

The Christian Light

Volume 23 Number 9

September 2024

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More Than Meets the Eye

Brothers and sisters, think of what you were when you were called. Not many of you were wise by human standards; not many were influential; not many were of noble birth. — 1 Corinthians 1:26

C. S. Lewis commented about his early impressions of worship and worshiper alike: "I disliked very much their hymns, Which I considered to be fifth-rate poems set to sixth-rate music." When he was offended by the inescapable ordinariness of it all-you can admit that you've been there as well-a little humility brought him back to himself. "I realized that those hymns were, nevertheless, being sung with devotion and benefit by an old saint in elastic-side boots in the opposite pew, and then you realize that you aren't fit to clean those boots. It gets you out of your solitary conceit." They don't always look like much, these gatherings of ours. We are not impressive to look at or to listen to. Our voices are for the most part untrained, and yet we do love to sing. You may even catch the hints of a brokenness that hides just below the surface of us. The Spirit is relentless.

He convicts us of all our unrighteousness just as Jesus said. God makes us nothing as we face up to the radical evil in ourselves and our appalling old natures. We are always needing to be brought back to reality-to sin, to struggle, to death-and to call things as they are. We come to the end of our own efforts and to the frustration of every project of self-salvation. Grace, like water, runs downhill. It flows to the lowest part.

God makes us nothing. Then he loves the nothing he has made.

It happens as Christ is portrayed on his cross. Think of the many who stood 30 feet from the place where God died and the sky went dark, yet they walked away empty-handed. "One thing more you need," intoned Luther.

"You need some Word from God saying, 'Take this! This is for you!'" By grace, we have each taken a finished salvation into our two hands, and by a power not from us we hold on for dear life. Someday we will know fully that it was he who held us.

I think of the glitz and glamour and high tech that surrounds the motivational speaker prowling and prancing on a stage flaunting his quite wonderful self. I think of Tony Robbins "awakening the giant within." What shall we say? This is not that.

Lutheran worship is not flattery. It is no pep talk for the human will-be loveable, be worthy, be somebody-as if we could change ourselves if we only once try. This is not about growing past our need-a fiction. This is the Word of the cross acting upon our lives such as we are. It strikes at the roots of us. This is no hacking at the leaves.

The Spirit of Christ is keeping our spirits alive and awake to God, and to the fact, the objective reality, of what he has done for us.

We are nothing without Jesus and can do nothing without him. We are always in the wrong. To see this like gazing at the reflection of a star in a black lake at night. Nothing can appear so low, so far beneath the whole world. But look up and see your true position. Contrary to all appearances, you are the very children of Most High God, his darlings, siblings of his one and only Son. You wait for a day that will reveal the real and lasting you. While we wait, come let us sing the Lord Christ a "sixth-rate hymn."

Nothing is as it seems when we go to church. The habit itself is a meditation on the hiddenness of God. It is as it was in Bethlehem, as it was on Golgotha: God comes to us in an "appearance of opposites." After all, what could look less like glory than a puking baby or a wretch on a cross? Yet where can we see deeper into the very essence of God? To think that this is who he is!

Likewise, he hides behind the ink on the page, in the Word and water and in the bread and wine around which we gather. Behind the apparent nothingness of the pastor too, God is both hiding and revealing himself as the man takes what is Christ's-all he is and has won-and pours it freely out.

Do not be offended at such humble hiding places. Be glad that God does not do things as we would do them. Reject the complaint out of bad theology-"Why doesn't he just show up?" He veils his glory as a kindness. He comes in a way we can bear, hidden where only faith will find him. Sweet paradox! He hides that he may be known to his very heart, and not only known for who he is but who he is for us. If you judge "church" by what you can see, you will miss him completely. Not you, dear reader. Not you, O my soul.

And when this soul has met again in Jesus its object of worship, its prize, and when my thoughts now and then climb to the majesty and wonder of my God in the bliss of praise and the peace of full pardon, it is not my gift to him. It is his gift to me. What else can we say? We have come to the heart of the matter. This is that uniquely Lutheran spirit giving birth to a uniquely Lutheran way of worship:

It is an honor to owe everything to Christ.

