

# The Christian Light

Volume 24 Number 1

January 2025

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## Early Childhood Ministry Philosophy

On September 27, 2024 presentations were held at both Morrison Zion and Immanuel Shirley by the ECM (Early Child Ministry) Committees with the help of a WELS Consultant Ann Potter. You can watch that open forum and see the presentation by scanning the QR Code or going to [mzluth.org](http://mzluth.org).



During that open forum and in the December newsletter some projected budget numbers were shared along with a timeline. The ECM Committee has requested another open forum for January 12, 2025 with a voters meeting on January 26 to approve the ECM plans. Please join these meetings and continue to bring any questions you may have to the ECM Committee members and chairs.

To share some more on how an Early Child Ministry can be a beneficial ministry here is an excerpt from *Building Blocks*, a handbook from WELS on ECMs.

### Early Childhood Ministry Philosophy

God specifically gives parents the primary responsibility for nurturing their children. Christian early childhood ministries provide for the Christian nurturing of young children, a vital aspect of the mission of the church. This unique ministry strives to meet the spiritual, social, emotional, cognitive, and physical needs of young children in a developmentally appropriate manner.

*Think About It—God gives parents the primary responsibility for nurturing their children*

### Parents specifically have been given this responsibility.

Scripture identifies the family as our first and most enduring relationship. It teaches that children are a “heritage from the Lord” (*Children are a heritage from the Lord, offspring a reward from him. Psalm 127:3*) and that God gives parents the direction to “bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord” (*Fathers, do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord.*

*Ephesians 6:4*). Christian early childhood ministries will encourage and assist parents in meeting their responsibilities toward their children and it will endeavor to emphasize the joys of taking these privileges to heart.

### Christian early childhood ministries support parents in carrying out this responsibility.

Christian early childhood programs are ministries to children and parents. They are carried out with an awareness of the family setting and are responsive to the needs of the family. From the time of the child’s birth, early childhood ministries work directly with parents in providing materials, activities, and training in the privilege of being their child’s most important teacher. When the parent enrolls the child in an agency of the congregation, this ministry includes the child directly as well as the parent. Parents are included in this training and instruction of the Lord by involving them meaningfully and appropriately in the activities of the ECM.

*Think About It— The Christian nurturing of young children and their families is a necessary aspect of the mission of the church.*

### The mission of the church is to make disciples.

The church carries out its various forms of ministry for the sake of and by the command of Christ to “Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit” (*Matthew 28:19*). This disciple making includes the two complementary tasks of reaching out to the unbeliever and nurturing the faith of the believer. Children are particularly included as Peter told the crowd on Pentecost, “the promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off—for all whom the Lord our God will call” (*Acts 2:39*). Thus, the Christian early childhood ministry of a congregation will include both outreach and nurture in its program and policies.

(continued on p 9, the back of the calendar)



## 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



## December Leadership Team Highlights

The Leadership Team met on December 17, 2024

Devotions were based on Hebrews 10. We then reviewed Chapters 4 and 5 of the Unity Factor. The chapters focused on traits for a Leadership Team and the role of the Pastor.

We spent a good amount of time discussing the Early Childhood Ministry plan so that we are prepared to present to the congregation in January. We are putting together the agenda for the open forum that will be held prior to voting on starting this program. The presentation will include why this ministry is important to Zion and Immanuel and what a budget to run the program would look like.

We have the call extended to Pastor Lindke to serve as our second pastor. Encouraged members of the LT to reach out to him as he deliberates the call.

Financial reports were reviewed and approved.

Parsonage Allowance for called workers for 2025 were set and approved.

The Fair Market Value for the parsonage and teacherage for tax year 2025 was approved at \$14,400.

We approved the following financial policies required to document our processes. This is required for the School Choice Program.

