

The Christian Light

Volume 21 Number 5

May 2023

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Dead Means Dead

So, my brothers, you also died to the law through the body of Christ, that you might belong to another, to him who was raised from the dead, in order that we might bear fruit to God. For when we were controlled by the sinful nature, the sinful passions aroused by the law were at work in our bodies, so that we bore fruit for death. But now, by dying to what once bound us, we have been released from the law so that we serve in the new way of the Spirit, and not in the old way of the written code. Romans 7:4-6

Have you ever thought about what it means that we, who are Christians, are “dead” to the law as Paul says above? What does death do to our earthly relationships?

If a hearse is pulled over for speeding on the way to the cemetery, does the policeman give the ticket to the corpse in the casket? Of course not! He is no longer under the control of the law!

What about us? As Christians, are we still liable to keep the law of God? Reread what the Holy Spirit had Paul write in Romans 7 up above before you are too quick to answer. God’s answer for us is “No.” We are not accountable for keeping the law because we died to the law in Jesus. He kept it in our place. We no longer have to keep it to be right with God. Now we live in a new relationship to the law. “We have been released from the law so that we serve in the new way of the Spirit, and not in the old way of the written code.” The old way of keeping the law is do to it out of fear of

punishment. Christ was punished in our place. We no longer live in that fear. We have been released. Now we serve in the way of the Spirit. We serve God because we want to thank him. We love him because he first loved us. We live in the “Get to” of the Christian faith, not the “Have to” of the law.

The written code operates by threatening the sinful nature. You know how your sinful nature reacts to commands. Think about it. What was the first thing you wanted to do the last time you saw a “Wet Paint: Don’t Touch!” sign? You know you wanted to touch it. Your sinful nature does not want to be told what to do.

That is what Paul is talking about when he says “when we were controlled by the sinful nature, the sinful passions aroused by the law were at work in our bodies.” When we try to live under the written code our sinful nature gets riled up and moves us to rebel. When we live by the Spirit we do not focus on the commands of the law. Instead, we focus on the law as a guide that shows us ways that we can show our love for God.

Stop feeding your sinful nature the steroids of thinking that you have to obey the law in order for God to love you. Live in response to God’s love for you in Christ. Then the gospel will move you to do more for God in your life than you would ever begin to dream is possible!



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) continued a study on Jesus' Mission for his Church at its March meeting. We looked at *Jesus' Mission: According to Mark*

The LT discussed how things are progressing with our three main areas of emphasis. We also continued to discuss future pastoral plans for the congregation and how to make use of the teacherage for housing needs.

Average worship attendance for in person worship in March was 255. This compares to 223 in March, 2022. The average for in person worship for 2023 year to date is 250. In 2022 it was 257. In 2021 it was 225. Bible Class average attendance in March was 60 (36

in March, 2022). Year to date average attendance is 47. In 2022 it was 36. In 2021 it was 48. Please continue to encourage your brothers and sisters in Christ to stay close to Jesus in Word and sacrament!

The LT discussed the Barnabas ministry: what is going well, what we might need to change, and what to do when Pastor Ott retires. We will meet before the next LT meeting.

The LT was informed we have a full slate for elected positions and the appointed positions are nearly all filled. The list will be presented at the annual meeting on April 30.

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

Income	36,748
Expenses	\$47,113

Monthly balance	\$-10,364
Fiscal year to date balance	\$32,498
Checkbook balance	\$49,411
Gen. reserve fund	\$200,469
DPI reserve fund	\$2,502
High School	\$1,300
Fiscal year total	\$16,180
2022-23 fiscal goal	\$17,500
Synod Mission	\$5,428
Calendar year total	\$9,301
2023 goal	\$29,500

Our next meeting is Tuesday, May 16at 7:00 p.m. Barnabas Ministry will meet at 6:00 p.m.

We will have a voters' meeting to discuss future pastoral plans after late worship on Sunday, May 7. We will meet in church.

Christian Funerals

It has pleased our heavenly Father to call the soul of Terri Compton to her heavenly home. Terri died on April 2. Her Christian funeral was at Morrison Zion on April. 9.

