

The Christian Light

Volume 23 Number 7

July 2024

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Love Your Community: Proximity Matters

Love, Listen, and Lead. These are the 3 parts to a Bible Study we are looking at on Sunday mornings called *Let's Go*. The study helps each individual see how much God loves us through Jesus and to then share that message with the world around us.

"But 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. Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy" (1 Peter 2:9-10). You have received mercy. You are loved. And now we each are part of a royal priesthood called to declare to others the praises of God and what he has done for the world!

So, knowing how we are loved, how can we share this love of God with the world around us?

Years ago, the world around us was still culturally Christian. Today it is not. Years ago, you could put a sign out and have a program and many "church shoppers" would stop in. Today, many people are turned off by Christianity and the church. Culture context has changed.

What are some ways that culture has changed? Here are 5 ways:

1. *Distrust of institutions* ("Why does the church have the right to boss me around?")
2. *Increased mobility/transiency* (Fewer generational churches)
3. *Increased access to content/info* (Local pastor no longer viewed to be the expert – people can find plenty of preachers and teachers online, TED talks, etc.)
4. *Consumer mentality* ("I want the church to do what I want or I'm going elsewhere")
5. *Moral relativism* ("There are no absolute rights and wrongs.")

All 5 of these cultural shifts have had an impact, but which do you think has impacted our ability to share the gospel and the love of Jesus the most? Regardless of these changes, we don't want to stop sharing the love of Jesus. So what can we do? Each of us can play an important part in

sharing Jesus with those around us. I want you to consider 2 important questions.

First, *who is your community?* Years ago we would use the acronym F.R.A.N. for people to consider who they can share the gospel with: Friends, Relatives, Associates, and Neighbors. You can think about this as your community or your community could be anyone you regularly spend time with. Some places you can find a community are: Your kids' sports games, where you get morning coffee, among coworkers, and at the parks where you listen to live music and get free ice cream. Challenge yourself to put yourself in new communities.

Second, *how can you be more intentional with your community?* Evangelism can be planned and a program from church, but it can also be spontaneous. But even if it is spontaneous, you can intentionally build relationships and build community in order to have the opportunity to share Jesus.

So how can you be more intentional? Proximity matters. Spending time with people makes a big difference in building relationships. How much unhurried time do you spend with others? When you are near someone and have conversations with them friendships grow. For example, in person conversations often help heal hurts & confusions. Consider this Proximity Mathematics:

Unhurried Time + Proximity + Doing Something = Conversations

Conversations + Vulnerability = Friendships

This means spending time with people, doing things together, and talking create friendships. Friendships lead to opportunities to share Jesus. I wish I could spend quality time with each of our 730+ members, plus all the many people in our area who need to know Jesus. But I am only one person with limited time. What if we all were intentional with just 1 more person?

So who do you know that doesn't know Jesus that you can spend some time with? You don't have to be a Bible expert, you just have to know the love of Jesus and love others enough to want to spend time with them. Go fishing, grab some coffee, or host a bonfire. Proximity and love matter.

- written by Pastor James Enderle



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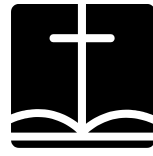
Our Mission

is to
Glorify
God
as we
Gather
around the
Gospel
to
Grow
in the
Gospel
and then
Go
to others
with the Gospel

Go to www.mzluth.org/lets-go-bible-study or scan the QR code to watch the *Let's Go Bible Study* and to access the study materials.



Congregational News



June Leadership Team Meeting - June 18, 2024

We began our meeting with Charles Edinger reviewing some highlights of the Men of His Word Conference held each year in Oshkosh. This year's presentations included topics like *Stewards, Vocation, Mentoring, and Helping Those who Grieve*. Our discussion focused on how stewardship involves being a manager not just of money, but of your time and talents. To listen to the *Built to Serve as God's Manger* presentation scan the QR code. Sessions will be held in Milwaukee in September 2024 and the next Oshkosh event will be in February 2025.



