

THE CHRISTIAN LIGHT

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*

UNIFYING FOR MINISTRY UPDATE

Brothers and Sisters of Immanuel and Zion: With this encouragement, we offer this Unifying for Ministry update:

“Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go.”

- Joshua 1:9

We are now in the exploratory phase (phase 2). The purpose of this important phase is to consider various areas as they are now for the individual congregations and how it could look if the congregations continue to move forward in a United Ministry.

Inside this Issue

ECM Update	2
Congregational News	2-6
Bible Studies	3
Worship	4
Calendar	Insert
Bible Reading Plan	6
School News	6-7

Each chair has presented the progress of their committee:

- The Ministry Committee has narrowed the Mission statement to two and are working on a draft for potential service times.
- Human Resources has met with all called workers, paid workers and key volunteers from both congregations. They are reviewing potential recommendations for volunteer opportunities as well as a possible paid church secretary position.
- The Finance Committee is working through both Immanuel and Zion financials. They are preparing a potential school, ECM, and combined budgets. (Note: the Early Childhood Ministry is not a part of Unifying for Ministry, however, because both churches are currently invested in the ECM, it is a good practice to look at how ECM fits in a combined budget.)
- The Property Committee is considering care for the cemeteries. Each congregation has two. Zion has a cemetery on Mill Rd. Shirley cares for the St. Paul cemetery in Greenleaf.
- The Governance Committee is reviewing both constitutions and making recommendations that would set the foundation of future governance.
- The School Committee is reviewing any changes needed to the School board.
- The Executive Committee, which coordinates the communications between all other committees, has set monthly meetings now through July.

What's ahead?

The March meeting will be used to set dates for open forums for all congregation members to share their questions and comments. Additionally, please keep an eye out for monthly updates via bulletins, newsletters and in-church presentations. We understand that communication is key to the process ahead. With much to consider, we also invite you to share your thoughts, questions or concerns with Unified for Ministry Executive Committee co-chairs or any of the executive council committee chairs. We thank the Lord for the richness and blessing he has given to our two congregations. We pray for His guidance as we continue to explore the opportunities of a combined ministry. We thank Pastor Ruddat and Paster Enderle for their vision, guidance and leadership. We thank the 40+ members from both congregations who continue to give their time in evaluating the various structures of our congregations. We ask for your prayers as we look to share the love of our Lord to as many as possible!

Serving Christ,
Nicholas Dobberpuhl and Kris Scheider



MORRISON
ZION
LUTHERAN



Psalm 139:9-10



WELS

Introducing: Lil' Sprouts Learning Center

On January 26, the voters of both Zion Morrison and Immanuel Shirley approved the establishment of an early childhood ministry to open at the beginning of the coming school year. We are excited to announce the ministry now has a name: **Lil' Sprouts Learning Center**. The ECM Committee would like to thank those that submitted name suggestions. All submissions were well-thought out and reflected our goal of sharing the gospel message with families with young children. The committee selected "Lil' Sprouts" because it is a wonderful analogy to represent the growing faith of the children and families that we will serve. The concept of planting seeds and giving them the conditions that they need to to grow is a natural extension of Zion's mission to Gather around the Gospel, Grow in the Gospel and Go to others with the Gospel. The idea of caring for sprouts is also appropriate given our area's agricultural heritage. Watch for information on a call meeting coming up in early March as we bring voters from both congregations together to place a call for the Director of Lil' Sprouts Learning Center. The committee will continue to work on getting all the necessary pieces in place for an August opening. If you are interested in helping out with the use of your time, talent or treasures, please reach out to either Pastor Enderle or Alec Otto, the chair of the ECM Committee.



- Alec Otto (Early Childhood Ministry Chairman)

Leadership Team Notes

The February Leadership Team Meetings was held on Tuesday, February 25 after the creation of this newsletter. Notes from that meeting will be shared in the April Newsletter.

