

The gift of God comes by faith to all nations. Not a holy life, not acts of obedience, but simple trust in the promise of God brings the gift of living water for thirsty souls. Abraham believed God's promise and so became not only the father of a nation, but the forefather of the Promised Seed who would bless all peoples. He had faith in God who justifies the wicked, and so God credited it to him as righteousness. By this same faith, Christ gives righteousness to all who believe and enfolds sinful Samaritans and modern Gentiles like us into the family of God.

Gathering Rite Turn My Heart, O God, Service of the Word
(page 40 and following in *Christian Worship*)

TURN MY HEART, O GOD Marty Haugen

Refrain

Turn* my heart, O God. Turn my heart, O God.

Take my pain and bro-ken-ness; shape my life for

you. Come and turn my heart, O God.

Verse response (3 times)

Come and turn my heart, O God.

** If desired, the first word of this phrase may be changed each time it appears.*

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Choir: Refrain

Congregation: Refrain

Choir: Have mercy, gracious God, forgive my selfish ways.

Congregation: Verse Response

Choir: O wash away my guilt and cleanse me from my sin.

Congregation: Verse Response

Choir: I know my failings well, they prey upon my mind.

Congregation: Verse Response

**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.

Refrain

Choir: I turned my face from you to seek out evil paths.

Choir: Your punishment is just, your sentence fair and right.

Choir: You see me as I am: a sinner from my birth.

Refrain

Choir: Great Lover of all truth, teach wisdom to my heart.

Choir: O purge me, make me clean, and wash me new once more.

Choir: Let songs of joy ring out from crushed and silent bones.

Refrain

Choir: Create in me, O God, a clean and righteous heart.

Choir: Do not abandon me, but keep me close to you.

Choir: Give back to me the joy of walking in your way.

Refrain

Choir: Then I shall teach your path to bring the wayward home.

Choir: Deliver me from death that I might sing your praise.

Choir: Accept my gift to you: a broken, contrite heart.

Refrain

STAND

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

C: Amen.

M: Let us confess our sins in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence for self-examination

M: Almighty God, our heavenly Father,

**C: we have sinned against you
in our thoughts,
in our words,
in our deeds,
and in all that we have not done.**

Forgive us in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

**Deliver and restore us,
that we may rest in peace.**

M: By the mercy of God we are redeemed by Jesus Christ, and in him we are forgiven.

Let us rest in his peace all our days and serve him in the newness of life.

C: Amen.

Refrain

Congregation: Verse Response

Congregation: Verse Response

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Congregation: Verse Response

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Congregation: Verse Response

Congregation: Verse Response

Congregation: Verse Response

Congregation: Verse Response

Prayer of the Day

M: Let us pray.

Almighty God, you see that we have no power to defend ourselves. Guard and keep us both outwardly and inwardly from all adversities that may happen to the body and from all evil thoughts that may assault and hurt the soul; 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

Choir (8:00 a.m.)

Work While It Is Day

First Lesson:

Genesis 12:1-8

God's plan of salvation called for one special nation which would carry the Promise of the Seed meant for all people. From the beginning, this nation would be built on faith in the promises of God. God told Abram to leave all he knew and go to a place yet unknown and wait for blessings as yet undefined. God revealed that the Seed of woman promised in the garden would now descend from the family of an old man and his barren wife living as strangers in a land not yet their own. No logic or emotion could have led Abram to leave his home—only trust in his Savior God. Abram believed and set God's plan in motion to build a nation on the promises of God to fulfill the promises of God. All people would be blessed by the nation descended from Abram, because this man of faith would bear the bloodline of the Promised Seed, the Messiah who would come as Savior of all nations.

12 The LORD had said to Abram, "Go from your country, your people and your father's household to the land I will show you.

²"I will make you into a great nation,
and I will bless you;

I will make your name great,
and you will be a blessing.

³I will bless those who bless you,
and whoever curses you I will curse;
and all peoples on earth
will be blessed through you."

