

Christmas 1

December 29, 2013

God cares for his sons. He cared for his son, the nation of Israel—though they were rebellious. He cared for his Son, Jesus—though Herod raged against him. He even cares for his newly adopted sons—though we do not deserve it. God cared for us by sending his Son to deliver us from the corruption of sin and transform us into sons just like Jesus (Prayer of the Day). That work of Christ gives us peace that only sons can have.

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.

Divine Service II

(page 28 and following in *Christian Worship Supplement*)
Divine Service II is a version of the historic liturgy of the Christian Church. This order is intended to be used when communion is celebrated

Opening Hymn:

Hymn 42

STAND

The Trinitarian invocation expressly reminds the worshippers that the God they will meet here is the true God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. The invocation also calls to mind the words through which believers have been baptized into Christ and made members of his Church.

M: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

Confession

M: Dear friends, let us approach God with a true heart and confess our sins, asking him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to forgive us.

C: **Lord of life, I confess that I am by nature dead in sin.
For faithless worrying and selfish pride,
For sins of habit and sins of choice,**

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.

**For the evil I have done and the good I have failed to do,
You should cast me away from your presence forever.
O Lord, I am sorry for my sins, Forgive me, for Jesus' sake.**

Absolution (pronouncement of forgiveness)

M: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again. In his great mercy, God made us alive in Christ even when we were dead in our sins. Hear the word of Christ through his called servant:

I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

Lord, Have Mercy Kyrie

Mark 10:47

Kyrie is the Greek word for Lord. The expression "Lord, have mercy" is one of the oldest worship responses in the Christian church.

M: In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

For the well-being of all people everywhere, that they may receive from you all they need to sustain body and life, hear our prayer, O Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

M: For the spread of your life-giving gospel throughout the world, that all who are lost in sin may be brought to faith in you, hear our prayer, O Christ.

C: Christ, have mercy.

M: For patience and perseverance in this life, that we may not lose the hope of heaven as we await your return, hear our prayer, O Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

M: Lord of life, life in us that we may live for you.

C: Amen.

Glory Be To God *Gloria in Excelsis* (sung)

Luke 2:14

Christians praise God by proclaiming the great things he has done to accomplish our rescue from sin. "Glory to God in the Highest" has been a Christian song of worship since the fourth century.

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|---|--|
| <p>1. All glory be to God on high!
Your name, O Lord, we glorify;
We praise you for your peace and grace,
Your favor toward our fallen race.</p> | <p>2. Our grateful thanks to you we bring,
For your great glory, heav'nly King,
For all, O Father, you have done
Through Jesus Christ, your only Son.</p> |
|---|--|

3. **O Lamb of God, to you we pray.
You take all human sin away.
Have mercy, Lord; receive our prayer;
From God’s right hand, your mercy share.**

4. **You Christ, are holy—Lord alone;
The Father’s glory you made known.
We by your Spirit sing again:
“All glory be to God!” Amen.**

THE WORD

Salutation

This greeting has deep roots in Christian worship and marks the beginning of the Word section and the sacrament section of the service

M: The Lord be with you

C: **And also with you.**

Prayer of the Day

M: Let us pray.

Almighty God, in mercy you sent your one and only Son to take upon himself our human nature. By his gracious coming deliver us from the corruption of our sin and transform us into the likeness of his glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

BE SEATED

First Lesson:

Isaiah 63:7-9

Isaiah extols the kindness of the LORD by reminding God’s people of all that he has done for us. The LORD stood by his covenant even though his son, Israel, turned away from him. The LORD showed compassion and mercy to a people who did not deserve it. What but the kindness of God could look at Israel and us and still say, “Surely they are my people, sons who will not be false to me”? That can only be said because of the work of God’s only true and faithful Son, Jesus. God cared for his sons so much that in the fullness of time, the LORD became our Savior to redeem us. See how much God cares for his sons: when they are distressed, he is distressed; when they are in danger, he lifts them up and carries them. So now the sons of God join Isaiah saying, “I will tell of the kindness of the LORD.”

⁷ I will tell of the kindnesses of the LORD,
the deeds for which he is to be praised,
according to all the LORD has done for us—

yes, the many good things
he has done for Israel,
according to his compassion and many kindnesses.