Meditation Booklets

The new Meditation booklets are available in the racks at the entrance way of church or by the back door going to the parking lot from the basement. The cost of the meditation booklet are approximately \$5.00. Donations are greatly appreciated to help cover the cost.

Average Attendance			
		January	Yearly
Bible Study (Adult)	2025	27	27
	2024	36	36
Worship In Person	2025	222	222
	2024	253	248
Worship Online	2025	32	32
	2024	24	24

Funeral

Larry Van Der Wegen was called to heaven on February 1, one day after his 84th birthday. A Christian Funeral was held at Morrison Zion on February 8 with Pastor Enderle presiding. We pray for continued peace and comfort for friends and family in the truth of the resurrection found in Jesus through grace and faith alone.

Lenten Soup Suppers

Join us for Soup Suppers after the 11am service and before the 7pm service on Wednesdays during Lent. Speak to Tamara Schultz if you can donate a Thrivent card, if you can bring food or help set up or take down.

School Choice Application Period Now Open

The application period for applying for the Wisconsin Parental Choice Program is now open and will remain open until April 16th. Check out dpi.wi.gov/choice for a wealth of information about the program. If you are planning to apply, please be mindful of the application deadline. If you wish to know more information or are wondering if you are eligible, contact Mr. Geidel anytime! Choice vouchers can be mutually beneficial for both families and MZLS.

Planting Gosepl Seeds

In 2022 members of Zion showed in a visible way how we shared the gospel with the beautiful art in the back of church. Let's plant gospel seeds again in 2025! Please place a seed in the fields in the back of church when you talk about Jesus outside of worship. The seeds will be on each side of the double doors. We will clear off the fields before Lent begins. Pray for opportunities to share Jesus with friends and family and place a seed so we may all rejoice as the gospel spreads.

BIBLE STUDIES **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 meets at 9:15 am, we will conclude our study based off the book *Unoffendable*. Can Christians have righteous anger or is this only reserved for God? Do you have to be angry to take action? The world is in chaos, how can you have peace? Join us for this life changing study!

In March we will begin the study *One by One* focusing on evangelism. We will learn why it is so important to see every soul as a treasure and why we want to be willing to spend the time and effort necessary to share the gospel with each one.

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. In March we will continue, *Beyond Burnout* by Pastor Mike Novotny. This book (available for \$2) helps one find physical, spiritual, and emotional rest in a busy world through the gospel of Jesus. Scan the QR Code to watch the sermons that are the basis for the book.



We will also begin the book *How to Lead When You are Not In Charge* by Clay Scroggins. Most of us aren't the boss or leader at work or school and many situations at life. How can you as a Christian lead and be a model to others? This book develops good Christian virtues and helps us remove excuses in our lives.

Women's Study will meet on Saturday, March 8 at 9:30am at the home of Ruth Zeamer. We will continue to study Jesus' life through the series of "19 Minutes With the Messiah" this month looking at Matthew 25:31:46, *The Sheep and the Goats*. Invite a friend and come join us! Any questions please contact Jen Enderle at 920-372-3818.

English as a Second Language will meet Thursday, March 6 and 27 at 5:30 p.m. in the church basement. New students and volunteers are welcome!



Youth Group

Youth Group Thanks You! A heartfelt thank you to all who attended the Youth Group's Pancake Porkie breakfast! Your support means the world to our youth.

Chili and Card Games - Adults invited and encouraged to attend this event Sunday, March 2, noon at Immanuel Shirley. Join us for a fun-filled afternoon with the Youth Group teens! Enjoy delicious chili and showcase your card playing skills to the next generation. Come and share in the laughter, games, and community spirit. We look forward to seeing you there!

Sunday Night Youth Group Bible Studies Join us for engaging Bible studies followed by open gym or games, along with snacks and prizes!

Dates & Times: - **March 9 at 6 PM.** - **March 23 at 6 PM** - **March 30 at 6 PM**

We look forward to seeing you there for faith, fellowship, and fun! Scan the QR code above to get updates about youth group.

