



# MEMORIAL MESSENGER February 2018



*This is love: not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins.*  
1 John 4:10

It hasn't happened since 1945.

That year Ash Wednesday was February 14 and Easter Sunday was April 1. There have been other years when February 14 was a Wednesday, and April 1 was a Sunday. But, due to the way the date of Easter is determined by many church bodies, 2018 is the first time in 73 years that Ash Wednesday is the same date as Valentine's Day and Easter Sunday is the same date as April Fool's Day.

You can imagine how the unbelieving world will guffaw about the fact that Christians mark the beginning of Lent on Valentine's Day, then celebrate the resurrection of the Savior on April Fool's Day. But for the believer, there's no humor in the way the calendar of the world and the calendar for Christians comes together this year.

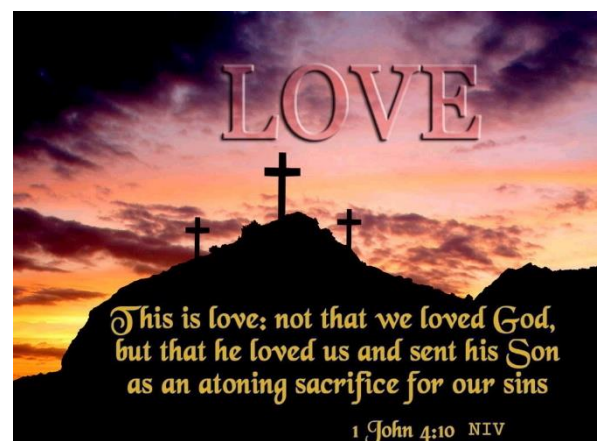
For you as a believer in Christ, the beginning of Lent marks a spiritually intense season when you will hear in detail how the Son of God expressed His love for the world of sinners. For you as one who trusts the work of Jesus to be the only payment for your sin and guilt, Easter Sunday begins the festive season when you will rejoice at the resurrection of Jesus from the dead to assure sinners that He made the full payment for every sin.

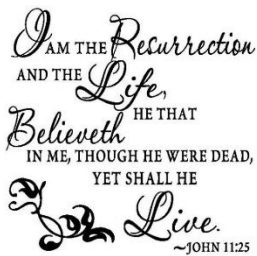
Clearly, there's nothing sappy about Ash Wednesday sharing the calendar this year with Valentine's Day. In fact, *the* greatest act of true love in all history is what the Christian Church observes this year in the season beginning February 14. God's love for us sinners wasn't His purchasing a card and some chocolate, then say, "I got this for you!" Rather, "*This is love: not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins.* That is love without conditions, love without fault, love without end!

There's certainly nothing funny about Easter Sunday coinciding this year with a day when people pull pranks on others. The Jewish church leaders paid a huge sum of hush money to Roman soldiers to lie about why Jesus' tomb was empty that Sunday morning. They had to do that to try to cover the truth: Christ had risen three days after death—just as He said He would! A still-dead savior would do us no good. That the Son who gave up His life as the *atoning sacrifice for our sins* rose from dead proves that Jesus is truly God, that the Father accepted the Son's sacrifice, that we will rise from our graves to life with Him in heaven through faith in Him.

Maybe you've heard the comments already. *Lent begins real early this year. Easter Sunday on April 1? It might snow that morning!* But just as we wouldn't let calendar quirks or questionable weather get in our way of observing our child's graduation from college, so we won't use the Lent Season and Easter Sunday falling so early as excuses to stay away from God's house where the record of Christ's saving work is the center of every worship service. Oh, come, let us adore Him—our newborn Savior, our sacrificial Savior, our risen Savior, Jesus Christ the Lord!

*Pastor Voss*





**FOREVER WITH THE LORD!** Our Savior has taken to Himself in heaven the soul of our sister in the faith **Karen Grinnell** on January 21.

The Christian funeral service to comfort Karen's family and friends was held at our church on January 26.

We ask our risen Savior Jesus to comfort Karen's husband Bryan, their daughters Missy (and Missy's husband Paul) and Katie; Karen's mother Janet; Karen's siblings Sheryl (and her husband Stan) and family; and David (and his wife Tami) and family; and all others who mourn Karen's death.

But we also rejoice with them that Karen's soul now is in the best place of all: at the side of Jesus forever!

**THE WALK ALONG OUR SAVIOR'S** path to His crucifixion begins **Ash Wednesday, February 14. Lent services, which begin that evening, will be held each Wednesday at 7:00 through March 21.**

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 will have the theme: *Jesus Christ Is Our Great High Priest.*



**OUTREACH MATERIALS** The Board of Evangelism & Stewardship reminds members that we have copies of the **WELS DVDs "Road to Emmaus", "Come, Follow Me", and "My Son, My Savior"**. They are available for purchase (\$3 per copy; 2 for \$5).

