

The Christian Light

Volume 21 Number 10

October 2023

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Known as God’s Distinctive Community

“You are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light” (1 Peter 2:9).

You finally have a moment of peace and can enjoy time for yourself. Your options are nearly limitless. Grab a book. Tune into a podcast. Binge-watch a new series. Scroll through your social media feed. It’s all there, limitless options right at your fingertips. Choices curated and customized for you personally.

Worship for self-fulfillment

In a world that encourages you to choose and express your own identity, your social communities can deepen your self-expression. Where you go and what you choose to do there can reinforce your tendency to look inward. Spiritual communities can be venues where your personal choices help fill your needs.

It’s no surprise to see that many within the wider Christian community have tapped into expectations for spiritual fulfillment. Market-driven worship reflects a concert atmosphere. Media-savvy services deliver messages that inspire on the level of a TED Talk. Believers assemble for a time that can be as entertaining as it is exciting.

You can find yourself slipping into the attitudes expressed by celebrities who highlight their church attendance to become better versions of themselves. A-list Hollywood actors influence you to find practical value in an every-Sunday church habit. Some weeks you feel like you didn’t get much out of church. Other times you feel fulfilled.

Worship as the body of Christ

In an on-demand world, our spiritual lives can conform or stand out. A Christian community can be known as the body of Christ. As “God’s elect, exiles” (1 Peter 1:1), God’s people have an opportunity to be known as a distinctively Christian

community. As “a chosen people . . . called . . . out of darkness into his wonderful light,” Christian communities can reflect the unique character they have in the world.

As a Christian submitting yourself to Bible teachings that sometimes make you uncomfortable and upset your personal preferences, you can reflect that same humility in your church community. Your church practices conform to the truths of who God is and your relationship to him. Media and marketing trends take a back seat to transcendent truths you need to hear. Your habits in church can stand out in the world in a refreshingly positive way.

When worship begins, your self-chosen identity is overcome by your baptismal incorporation into the body of Christ. Confessing your sin and your sinfulness takes you out of your impulses of looking to have your personal needs met. Finding forgiveness in Jesus brings you what you most desperately need. The Word of God proclaimed in law and gospel speaks authoritatively over your opinions and feelings. Singing together with fellow Christians allows you to communicate to one another the truths of God’s Word. Praying with and for Christians around the world unites you in heart and mind, reminding you of your dependence on God. When you observe a baptism and participate in the Lord’s Supper, you get to see God’s power in action beyond what is merely visible. Worship practices shape us. Habits break down tendencies to adopt cultural assumptions.

In a world where you can sit back and soak up a customized array of personal options, your faith community can stand apart. **Your participation in worship can redirect you to your identity in Christ.** Your church gathered together can be known as a distinctive Christian community.

- Pastor Jeffrey Enderle, *Forward in Christ*, September 2023



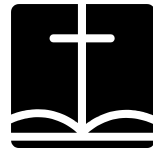
Our Mission

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) meeting for September was moved to September 24 (after this newsletter is written) so there are no new LT meetings to report on.

The LT will discuss an article on "Strengthening Ministry Teams" on September 24.

Guest preacher Jerome Enderle preached on September 7 and 10 and will preach again on October 19 and 22 (around the due date of baby Enderle).

Pastor Enderle attend the yearly CrossTrain Pastor Mentoring Conference in Walker, MN. CrossTrain is a WELS program that supports pastors and focuses especially on physical, spiritual, and emotional resiliency. The program focuses on helping pastors be resilient in their own lives while helping with preaching, counseling and Bible studies. This

year's focus was on physical health and being motivated by the gospel to serve in all aspects of life.

Paster Enderle also attended Symposium and mentor training at the Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary in Mequon, WI. Pastor was asked by WLS to mentor Pastor John Jordan, who grew up in Pakistan and is serving at Beautiful Savior in Green Bay. His father was a doctor who started a ministry center in their hospital in Pakistan. Pastor Jordan moved to the United States, first to study to be a doctor but changed to study for ministry. Now father and son are both pastors. Pastor Enderle participated in the installation and ordination of Pastor Jordan on August 27. Pastor Jordan also got married in September. We pray for God's blessings on his marriage and the start of his ministry in the Lord.