Small Groups

Sermon based Bible studies continue into March on Mondays and Tuesdays. 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.

- 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



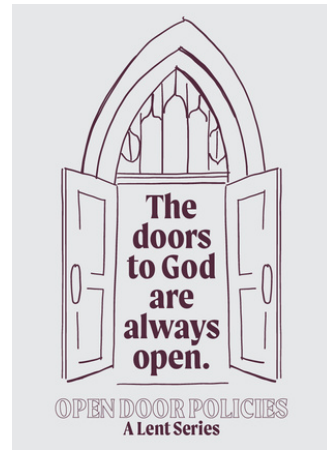
Vacation Bible School

The promotions committee had begun work on our Vacation Bible School for this summer. The dates for this are July 8-10. We are always looking for volunteers for this event. Students going into 8th grade and up are welcome to sign up as well as adults who are interested in helping. If you are interested in helping in any way with our VBS this year, please reach out to Hillary Geidel hillary.geidel@mzls.org.

WORSHIP IN MARCH

In March, Epiphany concludes with the Transfiguration and we enter the Season of Lent. The word Lent comes from an old English word for spring: “lengthen,” when the days grow longer. For over 1400 years the Church has set aside the 40 days between Ash Wednesday and Easter as a time of repentance and renewal. In this 40-day journey to the cross and tomb, we will see the surprising strategies our heavenly Father uses for getting sinners back home, close to him and the loving care he offers.

Sunday Worship - Open Door Policies When a wayward child wanders far from home, how does a loving parent pursue them without driving them further away? One thing that parent does is let the child know that there is an ongoing open-door policy. The child knows they will always be welcomed back home. Likewise, when we wander from God, he always keeps his door open for us. But God doesn’t just passively wait for us to return. He lovingly pursues sinners in ways that make them long for home.



Feb 27 / Mar 2	The Transfiguration of Our Lord	Glory Is Hidden In Order To Be Revealed	white
	Sermon: Luke 9:28-36	Hymns: 385, 388, 522	
March 9	1st Sunday in Lent	One Stands; Everyone Else Sits	
	Sermon: 1 Samuel 17	Hymns: 721, 863, 842, 502	communion
March 16	2nd Sunday in Lent	No Detours Allowed	purple
	Sermon: Philippians 3:17-4:1	Hymns: 853, 395, 867	<i>Pastor Dave Ruddat</i>
March 23	3rd Sunday in Lent	Always Present, Always Patient	purple
	Sermon: Luke 13:1-9	Hymns: 406, 712, 833, 923	communion
March 30	4th Sunday in Lent	Grace Instead of Condemnation	purple
	Fox Valley Lutheran A Cappella Choir		

Midweek Worship - Lord Have Mercy For over 1000 years, midweek Lenten worship has generally been used for catechetical review. *Kyrie Eleison* or “Lord, have mercy,” is one of the most common songs and words a Christian says. When we say “Lord Have Mercy” 1) we are acknowledging that we have lived in ways deserving of God’s condemnation and punishment, and 2) we are begging God to not condemn or punish us. This year we will review God’s law as revealed in the Ten Commandments and connect it with Christ’s passion. We will see how we have broken all the Commandments and are deserving of punishment. However, will we also see how Jesus took the suffering we deserved upon himself. Seeing both, may the Spirit empower us to pray, “Lord, have mercy!” and confidently believe that in Christ, we have God’s mercy in abundance. We will have soup suppers and some pupilit rotation during the midweek Lenten season.