- Activity Level Controls – Receipts

1. Describes how we collect, record, reconcile, and report donations.

- Activity Level Controls – AP Disbursements

1. This describes how we get approvals and pay bills

- Activity Level Controls – Payroll

1. This describes how we process payroll

- Activity Level Controls – Electronic Payments

1. This describes who has a debit and credit card and how they are used.

The LT approved spending up to \$ 1100 to move our bookkeeping systems to an online version that allows more than 1 person to access the records. The plan is to work on this in January.

Approval was given to proceed with the HVAC units for the 2 classrooms in the oldest part of school. The funds from School Endowment and a donation by members will cover the cost of this project.

Rocks were reviewed for this trimester. We have not had much traction at this time.

Membership transfers approved included Evan Soderlund to St. Pauls, Green Bay, WI and Leah Nushart to Trinity Lutheran, Aberdeen, SD.

I want to encourage you to reach out to myself or a LT member if you have questions or want

more details regarding any of the action we have taken.

*God's Blessing during this Christmas Season,*

*- Church President Randy Loppnow*

The treasurer shared reports for November balances. November income is high due to School Choice deposits. Our Synod Mission offering is currently around \$3000 short of its projected goal.

November Income	\$84,748
November Expenses	\$50,181
Monthly balance	\$34,567
Checkbook balance	\$23,841
Gen. reserve fund	\$125,113
DPI reserve fund	\$2,518
Designated funds	\$146,576
Investments	\$102,396
High School	\$693
Fiscal year total	\$10,310
2024-25 fiscal goal	\$13,000
Synod Mission	\$2,303
2024 YTD total	\$29,566
2024 goal	\$32,400

## Average Attendance

	November		Yearly	
	2024	2023	2024	2023
Bible Study	59	36	38	45
Worship	251	243	248	262

## Church Envelopes.

2025 church envelopes are available & located in the mailboxes in the church basement. Please take time to look for your mailbox as the mailboxes have been shifted slightly.

## Unifying for Ministry

Subcommittees continue to meet to discuss the work that Immanuel Shirley and Morrison Zion can do together to further the gospel and to answer many questions about what this joint ministry work can look like and considering the blessings and challenges. Early in 2025 the executive committee will meet again to review the findings.

## Pancake Porkie Breakfast – Sunday Feb. 16

On Sunday, February 16, breakfast will be served 7:30 AM to Noon by the Youth Group. Support the Youth Group and enjoy breakfast before or after church! Donations will go towards the next International Youth Rally! Bible Study will be held in the gym this Sunday.

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

**Foundations of Faith Class** a class to review your faith and to join Morrison Zion is not currently meeting. If you are interested in starting a class please speak to Pastor Enderle

**Sunday School** for ages 3 to grades 6 meets Sundays at 9:15 am. Sunday School will resume on January 12. New teachers and assistants are always welcomed. Training is provided. You are welcome to watch and learn, then help teach while you become comfortable. Any questions please contact Jen Enderle at 920-372-3818.

**Sunday Morning Bible Study** In January, Sundays at 9:15 am we will finish our study "Introducing Jesus: A Primer for Reading the Gospels." This study digs into the uniqueness of each of the 4 gospels. On January 19 we will begin a 6 week study *Unoffendable*. This study helps one see how the Gospel can bring peace to many worries and stresses in your life.

**Catechism for Public School students** meets Wednesdays at 5 pm in the church basement beginning on January 8.

**Sunday Night Book Discussion** meets at 7 p.m. in the church basement. We are finishing *Unoffendable* by Brant Hansen (available for \$10). In January we will begin, *Beyond Burnout* by Pastor Mike Novotny. This book (available for \$5) helps one find physical, spiritual, and emotional rest in a busy world through the gospel of Jesus.

**Small Groups** will begin again later in January. Look for announcements and signups to join the new small groups.

**Women's Study** will meet on Saturday, January 11 at 9:30am. Look for future announcements for the location. We will be studying "I AM the Bread of Life" as we continue to study Jesus' life in the gospels. Please bring a Bible and invite a friend! Any questions please contact Jen Enderle at 920-372-3818.

**English as a Second Language** will meet Thursday, January 9 and 23 at 5:30 p.m. in the church basement. New students and volunteers are welcome!

