

MEMORIAL MESSENGER February 2016



Jesus answered, “It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance.” Luke 5:30-31

Perfection is impossible in our imperfect world. Use a pen to draw a circle, and the result might be okay, but certainly not perfectly round. Trace a circle around a quarter, and the result still isn't perfect.

We long for perfection—the perfect job, the perfect family, the perfect life. But by whose standards will our job, our family, our life be considered perfect? By the standards of the world around us? How foolish! Such standards change from generation to generation.

It becomes worse than foolishness when people try to carry our human standards for perfection into the spiritual realm. Doing so produces either a false sense of security or confusion about salvation. Many people try to earn God's forgiveness by living good lives and doing good things. They compare themselves with others and come to the conclusion that they are not so bad. We've done that, too, haven't we?

How does God see it? How is He satisfied? What does He say? *“Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect”* (Matthew 5:48). We can never meet the perfect requirements of our holy God.

Then how can we be saved? Certainly not by our own actions or our moral character. It is only by the work of Jesus, the world's only Savior. To Pharisees who supposed that they were wonderful specimens of what God looks for in people because of their good deeds, Jesus warned and promised, *“It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance.”*

God the Father credits the perfection of His Son Jesus to us sinners because of His love for us. Believing this truth through faith given by the Holy Spirit, we are blessed by the Triune God. Proudly supposing that we can offer God our actions and our loyalty as reasons for us to be saved is refusing to understand how sick with sin and its guilt we really are. Humbly trusting the life and death of God's Son to cover our sin and guilt—holding on to that as our only ticket to membership in His family and citizenship in His heaven—that is taking God's promises and treasures to heart.

We listen for all those truths in our coming Epiphany, Transfiguration, and Lent services. We apply those truths to our lives and to the needs of others as we consider whom to invite to hear with us how rich we condemned sinners are in the blood of the Lamb. We confess our sin-sickness to the Lord. We seek His help in putting sin behind us. We beg for His love in Christ. We pray for the Holy Spirit's blessings as we work to bring God's truths to others.

Pastor Voss





GOD GRANTS LIFE! On Saturday, December 26 our gracious Father in heaven blessed Andy & Kate Collins with the birth of their son, ***Oliver Peter Collins***. The next day, the Holy Spirit gave Oliver spiritual life through faith in Jesus as the Savior granted by the washing of Holy Baptism.

On January 6, the day we observe as Epiphany, eleven days after Oliver was born and ten days after Oliver was reborn as a child of God, his Savior Jesus took Oliver's soul to Himself in heaven, thereby giving Oliver the full blessings of eternal life.

The Christian funeral service was held at our church on Saturday, January 9.

May our Triune God comfort Andy & Kate and Jameson as they mourn the departure from this life of their beloved son and brother Oliver!

"God saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit whom He poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that, having been justified by His grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life." (Titus 3:5-7)



NEW MEMBER - ***Kristen Schlicker*** has joined our congregation by adult confirmation on Sunday, January 17.

Krissy is the wife of our long-time member Colin, and the mother of children Kristina and Cody. May Krissy's membership be a rich blessing to her, and to our congregation!

THE WALK ALONG OUR SAVIOR'S path to His crucifixion begins ***Ash Wednesday, February 10. 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 *Ironies of the Passion*.



OUTREACH MATERIALS - The Board of Evangelism & Stewardship reminds members that we have copies of the ***new WELS DVD "My Son, My Savior"*** are available for purchase (\$3 per copy; 2 for \$5).

Consider purchasing copies for your family and friends to show them why the birth of the Savior is so important for everyone on earth.



Love. Grow. Serve.

LADIES FELLOWSHIP – This month's meeting will be February 1 at 7:00. We will discuss the meals that we will host this year. Coming up is a Lent supper and also meals for the Michigan Lutheran Seminary choir that will visit here on March 6.

We will also discuss where we will send our mission offerings, and finish our discussion on our 2016 agenda. We have a lot of fun events we will go to and service projects we will do.

