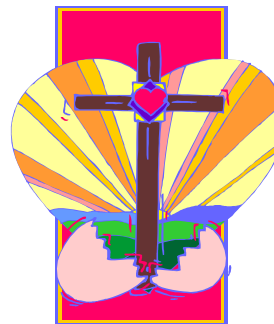




MEMORIAL MESSENGER *April 2014*



He died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves, but for Him who died for them and was raised again. 2 Corinthians 5:15

In addition to slowing the flooding, there's another benefit from the very cold temperatures persisting nearly to the end of March. I haven't yet noticed any Easter bunny decorations displayed in front yards.

Our culture's increasing Easter emphasis on baby animals and budding flowers and pastel colors and reawakening nature completely ignores the truth about what Christ Jesus was sent into the world to accomplish. It seems unlikely to find any Easter greeting cards these days which state clearly that Jesus rose from the dead. The best I could find last year was, "May God bless the new life springing up all around you this Easter."

"He died...and was raised again" is more than a gripping story to review each year at this time. That truth is life! That truth changes our life! What Jesus endured for us and conquered for us is not an entertaining movie that we replay this time each year. What Jesus endured for us sinners and what He conquered for us condemned souls is our reason for existing, for living, for serving! His sacrifice for us is accepted by His Father; our forgiveness by Him is guaranteed; the inheritance of eternal life with Him is assured!

"Those who live should no longer live for themselves but for Him who died for them and was raised again." There we have our agenda for all we do every day! Not because we *have* to, but because we *want* to, we live for the risen Jesus. We obey His commands. We help our neighbors. We work for His kingdom. Our lifestyle becomes our reaction to the Good Friday and Easter Sunday truth.

Which of your friends or loved ones who don't yet treasure that truth will you invite to sit with you in the darkened sanctuary Good Friday and in the festive surroundings Easter Sunday? As we're studying in Bible Class these weeks before Easter, our invitation to them isn't, *Come, enjoy our worship and join our church!* Our invitation to them is, *Come to hear of our helplessness before God and of what He has given us in His Son Jesus!* As the passage above teaches us, the way we live our lives tells them, "There's something different about my church-going friends or relatives." What better time than Holy Week to urge them to come and see and hear and thrill at who has changed *your* life, who will change *their* life, who gives sinners eternal life?!!

It's not just a religious teaching. *"He died...for them...and was raised again"* is life! Whom will the Holy Spirit use you to show the life that belongs to sinners who are connected to Jesus through faith? Pick up some Easter invitation cards from the church narthex; then, as you present them to your friends, urge them to join you to hear and receive from God the life that never ends!

Pastor Voss



Empty tomb in Jerusalem



THE WALK ALONG OUR SAVIOR'S path to His crucifixion continues *Wednesdays, April 2 and April 9*. Our midweek Lent services are held at **7:00**.

Join us to praise God for the gift of salvation won by our Savior for us sinners in His life, death, and resurrection. Area WELS pastors are conducting the services.

SUPPERS precede each midweek Lent service. We are doing this as an opportunity for families to come here for their evening meal, then receive spiritual nourishment from God's Word, and still be able to return home by a decent hour. All suppers begin at **6:00**. A free will offering to help with meal expenses will be received each week. *Our thanks to all who have volunteered to provide food for these suppers, as well as to those who set things up for the meals and clean up after them!*

WE WILL WORSHIP our crucified and risen Savior at these Holy Week services. Invite others to come with you!

Cards that can be used to invite others to our Good Friday and Easter Sunday services are available on the church narthex counter.



MAUNDY THURSDAY, April 17 **7:00 PM**

Holy Communion for our communicant members. Choir rehearsal after the service.

GOOD FRIDAY, April 18 **7:00 PM**

Tenebrae [darkness] service

EASTER SUNDAY, April 20 **7:30 & 10:30 AM**

Children of the congregation sing at the beginning of both services.

Choir also sings at both services.

Easter breakfast 8:45 - 9:35; no Sunday or Bible Class.



SEEING CHRIST IN THE PASSOVER A special event will be held *Sunday, April 6 at 4 PM in our school gym*. It will feature foods from the Passover as celebrated by Israel in the Old Testament, and will include instruction about how the meal looked forward to the coming Savior.

