

# The Christian Light

Volume 24 Number 2

February 2025

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## Encouraged

*Therefore, brothers and sisters, in all our distress and persecution we were encouraged about you because of your faith. For now we really live, since you are standing firm in the Lord. How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy we have in the presence of our God because of you? (1 Thessalonians 3:7-9)*

Encouraged. Is that how you feel today? Encouraged? Probably not. There is so much in life that leaves us feeling discouraged. The day hardly ever goes the way you planned it in the morning. Even the simplest things somehow manage to be difficult. Are you feeling more discouraged than encouraged?

Paul understands. Nothing in his life went according to his plans, especially as he traveled around as a missionary. It wasn't his plan to face a riot in Thessalonica and be forced to flee. His life was filled with distress and persecution. How does that sound? Discouraging.

Except, Paul wasn't discouraged. On the contrary, he said he was "encouraged." How? Well, he writes, "*in all our distress and persecution we were encouraged about you because of your faith....How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy we have in the presence of our God because of you?*"

Can you tell what encouraged Paul? Other Christians did. When he felt distressed, it was other Christians who encouraged him in his faith in Jesus. When he felt all alone, it was other Christians who encouraged him through their faith in Jesus. When he felt depressed, it was other Christians

who encouraged him with the joy that comes from Jesus. That's how he was encouraged: By his brothers and sisters in Christ.

God wants to encourage you in the very same way. When you feel distressed or depressed or alone, what do you do? I bet I can guess. I bet you separate yourself from other people. You stop going to church. You stay by yourself. Does that encourage you? I don't think so! Realize this: When you're feeling down, it's the devil who wants to separate you from the encouragement of God's people.

Instead, God wants to build you up through the encouragement of his people and the Word and the works of the body of Christ. Tragedies and disasters are daily occurrences. Car accidents shock and cancer strikes. Your church is here to give extra help and listen.

When you're discouraged, make time for church. Go to a Bible study. Call a Christian friend. Talk to your pastor. The church, all of its members are here to support you physically, spiritually, and emotionally. Witness the faith of a brother or sister in Christ. Know how you'll feel? Encouraged.

**Dear Lord God, it's easy for me to feel discouraged and separate myself from you and your people. Forgive me! Instead, help me to find encouragement through Christ, other Christians, and their faith in you. In Jesus' name, amen.**

*- Adapted from a devotion by Pastor Nathan Nass*



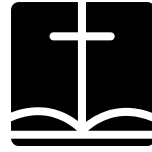
## Our Mission

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



## January Leadership Team Highlights

The Leadership Team met on January 21, 2025

Devotions were based on Psalm 146. For our study we reviewed chapters 6 and 7 of the Unity Factor. Discussion was in regards to training Leaders.

On our list of open action items we are looking to:

- Implement a review process for staffed positions list Secretary, Custodian, etc.
- Update the Wish List and have a process to continuously update the list.

We set a Voters Call Meeting date for February 23, 2025. We will look to call a second pastor and to place a permanent call to Mrs. Richter. Last year we had called her for a 1 year emergency call.

Discussion was had regarding the structure of the LT for 2025-2026. We will continue to have 7 serving and will look to have one of the seven focus on the ECM program as this will be a new joint ministry with Immanuel. We will discuss nominees at our next meeting.

Budget planning for 2025-2026 will begin. Areas of the ministry need to have their information to Steve by Feb.18th so he can compile some data for the Feb. LT meeting. The budget committee will meet on March 10.

Randy will have Tony review the HVAC maintenance program. We currently are using 4 different companies.

The LT reviewed the proposal from a family that would like to

install a stained glass window insert over the double doors at the front entrance. This will be paid for with memorial money from the family. It was designed around matching our current windows. The LT approved the proposal.

Discussion was had regarding the School Boards recommendation on changing the times for the children's Christmas Eve services. They will get a few questions that came up answered and the LT will discuss at the February meeting.

For membership changes the LT granted the Evenson family, Ben, Erica, Arabella, and Braxton a transfer to St. Johns, Wrightstown.

Synod Missions goal for 2025 we set at \$ 30,000. This is less than last year but is closer to the amount given in 2024.

A Unifying Ministry timeline was shared. The first Executive Committee meeting will be in February. The plan is still to have this ready for a vote in January 2026 on the joining of the two congregations.

