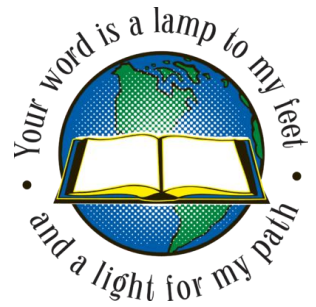


In  
**JESUS**  
I Win

# MEMORIAL MESSENGER February 2019



*He who does what is sinful is of the devil, because the devil has been sinning from the beginning. The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the devil's work.* 1 John 3:8

When Jesus lived on earth, Satan used everything he could to derail Christ's mission. Satan sent his wicked helpers from hell to invade the bodies of people in Israel during our Lord's ministry. The demons Jesus drove out are fallen angels in league with Satan, himself a fallen angel. The devil hoped he and his helpers could get Jesus to slip up and sin just once, or get Jesus to abandon His march to His cross to win our salvation.

Satan's work doesn't seem nearly so visible in our culture and in our day as it was in our Savior's day. Maybe that's Satan's plan. His easiest victories are won with those who don't take him seriously. Those who think he's only a cartoon figure wearing red, showing horns, and holding a pitchfork don't suppose the devil is a real foe to fight. If Satan used more visible ways, he'd be easier to spot and to resist. Instead, he works in ways that are more subtle, but just as damning!

Whether working on us out in the open and in ways we can almost feel, or working on us behind the scenes with temptations that don't seem so bad, the devil remains very real. His most effective strategy with us is to get us to ignore him, see his temptations as just alternate ways to live. Ignoring the devil's reality and power is like ignoring carbon monoxide. You may not *feel* the devil's influence, but you're going to get hurt spiritually.

Satan wants to get us, who trust today in Christ's forgiveness, to move over to his dark side. He wants to devour our faith and steal our soul. He tries to take away our trust in Christ by nibbling at that trust little bites at a time. He does that by tempting us to hear God's Word less often, to pay less attention to God's kingdom, to consult God less frequently to guide us in life, to suppose it's *our* life to live as *we* please.

The Christchild came to earth to defeat the devil, "*to destroy the devil's work*". Jesus won the victory, and we enjoy the results of His victory accomplished in His holy life for us and His innocent death in our place.

That doesn't mean Satan won't tempt us any longer. In fact, he spends a lot of time trying to move believers off their Rock and their Salvation – Jesus. When the devil knocks at the door of our heart, we tell him, "Go away! *He who does what is sinful is of the devil!*" We will say that often each day since Satan doesn't give up.



Thanks be to God that the victory is ours in our Savior! When Christ's victory is held tightly in our heart, Satan cannot win. See you in God's house each Sunday to get another dose of Christ's saving victory!

*Pastor Voss*

**WE HAVE REFRESHMENTS** the first Sunday of each month. On *Sunday, February 3* our Sunday School and Bible Class sessions will not begin until **9:25**. The refreshments will be available *in the fellowship hall 9:05-9:23*. Join us!

These monthly gatherings are designed to provide time for our members to greet and visit with each other, much like we do on non-Communion Sundays in the summer months.

If you are willing to provide something simple for future first-Sunday refreshments, please speak to Joe Janecke, Dan Kasischke, Jason Leitz, or Pastor Voss.



**OUR GRAYCE GROUP** will hold their next meeting *Tuesday, January 29 at 11:30*. Please bring a dish for the potluck meal at 12:00, as well as a photo of yourself as a child. At the meeting we will gather the donations of used clothing in good condition and take the items to a Lansing shelter for those in need. Join us!

**LADIES FELLOWSHIP GROUP** Come join us **February 4** at 7:00 PM as we discuss our agenda for 2019, where we will send our mission offerings from 2018 and projects we hope to do for 2019. We usually bring a snack to share if able and then talk about what we hope to accomplish in the new year which includes having wonderful fellowship. We also draw the name for our prayer partner for the next month. We pray for her and then send a card at the end of the month.

Because of the time it took taking down church decorations we didn't accomplish some of our items in January. We'll finish this month and also talk about whether we will do a Lent supper.

