

## Benediction

M: 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:

Hymn 415:1,4

### Today' Light Bible Readings

Week 16, Dec. 16—21

Monday	Deuteronomy 15-17
Tuesday	Deuteronomy 18-19
Wednesday	Deuteronomy 20-21
Thursday	Deuteronomy 22-23
Friday	Deuteronomy 24
Saturday	Deuteronomy 25-26

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## Advent 3

December 15, 2013

*In the Messiah's kingdom things are not always what they seem. Appearances can be deceiving and lead to doubt. In the Prayer of the Day the Church asks Christ to drive the darkness of doubt from our hearts and fill us with the light of the knowledge of Christ. Faith in Christ leads us to patiently hope in the Lord's caring plan despite any appearances to the contrary.*

### 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 verses.*

ADVENT GATHERING SONG

Gently *mp* James J. Chepponis

Come, come Emmanuel. Come, Emmanuel.

Come, Emmanuel. Come, Emmanuel.

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Choir: Come, come Emmanuel. Come, Emmanuel.

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

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

Choir: See the glory of God and

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

Choir: Oh be strong, fear not and

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

Choir: For our God comes to save us, so

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

Choir: Oh be patient, the Lord will

## 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.

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

Choir: Bring good news to the poor and

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

Choir: For the way is prepared, so

**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.

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 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

**Sermon**

**Job 1:6-22**

**Promises Made: God's Kingdom Gives Us Strength and Courage**

*STAND*

**Create in Me** (sung)

*Following the sermon, the congregation stands to sing this short canticle, which, in the words of the Psalmist (Psalm 51:10-12), prays for a clean heart and a renewed spirit in response to God's gift of grace.*

**C: Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me  
Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me.  
Restore unto me the joy of your salvation, and uphold me with your free Spirit. Amen.**

*BE SEATED*

**Offering** *During the offering, please sign the friendship register in your pew. Thank you!*

*STAND*

**Prayer of the Church**

Advent (p. 123 of CW)

**Lord's Prayer**

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

**Hymn:**

Hymn 703

M: Almighty God, grant to your Church the Holy Spirit and the wisdom that comes from above. Let nothing hinder your Word from being freely proclaimed to the joy and edifying of Christ's holy people, so that we may serve you in steadfast faith and confess your name as long as we live, 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*

palaces. <sup>9</sup> Then what did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. <sup>10</sup> This is the one about whom it is written:

“I will send my messenger ahead of you,  
who will prepare your way before you.”

<sup>11</sup> Truly I tell you, among those born of women there has not risen anyone greater than John the Baptist; yet whoever is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he. (NIV)

M: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

### Apostles' Creed

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried.**

**He descended into hell.**

**The third day he rose again from the dead.**

**He ascended into heaven**

**and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty.**

**From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy Christian Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

*BE SEATED*

### Hymn of the Day:

Hymn 14

*The hymn is generally ascribed to Valentin Thilo Jr., although it might have been written by his father, who has the same name. The 19<sup>th</sup> century hymnologist Eduard Koch believed that in stanza 3 Thilo pictured the character of his sister, who was the wife of a Konigsburg pastor and who died of the pestilence on August 16, 1639.*

**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 desconfidencire for renewal.**

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*

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## THE WORD

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### First Lesson:

**Isaiah 35:1-10**

*The coming of the Messiah would change everything. A world destroyed by sin is filled with sorrow and sighing. But things are not always what they seem: A desert is a latent pool; thirsty ground is a future streambed; the blind are future seers, and the lame future leapers. Our certain knowledge that the earth is the Lord's and that he controls everything in it gives us patience and courage to wait for God to make what we see match what we know. Be strong, do not fear; your God will come. His promise to come strengthens feeble hands and fearful hearts. He will come with vengeance and retribution to redress the wrong and with redemption and rejoicing for God's people. Jesus fulfilled these words of prophecy in his acts of ministry so that God's people could see how near God's kingdom had come!*

**35** The desert and the parched land will be glad;

the wilderness will rejoice and blossom.

Like the crocus, <sup>2</sup> it will burst into bloom;

it will rejoice greatly and shout for joy.

The glory of Lebanon will be given to it,

the splendor of Carmel and Sharon;

they will see the glory of the LORD,

the splendor of our God.