It has pleased our heavenly Father to call the soul of Luanne Wanie to her heavenly home. Luanne died on April 9. Her Christian funeral will be at Morrison Zion on Saturday, May 20 at 11:00 a.m..

Please pray that God comfort all who mourn these deaths with the knowledge that those who die in the Lord are with the Lord!

Call Accepted

The Lord led Jake Geidel to accept the call to serve as principal of Morrison Zion Lutheran School, beginning in the 2023-2024 school year. Please pray that God blesses his ministry among us!

Call Extended

The Lord called Steven Biedenbender to serve as our 7th-8th grade teacher through the voters on Sunday, April 13. He presently serves at St. Paul's, New Ulm, MN. Please pray God guides Mr. Biedenbender as he deliberates on this call!

Christian Baptisms

On Saturday, April 1 Easton Roger Kiley was baptized in a private service at Morrison Zion Lutheran Church. He was born on Jan. 28, 2023. Easton is the son of Emmett and Mackinze Kiley.

On Wednesday, April 12 Brooks Mason Cracraft was baptized in a private service in the hospital. Brooks was born on Tuesday, April 11. He is the son of Matt and Renee Cracraft.

Please pray for God's blessings on these new children of God and their families!

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

Sunday Morning Bible Study will finish the study, *Prepared to Answer* in May. The last lesson is on May 7: Jesus Appears to Thomas: Why can't I just believe what I see? On May 14 we will begin the study Pass It On: Seeing opportunities to pass on the gift of faith through family, church and all of life. The first lesson focuses on sharing your faith with your family. The second lesson focuses on how we share the faith as a congregation. The final lesson focuses on seeing our individual gifts and how we may share them with others. Join us in the church basement at 9:15 a.m. on Sundays!

Sunday School The last Day of Sunday School is May 14. We thank the kids/families for joining us in growing in Jesus' great love for us. We are looking for more teachers and help for Sunday School for next school year. No teaching experience necessary, just a willingness to learn and share Jesus' love with the kids. Please contact Jen Enderle 920-372-3818 or jen.enderle@Outlook.com if you are interested. Thanks!

Sunday Night Book Discussion In May we will continue discussing, *Lutheran Spirituality*. The dates and chapters to discuss are: May 7: Community; May 14: Promise. On May 21 we will begin discussing the book *More Prepared to Answer* by Mark Paustian. If you need a copy of the book please let Pastor Ott know. He will order the book after he gets the requests. The cost is \$18.

Friendship Witnessing Workshop This workshop will focus on how to build bridges with people and earn the right to talk to them about Jesus. This one hour workshop will meet on Saturday, May 6 at 9:00 a.m. and on Monday, May 8 at 6:30 p.m. in the church basement. Join us! This is a part of our emphasis on equipping members to share Jesus in their daily lives.

New Life in Christ Class This review of the basic doctrine of the Bible meets Thursdays at 5:30 p.m. in the church basement.

Men's Study will meet on Monday, May 1, 15 and 29 at 7:00 p.m. Join us in the church basement. When the weather warms we will move to the firepit.

Women's Study We will meet on Saturday, May 13 at 9:30 a.m. Please bring a bible and invite a friend. Any questions contact Jen Enderle (920-372-3818).

English as a Second Language will meet May 3 and 17 at 5:00 p.m. in the church basement. New students and volunteers are welcome!

Bible Reading Plan Speak to Pastor Enderle if you would like to join. May 1-30: Romans: Deeper into Scripture.

Youth Group will meet for Bible study on Sundays at 7:00 p.m. at school. Open gym follows. We will begin planning for the 2024 International Youth Rally. Look for more info soon.

Rooted Game Night and Study No study this month.

Partnering in the Gospel Follow-Up Join us at school on Monday, May 8, 6:30-8:00 p.m. for a follow-up to the Partnering in the Gospel Seminar. We will discuss several of the "take home" sections of the Seminar (Lies We Believe, Spiritual Healthy Discipleship, and the Spiritual Gift Inventory) along with in any other questions. Speak to Pastor Enderle if you have questions.