The Symposium's topic was

on the Two Kingdoms, God's spiritual kingdom and the earthly kingdom of government. 3 papers were presented concerning what God tells us concerning how it is difficult for a Christian who constantly lives in both kingdoms. The 3 papers focused on the biblical view, a historical view, and a practical current view at the topic. This last paper was especially helpful, reminding Christians that they have and will always be in exile in this world, how Christians have the truth, and how they can be unique Gospel lights not caught up in divisions. Go to www.wisluthsem.org/symposium-archives/ for the papers.

A few special worship items to note: Reformation will be celebrated November 2 and 5. The week after Thanksgiving on November 23 we will begin 4 weeks of mid-week Advent services at 11 am and 7 pm with soup suppers. MLHS choir will join us December 17. Christmas Eve falls on Sunday, December 24. The 8am service will be a Advent/Christmas hymn sing. The Children's Christmas Eve service will be at 10:30 am and 6:00 pm.

Our next meetings is Tuesday, Oct. 17 at 7:00 pm.

Weddings

If you have plans to marry in the next few years don't forget to reserve the church early and to plan to meet with Pastor Enderle. Morrison Zion is excited to be a part of you in your marriage.

Bible Information Class

Speak to Pastor Enderle if you or a family member would like to join Morrison Zion. It would be a joy to have you join the Zion family and to join us in communion. This class is also a good refresher on the basics of Christianity.

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.

Call News

Rev. Matthew Kuske returned the call to serve as associate pastor at Morrison Zion. Look for updates concerning future call meeting.

Baptism

Taylor Josephine Laabs, the daughter of Travis Laabs and Jennifer Schultz, born July 17, 2023 was baptized and welcomed to God's family after late service on September 24.

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

Sunday Morning Bible Study In October we will begin a new study on Paul's letter to the Romans. This Bible Class aims at defining the Christian "X" factor. In other words, what is it that makes Christianity unique from every other religion and what makes Christians so different from other people? Romans is a great overview of the Christian faith and the application of that faith in a Christian's life.



Online Bible Study If you are unable to join in-person or miss a Sunday you can join the study online with Pastor Enderle and Pastor Ruddat from Immanuel in Shirley, Wednesdays at 8 pm. This online Bible Study is our YouTube page and in a Facebook group. Videos remain online for you to watch whenever. Join the online bible class Facebook group: <https://bit.ly/xfactoronline>

Sunday Night Book Discussion meets Sundays at 7 p.m. in the church basement. In October we will discuss the book "Revolution" by George Barna. Books are available downstairs and the back of church for \$1.

Wednesday Confirmation Class for public school students 5th-8th grade begins Wednesday, August 30 from 5:00 pm to 6:15 pm. Classes are held at Morrison Zion Lutheran Church. Please contact Pastor Enderle with any questions james.enderle@mzls.org

Men's Study will meet on Monday, October 2, 16, and 30 at 7:00 p.m. Join us at the bonfire or in the church basement depending on the weather.

Youth Group meets Sunday nights at 6 pm—8 pm. We are looking at how God blesses us with relationships. Snacks and refreshments are provided.

English as a Second Language will move to Thursdays. We will meet Oct. 5 and 19 at 5:30 p.m. in the pavilion or in the church basement. New students and volunteers are welcome!

Bible Reading Plan In October we will look at one devotional plans. Speak to Pastor Enderle if you would like to join.

Oct. 7—Nov. 10: Happy Healthy Church—Devotions from Time of Grace.

Sunday School runs from 9:15-10:15 each Sunday for 3 years old (potty trained)-6th grade. This fall we are studying the New Testament and lessons include the boy Jesus in the Temple, Jesus Heals at Bethesda and Jesus Walks on Water.

Fun Day This is a free program held in the Morrison Zion Church basement. The focus is to learn school readiness and the love of Jesus, while having lots of fun with peers. Children ages 3 & 4 (already potty trained) are invited to attend. Fun Day meets every Tuesday from 8:30am – 10:30 am. In the church basement. It will be held every Tuesday morning unless there is no school at Morrison Zion. Please share with a friend or a neighbor! If you have any questions please contact Danielle Ripp at 920-621-3196 or dani.pues27@gmail.com.

Church Band

Let's do this! I know there are lots and lots of instrumentalists reading this! It's time once again to get together to prepare for praising God in our worship services, taking music to our community and playing for pep band. We need you all- from grade school students to rusty or not rusty adult players. We will have rehearsals on Monday, October 16th, 23rd, and 30th at 7:00pm 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!