Bring your own snacks and beverage for this meeting please.

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

Monday, February 1 (Pastor – Teacher Conference),

Monday, February 15 (Presidents' Day).

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

Wednesday, February 3 (due to Pastor Voss being at conference Monday and Tuesday)

The class ***will*** meet Monday, February 15 even though many schools will be closed for Presidents' Day.

OUR GRAYCE GROUP will meet ***Monday, February 29 at 11:30***. Watch for more details to be announced by mid-February. Everyone is welcome! Set aside that date and time now.

THE FLOWER CHART FOR 2016 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.



AN AUTOMATED EXTERNAL DEFIBRILLATOR has been purchased for our church building. In case of a heart emergency, the device is located in the glass cabinet by the cry room.



MICHIGAN LUTHERAN SEMINARY'S CONCERT CHOIR will proclaim God's Word in song at our church ***Sunday, March 6***.

That Sunday there will be ***only one service at 10:30***. There will ***not*** be Sunday School or Bible Class sessions that day. These changes are made for March 6 to accommodate the choir's travel schedule and need for space in the fellowship hall and church sanctuary to get ready for the service.

The Ladies Fellowship Group will organize the meal and snacks for the choir and for family members of the choir. Watch for announcements later in February about how you might be able to help with the meal and snacks.

A PLANNED GIVING PRESENTATION will be made by Pastor John Kenyon ***Sunday, February 28*** during our Bible hour at 9:15. Please read his encouragement in the following paragraphs and plan to join us that morning.

CARING FOR YOUR FAMILY AND OTHERS WITH OUR GENEROUS SAVIOR'S GIFTS

By Pastor John Kenyon

Our generous God has given us all kinds of gifts. He has made us who we are, and in His wisdom put us here to live in this time and place. He has given us the priceless gifts of His Son and His Word and Sacraments of Baptism and the Lord's Supper. He has made us His own dear members of His family now and forever.

He also has given us money and property as blessings to use for ourselves and our families. In this article, we will look at some of the basic ways we use God's blessings to bless our families and also those around us.

God has put us in families to bless us—to support ourselves and each other spiritually, emotionally and financially. Regardless of what form your family may take at the moment, our Savior seeks to make family a blessing for us.

One of the ways that we help provide for our families is with a will. A will is an act of love, in which you direct how you would like your blessings of money and property to be used after our Savior calls you home into the glory he prepared for you and has promised to you as your inheritance. A will accomplishes several things:

- It honors and shows love to our Savior, since He has given you everything to use to His glory in the many ways Christians use His gifts.
- It blesses and shows love to our families and friends as it seeks to give gifts to them.
- It honors and shows love for our Savior's Gospel, when some portion of the gifts He has given you is used so that people will continue to hear His Gospel, or perhaps hear it for the first time through your gift.
- It allows you to be the one who has the final say in how your money and property which our Savior has loaned you for a while will be used while you enjoy the glory of heaven.

Two thirds of Americans don't have wills. If you're past 18, you're an adult and you need one. Even if you think you don't have much, you do have some blessings from God, and a will takes care of them. It is a gift to your family to have one, since it helps take care of things in a good, orderly way after our Savior calls you into His glory.

If you don't have a will, or would like to update one, or have any questions about any kinds of estate planning or gifting, you can contact me at the numbers below. –Pastor Kenyon

Pastor Kenyon is the Christian Giving Counselor for the Michigan and North Atlantic Districts of our Synod, and a member of St. Paul congregation in Stevensville, MI. He visits individuals and congregations and helps with setting up wills, trusts, gift annuities and other kinds of gifts for individuals and their families, and endowments for congregations. All these services are freely provided by our Synod to the members and churches of our Synod. Pastor Kenyon has been a mission pastor, and also served congregations in Minnesota, Florida, and most recently, Bangor, Michigan. You may contact him at 414-405-9226 (cell) or john.kenyon@wels.net.

