



MEMORIAL MESSENGER February 2015



“We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way; and the LORD has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.” (Isaiah 53:6) “Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!” (John 1:29)

A coach sends substitutes into a game for a lot of reasons—other than the wholesome goal to get most of the players into each game. One player gets tired, another is mismatched against the opponent, still another tweaks an ankle, and yet another is having a bad game.

You are familiar with John the Baptist’s explanation of the heavenly Father’s substitution. John pointed to Jesus and proclaimed, *“Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!”* The upcoming Lenten season is all about substitution. In the midweek services which begin Ash Wednesday, February 18, the subdued hymn tunes, the different colors in our worship area, the Scripture lessons and sermons will all direct our attention to history’s most important substitution: *Christ for us sinners*.

Why did the LORD send the Substitute in our place? Were we tired or injured? I suppose that our spiritual condition could be described that way. But such a description would minimize our damning guilt. God’s Word, especially the Isaiah verse above, says it less diplomatically, but far more accurately. *“Each of us has turned to his own way”*, which God goes on to describe as *“the iniquity of us all”*.

The LORD sent the Substitute in our place because we couldn’t get the job done. What job? The demand that we keep God’s law *perfectly*. God doesn’t settle for us doing our best; He leaves no room for error. *“Be perfect...as your heavenly Father is perfect”* (Matthew 5:48). We needed the Substitute because we were headed for certain defeat if left to ourselves. And that defeat would result in our damnation.

Jesus came—not off the bench, but from heaven—to be our saving Substitute. A challenge each Lenten season is that we not narrow our focus on the cross to the fact that there Jesus died a cruel, gruesome death. May the Holy Spirit use His Word to hold before us the saving fact that Christ at the cross—after His perfect life—suffered the torture and torments of hell for every sin. The torture of hell was the punishment we should have paid by suffering forever there. Thanks to our Substitute, we’ll never have to spend a second there!

During Holy Week this year, many will be talking about college basketball’s Final Four games. What we need to hear about that week—and all our lives—isn’t what a coach did by changing his lineup to turn the season around, but what God did by suffering in our place to forgive us now and take us to Himself forever.

May Spirit-worked, humble repentance and joy move us to hear God’s Word in the extra services coming up. May our Substitute continue to take His rightful place at the center of our hearts and at the head of our lives!

Pastor Voss





THE WALK ALONG OUR SAVIOR'S path to His crucifixion begins *Ash Wednesday, February 18. Lent services, which begin that evening, will be held each 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 sermons will have the theme *Conflict Under the Cross*.

WELCOME! *Aron Dawley* has joined our congregation via transfer from Salem Ev. Lutheran Church in Ann Arbor.

Aron lives with his family, our members David & Darlene Dawley and James and Satressa. May his membership be a rich blessing to him, and to our congregation!

THE FLOWER CHART FOR 2015 is posted on the bulletin board.

You are invited to sign up to place flowers on the altar for any Sunday. If you wish, you may also indicate the occasion for which the flowers are being donated.

If you have questions about how to use the chart or order flowers to be presented here in church, please speak to Pastor Voss.



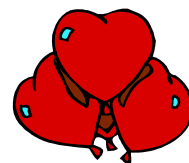
Ladies Fellowship We will meet Monday, February 2 at 7:00 PM. We will continue our Catechism studies this year. Pastor is leading us in those. However, he will be out of town this evening, attending other meetings.

We will set our agenda for 2015 and decide where we will send our mission offerings from 2014. We will start work on the church library after these discussions.

If you wish to do so, please bring a snack to share and your own beverage for this meeting.

MORNINGS WITH MOMMY will meet Thursday February 19th from 10:00-11:00 A.M. This month's session will, of course, be all about Valentine's Day! We will be doing a heart hop, painting hearts, mailing hearts in our "mailbox" and much, much more! We are looking forward to seeing you and your little ones there!

Please come and bring a friend! Contact our director if you have any questions or would like to register for our next session at kleitz25@gmail.com.



CATECHISM CLASS SCHEDULE Parents of our 7th & 8th grade students, please remember the following changes for our classes in February ...

No class Monday, February 2 (or at all that week due to Pastor Voss being out of town for meetings);

Wednesday, February 11 (due to Pastor Voss being at conference Monday and Tuesday.

The class ***will*** meet Monday, February 16 even though many schools will be closed for Presidents' Day.

OUR CHIME CHOIR AND VOICE CHOIR director, Linda Janecke, continues to recover from her recent illness. In consultation with her doctors, she is hoping to resume rehearsals for those choirs on Thursday, February 12, but that will not be definitely determined until after Linda's medical appointments the first week of February. Members of those choirs should check the February 8 bulletin for an announcement about exactly when rehearsals will resume.