Worship In April

Notes on Worship

In May we continue through the Sundays of Easter and focus on *The Redeemer Lives!* and see the implications this truth has for our daily lives. We will also celebrate the minor festival of Ascension and the final major Festival of the Church Year: The Festival of Pentecost on Sunday, May 28. There will be no Pentecost worship on May 25. School graduation will replace the festival service.

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 :

May 7	Easter 5	The Redeemer lives to be the only Way to heaven	white
	Sermon: John 14:1-12	Hymns: 145, 141, 343	
May 14	Easter 6	The Redeemer lives to call me to live for him	white
	Sermon: John 14:15-21	Hymns: 169, 377, 496, 332	communion
May 18	Ascension	The Redeemer lives to rule all things for his Church	white
	Sermon: Luke 24:44-53	Hymns: 171:1-4, 171:5-6	
May 21	Easter 7	The Redeemer lives to give me eager expectation for glory	white
	Sermon: John 17:1-11a	Hymns: 170, 359, 218	
May 25	School Graduation (No regular Thursday worship, no communion)		white
May 28	Festival of Pentecost	The Holy Spirit comes to bless us	red
	Sermon: John 16:5-11	Hymns: GR250, 176, 186, 281:3	communion

Consider using the hymns, readings and the sermon text as a personal or family devotion sometime before worship!

Altar Committee members serving in May: Dawn and Dick Tisler

Barnabas Ministry

Our Barnabas Ministry has been a great blessing in our congregation. We are seeing people in worship we have not see for sometime. Thank you to all the faithful Barnabas Ministers who have shared the good news about Jesus as they encouraged people to stay close to Jesus!

We will have a meeting of all the people involved in this ministry on Tuesday, May 16 at 6:00 p.m. in the commons. We will discuss how things are going, what changes might be needed, and what adjustments we will need to make as Pastor Ott retires.

If you are interested in being a part of this ministry, please come to the meeting to learn more. We can always use more Barnabas ministers, especially younger members of the congregation.

Worship Committee

Worship Committee will meet on Monday, May 4 at 7:00 p.m. in the church basement. We will plan Pentecost and summer events.

Food Pantry

We served 49 families on April 1, consisting of 207 people. We began using reusable totes and cloth bags that were purchased with grant money. They have our name on them and a bible message. We had an interpreter explain to our families that they are to bring them back each time they come. They were well received by everyone including by the volunteers who carry food to the cars.

Our grant funding has come to an end as of March 31. The grant was a blessing, and we were able to purchase many items with it. We want to thank all the 7th and 8th graders who helped carry in items weekly. Also thank you to the volunteers who fixed the ceiling and painted the kitchen.

Our next day is May 6. Set-up from 7:00–8:00, distribution 8:00–10:00. If you need assistance, call 920-246-5435 for an appointment. Please keep the food pantry in your prayers.

Soup for Souls

Soup for Soul meals are restocked at school and at church. Currently there are meals of ham and mashed potatoes, chicken and potato wedges, and lasagna with garlic bread available. Thank you to all who continue to support this ministry through your offerings. As a reminder, there is an envelope in your church envelope packet if you're interested in making an offering to this ministry. This ministry offers each of us an opportunity to show the love of Jesus in a tangible way when someone we know may be struggling or may need words of encouragement. *A friend loves at all times, and a brother is born for a time of adversity.* Proverbs 17:17

Brewers WELS Night

Brewers WELS Night is Friday, July 7. Join thousands of WELS members from around the Midwest for an evening of fellowship, fun, and baseball at the 9th Annual WELS Night at American Family Field. The Brewers will play the Cincinnati Reds at 7:10 p.m.. Select tickets are 50%. Deadline to purchase is Friday, June 10. Something new for 2023 is that each church that purchases 20 or more tickets will qualify for the opportunity to have a member from their congregation throw out a first pitch prior to the game. Contact Pastor Enderle if you are interested in purchasing tickets as part of the group and tailgating together. You can also purchase tickets on your own at <https://www.mlb.com/brewers/tickets/specials/wels> for tickets.

