

The Christian Light

Volume 21 Number 1

January 2023

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Why Worship? We Come to Pray

“Ask and it will be given you,” Jesus encourages. He wants us to pray to our heavenly Father and has promised that his Father will “give good gifts to those who ask him!” (Matthew 7:7,11). And we do pray to God above in the name of Jesus, just as we have been taught.

Jesus also suggests, “Go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father” (Matthew 6:6). Believers in Jesus have been doing that for centuries. Prayer is a private conversation with God, who can give us what we want and need. It’s not necessary to go into the house of the Lord to pray. We have the status of children of God and so pray... anywhere... anytime.

What’s more, we don’t have to be bashful about making our requests. Children aren’t. They trust the love of their parents and come boldly with requests for everything. Of course, sometimes they want things that are not good for them or that they are not ready to have. A parent understands. So does our heavenly Father.

Like the children of God we are, we pray for what is on our hearts and minds. But our vision is often limited. We limit our requests because we easily see only our own needs. Those troubles are real, and hurts, painful.

When we come into the Lord’s house, we bring those prayers with us. Assured of our forgiveness and that God is truly our Father in Jesus, we boldly lay our private petitions before him. He lis-

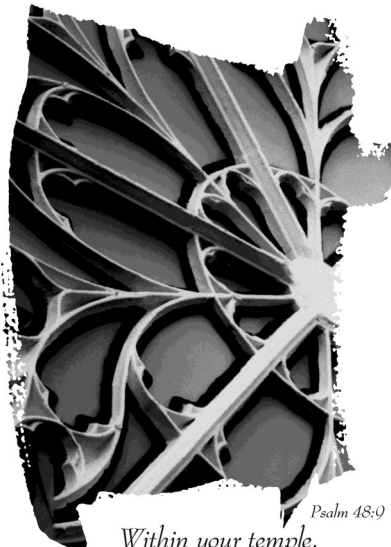
tens to us in his house as well when we make the same requests in our own rooms.

Praying in the Lord’s house changes things a bit. We sense that our problems and challenges are not the only ones that God must address. Our vision expands. Yes, we see others also in prayer boldly coming to the throne of grace with their

own problems. Our prayers reach out to God with petitions for the sick, dying, and troubled around us.

Our vision in the Lord’s house broadens even more. We hear prayers for the needs of all believers and people all over the world. Where there is tragedy and suffering, together we focus our attention and ask for the Lord’s power and grace. We pray for missionaries whom we have sent to share the message of God where we cannot go.

We may forget these prayers on our own, but in God’s house we speak them. We join our hearts together in prayer for God’s help for ourselves, for our fellow believers, and for all people on earth. We come to the Lord’s house to expand our prayers larger than we sometimes do in our own private rooms.



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) concluded a study on Christian Leadership at its December meeting. We looked at *Training for Leadership*.

The LT noted with thankfulness to God that in person worship attendance is up almost 15% year over year. We are thankful for the work of our Barnabas Ministry! Average worship attendance for in person worship in November was 250. The average for in person worship for the year is 254. Please continue to encourage your brothers and sisters in Christ to stay close to Jesus in Word and sacrament!

The LT noticed with concern that attendance at Bible studies is down 20% year over year.

The LT approved the School Boards recommendation to in-

crease tuition for the 2023-2024 school year. 5K-grade 8 tuition will be \$1,250. 4k tuition will be \$800.

The LT set the Parsonage allowances for called workers for tax purposes for 2023.

The LT set a Synod Mission offering goal for 2023 at \$31,000.

The LT noted with thanks gifts in kind that were received in December. We received a gift of soybeans and stock that we are in the process of selling. Thank you for these gifts!

In December 10 members of MZLC went on a mission trip to help Our Savior's Lutheran Church in South Shore, SD. They worked on installing a new floor in the parsonage. Thank you for this service to the Lord and his people!

The Treasurer reported the following November and Fiscal

Year balances. One of the offering counts from October is included in the November balances.

Income	\$110,606
Expenses	\$62,827
Monthly balance	\$47,779
Fiscal year to date balance	\$-532
Checkbook balance	\$46,36+6
Gen. reserve fund	\$199,845
DPI reserve fund	\$2,500
High School	\$2,895
Fiscal year total	\$9,625
2022-23 fiscal goal	\$17,500
Synod Mission	\$7,665
Calendar year total	\$32,385
2022 goal	\$29,500

Our next Meeting will be Jan. 17 at 7:00 p.m.