⁸ He said, “Surely they are my people,
children who will be true to me”;
and so he became their Savior.

⁹ In all their distress he too was distressed,

and the angel of his presence saved them.
In his love and mercy he redeemed them;
he lifted them up and carried them
all the days of old. (New International Version)

Psalm of the Day:

Psalm 2 (p. 65 of CW)

Second Lesson

Galatians 4:4-7

God's care for his sons meant preparing the world for the coming of Christ. The common language of Greek, the peace of the Roman Empire, the ability to travel, the dispersion of the Jews throughout the world—all these served to help the message of Jesus spread. But even more, the time was right for God to fulfill every prophetic promise to care for his children. He commissioned his own Son to become the God-man who subjected himself to law so that everyone under sin's curse might be bought back. The Incarnation of God meant that children of wrath could become the sons of God, and Pentecost proves our adoption as sons. The Spirit that cries, "Abba, Father," also testifies to our freedom from sin and our new status as heirs of God's kingdom.

⁴ But when the set time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, ⁵ to redeem those under the law, that we might receive adoption to sonship. ⁶ Because you are his sons, God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, the Spirit who calls out, "Abba, Father." ⁷ So you are no longer a slave, but God's child; and since you are his child, God has made you also an heir. (NIV)

Verse of the Day (sung, page 31 CWS)

Alleluia! Alleluia! Faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the Word of Christ. Alleluia! Alleluia!

STAND

M: The Gospel according to Luke chapter 23

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

Gospel:

Matthew 2:13-15, 19-23

At the birth of Christ, the angels announced good news and great joy meant for all people, but not everyone saw it that way: Herod reacted to the birth of Jesus with fear, opposition, and violence. The malice of Herod, however, could not rob the world of the peace God intended to bring through his Son. God cared for his Son and all the sons of God by using Joseph to keep him safe in the land of Egypt. God cared for his sons by having his Son serve as their substitute.

¹³ When they had gone, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream. "Get up," he said, "take the child and his mother and escape to Egypt. Stay there until I tell you, for Herod is going to search for the child to kill him."

¹⁴ So he got up, took the child and his mother during the night and left for Egypt, ¹⁵ where he stayed until the death of Herod. And so was fulfilled what the Lord had said through the prophet: "Out of Egypt I called my son."

¹⁹ After Herod died, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt ²⁰ and said, “Get up, take the child and his mother and go to the land of Israel, for those who were trying to take the child’s life are dead.”

²¹ So he got up, took the child and his mother and went to the land of Israel. ²² But when he heard that Archelaus was reigning in Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. Having been warned in a dream, he withdrew to the district of Galilee, ²³ and he went and lived in a town called Nazareth. So was fulfilled what was said through the prophets, that he would be called a Nazarene.

M: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise be to you, O Christ.

Hymn of the Day: Hymn 41

“Let All Together Praise Our God”

Sermon

Isaiah 63:7-9

Promises Kept! Tell of the kindness of the LORD: He Redeemed His People

STAND

Nicene Creed

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary, and became fully human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate. He suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who in unity with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

BE SEATED

Offering

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

STAND

Prayer of the Church

THE SACRAMENT

Preface

M: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

M: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them up unto the Lord.

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

C: It is good and right so to do.

M: It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who will soon come again in glory to deliver us forever from this present evil age. Therefore with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:

Holy, Holy, Holy (sung)

Isaiah 6:3; Matthew 21:9

1. O holy, holy, holy

Lord God of pow'r and might,

Your glory, earth and heaven

In countless ways recite.

Hosanna! Come and save us,

Lord God of hosts on high,

And in your grace and mercy

Receive our fervent cry.

2. Hosanna in the highest!

How truly blest is he

Who in God's name is coming

To set his people free!

He comes to bring salvation

And with his blood outpoured,

Deliver us from bondage—

Hosanna, mighty Lord!

Prayer of Thanksgiving

M: Blessed are you, O Lord of heaven and earth. We praise and thank you for sending your Son, Jesus Christ, and we remember the great acts of love through which he has ransomed us from sin, death, and the devil's power.

By his incarnation, he became one with us.

By his perfect life, he fulfilled your holy will.

By his innocent death, he overcame hell.

By his rising from the grave, he opened heaven.