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, Danielle Ripp is happy to walk you

Graduation

If you (or your child) is graduating from high school or college please contact Pastor Enderle james.enderle@mzls.org or 920-949-1038. We would like to share these milestones with the congregation

Vacation Bible School July 11-13

Mark your calendar for Vacation Bible School, July 11-13. The theme is *God's Living Water: Covered in Jesus' Grace*. Please watch for more information. Invite your friends, relatives, neighbors.

Morrison Marketplace

Join us this summer for the Morrison Market. The 2023 dates are May 21, June 11, July 9 Aug. 20, Sept. 10, and Oct. 8. The Market is 11:30 a.m.-2:00 p.m. in the school parking lot. If you would like to be a vendor, crafter, farmer's market vendor, etc., please contact Alicia Stevenson 366-0523. Come for lunch and stay to mingle with the community and others from our church family.

School News

4K-5K

Mrs. Geidel

Wow! I cannot believe it is May already. It's true what they say: Time flies when you're having fun. I absolutely loved watching these kids grow and learn! Their love for their Savior was shown every day. I cannot wait to see what God has planned for their future. We have a lot of fun planned to end our year. We will participate in an ABC countdown where each day will be something fun starting with the letter of the day. For example, D is Donuts with Dad, M is muffins with Mom, E is a fun experiment, and R is painting rocks. In Bible class we will learn about Jesus' death and resurrection. We will learn about doubting Thomas, Jesus going back up to heaven, and the Holy Spirit coming to Jesus' friends. In math, 4K will work on different kinds of patterns and positional words. 5K will learn about measurement and graphing. In reading, 4K will finish the final letters of the alphabet and 5K will learn new sight words as we read new stories. In science, 5K will learn how things move in our world. On a field trip to Heckrodt we will learn all about trees and explore the outdoors. On the last day of school these little ones will graduate and move on to 1st grade and kindergarten!! We hope you have a blessed May and summer!

2023-24 School Year

The 2023-2024 school calendar is set with a starting date of Wednesday, August 23 for grades 5K - 8. The first day for the 4K students will be Tuesday, August 29. The final day of school is set for Friday, May 24, 2024.

Grades 1-2

Mrs. Kuchenbecker

We spent April learning the classifications of animals and the habitats that God made for them to live in. The students made models of an animal or habitat to share with our friends. On April 27 we went to the Milwaukee Zoo. Thanks to God; a large portion of our trip to the zoo is being paid for through some very generous donations. Thank you too all. This was written before our trip, so we'll tell you all about it in June. The second graders worked on 3 digit adding and subtracting, and studied measurement in math. The first graders felt like second graders doing 2 digit adding and subtracting. They also studied measurement, money and shapes. All the kids have grown so much in their reading and are using their free time to read, read, read. We'll finish the year with one last reading challenge. Our music classes focused on rhythm and in art we enjoyed making spring crafts. We learned the meaning of the many symbols used to beautify our church. We then took a trip to church to find them all. Always lots going on in grades 1-2.

Grades 3-4

Mrs. Muchka

Happy May! The school year has really flown by! This year in Christ Light, we studied the New Testament. We focused our study on the words and promises of Jesus. In Math the third graders are comparing fractions, and the fourth graders have converted between units of measurement. In Science the class did lab work to explore energy, conductors, and insulators. They really love hands-on lab experiments! In Shurley English the class is learning to use interjections and direct objects. Please keep the third and fourth grade classroom in your prayers as we finish another school year.

Grades 5-6

Mr. Geidel

The 5th and 6th graders continue Christ Light lessons related to the Easter season. In Catechism, we finished our lessons on Baptism and began the ministry of the keys and the Sacrament of Holy Communion. In math, 5th grade is beginning their unit on measurements and conversion. 6th grade is studying area, surface area, and volume. In science, 5th and 6th grade began their study of weather and water. They began this unit by anchoring a weather report in front of their classmates. They also finished their science experiments. We will send one project from each grade to be on display at the MLHS science fair. The students finished their study on positive and negative space in Art. Each student created a diorama with the background being the negative space. Within the diorama, each student sculpted something of their choice to represent the positive space in the project. It is always a blessing to see students using their God-given talents to the best of their abilities!