Thank You

We thank you for all your cards, gifts, and supports this holiday season and throughout the year. Your expressions of Christian love are a blessing! Pastor Ott and family.

Voters

At the voters' meeting in December the voters decided to keep the teacherage for the needs of future called workers.

Planting Gospel Seeds

Place a seed on the picture in the back of church when you talk about Jesus outside of worship. The seeds are on each side of the double doors. Remember, being a member of Jesus' church is not about how others can serve you, it is all about you serving Jesus in love. Share that love by talking about Jesus! Put up a seed as a visual encouragement to your brothers and sisters to do the same!

Mailboxes

The mailboxes have been updated and the 2023 envelope packs inserted. Please pick up your envelopes. Take along a relative, friend or neighbors as well. Also, other committees and groups do insert items into your slots, so please check your box on a regular basis. **Please discard all old envelopes as of December 31. The colors have changed for 2023.** Thank you for your help.

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. In January we will conclude the study: *Great Gospel Events In the Lives of Elijah and Elisha*. The last lesson is: Jan. 1: God Steps In to Discipline. On Jan. 8 we will begin a study from the *God's People Series: Noah*. This course will last for 8 weeks. We will discuss the book, Noah from the God's People Series. Books are available for free at Bible Study.

Commons Bible Study will look at *Everything New-Genesis* on Sundays at 9:15 a.m. in the commons. We will not meet Jan. 1 or 8. Join us Jan. 15!

Sunday Night Book Discussion We will not meet again until Jan. 8. In January we will begin to discuss *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. 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

God's Great Exchange Workshop Learn how to tell others the story of sin and grace with stick figures and math equations. We will meet in the church basement on Saturday, Jan. 16 at 9:00 a.m. The class will be repeated on Monday, Jan. 18 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 (p. 8).

New Life in Christ Class meets Wednesdays at 10:00 a.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, Jan. 23 at 7:00 p.m. Join us in the church basement.

Women's in-home Study We will meet on Saturday, Jan. 14 at 9:30 a.m. Please bring your bible and invite a friend to join us. We will also meet on Feb. 18 and March 18. Any questions contact Jen Enderle at 920-372-3818.

Are You A Healthy Member of Zion Join us at school on Jan 28, 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 for those who need it. Sign up in church or online or speak to Pastor Enderle. This seminar has been held each month for a year. We want all members new and old to attend. After Easter we will have a shorter follow-up with those who have gone through the class.

English as a Second Language will meet Jan. 18 at 5:30 p.m. in the church basement. New students and volunteers are welcome!

Bible Reading Plan To begin 2023 we will start out with something new. Let's read through the 4 Gospels together. We will spend 90 days reading through Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. There are summary videos. Daily questions and devotional thoughts will be shared. Scan the QR code to join! Jan. 1-29: Matthew; Jan. 30-Feb. 14: Mark.

Youth Group will meet for Bible study on Sundays at 7:00 p.m. in January beginning on Jan. 15. Grades 8-12 are welcome!

Rooted Game Night and Study Join us on Friday, Jan. 20 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 January

Notes on Worship

Epiphany is our next season in the Festival half of the Church Year. As we continue to focus on what Jesus did to save us (hence the crucifix on the altar) we see how Jesus is revealed as the promised savior through his powerful teaching and miracles. Epiphany meant “to reveal.”

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 :

Dec. 29/Jan. 1	Christmas 1	God cares for his sons	white
Sermon: Hosea 11:1-7	Hymns: 42, 41, 36:4-5		
Jan. 5/8	Epiphany 1 Baptism of Jesus	Jesus appears as the Anointed One	white communion
Sermon: Isaiah 42:1-7	Hymns: 390, 89, 709, 91:3		
Jan. 12/15	Epiphany 2	Jesus appears as the Lamb of God	green
Sermon: Isaiah 49:1-7	Hymns: 27, 86, 85		
Jan. 19/22	Epiphany 3	Jesus appears as the light that shines in darkness	green
Sermon: Isaiah 8:19-9:2	Hymns: 732, 85, 577, 745		
Jan. 26/29	Epiphany 4	The Savior's Sermon: Trust in God's strength	green
Sermon: Daniel 3: 13-27	Hymns: 421, 395, 446:5,6		

Consider using the hymns, readings and the sermon text as a personal or family devotion some-time before worship! Altar Committee members serving in January: Shannon Otto and Sharon Faulds

Altar Committee Meeting

The Altar Committee changes the colors of the altar cloths, decorates for seasons and special worship services, and takes care of setting up and cleaning the communion ware. If you would like to be a part of this group, talk to Pastor Ott. We will meet to plan 2023 on Monday, Jan. 18 at 7:30 p.m.

