

MEMORIAL MESSENGER



August 2016

*I lift up my eyes to the hills—where
does my help come from?
My help comes from the LORD, the
Maker of heaven and earth.*

Psalm 121:1-2



About twenty years ago scientists were salivating about discovery of the human genome. Being able to map a person's DNA, some experts said, would have untold benefits for healing disease and diagnosing illness. But others warned the same information could be used to decide against treatment for a person ("*DNA evidence shows that she'll never make it!*"), or to promote assisted suicide ("*I'm going to get Alzheimer's and die in ten years anyhow; why not end it on my own terms now?!*"). Thankfully, we don't hear much about that any more.

Still, one wonders how far the Lord will let science push things. But no matter what technology ultimately develops, it will never change the fact that everything lies under God's perfect control. All things come from, and are ordered by, "*the LORD, the Maker of heaven and earth*". Your travels around our state again this summer give ample evidence of that as you take in an astounding mix of trees and water and sand and hills and fields and forests. We do well to think often of God's creating and preserving hand.

But we'd be *miserable* creatures surrounded by breathtaking beauty if it weren't for the same God caring most of all about the human soul. Thanks be to Jesus that He came to earth to carry our penalty on the cross where He suffered our punishment of hell. Thanks be to Jesus that He rose from the dead, then ascended into heaven with the words, "Surely I am with you always—to the very end of the age."

Compare that to the prevailing view of the scientific world. Instead of a random act of chance and people in control of their own destiny, God tells us that the universe was formed at His impulse and by His power. Instead of all moving beings existing as related life forms, God tells us that humans are the crown of His creation—given an eternal soul and sent the suffering Savior—and that He wants all people to be saved and to come a knowledge of the truth, *His* truth. Instead of a survival-of-the-fittest world where there is no higher power and no absolute truth, God tells us that He made the plants and animals and annuals for our benefit, and that He made us that we might serve Him in joyful, daily thanks for all His blessings of body and soul.

I doubt that any discovery will lead a large group of scientists to say, "Now I'm convinced that the universe was formed by a mighty deity some six thousand years or so ago!" Many scientists won't accept the Bible's truth about creation because—they say—creation is a matter of faith.

We agree! "*By faith we understand that the universe was formed at God's command, so that what is seen was not made out of what was visible*" (Hebrews 11:3). But we wish the scientists would see that accepting evolution as explanation for the beginning of things is just as much a matter of faith. In fact, isn't evolution even *more* a matter of faith? Which requires greater faith? Believing that a divine being created all things in six twenty-four days? Or that a one-in-a-trillion chance collision got the evolutionary ball rolling, and that everything just happened to come out well and continues to go pretty well?

You and I will keep trusting that the LORD who created all is the same God who has given us sinners salvation in His Son. That spiritual, eternal help, too, comes from the Maker of heaven and earth, and that is the help we need most and seek day-by-day.

Pastor Voss

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

Most summer weeks we also hold *a Monday evening worship service at 7:00*. The Monday evening service is the same as the service the previous morning.

This summer schedule will continue through Labor Day weekend. However, there will be no Monday evening service when Pastor Voss is out of town on **August 15, and August 22**. Please note that the evening service Labor Day weekend will be held **Thursday, September 1** to avoid the conflict with the Labor Day holiday on Monday. That service will be the same as the service that will follow on Sunday, September 4.

REFRESHMENT HOURS follow the service on non-Communion Sundays this summer.

NOW ENROLLING Throughout the summer, our Lutheran Elementary School faculty is available to visit with and provide information to families that are interested in enrolling their children or grandchildren in our school and preschool. Please give to our teachers or to Pastor Voss the names of anyone who would like to be contacted with more information about our school and preschool.



OUR LUTHERAN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL 2016-17 school year begins with a worship service at our *school Monday, August 29* 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, September 2 and Monday, September 5*.

REGISTRATION FOR THE 2016-17 Memorial Lutheran School year will be held *Wednesday, August 24 from 5:45 – 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.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL was held the last week of July. More than 35 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 our teachers, project organizers and helpers, parents and grandparents for all that they did to prepare 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, including those who brought bottled water!

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

THE ANNUAL CHURCH PICNIC will be *Sunday, September 11*. The Board of Evangelism & Stewardship is planning for the meal to feature a pig roast and other grilled meat.

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 euchre, 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, Dan Kasischke, Jason Leitz, or Pastor Voss.





SUNDAY SCHOOL AND BIBLE CLASS sessions begin *September 11 at 9:15 AM.*

We urge parents to send their children to Sunday School regularly. Our Sunday School is using the WELS religion curriculum *ChristLight*, which is coordinated with our Lutheran Elementary School Bible History lessons (also from *ChristLight*) to avoid repetition of material. ***Classes are for children 3 years old through 8th grade students.***

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 Sunday morning Bible Class material will be repeated Thursday evenings at 6:35, for those who don't make it on Sunday.

MORE WATER? If enough bottled water is donated, we will hand it out to those who visit our school's table at McCormick Park on ***Tuesday, August 2*** for Williamston's National Night Out observance. Please bring bottled water to the church, school, or parsonage by Monday evening, August 1.

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!

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.

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.

SERVING OUR LORD FOR OUR AUGUST SERVICES:

<i>Ushers</i>	<i>Altar Guild</i>	<i>Greeter(s)</i>	<i>Cleaners</i>
8/07 - #4 B. Grinnell	T. Wood	D&C Kasischke	S&S Arntson
8/14 - #5 S. Houser	M. Zoran	L. Tobia	B&J Briggs
8/21 - #6 E. Ruhlig	S. Rector	D&S Rector	G&C Burris
8/28 - #7 D. Kasischke	C. Burris	K&J Douglas	H&S Clark