<sup>3</sup> Strengthen the feeble hands,  
 steady the knees that give way;  
<sup>4</sup> say to those with fearful hearts,  
 “Be strong, do not fear;  
 your God will come,  
 he will come with vengeance;  
 with divine retribution  
 he will come to save you.”  
<sup>5</sup> Then will the eyes of the blind be opened  
 and the ears of the deaf unstopped.  
<sup>6</sup> Then will the lame leap like a deer,  
 and the mute tongue shout for joy.  
 Water will gush forth in the wilderness  
 and streams in the desert.  
<sup>7</sup> The burning sand will become a pool,  
 the thirsty ground bubbling springs.  
 In the haunts where jackals once lay,  
 grass and reeds and papyrus will grow.  
<sup>8</sup> And a highway will be there;  
 it will be called the Way of Holiness;  
 it will be for those who walk on that Way.  
 The unclean will not journey on it;  
 wicked fools will not go about on it.  
<sup>9</sup> No lion will be there,  
 nor any ravenous beast;  
 they will not be found there.  
 But only the redeemed will walk there,  
<sup>10</sup> and those the LORD has rescued will return.  
 They will enter Zion with singing;  
 everlasting joy will crown their heads.  
 Gladness and joy will overtake them,  
 and sorrow and sighing will flee away. (New International Version)

**Psalm of the Day:**

**Psalm 146** (p. 120 of CW)

**Second Lesson**

**James 5:7-11**

*Knowing what we do about Christ’s coming kingdom, we want it now. God’s encouragement, however, is for us to be patient. A farmer’s fields may look fallow or dead, but things are not always what they seem. The seed waits inside the earth for the rains and then bursts forth to life. When Christians face persecution or suffering, life can seem like a fallow field. While we wait for the rain, we struggle with questions and doubts. James reminds us that the fallow parts of our lives are simply waiting for God’s timing to bring*

*forth fruit in our lives. The Christian patiently waits for the Lord’s coming, when what we see will finally match what we know.*

<sup>7</sup> 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.<sup>8</sup> You too, be patient and stand firm, because the Lord’s coming is near. <sup>9</sup> Don’t grumble against one another, brothers and sisters, or you will be judged. The Judge is standing at the door!

<sup>10</sup> Brothers and sisters, as an example of patience in the face of suffering, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. <sup>11</sup> 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.(NIV)

**Verse of the Day**

M: Alleluia. I will send my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you.  
 Alleluia. (Matthew 11:10 cf. NIV)

**C: (sung) Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

*STAND*

*After the announcement of the Gospel, the congregation sings:*

**C: Glory be to you, O Lord!**

**Gospel:**

**Matthew 11:2-11**

*Things were not what they seemed. John languished in prison for preaching righteousness. When he saw the works of Jesus questions rose in his mind and doubt filled the hearts of his followers. John knew that Jesus was the Christ, but where were the acts of judgment promised? Why did John look like a failure and the wicked look like they were winning? John sends his disciples to the right place, to Jesus. When we take our doubts and questions to Jesus, he drives the darkness from our hearts and fills us with light. Jesus pointed to his works as signs from God fulfilling the words of the prophet and marking him as the Coming One. Jesus was far more than he appeared to be: he was the Messiah who makes the blind see, the dead live and the poor evangelized. Jesus then points to John and shows greatness hiding behind the cross and persecution. Though John did not seem it, he was the second Elijah and a prophet without peer.*

<sup>2</sup> When John, who was in prison, heard about the deeds of the Messiah, he sent his disciples <sup>3</sup> to ask him, “Are you the one who is to come, or should we expect someone else?”

<sup>4</sup> Jesus replied, “Go back and report to John what you hear and see: <sup>5</sup> The blind receive sight, the lame walk, those who have leprosy are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the good news is proclaimed to the poor. <sup>6</sup> Blessed is anyone who does not stumble on account of me.”

<sup>7</sup> As John’s disciples were leaving, Jesus began to speak to the crowd about John: “What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed swayed by the wind? <sup>8</sup> If not, what did you go out to see? A man dressed in fine clothes? No, those who wear fine clothes are in kings’



# News From Zion



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## Announcements

**Thank You** to Pastor Paul Kuehn for leading us in worship today. Pastor Kuehn served a church in Texas that eliminated his position for financial reasons. He is awaiting a call from the Lord to serve in a congregation. Please keep Pastor Kuehn and his family in your prayers!