NO SCHOOL DATES IN FEBRUARY Please note that there are two no school days in February on the school year calendar:

Monday, February 9 (Pastor – Teacher Conference),

Monday, February 16 (Presidents' Day).

WELS CHRISTIAN WOMEN'S RETREAT will be held ***April 10-11*** at the Crowne Plaza on Creyts Road in Lansing. You may register online at www.tcwr.org.

SCHOOL HOT LUNCH HELP

Denis & Nancy Hart are organizing hot lunches for our school students once per month. We are only looking for people to help serve the meals, which will be one Friday noon per month. Speak to Denis & Nancy if you have any questions. There is a sign up sheet on the church bulletin board.

The next school hot lunch is scheduled for Friday, February 20.

FORWARD IN CHRIST If you wish to renew your subscription to *Forward in Christ*, our Synod's magazine, or order a new subscription, you may use the envelope in your 2015 envelope packet that is marked for this purpose.

Subscription price will be ***\$11.00*** for this year, provided that at least 25 families subscribe. That price covers twelve monthly issues. If you subscribe through the congregation, your issue will be mailed to the church and placed in your box in the narthex.

Forward In Christ is an excellent periodical! It contains Bible studies, articles about how our Savior's love for us has affected people's lives, news from our Synod and religious information from around the world, and a number of other features. If you would like to see a few issues to get an idea of what the magazine is like, speak to Pastor Voss.

Please use your offering packet envelope for *Forward in Christ* (or a plain envelope labeled "*Forward in Christ*"), be sure to put your name on the envelope, fill it with a check for ***\$11.00*** made out to ***Memorial Lutheran Church***, and give it to Pastor Voss. Please do so by ***February 1!***

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 – The officers of the Michigan District will be meeting in the Toledo area February 2-5 (a meeting in connection with the semi-annual meeting of the district's officers and circuit pastors).

It seemed to work well to have 2 Christmas Eve service rehearsals last month, instead of the 3 that have been held most previous years. We'll likely follow that rehearsal schedule for December 2015. We thank our teachers in Sunday School and in our school's classrooms, as well as our parents, for working with the children to prepare to proclaim in word and song the Christmas truth of the birth of the Savior.

WELS news: WELS congregations continue to submit the figure for their 2015 WELS Congregation Mission Offering (CMO) commitment, with a deadline of February 1. The WELS Synodical Council (SC) will meet later in February. The SC, based on what WELS congregations have submitted for 2015 CMO commitments, will decide at that meeting if adjustments need to be made for the balance of this fiscal year's budget and will finalize its proposed budget for 2015-16 and 2016-17 to present to WELS Convention delegates in late July at Michigan Lutheran Seminary.

BOARD OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION – We are seeking updated photos of school-related activities to run as a slide show at weekend basketball games.

We reviewed the proposed school calendar for 2015-16.

No school Monday, February 9 for Pastor/Teacher Conference in Pigeon, MI.

No school Monday, February 16 for Presidents' Day.

CMLAL boys basketball tournament games may be played at our school on Friday, February 27.

We will ask PTO about hosing the first mid-week Lenten supper.

The PTO will discuss financial assistance for school field trips as the need arises.

BOARD OF ELDERS – The Board of Elders recommends the transfer of membership of Aron Dawley to Memorial Ev. Lutheran Church.

The Board of Elders recommends increasing the guest preacher compensation rate to \$100.00 for one service, \$120.00 for two services and \$50 for Bible Class.

The Board of Elders organized as follows: Rex Hannewald-chairman; Bob Briggs-secretary; Denis Hart-head usher.

We will renew our congregation's annual license with 2 copyright companies (for our electronic copy of *Christian Worship: Supplement*) this month.

Our annual December door offering has been sent to Christo Palabra da Vide in Detroit.

BOARD OF EVANGELISM AND STEWARDSHIP – We organized the board as follows: Joe Janecke-chairman and Andy Rusnak-secretary.

We discussed the Live Nativity and parade. Approximately 325-350 people attended the Live Nativity and one family came to our Christmas service as a result. We thank all organizers and volunteers for putting together the Live Nativity and parade.

The Financial Planning seminar was postponed due to Pastor Kenyon's illness.

We thank Clark Collins for distributing the 2014 thankoffering statements.

A bowling outing will be scheduled for April 4th.

We have a nominee for a position on the Board of Christian Education. We plan to hold an election at the January 27th voters' meeting instead of calling a special voters' meeting for the election.

We discussed Lent suppers. We expect to have 3 of the six evenings covered and are looking for additional volunteers.