⁴So Abram went, as the LORD had told him; and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he set out from Harran. ⁵He took his wife Sarai, his nephew Lot, all the

possessions they had accumulated and the people they had acquired in Harran, and they set out for the land of Canaan, and they arrived there.

⁶ Abram traveled through the land as far as the site of the great tree of Moreh at Shechem. At that time the Canaanites were in the land. ⁷ The LORD appeared to Abram and said, “To your offspring I will give this land.” So he built an altar there to the LORD, who had appeared to him.

⁸ From there he went on toward the hills east of Bethel and pitched his tent, with Bethel on the west and Ai on the east. There he built an altar to the LORD and called on the name of the LORD. (New International Version)

Psalm of the Day:

Psalm 121 (p. 112 of CW)

Second Lesson

Romans 4:1-5,13-17

Paul taught the Romans about faith by using Abraham as an example. Faith is simply receiving the grace of God by trusting in his promises. This God credits to us as righteousness. Abraham’s righteousness did not come by doing but by believing. What did Abraham do? Nothing! God did it all: He made the promises; he gave the inheritance; he gave the child, the blessing for all nations. Abraham merely received the promises of God by believing that the One who made the promises was faithful. And then what happened? God acted again and credited this faith to Abraham as righteousness. This is the righteousness that every person needs to stand in God’s presence. This is the righteousness that the sinful woman at the well, and even faithful Abraham lacked. This is the righteousness God gives. We are people like Abraham, who believe that God justifies the wicked. And so God forgives our wickedness and calls us righteous—no, even more—he gives us righteousness in the place of our wickedness. This is the living water that slakes the thirst of every believing soul.

⁴ What then shall we say that Abraham, our forefather according to the flesh, discovered in this matter? ² If, in fact, Abraham was justified by works, he had something to boast about—but not before God. ³ What does Scripture say? “Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness.”

⁴ Now to the one who works, wages are not credited as a gift but as an obligation. ⁵ However, to the one who does not work but trusts God who justifies the ungodly, their faith is credited as righteousness.

¹³ It was not through the law that Abraham and his offspring received the promise that he would be heir of the world, but through the righteousness that comes by faith. ¹⁴ For if those who depend on the law are heirs, faith means nothing and the promise is worthless, ¹⁵ because the law brings wrath. And where there is no law there is no transgression.

¹⁶ Therefore, the promise comes by faith, so that it may be by grace and may be guaranteed to all Abraham’s offspring—not only to those who are of the law but also to those who have the faith of Abraham. He is the father of us all. ¹⁷ As it is written: “I have made you a father of many nations.” He is our father in the sight of God, in whom he believed—the God who gives life to the dead and calls into being things that were not. (NIV)

STAND

Gospel:

John 4:5-26

He defied popular convention by traveling through Samaria. He defied religious convention by asking a Samaritan woman for a drink. Why would Jesus even bother with this woman? She was a Samaritan and a habitual adulterer. Yet he had to be here (Jn 4:4), not because of convention or expectations but because of his mission to save all people. He had come to save the world, and that meant he had come for this woman, too. Not because she had lived a holy life—far from it! Only because of his grace. He used the mirror of the Law to incite within her a thirst for mercy that could only be sated by the living water of grace. A Samaritan...a sinner...and yet Jesus opens the flood gates of the water of life and reveals his true identity as the Promised Seed, the Anointed One, her Savior. He calls her to faith, and she believes and finds living water for her thirsty soul.

⁵ So he came to a town in Samaria called Sychar, near the plot of ground Jacob had given to his son Joseph. ⁶ Jacob’s well was there, and Jesus, tired as he was from the journey, sat down by the well. It was about noon.

⁷ When a Samaritan woman came to draw water, Jesus said to her, “Will you give me a drink?” ⁸ (His disciples had gone into the town to buy food.)