Invited by your grace and instructed by your Word, we approach your table with repentant and joyful hearts. Strengthen us through Christ's body and blood, and preserve us in the true faith until we feast with him and all his ransomed people in glory everlasting.

C: Amen.

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.

Words of Institution

As he speaks the Words of Institution, the minister both proclaims the words of Jesus to the congregation and sets apart the bread and wine for the Lord's use.

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."

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: Amen.

Lamb of God *Agnus Dei* (sung, page 36 of CWS)

John 1:29

Jesus is God's Lamb (Agnus Dei) who was offered as a sacrifice once for all sin.

**C: Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; grant us your peace. Amen.**

BE SEATED

Distribution Hymns: Hymn 36

"A Great and Mighty Wonder"

Hymn 56

"Gentle Mary Laid Her Child"

Hymn 63

"Angels We Have Heard on High"

STAND

Song of Simeon (sung)

Through God's Word and Sacrament, we have seen Jesus Christ, and like Simeon we find divine peace and comfort through faith in the Savior.

1. **O Lord, now let your servant
 Depart in peace, assured:
 For I have seen your promised
 Incarnate saving Word—
 A Light that will enlighten
 All gloom where Gentiles dwell;
 The brilliant, crowning glory
 Of those in Israel!**

2. **All glory to the Father,
 All glory to the Son,
 All glory to the Spirit,
 Forever three in one;
 For as in the beginning,
 Is now, shall ever be,
 God’s triune name resounding
 Through all eternity.**

M: We give you thanks, O Lord, for the foretaste of the heavenly banquet that you have given us to eat and to drink in this sacrament. Through this gift you have fed our faith, nourished our hope, and strengthened our love. By your Spirit help us to live as your holy people until that day when you will receive us as your guests at the wedding supper of the Lamb, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

Blessing

The blessing of Aaron has been spoken over God’s people for over 3,500 years. The Lord said, “So they will put my name on [them], and I will bless them” (Nu 6:27).

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: Amen.

Closing Hymn: Hymn 64

“Let Us All with Gladsome Voice”

Today’ Light Bible Readings

Week 18

Dec. 30—Jan.4

Monday Deuteronomy 33
 Tuesday Deuteronomy 34
 Wednesday Joshua 1
 Thursday Joshua 2-3
 Friday Joshua 4-5:12
 Saturday Joshua 5:13-7

Questions/Comments about Zion? Contact:

Pastor Randy Ott home: 864-2348; mobile: 362-7118; otrr@mzluth.org
 Principal Brian Humann 864-2349, school@mzluth.org
 President Erv Zeamer 660-1161
 Elders: John Ihlenfeldt 864-2822
 School Board: Jim Laabs 864-2458

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

Secretary: Nancy Pantzlaff 864-7334

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

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



News From Zion



Morrison Zion Lutheran Church
www.mzluth.org

Pastor Randy Ott
864-2348 (home) 362-7118 (mobile) ottrr@mzluth.org (email)

Announcements

Adult Christ Light will not meet today. We will meet again on Jan. 5

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 as we explore the symbolism and patterns of the numbers God uses to convey the truth of his love through these remaining topics:

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

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

Today’s Light Bible Discussion will meet tonight at 7:00 p.m.. We will discuss the last three weeks of readings. The January reading guides are available in the basement and by the double doors at the back of church on the radiator.

Installation of Church Council will be next Sunday in the 8:00 a.m. service.

Promises Kept Christmas: This year our Christmas worship will focus on *Promises Kept*. Each service we look at a how God has kept his ancient promises!. Join us and bring a friend! The themes are:

- Dec. 31 New Year’s Eve (7:00 p.m.)
Promises Kept: God’s Blessings Continue
- Jan. 1 Name of Jesus (9:00 a.m.) *Promises Kept: Blessed by the Name of Jesus*
- Jan. 5 Christmas 2 *Promises Kept: He has clothed us with salvation*

Tuesday Bible Study meets at 2:00 p.m. in the church basement. On January 7 we will begin a study of *Cleansed and Fed: The Sacramental Life*. This study is based on the essay by Pastor Jon Zabell at the 2011 Syn-

od convention. Copies of the paper and the study are in the church basement. Pick one up and read through it and work through the study even if you can’t join us on Tuesdays!