The first set of goals for each area of our ministry (Glorify, Gather, Grow, Go, Finance, School, and Other)

Baptisms

Ezra Norbert Laabs born May 14, son of son of Kim and Taylor Laabs was baptized June 16.

Ryan Kay Saluja son of Stephanie Falck and Pankaj Saluja members of Abiding Word in Highlands Ranch, Colorado was baptized June 2.

We praise God for welcoming these two as Children of God through baptism!

Mrs. Richert Accepts Call

On May, 21 the Leadership Team and School Board issued an emergency call to Mrs. Sharon Richert from Michigan to teach grades 5 & 6. On May 28 she accepted the call. She will be moving to the area over summer. Mrs. Richter has 29 years of teaching experience. Mr. Geidel will teach grades 7 & 8.

have been established based on our Ministry Planning session held in February. Everyone is to review their area of ministry and we plan to discuss in more detail going forward. A large part of this now will include the Merge for Mission project.

Discussion was held regarding the Early Childhood Program and how to not allow the Merge for Mission to interfere with what the ad-hoc committee has already investigated.

The Leadership Team approved purchasing the new hymnals. This is a project that was put on hold for a few years due to covid and a desire to get members back to worship after covid without a major change. This will mean one hymnal in

	Average Attendance			
	May		Yearly	
Bible Study	2024	24	2024	38
	2023	49	2023	50
Worship	2024	266	2024	275
	2023	244	2023	277

the pews versus the red book and the supplement. We have Memorial funds that will cover this expense.

We will continue to work with Mrs. Richter to get her moved to the area and ready for the new school year. An Installation date will be held in August.

2024-2025 Leadership Team installation will be June 30, 2024 at the 10:30 service. Our next meeting is July 16.

- Randy Loppnow (Church President)

The treasurer reported preliminary May balances. High School gifts are down significantly this year. We have a \$75,782 YTD surplus this fiscal year due to our pastoral vacancy. This months income is lower because there was only one count in May. The later count brought income similar to budget.

May Income	\$76,922
May Expenses	\$67,399
Monthly balance	\$9,523

Checkbook balance	\$69,176
Gen. reserve fund	\$75,180
DPI reserve fund	\$2,513
Designated funds	\$159,037
Investments	\$238,277
High School	\$2,253
Fiscal year total	\$12,828
2023-24 fiscal goal	\$18,000

Synod Mission	\$3,308
2024 YTD total	\$14,292
2024 goal	\$32,400

Wedding

Nic Edinger and Anna Dalton were married Saturday, June 15 at Morrison Zion with Pastor Enderle presiding. God's blessings to Nic and Anna!

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

Foundations of Faith Class Dig into the Bible, either to review your faith in Jesus or to become a member at Zion. We are meeting Fridays at 1 pm. Speak to Pastor Enderle if you have interest in joining this class or have friends interested in becoming members. We will not meet July 19, 26, or August 2.

Sunday Morning Bible Study In July at 9:15 am on Sundays, we will continue the study “Let’s Go: Love, Listen, Lead.” God’s people want to tell others about the peace, joy, and forgiveness they have in Jesus. But many Christians are unsure how to do this. Join us as we learn some simple, practical ways to reach out to the lost souls God has brought into our lives. The study is available online on Facebook and at mzluth.org or scan the QR code on the first page.

Sunday Night Book Discussion meets Sundays at 7 p.m. in the church basement. We will continue the book *Sticky Church* by Larry Osborne. This book focuses on how to keep members active and to help them not “leave the back door.” Cost is \$4. We will not meet July 21, 28 or August 4.

Men’s Study will not meet in July.

Women’s Study For Women Bible Study, we are studying Jesus life and looking especially at his miracles. We will meet on Saturday, July 13th at 9:30am at Delores Griepentrog home. Please bring your Bible and invite a friend to join us in July, we will be studying Jesus healing a leper. Any questions contact Jen Enderle at 920-372-3818.