Worship In October

Notes on Worship

After reliving the great events of the life of Christ, the worshipping Church spends half a year focusing on the teachings of Christ. The Church wears green during the season of Pentecost as the Spirit uses those teachings of Jesus to grow the faith of believers. In October we are in a series discussing our God.

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 920-949-1038. Worship themes in October:

Our God...

Sept 28/Oct 1	Pent 18	...is incompressibly gracious	green
	Sermon: Romans 9:6b-16	Hymns: 756, 390, 401,	
Oct 5/8	Pent.19	...wants real repentance and true faith	green
	Sermon: 2 Corinthians 13:5-8	Hymns: 302, 306, 746, 385	communion
Oct 12/15	Pent. 20	...patiently seeks fruits of faith	green
	Sermon: 2 Corinthians 6:1-13	Hymns: 765, 203, 466	
Oct 19/22	Pent. 21	...invites sinners to participate in his blessings	green
	*Sermon: Matthew 22:1-14	Hymns: 339, 376, 315, 219	communion
	<i>* Guest Preacher - Pastor Jerome Enderle</i>		
Oct 26/29	Pent. 22	...establishes earthly governments	green
	Sermon: Romans 13:1-7	Hymns: 620, 421, 619	

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

Altar Committee members serving in October: Connie Blauert

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 7:00PM. We're preparing music for Sunday worship, Christmas and for a concert that will be held on Sunday, February 11th. Come and join us even if just for one rehearsal to see what you're missing.

Soup for Souls

Soup for Souls has restocked the meals in the freezers at school and at church. Currently we have tator-tot casserole, macaroni and beef casserole, and lasagna available....and delicious cookies too. Please use this ministry tool to share the love of Jesus with others.

Craft Show at St. John-St James in Reedsville

The 2nd Annual St. John-St. James Craft Show will be held on Saturday November 4, 2023. It will be held from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. All items must be hand made. We are looking for crafts people from local WELS churches to show their skills and talents that God has granted them. Please contact Dan Duchow at 920-754-4751 or Bethany Christensen at 847-902-2527 or email to uncommongiggles@gmail.com for more information.

Friendship Registers

Thank you for using Friendship Registers in the pews again! Please continue to take the time to sign the registers before worship or pass them down the pew during the offering. Thanks!

Online Worship Registration

Thank you for continuing to let us know when you worship online. You can text your names and the date to (920) 949-1038 or register at <https://www.mzluth.org/> through our Online Friendship Register.

Scrip

Scrip is looking for a new assistant or two to help distribute physical cards. Contact Danielle Ripp or Pastor Enderle if you are interested.

Food Pantry

We served 38 families on Sept. 2. We had 6 new families come for assistance. It once again was a very successful giveaway. Each family received a gallon of milk, eggs, sweet corn, green peppers, zucchini, tomatoes, potatoes, fresh cilantro and a package of chicken, along with the regular canned goods and personal hygiene items. Thank you to all the families who contributed fresh items from their gardens. The pantry is currently looking into joining Feeding America. Feeding America supplies food to food pantries and other non-profit organizations across America. They get large donations from numerous companies to distribute. They do not charge for a lot of food items, but there are charges for some items. They charge for these items by the pound, which decreases the cost for them. We are looking into this, as we are going through a lot of food each month and are helping a lot more families than we used to. In order to join, the pantry has to be open at least 2 days a month for a total of 4 hours. We meet 2 of those hours currently on Saturdays. We are considering extending Saturdays hours to 2 ½ hours. We would then be open 1 ½ hours on a Tuesday, Wednesday, or Thursday evening. We have one person who has volunteered to help with the evening shift, we need at least two more. The evening we will be open will be determined by what would work the best for the volunteers serving. Time open has not been determined as of yet. If you are interested in volunteering, please speak with Pastor Enderle or Pam Mueller. Again, this is just something we're checking into to see if it would be beneficial to our pantry. There are a lot of guidelines we would also have to meet. If you need assistance, please call to make an appointment, (920) 246-5435. Please keep the pantry in your prayers. Thank-you!

Morrison Market

Join us for the last Morrison Market this year on Oct. 8. The Market is 10:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. in the school parking lot. Come for lunch and stay to mingle with the community and others from our church. If you would like to be a vendor, crafter, farmer's market vendor, etc., please contact Alicia Stevenson 366-0523. Alicia would like to step down from running this event next year. If you have interest in helping organize the Morrison Market in 2024 speak to Alicia or Pastor Enderle.