The members organizing the event asked that sign up be completed by March 23. That early deadline was necessary to give organizers two weeks to purchase and prepare the special food and supplies needed for the event.

If you wish to help pay for the food and other supplies, you may give your donation to Kathy Ward. A basket will also be set out that afternoon to receive donations.

FOREVER WITH THE LORD! The Savior called to Himself in heaven the soul of **Zada Briggs** on Wednesday, March 5. The Christian funeral service to comfort her loved ones was held on Monday, March 10.

May the Lord Jesus grant to Zada's grandson Bob Briggs and to all her loved ones the peace of forgiveness and the sure hope of heaven through faith in Christ Jesus!

THE ANNUAL NEW MEMBER RECEPTION will take place at a potluck dinner following the late service Palm Sunday, *April 13*. Sign up in the narthex to indicate how many from your family will attend and what you will bring; we also ask you to bring your own tableware. A presentation will recognize our 2014 youth confirmation candidates.

ROAD TO EMMAUS We have copies of the *Road to Emmaus* DVD. This 30-minutes video presentation offers an excellent in-depth teaching of the Bible's central truth: that Jesus Christ has taken away the sins of the world and through faith in Him we are saved forever!

Please consider purchasing copies for your home and/or to present as Easter gifts to others. One DVD costs \$3.00; two can be purchased for \$5.00.

AT THE FEBRUARY CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING, it was decided to move the next Quarterly Voters Meeting to *Tuesday, April 29*. There will be an open forum the previous Sunday, April 27 after the late service that day.

DESCANT PRACTICE Women and young women who are not in our choir, but would like to learn the descant for some Easter hymns and other anthems are invited to do so *Thursday, April 3 at 7:30* and *Sunday, April 6 at 11:35*. Speak to Linda Janecke for more information.



OUR YOUTH CONFIRMATION will be held in the 10:30 service *Sunday, May 4*.

BOWLING Join us *Saturday, April 5 12:00 – 2:00* (note the time, an hour earlier than past years) *at City Limits in Mason*. Cost is \$10.00 per person (up to 5 people per lane) for 2 hours of bowling, shoe rental, pizza, and pop.

We are asking you, if at all possible, to *please prepay for this event*. Doing so will speed things up at the bowling center, thus allowing you more time to use the lanes. *If possible, please give Pastor Voss your money by April 2*.

WELS INTERNATIONAL YOUTH RALLY this summer will be on the campus of the University of Tennessee in Knoxville, TN. The dates are *June 25-28*. Registration is open now until *May 9*, with an early bird rate until *March 31*. Until March 31, the rally cost is \$350.00; after that date the cost is \$375.00. Transportation to Knoxville is in addition to this cost.

If, as of the spring of 2014, you are completing 8th grade this spring, in high school, or graduating from high school, you are welcome to attend. However, each group of 6 young people needs 1 adult supervisor. So, if you desire to attend—or desire more information—please speak to Pastor Voss.

WE THANK OUR SCHOOL PTO for the generous donation of an Automatic External Defibrillator (AED), a pediatric pack, and the case to store the unit at our school!

The AED is inside a case mounted on the wall where our two hallways meet. The next time you are in our school, take time to see where the unit is mounted. We want as many people as possible to know where it is in case of a heart emergency for someone in our school.

Be aware that the door for the AED is connected to an alarm to let everyone know that the case has been opened and that the AED is needed. Please do not open the case to inspect the unit.

IF YOU HAVE ACCESS to the internet and get this *Memorial Messenger* that way, please let us know and we will no longer print a copy for you.



Ladies Fellowship – Our ladies group meets April 14th this month and are bringing our own snacks to share. We continue our study of the Catechism with Pastor. After that study we will discuss the October event we want to host. We will also have a work bee; checking banners and doing minor repairs, checking hymnals and hymnal bookmarks, and doing inventory on the church library as well as cataloging new books for the church library. Please bring your sewing basket and fabric glue if you have any.



There is something for everyone to do at this meeting in which you can serve our Lord and our congregation. Please join us as we join our hands together to work for God who loves us so much that He sent His Son to save us!

CHURCH COUNCIL REPORTS

PASTOR'S REPORT – From the March 4 issue of the bi-weekly WELS *Together* electronic newsletter:

At its winter meeting, the Synodical Council (SC) began to address the situation that confronts the synod in view of the 2014 Congregation Mission Offerings (CMO) subscriptions.