English as a Second Language will meet Thursday, July 11 at 5:30 p.m. in the pavilion, weather permitting. New students and volunteers are welcome!

Whole Bible Reading Plan Join us in reading the whole Bible in 2 years. Find the schedule on page 6.

Youth Group Summer Bonfire and Bible Study Series

Join us for these great nights hosted by Immanuel Shirley and Morrison Zion. Each night will be a little different but all will include Bible Study, supper, and fun! Please bring your own lawn chair.

Text your friends – invite them too! All youth finishing 8th grade through High School are welcome. Watch for our 8th grade welcome night in September!

July 12, 6-9pm at Morrison Zion **August 10, 6-9pm** at Immanuel

7395 County Rd W

Burgers and Yard Games

3737 Shirley Rd, De Pere

Brats and Activities

Outdoor Worship

We will be having outdoor worship on **Sunday August 25th** 8:00 and 10:30 services. (If weather permits) Please bring your lawn chairs and have fellowship together under the trees.

Thank You

Thank you to Gloria Ostrenga for donating stamps for the Christmas cards in December of 2024. Thank you to Justin Stepien for spraying the church and school building for bugs this spring. Your time and donation of materials is greatly appreciated.

Children’s Bags

We have children bags hanging where you go to the balcony if you would like to use one during worship for your child. Please return it to the hook by the balcony after worship.

Communion

2 individual cups of white grape juice are available in each tray for those who prefer/need to have a nonalcohol alternative to wine. Gluten free wafers are also available. Hold your hand palm down to let the server know you would like the gluten free wafer.

Worship In July

Notes on Worship

We continue in the second half of the Church Year, which focuses on the teachings of the Christian faith. Our next series is *Meaningful Ministry*. “Ministry” is one of those churchy words that is often used, yet perhaps not fully understood. Ministry comes from the Latin word for “service.” Ministry involves serving others with love, compassion, and empathy. Helping someone with physical needs is sometimes called “compassion ministry.” Helping someone with their spiritual needs, sharing the good news of Christ, is generally called “gospel ministry.” **We misunderstand ministry if we think of it as something only ministers do.** While pastors are called to perform gospel ministry on behalf of others, ultimately every believer is called by God to reflect Christ-like love and share the message of salvation as God provides those opportunities.

In this worship series we will see our efforts to meet the needs of those God brings into our sphere of influence as meaningful ministry. In our service to them, those people see God’s love and God sees our faith. Our worship follows this pattern.

Meaningful Ministry

7th Sunday after Pentecost **Not Glee and Gratitude, but Rejection and Resentment** green

July 4/7 Sermon: Mark 6:1-6 Hymns: 544, 281, 619

8th Sunday after Pentecost **Sent with God’s Own Authority** green

July 11/14 Sermon: Mark 6:7-13 Hymns: 546, 545, 579, 293 *communion*

9th Sunday after Pentecost **Jesus Models a Compassionate Shepherd’s Heart** green

July 18/21 Sermon: Mark 6:30-34 Hymns: 374, 375, CW²¹ 766
Preacher: Phil Birner

10th Sunday after Pentecost **God Meets Our Needs to Meet Others’ Needs** green

July 25/28 Sermon: Mark 6:35-44 Hymns: 610, 443, 616, 260 *communion*
Preacher: Phil Birner

Sunday morning worship at 8:00 a.m. is livestreamed on YouTube and Facebook and on demand. at www.youtube.com/c/morrisonzionlutheran. The online register has been simplified.

New School Year—New Hymnal

In conjunction with the start of the 2024-2025 school year we will begin the full implementation of the new WELS hymnal Christian Worship that was published in 2021. The new school year along with the coming start of a new church year beginning this winter make for a good time to bring about this change which was approved by voters several years ago. This new hymnal will replace the red Christian Worship hymnal and the blue Christian Worship Supplement. There will be many more items of introduction beginning in July and August. You can go to www.christianworship.com/worshippers or scan the QR code to learn more about the new hymnal.



