

The Festival of the Nativity of Our Lord

December 25, 2011

Morrison Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church – WELS

Preservice Music: *“Joyful and Triumphant”* Band
 “Christmas Chorale and March”
 Go, Tell it on the Mountain”

Opening Hymn: *“Come, Your Hearts and Voices Raising”* Hymn 42

Stand

M: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.

C: (spoken) **And also with you.**

Confession of Sins

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 disobeyed 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: (spoken) **Amen.**

Prayer and Praise

Lord, Have Mercy (Kyrie)

M: For the blessed conviction that you are the Son of God, and that you were born in Bethlehem to keep the Law of God perfectly in our place and to give your life into death for our redemption, hear our prayer, O Lord.

C: (sung) **Lord have mercy.**

M: For the determination to proclaim the Gospel of forgiveness to all the world and to administer the Sacraments faithfully according to your institution, hear our prayer, O Christ.

C: (sung) **Christ have mercy.**

M: For your blessing on us as a fellowship of believers united in you and eager to do your will, hear our prayer, O Lord.

C: (sung) **Lord have mercy.**

M: Merciful Lord, open our eyes to behold your glory as the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

C: (sung) **Amen.**

M: The works of the Lord are great and glorious; his name is worthy of praise.

O Lord, Our Lord (sung)

C: O Lord, our Lord, how glorious is your name in all the earth.

Almighty God, merciful Father, you crown our life with your love. You take away our sins; you comfort our spirit; you make us pure and holy in your sight. You did not spare your only Son, but gave him up for us all.

O Lord, our Lord, how glorious is your name in all the earth.

O Son of God, eternal Word of the Father, you came to live with us; you made your Father known; you washed us from our sins in your own blood. You are the King of glory; you are the Lord!

O Lord, our Lord, how glorious is your name in all the earth.

Prayer of the Day

M: Almighty God, grant that the birth of your one and only Son in the flesh may set us free from our old bondage under the yoke of sin; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: (sung) **Amen.**

Be seated

The Word

First Scripture Lesson:

Isaiah 52:7-10

How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of those who bring good news, who proclaim peace, who bring good tidings, who proclaim salvation, who say to Zion, "Your God reigns!" Listen! Your watchmen lift up their voices; together they shout for joy. When the LORD returns to Zion, they will see it with their own eyes. Burst into songs of joy together, you ruins of Jerusalem, for the LORD has comforted his people, he has redeemed Jerusalem. The LORD will lay bare his holy arm in the sight of all the nations, and all the ends of the earth will see the salvation of our God.

Psalm of the Day:

Psalm 98 (CWS p.53)

Second Scripture Lesson:

Hebrews 1:1-9

In the past God spoke to our forefathers through the prophets at many times and in various ways, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom he made the universe. The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word. After he had provided purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty in heaven. So he became as much superior to the angels as the name he has inherited is superior to theirs.

For to which of the angels did God ever say, "You are my Son; today I have become your Father"? Or again, "I will be his Father, and he will be my Son"? And again, when God brings his firstborn into the world, he says, "Let all God's angels worship him." In speaking of the angels he says, "He makes his angels winds, his servants flames of fire." But about the Son he says, "Your throne, O God, will last for ever and ever, and righteousness will be the scepter of your kingdom. You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness; therefore God, your God, has set you above your companions by anointing you with the oil of joy."

Choir Anthem

Christmastime

Stand

The Gospel:

John 1:1-14

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning.

Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. In him was life, and that life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, but the darkness has not understood it.

There came a man who was sent from God; his name was John. He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all men might believe. He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light. The true light that gives light to every man was coming into the world.

He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God – children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God.

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.

M: This is the Gospel of our Lord.

C: (sung) Praise be to you, O Christ!

Be seated

Hymn: "Of the Father's Love Begotten" Hymn 35

Sermon: The Word Became Flesh Isaiah 52:7-10

Offering

Musical Offering: "Trilogy of Carols" Band

Stand

The Christmas Prayer

M: Father, we praise you for proclaiming to us the message of Christ, your Son, born to redeem us. We join the heavenly host of angels in lifting up our voices and shouting for joy at the good tidings of peace which you have brought us. We sing your praises for comforting us with the message of salvation.

C: Help us spread the good news of a Savior from sin to all the ends of the earth.

M: Gracious Lord God, we thank you for fulfilling the message you spoke through the prophets to send your Son to be born of a virgin. We praise you for speaking to us through your Son who is the very radiance of your glory and the exact representation of your being. We rejoice that your Son provided purification for all sins and still sustains all things by his powerful word.

C: Cause us to respond to the gift of you Son by returning to you the firstfruits of all we are and have.

M: Hear us, Lord, as we bring your our private petitions.

Silent prayer.

M: Merciful Father in heaven, as we today receive that assurance of our salvation in the blessed Sacrament of the Altar, help us recognize and appreciate the bond of faith that unites us. Preserve among us the right understanding and use of the Means of Grace, and assist us in passing on these precious treasures to the generations yet to come.

C: Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

The Sacrament

M: The Lord be with you.

C: (sung) And also with you.

M: Lift up your hearts.