**Pastor Ott** is in South Dakota attending the funeral of Ed Werner, the father of Paula Ott. He will return home on Monday. The commons study and the Today's Light class will not meet today.

**Today's Light Bible Discussion** will not meet this Sunday. Save your questions and comments until next Sunday! Reading guides are available in the basement and by the double doors at the back of church on the radiator.

**Promises Made Advent** This year our Sunday Advent worship will focus on *Promises Made*. Each week we look at a different promise to help us prepare to celebrate the upcoming festival of Christmas. Join us and bring a friend! The remaining weekly theme is:

*Promises Made: God's kingdom will come through the child Immanuel*

**Midweek Advent Worship** The theme of this year's midweek worship is: *Zion at Your Shining Gates*. The last themes is:  
Dec. 18 Zion At Your Shining Gates is your Peace

We will worship on Wednesdays at 11:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. Join us and bring a friend!

**Adult Christ Light** will meet next Sunday at 9:15 a.m. in the church. We will study the Old Testament this year.

**Choir and Band Concert** will be next Sunday in the 10:30 a.m. service. The worship committee will provide coffee and juice. You are welcome to bring bars or other food if you desire. If you have not come to the concert the past couple of years because the church is too full, remember that we now have a worship opportunity at 8:00 a.m.!

**Original Math** Forget "new" math; "original" math is life changing! God, the first Mathematician and Creator of all things, uses numbers—threes, tens, forties, and more—to demonstrate his design for creation and redemption through

the work of Jesus on the cross. Join us at our new Sunday morning study in the commons next week as we explore the symbolism and patterns of the numbers God uses to convey the truth of his love through these remaining topics:

- 3-in-1: The Number of God (next Sunday)
- 2 & 4: Creation Counted
- 5 & 10: Keys to God's Word
- 7 & 12: Numbers in Revelation
- 40 & 8: A Generation of Mercy and the New Creation.

We meet Sundays at 9:15 in the commons. Join us and bring the family!

**To All Members** (men & women) of our congregation. As of January 1 our Ladies Aid as we know it today will no longer exist. In your mailboxes you will find a letter. Please take time to read it and fill out the information and return it to the baskets in the church basement by December 15. If you have any questions please contact Mary Laabs or Janice Kuchenbecker.

**Calendars** for 2014 are available in the church basement. Thank you to Nickel Funeral Home for providing these calendars!

**Please save** postage stamps from letters and cards received during the holidays for WLCFS. There is a place to put them in the library in the basement.

**Poinsettias** The worship committee will pick up poinsettias for anyone who would like to purchase one to decorate our church. The red poinsettias will be used to decorate for Christmas Eve and Christmas Day and will be taken down on January 12. Purchased flowers can be taken home after the Christmas Day service or picked up on the 12<sup>th</sup>. After that time the flowers will be discarded. Please sign up on the sheet in the church basement by Sunday Dec. 15 if you would like to contribute to beautifying our Christmas services. The cost is \$7.00 per flower

Volume 1, Issue 11  
Dec. 15, 2013  
Advent 3

Our Mission  
is to  
**Glorify**  
**God**  
as we  
**Gather**  
around the  
Gospel  
so that we  
**Grow**  
in the Gospel  
and  
**Go**  
with the  
Gospel





### Weekly Calendar

Monday	7:00 p.m.	Youth Group Bible Class
Wednesday	11:00 a.m.	Midweek Advent Worship
	5:15 p.m.	Confirmation, grades 6-8
	5:30 p.m.	Bible History, grades 1-5
	7:00 p.m.	Midweek Advent Worship
	8:00 p.m.	Choir
Thursday	7:00 p.m.	Band
Saturday	10:00 a.m.	Band
	10:30 a.m.	Choir
Sunday	8:00 a.m.	Worship
	9:15 a.m.	Sunday School, church basement
	9:15 a.m.	Adult Christ Light Study, church
	9:15 a.m.	Numbers in Scripture, commons
	10:30 a.m.	Worship Choir & Band Concert
	7:00 p.m.	Today's Light Bible Discussion