Morrison Market—Fall Festival

Over the last few years we have hosted some farmers market to help bring people from the community on to our campus. Through the Morrison Market we have been able to get to know new people and grow deeper relationships with our own members. If you are interested in helping organize a Fall Festival—Morrison Market please contact Pastor Enderle. Our previous organizer has stepped down, but has shared all the community contacts that were involved with the market. Help us provide food and fun to grow relationships and new opportunities to share the gospel.

Summer Fun Days!

This free program is for children who are ages 3 (potty-trained) - 5 (entering kindergarten). We will meet Tuesday mornings from 8:30am-10:30am starting June 4. Children are encouraged to bring a water bottle and small snack. Fun Day will be held outside at Morrison Zion Lutheran School. Please note, we will not meet on July 9 (join us at VBS) and July 16. Questions: Danielle Ripp, dani.pues@gmail.com or 920.621.3196.

Scrip

Reminder that you can purchase Scrip throughout the summer by contacting Rhonda Heling at 920-676-6277 or catch her in church. You are welcome to drop off orders at school also and Nancy will contact Rhonda that your order was dropped off. Remember that June 30th is the end of Scrip program being applied to the 2024-2025 school year. Starting July 1st any Scrip purchased will go towards the 2025-2026 school year.

You are able to find order forms in the church basement or at school. Another easy way to use the program is with the RaiseRight app. This is 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.

Our order form has many retailers but a full list can be found at www.glscrip.com. The credits earned by the purchase of Scrip are split 50/50; one half of the revenue will stay in the Scrip program for expenses and distribution to MZLC and one half will be credited to a families tuition account.

EXAMPLE: The revenue from Kwik Trip is 4%. The purchase of \$100 of Kwik Trip. Scrip will generate \$4.00 in revenue. \$2.00 would be credited to the families account and \$2.00 would go the needs of MZLC scrip program and church.

As a grandparent, can I earn tuition credits for my grandchildren(s) family? As a member of church, you can also give your credit towards a family with children attending Morrison Zion School. Yes, fill out an enrollment form and designate which family you would like the revenue to be credited to. When filling out an enrollment form please check one of the options listed at the bottom of the form.

Reminder that orders will be made the second and fourth week of the month. Please make note of this to plan accordingly for placing your orders.

Soup for Souls

Share the love of Jesus with others using our Soup for Souls Ministry. We have filled the freezers with meals and delicious cookies. All the meals are free and available at school and at church. Don't forget to take a card that shares the special message of Jesus love as well. You can support the Soup for Souls compassion ministry with special envelopes found in your offering boxes.

Food Pantry

We served 40 families during the June 1st giveaway. Each family received ground beef, eggs, cheeses, cucumbers, jalapenos, oranges, potatoes, laundry detergent, toothpaste, and nonperishable items. A Spanish speaking vicar (pastor seminary student) serving in Menasha for the summer joined us in June and plans to join us again in July and August to help us build more relationships with the Spanish speakers in our community and to help us explore how best to serve them spiritually.

If you or someone you know needs assistance, please call the food pantry phone #(920) 246-5435 to schedule an appointment. Questions about food pantry can be directed to ! Set up starts at 7 am and distribution is from 8-10 am.

The Early Childhood Ad-Hoc Committee

The Early Childhood Ad-Hoc Committee made up of members from Immanuel Shirley and Morrison Zion met Monday, June 17 for their third meeting at Immanuel in Shirley. This committee will be seeking feedback from members and the community. An early childhood consultant from WELS met with the team to help answer many questions and guide us in our next steps. Look for more information coming soon concerning the plans for a possible Early Childhood Center working with Immanuel Shirley.

