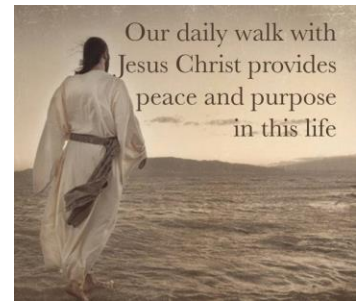




MEMORIAL MESSENGER July 2019



To the Jews who had believed Him, Jesus said, "If you hold to [better: continue in, remain in] My teaching, you are really My disciples. Then you will know the truth and the truth will set you free." John 8:31-32

One family uses a gas grill; the neighbors next door have a charcoal grill. You want clear skies the entire first week of July to enjoy vacation; others want some rain to water crop fields and vegetable gardens. Some computer owners prefer the Windows operating system; others are convinced Macintosh is way to go. In many matters, we can't say that one way is right and any other way is wrong; we have the freedom to do and think differently than others do and think.

Many people insist the same principles apply to religion. They claim people are free to believe all the Bible or some of it or none of it. They suppose folks may get spiritual direction from Scripture or the Koran or new-age teachings, may choose to be religious or not. Either way, many people say, is okay. They tell us no one can be sure what is right and wrong when it comes to spirituality, but depends on what seems best for each person.

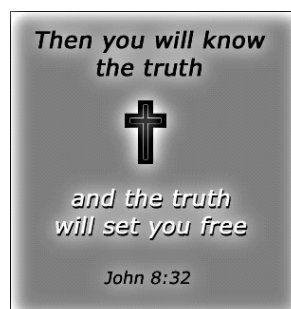
In a person's relationship with the one true God, we *can* say that one way is right – and all others are wrong. In fact, we *must* say that only one way is right! The only right way is Jesus who died for us sinners that we might live spiritually with Him here and eternally with Him in heaven. All other ways to God and to heaven are dead ends – spiritually and eternally.

Because we say that, we are called by some *arrogant*, even *intolerant* people. But it's really neither of those. It is the Christian faith worked in us by the Holy Spirit who has given us His truth. He says, "*I am the LORD; that is My name! I will not give My glory to another or My praise to idols.*" (Isaiah 42:8)

That truth, that faith, that confidence, that refusal to give up God's way of life is what the Savior said in the verses from John reprinted at the top of the page. There *is* such a thing as absolute truth. It is embodied in Jesus Himself and is given in His Word. There *is* a way to be eternally free. It is won by Christ Himself and is delivered in His Word. No other life or truth or freedom or path forgives sins and frees from hell and comes from heaven and lasts forever.

Jesus said, "*Then you will know the truth and the truth shall set you free.*" There will be many mentions of *freedom* these next days as our nation celebrates her 243rd birthday and her wonderful *God-given* freedom. May we American Christians find our greatest joy in the freedom we have from guilt through Christ! May we spend time in God's house and in our homes pondering that greatest freedom won by our Savior! May we live in that freedom which is connected to Christ's cross and empty grave! May we treasure that freedom by continuing in the holy standard of God's truth and by not compromising a word of God's truth.

Pastor Voss



OUR SUMMER WORSHIP SCHEDULE continues. There is now 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. This summer schedule will continue through Labor Day weekend.

NO THURSDAY SERVICES Because Independence Day falls on a Thursday this year, there will ***not*** be a worship service on ***July 4***.

There also won't be a Thursday evening service on ***July 18*** since Pastor Voss will be on vacation that week.

If there will be any other summer Thursdays when there is no service, we'll let you know.

EVANGELICAL HERITAGE VERSION TRANSLATION ORDERS Since January 1, 2018 we have been using the ***Evangelical Heritage Version*** (EHV) translation in worship. We received permission to use Scripture lessons posted on-line by the Wartburg Project, the organization of pastors and professors who have translated the Bible and edited the EHV translation.

On July 1 the entire EHV translation will be available for purchase from our Synod's Northwestern Publishing House (NPH). Cost for a single copy of the EHV will be \$22.99. NPH is offering discounts for bulk orders. For 10-49 copies: \$19.54 per Bible. For 50-99 copies: \$18.39 per Bible. For 100 or more: \$17.24 per Bible.

Pastor Voss is contacting area WELS congregations to see if members of the congregations desire a combined 100 copies of the Bible, resulting in a savings of more than \$5 per Bible.