WELS CHRISTIAN WOMEN'S RETREAT will be held **April 8-10** at the Crowne Plaza on Creyts Road in Lansing. You may register online at www.tcwr.org.

REWARDS UPDATES – We recently received a Meijer rewards check for \$134.51 and also a Boxtops for Education check for \$334.30. We sincerely thank all of you who remember to use your Meijer card to give us a portion of what you spend there. We also thank all of you who collect the Boxtops for Education labels. These monies are used to purchase supplies for the church and school offices as well as other school supplies.

Please look over your boxtop labels and turn them in soon. Another collection will be sent in February. It would be greatly appreciated if you could check the expiration date on the labels before turning them in.

Your help on these programs as well as the recycling of ink cartridges and Campbell labels is wonderful!

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 2016 envelope packet that is marked for this purpose.

Subscription price will be **\$11.00** for this year, provided that enough families subscribe and we can take advantage of that bulk subscription rate. 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 7!**

CHURCH COUNCIL REPORTS

PASTOR'S REPORT – WELS News: WELS congregations continue to submit the figure for their 2016 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 2016 CMO commitments, will decide at that meeting if adjustments need to be made for the balance of this fiscal year's budget which was adopted in late July at the WELS Convention.

BOARD OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION – The Board of Christian Education, after review, recommends that tuition rates be kept at the same levels for the 2016-17 school year. K-5 at \$1,000.00 per student (with a 10% discount if paid in full at the beginning of the school year) and preschool tuition at \$750.00 per student with a \$50.00 application fee (not part of the \$750.00 tuition).

Enrollment – The Board is happy to report the acceptance of 2 new students for the remainder of the school year; 1 kindergartner and 1 first grader. Enrollment now stands: preschool:6; kindergarten: 5; grades 1-5: 12.

The Board of Christian Education organized for 2016 as follows: Chairman: Howard Clark; Secretary: Dave Fortin; Chairman of the PTO: Norm Schlicker

Internet is very good on computers that have been wired to the modem and router.

Preliminary work on the school calendar for the 2016-17 school year has begun.

We discussed the possibility of using a retired WELS teacher to observe our classrooms for one day in February or March.

Research continues on a new laser printer for the school office.

The family of our new students cited our school's strong reputation as a reason for the inquiry.

Request for General Fund to cover the cost of the December 12 lunch by the Sunday School staff was declined by the staff. We thank them for providing the meal.

BOARD OF ELDERS – The Board of Elders organized for 2016 as follows: Rex Hannewald – chairman; Bob Briggs – secretary; Denis Hart – head usher.

The Elders reviewed the special worship services held during the Advent and Christmas season. The candle lit Christmas Eve service was discussed in detail.

BOARD OF EVANGELISM AND STEWARDSHIP – The board organized for 2016 as follows: Joe Janecke – chairman; Jason Leitz – secretary.

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

We discussed CPR training and at this time we are not ready to schedule a time.

"My Son, My Savior" DVDs have arrived and the bill was submitted. We gave copies to school prospect families and to some visitors on Christmas Eve.

The Financial Planning Seminar is set for February 28, 2016 by Pastor Kenyon.

We thank Clark Collins for preparing the 2016 thankoffering envelopes list and for his faithful service as Financial Secretary.

We discussed setting a date for a bowling outing. March 26th is the likely date.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES – The refrigerator from the school library was moved to the church kitchen.

Awnings were installed over the library and preschool classroom outside doorways.

The linoleum floors in the hallways and lobby at school will be stripped on February 1st at a cost of \$642.60.

Our board organized for 2016 with no new board members. Organization will remain as is: Todd Loeffler – chairman; Dennis Fisher – secretary; Victor Domke – school representative; David Dawley – water testing; Bruce Painter – church representative; Patrick Crandall – parsonage representative.

Council input: We would like to purchase three new white plastic tables for the fellowship hall and take the existing wood tables to school. Each table is \$80.00. Maybe each year we can do this until the wood tables are replaced.

