

# 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*

**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.

**2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent: Series C Supplement Lectionary** Dec. 6, 2009

*The judgment is coming; prepare the way for the Lord's salvation.*

*Repent.*

**Preservice:** Marissa Leick, Rachel Ihlenfeldt, Hannah Ihlenfeldt & Brianna Leick

**Hymns:** 16, 20, 27

**Order of Worship:** Gathering Rite, Common Service p. 17

**Prayer before worship:** *Lord, keep me focused on the things that have eternal importance. Amen.*

## Gathering Rite

*Music chosen for the seasons of the church year has the capacity to set the tone for a particular celebration. This year during the Sundays of Advent we will use the Advent Gathering Song as our Gathering Rite to set a tone of expectant preparation for Christ's coming. The Advent Gathering Song is written in the spirit of Taizé, with a refrain sung continuously by the congregation as the choir sings superimposed verses.*

## ADVENT GATHERING SONG

Gently *mp* James J. Chepponis

Come, come Em - man - u - el.

Come, Em - man - u - el.

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**Choir:** Come, come Emmanuel. Come, Emmanuel.

**Cong:** **Come, come Emmanuel. Come, Emmanuel.**

**Cong: Come, come Emmanuel. Come, Emmanuel.**

*Choir: By the light of his glory we*

**Cong: Come, come Emmanuel. Come, Emmanuel.**

*Choir: God has done great things, so*

**Cong: Come, come Emmanuel. Come, Emmanuel.**

*Choir: Reap the harvest of justice, and*

**Cong: Come, come Emmanuel. Come, Emmanuel.**

*Choir: Oh make ready his way, and*

**Cong: Come, come Emmanuel. Come, Emmanuel.**

*Choir: Clear a path, for soon he will*

**Cong: Come, come Emmanuel. Come, Emmanuel.**

*Choir: All shall see God's salvation and*

**Cong: Come, come Emmanuel. Come, Emmanuel.**

*The music continues softly as we speak the invocation, confession, absolution and prayer of the day.*

*Stand*

M: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen.**

M: Beloved in the Lord: let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins to God our Father, asking him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

**C: Holy and merciful Father, I confess that I am by nature sinful and that I have sinned against you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have done what is evil and failed to do what is good. For this I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity. But I am truly sorry for my sins, and trusting in my Savior Jesus Christ, I pray: Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner.**

M: God, our heavenly Father, has been merciful to us and has given his only Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen.**

M: The Lord be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

M: Let us pray.

Stir up our hearts, O Lord, to prepare the way for your only Son. By his coming give us strength in our conflicts and shed light on our path through the darkness of this world; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

*As the music grows louder the congregation again sings the refrain continuously as the choir sings the superimposed verses.*

**Cong: Come, come Emmanuel. Come, Emmanuel.**

*Choir: Lord, have mercy upon us and*

**Cong: Come, come Emmanuel. Come, Emmanuel.**

*Choir: Christ, have mercy upon us and*

**Cong: Come, come Emmanuel. Come, Emmanuel.**

*Choir: Lord, have mercy upon us and*

**Cong: Come, come Emmanuel. Come, Emmanuel.**

### **The Lighting of the Advent Candle**

**M:** We light two Advent candles remembering Jesus who came in history. He came into a world of sin and death.

**C:** **We remember Jesus who came as the promised Messiah. John the Baptist prepared the way of the Lord.**

**M:** We hear his call to repent.

**C:** **We light two Advent candles as a sign of our repentance and desire for renewal.**

**M:** Come, Lord Jesus, be our guest.

**C:** **Through your Word and Spirit may our souls be blessed.**

*Two Advent candles are lit.*

*Be Seated*

**Choir Anthem:** *Emmanuel*

Wednesday Choir

*The service continues on page 17 in Christian Worship: A Lutheran Hymnal.*

**First Lesson:** Malachi 3:1-4

*The Lord promises a herald to proclaim his coming. Let hearts be prepared; the Desire of Nations is about to come to his temple with judgment and the refiner's fire. Though no one can stand before his righteousness, yet there is righteousness for the purified and acceptance for those who heed the*

*messenger's call for preparation. Christ's first coming is then connected in prophetic perspective to His second and final coming on the Last Day. "The messenger of the covenant" is coming to eternally restore the righteousness of the Lord.*

"See, I will send my messenger, who will prepare the way before me. Then suddenly the Lord you are seeking will come to his temple; the messenger of the covenant, whom you desire, will come," says the LORD Almighty.

But who can endure the day of his coming? Who can stand when he appears? For he will be like a refiner's fire or a launderer's soap. He will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver; he will purify the Levites and refine them like gold and silver. Then the LORD will have men who will bring offerings in righteousness, and the offerings of Judah and Jerusalem will be acceptable to the LORD, as in days gone by, as in former years.

