

MEMORIAL MESSENGER

August 2014

Be imitators of God, therefore, as dearly loved children and live a life of love, just as Christ loved us and gave Himself for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God. Ephesians 5:1-2



Do you ride a bike, walk, or run along country roads in the summer? If so, you notice dead animals more with your nose than with your eyes, right? It's one thing to see a dead deer or raccoon or possum on the side of road; it's something else to ride or stride past the spot. The stench of a decaying carcass is almost overpowering—especially in the warm days of summer. A person can't stomach the smell for more than a few moments.

In spite of our culture's attempts to dignify death with beautiful flowers and ornate caskets, death stinks! Death is God's punishment on our world for sin. Death is a powerful way for God to say, "I hate sin! And because all people sin, all people will die!"

Bodily death would have been for all people the final step to eternal suffering in hell. But God stepped forward and did something about our guilt. Jesus agreed to die for us so that we would not be damned forever. He didn't do that because He had to. Jesus didn't mutter, "If nobody else will, I guess I'll *have to!*" Jesus didn't die with a chip on His shoulder. He *"loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God"*. In love for us sinners, Christ *wanted* to cover our trespasses and their guilt.

Still, we're going to die—unless Judgment Day comes first. But now we view death as passing from this life of sorrow to the life of unending happiness with God. Thanks to Jesus, we know that death isn't the end for us. Leaning on His holy life and trusting in His suffering for us, we will face our last day with courage and joy.

But the sacrificial death of Jesus also has great power for our lives each day *before* we die. Because of what the Savior did for us sinners, we now *"live a life of love, just as Christ loved us and gave Himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God"*. No longer are we covered with the stench of death, but with the holiness of Jesus. No longer does the Father turn away from us in repulsion over our guilt, but He sees us as His children in Jesus. No longer do we live like rotting corpses, but we live in active love for God who saved us.

How does the world see us? How does the Lord look upon our lives each day? Are we more like dead, decaying raccoons in the ditch? Or like the living saints of God—which we are, thanks to God?!? Is our speech sweet-smelling before Jesus? Or are our words full of language that only the devil loves? Do our goals in life reach heaven like a fragrant offering? Or do they smell like death to Him who redeemed us? Does what we value about our existence honor the Lord? Or do our values offend Him?

We've been given the Son of God, along with every needed blessing for life here and hereafter. Our lives will reflect that salvation. *"Be imitators of God, therefore, as dearly loved children."* The way Jesus gave Himself for us not only paves our road to heaven; it also shows us how we will live each moment until we get there.

Pastor Voss





OUR SUMMER WORSHIP SCHEDULE continues. There is one Sunday service through Labor Day weekend, and the service begins at **9:00 AM**.

We also hold a **Monday evening worship service at 7:00**. The Monday evening service will be the same as the service the previous morning. So, if the Sunday before is a Communion service, the Monday evening before it will also include the Lord's Supper.

This summer schedule will continue through Labor Day weekend. *However, please note that the evening service on Labor Day weekend will be held **Thursday, August 28*** to avoid the conflict with the Labor Day holiday. That evening's service will be the same as the following Sunday's service on August 31.

SUMMER REFRESHMENT HOURS We are still seeking families to provide refreshments for the final refreshment hour on August 31.

DIANNE STEINER has moved. Her new address is:

560 Beacon Lake Dr., Apt. 1

Mason, MI 48854.

Dianne can be reached by phone at 517-230-0820. May God bless Dianne in her home!

AT OUR VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL July 21-25 more than 30 children learned what Jesus did to win our salvation, and what He teaches us about His love and forgiveness for all people! We give Christ Jesus our eternal thanks for His Word to share with others!

We also thank Karla Leitz, Rachel Schlicker, Nora Stanton, and Pastor Voss for serving as our teachers; our young people Dan Briggs, Laurel Briggs, Kyle Coulter, Drew Coulter, Taylor Janecke, Samantha Loeffler, and Luke Taranto for their assistance; and adults Linda & Bob Janecke, Rene Hoppe, Karen & Gary Marion, Kathy Fedewa, Judy Domke, Jan Mosher, Joan Vogt, Sueanne Crandall, Jill Briggs, Carolyn Burris, Lori Zessin, and Mark Voss for preparations and/or help with activities that dealt with the life of our Savior and His disciples in Bible times. Thanks also to all who donated money for VBS supplies and/or refreshments!



Check out pictures from VBS on our congregation's web site and on our Facebook pages.

REGISTRATION FOR THE 2014-15 Memorial Lutheran School year will be held **Monday, August 18**, from 5:00–7:00. Students are asked to come to registration in order to get set up in their desk that day, as well as to bring their school supplies to the classroom.

If that will not work for you, please contact Pastor Voss, Mrs. Domke, or Mrs. Leitz to make other registration arrangements.

OUR LUTHERAN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL 2014-15 school year begins with a worship service at our **school Monday, August 25** at 8:30. The entire congregation is invited!

Parents, remember that classes at our school dismiss at 12:00 that day, and that our Labor Day recess is both **Friday, August 29 and Monday, September 1**.