Bible Reading Plan for July

Monday, July 1 Joshua 4 Psalm 129 - 131	Monday, July 8 Joshua 11 Psalm 144	Monday, July 15 Joshua 23 Acts 3	Monday, July 22 Judges 6 Acts 10	Monday, July 29 Judges 13 Acts 17
Tuesday, July 2 Joshua 5 Psalm 132 - 134	Tuesday, July 9 Joshua 12 & 13 Psalm 145	Tuesday, July 16 Joshua 24 Acts 4	Tuesday, July 23 Judges 7 Acts 11	Tuesday, July 30 Judges 14 Acts 18
Wed., July 3 Joshua 6 Psalm 135 & 136	Wed., July 10 Joshua 14 & 15 Psalm 146 & 147	Wed., July 17 Judges 1 Acts 5	Wed., July 24 Judges 8 Acts 12	Wed., July 31 Judges 15 Acts 19
Thursday, July 4 Joshua 7 Psalm 137 & 138	Thursday, Jul 11 Joshua 16 & 17 Psalm 148	Thursday, July 18 Judges 2 Acts 6	Thursday, July 25 Judges 9 Acts 13	
Friday, July 5 Joshua 8 Psalm 139	Friday, July 12 Joshua 18 & 19 Psalm 149 & 150	Friday, July 19 Judges 3 Acts 7	Friday, July 26 Judges 10 Acts 14	
Saturday, July 6 Joshua 9 Psalm 140 & 141	Saturday, July 13 Joshua 20 & 21 Acts 1	Saturday, July 20 Judges 4 Acts 8	Saturday, July 27 Judges 11 Acts 15	
Sunday, July 7 Joshua 10 Psalm 142 & 143	Sunday, July 14 Joshua 22 Acts 2	Sunday, July 21 Judges 5 Acts 9	Sunday, July 28 Judges 12 Acts 16	

Scan to join the online reading plan and discussions.



Summer Park Play Dates

Join us for fun at the park! Enjoy the outdoors in God's creation, meet new friends, and socialize (both kids and adults)! Playdates are weather permitting. If you have any questions, contact Jen Enderle at 920-372-3818 or jen.enderle@outlook.com. Playdates are from 10am-12pm. Feel free to come early or later. You are welcome to bring your lunch to enjoy at the park!

- **No meet up on July 4**
- July 11 – Join us for VBS at School
- July 18 - Sherwood Park + Splash Pad, Sherwood
- July 25 – Way-Mor Park, Greenleaf
- August 1 Voyager Park, De Pere
- August 8 Waupekun Park, Wrightstown
- August 15, Jaycee Park, Appleton

Golfing at Wander Springs

Join members from Morrison Zion at Wander Springs golf course each Monday afternoon at 5 pm. Join us for fun and fellowship. All are invited.

Enderles on Vacation

Pastor Enderle, Jen, and family will be on vacation beginning July 18—August 7. Pastor Enderle will also be attending the Worship Conference near Milwaukee from July 30—Aug 2 during that time as well. Please reach out to Pastor Dave Ruddat (920)632-8632 (Shirley), Pastor Ross Henzi (920)418-0901 (Brillion) or Pastor Aaron Schultz (920)784-4728 (Bellevue) if you need spiritual care during that time.

School News

Greetings from Morrison Zion Lutheran School. We released for Summer break after another successful school year. How wonderful it is to reflect on all the blessings we have daily. We graduated a class of nine students who are all prepped and prepared for their next step, high school. Some changes that are coming to Morrison Zion Lutheran School. We welcome our new 5th and 6th grade teacher Sharon Richter. With the addition of Sharon, Jake Geidel is moving from principal and 5th and 6th grade to principal and 7th and 8th grade. We thank God for all our dedicated workers and volunteers who continue to work to keep our school up to the high standards we have come to expect.

