

Average worship attendance for in person worship in December was 282. The average for in person worship for the 2022 was 257. This compares to an average of 225 in 2021. Bible class attendance for 2022 was 36. In 2021 the average was 45. Please continue to encourage your brothers and sisters in Christ to stay close to Jesus in Word and sacrament!

The LT approved replacing the exterior lights that illuminate the front of church. The

cost will be approximately \$1,400. The LT approved with going forward to replace the carpet in the altar area of church at a cost of about \$6,200. We continue to look for bids for refinishing pews. We will begin to look at replacing the sanctuary lights. We will look for lights that match our existing architecture. Two of the six lights in the sanctuary are not working properly. The cost is significant to repair them. Replacement may be the best option.

The LT received Gary and Sandy Nys as communicant members by Rite of Adult confirmation. Welcome Gary and Sandy!

The Treasurer reported the following December and Fiscal Year balances. .

Income	\$78,192
Expenses	\$44,849
Monthly balance	\$33,342
Fiscal year to date balance	\$74,802

Checkbook balance	\$74,228
Gen. reserve fund	\$199,953
DPI reserve fund	\$2,500
High School	\$3,440
Fiscal year total	\$13,065
2022-23 fiscal goal	\$17,500
Synod Mission	\$4,625
Calendar year total	\$37,010
2022 goal	\$29,500

MZLC will provide a lay delegate to the synod convention in Saginaw Michigan on July 31-August 3. The LT will contact people to see if they are willing to serve in this role.

Our next Meeting will be Feb. 21 at 7:00 p.m. Barnabas Elders will meet at 6:00 p.m.

We will have an Open forum on April 16 to prepare for the Annual Meeting on April 30.

Dare to Lead

St. Mark Ministries will hold the Dare to Lead conference at the KI Convention Center in Green Bay April 24-25. Join us for a best practices conference, providing practical steps for your ministry. Registration is open and costs \$99. Speak to Pastor Enderle if you are interested in attending. There are discounts if we send 3 or more people from our church. More info at <https://stmarkministries.com/d2l/>

Men of His Word Conference

The Conference is at the Best Western Premier Waterfront Convention Center in Oshkosh on Saturday, Feb. 18. Additional details and registration are available at www.menofhisword.org. Registration is \$75 and \$37. Join us for a day of worship, praise and fellowship in God's Word! We hope to send a dozen men from Morrison Zion to the conference this year. Speak to Pastor Enderle if you plan to go and we can carpool.

Baptism

On Thursday, Jan. 5 Gentry David Evenson was baptized into Christ. Gentry, the son of Keith and Ashley Evenson, was born on Jan. 4, 2023. Please pray for God's blessings on Gentry and his family!

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

Sunday Morning Bible Study We meet on Sundays at 9:15 a.m. in the church basement. We are studying God's Builder, based on the book, *Noah* from the God's People Series. Join us!

Commons Bible Study is studying *Everything New-Genesis* on Sundays at 9:15 a.m.

Sunday Night Book Discussion We are discussing *Prepared to Answer*. This book looks at how to share your faith using Bible narratives. A number of books are available for \$10 each. Talk to Pastor Ott if you would like a copy. We will not meet on Sunday, Feb. 19. This book will help us to carry out one of our major emphasis for 2023 (p. 8): Equipping our members to share Jesus in their daily lives. 1 Peter 3:15

Simple Law/Gospel Presentations Workshop Learn how to tell others the story of sin and grace with eight different options! We will meet in the church basement on Saturday, Feb. 11 at 9:00 a.m. The class will be repeated on Monday, Feb. 13 at 6:30 p.m. in the church basement. This class will be repeated every other month on a Saturday and a Monday as a part of our emphasis on equipping members to share Jesus in their daily lives.

New Life in Christ Class A new class began on Jan. 19. It is not too late to join us! We meet Thursdays at 5:30 p.m. in the church basement. Join us to review basic Bible teachings or to explore joining our congregation!