Immortal, invisible, God only wise, in light inaccessible hid from our eyes... Our praises we render; O lead us to see the light of your splendor, your love's majesty! (CW 614:1,4)

- Written by Prof Mark Paustian from *Our Worth to Him: Devotions on Christian Worship*



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



Highlights from Leadership Team's Aug 20, 2024 Meeting

For our devotional/Bible Study time Pastor Enderle summarized "Invitational Worship" a presentation presented at the 2024 WELS Worship Conference. We discussed philosophies of worship and adjectives we want and don't want to describe our worship.

The Leadership Team discussed the rocks and their progress on our 1, 3, 5 year plan we continue to develop.

Progress and updates on the Early Childhood Ministry and Merge for Mission were shared. Several open forums on both are being planned in the next few months. The Executive Committee for Merge for Mission plans to meet in September.

Both Pastor Enderle's call and the call placed to Pastor Manian were discussed.

The Leadership Team approved the hiring of Jackie

Zeamer as church and school secretary with the retirement of Nancy Pantzlaff on September, 10. Extra time and pay as necessary for Nancy to train Jackie during 2024 was approved.

The new hymnals will began being used the week of September 5 and 8. New hymns and liturgies will be introduced slowly over a long period of time.

The following membership moves were approved: Rachel Ihlenfeldt to Divine Savior Church (Doral, FL), Hunter Mayer to Bethany Lutheran Church (Bruce Crossing, MI), Sharon Richter from St. Paul (South Haven, MI). Arabella Evenson was also welcomed as a confirmed member after being

	Average Attendance			
	July		Yearly	
Bible Study	2024	21	2024	35
	2023	37	2023	47
Worship	2024	197	2024	256
	2023	241	2023	267

Called to Heaven

Ruth Pantzlaff was called to heaven Friday, August 10 at age 96. A Christian Funeral presided by Pastor Enderle was held Tuesday, August 20 at 11 am at Morrison Zion to celebrate the faith given to Ruth. We pray for comfort and peace through the resurrection truth of Jesus and those who die in the Lord are with the Lord.

Pastoral Calls

On August 11, Pastor Enderle received a divine call to serve as an associate pastor at Crown of Life in Eagan and West St. Paul, MN. On August 18, Morrison Zion extended a divine call to Pastor Adam Manian, currently serving the dual parish of St. John's (Vesta, MN) and Peace (Echo, MN). Please keep the pastors, families, and all ministries involved in your prayers.

confirmed at St. John in Wrightstown.

The treasurer reported preliminary July balances. Overall, income remains similar to budget. Our expenses are up due to timing of bills, the purchase of the new hymnal, and start of school year expenses.

July Income	\$45,262
July Expenses	\$118,714
Monthly balance	-\$73,452
Checkbook balance	\$24,908
Gen. reserve fund	\$100,281
DPI reserve fund	\$2,515
Designated funds	\$161,506
Investments	\$115,874

Investment numbers were incorrect last month because it included a WELS Investment of which the balance is not ours to use, only the interest. One CD matured and was moved into the reserve fund.

High School	\$2,554
Fiscal year total	\$2,554
2024-25 fiscal goal	\$13,000
Synod Mission	\$2,188
2024 YTD total	\$18,790
2024 goal	\$32,400

Mediations

The new *Mediations* daily devotions beginning Sept. 1 are now available at church. Donations of \$5 are encouraged.

Wedding

Members Nicholas Obry and Anna Nushart were married Saturday, August 17 at Morrison Zion with Pastor Enderle presiding. God's blessings to Nicholas and Anna in their life together in Christ!

Baptism

Jonathan Joseph Baeten, son of Adam and Jessica Baeten was baptized last Sunday, August 11. We thank God for welcoming Jonathan into his family and washing away his sins!

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.

Sunday School for ages 3 to grades 6 begins September 8. See below for more.