Choir

Thank you to all of our choir members for their time and dedication to singing praises during 2022. Our choir rehearsals will resume on Wednesday Jan. 11 at 7:00 p.m. in the church balcony. We invite all to join us as we proclaim God's love in song in 2023.

Band

Thank you to the many instrumentalists who helped beautify our worship services in the church band. We will not practice in January. Watch more rehearsal information in February.

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.

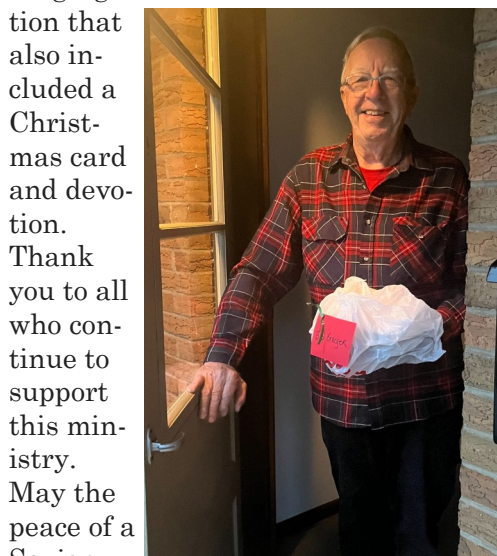
Send Your Family Pictures Create a login at members.InstantChurchDirectory.com using your email. If you can't access the directory, you can message james.enderle@mzls.org You can update your information and upload a new family picture. This directory is secure and private, just for our members. You may also email us a picture of your family and we will upload these pictures for you. Send to 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 in updating our directory.

Food Pantry

The food Pantry will have an Open House – Coin shower on Jan. 15 between church services and after the 10:30 service. Light refreshments will be served. Thank-you to everyone who donated items for the December give-away. We served 43 families. If you or someone you know needs assistance, please phone the food pantry, 920-246-5435.

Soup for Souls

The freezers have all been restocked as we head into the new year. Currently, there are meals of chicken dumpling soup, lasagna, mashed potatoes and meatloaf, and delicious cookies. In December, the Soup for Souls Ministry delivered over 20 meals to members of the congregation that also included a Christmas card and devotion.



Thank you to all who continue to support this ministry. May the peace of a Savior born for you comfort, and sustain you this Christmas, and throughout the year!

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 online registration are available at www.menofhisword.org. Registration is \$60 for adults and \$30 for youth. Rates increase to \$75 and \$37 after Jan 29. 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.

Scrip

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. McDonalds cards are back in \$10 and \$25.

Dear Members of Morrison Zion

This semester of my senior year, I have been completing my student teaching experience. For 6 weeks, I taught third grade in a school in rural Springfield, Minnesota. Each day I taught Social Studies and Language Arts to two different third grade classes. This was a valuable exposure to the public school system and an overall wonderful experience. I loved getting to know my students and letting my light shine even though I couldn't teach them about Jesus. This also gave me a greater appreciation for the blessings of Christian education and daily use of God's Word in the classroom.

On Oct. 17, I began my 10 week Lutheran school experience. I am teaching Kindergarten at Faith Lutheran School in Fond du Lac. I have 26 Kindergartners in a school of over 270 students! I am having so much fun and have grown already. I especially love being able to talk to my students each day about God's Word and see the child-like faith of each one. They daily amaze me with the connections they make to Christ in everyday tasks and their simple trust in Jesus to take care of them. At Faith, I have also gotten involved in music again. I have sung in various small ensembles, sing in church choir, teach Kindergarten and first grade music, played piano for a school song, and am even directing a Junior Choir piece for their upcoming Christmas concert!

This student teaching experience has been one that I will never forget and has made me even more eager to enter the public ministry in May. Thank you for all of your prayers and support for me along the way. You are all a huge blessing to me.