Men's Study will meet on Monday, Feb. 6 and Monday, Feb. 20 at 7:00 p.m. Join us in the church basement.

Women's Study We will meet on Saturday, Feb. 18 at 9:30 a.m. at Phyllis Wegner's home (7067 Cty Rd W). We will study Psalm 30. Please bring a bible and invite a friend. We will also meet March 18 at Ruth Zeamer's home. Any questions contact Jen Enderle (920-372-3818).

Are You A Healthy Member of Zion Join us at school on Feb 25, 10:30 a.m.–1:30 p.m. for the Partnering in the Gospel seminar. We will discuss topics like membership, evangelism, healthy discipleship, how to serve with joy and much more. Lunch is provided along with babysitting. Sign up in church, online, or speak to Pastor Enderle. After Easter we will have a short follow-up with those who have gone through the class.

English as a Second Language will meet Feb. 8, 15, and 22 at 5:30 p.m. in the church basement. New students and volunteers are welcome!

Bible Reading Plan We are reading the Gospels. There are summary videos. Daily questions and devotional thoughts will be shared. Scan the QR code to join! Jan. 30–Feb. 14: Mark; Feb. 15–March 11: Luke



Youth Group will meet for Bible study on Sundays at 7:00 p.m. at school. Open gym follows. Join us for a movie night at Immanuel, Shirley on March 4 and a trip to Badger Sports Park on April 22.

Rooted Game Night and Study Join us on Friday, Feb. 24 at 5:00 p.m. for food, games, and Bible Study at the parsonage. Anyone in their 20's or 30's can join us. If you have kids, they are welcome to join us as well. Food will be provided but you are welcome to bring a side, snacks, or desserts. Contact Pastor Enderle with any questions.

Worship In February

Notes on Worship

In February we conclude Epiphany, say farewell to Alleluia for a time, and enter into the season on Lent. As we continue to focus on what Jesus did to save us (hence the crucifix on the altar) we see Jesus revealed as the promised savior and begin our 40 day journey through the penitential season of Lent.

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! Find resources for worship at www.mzluth.org/online worship. The online register has been simplified. You may also register by texting 920-362-7118. or 920-949-1038. Worship themes in January :

Feb. 2/5	Epiphany 5	The Savior's Sermon: Let your light shine!	green
	Sermon: Joshua 24:14-24	Hymns: 491, 280, 325	
Feb. 9/12	Epiphany 6	The Savior's Sermon: Live a holy life!	green
	Sermon: 2 Sam. 11:1-17,26-27	Hymns: 221, 283, 452, 462	communion
Feb. 16/19	Transfiguration	Jesus is revealed in all his glory	white
	Sermon: Exodus 24:12,15-18	Hymns: 95, 97, <i>Farewell to Alleluia</i>	
Feb. 22	Ash Wednesday	Return to the Lord	black
	Sermon: 2 Cor 7:8-13a	Hymns: 738, 396, 376, 383:1,4	communion
Feb. 26/29	Lent 1	Islands in the Son: A battle scarred island	purple
	Sermon: Romans 5:12-19	Hymns: 378, 200, 754, 204:3	communion

Consider using the hymns, readings and the sermon text as a personal or family devotion some-time before worship! Altar Committee member serving in February: Connie Blauert

Ash Wednesday

Ash Wednesday is Feb. 22. We will have special services at 11:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. Instructions for the beginning of Lent, Imposition of Ashes, and Communion will be a part of worship. A meal will follow the morning service and at 6:00 p.m. on Ash Wednesday and throughout Lent. Thank you Tamara Schultz!

Band

It's time to get together to prepare for praising God in our Easter worship. We need you all- from grade school students to rusty or not rusty adult players. Rehearsals will be Monday Feb. 20 and Monday Feb. 27 at 7:00 p.m. in the school basement. Please contact Mrs. Kuchenbecker if you have any questions or suggestions for other rehearsal options. Spread the word. Hope to see you there!