⁹ The Samaritan woman said to him, “You are a Jew and I am a Samaritan woman. How can you ask me for a drink?” (For Jews do not associate with Samaritans.)

¹⁰ Jesus answered her, “If you knew the gift of God and who it is that asks you for a drink, you would have asked him and he would have given you living water.”

¹¹ “Sir,” the woman said, “you have nothing to draw with and the well is deep. Where can you get this living water?” ¹² Are you greater than our father Jacob, who gave us the well and drank from it himself, as did also his sons and his livestock?”

¹³ Jesus answered, “Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, ¹⁴ but whoever drinks the water I give them will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give them will become in them a spring of water welling up to eternal life.”

¹⁵ The woman said to him, “Sir, give me this water so that I won’t get thirsty and have to keep coming here to draw water.”

¹⁶ He told her, “Go, call your husband and come back.”

¹⁷ “I have no husband,” she replied.

Jesus said to her, “You are right when you say you have no husband. ¹⁸ The fact is, you have had five husbands, and the man you now have is not your husband. What you have just said is quite true.”

¹⁹ “Sir,” the woman said, “I can see that you are a prophet. ²⁰ Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain, but you Jews claim that the place where we must worship is in Jerusalem.”

²¹ “Woman,” Jesus replied, “believe me, a time is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. ²² You Samaritans worship what you do not

know; we worship what we do know, for salvation is from the Jews. ²³ Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshipers will worship the Father in the Spirit and in truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks. ²⁴ God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in the Spirit and in truth.”

²⁵ The woman said, “I know that Messiah” (called Christ) “is coming. When he comes, he will explain everything to us.”

²⁶ Then Jesus declared, “I, the one speaking to you—I am he.” (NIV)

M: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

BE SEATED

Hymn of the Day:

Hymn 391

Sermon

Romans 4:1-5,13-17

Islands In The Son: An Island for All

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!*

Musical Offering Natalie Zirbel (10:30 a.m.)

There Is A Fountain

STAND

Prayer of the Church

Lent (p. 125 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.

BE SEATED

Hymn:

Hymn 106

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

The Aaronic Benediction uses words that God gave to Moses for Aaron to use as he blessed the Israelites. These words have been spoken as a blessing on God's people for over 3,500 years. The sign of the cross is made by the minister to remind us of the sign of the cross that was made over us at our baptism. As baptized children of God we have worshipped our Lord. As baptized children of God we leave worship to serve our Lord in our daily life.

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.

BE SEATED

Closing Hymn:

Hymn 404

Today' Light Bible Readings

Week 28, March 10-15

Monday	2 Samuel 11-12
Tuesday	2 Samuel 13-14
Wednesday	2 Samuel 15-16
Thursday	2 Samuel 17-18
Friday	2 Samuel 19-20
Saturday	2 Samuel 21-22

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 Charles Edinger	606-2119, candmedinger@icloud.com
Elders: Howard Schultz	864-2789
School Board: Jeff Krueger	336-7282

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

It has pleased our Heavenly Father to call the soul of Rodney Webster to his eternal home. Rodney died on March 9. The flowers in the front of church are in memory of Rodney. Copies of his obituary are available in the back of church and in the basement. Please remember all who mourn in your prayers!

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

The Glory of the Lord Join us in the commons as we study, "The Glory of the Lord. This week we will finish the course." We meet at 9:15 in the commons. Bring the family!

Today's Light Bible Discussion will meet tonight. The March reading guides are now available in the basement and by the double doors in church.

Tuesday Bible Study Our study is *Cleansed and Fed: The Sacramental Life*, based on an essay by Pastor Jon Zabel. This Tuesday we will look at "Communion is a gift beyond compare." Copies of the paper are in the church basement. Pick one up and read it even if you can't join us!