Sunday Morning Bible Study Starting in September at 9:15 am on Sundays, we will look at a Bible Study on Worship. This study will help us discuss the blessings of worship and why we worship the way we do as Lutherans as we introduce a new hymnal.

Catechism for Public School students begins Wednesday, September 4 at 5 pm in the church basement. See below for more information.

Sunday Night Book Discussion meets Sundays at 7 p.m. in the church basement. We will read *3 Words That Will Change Your Life* by Pastor Mike Novotny. Books are available for \$6.

Small Groups will begin in September. Look below for more details below.

Men's Study will not meet in September.

Youth Group begins in September see page 6 for details and how to sign up for updates.

Women's Study is studying Jesus' life and looking specifically at him telling parables. We will meet on Saturday, September 21st at 9:30am. Look for the location in the announcements. Please bring your Bible and invite a friend to join us. This month, we will be studying the Parable of the Sower. Any questions contact Jen Enderle at 920-372-3818

English as a Second Language will meet Thursday, September 12 at 5:30 p.m. in the pavilion, weather permitting. New students and volunteers are welcome!

Sunday School

Calling all 3-year-olds (potty trained) through 6th graders! Come and explore the stories of the Old Testament with us in Sunday School. Discover lessons of faith through crafts, activities and music. ***We meet each Sunday from 9:15-10:15 at school beginning starting September 8.*** It's a fun, engaging way for children to learn about God's word and grow in their faith. Preregistration not required.

Interested in teaching or helping? Kids in 7th grade and older can contact Pastor Enderle or Chelsea Scheider.

Sermon Based Small Groups

In years past, Morrison Zion has had small groups in members homes called Living Water groups. These small groups focused on a variety of studies including reading the book *I'm a Member* which encouraged members to apply the book to themselves as Christians and to the congregation as a whole. We will begin a new sermon based small group study—at 10 week session beginning September 15 and going until November 17. We have 3 small groups meeting on Mondays and Tuesdays. Please scan the QR code to sign up.



Catechism for Public School Students



Classes will begin Wednesday, September 4 at 5 pm in the church basement. These classes are meant for 5th-8th graders who attend public school and seek to be confirmed at Morrison Zion. Parents and students who plan to attend can scan to QR code to register. We will meet most Wednesdays throughout the school year from 5-6:15. The app will share class times and updates about classes. You will be able to ask questions about homework and share if you are unable to attend or have other questions.

Worship In September

Notes on Worship

We continue in the second half of the Church Year, which focuses on the teachings of the Christian faith. We begin a new series *The Need For Followership*.

“We need better leadership!” Have you ever said that? Perhaps you were frustrated with the direction being taken by some elected official or by management at your workplace or by the coach of your favorite team. Leadership is extremely important. And so, there are times we lament, “We need better leadership!” Jesus Christ is the leader of our congregation, our home, our lives. And his leadership is perfect in every way. Therefore, when things are amiss in any of those arenas, what is needed is not better leadership, but better followership. In this series, we ask Christ to empower us with his Spirit so that we might better follow his lead, to change our priorities and serve our God and neighbor. *Note: Hymns starting Sept. 5/8 are all from the New Christian Worship Hymnal.*

The Need For Followership

15th Sunday after Pentecost **Followers of Christ Obey His Law from the Heart** green

Aug 29 / Sep 1 Sermon: Mark 7:1-23 Hymns: 395, CW²¹ 813, 462

16th Sunday after Pentecost **Followers Of Christ See The True Purpose Of His Power** green

Sept. 5/8 Sermon: Mark 7:31-37 Hymns: 409, 769, 537, 397, 576 *communion*

17th Sunday after Pentecost **Followers Of Christ Are Armed For The Battle** green

Sept. 12/15 Sermon: Ephesians 6:10-18 Hymns: 872, 517, 869

18th Sunday after Pentecost **Followers Of Christ Are Humble Servants** green

Sept. 19/22 Sermon: Marks 9:30-37 Hymns: 737, 767, 525, 704 *communion*

19th Sunday after Pentecost **Followers Of Christ Have Powerful Allies** green

Sept. 26/29 Sermon: 2 Kings 6:8-17 Hymns: 499, 760, 836, 924

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.