An audit of the church financial records will be conducted soon.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES – Laurie Voss presented and discussed the various options available for the church/school copier. Our current contract expires on 2/15/2015. Our board thanks Laurie for all of her efforts. Based on the proposals we are recommending that we purchase our existing copier from Hasselbring Clark Company for \$1.00 and enter into a maintenance agreement for the copier at a cost of \$1,072.00 annually.

Board reorganization: We welcome to our board David Dawley. Todd Loeffler-chairman; Victor Domke and David Dawley-school items; Pat Crandall-parsonage items; Bruce Painter-church related items; Dennis Fisher-secretary.

A new snow blower has been purchased and is stored in the parsonage garage.

David Dawley is going to check with a vocational electronics school to see if they would be interested in our old electronic items.

We are still looking into a proposal for installing metal roofing systems at the school, office, garage and pavilion.

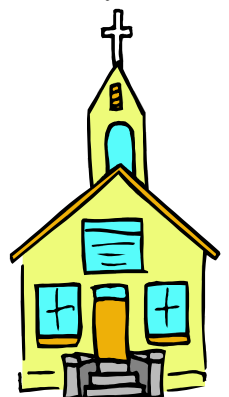
We are also looking at getting a proposal for installing an LED lighting system in the gym area at school.

Victor and Kendall did some extensive work on getting the lift pump station at school operational. Many thanks!

Our board has contacted Spartan Glass to install a new north door at school and we asked for a proposal to move the lobby vestibule wall in 18 inches.

Thank you to those people who helped out by installing weather stripping, sealing up cracks, moving snow and keeping our property maintained.

*Serve the Lord
with gladness!*





BADGER NEWS from SCHOOL -

FROM OUR KINDERGARTEN ROOM:

In Christ Light we have been focusing on Jesus' life and the how He taught His disciples the lessons they needed to learn before His death and resurrection. We also learned lessons along with the disciples by His feeding more than five thousand people, healing ten sick men and learning to be thankful, and learning to put God's Word first from Mary and Martha.

In math we have been learning to count by two's with both even and odd, the numbers 10 and 11, addition, and grouping together things by finding common things about each object.

We have taken a break from science to have some Social Studies and learn about our state! So far we have learned the location of Michigan in the United States. We learned about our state flag, state bird, state flower, and state tree. Next we will take some time to learn about some of the important people in our state's history.

For Super Kids we have met Icky, Tic Tac and Toc, Frits, Ettabetta, and Hot Rod. We have officially finished meeting all of the Super Kids and we will be starting the second semester books with the Super Kids club before this month is up.

May the Lord bless you this chilly month! May he keep you safe and warm!

FROM OUR GRADES 1-5 ROOM:

This past month we have continued with the true lessons about Jesus and His ministry. Jesus has shown us about living a godly life, loving others, and forgiving others, too. He has also shown Himself to be the Son of God with His preaching and His miracles. We continue to encourage parents to worship with their children, to pray at home and to talk about godly living. Too many children lose touch with their God when they don't worship weekly or have devotions daily.

We are planning a trip to the Hannah Community Center next month to see "The Wind in the Willows." It will be well done and a nice break in February. If it works we will also travel to Dansville to see Rachel Schlicker's last high school children's play.

In March the Fine Arts Fair takes place at MLS. This is a voluntary event with students able to compete in math, science, spelling, art, music and forensics. It should be fun.

Last week we made our "good behavior" goal and spent some time in the afternoon making and eating cookies and playing board games. We haven't firmed up our plans for the next filled jar, but the way it is going it won't take long. Hooray for good behavior!

BOXTOPS FOR EDUCATION: Our school received a check in the amount of \$813.50 from Boxtops for Education after sending in the 2014 boxtops. We thank you for collecting those and the Campbell labels for education. Each one counts and helps our school and students. Many of our congregation's church members save these; that's where the majority of our collection comes from. We thank Dianne Steiner for counting them to get them ready to mail in.

Don't forget to send in used/empty ink cartridges too.

Thank you all!



SERVING OUR LORD FOR OUR FEBRUARY SERVICES:

<i>Ushers</i>		<i>Altar Guild</i>	<i>Greeter(s)</i>	<i>Cleaners</i>
<i>8:00</i>	<i>10:30</i>			
2/01 - #2 V. Domke	#1 T. Marion	C. Burris	B&L Painter	D&N Hart
2/18 - #5 S. Houser	#3 J. Janecke	T. Wood	D&T Wood	D&R Hoag
2/15 - #6 E. Ruhlig	#4 B. Grinnell	L. Voss	V&J Domke	S&G Houser
2/18 - #3 J. Janecke		L. Voss		
2/22 - #7 D. Kasischke	#8 D. Rector	M. Bennett	G. Withey	P&S Crandall
2/25 - #4 B. Grinnell		M. Bennett		