March 5	Ash Wednesday	Lowering Our Defenses	black
	Sermon: 2 Samuel 12:1-13	Hymns: 393, 654, 562	<i>Imposition of Ashes</i> communion
Midweek Lenten Worship - Lord Have Mercy...			
March 12	Lent Midweek 2	...For our Incessant Idolatry	purple
	Sermon: 1 & 2 Commandments	Hymns: 635, 400, 603	<i>Pastor Dave Ruddat</i>
March 19	Lent Midweek 3	Reflections on Repentance: Removing Our Guilt	purple
	Sermon: Psalm 51:8-9	Hymns: 404, 409, 434	<i>Pastor Thad Flitter</i>
March 26	Lent Midweek 4	...For Demonstrating Irreverence and Despising Your Rest	purple
	Sermon: 2 & 3 Commandments	Hymns: 634, 425, 547	

Altar Committee members serving in March: Sharon Faulds

Food Pantry

We served 26 families during the January 4th giveaway and 37 families during the February 1st giveaway. Each family received ground beef, cheese, butter, spinach, onions, avocados, toothbrushes, toothpaste, and nonperishable items. We had 1 Thrivent card used towards produce for January's giveaway- thank you!

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 March 1st! 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.

Scrip

Scrip is a great fund-raising tool for the church and school. Everyday purchases can result in cash back to the school or church and all you need to do is use a scrip physical gift card or e-cards through the app or website.

- Groceries: 3-4 % rebates
- Gas: 4-10 % rebates
- Restaurants: up to 11% rebates
- Fleet farm/Home Depot/Menards: up to 4% rebates

Anyone can use this- look for Rhonda between services most Sundays in the church basement. She is happy to help you get started.

We are looking for someone who would be interested in taking over the physical gift card ordering and selling starting in Summer/Fall. The process is simple, and we can teach you all you need to know.

Soup for Souls

Meals are available at school and church to share the love of Jesus with family, friends, and neighbors. New meals include individual lasagna meals and shredded beef with mashed potatoes. Thank you to D & G's Restaurant for their assistance with making meals to restock the freezers.

Thrivent Choice Dollars

If you are giving to 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 by March 31, 2025. It just takes one call or go to Thrivent.com and you are done for 2025. Please call Thrivent at 1-800-847-4836 if you have any questions.

Large Print Items and Emails

Large print service folders and announcements are available in the back of the church each service. If you know of someone that needs large print sermons or other material such as devotions etc. sent to the them, please feel free to contact the office or Pastor Enderle. If you, a friend or a relative have not been receiving the weekly emails sent from Morrison Zion with weekly devotions and would like to, please email church@mzls.org and we will add you to the list. Weekly announcements are included in these emails.

Empty containers needed

If you have any ice cream pails or cool whip bowls that are empty we could use some in the school kitchen. Please leave your donation in the shopping cart at church or drop them off at school. Thank you in advance.

Academic Fair

The MLHS Academic Fair will be held on Saturday, April 12th, from 8:30 – 3:00 p.m. Students will have the opportunity to prepare Art and Science displays (which will be judged) or participate in a Forensics competition, Spelling competition, Math Meet, or Academic Bowl. Forensics and the Academic Bowl are open to students in grades 6-8, Social Studies, Math, and Spelling to students in grades 5-8, and Art to students in grades K-8. Art projects will only be judged for students in grades 3-8. Come on out and support our students as they use their gifts to glorify God.