Youth Group

Youth group Bible study meets Sundays at 6pm.

Our first youth group event of the school year was held on September 9th at Immanuel Shirley. The theme of the meeting was "Why is Talking Religion Hard?". 21 youth from 8th grade through high school senior attended this fun event that included a video bible study, games based on our theme, a meal and fellowship. For those who do not know, our youth group here at Morrison has been teaming up with the youth group at Immanuel Shirley which allows us to share resources and team up on the organization of events. If you have questions about youth group or want to get involved, please reach out to Pastor Enderle or Shannon Otto (920-412-7472)

Future events to plan for. On Saturday, November 11 at 6pm at school to mix and bake cookies for our shut-in members. Help spread joy! Also on Sunday, November 19th at noon at Immanuel Shirley Church join us for a Packer Party. Food will be provided, and games will be played. Bible study to follow.

Youth Group Corn Maze Outing

Join the Youth Group on October 21st as we head to Polly's Pumpkin Patch for their corn mazes! Invite your friends! We will meet at school at 4pm for a quick meal and then head to Polly's Watch the announcements for how to sign up!

2024 WELS International Youth Rally

Signups for the 2024 Youth Rally, "From the Mountaintops," held June 25-28, 2024 in Boulder, CO will be coming soon. Registration is \$410. Please start planning early so you can attend!

School News

School Band

Our school is blessed to have 19 students taking instrumental lessons this year from Mrs. K, Miss Milbrath (MLHS), and Mr. Neujehr (FVL). We look forward to making music together!

Morrison Zion Athletics

The students at Morrison Zion are blessed to start their fall sports seasons! They began the year with volleyball and cross country. If you'd like to cheer on the Knights, game schedules can be picked up in the school office, or you can check our online school and church calendar. If you would like to volunteer, our athletic program is always looking for coaches or extra help at home events. Please contact Katie Muchka if you would like to get involved.

Athletic Fundraiser

MZLS will be having a Christmas wreath and planter sale in partnership with Braun Acres to raise funds to support the ongoing costs of the athletic programs. More information and ordering will be available soon in the weekly announcements and Facebook.

MLHS Fall Festival

The Fall Festival at Manitowoc Lutheran is fast approaching (Sunday, Oct 22nd 2023 at 2pm), and Morrison Zion is invited to be involved. The Fall Concert will begin at 4:00pm in the MLHS gym. Desserts and refreshments will be available starting at 2:00pm. The silent auction bidding will be starting at 2:00pm. Proceeds will be put towards offsetting the cost of the Fine Arts trip to Nashville in April. Morrison Zion or individuals from the congregation are invited to donate a basket for the auction. For details contact Holly Zirbel at hzirbel@mlhslancers.org or call the main office at 920-682-0215.

Truck Jam is Saturday, October 21!

This free community event will be in the church parking lot from 9:30am-11:30am. Explore and experience all types of vehicles: fire trucks, school bus, tractors, semi, and so much more! Please park at school. We hope you can join us and invite a friend!

- **Donations Needed** We are looking for donations of fun sized candy to hand out at our Truck Jam event. If you are interested in donating candy please bring it to Mrs. Geidel by October 13th.
- **Help Needed** for Truck Jam We also need helpers for our event. We would like people to stand at each vehicle with a stamp to put on the kids' papers that come around. Anyone 5th grade to adult is welcome to help us. If you are interested in helping out with this please reach out to Mrs. Geidel hillary.geidel@mzls.org or (262) 689-3492.

Story Time

We will be having a Fall story time at Morrison Zion Lutheran School on Friday, November 3rd from 6 to 7. This is a free event for all community members and is best for children ages 3 (potty trained) and older. Parents are welcome to stay for the event. We hope you can join us and bring a friend! If you have any questions, please contact Mrs. Geidel at hillary.geidel@mzls.org or (262) 689-3492.

Save the date for Happy Birthday Jesus!

December 9, 9:30am-11:30am
Morrison Zion Lutheran School
Watch for more details about this free event!

Promotions

Our next promotions meeting is set for November 2nd at 5:00 in the school conference room. If you are interested in this group please feel free to join our meeting. We would love to have you. If you cannot make the meeting but would like to help in any way, please reach out to Mrs. Geidel. hillary.geidel@mzls.org or (262) 689-3492.

