

Our Stewardship of the Means of Grace:

Worship: 316 (37, 289) **Bible Study:** 57 (8, 2, 47)

Sunday 1:00 p.m. Timber-Rattlers Game Outing
6:00 p.m. Band
7:00 p.m. Youth Group Softball at Rheaume Park

Wednesday 6:30 p.m. Band plays at Music in the Park

Thursday 1:00 p.m. Fun Day
5:30 p.m. Cook Out Meal
7:00 p.m. 19-Minute Bible Study, pavilion
7:30 p.m. Outdoor Worship

Saturday Softball Tournament

Sunday 8:25 a.m. 19-Minute Bible Study, church
9:00 a.m. Worship
10:00 a.m. Open Forum
7:00 p.m. Youth Group Softball

Communion is a part of worship today. Because God speaks of communing together as an expression of unity in faith we practice close communion. All WELS/ELS members are welcome to commune with us. Visitors, please speak with the pastor or an elder before communing.

Band will meet at 6:00 p.m. on Sunday.

19-Minute Bible Study These classes meet a half hour before worship on Thursday and Sunday. Join us and keep discussing God’s Word with fellow Christians through the summer!

Music In the Park Our band will play for Music in the Park at Way-Mor Park this Wednesday, July 1 at 6:30 p.m. Join us if your are able!

Summer Spiritual Growth There are ways you can continue to grow in faith and knowledge this summer outside of worship and group Bible Study. In the basement there is a table displaying new items that we have received for the church library. Check out all of the various topics that are covered. There are devotionals, *People’s Bible* commentaries, *People’s Bible Teaching* books, books about lives of people from the Bible, books on depression, history and much more. There are also a number of *Forward in Christ* magazines that are free for the taking on the table where you usually find cookies. Also, don’t forget about the *Meditations*. This is an excellent resource for daily time with God’s Word. Pick one up today!

Outdoor Worship Service This Thursday, July 2 we will have an outdoor service. At 5:30 p.m. we will have hot dogs and hamburgers ready to eat. Please bring a dish to share and your own drinks. There is a sign up sheet in the basement. Please sign up so we know how many hamburgers and hot dogs to make. After worship we will have a bonfire. Join us and bring a friend!

Open Forum Next Sunday after worship there will be an Open Forum. Everyone in the congregation is invited to attend and ask any questions they have or offer any input about the ministry of our congregation.

Mission Festival On Thursday, July 9 and Sunday July 12 Missionary Brad Wordell will be our guest pastor. Missionary Wordell served as our missionary in Japan. After worship on July 12 there will be a presentation about our work in Japan. Ladies Aid will serve sandwiches in the basement after the presentation. Join us!

Dive In is the theme of this summer’s Vacation Bible School which will be July 13–17, 9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. We need children to invite their friends, relatives, and neighbors to *Dive Into* God’s Word with us. We also need teens and adults to help with Bible stories, crafts, games, and refreshments. Even if you can spare only an hour, we can us your help! Sign up in the church basement, or call Becky Zittlow at 864-2545 or Carrie Cappelle 864-2954 or say yes if someone asks you to use your talents to serve the Lord.

New Life In Christ Adult Information Class We will start another *New Life in Christ* class later this summer. This is a 20 lesson class the reviews the basic teachings of God’s Word. If you would like to learn what our congregation teaches or review what you learned in confirmation then this is the class for you. If you or anyone you know is interested in joining our congregation then this is the class for you. If anyone is interested, please contact Pastor Ott. Classes will begin towards the end of summer.

Questions/Comments about our congregation may be directed to:

Pastor Randy Ott	ottrr@mzluth.org	864-2348
Principal Brian Humann		864-2349
President Jade Witt		983-2829
Board of Elders: Lloyd Lemke		864-7740
Board of Education: Jeremy Zirbel		864-2584

School Faculty: Brenda Kuchenbecker, Joan Wegner, Brian Humann, Rick Muchka

Today’s Organist: Jackie Zeamer

Website: www.mzluth.org **Synod Website:** www.wels.net

Custodian: Beverly Leiterman 864-2355

Church and School Secretary: Nancy Pantzlaff 864-7334

Wisconsin Lutheran Child and Family Service (WELS counseling)
Kathleen Jasman, Administrator, Appleton 731-9798

Living Hope Counseling Ministries (WELS counseling)
Dr. John Johnson, Director, De Pere 338-8699

4th Sunday after Pentecost
June 25 & 28, 2009

Prayer before worship

Lord, all too often I focus on my actions as though they lead you to love me. Help me today to see that you loved me when I was spiritually dead. Lead me to greater joy in living in love for you.. Amen

Lessons are on the back cover

Service

Word and Sacrament (p. 26)

Personal Preparation For Holy Communion

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Hymns

255, 188. 742, 544, 324

Prayer of the Day

O God, protector of all the faithful, you alone make strong; you alone make holy. Show us your mercy and forgive our sins day by day. Guide us through our earthly lives that we do not lose the things you have prepared for us in heaven; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Psalm of the Day

Psalm 92 (p. 101)

Sermon: Colossians 1:3-8
Who Thanks God For You?