BADGER NEWS from SCHOOL -

FROM OUR PRESCHOOL AND KINDERGARTEN ROOMS:

Preschool: This month we have been learning more about the Israelites in the desert. We have learned about the Ten Commandments, their mistrust in God, and their complaining. Through all of their selfish, sinful words and actions God loved them and still directed them to the promised land. We have learned above all that God is the only one that forgives our sins, and that He sent His son to die on the cross for our sins and rise again so we may live with Him in heaven.

For our math skills we have moved on from patterns to one-one correspondence. We have been working really hard on recognizing our own names and learning the letters from our names. We have also been learning more letters for example C, O, and Q. We have been learning about all things winter and hibernation! It's been fun to learn about the habits of animals in winter!

Next month we will be celebrating Valentine's Day of course but also will be celebrating reading for a week during February and will be having guest readers to come in and read to the students!

May the Lord bless your next month!

Kindergarten: (The kindergarten class studies Bible lessons together with the preschool. *See above.*) In math we have started working with counting money, ordinal numbers, adding, and skip counting. For Super Kids we have been working on the letters E, F, H, and U. The students are really getting their reading skills down and have really started working writing sentences!

In science we have been learning about the Earth's surface. We will be taking a little break from science in February to learn a little bit about our Presidents George Washington and Abraham Lincoln.

Next month we will be celebrating Valentine's Day of course but also will be celebrating reading for a week during February and will be having guest readers to come in and read to the students!

May the Lord bless your next month!

FROM OUR GRADES 1-5 ROOM:

In Christ Light this month we traveled with the Israelites through the desert toward Canaan. Unfortunately, we witnessed rebellion and dissatisfaction with God's leadership, and the whole group was forced to wander for forty years longer. During that time, however, the people learned valuable lessons about patience and trust. God wants us to learn those lessons, too. He wants us to turn to Him for every needed thing. Most importantly, of course, God wants us to look to Him in trust for our most pressing need. He wants us to trust that God's Son, Jesus, is our only Savior from sin. What follows is a life of obedience and productivity, knowing that we are His, and He will care for us here on earth and someday lead us to heaven.

We've had a quiet January, trying to get everyone over the colds and viruses. For the most part we have been successful. We had a few days where the weather was nice enough to play in the snow, but are also thankful for our big, beautiful gym when the weather is so bitter.

We'd like to welcome our new first grader, Isaac! He is a great guy and a wonderful addition to our classroom. We hope his time at Memorial is a wonderful blessing for him.

We're gearing up for some fun "dress up" days early in February, as well as thinking about Valentine's and the beginning of Lent. Grades 3-5 are also going to prepare a song to play in church soon using the chimes. Everyone is excited about that!

A big thank you to all of our volunteers! Thanks to our librarians, spelling test givers, and hot lunch folks! Please kiss your brain and give yourself a big hug from all of us!

SERVING OUR LORD FOR OUR FEBRUARY SERVICES:

| <i>Ushers</i> | | <i>Altar Guild</i> | <i>Greeter(s)</i> | <i>Cleaners</i> |
|------------------------|----------------|--------------------|-------------------|-----------------|
| 8:00 | 10:30 | | | |
| 2/07 - #6 E. Ruhlig | #3 J. Janecke | K. Ward | J&M Zoran | Coulter |
| 2/10 - #1 T. Marion | | K. Ward | | |
| 2/14 - #7 D. Kasischke | #4 B. Grinnell | T. Wood | B&L Painter | Crandall |
| 2/17 - #3 J. Janecke | | T. Wood | | |
| 2/21 - #2 V. Domke | #8 D. Rector | C. Kasischke | R&J Hannewald | Domke |
| 2/24 - #6 E. Ruhlig | | C. Kasischke | | |
| 2/28 - #5 S. Houser | #9 D. Fisher | M. Bennett | M. Bennett | J. Douglas |