- Church President Randy Loppnow

## Baptisms

Willa June Meisner son of Victoria Wegner and Andy Meissner was baptized on January 12, 2025. Greyson Donald Wagner son of Kristan and April Wagner was baptized on January 26, 2025. We praise God for their forgiveness and bringing these children into the family of God. Continued prayers for their continued growth in Christ.

The treasurer shared reports for December balances. Our Synod Mission offering for 2024 ended around \$2000 short of its projected goal.

We thank God for a generous memorial gift given to Morrison Zion of \$28,000. Most of this gift is designated for a digital sign.

November Income	\$86,165
November Expenses	\$61,646
Monthly balance	\$24,519
Checkbook balance	\$68,244
Gen. reserve fund	\$125,403
DPI reserve fund	\$2,519
Designated funds	\$183,298
Investments	\$102,396
High School	\$3,860
Fiscal year total	\$14,170
2024-25 fiscal goal	\$13,000
Synod Mission	\$3,752
2024 YTD total	\$30,318
2024 goal	\$32,400

Average Attendance				
	December		Yearly	
Bible Study	2024	19	2024	36
	2023	35	2023	45
Worship	2024	228	2024	247
	2023	289	2023	262

Christmas Eve Worship — 572  
 Christmas Day Worship — 193

## 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.

### 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. 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 February, Sundays at 9:15 am, we continue our study based off the book *Unoffendable*. This study helps one see how the Gospel can bring peace to many worries and stresses in your life. This study can be truly life changing. Please join us!

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

**Sunday Night Book Discussion** meets at 7 p.m. in the church basement. We are finishing *Unoffendable* by Brant Hansen (available for \$10). In February 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** began in January. Look below for more information and how to join.

**Women's Study** We will meet on Saturday, February 22 at 9:30am at the home of Delores Griepentrog. We will be studying Jesus' life through the series of "19 Minutes With the Messiah." In February, we will study together The Rich Man and Lazarus. We would love to have you join us! Any questions please contact Jen Enderle at 920-372-3818.

**English as a Second Language** will meet Thursday, February 6 and 20 at 5:30 p.m. in the church basement. New students and volunteers are welcome!

### Sermon Based Small Groups



Sermon based Bible studies in homes have begun! These groups meet on Mondays and Tuesdays for this first 9 week session. You can still join in! Scan the QR code to register and for info or sign up on the Bible Studies table in the church basement. Studies are Monday and Tuesday Nights at 6 or 6:30 pm. Contact Pastor Enderle if you have any questions.

- Monday 6pm @ the Brauns' - For all adults, especially those with young children (bring them along).
- Tuesday 6:30pm @ the Ihlenfeldts' - For all adults, especially empty nesters and retirees

### Youth Group

In January, the youth group met for Bible Study on Sunday nights. We also went sledding. 10 youth group members attended our sledding event. The conditions were perfect for many trips down the sledding hill for two hours of fun! 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.*

#### February Youth Group events:

- **Sunday, February 2—6 pm** Bible Study with snacks and open gym/games to follow
- **Sunday, February 16—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
- **Sunday, February 23**—Strand Adventures. Join us at Strand Adventures in Manitowoc, an indoor entertainment complex. Watch the app for times and more details!
- **Saturday, March 29**—Blindman's Volleyball (Adults and Teens on the same day)



### Pancake and Porkie Breakfast

Pancake Porkie Breakfast will be served by the Youth Group on Sunday, February 16. Setup for the breakfast will take place on Saturday, February 15. Youth please plan to help out Saturday and Sunday. Details and communications are found in the app. Please scan above.

## Worship In February

### Notes on Worship

In February we continue 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 30/Feb 2	4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Epiphany Sermon: 2 Timothy 3:14–4:5	<b>Popularity Is Not Proof Of Success</b> Hymns: 908, 901, 874	green
Feb. 6/9	5 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Epiphany Sermon: Luke 5:1-11	<b>The Least Qualified Are The First Sent</b> Hymns: 483, 853, 745, 743	green communion
Feb. 13/16	6 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Epiphany Sermon: 2 Corinthians 12:7-10	<b>Blessings Are Cursed; Curses Are Blessed</b> Hymns: 838, 803, 816	green
Feb. 20/23	7 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Epiphany Sermon: Luke 6:27-38	<b>Love Your Enemies, Overcoming Evil With Good</b> Hymns: 733, 729, 868, 928	green communion

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

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.