### **Psalm of the Day:** Psalm 24 (page 73)

### **Second Lesson:** 1 Corinthians 4:1-5

*The Lord's Apostle Paul lovingly instructs the divisive Corinthians on the importance of faithful messengers. Paul understands his role (and the role of his fellow "servants") as one in which he proclaims a message that God has given as a preparation for that time "when the Lord comes." Anticipating the coming judgment, the faithful preacher will prepare people with God's message so that they can receive "praise from God."*

So then, men ought to regard us as servants of Christ and as those entrusted with the secret things of God. Now it is required that those who have been given a trust must prove faithful. I care very little if I am judged by you or by any human court; indeed, I do not even judge myself. My conscience is clear, but that does not make me innocent. It is the Lord who judges me. Therefore judge nothing before the appointed time; wait till the Lord comes. He will bring to light what is hidden in darkness and will expose the motives of men's hearts. At that time each will receive his praise from God.

### **Gospel:** Luke 3:1-6

*"When the time had fully come," the great forerunner, the promised messenger of preparation, John the Baptizer appeared. As Malachi predicted and as Paul encouraged, John was a faithful preacher of repentance by which the people of God were truly prepared in head and heart.*

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar—when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, Herod tetrarch of Galilee, his brother Philip tetrarch of Iturea and Traconitis, and Lysanias tetrarch of Abilene— during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the desert. He went into all the country around the Jordan, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. As is

written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet:

"A voice of one calling in the desert,  
'Prepare the way for the Lord,  
make straight paths for him.

Every valley shall be filled in,  
every mountain and hill made low.

The crooked roads shall become straight,  
the rough ways smooth.

And all mankind will see God's salvation.' "

**Sermon:** Malachi 3:1-4

**Prepared For A Purpose**

To be refined

To respond in righteousness

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**Our Stewardship of the Means of Grace:**

**Worship:** 261      **Thanksgiving:** 323 (58, 265)      **Advent:** 188 (121, 67)

**Bible Study:** 84 (27, 20, 10, 6, 10, 11)

**Youth Study:** 15

Sunday      10:00 a.m. Sunday School  
                 7:00 p.m. New Life in Christ Class, church basement

Monday      7:00 a.m. His Word-My Life Class, church basement  
                 6:00 p.m. Choir  
                 7:00 p.m. Youth Group Bible Class, school

Tuesday      2:00 p.m. Bible Class, church  
                 7:00 p.m. Financial Peace University, commons

Wednesday 11:00 a.m. Midweek Advent Worship  
                 12:00 p.m. Soup Supper  
                 4:45 p.m. Confirmation Class  
                 5:30 p.m. Bible History Class  
                 6:30 p.m. Soup Supper  
                 7:30 p.m. Midweek Advent Worship

Sunday      8:00 a.m. Adult Christ-Light Study, church basement  
                 8:00 a.m. Bible Study, school commons  
                 9:00 a.m. Worship with Communion  
                 10:00 a.m. Sunday School  
                 10:00 a.m. Church Band, school  
                 7:00 p.m. New Life in Christ Class, church basement

**It has pleased** our heavenly Father to call the soul of Elroy Wegner to his eternal home. Elroy died on Thursday, November 26. He received a Christian Funeral at Morrison Zion on Tuesday, December 1. Please remember all who mourn Elroy's death in your prayers.

**Advent Midweek Worship** We will worship at 11:00 a.m. and 7:30 p.m.

The theme of our worship this year is "My Soul in Stillness Waits" based on hymn 703 in the Supplement. As we go through a season that

challenges stress levels what a wonderful opportunity our God gives us to pause and be refreshed in quiet contemplation of his grace!

**Advent Soup Suppers** There will be a soup supper served after the 11:00 a.m. midweek service and an hour before the 7:30 p.m. service on Wednesdays. If you would like to make soup, bars, help set up, or help serve, please sign up on the sheet in the basement or talk to Paula Ott.

**Youth Group Free Babysitting Night** Looking for a night out? Need to get some holiday shopping done? The Youth Group is once again having a Free Babysitting Night on Saturday, December 12, 6:00 – 9:00 p.m. Children ages 3+ are welcome to join us for games, snacks, and movies. Sign up sheets are available in the church basement and the school commons.

**Breaking Down Barriers** The amount committed to the appeal so far is \$89,109. Of this amount, \$25,000 has been received in initial gifts. We thank God that he has moved his people to respond with gifts given in love to support the ministry of our congregation. These gifts will be used first to pay off the loan that was taken to build the addition on the school. When that is paid off the gifts will be used to reduce our line of credit loan at the bank. If you would still like to return your commitment card you may do so any week in worship by placing it in the offering plate during worship.

**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, Tim Pingel

**Website:** [www.mzluth.org](http://www.mzluth.org)      **Synod Website:** [www.wels.net](http://www.wels.net)

**Custodian:** Beverly Leiterman      864-2355

**Church and School Secretary:** Nancy Pantzloff      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