

Morrison Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church

Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod

*Our mission is to **Glorify 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.

2nd Sunday after Christmas January 2, 2011

The Incarnation reveals the unseen God to the eyes of the faithful. The light of Christ illuminates hearts and eyes once darkened by sin (Prayer of the Day).

Service: Word (p.36)

Hymns: 43, 34, 33, 50

Prayer of the Day: Almighty God, you have filled us with the new light of the Word who became flesh and lived among us. Let the light of our faith shine in all that we do; through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

First Lesson: Genesis 16:1-16

Abram and Sarai believed in the promise of God, but ten years of waiting caused doubts. They did not act according to God's revelation. Hagar conceived, but was mistreated by Sarai and fled into the desert—pregnant, alone, helpless. Then the angel of the LORD, the pre-incarnate Messiah, appears for the first time in the Old Testament and makes the unseen God known by loving the unloved, caring for the abandoned, and helping the helpless. The angel of the LORD spoke words of prophecy and revelation to Hagar that revealed what God is like. He is a God who hears and a God who sees and cares for us. Like Hagar, in Christ we now have seen the One who sees us.

Psalm of the Day: Psalm 148 (page 121)

Second Lesson: Ephesians 1:3-14

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ. For

he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. In love he predestined us to be adopted as his sons through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will—to the praise of his glorious grace, which he has freely given us in the One he loves. In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace that he lavished on us with all wisdom and understanding. And he made known to us the mystery of his will according to his good pleasure, which he purposed in Christ, to be put into effect when the times will have reached their fulfillment—to bring all things in heaven and on earth together under one head, even Christ.

In him we were also chosen, having been predestined according to the plan of him who works out everything in conformity with the purpose of his will, in order that we, who were the first to hope in Christ, might be for the praise of his glory. And you also were included in Christ when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation. Having believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God's possession—to the praise of his glory.

Gospel: John 1: 14-18

The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

John testifies concerning him. He cries out,

saying, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me has surpassed me because he was before me.'" From the fullness of his grace we have all received one blessing after another. For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God, but God the One and Only, who is at the Father's side, has made him known.

Sermon: Genesis 16:1-16

Don't Lose Sight of the Unseen God

We give the wrong presents

God reveals his presence

Our Stewardship of the Means of Grace:

Worship: 239 **Communion:** 103

Festival: 202 **Communion:** 151

Candlelight: 48 **Children's:** 783 (321, 461)

Sunday 10:00 a.m. Sunday School

10:00 a.m. Ladies Aid

Sunday 9:00 a.m. Worship

10:00 a.m. Sunday School

10:00 a.m. Open Forum

Installation of Officers This morning after the offering we will have the installation of this year's church council. The members of this year's council are:

Erv Zeamer (president)

Alec Otto (secretary)

Nathan Jaschob (financial secretary)

Tom Soderlund (treasurer)

Junior Pantzlaff (elder)

David Wegner (elder)

John Ihlenfeldt (elder)

Eric Cappelle (school board)

Curt Nushart (school board)

Jim Laabs (school board).

Our thanks to the following men who have served the past three years: Jade Witt (president); Todd Leiberg (elder); Mike Zittlow (school board).

Sunday School will meet after worship today.

Daily Bible On New Year's Eve we were reminded that we fail like the flowers of the field,

but "the Word of the Lord stands forever." As a way for "failing flowers" to immerse ourselves in the timeless truths of God's Word we have 32 copies of *The NIV Daily Bible* available. Each day has readings from the Old and New Testaments, Psalms, and Proverbs. Begin any day you wish and 365 days later you will have read the entire Bible! Sign up for a copy in the basement.

Book Study On Sunday, January 16 at 7:00 p.m. we will begin our next book, *Handling the Word of Truth*. This book takes a summarizes and applies to modern life the writing of C.F.W. Walther, *The Proper Distinction Between Law and Gospel*. The book is written for the person in the pew to understand these important truths. In congregational life many want to use the law to motivate instead of the gospel. This book will help us understand the danger in going down this path. The cost of the book will be \$10. A sign up sheet for the book is in the basement.

Open Forum Next Sunday after worship there will be an open forum in the church. Everyone is welcome to attend and offer any comments or concerns about our congregation's ministry.

Questions/Comments about Zion? Contact:

Pastor Randy Ott 864-2348

Principal Brian Humann 864-2349

President Erv Zeamer 864-7243

Elders: Junior Pantzlaff 864-1563

School Board: Eric Cappelle 864-2954

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

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

Custodian: Beverly Leiterman 864-2355

Church/School Secretary:

Nancy Pantzlaff 864-7334

Wisconsin Lutheran Child and Family Service

Appleton (WELS counseling)

Kathleen Jasman, Administrator, 731-9798

Living Hope Counseling Ministries

De Pere (WELS counseling)

Dr. John Johnson, Director, 338-8699