Consider purchasing copies for your family and friends to show them why the work of the Savior is needed by every sinner. ***Any, or all, of these videos would be a great way to invite them to our special Lent services that begin February 14 and to the Holy Week services March 25, 29, 30 and April 1.***



**COMPUTER HELP FOR WORSHIP** Our congregation has received the gift of HymnSoft computer software, as well as computer equipment to run the software for worship service music.

This computer program will play the hymns, psalm, and liturgy through our organ speakers. We will use it for some of our services to provide some relief for organists.

***We are looking for volunteers to run the computer program for worship services.***

***By mid-February we hope to set up a schedule of volunteers—boys and girls, men and women, young and old—to operate the computer for the services when HymnSoft will be used. You do not need to be able to read music to run the program; you only need to be comfortable clicking icons at the appropriate times during the service.***

As of this writing, setting up all that is needed is nearly complete. We will have a demonstration of the HymnSoft program and how it is run after both worship services on **Sunday, February 4**. We also will provide training for those who volunteer to assist in this way with our worship services.

If you wish to serve as a **HymnSoft volunteer, please speak to Pastor Voss to be put on the schedule—letting him know if you prefer the 8:00 or the 10:30 service, as well as if you are available for evening services.**

**GRAYCE** will hold its next meetings on **Tuesday, January 30 at 11:30**, and then on **Tuesday, February 27**.

The January 30 meeting will begin with a potluck meal. After we eat, we'll assemble the items donated for a Lansing-area shelter, and discuss opportunities to reach out to the less fortunate in our area through local shelters, as well as to those affected by natural disasters and other tragedies around the world through WELS Christian Aid and Relief. Join us! Please bring a dish for the food table.



**WE HAVE REFRESHMENTS** on the first Sunday of each month. On *Sunday, February 4*, our Sunday School and Bible Class sessions will begin 10 minutes later than usual.

This is a change from what we did in the fall. In an attempt to get more to join us, we now have refreshments ***right after the early service*** in the fellowship hall. The refreshments will be available **9:05 - 9:25**. At 9:25 Sunday School sessions downstairs and Bible Class upstairs will begin.

Please let Joe Janecke, Dan Kasischke, or Jason Leitz from our Board of Evangelism & Stewardship know how you like this new time for monthly refreshments. Please let one of us know if you are willing to provide light refreshments (nothing elaborate) on March 4, April 8 or 15 (definitely not April 1), or May 6.

**LADIES FELLOWSHIP** At our January meeting we talked about our goals for Ladies' Fellowship. We pray for ways to encourage other women of our congregation to join us because we know you will appreciate the fellowship we have. Our group is not one that you have to commit to every month. (We know and appreciate that not everyone can do that.) Please consider visiting once and see what we are all about. It was unanimous in our discussions that this group with our meetings rejuvenates us for working together for the Lord and because of the friendship we have. Are you looking for a way to serve and have fun with other gals from church? Join us!



**February 5<sup>th</sup>** we will discuss where to send and use our mission offerings from 2017. We thank those of you who purchased our items in November and December. Those proceeds were added to our other monthly donations and other mission collections.

We will also talk about the February 21 Lent supper that we will host.

Then we will take time to visit – as we always do. ☺



**THE VOICE CHOIR** will resume rehearsals on **February 15**. Rehearsals will be held **Thursday evenings at 7:30**. We will distribute and practice music to sing in mid-March and 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.

**CATECHISM CLASS SCHEDULE** Parents of our 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> grade students, please remember the following change for our classes in February ...

**Thursday, February 1** (due to Pastor Voss being at Michigan District meetings the first half of that week).

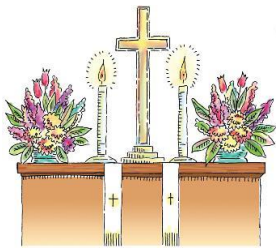
**Wednesday, February 7** (due to Pastor-Teacher Conference Feb. 5-6).

The class **will** meet Monday, February 19 even though many schools will be closed for Presidents' Day.

**EVANGELICAL HERITAGE VERSION** The Board of Elders, in consultation with Pastor Voss, decided that we will use the Evangelical Heritage Version (EHV) translation for Scripture lessons on a trial basis. We began doing so on January 7.

The EHV is a translation of the Bible by pastors and professors in WELS and in ELS, a small church body in full doctrinal fellowship with WELS. The translation work has been done entirely without budget funds from WELS. It is hoped that the printed EHV translation of the entire Bible will be available from Northwestern Publishing House this year or next year.