## 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](mailto:dani.pues@gmail.com) or 920.621.3196 or scan the QR code to register. Please share with a friend or neighbor.



## 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 Raiserright website.

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

## 4K & 5K & LES Registration

On January 28th we held our Community Open House that also served as early registration for 4K & 5K. If you or someone you know missed the night, please contact Mr. Geidel to set up an appointment or tour. If you know of someone in the area that is looking for quality Christian education, recommend Morrison Zion!

## Thrivent Choice Dollars

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 January through the end of March. It just takes one call and you are done for 2025. Please call Thrivent 1-800-847-4836 if you have any questions.

## February Basketball

January 31st - February 1st B Team Tournament

February 6th & 8th A Team Tournament

February 14th Parent/Player Games

February 15th Coaches Appreciation Dinner

## Church band

It's time once again to get together to prepare for praising God in our Easter worship services. We need you all- from grade school students to adult players. Rehearsal will be held on Tuesday, February 25 at 6:30 in the school basement and continuing on Tuesdays in March. Please contact Mrs. Kuchenbecker if you have any questions or suggestions for other rehearsal options. Spread the word. Hope to see you there!

## Bible Reading Plan for February

<b>Saturday, Feb 1</b> Esther 9 & 10 Romans 4	<b>Saturday, Feb 8</b> Job 7 Romans 11	<b>Saturday, Feb 15</b> Job 14 1 Corinthians 2	<b>Saturday, Feb 22</b> Job 22 1 Corinthians 9
<b>Sunday, Feb 2</b> Job 1 Romans 5	<b>Sunday, Feb 9</b> Job 8 Romans 12	<b>Sunday, Feb 16</b> Job 15 1 Corinthians 3	<b>Sunday, Feb 23</b> Job 23 1 Corinthians 10
<b>Monday, Feb 3</b> Job 2 Romans 6	<b>Monday, Feb 10</b> Job 9 Romans 13	<b>Monday, Feb 17</b> Job 16 & 17 1 Corinthians 4	<b>Monday, Feb 24</b> Job 24 1 Corinthians 11
<b>Tuesday, Feb 4</b> Job 3 Romans 7	<b>Tuesday, Feb 11</b> Job 10 Romans 14	<b>Tuesday, Feb 18</b> Job 18 1 Corinthians 5	<b>Tuesday, Feb 25</b> Job 25 & 26 1 Corinthians 12
<b>Wednesday, Feb 5</b> Job 4 Romans 8	<b>Wednesday, Feb 12</b> Job 11 Romans 15	<b>Wednesday, Feb 19</b> Job 19 1 Corinthians 6	<b>Wednesday, Feb 26</b> Job 227 1 Corinthians 13
<b>Thursday, Feb 6</b> Job 5 Romans 9	<b>Thursday, Feb 13</b> Job 12 Romans 16	<b>Thursday, Feb 20</b> Job 20 1 Corinthians 7	<b>Thursday, Feb 27</b> Job 28 1 Corinthians 15
<b>Friday, Jan 7</b> Job 6 Romans 10	<b>Friday, Jan 14</b> Job 13 1 Corinthians 1	<b>Friday, Jan 21</b> Job 21 1 Corinthians 8	<b>Friday, Jan 28</b> Job 29 1 Corinthians 16

Scan to join  
the online  
reading plan  
and discus-  
sions.



### Lenten Worship and Meals

We will have Leten Soup Suppers after the 11 am services and before the 6 pm services Wednesdays during Lent. Speak to Tamara Shultz if you can donate a Thrivent card or if you can bring food or help setup or take down.

### Northern Wisconsin District Teachers' Conference

On Thursday, February 13, the teachers of our school will be participating in the Northern Wisconsin District Teachers' Conference held at Emmanuel Lutheran School in New London, WI. We will participate in spiritual and educational growth opportunities while at the conference. There will be no school during these days.

### Thank You

Thank you to Jeff Krueger for helping maintain the school floor scrubber and church snowblower the past few months

### Winter MAP Testing

Standardized Testing Results are on hold until all students take the test- waiting on students who were sick.

### Pastor Lindke Returns Call

On January 5, Pastor Andrew Lindke (St. Mark—Normal, IL) returned the call to serve as a second pastor at Zion. A call meeting will be held on February 23 to call a second pastor.

