

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.

3rd Sunday of Advent: Series C Supplement Lectionary Dec. 13, 2009
Rejoice at the Lord's Coming Deliverance.

Personal Preparation for Holy Communion: p. 156

Hymns: 296, 14, 309, 32, 15, 745

Order of Worship: Baptism, p. 13 Gathering Rite, Word and Sac. p. 29

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

Gathering Rite

ADVENT GATHERING SONG

Gently James J. Chepponis
mp

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: Shout for joy, for the Lord has

Cong: Come, come Emmanuel. Come, Emmanuel.

Choir: Oh fear not, for God has

Cong: Come, come Emmanuel. Come, Emmanuel.

Choir: Oh rejoice in the Lord, and

Cong: Come, come Emmanuel. Come, Emmanuel.

Choir: In your midst is the Lord, so

Cong: Come, come Emmanuel. Come, Emmanuel.

Choir: For the Lord who is near will

Cong: Come, come Emmanuel. Come, Emmanuel.

Choir: He will baptize in Spirit and

Cong: Come, come Emmanuel. Come, Emmanuel.

Stand

M: God invites us to come into his presence and worship him with humble and penitent hearts. Therefore, let us acknowledge our sinfulness and ask him to forgive us.

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.

Hear our prayers, Lord Jesus Christ, and come with the good news of your mighty deliverance. Drive the darkness from our hearts and fill us with your light; for you live and reign with the Father 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 three Advent candles remembering Jesus, the light of the world. He came to cast out the prince of darkness.

C: **We remember Jesus who came in answer to his people's prayers. John proclaimed him the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.**

M: We hear his call to see the light.

C: **We light three Advent candles as a sign of our trust and confidence.**

M: Come, Lord Jesus, be our guest.

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

Three Advent candles are lit.

Be Seated

Choir Anthem: *Happy Advent Glad New Year*

Grades 5-6

The service continues on page 29 in Christian Worship: A Lutheran Hymnal.

First Lesson: Nehemiah 8:9-18

As the returning exiles celebrated the Feast of Tabernacles for the first time since settling back into Jerusalem, they listened to the Lord's instruction. When the people heard the Law of God, they were filled with sorrow and dread. They wept at the Word of the Lord when they considered their lives. We, too, need to weep as we hear the Law of God, but God comes to us with a message able to make us rejoice even in the face of our sinful shortcomings, "Do not grieve, for the joy of the LORD is your strength."

Then Nehemiah the governor, Ezra the priest and scribe, and the Levites who were instructing the people said to them all, "This day is sacred to the LORD your God. Do not mourn or weep." For all the people had been weeping as they listened to the words of the Law.

Nehemiah said, "Go and enjoy choice food and sweet drinks, and send some to those who have nothing prepared. This day is sacred to our Lord. Do not grieve, for the joy of the LORD is your strength."

The Levites calmed all the people, saying, "Be still, for this is a sacred day. Do not grieve."

Then all the people went away to eat and drink, to send portions of food and to celebrate with great joy, because they now understood the words that had been made known to them.

On the second day of the month, the heads of all the families, along with the priests and the Levites, gathered around Ezra the scribe to give attention to the words of the Law. They found written in the Law, which the LORD had commanded through Moses, that the Israelites were to live in booths during the

feast of the seventh month and that they should proclaim this word and spread it throughout their towns and in Jerusalem: "Go out into the hill country and bring back branches from olive and wild olive trees, and from myrtles, palms and shade trees, to make booths"-as it is written.

So the people went out and brought back branches and built themselves booths on their own roofs, in their courtyards, in the courts of the house of God and in the square by the Water Gate and the one by the Gate of Ephraim. The whole company that had returned from exile built booths and lived in them. From the days of Joshua son of Nun until that day, the Israelites had not celebrated it like this. And their joy was very great.

Day after day, from the first day to the last, Ezra read from the Book of the Law of God. They celebrated the feast for seven days, and on the eighth day, in accordance with the regulation, there was an assembly.