### Fun Day

Fun Day meets 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 or scan the QR code to register. Please share with a friend or neighbor.



### Special Thanks

A special thank you to the members of Immanuel Lutheran Church, Shirley through their Education Grant for their gift of purchasing a 3D printer for our science lab and new tablets for the 4k/5k classroom to assist with testing, education enrichment, and audiobooks.

### Youth Group

In December, the youth group met for Bible Study on Sunday nights. We also had almost 20 youth join us for Bowling and a Christmas Gift Exchange. *Please scan the QR code to receive updates about youth group events.*



#### January Youth Group events:

- **Saturday, January 11—1-3 pm** Kewaunee Sledding Event  
\*\*Scan the QR code for details, to RSVP, and for carpooling\*\*
- **Sunday, January 19—6 pm** Bible Study with snacks and open gym/games to follow
- **Sunday, January 26—6 pm** Bible Study with snacks and open gym/games to follow

#### Future events:

- **Sunday, February 16**—Pancake Porkie Breakfast served by the Youth Group
- **Saturday, March 29**—Blindman's Volleyball (Adults and Teens on the same day)

## Worship In January

## Notes on Worship

In January we begin the Epiphany season. “Epiphany” comes from a Greek word that means “reveal.” When someone has an epiphany, it’s not that reality changed. The way they see that reality is what changed, for a deeper truth has been revealed. An epiphany is an “a-ha!” moment causing us to look at things very differently.

In the Church Year, Epiphany is the season where we see Jesus begin his ministry, revealing the reason the Son of God came to earth. In this season we will come to understand that when we have Jesus in our lives, it does not always mean our reality drastically changes. It simply means that we see reality differently (and better). Jesus always provides an abundance of epiphany moments.

### *Epiphany Moments*

Jan. 5	Epiphany of Our Lord Sermon: 1 Kings 10:1-9	<b>The Gift of God Is for All People</b> Hymns: 372, 370, 380	white
Jan. 9/12	1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday after Epiphany Sermon: Titus 3:4-7	<b>Baptism is The Cure For An Identity Crisis</b> Hymns: 680, 692, 681	white communion
Jan. 16/19	2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday after Epiphany Sermon: John 2:1-11	<b>God Delivers More Than We Ask, Not Less</b> Hymns: 375, 578, 699, 510	green
Jan. 23/26	3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday after Epiphany Sermon: Luke 4:16-30	<b>Rejection Is Not Proof Of Failure</b> Hymns: 517, 721, 905, 929	green communion

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

Altar Committee members serving in January Diane Suchomel / Sally Suchomel

Sunday morning worship at 8:00 a.m. is livestreamed on YouTube and Facebook. The service remains online for you to watch at your convenience or to share with friends and family. You can find us at [www.youtube.com/c/morrisonzionlutheran](http://www.youtube.com/c/morrisonzionlutheran). You can also find the links at [www.mzluth.org/online-worship/](http://www.mzluth.org/online-worship/) Please register online if you watch. Encourage your friends and relatives to do the same. We only know you watched if you register. There will be a new register for 2025. You may also register by texting (920)949-1038.

### Altar Committee

Are you looking for a way to get involved and volunteer that doesn't take up much of your time? The Altar Committee is looking for more members! The Altar Committee was formed in 2016. Members serve our congregation by setting up for communion services, filling the candles with oil, changing parameters and the banner to follow the church year, and preparing the baptism banner. Committee members rotate monthly and can serve in pairs to split up the services. We are in need of extra people who are interested in serving the Lord and his people in this way! We can partner you with someone who has served for several years to train you. The more people we have, the less services you need to cover! If interested in joining this committee, please speak with Pastor Enderle.

### Choir

Thank you to all of our choir members for their time and dedication to singing praises during 2024. Our choir rehearsals will resume on Wednesday January 8th at 7:00 in the church balcony. We invite all to join us as we continue to proclaim God's love in song in 2025.