If you are interested in order one or more copies of the EHV, please speak to Pastor Voss by July 31. We are just taking orders this month; payment would be due in August.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL VBS will be held ***the mornings of Monday, July 22 through Thursday, July 25***. Sessions will run from **9:00 – 11:30** each of those four days.

Plan now to have your children and grandchildren attend! Invite children from your neighborhood to our VBS!

SPECIAL VBS PROJECTS A number of members are working on special projects for the children at VBS. The projects will focus on what children growing up in our Savior's home town of Nazareth would have experienced.

The project organizers are looking for donations of t-shirts in sizes Large to XXLarge for the children to use as robes, as well as small rugs we may borrow for the week for the children to use as sitting mats. All rugs will be returned, so we ask you to clearly mark the rug with your name; labels will be available for you to use in marking your rug. Please watch for baskets in the church narthex in which you may place t-shirts for us to use and/or rugs for us to borrow.

We are also looking for more members to help with this project. There are VBS project planning meetings scheduled for ***Wednesday, June 26 at 7:00 PM in Linda Janecke's home*** and ***Sunday, June 30 after the worship service at church that morning***. Join us!

MONETARY DONATIONS for VBS lesson materials and other items are welcome. A canister for donations is in the church narthex.

WE ARE ASKING some of our members to provide refreshments for ***the first 3 days*** of our VBS. Please sign up on the sheet in the narthex. We kindly ask that the food provided will not include peanuts or peanut butter.

BOTTLES OF WATER work well for our VBS students and staff. If you wish to donate 10- or 12-ounce bottles of water, please bring your donation to church before July 22 or to school during the week of VBS.

Any water bottles not used during VBS will be used at our booth for the National Night Out event at McCormick Park on August 7.



OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE The Board of Evangelism & Stewardship has updated the *Opportunities to Serve* pamphlet and check list. One copy of the pamphlet has been placed in your mail slot, as well as copies of the check list.

Please read the pamphlet and fill out the checklist, then put the signed check list in the box for surveys placed on the counter below the mail slots. We ask you to complete the check list by **July 15**.

REFRESHMENT HOURS will follow the service on non-Communion Sundays this summer. We still need 2 or 3 families to sign up for **July 21**.

We will have ***potluck refreshment hours*** on **July 7 and September 1**. On those two Sunday there will be no specific hosts. Instead, we ask each family that heads downstairs for refreshments to bring a little something to eat, sharing it with the others who attend.

HELP? We have 6 volunteers to operate HymnSoft for our early services, but only 3 to do so for our late services. ***Might you be willing to be on the schedule to operate HymnSoft for our late services?***

Our HymnSoft operators do **not** need

- to set up anything on the computer or organ (everything is set up by others before the service begins), or
- to have any extensive computer or music skills.

Our HymnSoft operators **do**

- follow along with the service and hit the laptop's space bar when the next music selection is needed, and ...
- ... that's all there is to it!

Speak to Laurie or Pastor Voss for a demonstration of how easy it is to run HymnSoft, as well as for answers to your questions or concerns about being a HymnSoft operator. ***Might you be willing to be on the schedule to operate HymnSoft for our late services?***

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 must be 5 years old by September 1 and preschool children must be 3 years old by September 1.

This year Mrs. Leitz will conduct a 4th morning of class each week for 4-year old preschool students.

TRUNK AND TREAT? If you are willing to organize a trunk and treat event in our church parking lot for the evening of October 31, or a different evening close to that date, please speak to one of the men on our Board of Evangelism & Stewardship: Joe Janecke, Dan Kasischke, and Jason Leitz – or speak to Pastor Voss.

The board will be happy to help promote the event. But we are looking for a few member families to organize it.

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 equipment.

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!

CHURCH COUNCIL REPORTS

PASTOR'S REPORT – *WELS news* CMO receipts through the end of May continue to be strong in comparison both to last year's 5-month CMO totals and to this year's prorated subscription amounts. The WELS Assignment Committee assigned 140 teacher candidates last month. All teacher candidates who were able to be assigned anywhere were assigned; many candidates who, due to marriage or other circumstances, were could be assigned to a specific geographical area were also assigned and more of those may be assigned in coming weeks to fill teacher vacancies. The Assignment Committee was presented with 60 requests for pastors. All 30 pastor candidates available were assigned, filling half of those requests. After those assignments were filled, there are around 90 pastor vacancies in WELS.

Pastor David Krueger, retired WELS pastor who lives in Swartz Creek, has agreed to conduct the Sunday, July 21 worship service here when we are on vacation. We are not asking him to travel here for a service the preceding Thursday evening, so there will not be a service July 18. The Board of Elders has also decided there will not be a worship service on Thursday, July 4.

BOARD OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION – Enrollment - Projected enrollment 2019-2020 (33-36)

Pre-school 3-year olds: 3 or 4; Pre-school 4-year olds: 5; Kindergarten: 3; First Grade: 9 or 10; Second grade: 6 or 7; Third grade: 2; Fourth grade: 3; Fifth grade: 2

School Promotion At this time we will not be using targeted Facebook marketing since no one has indicated that medium had brought them here. Our Facebook page gets hundreds of likes and shares. We discussed getting more school yard signs made.

Standardized testing scores for grades 3-5 should be sent to us by August. Evie Ostrander, Mason Nosis and Anna Reynolds graduated from grade 5.

Great attendance at school plays! We thank all who attended, as well as Bryan Grinnell for setting up his light and sound equipment.

We sent a letter and money order for \$221.00 to WELS for Grace Hmong Outreach in Vietnam, our 2018-2019 school mission project.

VBS is July 22-25

School registration is Wednesday August 21 from 5:45-7:00 PM.

The new school year begins Monday August 26. 8.

We extended Sunday School calls for 2019-2020 year to those who served so faithfully this past year.

Calls for the July 22-25 VBS have been accepted. Students in grades 6-8 will help with projects after their study of God's Word the first hour. A potluck meal will be held at school Thursday, July 25 before the 7 PM service at school.

BOARD OF ELDERS – The Elders discussed ideas to encourage straying members to resume regular worship. The Elders believe the best way to encourage members to return to worship is to be encouraged by other members with whom they already have a relationship or connection. The Elders continue to work on this important subject.

Due to the holiday, there will be no Thursday evening worship service on July 4.

The Elders discussed posting sermons on our website. Currently there are six sermons posted. As Laurie posts newer sermons, the older sermons will be rotated off the website.

Pastor has contacted our organists and HymnSoft operators to begin preparing the schedule for July through December. We currently have 8 HymnSoft operators (5 early and 3 late). We are looking for more HymnSoft volunteers, particularly volunteers for the late service.

A couple of our usher teams are short-handed. The Elders are considering a few men to approach to serve as ushers. The Elders hope we can find a few more ushers to place on the short-handed teams. If no new ushers step forward, we are considering reorganizing a couple of our teams.

BOARD OF EVANGELISM AND STEWARDSHIP – We recommend that we send 10% of our General Fund balance as of June 30, 2019 (not including Hymnal, Debt Retirement, and Missions Funds) to the WELS.

The Opportunities to Serve booklet has been distributed, along with response sheets. As the sheets are returned, our office secretary is entering the information in a database.

Because no one spoke to any board member about volunteering to pass out flyers in the Red Cedar Jubilee parade, we will not participate in the parade.

The Thursday, August 29 thankofferings will be considered as September thankofferings.

We need hosts for all remaining summer refreshment hours. Please consider getting together with two other families to host one of the dates posted on the sheet in the narthex.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES – The church water meter is being upgraded by the city.

We discussed upcoming projects that our board is, or will be wanting to, accomplish: painting the flag pole at school, Round Up on the parking lots, replacement and improving the gas line mounts on the roof top at school, insulating the HVAC unit on the west side of school, repairing the damaged ramp support column at church, “Wet It & Forget It” on the parsonage roof.

We went over some summer janitorial items.



SERVING OUR LORD FOR OUR JULY SERVICES:

<i>Ushers</i>	<i>Altar Guild</i>	<i>Greeter(s)</i>	<i>Cleaners</i>
7/07 - #9 D. Fisher	R. Olin	G. Withey	D&L Fortin
7/14 - #2 V. Domke	C. Burris	J&S Janecke	D&R Hoag
7/21 - #1 T. Marion	T. Wood	H&S Clark	S&G Houser
7/28 - #3 J. Janecke	L. Voss	D&C Kasischke	B. Janecke