## School News



### 4K and 5K

Mrs. Geidel

This month in 4K and 5K we are going to focus on God's love. We will be talking about how because God loves us, we can share love with others. Instead of sharing about our academic plans, I would like to share some things the students love. I asked them to tell me someone and something they love. Here are their responses.

Elliott: Mom-Pizza

Onycha: Jesus-Piggies

Axel: Mom and Dad-Toys and cars

Ella: Mom and Colten (her brother)-Playing with Colten (her brother)

Savannah: Parents-Mac and Cheese

Ethan: Kayden-Going to the movies

Leighton: Mom and Dad-Horses

Aislinn: Eddie-Stocking from Christmas

Kayden: God-Maple (his dog)

Eddie: Mom and Dad-Piggies

Emerson: Mama-Toys

Lillian: Mom-Baby (she has a new baby brother at home)

Blessings on your February and share God's love with everyone!

### Grades 1 & 2

Mrs. Kuchenbecker

Love one another. What a wonderful message not only at Valentine's but all year through. We focused on Jesus' love for all through his parables and miracles. We looked at ways that we can show that same love to others. In math the first graders worked with tally charts, picture graphs and skip counting. The second graders worked with story problems, money, and time. We studied the states of matter and did some fun experiments including blowing up a balloon with baking soda and vinegar, microwaving ivory soap, and making dancin' raisins. We began a reading challenge for the third quarter. The kids are diving into books to move their fish along a map in hopes of earning prizes. Please encourage them in their reading and keep these little lambs in your prayers as they learn and grow in God's love every day.

### Grades 3 & 4

Mrs. Hagenow

There are lots of things to look forward to in the month of February for the 3rd and 4th graders! We have been hard at work learning our lines and songs for our upcoming musical "Hats" which will be performed on February 27th and 28th. Unfortunately, we were not able to go on our field trip that was planned to go snowshoeing in January due to lack of snow. However, the plan is to try again for February! We are praying for snow! We continue to learn about the early life and ministry of Jesus in Christ Light. We are reviewing time and learning how to multiply fractions in Math. In Science, we are studying magnetism as well as light and sound waves. Please keep us in your prayers as we continue our calendar year!

### Grade 5 & 6

Mrs. Richter

We had a unit on ancient China in Social Studies, and Pastor Enderle came and spoke to the class. That was very interesting and the class had lots of questions! Pastor even shared some Chinese candy with us! The class continues to work hard, using their God given gifts!

### Grades 7 & 8

Mr. Geidel

It sure is getting cold out there! But the cold weather hasn't slowed down the upper graders and their learning. In Religion class we have transitioned from our topical studies to looking closely at the book of Acts. In Reading we are continuing our look into brain science. In World History, we are wrapping up our study of medieval Europe. It is pretty amazing to see the students using their gifts and abilities in a variety of ways. Recently we set up a new 3D printer in the STEM lab at MZLS. This will give upper graders at MZLS opportunities to explore AutoCAD and get creative with different engineering concepts.

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

## 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

FEBRUARY 2025



**MORRISON  
ZION  
LUTHERAN**

### Our Mission

is to  
**Glorify**  
God  
as we  
**Gather**  
around the  
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to  
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in the  
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and then  
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### LLS Choral Fest

On Friday, February 21st our junior choir will be heading to MLHS to participate in a day of making music with other children's choirs from our federation schools. At 6:30 pm, a concert will be held in the MLHS gym featuring a sacred song performed by each individual choir along with 4 sacred songs performed by the combined choirs. All are invited to attend.

### Play Presentations

On Thursday, February 27th at 10am and on Friday, February 28th at 6pm:

- Grades 4K-5K will be presenting "The Hot, Hot Furnace"
- Grades 1-2 will be presenting "The Little Engine That Could Sing."
- Grades 3-4 will be presenting "Hats"

We're having fun learning the songs and dances that will be part of our show. We hope you can join us for the show.

### Pancake Porkie Breakfast—Feb 16

Pancake Porkie Breakfast will be served by the Youth Group on Sunday, February 16. Breakfast will be served from 7:30 AM to Noon. Support the Youth Group and enjoy breakfast before or after church! All donations will go towards the next International Youth Rally!

### 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!