### Band

Thank you to the many instrumentalists who helped beautify our worship services in the church band. We will not be practicing in January. Watch more rehearsal information in February.

## Food Pantry

We served 42 families during the December 7th giveaway. Each family received beef, cheeses, eggs, juice, potatoes, bananas, lightbulbs, dish soap, nonperishable items, and treat bags for children.

Thank you to Brenda Skinkis for shopping and helping organize gifts to give to families with children! A huge thank you to the congregation for your generous contributions to our matching grant campaign! What a blessing to have the funds to continue to serve families in need in our community!

If you or someone you know needs assistance, please call the food pantry phone #(920) 246-5435 to schedule an appointment. We serve families living within 20 miles of our church. Erin Braun, can be reached at (920) 660-9504 with any questions. Volunteers are welcome to join us for our next distribution on January 4th! This is a great service opportunity for teenagers! Set up starts at 7 am and distribution is from 8-10 am.

Food Pantry items currently low in stock are mac & cheese, jello, baking mixes, canned corn, snack items, and cereal. Donations can be placed in the shopping carts at church and school.

## Soup for Souls

Meals continue to be available in the freezers at school and at church. Thank you to all who have supported this ministry program over the past year. Soup for Souls is also grateful for the memorial gifts that were received from the families of Donnie Osmand, Ruth Pantzlaff and Ken Klug.

## SCRIP

Did you know you can raise money for Morrison Zion church and school while doing your Christmas shopping?

Scrip cards (gift cards for 100s of local places or national chains) are available for cash and carry or can be ordered and make great gifts.

In addition, everyday grocery shopping or gas cards are also available. This is a really easy way to raise money for Morrison Zion.

Lists of most frequently ordered cards are available in the church basement or at school. Complete information about all dealers is available on the Raiseright website.

Leave your order with Jackie at school or look for Rhonda between most church services in the basement.

## Pep Band

Back by popular demand - Join us on Friday, January 24th as we invite all instrumentalists to play along with our grade school band at the home basketball games. If we have enough players, we will play before each game starting with the 6PM game and at half time. Even if you haven't played your instrument for a very long time, come on out and give it a try! Contact Mrs. K. if you would like to play but need an instrument to use. We'll see what we can do.

