



MEMORIAL MESSENGER April 2019



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

Our culture's Easter emphasis on baby animals and budding flowers and pastel colors and reawakening nature ignores the truth about what Christ Jesus was sent into the world to accomplish.

"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 to 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!

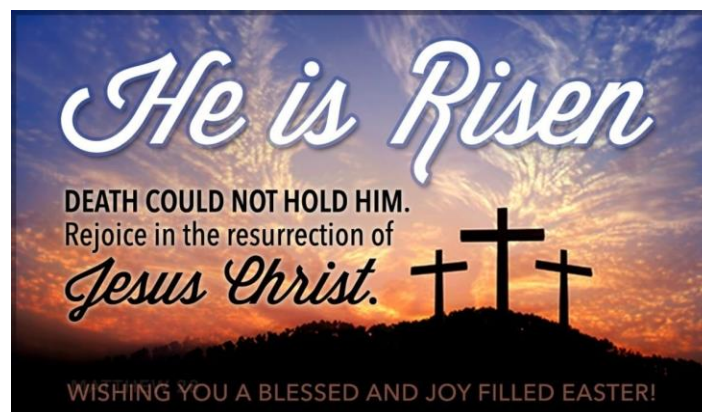
Death has touched several families – and all our congregation – within the last month. How wonderful the message that those who depart this life trusting in the Savior's work for sinners live forever!

"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? 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





FOREVER WITH THE LORD!

On Thursday, March 14, our risen Savior called to Himself the soul of **Karen Groop**. Karen had been under hospice care the last month or so of her life. A private service to comfort Karen's husband Richard and their children Gary, Patti, and David will be held at a later date.

On Wednesday, March 20, Jesus called to Himself in heaven the soul of **Rex Hannewald**. Rex died in a tragic farm accident. The Christian funeral service to comfort Rex's wife Judi, their children Adriane and Brent, and other loved ones was held at our church March 25.

We ask our risen Savior Jesus to comfort the loved ones of Karen and Rex, and all others who mourn their deaths. But we also rejoice with them that Karen's soul and Rex's soul are now with Jesus forever! God works all things out for good to those who love and trust Him.

THE WALK ALONG OUR SAVIOR'S path to His crucifixion continues ***Wednesdays, April 3 and April 10.*** ***Lent services are held both of those Wednesday 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. The midweek services have the theme *Symbols of Our Savior's Suffering*.

LENT 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.

The suppers begin at **6:00**. A free will offering to help with meal expenses will be received each week.

Our thanks to all who will volunteered to provide food for these suppers, as well as to those who will set things up for the meals and clean up after them!



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

OUR HOLY WEEK WORSHIP SCHEDULE:

Maundy Thursday, April 18 – 7:00 PM with Communion

Good Friday, April 19 – 7:00 PM: Tenebrae (darkness) service

Easter Sunday, April 21 – **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.



OUR ANNUAL NEW MEMBER RECEPTION will take place at a potluck dinner following the late service *Palm Sunday, April 14*. 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. The reception will be held in our school gym.

A presentation will recognize new members, as well as our 2019 youth confirmation candidates.

OUR YOUTH CONFIRMATION will be in the late service on *Sunday, May 5*. This year's Confirmation candidates are *Breanna Arnston* and *Sophia Staffeld*.

THE VOICE CHOIR rehearses *Thursday evenings at 7:00*. We are working on music to sing for our Holy Week services.

We hope that new choir voices will join us! Any communicant member is welcome to sing with us for Holy Week services, and possibly a Sunday morning service during Lent.



LADIES FELLOWSHIP GROUP At our meeting in March we were able to discuss more about where we would send our mission offerings from 2018. We sent mission offerings to the Hmong Outreach in Vietnam, to the new mission Living Hope Lutheran Church in Chattanooga, TN (where Pastor Eric Melso is now pastor), and used other mission offerings to do work in our church for new kitchen flooring. We also made many beautiful and unique cards for sending to our shut-ins and

hospitalized members.

Our April 1 meeting will be time for us to work on our church library. We encourage all members to use this valuable resource. There is something there for every age in both fiction and non-fiction. Books that focus on our Bible Class of Ruth are set out on the shelf in the narthex. Take a look and check them out to read at home.

We remind our gals to keep watch for those towel, potholder and dishcloth sets for a future project we will do too. Come to our meeting and learn about these wonderful and fun projects.