Thank You

Thank you for the anonymous gift to two of the classrooms at school. Your generosity is greatly appreciated. Thank you to Morrison Wayside Lions Club for a Teacher Appreciation Dinner in September along with your donation of \$300 towards our school. Thank you for the nice evening and your generous gift.

4K and 5K

Mrs. Geidel

4K and 5K are off to a great start! We have been having so much fun and are working hard on our school routines. This month we are going to learn about Joseph and Moses in Bible class. 5K will finish reviewing the letters of the alphabet and begin to learn how to put the letters together to sound out CVC words. 4K will begin learning their letters with A, B, C, and D this month. In math 5K will learn how to compare numbers 0 to 5 and 4K will be practicing their sorting skills. In social studies we will be finishing up our unit on citizenship and in science we will continue to study trees and weather by identifying and observing weather each day. Our class is looking forward to a field trip to Polly's Pumpkin Patch this month. God has truly blessed our class!

Grades 1-2

Mrs. Kuchenbecker

Bubbles and kites! No, not recess toys, but science tools to learn about air and weather. We enjoyed many investigations with air during our science unit. We also will be visiting FOX 11 on Tuesday, October 10th to see the weather center and learn more about predicting the weather from Pete Petoniak. Meanwhile we're studying addition, loving our secret stories, and working on our letters and sounds. We learned about primary and secondary colors by painting rainbow dogs, then studied our first illustrator, David Shannon, and made No David pictures. We're starting our first reading challenge with a bug theme. The students will earn bug prizes for the books they read and report. How many bugs will they fit in their jars? Thank you to our first guest readers, Pastor David Ruddat and Bonnie Evenson. We love when we have visitors "bug" us to read! There's always lots of excitement in grades 1-2.

Grades 3-4

Mrs. Hagenow

The 3rd and 4th graders are doing well with getting into their new routine. We are learning about the lives of Jacob and Joseph in Christ Light. The students continue to practice both multiplication and division facts in Math. They are studying common and proper nouns as well as prepositional phrases in Reading and Language. We look forward to our field trip to the Ariens Museum where we will take a tour of the museum and participate in a STEM workshop. We pray that God continues to bless our school year!

Grades 5-6

Mr. Geidel

The 5th and 6th grade classroom is off to a great start. We are studying the Apostles Creed in Catechism. In Math, 5th grade finished their study of place value down to the thousandths place. 6th grade has been working with positive rational numbers.

In Science we have been doing various activities to study how the position of the sun during the day changes shadows. Our reading unit has been focusing on reading different styles of writing and how different styles are better for different purposes. Our social studies unit begins with looking at the geography of the United States.

I would like to thank everyone involved that has helped make this a successful beginning to a school year!

Grades 7-8

Mrs. Muchka

We're already a couple of weeks into the new school year, and things are going great! In Christ Light we are now focusing our study on the prophet Isaiah and the message God is sharing through him. The seventh and eighth graders will continue learning about integers and rational numbers in math. In American History our focus is currently on reconstruction after the Civil War. Students will work on identifying different types of conflict within a plot as we explore various texts. Our class enjoyed a field trip to Pinecrest Historical Village at the end of September. There we learned more about life in early America. Please keep the seventh and eighth grade classroom in your prayers!

Morrison Zion Lutheran Church of Morrison

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Pastor James Enderle
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Principal Jacob Geidel

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THE CHRISTIAN LIGHT
OCTOBER 2023



MORRISON
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Our Mission

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Reformation

God's continued blessings to the church through the Reformation will be celebrated November 2 and 5.

Midweek Advent Worship

Thanksgiving is early this year on November 23. On November 30 we will begin 4 weeks of mid-week Advent services at 11 am and 7 pm with soup suppers.

MLHS Choir

The Manitowoc Lutheran High School Lancer Singers choir will join us Sunday, December 17.

Christmas Presentation

On Friday, December 8 at 2pm grades 4K - 8th Grade will sing and play instruments in the school gym. Mark this on your calendar and invite others to join you.

Christmas Eve Children's Program

On Sunday, December 24 at the 10:30am service grades 4K through 8th grade will do the Children's Christmas Eve Program. They will also do the same service at 6:00pm on Sunday, December 24.

Advent/Christmas Hymn Sing

On the morning of Christmas Eve, Sunday December 24 there will be an Advent/Christmas Hymn Sing during the 8 am service.