Lenten Worship: This year the Sundays in Lent will focus on *Islands in the Son*. The Sundays of Lent are not a part of the season itself. They are islands of refreshment where we see what Jesus has done for us as we travel the penitential path that leads to the empty tomb. The themes are:

- March 23 *An Island drenched in Sonlight*
- March 30 *An Island filled with people ready to serve*
- April 6 *An Island paradise that doesn't end after two weeks*
- April 13 *An Island visited by our King*

Soup Suppers Each Wednesday during Lent we will have soup suppers after the 11:00 a.m. service and at 6:00 p.m. before the 7:00 p.m. Lenten service. There are sign up sheets in the basement if you would like to make soup, bars, help serve, or all three!

Midweek Lenten Series This year our midweek Lenten worship will focus on "See His Cross!"

Surprising Words From our Savior's Passion." the weekly themes are:

- March 19 *It's God's plan from beginning to end*
- March 26 *Shed No Tears For Jesus!*
- April 2 *Glory Be To Jesus!*
- April 9 *Our King Is Crucified!*

Come Follow Me This study is based on the movie, *Come Follow Me*. The movie shares the story of Peter's call to follow Jesus, his denial of Jesus, and his subsequent restoration. Just like Peter, we struggle with feelings of inadequacy. The solution is Jesus, who assures us that we are forgiven, can be his witnesses, and that he will give us the gifts needed for ministry. This study is 8 lessons long. We will watch the movie, discuss its biblical basis, apply it to our lives, and learn ways we can share this DVD with others as we Go with the Gospel. We begin next Sunday at 9:15 a.m. in the commons. DVDs will be available for you to use to invite people to our Easter worship.

Usher Sign Up Sheets are on the white table in the middle of the basement. Please sign up for the service or services at which you would like to usher. Sign up as a family with your children!

Easter For Kids Join us on Saturday, April 12th from 9:00-11:00 am for Easter for Kids. The program is free and open to all children age three through fourth grade. All sign up sheets can be found in the church basement and the school commons. We hope that many children can make it to this fun day! Please feel free to invite a friend!

Spring Festival The final Dress Rehearsal will be Thursday, March 27 at 10:00 a.m. The Spring Festival will be Friday, March 28 at 7:00 p.m. Please invite neighbors, relatives, and friends to either the dress rehearsal or the evening performance.

Assembly Committee will put the April newsletter together on March 24 at 6:30 p.m.

Volume 2, Issue 12
March 16, 2014
Second Sunday in
Lent

Our Mission
is to
Glorify
God
as we
Gather
around the
Gospel
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Grow
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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
	7:00 p.m.	Today's Light Bible Discussion
Monday	6:00 p.m.	Capital Appeal Steering Committee
	7:00 p.m.	Youth Group Bible Study
Tuesday	2:00 p.m.	Bible Class, church
Wednesday	11:00 a.m.	Lenten worship, communion
	12:00 p.m.	Soup Supper, church
	5:00 p.m.	Confirmation
	5:30 p.m.	Bible History, grades 1-5
	6:00 p.m.	Soup Supper, church
	7:00 p.m.	Lenten Worship
	8:00 p.m.	Choir
Sunday	8:00 a.m.	Worship, communion
	9:15 a.m.	Come, Follow Me Study, commons
	9:15 a.m.	Adult Christ Light, church
	9:15 a.m.	Sunday School
	10:30 a.m.	Worship, communion
	7:00 p.m.	Today's Light Bible Discussion

Today's Light Bible Reading

Week 29—March 17-22

Monday	2 Samuel 23
Tuesday	2 Samuel 24
Wednesday	1 Kings 1-2
Thursday	1 Kings 3-4
Friday	1 Kings 5-7
Saturday	1 Kings 8

Our Stewardship of the Means of Grace

Worship	279 (84, 195)
Communion	188 (56, 132)
Lent	192 (119, 73)
Bible Study	72 (16, 30, 15, 11)
Youth Group :	25

Letter From the Chairman of the MLHS Board of Control

By now you have probably been informed by your delegates of the pressing financial needs your high school is encountering as we plan the budget for the next school year. I can assure you that there is no fat left to trim. The Board of Control and the faculty and administration have continuously worked to be the most efficient we possibly can with the support dollars entrusted to us. The 2014-2015 proposed budget freezes salaries at current levels and does not even include the automatic step increase normally given to called workers based on accumulation of another year of experience. All faculty members are carrying full loads, most even beyond full, and still providing an outstanding educational experience for our children along with the daily nurturing in God's Word. Most extracurricular tasks, such as coaching, are not compensated with additional pay but are still willingly provided by the staff. For them and their willingness to serve the Kingdom, we give grateful thanks to the Lord.

