

4th Sunday after Epiphany Jan. 30 & Feb. 2, 2014

The Savior's Sermon: Trust in God's strength! The Beatitudes are hard for us to swallow. Jesus seems to be espousing a Christianity imbued with fatalism at best or defeatism at worst. Look closer, however, and see what he says. The weaker you are, the stronger God is in your life. The weaker you are now, the more ready you are to trust in a future reward. Look at the past acts of God's grace and you will find many reasons to trust his strength in the face of adversity, persecution or sorrow.

Service of the Word
(page 38 and following in CW)

The Service of the Word makes room for the full scope of preaching and teaching God's Word in sermons and hymns. It was designed for use when there is no communion

Opening Hymn:

Hymn 732

STAND

After the opening hymn the congregation and minister exchange words of blessing to each other, using the words of the Apostolic greeting.

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

C: **And also with you.**

CONFESSION OF SINS

The Confession of Sins and Absolution (pronouncement of forgiveness) in this service emphasizes the scriptural themes of original and actual sin, and Jesus' perfect life and innocent death to remove the guilt of sin.

**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.

M: We have come into the presence of God, who created us to love and serve him as his dear children. But we have disobeyed him and deserve only his wrath and punishment. Therefore, let us confess our sins to him and plead for his mercy.

C: Merciful Father in heaven, I am altogether sinful from birth. In countless ways I have sinned against you and do not deserve to be called your child. But trusting in Jesus, my Savior, I pray: Have mercy on me according to your unfailing love. Cleanse me from my sin, and take away my guilt.

M: God, our heavenly Father, has forgiven all your sins. By the perfect life and innocent death of our Lord Jesus Christ, he has removed your guilt forever. You are his own dear child. May God give you strength to live according to his will.

C: Amen.

PRAYER AND PRAISE

M: In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord.

Oh, Taste and See (sung)

This Song of Praise is based on two Psalms. The refrain comes from Psalm 37:8. The verse comes from Psalm 119:89. The focus and message of this song of praise is especially fitting in a service that focuses on teaching and preaching the full scope of God's Word.

C: Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good. Blessed are they who take refuge in him.

**Your Word, O Lord, is eternal; it stands firm in the heavens.
Your faithfulness continues forever.**

Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good. Blessed are they who take refuge in him.

Prayer of the Day

M: Let us pray.

Lord God, you know that we are surrounded by many dangers and that we often stumble and fall. Strengthen us in body and mind, and bring us safely through all temptations; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: (sung) **Amen.**

THE WORD

First Lesson:

Daniel 3:13-27

Rejoice and be glad, Jesus said, because great is your reward in heaven. He does not promise to keep us from a martyr's death or Christian persecution on earth. He promises to reward us in spite of them. That we might trust his promises of future reward, however, he shows us his righteous acts of the past. The God of the Three Men in the Fiery Furnace can be trusted! As they stood before great Nebuchadnezzar, these men looked weak. As they chose the path of righteousness rather than accommodation, they seemed stupid. As they spoke about a powerful God, their words and actions seemed powerless. At the weakest moment of their lives—despised, condemned, bound hand and foot and falling into an inferno—they trusted that God was their strength, and he did not fail them..

³Furious with rage, Nebuchadnezzar summoned Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego. So these men were brought before the king, ¹⁴and Nebuchadnezzar said to them, “Is it true, Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, that you do not serve my gods or worship the image of gold I have set up? ¹⁵Now when you hear the sound of the horn, flute, zither, lyre, harp, pipe and all kinds of music, if you are ready to fall down and worship the image I made, very good. But if you do not worship it, you will be thrown immediately into a blazing furnace. Then what god will be able to rescue you from my hand?”

¹⁶Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego replied to him, “King Nebuchadnezzar, we do not need to defend ourselves before you in this matter. ¹⁷If we are thrown into the blazing furnace, the God we serve is able to deliver us from it, and he will deliver us from Your Majesty’s hand. ¹⁸But even if he does not, we want you to know, Your Majesty, that we will not serve your gods or worship the image of gold you have set up.”

¹⁹Then Nebuchadnezzar was furious with Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, and his attitude toward them changed. He ordered the furnace heated seven times hotter than usual ²⁰and commanded some of the strongest soldiers in his army to tie up Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego and throw them into the blazing furnace. ²¹So these men, wearing their robes, trousers, turbans and other clothes, were bound and thrown into the blazing furnace. ²²The king’s command was so urgent and the furnace so hot that the flames of the fire killed the soldiers who took up Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, ²³and these three men, firmly tied, fell into the blazing furnace.

²⁴ Then King Nebuchadnezzar leaped to his feet in amazement and asked his advisers, “Weren’t there three men that we tied up and threw into the fire?”

They replied, “Certainly, Your Majesty.”

²⁵ He said, “Look! I see four men walking around in the fire, unbound and unharmed, and the fourth looks like a son of the gods.”

²⁶ Nebuchadnezzar then approached the opening of the blazing furnace and shouted, “Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, servants of the Most High God, come out! Come here!”

So Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego came out of the fire, ²⁷ and the satraps, prefects, governors and royal advisers crowded around them. They saw that the fire had not harmed their bodies, nor was a hair of their heads singed; their robes were not scorched, and there was no smell of fire on them. (New International Version)

Psalm of the Day:

Psalm 37 (p. 44 of CWS)

Second Lesson

1 Corinthians 1:26-31

Paul points the Corinthians to themselves as an example of God’s strength made perfect in weakness. The majority of them did not come from the upper crust of society or the ranks of the learned. God, however, chose them. Paul’s list of God’s chosen ones fits well with Jesus’ description of the blessed ones in the Gospel. God chooses the losers of this world, not the winners; he chooses the weak, not the strong, so that there is no doubt as to the nature of his one-sided grace. The weaker we are, the more ready we are to trust in God’s strength and boast in the work he does in us.

²⁶ Brothers and sisters, think of what you were when you were called. Not many of you were wise by human standards; not many were influential; not many were of noble birth. ²⁷ But God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong. ²⁸ God chose the lowly things of this world and the despised things—and the things that are not—to nullify the things that are, ²⁹ so that no one may boast before him. ³⁰ It is because of him that you are in Christ Jesus, who has become for us wisdom from God—that is, our righteousness, holiness and redemption. ³¹ Therefore, as it is written: “Let the one who boasts boast in the Lord.” (NIV)

Verse of the Day (sung)

C: Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

**These words are written they we may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

STAND

Gospel:

Matthew 5:1-12

In the Beatitudes, our Savior turns the world upside down. He calls blessed the people this world never would. He calls blessed people that the world would use as doormats! The world praises the brash, the strong, and the self-sufficient. Jesus calls blessed what others see as weak or stupid. To live this kind of blessedness requires a deep trust in the Lord's strength and a long-term view of life. Jesus calls us blessed even in circumstances like mourning and persecution, because he is looking beyond the troubles of this world to the reward that is waiting for the people of God. Like reading the last chapter of a book, Jesus takes the mystery out of a life filled with sorrow by showing us the end, the outcome of life lived trusting in God's strength. All the weak children of God can rejoice and be glad—even now—because our reward will be great!

5 Now when Jesus saw the crowds, he went up on a mountainside and sat down. His disciples came to him, ² and he began to teach them.

He said:

³ “Blessed are the poor in spirit,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

⁴ Blessed are those who mourn,
for they will be comforted.

⁵ Blessed are the meek,
for they will inherit the earth.

⁶ Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness,
for they will be filled.

⁷ Blessed are the merciful,
for they will be shown mercy.

⁸ Blessed are the pure in heart,
for they will see God.

⁹ Blessed are the peacemakers,
for they will be called children of God.

¹⁰ Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

¹¹ “Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. ¹² Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

(NIV)

M: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

BE SEATED

Hymn of the Day:

Hymn 395

One of the first official acts of Georg Weissel when he became pastor in Konigsburg in 1623 was to dedicate a newly built church on the second Sunday in Advent. For his own installation as the pastor of the congregation the following week, he wrote today's Hymn of the Day, "Seek Where You May to Find a Way."

Sermon

Daniel 3:13-27

The Savior's Sermon: Trust In The Lord's Strength

STAND

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

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

STAND

Prayer of the Church

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.

BE SEATED

Hymn:

Hymn 421

STAND

M: O Lord God, our heavenly Father, pour out the Holy Spirit on your faithful people. Keep us strong in your grace and truth, protect and comfort us in all temptation, and bestow on us your saving peace, 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 Lord 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.**

Closing Hymn:

Hymn 446:5,6

Today' Light Bible Readings

Week 23

February 3—8

Monday	1 Samuel 2
Tuesday	1 Samuel 3
Wednesday	1 Samuel 4
Thursday	1 Samuel 5-6
Friday	1 Samuel 7
Saturday	1 Samuel 8

Questions/Comments about Zion? Contact:

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Custodian: Beverly Leiterman 864-2355

Church/School Secretary: Nancy Pantzlaff 864-7334

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

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



News From Zion



Morrison Zion Lutheran Church
www.mzluth.org

Pastor Randy Ott
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Announcements

Adult Christ Light will meet today at 9:15 a.m. in the church. Join us!

The Glory of the Lord Since Adam and Eve's Fall, all people "fall short of the glory of God" (Ro 3:23). But God does not withdraw his glory from us. He wants us to enjoy his presence in this life and throughout eternity. But how can a glorious God live with sinful people? That's the question our new Bible study answers. In eight lessons we will see where God's glory has shone in this dark world. Join us in the commons as we study, "The Glory of the Lord." We meet Sundays at 9:15 in the commons. Bring the family!

Call Information Meeting After the 10:30 service today Mr. Muchka will present information about his call to St. Croix Lutheran High School. We will also discuss the process of deliberating the two calls he now holds. We will meet in church. Join us!

Today's Light Bible Discussion will not meet tonight. Next week we will discuss two weeks of readings. The February reading guides are now available in the basement and by the double doors in church.

Capital Appeal Meeting This Monday the men who served on the Staffing Committee will meet at 7:30 p.m. at school to begin plans for the Capital Appeal.

Tuesday Bible Study Our study is *Cleansed and Fed: The Sacramental Life*, based on an essay by Pastor Jon Zabel. Copies of the paper and the study are in the church basement. Pick one up and read it and work through the study even if you can't join us! We meet Tuesday at 2:00 p.m. in the church basement.

Epiphany Worship: This year our Epiphany worship will focus on *Paranormal Activity* and *The Savior's Sermon*. By his powerful word Jesus reveals he is true God and our Savior. The themes are:

Feb. 9 *The Savior's Sermon: Let your light shine!*

Feb. 16 *The Savior's Sermon: Live a holy life!*

Feb. 23 *The Savior's Sermon: Love your enemies*

March 2 *Paranormal Activity: Jesus appears in his full glory*

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.

Lake to Lake Soccer is a league that plays at MLHS and other surrounding communities. Games are most Saturdays from the middle of April through the middle of June. Online Registration is now available and the preferred method of registration. You can go to www.manitowoclutheranlaketolake.net to sign up online. Registration is open from now until Feb. 22. We look forward to a fun and enjoyable season for all.

England Tour Rev. James Humann, retired WELS pastor and experienced tour host, invites you to join him on a tour this summer to England and Scotland. This eleven day tour, July 14 - July 24, will visit London, York, Edinburgh, and highlights cathedrals, castles, pageantry, drama and fellowship. Travel with a pastor and tour members of your own fellowship. Space is limited. For tour costs and conditions, and a complete itinerary, please e-mail Pastor Humann at JHumann383@aol.com or call 253-839-9055 (Pacific time). If interested in being informed about future tours, also please write or call.

Volume 2, Issue 5

Jan. 30 & Feb. 2, 2014

Epiphany 4

Our Mission
is to
Glorify
God
as we
Gather
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Weekly Calendar

Sunday	9:15 a.m.	The Glory of the Lord Study, commons
	9:15 a.m.	Adult Christ Light
	9:15 a.m.	Sunday School
Monday	7:00 p.m.	Youth Group Bible Study
	7:30 p.m.	Staffing Capital Appeal Meeting
Tuesday	6:30 p.m.	School Board
	7:00 p.m.	Worship Committee
Wednesday	5:00 p.m.	Confirmation, grades 6-8
	5:30 p.m.	Bible History, grades 1-5
	7:30 p.m.	Choir
Thursday	7:00 p.m.	Worship
Sunday	8:00 a.m.	Worship
	9:15 a.m.	The Glory of the Lord Study, commons
	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 Reading Discussion

Today's Light Bible Reading

Week 23—Feb.. 3-8

Monday	1 Samuel 2
Tuesday	1 Samuel 3
Wednesday	1 Samuel 4
Thursday	1 Samuel 5-6
Friday	1 Samuel 7
Saturday	1 Samuel 8

Our Stewardship of the Means of Grace

Worship	317 (21, 127, 169)
Communion	196 (16, 88, 92)
Bible Study	50 (23, 27, X, X)
Youth Group :	X

Men of His Word Conference in Oshkosh, Feb. 15

Following are three pieces of new information about the 2014 MOHW Conference:

- First of all, registration has been extended from Saturday, February 8 to **Sunday, February 9**

As of Monday morning, the conference is not quite half full – even though we expanded the number from 450 last year to 600 this year, we are praying that the conference will grow and fill up again this year

- Like last year, signers/interpreters are being provided for hearing impaired individuals – *please contact me if you have someone that can use this service*

- Don't forget to invite the young men (high school age) and future leaders in your congregation to the conference – we reserved 50 spots for the youth track and have 11 young men signed up as of this morning

One final thought:

Since Valentine's Day is on the Friday before the day of the conference, why not make dinner reservations for Saturday night or Sunday and talk to your wife/fiancé/girlfriend about the worship and sessions that you attended. OR if you are married, reserve a room at the Best Western Premier Waterfront Hotel 855-230-1900 (connected to the Conference Center) and enjoy a romantic weekend away

with your wife!

We are in the final stretch – thank you again for all of your help and dedication in promoting the 2014 Men of His Word Conference!

Please join us for the fifth annual Men Of His Word Conference in Oshkosh on February 15, 2014. This is a special place reserved for you.

For more information or to register go to: <http://www.menofhisword.org>.

Your Brother in Christ,
Dennis Zorn
Men of His Word Conference
920 231-3567

News from FVL

A Princess and Her King –3rd Annual Daddy Daughter Dance. FVL Schools invites girls ages 3 to 13 and their Dad to spend an afternoon together filled with dancing, games, prizes, and memories to last a lifetime! Sunday March 2 2:00-5:00 p.m. at FVLHS. Tickets are \$5 per person. (available at the FVLHS office, and FVL school offices). Princesses, please wear your prettiest princess dress. Kings, dress shirt and tie are encouraged! (more details found on the website) .

News from MLHS

MLHS Delegate / Call Meeting will be Saturday, Feb. 8 at 9:00 a.m. All Congregation delegates are reminded & encouraged to attend this important meeting to issue another call for the President position, as well as discuss the new budget.

MLHS Sunday Showcase will be Sunday March 2. Make plans for a day of fun for all ages. Showcase offers a full day of fun, food, and musical entertainment for all. In addition, the silent and live auction events have proven to be a great source of fun

and funds to benefit the high school. This year's proceeds will be used for much-needed repairs and improvements in the locker rooms. Bring a friend. Just \$5 at the door (grades 12 & under free); don't miss The Showcase!

Glorify

Gather

Grow

Go

