



MEMORIAL MESSENGER April 2018



"It is finished!" "He is not here; He has risen, just as He said." (John 19:30; Matthew 28:6)

What will happen this time? When the baseball season begins this week, will our team do better or worse than last year? Will the weather stay cold and dry the way it was all March, or will April be warm and wet?

None of us asked, "What will happen this time?" about the life and mission of our Savior as we gathered in His house for six Lent services. Year after year the lessons never change; the ending is ever the same: *crucified, died, and was buried. The third day He rose.* On a Friday His followers call *Good*, a young man who was devoted to mankind's good was unjustly executed and placed in another man's grave. Then, before the sun rose the following Sunday, the same man rose from His grave, *"just as He said"*.

So, no surprises are delivered in Lent or during Holy Week. But do we understand what really happened?

When Jesus said, *"It is finished!"*, it wasn't uttered in exhaustion or exasperation. When we say, "It is finished!", we usually mean, "I'm glad that's over." What our Lord really said at the cross was, *"It has been perfectly completed!"* What our Savior had done was make the perfectly full payment for every sin ever as He suffered hell in our place while He hung there.

That's what really happened at the cross. It wasn't the tragic death of an innocent man – though Jesus was innocent. It was the sacrificial death of our Savior. It was the sacrifice required by God's plan. It was the sacrifice made by God's Son. It was the sacrifice we desperately needed.

An ancient church father scolded the congregation he served, "You do not take the cross seriously because you do not take your sins seriously!" Sin isn't only scandalous conduct. Sin is also our thoughts which don't meet the standard of God's law of love. By that standard, there is always something impure in our motives. How can we ever make up for all of that? We can't! But He did! Perfectly! *"It has been perfectly completed!"*

We'd have doubts about that if He were still dead. The proof that our Savior did indeed make full payment for our sins is Jesus raising Himself from the dead three days later *"just as He said"* He would do. The assurance that our holy Father in heaven has accepted His beloved Son's payment for our every sin is God the Father raising God the Son from the dead.

That's what really happened at the grave. It wasn't the correction of a horrible wrong, as though the Father made a mistake in letting Jesus die and then the Father made up for that. It was the triumphant rising of God's Son. It was the victorious statement of God in heaven: *"Your sins are covered, dear people! Count on it!"*

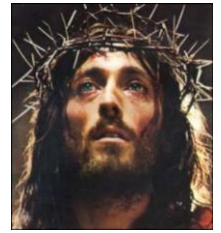
One could make a case that our Christian faith is summed up in these two Holy Week sentences: *"It is finished! He has risen!"* It is the truth that is so simple our little children know it and trust it and without shame tell others, "Jesus died for me, then He rose from the dead for me!" It is the truth so powerful that not even Satan himself can mount an argument against it.

We know how it will turn out this time. And we can't wait to hear it again and again and again! See you in God's house this holy weekend!

Pastor Voss



THE WALK to our Savior's cross and empty tomb reaches its climax this weekend with a number of special worship services.



OUR HOLY WEEK WORSHIP SCHEDULE:

Maundy Thursday, March 29 – 7:00 PM with Communion
Good Friday, March 30 – 7:00 PM: Tenebrae (darkness) service
Easter Sunday, April 1 – **7:30 & 10:30 AM**

Easter breakfast served 8:45 - 9:35 **at our school**; no Sunday School or Bible Class

THE CHILDREN of the congregation will sing at the beginning of each service ***Easter Sunday***. They have been rehearsing their song before Sunday School sessions, as well as daily at our school.

INVITE UNCHURCHED loved ones, friends, and neighbors to our Good Friday and Easter Sunday services, as we celebrate the greatest events in world history: ***Christ has died and is risen to save us sinners!*** Invite them to our Easter Breakfast as well. Use the invitation cards on the narthex counter to extend your invitation to them to worship with us.

OUTREACH DVDs The Board of Evangelism & Stewardship reminds members that we have copies of the ***WELS DVDs "Road to Emmaus", "Come, Follow Me", and "My Son, My Savior"*** available for purchase (\$3 per copy; 2 for \$5).

Consider purchasing copies for your family and friends to show them why the work of the Savior is needed by every sinner. ***Any, or all, of these videos would be a great way to invite them to our special Holy Week services March 29, 30, and April 1.***



AN OUTSIDE WORK DAY has been set by our Board of Trustees for ***Saturday, April 7***, starting at ***church at 8 AM***. If you can, please bring tools needed to complete outside work: rake, shovel, broom, etc. Please set aside the date now!

WE HAVE REFRESHMENTS on one Sunday each month during the school year. On ***Sunday, April 8***, our Sunday School and Bible Class sessions will begin 10 minutes later than usual.

The refreshments will be available **9:05 - 9:25**. At 9:25 Sunday School sessions downstairs and Bible Class upstairs will begin.

Please let Joe Janecke, Dan Kasischke, or Jason Leitz from our Board of Evangelism & Stewardship know how you like this new time for monthly refreshments. Please let one of us know if you are willing to provide light refreshments (nothing elaborate) on ***May 6***.