Running a high school is an expensive proposition, of that there is no doubt. Each of you wrestling with a congregational budget knows the impact of health insurance and utility costs as they relentlessly march upward. Our current cost per student is about \$9,600 and the child's family provides \$5,100 of that amount. About 34% of our families are aided by tuition assistance from various high school funds and some are also assisted by their home congregation. Again we are grateful for that help. But the

great majority of our families pay the full amount and we need to understand that excessive increases in the required family contribution will ultimately discourage enrollment and spiral the costs upward again. For several years, we were able to keep the tuition cost level but it did increase \$100 last year and the budget, as currently proposed, includes a \$200 tuition increase.

There are three support streams that cover the cost of running the school: tuition, congregational support and third source funding. Of these, only tuition is controlled by the Federation delegates. Third source general fund contributions from such streams as Scrip and Repeat Performance have steadily increased in recent years. Again, for that we are grateful and thank the Lord for these blessings. But congregational support has eroded in past years. In the last 5 years, it has declined about \$100,000. Some of that shortfall in recent years has been absorbed by undesignated bequests. This year those bequests have not materialized as in the past. That forces the Federation delegates to have to adjust the only number in their control, namely, tuition.

The proposed budget, with no salary increase and a significant \$200 increase in tuition, still comes up about \$120,000 short on income. The Federation delegates, in the February meeting, delayed adoption of the budget until the May meeting to allow us to revisit the income sources and hopefully find a

way to balance the budget without burdening the current students with an overwhelming tuition increase. Each \$20,000 of shortfall requires an additional \$100 in tuition. So, with no more assistance from congregations, a tuition increase of \$600 beyond the proposed \$200 might be necessary. That's almost 16% in one year and will surely put the cost of Christian education out of reach for some families, further reducing the total support for the high school ministry.

We prayerfully and respectfully ask that you revisit your congregational support pledge and let us know before the May 10 Federation meeting if you are able to add to your support for your high school's important ministry, as together we provide the "one thing needful" to the high school aged members of your church. If you have any questions or desire more information, we are absolutely willing to meet in person with your congregation's leadership to provide whatever you need. May God bless your deliberations and continue to bless our ministry at the high school, in your congregation and in His whole kingdom on earth.

Sincerely,
Robert Barthels
Chairman, MLHS Board of Control

News from Our High Schools

FVL 7th grade students are invited to attend *Discover FVL!* On March 18, 1:00-4:30 pm. The afternoon will help acquaint visitors with Fox Valley Lutheran High School. For those not able to attend this event, Family Open House is scheduled, 4:30-6:30 pm. Call the FVL Guidance office with any questions, 739-4441.

MLHS "Annie Get Your Gun" MLHS' Spring Musical is always a highlight featuring the talents of so many students, and this year will be no exception. Showtimes Fri & Sat, 3/21 & 22 at 7pm; Sun 3/23 at 2pm.

Tickets are available by calling 682-0215.

MLHS Jr. Lancer Athletics Info Mtg & Baseball Registration, Thurs 3/27, 6pm. Parents & players interested in registering for boys' baseball (grades 5-8 this spring) or info on football (grades 5-8 in fall), should plan to attend. Registration forms for baseball are available on the Athletics - Jr. Lancer page at www.mlhslancers.org. Even if you are undecided on playing, please attend this meeting so that we may answer questions.

Glorify

Gather

Grow

Go

