



MEMORIAL MESSENGER July 2018



*Offer right sacrifices
and trust in the LORD.
Many are asking, "Who can show us any good?"
Let the light of Your face shine upon us, O LORD.
You have filled my heart with greater joy
Than when their grain and new wine abound.
I will lie down and sleep in peace,
For You alone, O LORD, make me dwell in safety. Psalm 4:5-8*

You're familiar with *Christmas in July* sales, and why stores have them. Such sales are meant to encourage shoppers to buy products during a typically slow season of the year.

But every month of the year is Christmas for Christians. The "peace" which God sent His holy angels to proclaim the night the world's Savior was born is the "peace" that fills the believer's heart every day.

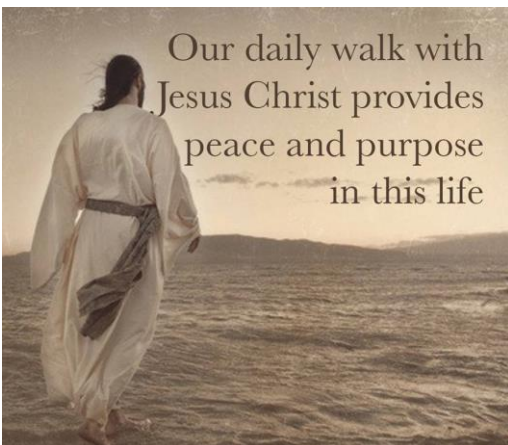
A few days from now our nation will mark two hundred forty-two years of independence. The independence we Americans enjoy came at the cost of many brave soldiers who fought in a number of conflicts to secure our freedom, and to win peace for our nation peace.

But all those lives sacrificed don't come close to the sacrifice of Jesus for the sins of the world. The peace we enjoy as a country is nothing compared to the peace we enjoy as God's forgiven children. "I will lie down and sleep in peace, for You alone, O LORD, make me dwell in safety."

The Holy Spirit used King David to write those words. Recall the struggles and battles, the attacks and downfalls that David went through in his life: taking on the Philistine giant Goliath, being hunted by jealous King Saul, sleeping with someone not his wife, dealing with betrayal by his son Absalom, and more. Whether it was trouble others fired at him or evil David brought on himself, God's peace in the Savior to come from his own family line sustained David from his youth as a shepherd boy until his death as an elderly ruler of Israel.

The verses from Psalm 8 printed above are often used by our pastors at the bedside of those about to undergo surgery and of those who are near death. In fact, those verses were used with the sister of ours just before the Savior took her soul to heaven through faith in Him the last day of May. What peace is ours in Jesus – whether

we awake in good health or are facing a serious situation or feel our earthly life slipping away!



Enjoy peace and freedom as an American this glorious summer holiday! But be sure to treasure every day the peace that goes beyond our understanding, the peace of forgiveness won by Jesus, the peace of being God's child, the peace of knowing that heaven is ours through trust in Jesus.

Pastor Voss



WE WELCOME to our congregation *Peter Jantos*. He has been received as a member via transfer from Christ Ev. Lutheran Church in Oakley. Peter lives in Mason.

May God make his membership in our midst a blessing both to Peter and to our congregation!

FOREVER WITH THE LORD! Our Savior has taken to Himself the soul of our sister in the faith *Phyllis Buck*. Her soul entered eternal life in heaven on May 31.

The Christian funeral service to comfort Phyllis's family and friends was held at our church on June 4.

We ask our risen Savior Jesus to comfort Phyllis's loved ones, and all others who mourn her death. But we also rejoice with them that her soul now is in the best place of all: at home with Jesus forever!



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

There **will not** be a Thursday evening service on **July 19**. If there will be another summer Thursday when there is no service, we'll let you know.

SUMMER SUNDAY REFRESHMENTS The Board of Evangelism & Stewardship has decided that we'll have a **potluck refreshment hour** the first Sunday of the summer months. Potluck refreshment dates that remain are: **July 1 and August 5**. On those dates 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.

The regular summer refreshment dates are July 15, July 29, August 19, and September 2. A sign-up sheet for volunteer hosts has been posted. **We still need hosts for each of those dates.**

THE QUARTERLY VOTERS meeting will be held **Tuesday, July 24 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 22.

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.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL Our Vacation Bible School is set for **the mornings of Monday, July 23 – Thursday, July 26**. 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!

VBS HELP A number of members are working on special projects for the children at VBS. The projects will teach about our Savior's miracles, and about the 125th anniversary of WELS mission work among the Apaches in Arizona. The project organizers thank you for your donations of special items for the project.

Volunteers are needed all four mornings of our VBS to help with the various projects. Please consider helping in this way.

SPECIAL MEAL There will be a supper in the school gym on **Thursday, July 26 at 6:00**. All members are invited to the meal, and to stay – if you so desire – for the Thursday evening worship service that will begin at 7:00 that evening. **The chime choir will play for that service.**

If you can bring a dish for the food table at that meal, that will be greatly appreciated.

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

WE ARE ASKING our members to provide refreshments for 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.



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.

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.

AMAZON has a program in which 0.5% of qualified Amazon purchases can be given to a charity of the buyer's choice. Here is the link: <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/38-2130250>. To get additional information, please speak to Kim Fedewa or Pastor Voss. You must be connected to this link to be able to have your purchases go to the church.



CHURCH COUNCIL REPORTS

PASTOR'S REPORT – *WELS news* Through the first 5 months of 2018, Congregation Mission Offerings across WELS are about \$240,000 behind the same period last year, and the CMO is right at the prorated subscription amounts from WELS congregations. In our district, about \$16,000 less has been submitted than at this point in 2017 – but what has been submitted is \$20,000 ahead of prorated subscriptions.

The WELS Assignment Committee assigned all available teacher and pastor candidates to fields of service last month. 40 congregations requesting a pastor candidate were not able to have their request filled, since there were 34 candidates and 75 requests.

At last month's Michigan District Convention our congregation was represented by Bob Janecke and Pastor Voss. Delegates heard reports about WELS and Michigan District ministry, and urged all district congregations to increase congregation mission thankofferings. The delegates elected Pastor Snowden Sims of St. Paul Ev. Lutheran Church in Columbus, Ohio as district president. Pastor Voss was elected district 1st vice-president, Pastor Tom Westra of Cincinnati, OH as district 2nd vice-president, and Pastor Jason Baldwin of St. