



MEMORIAL MESSENGER July 2017



As the rain and snow come down from heaven, and do not return to it without watering the earth and making it bud and flourish, so that it yields seed for the sower and bread for the eater, so is My Word that goes out from My mouth: It will not return to Me empty, but will accomplish what I desire; and achieve the purpose for which I sent it.
Isaiah 55:10-11

This is being written the day before Father's Day, and the wet days of April and early May seem far, far away. Remember? We had so much rain that water seeped into the church fellowship hall, resulting in the move of the Palm Sunday new member reception and pot luck dinner, then the Easter breakfast, to our school gym.

Not too long after that, one of our members commented, "It may too wet to get into farm fields and gardens now, but by Father's Day we'll be praying for rain." He was so right! On June 17 the lawns are brown and some crops are scrawny due to the lack of rain in our area since before Memorial Day. Maybe that will have changed by the time you read these lines.

We know that water is essential to life—plant life, animal life, human life. We know that spiritual life depends on God and His blessings. But what our stubborn nature wants us to think is that *we* can decide how God's blessings come to us, and which blessings are best for us. That's *not* how the Lord God Almighty deals with us—letting us call the shots—any more than He lets us determine when the rain comes and how much will fall.

The Lord's greatest blessings for us come to us through His truth. That's not to say that His blessings to us of water and food, clothing and shoes, family and loved ones, shelter and income aren't great blessings; they are! But all of those blessings have to do with the life that will one day come to an end. The Lord's greatest blessings to us are the blessings for the life that will never end.

We need His blessings from His law. We need the holy God to tell us how sinful we are, how our trespasses kindle His anger, how each of our transgressions deserve hell forever. We need the holy God to tell us in His law what most mistaken humans refuse to acknowledge: that we can't make up for our sins with God. We need the holy God to crush us with His law as He reveals the reality of where our sins put us with Him. We need God's law because without it, we see no need for His spiritual and eternal help.

Thus flattened by God's law, we need His Gospel. We need the loving God to tell us what He promised to do for the world by His Son Jesus. We need the loving God to tell us that Jesus is both God and man, thus serving as our Substitute to perfectly pay what we owed God. We need the loving God to give us what we could never discover on our own: that the Victim nailed to the tree is the risen Savior who won heaven for us sinners.

Those truths are what our soul needs daily. When we don't get it regularly, our souls become like parched lawns and withering crops. Let's meet the Lord where He fills us with what we need for life with Him forever: in His Word of truth as He declares it in private Bible study, in daily devotions at home, in weekly worship at His house. Let's rejoice in the Word of the Lord which He so graciously give us to sustain us spiritually and eternally.

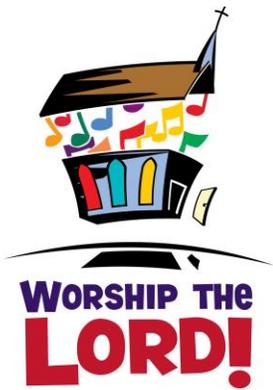
Voss

Pastor



Isaiah 55:10-11

**As rain nourishes
the earth, God's
Word nourishes
our souls.**



OUR SUMMER WORSHIP SCHEDULE is now in place. There is one Sunday service at **9:00 AM** beginning that morning. Most weeks there will be a **Thursday evening service at 7:00** which will be the same as the following Sunday's service.

However, there will **not** be a Thursday service the following evenings:

July 13 (Pastor Voss at son's installation service)

July 20 (Pastor Voss at son's ordination / installation service)

August 3 (Pastor Voss at WELS Convention)

August 20 (Pastor Voss on vacation).

You can also check our congregation's web site and/or the sheets placed on the narthex counter for the list of those Thursdays when there will **not** be a service.

The summer schedule will continue through Labor Day weekend.

REFRESHMENT HOURS will follow the service on non-Communion Sundays this summer. We urge 2 or 3 families to sign up for the dates on the sheet in the narthex. **Many hosts are still needed.**

ONE SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE ALL YEAR LONG?

The Board of Elders (Bob Briggs and Rex Hannewald) and the Church Council have discussed the numerous comments received about going to a one-service worship schedule all year long, not just during the summer months. The board has asked President Dane Nickols if a portion of the **Sunday, July 23** open forum (scheduled to discuss reports prepared for the July 25 voters meeting) could be devoted to discussing the one service issue. Dane has agreed.

Here are some of the issues related to a one-service Sunday schedule all year long:

- How early is too early (due to medications and physical conditions) for some of our elderly members to attend worship? Some of them are not able to worship on Sunday morning all summer because 9:00 is too early for them.
- How early is too early for Sunday School to start—both for students and our teachers?
- Would it be good to have Sunday School and Bible Class after the worship service? Or is it better for those sessions to be held before the worship service?

At the July 23 open forum the Board of Elders will present the information above. The board and the Church Council invite your input on these questions at that meeting--or face-to-face with a board member or Councilman before or shortly after that meeting.

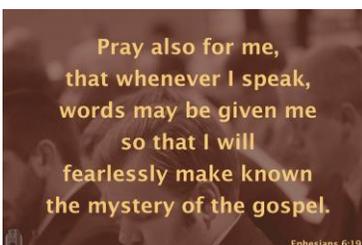
We are not attempting to get this matter decided at the July 25 voters meeting. After we hear from our members at this meeting and/or in face-to-face conversations, the board will discuss the input, as will the Church Council at its August meeting.

NEW YEAR'S EVE SERVICE The Board of Elders appreciates the positive feedback received about the 4 PM service on New Year's Eve this past year. That service was on a Saturday.

At the end of 2017, New Year's Eve falls on **Sunday**. The board has discussed having the New Year's Eve service at 4 PM once again.

If you think that will work well for you—or if you think it's not a good idea to have that service just 5 hours after the Sunday morning service has ended—please let Rex Hannewald, Bob Briggs, or Pastor Voss know.

The board has already decided that there will be **one morning service at 10:00 both Sunday, December 24 and Sunday, December 31**. The Christmas Eve service will be at 7:00 PM, as usual. There will be no Sunday School or Bible Class those mornings.



DOOR OFFERING As has been our tradition, the Board of Elders announces a door offering to be taken **through July 9** for Mark Voss who graduated this spring from Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary and has been assigned to serve as associate pastor of Immanuel Ev. Lutheran Church – Long Valley, New Jersey with the district president of the North Atlantic District. When Mark preaches for our July 9 worship service, the board will present the gift to him. If you submit a check, please make it payable to **Memorial Ev. Lutheran Church**.

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.

Kindergarten students should be 5 years old by September 1 and preschool children should be 3 years old by September 1.

WATER DONATIONS SOUGHT We are asking for donations of *bottled water* for our booths at the Art Festival in late July and National Night Out in early August. *16-20 oz.* water bottles would be great. Please bring donations to church or school.

THE QUARTERLY VOTERS meeting will be held *Tuesday, July 25 at 7:00 PM*. An open forum for all our members to discuss the reports prepared for the voters meeting will be held after the worship service on Sunday, July 23.

We will send to our members via email on July 21 the reports prepared for the voters meeting. Please read the reports—and print your own copy, if you wish. For those who are unable to receive the reports via email and/or are unable to print them, we will have some printed copies available in the church narthex.

Electronic Fund Transfer EFT is still available (*see July newsletter under BESt report*) . . . There is no charge by the bank to the congregation or members for this service. If you wish to use EFTs, here are the numbers you'll need:

Routing number: 072402652

Account number: 1154777.

WE HAVE RESERVED tickets to the Lugnuts game *Saturday, August 19 at 7:00 PM*; a fireworks display will follow the game. Tickets cost \$11.00 for reserved seats; these are no longer bench seats, but chair seats. Please use the sign-up sheet on the bulletin board to indicate how many tickets you want. Payment is due by *Sunday, July 2*.



COFFEE POT MISSING It was noticed at the preparations for the Easter breakfast this year that one of the church 90-cup coffee makers is missing. If you borrowed it, please return it. If you have a working one you don't need, we sure could use the donation. Thank you.

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 tables and chairs.

AMAZON has a program in which 0.5% of qualified Amazon purchases can be given to a charity of the buyer's choice. Our treasurer has set up our congregation to participate, and the pastor has sent an email with our church's unique charity link. If you didn't get the email, here is the link: <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/38-2130250>. To get additional information, please speak to Kim Fedewa or Pastor Voss.

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 – At the Michigan District Convention, delegates heard reports about special events being planned in our district to observe the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation this fall, as well as special Bible studies and worship suggestions for The milestone celebration; about using social media to promote churches and schools; about mission work WELS is doing across our country (including cross cultural work in metropolitan areas) and in foreign lands; and more. The delegates also studied reports from the various areas of WELS ministry to prepare our district's delegates to the WELS Convention next month.

WELS news - Through the first 5 months of 2017, Congregation Mission Offerings across WELS are about \$150,000 ahead of the same period last year, and CMO continues to exceed prorated subscription amounts from WELS congregations. In our district, about \$200,000 more has been submitted than at this point in 2016. The WELS Assignment Committee assigned all available teacher and pastor candidates to fields of service last month. Many congregations requesting a pastor candidate were not able to have their request filled, since there were 31 candidates and more than 75 requests.

The WELS Synodical Council is proposing a basically flat budget for the next two fiscal years. Delegates at the WELS Convention next month will adopt a budget for the next biennium.

On June 7 the modem at school failed. Laurie Voss contacted Frontier to get a new one installed.

The Frontier personnel with whom Laurie spoke and worked confirm that internet service to our school is quite weak; we are at the end of the local line. There don't appear to be any options, at present, to improve this situation.

Pastor Voss will leave after church and a meeting on Sunday, July 30 for the WELS Convention in Wisconsin, and return Friday, August 4.