Choir

We know you're out there! Haven't you wondered even a tiny bit if you would enjoy singing in the choir? Now is a perfect time to find out. We rehearse each Wednesday in the church balcony at 7:00 p.m. We're preparing music for Sunday worship, Lenten worship, and Easter. Come and join us even if just for one rehearsal to see what you're missing.

Can You Help?

Our last Directory was supposed to let us download the pictures in the book. The company went out of business shortly after completing our directory. This is the reason we cannot download these pictures. So, there are few ways you can help us complete the directory. Send your family pictures. Create a login at members.InstantChurchDirectory.com using your email. If you can't access the directory, you can message james.enderle@mzls.org You can update your information and upload a new family picture. This directory is secure and private, just for our members. You may also email us a picture of your family and we will upload these pictures for you (james.enderle@mzls.org or church@mzls.org). Additionally, if you are sending a picture of a college student or other family member and have any additional information that you could share, please email that as well (current mailing address, phone number, and email). Thank you for your help!

Food Pantry

We served 47 families in January, our largest giveaway to date. The food pantry is feeling the growing pains. We meet after each giveaway and discuss what is going well and what is not. We decided we will only be open for Brown County residents who live within 20 miles. We set our operating hours as the first Saturday of every month, 8:00-10:00 a.m. We have information for families who do not qualify for our pantry, so they have options for assistance.

We hosted an. open house on Jan 15. Approximately 40 people attended. Many were surprised to learn what it takes to do a giveaway and how much things have changed in the last year at the pantry. We also shared with everyone that you can volunteer any time. No need to sign up. If you can spare some time, just show up. We will let you know what you can help with. We are there at 7:00 a.m. for set-up. You do not have to make a commitment. It can be one time or several if you would like to help. Thank-you to all who attended our open house.

Soup for Souls

Soup for Souls meals are available in the school and church freezers. Currently we have meatloaf/mashed potatoes, beef stew, chicken dumpling soup, and lasagna meals available. All of the meals are free and can be a great way to share the love of Jesus with others. Thank you to Russel and Roxanne Laabs for a Thrivent Action Team to support this ministry.

Breakfast

Join us Sunday March 26 for Pancake and Porky breakfast, 7:30 a.m. - noon in the gym. During breakfast we will host a family Bible Study in the gym, 9:30-10:00 a.m. Donations support our trips to Youth Rallies. Youth group please plan to help this morning.

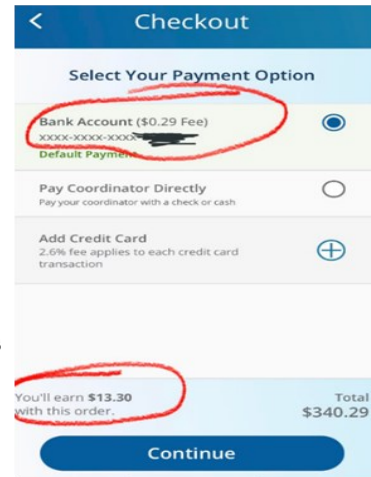
Scrip

The more orders that are placed, the faster we can get enough orders to cover shipping. Please consider using the program. It is a wonderful opportunity to give to the church, or towards a student's tuition, hot lunch, or milk. It makes a great budgeting tool, too!

As a reminder, Econo foods will be discontinued after my current inventory is depleted. I have 4 \$50 cards and 8 \$100 cards left.

The online payment fee has increased to 29 cents. It's still the most cost efficient way to participate, but always double check to make sure your earnings are higher than that cost

The RaiseRight app is the easiest way to use the program and the most cost efficient for both you and the church. E-cards and reloadable cards can be used instantly! They also run specials and bonuses that you will be notified of only through the app. The sign-up code is [LCE5EE7B2774L](#). If you have any questions, I'm happy to walk you through it.



Couples Dinner and Babysitting

Morrison Zion and Immanuel Youth Groups will host a couples dinner and babysitting on Saturday, Feb. 18, 6:00-9:00 p.m. Babysitting is available at school. The dinner is a catered meal served at Immanuel Lutheran. Cost is \$20 per couple, proceeds to benefit both youth groups. Look for links online and signup sheets in the church basement. Please let us know how many children you plan for babysitting. You can use the babysitting and do other activities than the couples dinner.