We also remind you to remember your Prayer Partner and send her a card at the end of the month that lets her know who her Prayer Partner was that month.

Carol K is our volunteer this month to clean and keep an eye on the church kitchen for needed items to be purchased.

OPEN FORUM AND VOTERS MEETING CHANGES

Because Easter Sunday this year is the Sunday before the normal date of the voters meeting, President Dane Nickols and Vice-President Joe Janecke have decided to postpone:

- the open forum that precedes the voters meeting to **Sunday, April 28 at 11:40**, and
- the voters meeting to **Tuesday, April 30 at 7:00**.

Please make a note of the changes.

WE HAVE REFRESHMENTS the first Sunday of each month. On **Sunday, April 7** our Sunday School and Bible Class sessions will not begin until **9:25**. The refreshments will be available ***in the fellowship hall 9:05-9:23***. Join us! These monthly gatherings are designed to provide time for our members to greet and visit with each other, much like we do on non-Communion Sundays in the summer months.

We have volunteer hosts for the first Sundays in April and May. We thank our volunteer hosts! If you are willing to provide something simple for first-Sunday refreshments in the fall, please speak to Joe Janecke, Dan Kasischke, Jason Leitz, or Pastor Voss.

HELP? We have 6 volunteers to operate HymnSoft for our early services, but only 3 to do so for our late services. ***Might you be willing to be on the schedule to operate HymnSoft for our late services?***

Our HymnSoft operators do **not** need

- to set up anything on the computer or organ (everything is set up by others before the service begins), or
- to have any extensive computer or music skills.

Our HymnSoft operators **do**

- follow along with the service and use the laptop's space bar when the next music selection is needed, and ...
- ... that's all there is to it!

Speak to Laurie or Pastor Voss for a demonstration of how easy it is to run HymnSoft, as well as for answers to your questions or concerns about being a HymnSoft operator. ***Might you be willing to be on the schedule to operate HymnSoft for our late services?***

THE CMLAL VOLLEYBALL tournament will be held in our school gym on ***Saturday, May 4***. 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.

WELS APP Every so often we remind you about the WELS app that our Synod has developed and makes available with a free download. We encourage you to download the WELS app – and use it!

It has a church locator for your travels, daily devotions, Bible reading series, and much more!

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.

CHURCH COUNCIL REPORTS

PASTOR'S REPORT – There are two eighth grade students in the Catechism Class (along with two seventh grade students). The class is on track to finish the material, as well as get our 8th Grade review sessions in, before Confirmation Sunday on May 5. I expect Breanna Arntson and Sophia Staffeld to present themselves for reception into communicant membership.

WELS news - CMO receipts through the end of February across WELS have been strong. More than \$2,664,000 has been received in CMO (compared to \$2,500,000 at the same time in 2018), and that amount is nearly \$130,000 ahead of pro-rated subscriptions by WELS congregations for 2019. Michigan District congregations have submitted \$284,000 of that \$2.65 million (compared to \$277,000 through February in 2018), which is nearly \$45,000 above pro-rated subscriptions by Michigan District congregations. We thank the Lord for this good news, and pray to Him that CMO thankofferings will continue to be strong.

The WELS Hymnal Committee hopes to have a new hymnal ready for use some time in 2021. I haven't yet heard the cost for the new hymnal, and it might be some time before a cost is determined and announced. It sounds like there will be options for printed copies and digital files to be downloaded by worshipers on mobile devices.

Although a lot of details remain for the WELS Hymnal Committee, I'll begin discussing with the Board of Elders setting up a special Hymnal Fund here. That's what we did in 1994 when the hymnals we are using now were ordered. Much of the cost was covered by gifts to such a special fund.

BOARD OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION – Enrollment is (34) - Preschool: 5; Kindergarten: 9 (up 1 for the balance of the school year); Grades 1-5: 20.

School Promotion: Laurie Voss updated our Facebook pages for our Pre-school and Kindergarten roundups. Invitations for Preschool and Kindergarten roundups were prepared and distributed.

Classroom Grades 1-5: The MLS Recruitment Coordinator was here March 11. Judy will administer ACT tests the week of April 22.

Classrooms Pre-school and Kindergarten: We have applied for our 2-year pre-school license. \$290.00 was requested from the General Fund for the Environmental Health Inspection. We await required inspections from the state. Karla met with the board to discuss how she would teach grade 1 and kindergarten and preschool, as well as having 4-day/wk. half day preschool sessions for 4 year olds. Karla has done a great job making up the preschool days lost to snow and cold.