BIBLE READING PLAN FOR MARCH

Saturday, March 1	Saturday, March 8	Saturday, March 15	Saturday, March 22	Saturday, March 29
Job 30 1 Corinthians 16	Job 37 2 Corinthians 7	Proverbs 2 Galatians 1	Proverbs 9 Ephesians 2	Proverbs 16 Philippians 3
Sunday, March 2	Sunday, March 9	Sunday, March 16	Sunday, March 23	Sunday, March 30
Job 31 2 Corinthians 1	Job 38 2 Corinthians 8	Proverbs 3 Galatians 2	Proverbs 10 Ephesians 3	Proverbs 17 Philippians 4
Monday, March 3	Monday, March 10	Monday, March 17	Monday, March 24	Monday, March 31
Job 32 2 Corinthians 2	Job 39 2 Corinthians 9	Proverbs 4 Galatians 3	Proverbs 11 Ephesians 4	Proverbs 18 Colossians 1
Tuesday, March 4	Tuesday, March 11	Tuesday, March 18	Tuesday, March 25	
Job 33 2 Corinthians 3	Job 40 2 Corinthians 10	Proverbs 5 Galatians 4	Proverbs 12 Ephesians 5	
Wednesday, March 5	Wednesday, March 12	Wednesday, March 19	Wednesday, March 26	
Job 34 2 Corinthians 4	Job 41 2 Corinthians 11	Proverbs 6 Galatians 5	Proverbs 13 Ephesians 6	
Thursday, March 6	Thursday, March 13	Thursday, March 20	Thursday, March 27	
Job 35 2 Corinthians 5	Job 42 2 Corinthians 12	Proverbs 7 Galatians 6	Proverbs 14 Philippians 1	
Friday, March 7	Friday, March 14	Friday, March 21	Friday, March 28	
Job 36 2 Corinthians 6	Proverbs 1 2 Corinthians 13	Proverbs 8 Ephesians 1	Proverbs 15 Philippians 2	

Scan to join the
online reading
plan and
discussions.



Easter Lilies

The Worship Committee would like your help. Each year we like to make a visual contrast from Good Friday to Easter morning. We do this by decorating with black for Good Friday then lots of Easter lilies on Easter morning. The worship committee will pick up Easter lilies for Easter Sunday. We would like to give the opportunity to purchase a lily in memory of a loved one or in honor of one. These names will be included in the weekly announcement sheet on Easter. **Please sign up in the church basement by Sunday, April 13.** The cost per lily is \$12.00. Order forms are available in the church basement. Place your order for and the money in a provided envelope and place it in the Easter lily box. Please plan to pick up your lilies after worship on Easter or on Sunday, April 27. Thanks for helping to beautify our Easter worship.

Church Choir and 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, March 4 at 6:30. Please contact Mrs. Kuchenbecker if you have any questions or suggestions for other rehearsal options. Spread the word. Hope to see you there!

Church Choir meets Wednesdays in the month of March at 7:45 pm after midweek Lenten worship.

Thank You

Thank you to the many volunteers, helpers, and more who help keep our church and school running smoothly!

4K - 5K Enrollment

Please talk to Mrs. Zeamer or Mr. Geidel to register for 4K or 5K. You can fill out the intent to enroll form on our website. If you know of someone in the area that is looking for an early childhood education opportunity, recommend ours!

SCHOOL NEWS

4k and 5k

Mrs. Geidal

I cannot believe we are in the month of March already. This year has just flown by. These sweet lambs continue to work hard every day and grow in all they do. In Bible class this month we are going to learn all about Jesus healing the ten sick men, Mary and Martha, Jesus blessing the Children, and Zacchaeus. In math, the 5K students are learning to count numbers to 100 and begin our unit on identifying and describing shapes. The 4K students are learning to compare numbers to 10. In reading, the 5K students will learn some new tricky words and also learn about double-letter spelling. 4K is on their plant unit and they are learning all about the different plant parts and what they need to survive. In social studies, the 5K students will wrap up their unit on Then and Now and will begin their unit on their community. In science, we will learn all about objects in motion. The first week of March is Read Across America Week and we will celebrate by dressing up each day. We are also looking forward to a trip to see The Gruffalo's Child Musical and spring break.

1st and 2nd Grade

Mrs. Kuchenbecker

What's new in grades 1-2. We studied clocks, money, and place value to the hundreds. The second graders are learning to write in cursive. The students continue reading many books to move their fish on our reading challenge maps. Many have completed the first round already! Way to go super readers! We had fun putting on our class play The Little Engine That Could Sing. If you didn't get to see our show, there are lots of pictures that you can check out on our school Facebook page. We learned about the pioneers and how travel has changed from the past. We made model covered wagons and pretended to take a wagon train to Oregon. What an adventure! We went to Rock K Ranch and got to see a real covered wagon. We also enjoyed visiting the farm animals. Till next month – God's blessings from grades 1-2.