LADIES FELLOWSHIP We will meet one week later than usual - **April 9**. Besides talking about a new event we would like to plan, we are also going to work on our church library.



THE CMLAL VOLLEYBALL tournament will be held in our school gym on ***Saturday, April 21***. Games will begin at 10 AM and continue into early afternoon. If you can help with concessions, please speak to Pastor Voss or Judy Domke.



OUR YOUTH CONFIRMATION will be in the late service on ***Sunday, May 6***. This year's Confirmation candidates are ***Leah Domke, Seth Domke, and Aaliyah Shipman***.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL At the February Board of Christian Education meeting, after getting feedback from some of our VBS helpers, the board decided to change the date of this summer's Vacation Bible School.

VBS will be held *the mornings of Monday, July 23 through Thursday, July 26*. Please make a note of the change.

WELS CHRISTIAN WOMEN'S RETREAT will be held *April 13-15* at Marriott Auburn Hills in Pontiac. For more information or to register, go to www.tcwr.org.

OFFER FROM AN AREA BUSINESS The church office has received a letter from the new owner of the car wash and self storage facility on the south side of Grand River Avenue just west of our church. The new owners of the business extend the following offer:

On Monday and Tuesday each week, for any car getting a Work Wash in our soft cloth tunnel we will give \$1.00 back to their church. They must bring in that week's church bulletin. This will allow us to track what church we would write a check to at the end of the month.

THE MONTHLY HOT LUNCH at Memorial Lutheran School for December will be served *April 20*. The menu will be sloppy joes and veggie fries, fruit and vegetables, and jello.

Volunteers from the congregation are welcome to help serve the meal; speak with Pastor Voss for more information. Also, if you wish to prepare and/or donate any of the items (except for the first two), please speak with Pastor Voss or sign up for the item(s) on the list that has been posted at church.

SOMETHING NEW FOR SUMMER REFRESHMENTS For one Sunday last summer no families signed up to host a non-Communion Sunday refreshment hour. A few days before that Sunday we sent an email message, asking families to bring a little something for what we called a *potluck refreshment hour*. It was very well received.

The Board of Evangelism & Stewardship has decided that we'll have a *potluck refreshment hour* once during each of the summer months. Here are the dates: *June 3, July 1, and August 5*. On those dates there will be no specific hosts. Instead, we ask each family that heads downstairs for refreshments to bring a little something to eat, sharing it with the others who attend.

The regular summer refreshment dates are June 17, July 15, July 29, August 19, and September 2. In May a sheet will be posted. We will look for several families to can sign up on that sheet to indicate their willingness to provide refreshments for one of those five Sundays.

AMAZON has a program in which 0.5% of qualified Amazon purchases can be given to a charity of the buyer's choice. <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/38-2130250> To get additional information, please speak to Kim Fedewa or Pastor Voss. You must to to this link each time you order.

CHURCH COUNCIL REPORTS

PASTOR'S REPORT – There are three eighth grade students (Leah, Seth and Aaliyah) in the Catechism Class (along with two seventh grade students). The class is on track to finish the material, as well as get our three 8th grade review sessions in, before Confirmation Sunday on May 6.

WELS news – As a result of higher than anticipated Congregation Mission Offerings (CMO) in 2017, the WELS Synodical Council (SC) voted to fund the top three items on the unfunded priority list as adopted by the 2017 synod convention. The SC also received information about 2018 CMO subscriptions, which are lower than the budget adopted for

this fiscal year. The SC will carefully monitor WELS expenses and CMO received throughout the year, and will make budget adjustments if necessary.

Since our preschool roundup and kindergarten roundup happened after the Board of Christian Education met, I'll provide an update here.

Two children who are prospective 3 year old students for our 2018-2019 preschool year attended, and one of them will apply for sure. A few other families have asked for preschool information, but didn't attend. We expect our two current 3 year old students to be enrolled as 4 year old preschoolers in the fall.

Six students were present for kindergarten roundup, and all six will enroll as kindergarten students for 2018-2019. Of those students, 4 are currently in our preschool; 1 is a younger sibling of older students in our school; 1 student attended after his family found information about our school on-line, called to inquire about kindergarten opening for next year, and received our invitation to kindergarten roundup.

The Altar Guild has spoken with the Board of Elders about their desire to purchase new white and green altar paraments since the altar cloths in those colors are quite stained and in poor shape. The new paraments will be paid for by special gifts that the Altar Guild and Ladies Fellowship have given and received.

The Michigan District Convention meets June 11-13 at MLS in Saginaw. Our Board of Elders will contact men from our congregation to serve as our lay delegate.

BOARD OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION – Enrollment is unchanged at 25.

A Facebook targeted marketing campaign ran February 28-March 7 to promote preschool and kindergarten roundups. PTO paid \$105. 20,417 people saw the ad with 23 post engagements and 11 link clicks to the website.