Altar Committee members serving in September: Connie Blauert

Church/School Secretary Position

We welcome Jackie Zeamer as the new secretary at Morrison Zion. She will begin training in September with Nancy Pantzlaff. Thank you to all who applied. Thank you also to the many years of service to the Lord by Nancy Pantzlaff. Look for future announcements concerning a celebration.

Thrivent Action Teams Wanted

Are you a Thrivent member? Did you know you can support the ministry of Morrison Zion Lutheran Church and School by organizing an Action Team through Thrivent Financial? All Thrivent members are able to organize two Action Teams per calendar year. Each Action Team receives \$250 of seed money to be used for an event. We have been able to use these Action Teams for school field trips, school cleaning, meals, fundraisers, maintenance, special ministry projects directed to different groups like kids, parents, youth, college aged students and much more. Contact Mr. Geidel or Pastor Enderle if you are able and interested in organizing an Action Team. It's super easy, and we are more than willing to help you!

Wish List:

Both church and school are working on updating their wish lists. Some individual items that the school is looking for includes: C- Pens (Pens that help students with dyslexia read), ceiling fans, a new bench and new tables. Large items on the wish list include: playground for younger kids and replacing the swing sets.

Thrivent Choice:

If you are giving your Thrivent Choice dollars to church or school, thank you! If you have not done this, please consider designating your choice dollars. This needs to be done quarterly. Please call Thrivent if you have any questions.

Keyboard Players

We want to encourage our youth to become our future pastors, teachers, and leaders in our church. This also applies to our future music leaders. We are looking for young keyboard players who would be interested in helping lead worship. If you play keyboard or another instrument and are interested in playing for worship, please speak to Mrs. K. Our goal is to use the gifts of our members while still making sure worship is done with excellence. As these young musicians lead us in worship, please remember that your words can encourage or discourage these future leaders. If you have any concerns or comments please speak directly to Mrs. Kuchenbecker, Pastor Enderle or a member of our worship committee.

Musicians Needed

There are many opportunities for both vocal and instrumental soloists in our worship services on Thursdays and Sundays. With the introduction of the new hymnal, we'll be looking for many vocalists to help lead the new songs. We're also looking for people interested in participating in small group ensembles. You do not need to be a member of the choir to serve in these roles. Please contact Mrs. K. if you would like to participate in this type of service to the Lord and our congregation.

Choir Invitation

Psalm 95:1 Come, let us sing for joy to the LORD, let us shout aloud to the Rock of our salvation.

Where can you visit with friends, share a laugh or tear but most of all raise your voice in praise to God? In choir of course! Music is a wonderful blessing God has given to our congregation! But to keep it going strong we need more volunteers to use their voices to praise God! Our choir season will begin on Wednesday **September 11**. Rehearsals will begin at **7:00 PM** in the church balcony. Even if you can't make it every week, please consider coming to choir. We're looking forward to seeing everyone back again this fall and welcoming many new voices. Please join our choir so that we can continue to offer our best praise to God in song.

Church Band

Attention instrumentalists! It's almost time to brush off the dust, warm up the mouth pieces and get the chops ready to play. The church band will be back together again this fall. Keep an eye on the upcoming newsletter for rehearsal information. If you would like to play a solo before we begin all together, please contact Mrs. K.

Soup for Souls

Share the love of Jesus with others!!! Meals from the Soup for Souls Ministry continue to be available at school and church.

Food Pantry

We served 30 families during the August 3 giveaway. Each family received butter, eggs, cheese, bacon, ground beef, bananas, mangos, potatoes, cucumbers, peppers, carrots, spinach, flour, soap, toothpaste, and nonperishable items. School supplies were also given to families with children. We accept donations of produce from gardens, but please do not leave fresh food in the shopping carts! Produce can be dropped off during set up time for food pantry or stored in the pantry refrigerator a few days ahead of distribution.