The ministry financial plan adopted by the 2013 convention called for a 4% increase in CMO in both 2014 and 2015 to maintain and, in some cases, to provide for expansion in some areas of ministry. Unexpectedly, the just-received CMO subscriptions for 2014 show a decrease of more than 1% from what was received last year. This news, coupled with the relatively flat CMO receipts in the last several years, led the SC to reduce the CMO forecast to 1% growth in 2015. The difference between what was planned and what now appears reasonable amounts to approximately \$300,000 in fiscal year 2013-2014 and \$1.2 million in fiscal year 2014-2015. If this situation does not change, significant changes will need to be made in the approved plans.

After consultation with the Board of Elders, we contacted the man of our congregation discussed by that board as the first choice to serve as our lay delegate to the regular Michigan District Convention Monday, June 9-Wednesday, June 11 at Michigan Lutheran Seminary. We await his response.

BOARD OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION – The Board of Christian Education recommends that tuition remain unchanged for the 2014-2015 school year at \$1,000.00 per student for grades K-5 and no application fee. They also recommend that pre-school tuition remain unchanged based on programs offered (\$1,350.00 for 3 half days), with an additional, non-refundable \$50.00 application fee.

Mornings with Mommy that was held on February 20 had lower than expected attendance due primarily to inclement weather. The next session is scheduled for March 20.

Kindergarten Information Day will be held Friday, March 28, at the school from 9:30-11:30.

Preschool Information Day will be held Wednesday, March 26, at the school from 10:30-11:30.

We discussed the start time for preschool relative to the start time for other grades (before or after Labor Day). The Board is indicating that starting at the same date as the K-5 students would be beneficial.

We continued discussions about summer activities at the school.

The Automated External Defibrillator (AED) has been received.

BOARD OF ELDERS – The Board of Elders discussed decreasing attendance numbers. The board believes the best way to encourage members who have been absent from church to resume regular worship is through personal contact by those with whom the members have a relationship. The Elders encourage all members if they notice family members or friends who may be absent from worship so speak with them reminding them of the importance of regular worship.

Licenses for us to legally use the electronic version of hymns in *Christian Worship: Supplement* have been purchased for 12 months. Approximate cost was \$380.00.

Noise level in the narthex and sanctuary prior to worship services is still an issue. The Board of Elders reminds the congregation when visiting with each other in the narthex and sanctuary to please be mindful of others who are preparing for worship.

BOARD OF EVANGELISM AND STEWARDSHIP – The website has been switched over to Finalweb and is up and running. We plan to switch from a monthly to annual billing cycle. We thank Laurie Voss for her work setting up and maintaining the site.

A bowling outing is scheduled for April 5 from noon to 2:00 PM.

A Lugnut game outing is scheduled for August 9.

Wednesday night Lent service suppers were discussed. We have the first five suppers covered, and are looking for congregation families to sign up for the final Lent supper.

We discussed the special Passover meal.

We plan on purchasing a special cake from D&W for the April 13th new member reception.

Contact has been made with the WELS Planned Giving Counselor about a financial planning seminar.

We added fresh fruit to the Easter breakfast menu.

We discussed the Ladies Fellowship idea to hold a Friendship Sunday in October to invite unchurched friends, relatives and neighbors to attend a service and meal/event at school.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES – Pat Crandall removed the spots on the carpeting in the sanctuary.

Dave Wood repaired the snow thrower at church.

We discussed the downspouts and eaves at the school. All are damaged by the winter storm and ice.

We discussed the ice melting off the top of the building at school causing the lobby doors to be frozen shut.

We discussed the church ramp and repairs/replacement of it for this summer.

Basketball finished up on the 2nd of March. Our facility usage revenue was between \$12,000 and \$13,000 from September through March.



BADGER NEWS

FROM MRS. LEITZ –

Preschool: March was a month of catching up from all of our snow days. We also had Timmy the Tooth visit to talk about how to care for our teeth. For Christ Light in the month of April we will be pause from our Old Testament Bible lessons and learn about the events that led up to Christ's death and resurrection. We will finish learning our letters of the alphabet and start working on writing our names with lower case letters. In math we will work on numbers 1-5. In science we will finish learning about our bodies and start learning about life cycles. We also will have spring break and Easter to look forward too. We also may have a field trip at the end of April or beginning of May.