4K and 5K

Mrs. Geidel

I am getting so excited for another great school year! Please watch for an email later this month about home visits. I like to do home visits to any new family in my classroom. If you have been in my classroom before, home visits are not required but you are more than welcome to set one up. I pray you are having a wonderful summer and look forward to seeing everyone soon!

Back to School Game Day

All school and church families are invited to Back to School Game Day on August 25th! Join us for outdoor worship and stay for an afternoon of fun! Event will be from 11:30am - 2pm on the playground. Please bring your own lunch/drinks for your family and your favorite yard game! We will have a cornhole tournament - sign up at the event! Questions: contact Hillary Geidel.

Thank You

Thank you to everyone who helped plan, prepare and serve food, sing, and attend my farewell. It was a wonderful meal and program! Thank you also to everyone who remembered me with words of encouragement, prayers, cards, and gifts. Everything is greatly appreciated! It has been a tremendous blessing and joy to serve the children and families of Morrison Zion Lutheran School and Church. I pray that the Lord continues to guide and bless this special school and congregation.

With love and thanks,

Katie Muchka

2024-2025 School Year

- Registration material for the 2024-2025 school year will be available for pick up July 9th through July 11th at school in the morning during VBS. Any folders left after VBS will be in the church basement unless you contact the office and want them mailed.
- Registration material drop off and payments July 29th through August 5th. Please contact Nancy for a time that works for you to drop off materials.
- School supplies can be dropped off on Sunday, August 18th from 9:15-10:15am and from 11:30am to 12:30am.
- First day of school is August 22nd for grades 5K-8th and the first day for 4K is on Wednesday, August 28th.
- **Please note the new starting time for school is 8:05am and dismissal will be at 3:15pm. The doors to school will open at 7:50am.**
- Reminder to contact the bus companies if you have any questions on bussing or you are making any changes.

2024-2025 School Calendar

The 2024-2025 school calendar is set. The first day for grades 5K-8th is Thursday, August 22, 2024. The first day for 4K is Wednesday, August 28, 2024. The final day of school is Friday, May 23, 2025.

Morrison Zion Lutheran Church

Church: 7395 County Road W
Greenleaf, WI 54126
Pastor James Enderle
www.mzluth.org

School: 7373 County Road W
Greenleaf, WI 54126
Principal Jacob Geidel

Phone 864-2348 (Church)
864-2349 (School)

Pastor Enderle 920-949-1038
Email james.enderle@mzls.org



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THE CHRISTIAN LIGHT

JULY 2024



MORRISON
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Our Mission

is to
Glorify
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as we
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and then
Go
to others
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Merge for Mission Committees

Morrison Zion and Immanuel Shirley met Tuesday, May 28 with representatives from WELS to help us with the next steps of working together. *Voters from both congregations voted to proceed to Phase 2 on April 28.* Your help is need in this phase. Each committee will have members from Zion and Immanuel. There are several committees to serve on. You can find those committees and summaries in the back of church or by scanning the QR code. If you would like to be considered to serve on one of the committees scan the QR Code to **sign up for a committee by July 15.** We are especially in need of people with gifts in curiosity, bridge building, communication, and a focus on the gospel. If you want to serve but are unsure what committee you should serve on, please sign up or speak to Pastor Enderle or Randy Loppnow or another Leadership Team member.



School Registration for 2024-2025

If you know of anyone interested in a solid Christian education, mention our school! Mr. Geidel will meet with prospects, give a tour, or just discuss the education students receive here at Morrison Zion. We have a wonderful and plenty of room for more students. You are the best promoters of our wonderful school. Contact ja-cob.geidel@mzls.org with questions or to set up a tour.

Vacation Bible School

VBS Registration is open! Please register your children, ages 3 (potty-trained) - entering 6th grade, by scanning the QR code or using the following link: <https://forms.gle/y3UFFgbRagrvGxXN6> Please invite friends and neighbors to this fun, free event that will be held July 9-11 from 9-11am at Morrison Zion Lutheran School.