Three of our boards' meetings in early August are being scheduled around his travel to Wisconsin for the WELS Convention. That's why some unusual August meeting days and times have been scheduled.

BOARD OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION – Projected enrollment for 2017-2018: Preschool: 4-6; Kindergarten: 4-6; Grades 1-5: 12

Facebook marketing will be used twice this summer and funded by the PTO; June 15-21 to promote VBS and school and July 30-August 5 to promote the school.

We distributed flyers at the June 24 parade.

We reviewed faculty assessments of classroom instruction and special situations from the successful 2016-2017 school year.

We discussed the need for aides for the classrooms next year. That will be dependent on preschool and kindergarten enrollment. We also talked about aide candidates.

We reviewed ACT Aspire and NWEA MAP materials. NWEA MAP requires a minimum level of internet speed (no paper test option). We are concerned that we do not have that wireless capability at the school, and will review the hardwire speed. The ACT Aspire offers a paper version that can be used.

Christ Light materials for school, Sunday School, and VBS were ordered and picked up by Pastor when he was in Milwaukee.

We thank all who helped with the plays, including getting the state down so quickly.

Two volunteers will plan and organize hot lunches for the 2017-2018 school year.

Pest Management Policy was reviewed. Pastor Voss has sent for state approval.

School registration will be August 23 from 5:45-7:00.

The school year opens August 28.

VBS was held the mornings of June 26-29. Teacher calls were accepted.

Sunday School calls for 2017-2018 have been extended.

We discussed child care. There is no internal demand; is there a need? Mrs. Leitz does not have training in this area, so we'd have to add to our staff.

BOARD OF ELDERS – Pastor Voss will not be here the following Sunday: July 16, July 23 and August 20. If a guest preacher cannot be secured for any of these Sundays, an elder will conduct the worship service. If an elder is

conducting the July 23 service, Holy Communion will not be offered that Sunday.

Sheets which list the summer Thursdays when there will be NO worship service have been placed on the counter by the mail slots.

Unless the Elders receive comments urging otherwise, our New Year's Eve worship service will be at 7:00 PM this year (It's a Sunday evening).

Denis Hart has been serving Holy Communion to Pastor Voss. When Denis is not available, one of the Elders will serve Holy Communion to Pastor Voss.

The Elders have received several comments the past few weeks about changing our worship schedule to only one service on Sunday mornings year around. The Elders are considering this, and will likely seek input from the congregation regarding our worship schedule.

BOARD OF EVANGELISM AND STEWARDSHIP – We ask not only our board's members, but all Church Councilmen and all our members to let us know if they find things on the web sites of sister congregations to consider for our church and school web site.

We will supply church signs, posts, and hardware for the signs to be put on the property of members north of Williamston and east of Williamston. In one of those locations, we can have the sign be double-sided.

The Michigan District Convention June 5-7 included a presentation on using social media to promote churches and schools. Much of what was presented is already being done on our website and Facebook pages by our office secretary.

Our board will continue to discuss using Facebook boosts, like the Board of Christian Education has done and will do again this summer, for church events. The most likely events to use for this (if General Fund money is available) are the resumption of Sunday School and Bible Class on September 10 and/or the concert by Stephen Bautista on October 15.

Electronic Fund Transfer is still available for our members to use for submitting thankofferings. There is no charge by the bank to the congregation or members for this service. If you wish to use EFTs, here are the numbers you'll need:

Routing number: 072402652

Account number: 1154777.

If you have questions about using EFT for thankofferings, please speak to Pastor Voss or Kim Fedewa.

We had a walking entry in the June 24 parades and passed out flyers with information about our upcoming VBS, our school and preschool.

Thankofferings submitted at any Thursday evening summer service will be tabulated by our counters as though they had been submitted on the following Sunday mornings.

The audit of financial records was completed. The printed report is being prepared.

We've made contact with Stephen Bautista, inviting him and his family to present their Christian music in a concert at our school on Sunday evening, October 15. Our board will organize a pot luck supper that will precede the concert. The meal will provide our members time to visit with the Bautista family. We've also invited the family to use our school property for their travel trailer while they're here.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES – We reviewed documents submitted to the State of Michigan Department of Agriculture for pest control management and notification.

The water heater in the parsonage has had repair to the discharge pipe.

Trees were trimmed.

We discussed power washing the church.

SERVING OUR LORD FOR OUR JULY SERVICES:

<i>Ushers</i>	<i>Altar Guild</i>	<i>Greeter(s)</i>	<i>Cleaners</i>
7/02 – #7 D. Kasischke	S. Unruh	S&G Houser	J&S Janecke
7/09 - #8 D. Rector	C. Burris	C. Douglas	D&C Kasischke
7/16 - #9 D. Fisher	L. Voss	R&J Mosher	T&L Loeffler
7/23 - #2 V. Domke	M. Bennett	L. Voss	F&N Mills
7/30 - #1 T. Marion	S. Rector	F&N Mills	R&J Mosher