PTO purchased software for six computers in our computer room.

Standardized testing will be done in April.

The CMLAL volleyball tournament will be held at our school April 21.

Small school field day is at MLS in Saginaw on May 18.

We remind everyone that VBS has been scheduled for July 23-26.

The Board of Christian Education has discussed the need for a modest tuition increase for the upcoming school year (2018-2019). With much thought and discussion we propose tuition for the 2018-2019 school year to be:

Preschool: \$850, plus a \$50 application for new preschool students (currently it is \$750, with a \$50 application fee)

Kindergarten – Grade 5 for Memorial Ev. Lutheran Church students: \$1000 (currently \$1000)

Kindergarten-Grade 5 for non-Memorial member students: \$1,250 for first child, \$1000 for younger children in same family (currently \$1000 for all non-member children)

BOARD OF ELDERS – The Board of Elders recommends the transfer of membership of Garrett Peckens to Salem Ev. Lutheran Church in Ann Arbor.

Pastor Voss will not be here for worship services April 22. Rex Hannewald will conduct services that day. Holy Communion will not be served at the worship services that Sunday.

The organist schedule and HymnSoft program operator schedule has been set through the end of June.

BOARD OF EVANGELISM AND STEWARDSHIP – Our board urges members to invite family and friends to our special Lent and Holy Week services.

A family event was held Sunday, February 18. We thank several families for the meal after church that day and for organizing the event.

Our board discussed dates for congregation members and friends to go together to a Lugnuts game this summer. The date selected is Saturday, August 11.

Our office secretary makes sure that a link to the most recent WELS Connection video is posted on our congregation's web site once WELS makes the video available (usually the end of the month).

BOARD OF TRUSTEES – Our board recommends the expenditure of not more than \$1750.00 to refinish and recoat the gymnasium floor on or about the first week in June 2018; hiring Floor Care Concepts to perform the work.

Our board recommends spending up to \$650.00 to have the school floor lobby and hallways stripped and waxed the first week in April, over spring break.

Joe Janecke installed LED lighting in the wings of church.

Our board will be working on getting lawn mowers ready, painting handrails at church, and repairing the metal bi-fold doors in the church kitchen.

Already repaired are the ceiling tiles in the balcony, the dampers in the heating units at school, and resealing around the roof top units at school.

Facility use for the 2017-2018 basketball season: We held 119 games at our facility and grades 1-6 tournament. The season ran from November through February 25. Many thanks to everyone who volunteered their time, talent, energy, and commitment to raise money for our church and PTO.

The spring cleaning date is set for April 7. We will meet at church at 8:00 AM.



BADGER NEWS from SCHOOL -

FROM MRS. LEITZ AND OUR PRESCHOOL AND KINDERGARTEN ROOMS: How March has flown by!! The preschool has been busy learning more letters, counting, putting things in order by length, width, and height. We spent some time learning about evaporation and how rain and snow fall.

In our Bible lessons we have been learning about the Judges and Ruth. Learning that, like the judges, God has chosen us to serve others and Him by telling others about Jesus and what He has done for us. We learn to be like Ruth and put God first in our lives.

Kinders have been busy blending their letter sounds together to read words! In math they have been telling time, measuring, counting money, and graphing. In science we have been learning about magnets.

We have also started to practice our play "Tikki Tikki Tembo." So far we have only learned a few of our songs but it's sure to be a good one! Come and see us perform it in May!

We are ending our month by celebrating Jesus resurrection with an Easter egg hunt and reviewing the story leading up to His death and resurrection.

May you all be lifted with joy this next month with the remembrance of our Savior's resurrection!

FROM MRS. DOMKE AND GRADES ONE-FIVE: In God's Word this month we have been studying about the first king of Israel. King Saul was faithful to his God - at first. He led Israel bravely, provided a good example for people to follow, and encouraged people to worship faithfully. But, after a time, Saul began to think of himself more than what God wanted for him. God let Saul know that because of his unfaithfulness Saul's family would not continue as kings of Israel. David would be the next king.

Grades 3-5 took a quick trip to the Wharton Center last month to enjoy a program of music by the Lansing Concert Band. We learned about the instruments belonging to the orchestra. We also learned about emotions in music. It was a really fun outing.

Our play this year is called Let's Eat! The songs are great and the dialogue is pithy! We think you will love it. Make time to come and see it in May.

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			
4/01 - #6 E. Ruhlig	#8 D. Rector	K. Unruh	A&J Rusnak	B&N Tobia
4/08 - #7 D. Kasischke	#9 D. Fisher	S. Unruh	B. Carpenter	Pastor, L Voss
4/15 - #2 V. Domke	#1 T. Marion	C. Kasischke	D&T Wood	L&K Ward
4/22 - #5 S. Houser	#4 B. Grinnell	S. Rector	V&J Domke	S&S Arntson
4/29 - #6 E. Ruhlig	#3 J. Janecke	R. Olin	B. VanOstran	B&J Briggs