### Today's Light Bible Reading

Week 16—December 16-23

Monday	Deuteronomy 15-17
Tuesday	Deuteronomy 18-19
Wednesday	Deuteronomy 20-21
Thursday	Deuteronomy 22-23
Friday	Deuteronomy 24
Saturday	Deuteronomy 25-26

### Our Stewardship of the Means of Grace

Midweek Advent	158 (100, 58)
Worship:	267 (192, 75)
Communed:	191 (135, 74)
Bible Study:	67 (25, 21, 11)
Youth Study:	19

### Today's Devotion

**Isaiah 11:1-3,10:** *A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse; from his roots a Branch will bear fruit. The Spirit of the LORD will rest on him—the Spirit of wisdom and of understanding, the Spirit of counsel and of power, the Spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD—and he will delight in the fear of the LORD. ... In that day the Root of Jesse will stand as a banner for the peoples; the nations will rally to him, and his place of rest will be glorious.*

Have you ever heard of “nurse logs”? They are dead tree trunks, like stumps. Yet, those dead trees are still thriving. The decaying surface of the dead tree creates a perfect growing medium for a tiny seed, for a shoot. The decaying tree becomes nursemaid, a nurse-tree, to the new tree generation.

Out of the stump of Jesse, a shoot, a Branch came up; it was the baby Jesus. Like a tiny shoot, his beginnings were humble. A little twig from a small town. Born in a stable with only shepherds and livestock to greet him. Born helpless and dependent on others. But despite the humble beginnings, this Branch was special.

Jesus, the living shoot, comes up out of

the dead stump bringing life out of death. By his perfect life and his death on the cross, Jesus saves us from eternal death! By taking our sins on himself, he freed us from guilt and gave us his perfection! Jesus' death is our death. His life is our life. His righteousness is our righteousness.

Does your life feel like a stump? Have you been cut down by the axe of adversity? Have the problems of this life chopped you down at the knees? All is not lost. There is hope in the Root of Jesse. There is hope in Jesus. He offers you his life. He offers you his perfection. He offers you everything! He offers you peace and rest which you'll find nowhere else. Put your hope in Jesus. Trust in him for everything! It will be glorious. You have God's Word on that!

Dear Lord Jesus, Righteous Branch, send your Holy Spirit into our hearts through the power of your Word so we can enjoy your perfect rest. Amen.

*Today's Devotion is brought to you by WELS and [www.WhatAboutJesus.com](http://www.WhatAboutJesus.com)*

### 2014 No Fear Youth Rally

It's time to start preparing for the 2014 WELS International Youth Rally. Materials have been sent to congregations to help youth group leaders begin planning and organizing. The Youth Rally will be held June 25-28 at the University of Tennessee-Knoxville.

The theme for the 2014 rally will be "No Fear," based on Psalm 27:1, "The Lord is my light and salvation—whom shall I fear? The Lord is the stronghold of my life—of whom shall I be afraid."

Highlights for the 2014 Youth Rally include music by Koine, workshops with relevant topics, nightly entertainment, expansive recreational fields, and fellowship with nearly 2,000 peers who share your faith.

For easy reference, the registration booklet and forms are available online. Registration runs from Feb. 18, 2014, to May 18, 2014. Rally fees are \$350 until March 31 and \$375 April 1-May 15.

### News from FVL

**FVL 3 on 3 Basketball Tournament:** This tournament has two divisions: 30+ & Open (over 18 and out of HS). The date is Jan. 4. The cost is \$35. Registration deadline is Dec. 30. Contact Nate Heyn: (920-427-7663 or email: [nate@titanroofingandsiding.com](mailto:nate@titanroofingandsiding.com))

**Winterfest,** the annual FVL fundraiser for its band and choir programs, will be Sunday, January 26. In order to help make this event successful, we are looking for donation items for the auction room (theme baskets, dining and entertainment gift cards, jewelry, etc.). If you would like to donate an item or have questions about

donations, please contact Kathy Kolell at [paulandkate4@yahoo.com](mailto:paulandkate4@yahoo.com).

**FVL Christmas Concert** will be Sunday, Dec. 15 at 1:00 pm. All FVL choirs will be featured. The concert is free and open to the public; a free-will offering will be taken.

**Glorify**

**Gather**

**Grow**

**Go**