Grades 7-8

Mr. Muchka

God's blessings to you and happy Spring from the 7th and 8th grade classroom! In Reading, we completed Lois Lowry's award-winning novel, "The Giver". Math class has taken our students into basic geometry and probability with statistical analysis. In Social Studies, we are currently studying modern China. Continue to keep our students, parents, and teachers in your prayers as we venture into the end of the school year

Fun Day

Fun Day is a free program in the Morrison Zion Church basement. The focus is to learn school readiness and the love of Jesus, while having fun with peers. Fun Day is 8:30-10:30 a.m. for 3 & 4 year olds (already potty trained). We will meet on May 4 and 18. Join us and invite a friend or neighbor. Contact Jen Enderle if your child plans to attend or with any questions. 920-372-3818 or jen.enderle@Outlook.com

School Band

Mark your calendars! Our grade school band will play the National Anthem at a Timber Rattler game! The game is on Saturday, May 20. The game is at 1:10 p.m. Tickets will be available at a group rate price of \$14 per ticket. As an extra bonus, for any tickets that we sell, \$3 will be donated to our congregation. The link to buy tickets is <https://fevogn.com/event/Morrisonzion23>. The link will shut off May 18 at 11:30 p.m. Tickets are \$14 per person (plus an online fee). The tickets will be emailed to you once you purchase them and you can print them out or pull up on a smartphone. If you need help ordering tickets, contact Mrs. Kuchenbecker. Watch for more information about tailgating being organized by the promotions committee.

Lakeshore Lutheran Schools Academic Fair

The LLS Academic Fair was Saturday, April 22. Students had the opportunity to prepare Art and Science displays (which were judged) or participate in a Forensics competition, Spelling competition, Math Meet, or Academic Bowl. Results will be shared in the May newsletter

Dates to Note

May 25 8th Grade Graduation at church 7:00 p.m.
 May 26 4K5K Graduation in the gym 11:00 a.m.
 School Picnic/Last Day of School 11:15 a.m.

Coaches Needed

If you are interested in coaching cross country, soccer, volleyball, or basketball next year, please contact Mrs. Muchka. We are always looking for additional coaches and assistants!

Piano Recital

Mark your calendar. The piano recital is Friday, May 5 at 6:00 p.m. Everyone is invited!

School Enrollment

If you know of anyone interested in a solid Christian education, please feel free to mention our school! Mr. Muchka is more than willing to set up a meeting with prospects, give them a tour, or just discuss their child's education. Our projected enrollment is around 62, and we have room for plenty more children to learn about Jesus!

Flower Fundraiser

Morrison Zion Athletics will have a flower fundraiser in partnership with Braun Acres to raise funds to support the ongoing costs of our athletic programs. Orders will need to be placed online and will be accepted from April 16-May 7 via the link on our church website, mzluth.org, or on Morrison Zion Lutheran School's Facebook page. Curbside pick-up will be in the church parking lot on Sunday, May 21, 10:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Thanks in advance for your support! If you have any questions, please contact Abbey Laabs at abbeymlaabs@gmail.com.

**Morrison Zion Lutheran Church
of Morrison**

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MAY 2023



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Celebration of Mr. Muchka's Ministry

On Sunday, June 18 we will celebrate Mr. Muchka's ministry as a teacher in our school and the principal of our school. Mr. Muchka will serve the Lord and his people at Manitowoc Lutheran High School next school year. Watch for more details about events planned for that day. Please make plans to join us!

Pastor Ott Announces Retirement Plans

On Sunday, April 23 Pastor Ott announced that he will retire at the end of August this year. His last sermon will be the week of August 13. A celebration of his ministry is being planned for that day as well.

Voters' Meeting

In church
To discuss future pastoral plans
After late worship
May 7