We look for more women of the congregation to join us for our monthly meetings. We are always looking for new projects and things to do together. Come share your ideas.

**THE FLOWER CHART FOR 2019** has been posted on the bulletin board. You are 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 you have questions about how to use the chart or order flowers to be presented here in church, please speak to Pastor Voss.

**HOMEBOUND MEMBERS** We'll provide a list in newsletter periodically of our members who are unable to get to God's house due to health issues.

*Augusta Bump Betty Deisler Karen Groop Velna Hoag Caroline Kasischke Janet Mead*

Remember them in your prayers. If you'd like to visit any of them, please speak to Pastor Voss about the best time to do so and to find out where they are receiving care.

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

**THE WALK ALONG OUR SAVIOR'S** path to His crucifixion begins **Ash Wednesday, March 6. Lent services, which begin that evening, will be held each Wednesday at 7:00 through April 10.**

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.

**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”* 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 March 6 and to the Holy Week services April 14, 18, 19, and April 21.*

**WELS APP** Every so often we remind you about the WELS app that our Synod has developed and makes available with a free download. We encourage you to download the WELS app – and use it!

It has a church locator for your travels, daily devotions, Bible reading series, and much more!

**WELS CHRISTIAN WOMEN’S RETREAT** will be held *March 22-24* at the Marriott Auburn Hills Hotel in Pontiac. You will find more information, as well as register online, at [www.tcwr.org](http://www.tcwr.org).

**IF YOU WILL BE AWAY FROM CHURCH** and/or out of town for an extended period of time, there is a convenient way to submit regularly your thankoffering. You can instruct your bank to mail a check to *Memorial Ev. Lutheran Church / 1022 W. Grand River Ave. / Williamston, MI 48895*. When such checks arrive the mail, they are given to our thankoffering counters the following Monday. The amount is deposited into our General Fund, and the amount is noted for your account as our Financial Secretary keeps a record of all thankofferings by our members.

**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, financial secretary, and treasurer, yet keep your offering amount confidential.*

**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 2019 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 *Sunday, February 10!*

# CHURCH COUNCIL REPORTS

**PASTOR'S REPORT** – One of the Bible Instruction Classes that began in the fall is on hold because the prospect who was studying God's Word with me have moved out of state. The other class that began in the fall continues.

The WELS Synodical council (SC) has a meeting in late February each year. The SC will use this year's February meeting to finalize work on the WELS two-year budget to be proposed to the delegates at this summer's WELS Convention. The SC will take a close look at CMO subscriptions for 2019 to determine how much of a budget increase – if any – to recommend.

The officers of the Michigan District will be meeting in the Toledo area Monday, January 28-Wednesday, January 30 (and maybe into Thursday, January 31). I will be away from that Monday morning and will return as soon as meetings are over.

**BOARD OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION** – We are still looking for more parents to help with weekend basketball games.

We have had contact with a family about a 4 year old for preschool next year.

ACT testing materials for grades 3-5 were ordered in December for April 2019 testing.

There is no school February 18 for Presidents' Day and February 25 because of the Pastor/Teacher Conference in Flint.

The Board thanks our Sunday School staff for providing lunch after the first rehearsal, and thanks the donors for the gifts given to the children who participated in the Christmas Eve service.

Vacation Bible School will be the mornings of July 22-25, 2019.

A form has been completed for PTO Fund Raising requests and was presented at the PTO meeting January 14.

**BOARD OF ELDERS** – The Board of Elders organized for 2019 as follows: Rex Hannewald – chairman; Bob Briggs – secretary; Head usher – vacant.

The Board of Elders thanks the Ladies Fellowship group for setting out the old mugs and ornaments with our church name and picture on them to be given away to adult members. These were purchased many years ago.

The Elders thank Dave Fortin for serving as narrator for our Christmas Even service.

Organist and HymnSoft operator schedules have been prepared for January through June. The Elders thank our organists and HymnSoft volunteers for using their God-given talents and abilities to provide music for our worship services.