If you or someone you know needs assistance, please call the food pantry phone #(920) 246-5435 to schedule an appointment. Any questions can be directed to coordinator, Pam Mueller, at #(920) 540-5194. Volunteers are welcome to join us for our next distribution on Sept. 7! Set up starts at 7 am and distribution is from 8-10 am.

Bible Reading Plan for September

Sunday, Sep 1 1 Corinthians 7 1 Samuel 26 Monday, Sep 2 1 Corinthians 8 1 Samuel 27 Tuesday, Sep 3 1 Corinthians 9 1 Samuel 28 Wednesday, Sep 4 1 Corinthians 10 1 Samuel 29 Thursday, Sep 5 1 Corinthians 11 1 Samuel 30 Friday, Sep 6 1 Corinthians 12 2 Samuel 1 Saturday, Sep 7 1 Corinthians 13 2 Samuel 2	Sunday, Sep 8 1 Corinthians 14 2 Samuel 3 Monday, Sep 9 1 Corinthians 15 2 Samuel 4 & 5 Tuesday, Sep 10 1 Corinthians 16 2 Samuel 6 Wednesday, Sep 11 2 Corinthians 1 2 Samuel 7 Thursday, Sep 12 2 Corinthians 2 2 Samuel 8 & 9 Friday, Sep 13 2 Corinthians 3 2 Samuel 10 Saturday, Sep 14 2 Corinthians 4 2 Samuel 11	Sunday, Sep 15 2 Corinthians 5 2 Samuel 12 Monday, Sep 16 2 Corinthians 6 2 Samuel 13 Tuesday, Sep 17 2 Corinthians 7 2 Samuel 14 Wednesday, Sep 18 2 Corinthians 8 2 Samuel 15 Thursday, Sep 19 2 Corinthians 9 2 Samuel 16 Friday, Sep 20 2 Corinthians 10 2 Samuel 17 Saturday, Sep 21 2 Corinthians 11 2 Samuel 18	Sunday, Sep 22 2 Corinthians 12 2 Samuel 19 Monday, Sep 23 2 Corinthians 13 2 Samuel 20 Tuesday, Sep 24 Galatians 1 2 Samuel 21 Wednesday, Sep 25 Galatians 2 2 Samuel 22 Thursday, Sep 26 Galatians 3 2 Samuel 23 Friday, Sep 27 Galatians 4 2 Samuel 24 Saturday, Sep 28 Galatians 5 1 Kings 1	Sunday, Sep 29 Galatians 6 1 Kings 2 Monday, Sep 30 1 Corinthians 5 1 Kings 3
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Youth Group

All those in grades 8-12 are invited to join the Morrison Zion and Immanuel Shirley youth group. Please scan the QR Code to receive updates about all events. We will meet for Sunday study and open gym at Morrison Sept 22 and 29 and at Shirley Sept 28 all at 6 pm. Other events include:

- Sept. 7 5-9 pm: Fall Youth Group Kickoff and 8th Grade Welcome @ Shirley
- Sept. 14 5-9 pm: Corn Maze @ Polly's Pumpkin Patch
- Oct. 6 3-7pm: Packers Game @ Morrison Zion



Grand Pals Event

All kids with their grandparents or special older pal are invited to join us Saturday, September 14, from 9:00am-11:00am at school for A Morning with My Grand Pals. Participate in a special devotion, crafts, and activities. The classrooms will be open for all to tour the school. Enjoy complimentary donuts and coffee. This free event is open to everyone in the community! Register online. Contact hilla-ry.geidel@mzls.org with questions.

Fun Days!

Fun Day for the school year will begin on September! We will be meeting at a new location this year, at Immanuel Shirley from 8:30-10:30 on Tuesday mornings. This is a free program for children who are 3-4 years old and potty-trained. Children will learn school readiness with their friends and the love of Jesus through stories, crafts, and play. Please have your child bring a snack and drink. Questions, contact Danielle Ripp, dani.pues@gmail.com or 920.621.3196.

School News



Psalm 139:9-10

School Theme

Our theme for the 2024-2025 school year is “Christ Will Hold Me Fast” and is based on Psalm 139:9-10 and references the hymn “He Will Hold Me Fast.”

