



# News From Zion



Morrison Zion Lutheran Church  
www.mzluth.org

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## Announcements

**Sunday Morning Bible Study** Join us Sunday at 9:15 a.m. in the pavilion (weather permitting) as we continue to study *Lifestyle Witnessing*. The final lesson is: Speak the Gospel: It's Our Goal. This Fall we will have a Festival of Friendship in place of Welcome Home. Every member is encouraged to bring a friend to worship with them that day. Join us for this study and learn how to share Jesus with your friends!

**Baptism** In late worship on Sunday, Ava Jean Hansen, the daughter of Craig and Kristin Hansen will be baptized. Ava was born on June 21, 2023. Please pray for God's blessings on Ava and her family!

**Sunday Book Study** will meet at Nickel Funeral home at 7:00 p.m. to begin our final book *I Will*, by Thom Rainer. It is the follow up to the book *I am a Church Member* by the same author we focused on in worship and small groups a number of years ago. Books are available from Pastor Ott for \$5. Join us or pick up a book to read at home!

**St. John-St. James** in Reedsville will install Rev. Thaddeus and Abigail Flitter as their second pastor and grades 4-5 teacher (one-year emergency call) on July 23 at a 4:00 pm service with a dinner to follow. All are welcome to attend this special event.

**Men's Study** will meet on Monday, July 24 at 7:00 p.m. Join us at the bonfire or in the church basement depending on the weather.

**Church Golf Outing** is each Wednesday at 5:00 p.m. at Wander Springs. Tee times are in Charles Edinger's name. Everyone is invited to join us!

**Last Week** we had 239 worship in person and 19 online. That is 35% of our membership. Please encourage your brothers and sisters in Christ to stay close to Jesus through use of Word and sacraments!

**Bible Reading Plan** Go to mzluth.org or our Facebook page to join. Contact Pastor Enderle with questions. July 21-30: Jesus' Church.

**Soup For Souls** Meals and cards are available in the freezers at church and at school. Please share the love of Christ in a tangible way by taking a meal and card to a friend, neighbor, or co-worker to brighten their day!

**Books** are available in the church basement. Take and keep as many as you would like. There is a box for any free will offering you wish to give. Take a look at these excellent resources to grow your faith! This is the last week they will be available.

**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 at church on Saturday, Aug. 5 and Monday, Aug. 7 at 6:30 p.m. Join us to prepare for this Fall's Festival of Friendship!

**Outdoor Worship** is planned for Sunday, Aug. 13 (Pastor Ott farewell, meal in gym to follow, bounce house and dunk tank after the meal). Join us and bring a friend!

**Pastor Ott** will retire at the end of August. A celebration of his ministry is set for Aug. 13. The Ott's invite everyone in the congregation to South Shore, SD on Saturday, Sept. 2 (Labor Day weekend) for a party. Please let Pastor Ott know if you plan to attend so we have enough food.

**Partnering in the Gospel Follow-Up** Join us at school on Saturday, Aug. 26 at 9:00 a.m. and Monday, August 28 at 6:30 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). Speak to Pastor Enderle if you have any questions.

**Church Lighting** The Leadership Team approved replacing the lights at church. The cost will be around \$35,000 for the lights and installation. We will need help moving pews to install the lights. Watch the announcements for the date of installation.

Volume 11  
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July 20 & 23,  
2023  
8th Sunday  
after Pentecost

Our  
Mission  
is to  
**Glorify**  
**God**  
as we  
**Gather**  
around  
the  
Gospel  
so that we  
**Grow**  
in the  
Gospel  
and  
**Go**  
with the  
Gospel



## Weekly Calendar

Sun. 9:15 a.m. *Lifestyle Witnessing*, basement  
7:00 p.m. *I Will*, chapters 1-3, Nickel Funeral  
Mon. 7:00 p.m. Men's Study  
Wed. 5:00 p.m. Church Golf Outing, Wander Springs  
Thur. 7:00 p.m. Pent. 9 Worship  
Sun. 8:00 a.m. Pent. 9 Worship  
9:15 a.m. *Esther* study, basement  
10:30 a.m. Pent. 9 Worship  
7:00 p.m. *I Will*, chapters 1-3, Nickel Funeral

## Our Stewardship of the Means of Grace

Worship: 239 (29, 133, 77) Online: 19 Bible Study: 37 (25, 12, 0)

## Current Statistics Offer Insights For Future Planning

WELS News

The 2022 WELS Statistical Summary and Analysis is now available.

Each year, WELS collects data from all congregations and schools. That data is compiled in a statistical report containing information for every church, circuit, conference, and district. WELS Congregational Services then publishes an annual Statistical Summary & Analysis to help congregations and the synod plan how to best steward the resources God provides.

Some items of note:

- 2022 marked the largest one-year decline in WELS members in history—2.8 percent, which amounts to about 10,000 members.
- In 2022 WELS had its largest one-year increase in in-person worship attendance, with almost 9,000

more souls gathering weekly than in 2021, an increase of 8.1 percent.

- 2022 marked the second time in three years that births in WELS fell below 3,000. In one decade, the birthrate in WELS has been more than cut in half.

As Rev. Jonathan Hein, coordinator of WELS Congregational Services, notes, "The Statistical Summary and Analysis points to opportunities before us. For example, in one decade, the unchurched students enrolled in WELS' early childhood ministries and Lutheran elementary schools has skyrocketed. It doubled in the elementary schools. And with WELS' birthrate in decline, there will be room to bring in more unchurched students. Yet, in that same decade, adult

confirmations coming out of youth education ministries have remained relatively flat. The prayer is that as we study the harvest strategies of the youth education ministries the Lord seems to be blessing, we might identify tactics that can be used more broadly, so that we might reach more unchurched students and parents for Christ."

Hein also explains that another opportunity is potentially provided through church consolidations. Those are becoming more common in WELS, as churches seek to improve their "critical mass" by merging. "It will be interesting to watch how the Lord blesses these efforts to increase gospel ministry in future years," says Hein.

Read the full WELS 2022 Statistical Summary and Analysis online.

## News from our High Schools

MLHS will have 15 international students next school year! Host Families are needed for the 2023-2024 school year. Contact Nathan King. (nking@mlhslancers.org or 920-682-0215 x 420) to learn more.

FVL Host families needed for 2023-24. Go to [fvlhs.org/hosting](http://fvlhs.org/hosting) or Monica Uhlenbrauck (muhlenbrauck@fvlhs.org) with questions.

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Synod :	<a href="http://www.wels.net">www.wels.net</a>
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Custodians Church: Ron & Cindy Beyer	864-7427
School: Abbey Marek	203-8627
Wisconsin Lutheran Child & Family Service Appleton (WELS counseling)	731-9798
Living Hope Counseling Ministries De Pere (WELS counseling)	338-8699

**Glorify**

**Gather**

**Grow**

**Go**