## January Basketball Games

**Friday, January 10th** AWAY at St. John Maribel

5:00 B Boys

6:00 A Boys

**Friday, January 17th** AWAY at Trinity, Kiel

5:00 B Girls,

6:00 B Boys,

7:00 A Girls

8:00 A Boys

**Tuesday, January 21st** AWAY at Trinity, Brillion

5:00 B Girls

6:00 B Boys

7:00 A Girls

**Friday, January 24th** HOME vs Zion, Wayside

5:00 B Girls

6:00 B Boys

7:00 A Girls

8:00 A Boys

**Wednesday, January 29th** Scrimmage AWAY vs St. Paul, GB

4:30 A Girls

5:30 A Boys

**January 31st– February 1st** B Team Tournament

**February 6th-8th** A Team Tournament

**Bible Reading Plan for January**

<p><b>Wednesday, Jan 1</b> Ezra 1 Acts 1</p> <p><b>Thursday, Jan 2</b> Ezra 2 Acts 2</p> <p><b>Friday, Jan 3</b> Ezra 3 Acts 3</p> <p><b>Saturday, Jan 4</b> Ezra 4 Acts 4</p> <p><b>Sunday, Jan 5</b> Ezra 5 Acts 5</p> <p><b>Monday, Jan 6</b> Ezra 6 Acts 6</p> <p><b>Tuesday, Jan 7</b> Ezra 7 Acts 7</p>	<p><b>Wednesday, Jan 8</b> Ezra 8 Acts 8</p> <p><b>Thursday, Jan 9</b> Ezra 9 Acts 9</p> <p><b>Friday, Jan 10</b> Ezra 10 Acts 10</p> <p><b>Saturday, Jan 11</b> Nehemiah 1 Acts 11</p> <p><b>Sunday, Jan 12</b> Nehemiah 2 Acts 12</p> <p><b>Monday, Jan 13</b> Nehemiah 3 Acts 13</p> <p><b>Tuesday, Jan 14</b> Nehemiah 4 Acts 14</p>	<p><b>Wednesday, Jan 15</b> Nehemiah 5 Acts 15</p> <p><b>Thursday, Jan 16</b> Nehemiah 6 Acts 16</p> <p><b>Friday, Jan 17</b> Nehemiah 7 Acts 17</p> <p><b>Saturday, Jan 18</b> Nehemiah 8 Acts 18</p> <p><b>Sunday, Jan 19</b> Nehemiah 9 Acts 19</p> <p><b>Monday, Jan 20</b> Nehemiah 10 Acts 20</p> <p><b>Tuesday, Jan 21</b> Nehemiah 11 Acts 21</p>	<p><b>Wednesday, Jan 22</b> Nehemiah 12 Acts 22</p> <p><b>Thursday, Jan 23</b> Nehemiah 13 Acts 23</p> <p><b>Friday, Jan 24</b> Esther 1 Acts 24</p> <p><b>Saturday, Jan 25</b> Esther 2 Acts 25</p> <p><b>Sunday, Jan 26</b> Esther 3 Acts 26</p> <p><b>Monday, Jan 27</b> Esther 4 Acts 27</p> <p><b>Tuesday, Jan 28</b> Esther 5 Acts 28</p>	<p><b>Wednesday, Jan 29</b> Esther 6 Romans 1</p> <p><b>Thursday, Jan 30</b> Esther 7 Romans 2</p> <p><b>Friday, Jan 31</b> Esther 8 Romans 3</p>
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Scan to join the online reading plan and discussions.



**MZLS Athletics Fundraiser**

Thank you to everyone who supported the Morrison Zion Athletics Christmas wreath and planter fundraiser! The funds that were raised will support our young Christian athletes and the ongoing costs of our athletic programs. Thank you for your continued support!

**Thank You**

- To Linda Bruegge, Ervin Zeamer, and Don Pantzlaff for a Thrivent Action Team card that was used to purchase items for the gift bags for the children on Christmas Eve as well as the food pantry.
- Charles and Annette Lemke, Glenn & Mary Laabs, Bonnie Isley, Mark Kuchenbecker, Jr Pantzlaff, and Don Pantzlaff for assembling the 180 gift bags.
- To Ervin Zeamer for the Thrivent Action Team card that was used to purchase the Christmas cards that were mailed out on behalf of the church.
- Thank you to Lori Lemke for the Thrivent Action Team card that was used to purchase the Christmas cards that were mailed out on behalf of the church.

**Thank You**

From the faculty and staff of Morrison Zion Lutheran Church and School, we would like to thank everyone for all the cards, well wishes, and gifts this Christmas season. You truly are a blessing to all of us! Thank you!

**Thank You**

For the gifts, cards and well wishes extended to me and my family during the holiday season. I thank God for your love and kindness and for letting me serve in this congregation. - Mrs. Brenda Kuchenbecker

## School News



### 4K and 5K

Mrs. Geidel

Wheww! December was busy but so much fun! The students had a great time singing Rudolph at our Christmas presentation and sharing the good news of Jesus' birth on Christmas Eve. We are well rested after break and ready to go for January. This month in Bible we will learn all about Jesus. We will learn about his baptism, first miracle, and his miracle of catching many fish. In math the kindergarten class will work more with addition and subtraction and begin our unit on numbers to 20. Preschool will learn how to identify, create, and extend AB patterns. In reading the kindergarten class will learn some new tricky words such as I, are, and little and will work in spelling words. The preschoolers will learn letters K, J, L and M and will continue to learn all about animals. In social studies, we will continue to learn about holidays around the world and travel to Australia, United States, Africa & Middle East and Canada. In science, we will learn about fabric and what it is used for. We are thankful to be getting back to our normal school routine this month and are ready to learn so much more!