Please let Bob Briggs or Rex Hannewald from our Board of Elders, or Pastor Voss, know how you like the use of the EHV for our Scripture lessons. If you want more information about the EHV, you can check the web site [wartburgproject.org](http://wartburgproject.org).



**THE FLOWER CHART FOR 2018** has been posted on the bulletin board. You are now invited to sign up to place flowers on the altar for as many Sundays as you desire. If you wish, you may also indicate the occasion for which the flowers are being donated.

If a Sunday, or Sundays, for which you desire to sign up for flowers is already taken, please speak with the other family/member to work out a suitable arrangement.

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

**WHEN FILLING OUT** your thankoffering envelope, please be aware of the following:

- You *don't* need to write your name on the line provided. The identifying number in the upper corner is all that our financial secretary needs.

- We ask that you *do* list the amount placed inside the envelope on the line provided for that purpose. This information is needed by our financial secretary. If you do not list it, the counters will write it in when opening the envelope.

Some members are uneasy about others seeing the amount written on the envelope as the offering plate moves across the pews. *We suggest putting the envelope in the plate face down. That will allow you to provide the information needed by our counters, yet keep your offering amount confidential.*

**FOR SECURITY REASONS** we have removed the key for the church that has been available for years. If you need to enter church, but don't have a key, please speak to Pastor Voss to make sure the church will be open for you. If you need immediate entrance into the church, please call Pastor Voss on his cell phone (517-488-5145) and he'll contact someone with a key to meet you at church.

**WELS CHRISTIAN WOMEN'S RETREAT** will be held *April 13 - 15* at the Marriott Auburn Hills Pontiac. You may register online at [www.tcwr.org](http://www.tcwr.org).

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

*Monday, February 5* (Pastor – Teacher Conference),

*Monday, February 19* (Presidents' Day).

**THE MONTHLY HOT LUNCH** at Memorial Lutheran School will be served *February 16*. The menu will be pancakes with syrup and toppings, sausages, strawberries and blueberries, Valentine treats, and milk.

Volunteers from the congregation are welcome to help serve the meal; speak with Pastor Voss for more information. Also, if you wish to prepare and/or donate any of the items (except for the pancakes and sausages), please speak with Pastor Voss or sign up for the item(s) on the list that has been posted at church.

**A FAMILY EVENT** has been planned for *Sunday, February 18*.

After the 10:30 service that morning, there will be a light meal in the church fellowship hall.

Following the meal, you are invited to go roller skating *at Edru in Holt*. The family skate hours are 1:00 – 4:00 that afternoon. Cost is \$7.00, including skates.

If plan to attend, please sign up on the sheet posted in the church narthex. That way, the meal planners and event organizers know how many people will eat at church and travel for roller skating.



**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.

**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 2018 envelope packet that is marked for this purpose.

Subscription price will be **\$11.50** 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 **\$11.50** made out to ***Memorial Lutheran Church***, and give it to Pastor Voss. Please do so by ***February 11!***

## CHURCH COUNCIL REPORTS

**PASTOR'S REPORT** – WELS news: The WELS Synodical Council (SC) has a meeting in late February each year. The SC is responsible for seeing to it that WELS has a balanced budget. Based upon 2018 CMO subscriptions, the SC will determine if adjustments need to be made to the budget for the fiscal year that was adopted by delegates at last summer's WELS Convention.

Since our discussion at last month's Church Council meeting, Laurie and I haven't done any more research on the best way to keep the church phone number, but eliminate the land line. If the Church Council has some options for us to pursue, we are happy to do that research.

I have received notice that I am on call for jury duty in Lansing during the week of February 12.

The officers of the Michigan District will be meeting in the Toledo area Monday, January 29-Wednesday, January 3. I will leave that Monday morning and be back by late evening that Wednesday.

**BOARD OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION** – 2018 board organization: Chairman – Howard Clark; PTO President – Norm Schlicker; Secretary – Dave Fortin

*School promotion* – We will run another targeted Facebook marketing program to announce Preschool and Kindergarten information days in late February or early March.

*General school items* - Standardized test materials for grades 3-5 have been ordered. Pastor & Judy consulted about dates for standardized tests – week of April 23.

Last month we received special gifts from several families appreciative of the Christian education our school offers.

Overhead projector for Smartboard – discussed replacing this aging equipment which is having some mechanical failures.

Began discussions of 2018-2019 school calendar.

VBS - Will be the mornings of June 25-28, 2018

*Upcoming events* - February 5: No school: Pastor – Teacher conference in Frankenmuth; February 19: No school: Presidents' Day

PTO - Will host Lent supper February 14.

*Sunday School* - The board thanks Kathy Fedewa and Nora Stanton for the lunch on Saturday, December 23 after the Christmas Eve Service rehearsal. We also thank the children for their presentation of the Christmas truth in word and song on Christmas Eve.