Psalms of the Day: Psalm 130 (page 114)

Second Lesson: Philippians 4:4-7

As we anticipate the coming deliverance, Paul says, "Rejoice always," for "the Lord is near." Let our Advent joy be expressed in prayer and thanksgiving that stem from God's peace, given us in his gift of his Son as our Savior.

Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Gospel: Luke 3:7-18

John minced no words in his message, neither to those hypocrites who did not want to listen to John's call to repentance nor to those believers who heeded John's call and desired to change their ways. So near is the Lord's judgment that the ax man has already placed his blade on the trunk to line up his first swing. Yet with repentance comes good news: the winnowing fork in his hand does more than expose the chaff in the winds of judgment, it gathers the wheat into his barn. Rejoice!

John said to the crowds coming out to be baptized by him, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? Produce fruit in keeping with repentance. And do not begin to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our father.' For I tell you that out of these stones God can raise up children for Abraham. The axe is already at the root of the trees, and every tree that does not produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire."

"What should we do then?" the crowd asked.

John answered, "The man with two tunics should share with him who has none, and the one who has food should do the same."

Tax collectors also came to be baptized. "Teacher," they asked, "what should we do?"

"Don't collect any more than you are required to," he told them.

Then some soldiers asked him, "And what should we do?"

He replied, "Don't extort money and don't accuse people falsely—be content with your pay."

The people were waiting expectantly and were all wondering in their hearts if John might possibly be the Christ. John answered them all, "I baptize you with water. But one more powerful than I will come, the thongs of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his barn, but he will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire." And with many other words John exhorted the people and preached the good news to them.

Sermon: Nehemiah 8:9-18 Rejoice in God's Word!

Understanding brings joy

Joy comes from the Lord our strength

Our Stewardship of the Means of Grace:

Worship: 313 **Advent:** cancelled **Bible Study:** 73 (27, 24, 9, 5, 8) **Youth Study:** 11

Sunday	10:00 a.m.	Sunday School
	10:00 a.m.	Band
	7:00 p.m.	New Life in Christ Class, church basement
Monday	7:00 a.m.	His Word-My Life Class, church basement
	9:30 a.m.	Naomi Circle at Oak Street Café
	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
	7:00 p.m.	Bread for Life Bible Class, school conference room
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
Friday	7:30 p.m.	Midweek Advent Worship
	7:00 p.m.	Band
	8:00 p.m.	Band and Choir
Sunday	8:00 a.m.	Adult Christ-Light Study, church basement
	8:00 a.m.	Bible Study, school commons
	9:00 a.m.	Worship, choir concert
	10:00 a.m.	Sunday School
	10:00 a.m.	Church Band, school
	7:00 p.m.	New Life in Christ Class, church basement

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 members are welcome to commune with us. Visitors, please speak with the pastor or an elder before communing.

Baptism This morning Kiley Marie Hassemer will be baptized into Christ. Kiley, the daughter of Brad and Brenda Hassemer, was born on Nov. 19, 2009. Please remember this new child of God and her family in prayer!

It has pleased our heavenly Father to call the soul of Ralph Kitzerow to his eternal home. Ralph died on Wednesday, December 9. His funeral will be at Shrine of the Good Shepherd Mausoleum in Green Bay on Monday at 1:00 p.m. Visitation is from 11:30 a.m. until the time of the service. Please remember all who mourn Ralph's death in your prayers.

Bread of Life will meet Tuesday at 7:00 p.m. We will make Shepherd's Pie. Please bring a 9x13 pan. If you need Paula to pick up the ingredients let her know today.

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 Join us after the morning service or an hour before the evening service.

Choir Concert The choir concert will be next Sunday at 9:00 a.m. Please join us as we focus on the names of our Savior. Please bring finger food to serve in the basement after worship.

Stamps If you wish to donate stamps, please put them in the container in the church basement. Remember to cut ¼ inch around the cancelled stamp.

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. If you would still like to return your commitment card you may do so by placing it in the offering plate.

Questions/Comments about our congregation may be directed to:

Pastor Randy Ott	ottr@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 **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