Blindmen's Volleyball

Gather your teams for this tournament March 24 and 25. Youth group teams will play on Friday and adult teams will play on Saturday. Please indicate youth or adult on your registration form. If there are not enough youth teams all teams will play on Saturday. Deadline for entry is Friday, March 4. A \$30 donation is encouraged for each team to help offset our youth's cost to International Youth Rallies. Registration is available online. Email Pastor Enderle at james.enderle@mzls.org with any questions.

School News

4K-5K

Mrs. Geidel

It has been so fun watching 4K-5K learn and grow. In Bible class we will learn about Jesus feeding 5,000 people, healing a paralyzed man, and bringing a dead girl back to life. We will also learn about the good Samaritan and Jesus healing ten sick men.

4K has learned letters A-N so far. 4K will learn numbers 6-10 this month. 5K is doing great with reading! They are mastering sounding out words to read and write. They have also learned many sight words this year and are excited when we learn new ones. In math, 5K will learn numbers 11-20 and how to decompose those numbers into ones and tens. We started a new unit in science. We are learning about matter and materials all around us. We have looked closely at things that are made of wood and talked about where wood comes from. We celebrated our 100th day of school on Monday, Jan. 30. These littles continue to amaze me with all the information they absorb. I love watching them learn and grow and share their faith with others!

Piano Recital

Mark your calendar. The piano recital is Friday, May 5 at 6:00pm. Everyone is invited to attend.

Music Knight

On Friday, March 10 our school will present a concert at 6:30 p.m. Band students will perform individually in addition to pieces performed by our school band. Come and support our young musicians!

Grades 1-2

Mrs. Kuchenbecker

Love one another. What a wonderful message not only at Valentine's but all year. 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 tally charts, picture graphs and skip counting. The second graders worked with story problems, money, 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 blasting off to move along a map in hopes of earning prizes along the way as they travel through the solar system. Please encourage them in their reading and keep these little lambs in your prayers as they learn and grow in God's love every day.

Grades 3-4

Mrs. Muchka

Happy February! This year in Christ Light, we will focus our study on the words and promises of our Savior. In Math the third graders are studying properties of addition and subtraction, and fourth graders are using multiplication and division to write equivalent fractions. In Wisconsin State History the class has explored life in early Wisconsin and the path to statehood. In Shurley English the class finished learning how to write a persuasive essay. We will take a field trip to the Barkhausen Waterfowl Preserve in early February. There we will learn more about life in early Wisconsin, and we will also learn to identify animal tracks and signs in winter. Please keep our classroom in your prayers!

Grades 5-6

Mr. Geidel

We recently finished our 2nd Reading unit and the students presented their quarter 2 reader's response with projects ranging from posters and dioramas to recipes and puppet shows. In math, 5th grade finished a unit on adding and subtracting fractions and mixed numbers. The 6th grade began a unit dealing with fractions, measurements, and conversion. In P.E. we are moving from hockey to speedball (a game that combines skills from both basketball and soccer.) In Science, 5th and 6th grade continue their exploration of God's creation looking at the diversity of life. We recently began talking and exploring flowers and plant life. God's blessings!

School Choice Application Period

The window for applications to the School Choice program begins Feb. 1. Families who wish to participate in the program will need to apply, even if they are already a part of the program. Contact Mr. Muchka with questions.

Grades 7-8

Mr. Muchka

Brr! It sure is cold out there! But the cold weather hasn't slowed down the upper graders and their learning. In Christ Light class we continue to investigate the topical study, "What About...?" which looks at what God's Word says about homosexuality, abortion, euthanasia, animal rights, and war. In Reading we are digging into nonfiction. In World Studies, we are touring England, France, and Italy to learn more about the past, present, and future of Europe. In Grammar, our students are utilizing more technology to write persuasive essays. It is 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 God in the classroom with our gifts, talents, and abilities.