### Grades 1 & 2

Mrs. Kuchenbecker

The lower grade classroom enjoyed all the activities that came with Christmas. They enjoyed making many projects, reading Christmas books, singing lots of songs, learning their parts for the Christmas Eve service and caroling at Wayside Parkview. With all the special celebrations we still managed to do our regular classes. The first graders worked with family facts. The second graders worked hard to master 2 digit addition and subtraction. In phonics the first graders finished a study of short vowel words and had their first spelling test. The second graders wrote a personal narrative story. In science we studied germs and how to prevent them from spreading. The kids look forward to playing with their friends in the snow after vacation. From grades 1-2 we wish everyone a very happy New Year.

### Grades 3 & 4

Mrs. Hagenow

Happy New Year from the 3rd and 4th grade classroom! We are reading parables in our New Testament Christ Light, learning about the meaning of them and the lessons Jesus was teaching to his disciples and to others. In Math, we are practicing mental math strategies and learning about fractions. We began a science based unit in Language Arts about astronomy and the solar system. We look forward to our field trip later this month to Barkhausen Nature Center where we will get to snowshoe and learn about early Wisconsin. We pray that God continues to bless our classroom and our school in 2025.

### Grades 7 & 8

Mr. Geidel

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from the 7th & 8th grade classroom! The upper graders finished 2024 in strong fashion in the classroom. In Religion class we studied a series entitled "What About...?" that deals with complicated issues in the world. In Reading, we began looking into real accounts of patients with traumatic brain injuries. In Social Studies, we toured Europe while looking at important events of the past and present of each.

Continue to keep our students, parents, and teachers in your prayers as we continue to serve Him in the classroom with our gifts, talents, and abilities.

### Winter MAP Testing

All students will participate in the second session of standardized testing the week of January 13-17.

### Parent-Teacher Association Meeting

Join us on Tuesday, January 14 at 6:30 p.m. as we discuss the ministry and mission of Morrison Zion Lutheran School. All parents are encouraged to come and share their thoughts and opinions as we move our school forward together.

### Thank You

Thank you to everyone who attended our Christmas Crafternoon! It was fun to see all the creations and fun had by all!

## 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  
JANUARY 2025



MORRISON  
**ZION**  
LUTHERAN

### 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

### Thank You

Thank you for the privilege of serving our God and each of you over those 30 years. I have countless blessings from the years serving here at Morrison. Thank you for those that spent time on the day set aside for me as well as all your gifts and well wishes. It is truly a blessing.

Thank you.  
*Nancy Pantzlaff*

### Knight for a Day

On Tuesday, January 28, Morrison Zion Lutheran School would like to welcome children age 4 (potty trained) to spend the morning in Mrs. Geidel's 4K/5K classroom from 8:30am – 10:30am. Knight for a Day is a free event where kids will do fun activities with the current 4K/5K class, eat a snack, and join for recess! The kids should bring their own snack and water bottle. In order to plan for the morning, please register your child by January 21 using the QR code. Contact Mrs. Geidel with any questions: [hillary.geidel@mzls.org](mailto:hillary.geidel@mzls.org)



### School Open House

Mark your calendar to join us at our School Open House on January 28. Come anytime between 4-7pm to tour the school, meet the teachers, ask questions, enroll your child, and enjoy ice cream sundaes. Please invite friends and neighbors!

### Blindman's Volleyball

Get your teams together for Blindman's Volleyball on Saturday, March 29. The Adult Tournament is from 9 am–2:30 pm. The Youth Tournament is from 3:30 pm to 7 pm. Scan the QR code to sign your team up!