3rd and 4th Grade

Mrs. Hagenow

It's hard to believe that we are entering the 3rd quarter later this month! In ChristLight, we are continuing our study of parables and the earthly lessons they teach us, along with their heavenly meanings. We will be working on multiplying fractions and diving into decimals in math. We will be starting to learn basic notes on our recorders in music class and learning some songs. In Science, we will be studying electromagnets and observing different kinds of energy. If you miss our class play at the end of February, you will be able to see lots of pictures by visiting Morrison Zion Lutheran School's Facebook page. God's blessings on your March!

5th and 6th Grade

Mrs. Richter

The class, along with 7 & 8, went to the Children's Choral Festival on Friday, Feb. 21. This was a wonderful experience for them, to use their talents to praise God! On Feb. 25, the class went on a field trip, with 7 & 8, to Luke's Laboratory in Wrightstown. This company works with 3-D printing. The class continues to study and learn about the American Indians in Amplify, our Language Arts series. We are grateful to have a gym to use during these cold Wisconsin days! It allows the children to still have a recess in which they can run around!

7th and 8th Grade

Mr. Geidal

The upper graders used February to grow in their spiritual and academic knowledge. We have moved from our topical Christ Light lessons in the first half of the school year to a weekly Bible study of the book of Acts. In ELA we continue to study how the brain impacts development. We had our 4K/5K reading buddies assist us with a marshmallow test. This test brought on a debate within the 7th and 8th grade class to decide who could catch a marshmallow in their mouth from the farthest distance. With the help of some MZLS alumni from FVL, we were able to conduct our own marshmallow test as they caught the marshmallows. We have our upcoming science fair at MZLS along with the academic fair and music festival at MLHS.

On Wednesday, April 2nd, the upper graders will go to Fox Valley Lutheran High School for Discover FVL.

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.

Morrison Zion Lutheran Church

Church: 7395 County Road W
Greanleaf, WI 54126
(920) 864-2349

School: 7373 County Road W
Greanleaf, WI 54126
(920) 864-2349

Website: www.mzluth.org
Email: church@mzls.org
school@mzls.org

Pastor: James Enderle
james.enderle@mzls.org
(920) 949-1038

Principal: Jake Geidel
jacob.geidel@mzls.org
(920) 253-2859



Address Service Requested

Non-Profit Organization

U.S. Postage

PAID

Permit No. 6

The Christian Light
March 2025



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

FVL A Cappella Choir - Sunday, March 30

The FVL A Cappella Choir will be at Morrison Zion on Sunday, March 30, 2025, at 8 am and 10:30 am. Volunteers are needed to make and hand out the breakfast to the choir. Please contact Taylor Bruss taylor.bruss10@gmail.com or text at 920-264-8149 with question or if you have a thriver card you can donate. You can also scan the QR Code to sign up to bring food.



Child Care for 8 am Worship



We're excited to announce a trial run of childcare for 1-4 year-olds during the 8 a.m. service on select Sundays (March 2 & 16, April 6, and May 18)! This is a great opportunity for parents to participate fully in the service while their little ones are cared for in a safe and nurturing environment. You can make use of this the whole service or for a part of the service like the sermon. Scan the QR Code to learn.

Music Night

Music Night will be held at 6:00pm on Friday, March 7. This concert will feature all of our instrumentalists in grades 5-8. All are invited to hear our young musicians. Refreshments will be available after the concert. We hope you can join us for this musical event in the school gym.

Music Fest

The MLHS Music Fest will be held April 5. Our musically gifted students get to praise God with their talents!

Blindmens Volleyball

Join us Saturday, March 29. The Adult Tournament is from 9 am-2:30 pm and the Youth Tournament is from 3:30 pm to 7 pm. Scan the QR Code to sign up.