Call Update

On Monday, Jan. 16, Mr. Muchka received a divine call from Manitowoc Lutheran High School to serve as the technology director and teach freshmen General Science. Please keep Mr. Muchka and his family in your thoughts and prayers as they faithfully consider where best he can serve the Lord next school year. Please reach out to Mr. Muchka with any questions or thoughts you may have.

Lakeshore Lutheran Children's Choral Festival

On Friday, Feb. 17 junior choir will head to MLHS to participate in a day of music with other children's choirs from federation schools. At 6:30 p.m. a concert in the MLHS gym will feature a sacred song performed by each choir along with 4 sacred songs performed by the combined choirs. All are invited to attend.

Parent Teachers Association Meeting

The PTA met in January. Topics that were discussed were family Bible study opportunities, the school calendar for 2023-2024, the updates to the Math and Language Arts curriculum, and updates to tuition, athletics, and the Promotions Committee. The next PTA Meeting is Tuesday, May 2, at 6:30 p.m.

4K & 5K Registration

Parents wishing to enroll their children for the upcoming year should notify MZLS by as soon as possible. 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

Fun Day

Fun Day will meet Feb. 2 and 16. On the 16th, we will have a special "Hearts Party" with extra fun! Fun Day is 8:30-10:30 a.m. for 3 & 4 year olds (already potty trained). Have children bring a small snack and water bottle. This is a free program held in the church basement. The focus is to learn school readiness and the love of Jesus, while having fun with peers. Please invite a friend. Contact Jen Enderle (jen.enderle@Outlook.com / 920-372-3818) if your child plans to attend or with any questions.

Teachers' Conference

Feb. 9-10 MZLS teachers will participate in the Northern Wisconsin District Teachers' Conference at St. John's Lutheran in Two Rivers. We will have spiritual and educational growth opportunities. There will be no school these days.

Standardized Testing Results

Winter test scores show that we have a strong curriculum with gifted students and teachers. Percentile scores after the winter testing session are: Reading: MZL 68 National 50; Math: MZL 70 National 50; Science: MZL 81 National 50.

Barkhausen Presents

Join us on March 4 for Barkhausen Presents Live Animals, Furs & Skulls at Morrison Zion School. This free presentation begins at 9:00 a.m. and is best for children 3 years and up. Interact with native Wisconsin animals both living and non-living, learn basic identification skills, and similarities and differences. Children need to be accompanied by an adult during the presentation. Please join us and invite a friend.

**Morrison Zion Lutheran Church
of Morrison**

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THE CHRISTIAN LIGHT
FEBRUARY 2023



**MORRISON
ZION
LUTHERAN**

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

Leadership Team Sets Three Main Areas of Focus for 2023

In November of 2022 the Leadership Team met for a day to plan the main areas of emphasis for the ministry of MZLC in 2023. The LT decided on these three areas of focus.

1. Equipping Parents to be faithful Christian Parents.
2. Develop A Mission Mindset Among Members, All Are To Share Jesus.
3. Equip Members to Serve our of Love for Jesus.

This month we will look at emphasis number 2: Develop a Mission Mindset among all members to share Jesus in their daily lives. Here is our goal and how we will work to carrying it out.

We want the members of Morrison Zion Lutheran Church to understand that they are called by God to share the good news about Jesus in their daily lives.

- We will equip them to do this by teaching them how to talk about Jesus.
- We will motivate them to do this with the gospel. We will not use fear or guilt.
- We will provide them with tools to use to invite people to meet Jesus at worship/classes after they have shared Jesus with individuals in their daily lives.

This month we are beginning this new focus with God's Great Exchange Workshops to give members a tool to use to share Jesus. We also are beginning a new book on Sunday nights that will equip us with ways to talk about Jesus. Soon we will add other Bible Studies and special worship services and series you can invite people to attend after you have talked to them about Jesus. More information and resources will follow.

Please pray for God's blessings on our efforts in this area!