Donations needed: I would like to convert storing my themed units for preschool instruction from cardboard boxes to plastic tubs so that the items are well protected for future years. I need about 8 or 9 clear tubs with lids that are 28 quarts in size or larger. Any donations of these would be greatly appreciated. Thank you!

May The Lord bless your Easter celebration!

Kindergarten: March was the month of catching up from all of our snow days. We also had Timmy the Tooth visit to talk about how to care for our teeth. For math next month we will concentrate on adding and subtracting bigger numbers, and learning more about counting and using money. In science we will be learning about properties and magnets. For Super Kids next month we will cover the letters P,V,W, and K/Q. We have spring break, Easter, and possibly a field trip at the end of the month.

May The Lord bless your Easter celebration!

FROM MRS. DOMKE - In our Christ Light lessons this past month we have been learning about Israel's desire for and problems with their first kings. God allowed first Saul and then David to lead the chosen people. But, these men did just as God had predicted. They began their reigns as good, upright men. The sinful nature in each reared its ugly head and lead the men to make poor, even damning decisions. David repented and stayed close to God, although his decisions had lasting, hurtful effects on God's people. Saul appeared to die pushing away God's forgiveness. Our study of these men reminded us again and again how our God wants us to be his children, assures us of our Savior, and shows us how to live a life that reflects our Savior's love.

We enjoyed a visit from Dr. Melissa and Timmy the Tooth on March 21. What a good reminder about taking care of our teeth.

Grades 2-5 certainly enjoyed playing the chimes in March! Now the first grade wants to get into the action, too. We will try to play at least one more time this school year.

Grades 3-5 is continuing our tour of the United States. We've hit the New England, Mid-Atlantic, Southeast and Midwest/Great Plains regions of the United States. We've also learned quite a bit about this wonderful country of ours. It is so much fun to learn all about the history, topography and fun facts of a state and region.

MORNINGS WITH MOMMY: Our next session for *Mornings with Mommy* will be April 17th. Our theme for this month, although a little early, will be Easter; Jesus is Risen! There will be many fun things to do including: Easter egg painting, playing with egg shakers, and filling egg cartons. Please come and join us for a fun-filled hour of playing and making new friends!

Any donations for next month's *Mornings with Mommy* would be greatly appreciated. Items needed: Play tent (Walmart.com 29.99), empty egg cartons, egg shape sorters (Hide and Squeak eggs \$14.99 or Small world express small egg-shape sorter \$8.04 from Amazon).

Thank you so much for your consideration. *Karla Leitz*

New program to help school - *Kellogg Family Rewards* is a program where you can collect codes from products, enter the codes on line, collect points and then earn rewards for your family. Please go to this site for more information and to see a list of products that have codes.

https://www.kelloggsfamilyrewards.com/en_US/home.html

We urge families to consider sharing their points with the school. There is a place to do so on the site. Our school will then receive money towards things for school. Since this can all be done on an individual basis, we hope families will consider helping our school in this way. A suggestion is to have children find and enter the codes and in so doing, they help our school and congregation.



SERVING OUR LORD FOR OUR APRIL SERVICES:

<i>Ushers</i>		<i>Altar Guild</i>	<i>Greeter(s)</i>	<i>Cleaners</i>
8:00	10:30			
4/02 - #1 T. Marion		M. Zoran		
4/06 - #2 V. Domke	#8 D. Rector	C. Burris	H&M Surtman	Crandall
4/09 - #2 V. Domke		C. Burris		
4/13 - #5 S. Houser	#9 D. Fisher	K. Ward	D&S Fisher	Domke
4/17 - #3 J. Janecke		K. Ward		
4/18 - #9 D. Fisher		K. Ward		
4/20 - #6 E. Ruhlig	#1 T. Marion	J. Vogt	S&G Houser	J. Douglas
4/27 - #7 D. Kasischke	#4 B. Grinnell	D. Steiner	C. Douglas	Every

Church Kitchen
M. Bennett

Ladies' Fellowship Hostesses
(Bring a snack to share this month and your own beverage.)

CHRIST THE LORD IS RISEN! HALLELUJAH!
THANKS BE TO GOD WHO GIVES US THE VICTORY.