C: (sung) **We lift them up to the Lord.**

M: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: (sung) **It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

M: Praise to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In love he has blessed us with every spiritual blessing. When the time had fully come, he sent his Son, born of a woman, born under law, to redeem those under law, that we might receive the full rights of sons. Now have come the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of his Christ. To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be praise and thanks and honor and glory for ever and ever.

Holy, Holy, Holy (*Sanctus*)

(sung) **Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts.**

The whole earth is full of your glory.

You are my God and I will exalt you.

I will give you thanks, for you have become my salvation.

Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts.

The whole earth is full of your glory.

Words of Institution

M: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

M: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: (sung) **Amen.**

O Christ, Lamb of God

(sung) **O Christ, Lamb of God, you take away the sin on the world; have mercy on us.**

O Christ, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

O Christ, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; grant us your peace. Amen.

Be seated

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 Pastor Ott or an elder before communing.

Distribution

Hymn 38
Hymn 57

Thanksgiving

Stand

Thank the Lord (sung)

Thank the Lord and sing his praise.

Tell ev'ryone what he has done.

Let all who seek the Lord rejoice and proudly bear his name.

**He renews his promises and leads his people forth in joy
with shouts of thanksgiving. Alleluia! Alleluia!**

M: Hear the prayer of your people, O Lord, that the lips which have praised you here may glorify you in the world, that the eyes which have seen the coming of your Son may long for his coming again, and that all who have received in his true body and blood the pledge of your forgiveness may be restored to live a new and holy life, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: (sung) **Amen.**

Benediction

M: Brothers and sisters, go in peace. Live in harmony with one another. Serve the Christ with gladness.

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor and give you peace

C: (sung) **Amen. Amen. Amen.**

Be seated

Closing Hymn:

"Joy to the World"

Hymn 62

Postlude

Our Stewardship of the Means of Grace

Worship: 420

Youth Study: 14

Saturday 7:30 p.m. New Year's Eve Worship, Communion
Sunday 9:00 a.m. Name of Jesus Worship, Communion

Welcome! We thank God that you have joined us at worship today. May God bless you as you hear his Word! If you are a guest, please sign our guest register near the church's main entrance. We invite you to worship with us again! Restrooms are in the basement near the steps in the back of the church.

Thank You Pastor Ott and his family thanks you for your cards and gifts this Christmas. Your expressions of love are a wonderful reflection of the love of Christ that lives in your hearts! Thank you!

New Year's Eve Worship will be at 7:30 p.m. on Saturday, December 31. Communion will be a part of worship.

New Year's Day Worship will be at 9:00 a.m. Communion will be a part of worship. We will celebrate one of the minor festivals of the church year, *The Name of Jesus*.

No Bible Class this week or next Sunday.

Poinsettias There is a signup sheet on the table in the basement for poinsettias. Please sign up today!

NIV Daily Bibles There are 22 NIV Daily Bible available for free! The signup sheet is in the basement. If you would like one, please sign up today. These Bibles are divided into 365 daily readings, a reading from the Old Testament, a reading from the New Testament, and a reading from Psalms or Proverbs. Using this Bible will aid you in reading the entire Bible in 365 days! The Bibles are a gift from Paula and Randy Ott.

Church Basement Ceiling and Lighting Work on this project will begin on Monday, December 26 at 9:00 a.m. We will work all week on completing this project. If you would like to help during the week please contact David and Connie Blauert at 864-2400 for times that we will work. Many hands are needed for this project. Thanks for your help!

Groups, committee's, organizations, please submit your year end reports highlighting what you group did during 2011 by January 3. You can email them to pantzna@mzluth.org.

NEW Zoo Day January 14 for 2-5 year olds. Please invite 2-5 year olds to join us. If you would like info on ways to help please contact Mr. Humann.

The Book Study will not meet again until January 8. Our first class will put into practice what we learned in the book, *Bible Basics*. Read the book of Titus in the New Testament. Look at who wrote the book, who they were writing to, what they were writing about. Then read the book and bring to class the insights you gleaned for your life and any questions you may have about the things you read. We will discuss it together like we have been discussing the books we have read. The next book we will discuss is *One God—Two Covenants?*. This book is from the Bible Discovery series from NPH, the same series that published *Bible Basics*. The cost of the book is \$15. There is a sign up sheet with more information in the church basement.

International Student Opportunity! , MLHS is in need of two Christian homes to each host a male Chinese sophomore student arriving in mid-January for the second semester. This is an opportunity to learn about another culture without the commitment of a full academic year. MLHS host families receive a stipend for housing, meals, etc.; students arrive with their own insurance. MLHS provides support to host families regarding cultural adjustment, academics, social activities, etc. Please consider accepting Leo or Eric into your family to share the message of the Christ Child. Questions Contact Jen Pingel, International Student Coordinator at jpingel@mlhslancers.org or 664-1489.

Questions/Comments about Zion? Contact:

Pastor Randy Ott	864-2348; 362-7118; ottrr@mzluth.org
Principal Brian Humann	864-2349
President Erv Zeamer	660-1161
Elders: Junior Pantzlaff	864-7563
School Board: Eric Cappelle	864-2954

Today's Organist: Brenda Kuchenbecker

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 (WELS counseling)
 Appleton, Kathleen Jasman, Administrator, 731-9798

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