For your faith
For your love

4th Sunday after Pentecost—Series B

The work of the gospel is invisible, but real. It is hidden, but with results that can be seen—even if the power behind those visible results remains a mystery. That is true of the kingdom of God, the church. It is no less true of the kingdom of God hidden within the individual member of the church. Faith that is the result of the living seed of the Word is alive and gives evidence of its life.

First Lesson: Jonah 3:1-10

Jonah found nothing but pain, despair, and death when he focused his attention on what could be seen and on how he felt about it. He had separated faith from consequent obedience in life. When he finally did what God told him to do, even though it seemed so foolish, then God gave life and rescue through the Word. Jonah was foolish when he ran away, and outwardly foolish when he finally did what God said. The only difference is that God's foolishness always proves wiser than the wisdom of men. So, hidden within our preaching of the law that offends and "turns off" so many is the power of God to humble, to destroy, to kill; and in the proclamation of the promises of the gospel that seem so foolish is life and salvation.

Then the word of the LORD came to Jonah a second time: "Go to the great city of Nineveh and proclaim to it the message I give you."

Jonah obeyed the word of the LORD and went to Nineveh. Now Nineveh was a very important city—a visit required three days. On the first day, Jonah started into the city. He proclaimed: "Forty more days and Nineveh will be overturned." The Ninevites believed God. They declared a fast, and all of them, from the greatest to the least, put on sackcloth.

When the news reached the king of Nineveh, he rose from his throne, took off his royal robes, covered himself with sackcloth and sat down in the dust. Then he issued a proclamation in Nineveh:

"By the decree of the king and his nobles:

Do not let any man or beast, herd or flock, taste anything; do not let them eat or drink. But let man and beast be covered with sackcloth. Let everyone call urgently on God. Let them give up their evil ways and their violence. Who knows? God may yet relent and with compassion turn from his fierce anger so that we will not perish."

When God saw what they did and how they turned from their evil ways, he had compassion and did not bring upon them the destruction he had threatened.

Psalm of the Day: Psalm 92 (p. 101)

Second Lesson: Colossians 1:3-8

Our use of the time we have and the things lent to us is important as the evidence of the hidden reality of who we are and where we are going. So then, who speaks about your congregation or about you in the ways Paul describes? Is the invisible faith separated from the visible life? The power of the Word is hidden. But its fruits should not be. It is only because of that hope hidden and given in the gospel that we see all things visible, not as ends in themselves, but as tools for expressing outwardly the faith that is hidden within.

We always thank God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, when we pray for you, because we have heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of the love you have for all the saints—the faith and love that spring from the hope that is stored up for you in heaven and that you have already heard about in the word of truth, the gospel that has come to you. All over the world this gospel is bearing fruit and growing, just as it has been doing among you since the day you heard it and understood God's grace in all its truth. You learned it from Epaphras, our dear fellow servant, who is a faithful minister of Christ on our behalf, and who also told us of your love in the Spirit.

Gospel: Mark 4:26-34

The field of the city, the small acre of the soul, both are brown and dead until the seed is scattered on it. What a waste of time it seems to be! And yet, hidden within the seed is life. It sprouts. It grows. So again the question begs to be asked: Where are you in this barren field? Has the seed taken root? Has it triumphed over obstacles and sprouted? Is it still young and tender? Is it finally useful in service? Every time you see a plant growing, be reminded of these questions.

He also said, "This is what the kingdom of God is like. A man scatters seed on the ground. Night and day, whether he sleeps or gets up, the seed sprouts and grows, though he does not know how. All by itself the soil produces grain—first the stalk, then the head, then the full kernel in the head. As soon as the grain is ripe, he puts the sickle to it, because the harvest has come."

Again he said, "What shall we say the kingdom of God is like, or what parable shall we use to describe it? It is like a mustard seed, which is the smallest seed you plant in the ground. Yet when planted, it grows and becomes the largest of all garden plants, with such big branches that the birds of the air can perch in its shade."

With many similar parables Jesus spoke the word to them, as much as they could understand. He did not say anything to them without using a parable. But when he was alone with his own disciples, he explained everything.

Morrison Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church

Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod

Our mission is to honor God as we help people Grow in the Gospel and Go with the Gospel

*The kingdom of God...
is like a mustard seed...*

Mark 4:30-31



Welcome! We thank God that you have joined us at worship today. Please sign our guest book near the double door entrance. Restrooms are in the basement near the double stairs.

Today we gather together in the very presence of God. He is present among us in a special way through his Word and Sacrament. We humbly acknowledge our sin and rejoice in the good news of forgiveness through the life and death of Christ. This is the focus of all of our worship.