(continued from page 1)

### God has given the church the responsibility to assist parents in training the young.

The Old Testament often describes how the community of believers, the church, instructed and trained children (All the men of Judah, with their wives and children and little ones, stood there before the LORD 2 Chronicles 20:13; And on that day they offered great sacrifices, rejoicing because God had given them great joy. The women and children also rejoiced. The sound of rejoicing in Jerusalem could be heard far away. Nehemiah 12:43). Our Lord gave a specific command to the church to nurture children in his words to Peter, “Feed my lambs” (John 21:15). The church has historically established agencies for the education of the young. Christian early childhood ministries are now a growing part of that rich tradition. The church meets this responsibility when its programs encourage and support parents in their God-give obligations and help children grow as disciples of Jesus Christ.

### Christian training is necessary for young children.

By precept and example the Bible speaks to the necessity of Christian training for young children. The need for Christian training is found in the sinful nature of the child (*Surely I was sinful at birth, sinful from the time my mother conceived me. Psalm 51:5*); the words of our Lord declare that the truths of Scripture can and must be taught to children (*Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. Mark 10:14*); and the admonition of Proverbs to clearly and directly prescribe training (*Start children off on the way they should go, and even when they are old they will not turn from it. Proverbs 22:6*). The examples of Samuel (*The Lord was with Samuel as he grew up and he let none of his words fall to the ground. 1 Samuel 3:19*) and Timothy (*From infancy you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. 2 Timothy 3:15*) are to be emulated by families and congregations today. The WELS upholds its heritage and clear words of Scripture as it provides for the Christian education of young children. Attitudes,

*Think About It—Christian early childhood ministries strive to meet spiritual, social, emotional, cognitive, and physical needs of young children in a developmentally appropriate manner.*

knowledge, and skills are developed at an early age which fosters growth as a child of God.

### Christian early childhood ministry is a part of a congregation’s ministry to families.

The various agencies of Christian education (e.g. child-care, preschool, Sunday School, the Lutheran elementary school, and youth ministries) have a cooperative focus to support and reinforce the goals of Christian outreach and nurture, particularly as parents and teachers share these goals. Early childhood education should be one strand of the congregations’ approach to Christian education. Under God’s blessings this ministry will serve to nurture the home-church partnership by being a means to strengthen the relationship of the family with the Savior.

### Christian early childhood ministries foster the development of the whole child.

A developmentally appropriate program will recognize that young children are holistic learners. Motor skill learning, social learning, intellectual learning, emotional learning, and the learning of spiritual truths are interrelated. Useful learning activities in early childhood education are not compartmentalized by subjects: likewise, a scriptural viewpoint permeates all learning experiences. A Christian early childhood education ministry is truly Christian when that program finds its integration and correlation in God’s messages of sin and grace. These programs should allow children to understand sin, to experience repentance and forgiveness, and to share with and care for others. Children will learn of Jesus their Savior, they will learn stories and teachings of Scripture, and they will experience the joy and privilege of sharing their Savior with others.

### Young children learn through play.

Early childhood programs involve children as active learners by providing them with play experiences that help them learn. Play enables children to pass through the stages of development by interacting with activities and materials that are concrete, real, and relevant to their young lives. Play as a child-initiated and child-directed activity is a vital component for establishing a foundation for learning. It is important that parents and teachers provide encouragement and facilitate quality play activities, model purposeful types of play, and appropriately participate in the child’s play.

## Men of His Word—16<sup>th</sup> Annual Men’s Conference

**When:** Saturday, February 8, 2025

**Keynote:** “Forge Ahead in Faith”

by Pastor Earle Treptow (Seminary President)

**Worship Band:** Koine

**What:** 14 Challenging Breakout Sessions

**Where:** Oshkosh Waterfront Hotel and Convention Center in Oshkosh, WI

**Register at:** [www.menofhisword.org](http://www.menofhisword.org) or scan the QR Code

**Cost:** Early Registration \$75 (Group of 5+ —\$60 each)



## Dare To Lead 2025

**When:** Feb. 28 & March 1, 2025

**Where:** Green Bay, WI

**What:** This is a best practices

conference, providing practical steps to take home to your ministry to implement today.

**Who:** Ministry leaders and their entire teams (called, lay, and volunteer)

**Registration:** \$139 (Before Jan. 31)

Groups of 4 or more: \$119