New white and green paraments have arrived. The Elders thank the women we asked to do research on the paraments, as well as the Ladies Fellowship Group and others who have given special gifts to purchase the new paraments.

The 2019 usher schedule has been prepared and distributed. The Elders notified ushers on how many members will be ushered forward to receive Holy Communion per table.

**BOARD OF EVANGELISM AND STEWARDSHIP** – We organized the board as follows: Joe Janecke – chairman and Jason Leitz – secretary.

We thank Dan Kasischke for his work in preparing and distributing the 2019 thankoffering envelopes.

We discussed the *Opportunities to Serve* pamphlet. We asked each board to review the old copy and suggest changes for the board's areas of responsibility.

We thank all who helped with the Advent suppers.

The WELS Connection has been renewed for 2019.

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES** – Pat Crandall will look into repairs needed for the carpeting in the kindergarten room.

A new dishwasher was installed in the parsonage.

Boiler repairs at school are completed. There were three service calls in December.

Basketball has a full schedule now that 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders started on January 12, 2019.

## ***BADGER NEWS from SCHOOL***

**FROM MRS. LEITZ AND PRESCHOOL-KINDERGARTEN:** The past two months have just flown by. We had fun in December concentrating on Advent devotions, learning our Christmas service parts and celebrating Jesus birth with a gift exchange before Christmas break.

January started out very well with preschool and kindergarten jumping right back into our routine as if we had not even had a break!

In our Bible lessons we have been learning about how Jesus prepared His disciples for His death and resurrection. We also see how He prepared them to teach others about Jesus after He ascended into heaven. We too want to be prepared to tell others about Jesus and how He helped us with our greatest trouble of all.

The threes and fours have been steadily working on their letters, shapes, colors, and numbers. The threes are excelling in their cutting skills and some have been able to write their names all by themselves! The fours are really recognizing their letters Upper and Lower case.

The kindergartners have really taken off with their reading and writing. They are reading four letter words and writing sentences now. It's amazing to see the progress already at this point in the year!

We have the celebration of the 100th day to look forward to next month in kindergarten and also a Valentine's celebration for both preschool and kindergarten.

Praying you all have a blessed February!

**FROM MRS. DOMKE AND GRADES 1-5:** Over the past month we have been studying Jesus' ministry in the promised land. Jesus' work was always the same: preach, teach and do miracles to help the people He cared about so much. Sometimes Jesus used parables, sometimes examples from nature, sometimes tough love. Each time Jesus spoke to His people He knew exactly what each person needed. We know that Jesus speaks to us in His Word, too. So keep hearing that Word!

We are back into the school groove after the hectic days before Christmas. The 3-5 graders are finishing a science chapter on earth's resources and next week will move into a several week study on weather. As the 2nd quarter ends we are also finishing a social studies chapter on the white pine era. We are eager to see the tall pines at Hartwick State Park in May when we take our grades 3-5 field trip to Mackinaw!

Grades 1-2 are working hard on reading and math, making strides every week. These kids are moving so fast through mad minutes that I can hardly keep up!

We have also begun work on our songs for the CMLAL choir concert that will be held on March 8 and have begun talking about the MLS Fine Arts Fair to be held in Saginaw on March 2. Lots to do and plan!

Grades 3-5 will be traveling to the Wharton Center on Feb. 12 for a concert to introduce students to the band/orchestra. We attended last year and it was great so we know this year will be a treat, too!



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

	<i>Ushers</i>	<i>Altar Guild</i>	<i>Greeter(s)</i>	<i>Cleaners</i>
<b><u>8:00</u></b>				
2/03 - #5 S. Houser	<b><u>10:30</u></b>	L. Voss	J&M Zoran	J&K Leitz
2/10 - #2 V. Domke	#4 B. Grinnell	R. Olin	R&J Hannewald	T&L Loeffler
2/17 - #6 E. Ruhlig	#9 D. Fisher	T. Wood	M. Bennett	F&N Mills
2/24 - #7 D. Kasischke	#1 T. Marion	S. Rector	C&K Collins	R&J Mosher
	#3 J. Janecke			