**BOARD OF ELDERS** – The Board of Elders organized for 2018 as follows: Chairman - Rex Hannewald; Secretary - Bob Briggs ; Head Usher – vacant.

The board reviewed the special services during the Thanksgiving, Advent and Christmas season.

The board discussed organizing and training volunteers to run the HymnSoft computer program in our worship services.

The 2018 usher schedule has been prepared and distributed.

The gifts received during our annual December door offering have been sent to WELS Christian Aid and Relief.

**BOARD OF EVANGELISM AND STEWARDSHIP** – Copies of the WELS Evangelism DVD *My Son, My Savior* were presented to visitors at our Thanksgiving, midweek Advent, Christmas Eve, and Christmas Day worship services.

The board finalized plans for the January 7 refreshments at church. This was the first time we had it *before* Sunday School and Bible class. We thank the volunteers who will host refreshments on Sunday, February 4.

The thankoffering counters schedule for 2018 was prepared and distributed. The board thanks all our thankoffering counters for their faithful work.

Our financial secretary has distributed 2017 thankoffering statements.

Lent suppers: February 14 – PTO; February 21 – Ladies Fellowship; (February 28, March 7 and March 14 – open); March 21 – GRAYCE

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES** – The board organized as follows for 2018: Todd Loeffler, chairman; Dennis K. Fisher, secretary; Victor Domke, school issues; Pat Crandall, church and parsonage; Dave Dawley, water testing.

Our board has agreed to allow DTE to remove approximately 26 trees from under the power line on the east side of the property line; about 30 feet south of the garage and heading north to the existing pine tree line that was demolished 2 years ago.



## **BADGER NEWS from SCHOOL -**

**FROM MRS. LEITZ AND OUR PRESCHOOL AND KINDERGARTEN ROOMS:** This month has been spent getting into to the routine of being back in school after break.

We have been learning many lessons from the Israelite people wandering the desert. A few of the things we have been focusing on is that we can trust God to provide everything we need, and God is the only one that can forgive our sins and that we need forgiveness because we sin every day.

Preschool and Kindergarten have been exploring snowflakes answering questions such as: Why do snowflakes fall from the sky and how do they form?

We welcomed a new three year old (Simeon) after the new year to our class . He has siblings in Mrs. D's class and has been a wonderful addition.

The threes have been working on their shapes and letters E, F, and H. The fours have been working on letters J through N. Math concepts that have been covered so far this month are patterns and counting. Next month we will be having some fun dress up days!

Kindergarten has been busy with Super Kids learning letters T and F and working on sounding out words! For math they have been working on counting money, addition, and telling time.

Kindergarten will also be joining in the fun dress up days next month and celebrating the 100th day of school!

May you all have a wonderful February!

**FROM MRS. DOMKE AND GRADES ONE-FIVE:** This past month in our study of God's Word we have been traveling with the children of Israel through the wilderness toward the promised land. During these travels they encountered enemies, lack of water, poisonous snakes, burning heat and serious judgement issues. They, like we, learned that God is in control. They, like we, learned that God is patient, forgiving, and loving. How great our God is! God did not forsake His children, but patiently led them. He leads us, too, through His Word.

Despite some sickness and snow days we are managing to keep our heads above water and keep working hard. Grades 3-5 have been studying all about vertebrates in science and reading. We have looked generally at the seven vertebrate groups and now will look at each one in particular. In conjunction with that we are also looking at bones, joints, tendons and ligaments. It has been fun looking at the skull model and even learning the names of many bones. In Social Studies we are learning about the geography, climate and resources of the Middle Atlantic region of the United States. We have also learned the states and capitals of that region and the New England region.

All of us are preparing music for Ash Wednesday, Easter and the upcoming CMLAL concert at Good Shepherd, Burton. The concert is at 7:00 on February 23. We'd love to have you join us!

**SERVING OUR LORD FOR OUR FEBRUARY SERVICES:**

<i>Ushers</i>		<i>Altar Guild</i>	<i>Greeter(s)</i>	<i>Cleaners</i>
2/04 - #6 E. Ruhlig	#8 D. Rector	L. Voss	S&G Houser	T&L Loeffler
2/11 - #5 S. Houser	#4 B. Grinnell	K. Ward	C. Douglas	F&N Mills
2/14 - #3 J. Janecke		K. Ward		
2/18 - #7 D. Kasischke	#1 T. Marion	C. Burris	R&J Mosher	R&J Mosher
2/21 - #4 B. Grinnell		C. Burris		
2/25 - #2 V. Domke	#3 J. Janecke	R. Olin	L. Voss	J. Muscott
2/28 - #5 S. Houser		R. Olin		