Enrollment

What a blessing from our Lord to see our school enrollment this school year. Our enrollment is equal from last years, and we praise God for the opportunity to bring Jesus’ precious lambs closer to their Savior.

4K	5K	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th	7th	8th	Total
8	4	3	7	3	9	4	7	10	8	63

PTO Parent/Teacher Organization Several parents responded with interest in starting a PTO but no one to lead. If you have interest in helping lead this program please speak to Mrs. Geidel.

4K and 5K

Mrs. Geidel

We have begun another new school year and we are all so very excited to be back and with new and old friends. This year I have 8 preschoolers and 4 kindergarteners. We have our first field trip planned in September to Hofackers Apple Orchard. This trip will follow a couple weeks of learning all about apples. Something new I am trying this year is to have a mystery reader of the month. I have a few people lined up to come and read but am looking for some more. Anybody is welcome to come and read. If you are interested or know of any community helpers such as firefighters, police, doctor, etc. that would be interested in coming in to read, please let me know. We would love to have you! Have a wonderful September!

Grades 1-2

Mrs. Kuchenbecker

What happened to summer? It’s school time once again! We welcome 3 first graders and 7 second graders into Mrs. Kuchenbecker’s classroom. We’re looking forward to another exciting year! This year we’re learning the New Testament Bible lessons. We’re studying pebbles, sand and silt in science. Our math study begins with shapes, and we’ll be learning “secret stories” and of course doing lots of reading! Thank you to everyone who helped get our classroom ready for the year and for the many donations to our class! Keep us in your prayers as our new school year gets under way.

Grades 1-2 Invitation

WE LOVE BOOKS! Each year we love having visitors come to share their love of reading with us. Grades 1-2 invite you to come to our class and read to us or to listen to us read to you. Also if you are an “expert” in a topic that you think would interest our class, please let us know if you would like to share your knowledge with us. If you would like to visit please contact Mrs. K to schedule a time.

Grades 3 & 4

Mrs. Hagenow

School Welcome back to school! It is a blessing for us to be back in the classroom. We are learning the New Testament stories this year in Christ Light, beginning with the birth of Jesus our Savior. We are reminded that we can trust that God always keeps his promises to us. The students are practicing both multiplication and division facts in Math. We have begun our new Language Arts curriculum, starting with a unit on the classic tales, The Wind in the Willows. In Science, we are studying a hands-on unit about soil, rocks, and landforms. We look forward to our field trip later this month to Fox Valley Lutheran for the Foxes Field Day. The third and fourth grade classroom is looking forward to a great school year!

Gift Received

The school received \$1,500 from the Isadore Mednikow Educational Trust Fund. It was designated for the hot lunch program.

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

SEPTEMBER 2024



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Remind.com

Sign up to receive messages about school closings and event cancellations using remind.com. To receive messages via text, text @morrisonz to 81010. You can opt-out of messages at any time by replying, 'unsubscribe @morrisonz'.

To receive messages via email, send an email to morrisonz@mail.remind.com. To unsubscribe, reply with 'unsubscribe' in the subject line.

Fall Festival—October 20

Mark your calendar for Fall Fest on Sunday, October 20, from 11:30am-3:00pm. This fun community event is for all ages: farmer's market, bounce house, concessions, games, and much more. Questions: Hillary Geidel, hillary.geidel@mzls.org.

Interested in helping with Fall Fest or being a vendor or know others who can be a vendor? Contact Mrs. Geidel for more information on how you can help: hillary.geidel@mzls.org. Contact Jen Enderle if you would like to be a vendor: jen.enderle@outlook.com

Grand Pals Event

All kids with their grandparents or special older pal are invited to join us Saturday, September 14, from 9:00am-11:00am at school for A Morning with My Grand Pals. Participate in a special devotion, crafts, and activities. The classrooms will be open for all to tour the school. Enjoy complimentary donuts and coffee. This free event is open to everyone in the community! Register online. Contact hillary.geidel@mzls.org with questions.