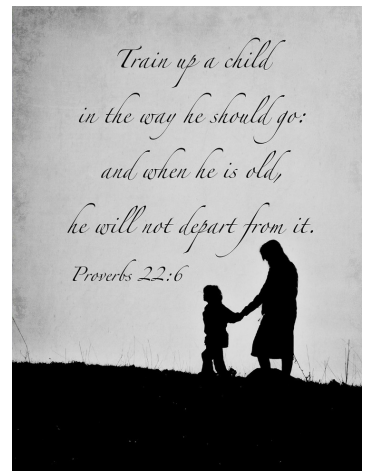
AT THE VOTERS meeting last month, it was decided to adopt the Board of Christian Education's plan to pay Mrs. Charlotte Bater, who will be our substitute teacher during Mrs. Leitz's maternity leave beginning some time in September. The plan will not increase the line item for our preschool & kindergarten teacher.

SUNDAY SCHOOL AND BIBLE CLASS sessions begin ***September 7 at 9:15 AM.***

We urge parents to send their children to Sunday School regularly. Lessons are taught using the WELS religion curriculum *ChristLight*. (We coordinate this with our Lutheran Elementary School Bible History lessons to avoid repetition of material.) Classes are for children 3 years old through 8th grade.

Parents, set a God-pleasing example and continue growing in your knowledge of God's will by heading up the stairs to study God's Word when your children go down the stairs to do the same in their Sunday School classrooms.

The scheduled starting time is 9:15 for Sunday School and Bible Class. (The Sunday morning Bible Class material will be repeated Thursday evenings at 6:35, for those who can't make it on Sunday.)



COME FOLLOW ME *Come Follow Me* is the WELS Evangelism movie that our Bible Class viewed before Easter. Our congregation has ordered 100 of the DVDs at a bulk rate.

Like the *Road to Emmaus* DVD a few years ago, we are offering *Come Follow Me* to you for \$3 (or 2 for \$5). It is our intent to also give our worship visitors and prospective members a copy. Consider purchasing copies of the DVD to give to relatives, neighbors, and friends. Speak with Pastor to purchase your copies.



THE ANNUAL CHURCH PICNIC will be ***Sunday, September 7***. The Board of Evangelism & Stewardship is planning for the meal to feature a pig roast.

We want to provide activities after the meal which will be enjoyable for members of all ages. Activities for which the board is seeking help include a euchre tournament, games for children, Frisbee golf, and other activities for members young and old.

If you can help with any of these activities, or have other activities to suggest, please speak with Joe Janecke, Clark Collins, Andy Rusnak, or Pastor Voss.

LUGNUT GAME Those who purchased tickets for our congregation's trip to the Lugenut game on ***Saturday, August 9*** have received their tickets.

If you need more tickets, or if additional families want to join the fun, please contact the Lugenut ticket office (485-4500) and see if any seats are available in our section—Section F, Rows 25-28. Tickets are \$10.

A GOLF OUTING has been scheduled for ***Sunday, August 24 at Oak Lane Golf Course in Webberville***. Tee times will start at ***12:00***. Cost will be ***\$35*** for the greens fees, a cart, and prizes. A sign up sheet will be posted. Speak to Bruce Painter for more information.

COLLEGE STUDENTS, please submit your campus address, phone number, and e-mail address to Pastor Voss. If he has your e-mail address, he would be happy to send a copy of week's sermon to you electronically.

Even if you have previously submitted a college e-mail address to Pastor Voss, please do so once again so that we can be sure to have up-to-date information. Pastor Voss' e-mail address is revdavoss@gmail.com.

We wish you God's richest blessings on your studies!

PICTURES OF CHURCH AND SCHOOL EVENTS When you have pictures of church or school events, we encourage you to submit them to the office secretary so that we can add them to our web site gallery of photos. We never use names when posting pictures.

New pictures have been posted in the gallery from our Vacation Bible School week.

The members of Emanuel First Ev. Lutheran Church in Lansing invite the members of our congregation to play in a golf scramble event on Saturday, September 13, beginning at 9 AM and held at Royal Scot Golf Course. Cost is \$50 per person and golfers are to form their own foursomes.

If you are interested in the event, please speak to Pastor Voss to get flyers about the event and for registration information.

USE OF CHURCH/SCHOOL FACILITIES AND EQUIPMENT: We remind you that members of the congregation may make use of our spacious school grounds, our tables and chairs, and our fellowship hall for picnic and family gatherings. Please contact Dennis Fisher (517-896-3949) to request a reservation of a facility and/or equipment.

SERVING OUR LORD FOR OUR AUGUST SERVICES:

Ushers
08/03 - #1 T. Marion
08/10 - #2 V. Domke
08/17 - #3 J. Janecke
08/24 - #4 B. Grinnell
08/31 - #5 S. Houser

Altar Guild
K. Unruh
S. Unruh
S&J Rector
M. Bennett
L. Voss

Greeter(s)
H&S Clark
D&C Kasischke
D&D Miller
D&S Rector
K&J Douglas

Cleaners
Miller
Mills
Mosher
Pederson
Clark

Church Kitchen
Karen Collins