Your sister in Christ, Leah Kuchenbecker

WELS/ELS Singles

Join us for Pizza and Wine at Rio Lobo, E6485 CR-F Weyauwega, WI 54983 at 5:30 pm on Saturday, January 14, 2023. Questions contact Rachel Fritz at rachelfritz@yahoo.com Not able to make it but want to stay in touch regarding events? Check us out on Facebook at: [WELS & ELS Singles | Facebook](#)

Prayers Requested

Rachel Hesprich, daughter of former MZL Principal, Wade Cohoon has been diagnosed with a stage 2 brain tumor. Rachel 35, is married to Josh and they are the parents of four young sons. Rachel was diagnosed in November after suffering migraines and a seizure. 90% of the tumor has been destroyed via laser surgery. Rachel is currently undergoing 6 weeks of radiation treatment. A year of oral chemotherapy will follow. Doctors are optimistic the radiation will either kill or keep at bay whatever remains of the tumor however, this type of tumor will return one day (10-15 years). Rachel and Josh are both self-employed and have escalating medical expenses. Please add Rachel and her family to your prayers and if you are so inclined and would like to send a card of encouragement and/or a gift of financial support their address is 783 Tipperary Ln Hartford, WI 53027. Thank you for your prayers

Couples Dinner

Immanuel Shirley will host a couples dinner on Feb. 18. Babysitting is provided.

Blanket Drive

Thank-you to everyone who donated new blankets to our food pantry. We received 75 blankets and throws total. Every family was so grateful for the gift of warmth!

Youth Group Skating

On Saturday, Jan 21, 7:00-10:00 p.m. YG will go roller skating at Skate City in Kimberly. The cost is \$8. We will leave from Morrison at 6:15. A bus will take kids to and from skating. Sign up on Facebook, mzluth.org, at school or church or using the QR code. Speak to Pastor Enderle if you are interested or have any questions

School News

4K-5K

Mrs. Geidel

With winter here and snow on the ground I asked my 4K and 5K students what winter activity they enjoy and here are their responses. Brooklyn Baeten: Spend time with my family; Wyatt Bergman: Sledding; Bennet Bruss: Have a snow fight; Isaiah Enderle: Play outside; Jayden Engelbrecht: I like to get presents; Tucker Fischer: Making snowballs and eating snow; Nevaeh Griepentrog- Throw snowballs; Jerrick Bauldry: Make a snowman; Logan Dahlke: Go sledding; Oaken Douglas: Make a snowman; Jackson Lemke: Make snowballs

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 to master 2-digit addition and subtraction. In Phonics the first graders finished a study of short vowel words. The second graders began cursive handwriting. In science we studied germs and how to prevent them from spreading. Thank you to Justin Stepien and Jeremy Wittig for coming to read to our class! The kids enjoyed playing in the snow and look forward to playing with their friends in the snow after vacation. From grades 1-2 we wish everyone a very happy New Year.

Grades 3-4

Mrs. Muchka

Happy New Year! We pray that you had a blessed Christmas! This year in Christ Light, we will study the New Testament. We will focus on the words and promises of our Savior Jesus. In Math the third graders are creating graphs, and fourth graders have worked on solving multi-step word problems. In science we studied environments and ecosystems! The students really love learning more about God's wonderful creation! In Shurley English both classes have been learning about prepositions. Please keep the third and fourth grade classroom in your prayers as we begin a new calendar year!

Grades 7-8

Mr. Muchka

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from the 7th & 8th grade classroom! The upper graders finished 2022 in strong fashion in the classroom. In Religion class we continue to study a series entitled "What About...?" that deals with complicated issues in the world. In Reading, we completed the novel "A Christmas Carol" by Charles Dickens. In Social Studies, we toured France and Italy while looking at important events of the past and present of each. 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

School Choice Application Period

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

4K & 5K Registration

Parents wishing to enroll their children for the upcoming year should notify MZLS by February 1st. 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

Parent Teachers Association Meeting

Join us on Tuesday, Jan. 10 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.

Fun Day

Fun Day will meet Jan. 19. 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 or a neighbor. Contact Jen Enderle (jen.enderle@Outlook.com or 920-372-3818-) if your child plans to attend or with any questions. We have had eight children attend the last few times.

Happy Birthday Jesus

We had 16 kids come to hear about the birth of Jesus and celebrate. They decorated Christmas stockings, decorated and ate cupcakes, and listened to stories about the birth of Jesus. Watch the newsletter next month to hear about our next event.

Thank You

From all of 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!

Winter MAP Testing

All students will participate in the second session of standardized testing Jan. 9-13.

Thank You

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. Mrs. Brenda Kuchenbecker

**Morrison Zion Lutheran Church
of Morrison**

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THE CHRISTIAN LIGHT
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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!