Free Daily Bibles On the table in the middle of the basement you will find NIV Daily Bibles. If you would like one, please help yourself! They are a Christmas gift from Paula and Randy Ott.

Books On the table across from the mailboxes you will find a table filled with excellent Christian reading material. Pastor Ott cleaned out a portion of his library. You are welcome to help yourself to any of the books. If you would like to give a free will donation there is a box on the table. Your entire gift will be applied to our congregation’s line of credit. Pick up a last minute gift that shares Jesus! Some books are brand new. Some are not.

Thank You Pastor Ott and his family thank 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!

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

Reminder Please update your phone numbers and address if you have moved by emailing church@mzluth.org or put the information into Nancy Pantzloff’s mailbox. Thanks!

Heads of committees Please email your year-end report to church@mzluth.org or put it in Nancy Pantzloff’s mailbox by Jan. 5. Thanks!

Volume 1, Issue 13
Dec. 29, 2013
Christmas 1

Our Mission
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Weekly Calendar

Sunday 9:00 a.m. Numbers in Scripture, commons
 7:00 p.m. Today's Light Bible Discussion

Tuesday 7:00 p.m. New Year's Eve Worship, communion

Wednesday 9:00 a.m. New Year's Day Worship, communion

Sunday 8:00 a.m. Worship (installation of council)
 9:15 a.m. Numbers in Scripture, church
 9:15 a.m. Adult Christ Light, church
 9:15 a.m. Sunday School
 10:30 a.m. Worship
 7:00 p.m. Today's Light Bible Discussion

Today's Light Bible Reading

Week 18—December 30-January 4

Monday Deuteronomy 33
 Tuesday Deuteronomy 34
 Wednesday Joshua 1
 Thursday Joshua 2-3
 Friday Joshua 4:1-5:12
 Saturday Joshua 5:13-7:26

Our Stewardship of the Means of Grace

Children's program 656 (264, 392)
 Candlelight 44
 Christmas Festival : 166
 Communion: 140

Today's Devotion from WELS for Dec. 26

But now that you have been set free from sin and have become slaves of God, the benefit you reap leads to holiness, and the result is eternal life. For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. Romans 6:22-23

Christmas Day is passed. Are you tired? The commercialization of this holiday can have that effect on us. By the time December 26th arrives, we may be all Christmas-ed out.

Much like a commercialized Christmas, enslavement to sin gets old really fast. That tempting master never satisfies. He only takes. And in return for a lifetime of service, the pension is death.

But can the real Christmas celebration ever grow old? Christmas reveals God's base of operations in

his campaign against sin and death. It was a campaign into which he sent his Son to fight victoriously from the cradle to the cross. As a result, you are no longer a slave to sin. Sin may badger you. Sin may threaten you. However, when sin comes knocking, you don't have to answer. When sin makes demands, don't listen. Sin has no authority over your life.

Through faith in Jesus, you have a new, life-giving master. He has made you into a new creation. He gives you the freedom to be who you were created to be. He created you to be healthy in holiness, not sick in sin.

Many may be acting as if Christmas is over. Traditionally, however, today is only the second day of Christmas. The season has just begun, and the celebrating really lasts all year round.

In some countries the day after Christmas is known as Boxing Day. Originally, Boxing Day was a day when servants would receive gifts from their masters. What a great reminder for us as we receive God's gift again this Christmas!

The gift which we receive from God, wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger, is a gift that always amazes. For when we were at our worst, God gave us his best. And no matter how long we've had it, God's gift of a Savior, Jesus Christ, never gets old. For his salvation outweighs our sin; his grace covers our guilt; his rescue ends our rebellion and gives us life.

Today's Devotion is brought to you by WELS and www.WhatAboutJesus.com

News from FVL

"Jump and Jive" is scheduled for Sunday, January 26. This family friendly event will feature several genres of musical entertainment performed by members of the FVL family. Hours are 11:00 am to 4:00 pm. Besides great music, food will be served from the

kitchen and desserts offered in the canteen. A DJ is set to play music in the children's room along with a Mari-onette performance. The auction room will have many great items to bid on, and valet parking will be offered. Tickets are available at the school office

and are \$3 in advance, \$4 at the door. Students 11 and under are free, 12 and older free with their sports pass or school ID. All proceeds benefit the FVL band and choir programs.

Glorify

Gather

Grow

Go