BOARD OF ELDERS – Our voice choir resumed rehearsals March 14.

Due to health issues, our chime choir has not been rehearsing. Rehearsals will resume when everyone is healthy enough to do so.

BOARD OF EVANGELISM AND STEWARDSHIP – We discussed the website and updates to it. We thank Laurie Voss for her work on the web site.

We thank the members who donated two coffee makers for use in the church kitchen.

We discussed the *Opportunities to Serve* pamphlet and the updates that are being made to it.

We discussed the upcoming Holy Week and special Evangelism ideas for encouraging members to invite the unchurched to hear about the Savior with us.

We ordered 2020 thankoffering envelopes and were able to drop the *Initial Offering* envelope that asked members to contribute \$3.00 for the cost of envelopes.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES – Our board, Church Council, and congregation extend thanks to Katee, Howard and Sue Clark for their many years of faithful service to our congregation in their role as school custodian.

Pat Crandall is now our school custodian.

A group is looking at providing new flooring in the church kitchen and asked about the installation of the new floor over an existing drain.

Pastor and Laurie will stain the parsonage deck in early summer.

The school stage will be set up April 22 for the May 16th play productions. All gym activities will be postponed until after May 16.

BADGER NEWS from SCHOOL

FROM MRS. LEITZ AND PRESCHOOL-KINDERGARTEN: This past month in our Bible lessons we have been learning about how Jesus has been preparing both Himself and the disciples for His death and resurrection. We see Jesus teaching us many important lessons even up to the time He was arrested. He taught us to serve others and not to be served, and to ask God for His will in our lives and trust that He will do what is best for us even if we don't understand it.

The preschool has started working on their numbers 1-5 in math. The threes have been working on many of their letters and are close to finishing with their letters. Then we will review them all over again before the end of the year. The fours are getting towards the end of the alphabet as well and are currently doing the story *Peter and the Wolf*.

The kindergartners have been working on adding, subtracting, measuring length and distance, telling time, and counting to twenty in math. For our Super Kids reading program the Kinders are able to read four letter words that they can sound out. They are learning the structure of writing a sentence and can write out words by listening to the sound of the letters in the word. It's a fun time of year to look back and see how far they have come! In

Social Studies we have started a unit on community. They are currently learning their own addresses and phone numbers.

We have also started working on our play “The Very Very Gingerbread Man”. We hope it proves to be a very very cute and fun play!

May you all have a blessed April.

FROM MRS. DOMKE AND GRADES 1-5: During March we have been studying the lessons of Jesus' passion in our Bible study class. How wonderful to remember how Jesus set aside His position as God to be our Savior. He took human form, suffered and died to take our place. Then He rose on the third day. All for us! We will also rise to glory one day and spend eternity in the bliss of heaven!

We have begun work on our class play, “Rats!”. It is all about the story of the Pied Piper. The songs are fun and we are enjoying learning them. If we could get everyone healthy that would really be great! Our play is in May, so think about coming and supporting our Badger theater!

We just finished up a chapter in Social Studies about Michigan in the years following the second world war. We learned about some famous Michiganders, as well as the beginnings of interstate highways, suburbs and shopping malls. We also are learning about buying on credit, interest, prophet and repossession.

In science we are soon beginning a chapter on the solar system. It will be so fun to consider what God put in the sky to give us light and to amaze us.

FROM PASTOR (and principal): We thank our members and school families who provide food and drink for the hot lunches at school, as well as those who help serve the meals and clean up after the meals. Your kind assistance and generosity is deeply appreciated!

SERVING OUR LORD FOR OUR APRIL SERVICES:

	<i>Ushers</i>	<i>Altar Guild</i>	<i>Greeter(s)</i>	<i>Cleaners</i>
	<u>8:00</u>			
	<u>10:30</u>			
4/03 -	#4 B. Grinnell	S. Unruh		
4/07 -	#2 V. Domke	K. Unruh	S&G Houser	B&N Tobia
4/10 -	#5 S. Houser	K. Unruh		
4/14 -	#7 D. Kasischke	K. Ward	L. Voss	Pastor & L Voss
4/18 -	#6 E. Ruhlig	K. Ward		
4/19 -	#9 D. Fisher	K. Ward		
4/21 -	#5 S. Houser	R. Olin		L&K Ward
4/28 -	#6 E. Ruhlig	L. Voss	F&N Mills	S&S Arntson

