

9:00 a.m. Worship

Thank You to everyone who helped with school cleaning this past week!

School Registration packets are in the church basement. Please pick yours up today!

Bible Class Next Sunday we will focus on “The Blessing and Comfort of Communion.” Please join us! We meet at 8:00 a.m. in the church basement.

The Believer Follows Christ is the eight week theme of worship. Today is week seven. The remaining topic we will look at is:

Followers of Christ find true treasure in trusting God’s promises
If you know of someone who could benefit from this topic in their walk with Jesus please invite them to join us!

The Voters set the times of worship at 8:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. This will begin the Sunday after Labor Day. Bible Class and Sunday School will meet at 9:15 a.m.

Questions/Comments about Zion? Contact:

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

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Pentecost 11 August 1 & 4, 2013

Earthly wealth is meaningless without God. The meaning of life cannot be found in the abundance of earthly possessions but in the abundance of heavenly blessings. The believer recognizes that everything the world seeks and offers is meaningless. Rather, he sets his heart on the treasure found in the fullness of Christ.

Service: Evening Prayer (p. 52) Thursday
Common Service (p. 15) Sunday

Hymns: 477, 484, 752, 482

Prayer of the Day: (Sunday) O God, you reveal your mighty power chiefly in showing mercy and kindness. Grant us the full measure of your grace that we may obtain your promises and become partakers of your heavenly glory; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

First Lesson: Ecclesiastes 1:2-2:18-26
The Teacher, King Solomon, had more riches and worldly pleasure than we can comprehend, but experience had taught him that they are meaningless, a chasing after the wind. Yet, in an effort to find meaning in life, so many pursue the “stuff” this sinful world offers. In the end, having the most toys adds up to nothing but an inheritance squandered by fools. Rather, true wealth, true value, true satisfaction only comes from the hand of God. If one seeks to find meaning in life, search no further than the wisdom and knowledge of God.

“Meaningless! Meaningless!”
says the Teacher.

“Utterly meaningless!

Everything is meaningless.”

I hated all the things I had toiled for under

**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.

Restrooms are located in the basement. Hearing loop headphones and Large Print Hymnals are available from an usher.

Today we gather together in the 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 our worship.

the sun, because I must leave them to the one who comes after me. And who knows whether that person will be wise or foolish? Yet they will have control over all the fruit of my toil into which I have poured my effort and skill under the sun. This too is meaningless. So my heart began to despair over all my toilsome labor under the sun. For a person may labor with wisdom, knowledge and skill, and then they must leave all they own to another who has not toiled for it. This too is meaningless and a great misfortune. What do people get for all the toil and anxious striving with which they labor under the sun? All their days their work is grief and pain; even at night their minds do not rest. This too is meaningless.

A person can do nothing better than to eat and drink and find satisfaction in their own toil. This too, I see, is from the hand of God, for without him, who can eat or find enjoyment? To the person who pleases him, God gives wisdom, knowledge and happiness, but to the sinner he gives the task of gathering and storing up wealth to hand it over to the one who pleases God. This too is meaningless, a chasing after the wind.

Psalm of the Day: Psalm 34 (p. 80)

Psalm Prayer: (Thursday) Dearest Lord, helper of the weary and the brokenhearted, we have tasted and seen that you are good and ready to help in time of trouble. Calm our minds with peace and make us radiant with joy; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Second Lesson: James 5:1-11

The trap has been set and sprung for those who seek after wealth. Their very actions accuse and condemn them. The idolatry of greed has seized their hearts, driving them to deception and even to the point of murder in order to satiate their carnal lusts. Here is warning for us as we recognize in ourselves the same epicurean aptitude so prevalent in our hedonistic society. But God be praised, the old Adam has been buried and the new man arisen in Christ. Our hearts no longer find comfort in the temporal, but only in the eternal. The imminent judgment of the Lord no longer threatens us, but comforts us as we patiently endure the temptations of the flesh and wait for the Lord.

Now listen, you rich people, weep and wail because of the misery that is coming on you. Your wealth has rotted, and moths have eaten your clothes. Your gold and silver are corroded. Their corrosion will testify against you and eat your flesh like fire. You have hoarded wealth in the last days. Look! The wages you failed to pay the workers who mowed your fields are crying out against you. The cries of the harvesters have reached the ears of the Lord Almighty. You have lived on earth in luxury and self-indulgence. You have fattened yourselves in the day of slaughter. You have condemned and murdered the innocent one, who was not opposing you.

Be patient, then, brothers and sisters, until the Lord's coming. See how the farmer waits for the land to yield its valuable crop, patiently

waiting for the autumn and spring rains. You too, be patient and stand firm, because the Lord's coming is near. Don't grumble against one another, brothers and sisters, or you will be judged. The Judge is standing at the door!

Brothers and sisters, as an example of patience in the face of suffering, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. As you know, we count as blessed those who have persevered. You have heard of Job's perseverance and have seen what the Lord finally brought about. The Lord is full of compassion and mercy.

Gospel: Luke 11:1-13

It is shocking to hear Jesus deny authority over anything, much less something as mundane as an inheritance. But finally, that is the point. Earthly wealth is meaningless. The man called Jesus "teacher" but hadn't learned the lesson. So Jesus teaches him and us how foolish it is to think that life consists of what we have. By contrast, the life of faith is lived in joyful thanksgiving for both the temporal and eternal blessings that come from above. By faith, this, then, is being rich toward God—a life of thanksgiving for all that he has given us through Jesus.

Someone in the crowd said to him, "Teacher, tell my brother to divide the inheritance with me."

Jesus replied, "Man, who appointed me a judge or an arbiter between you?" Then he said to them, "Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; life does not consist in an abundance of possessions."

And he told them this parable: "The ground of a certain rich man yielded an abundant harvest. He thought to himself, 'What shall I do? I have no place to store my crops.'

"Then he said, 'This is what I'll do. I will tear down my barns and build bigger ones, and there I will store my surplus grain. And I'll say to myself, 'You have plenty of grain laid up for many years. Take life easy; eat, drink and be merry.'"

"But God said to him, 'You fool! This very night your life will be demanded from you. Then who will get what you have prepared for yourself?'

"This is how it will be with whoever stores up things for themselves but is not rich toward God."

Sermon:

Ecclesiastes 1:2-2:18-26

The Believer Follows Christ

Followers of Christ Know That Earthly Wealth Is Meaningless

Our Stewardship of the Means of Grace:

Worship: 268 (36, 232) **Communion:** 164 **Bible Class:** 43

Tuesday 6:30 p.m. School Board

7:00 p.m. Worship Committee

Thursday 7:00 p.m. Worship

Sunday 8:00 a.m. "One Another" Study, church basement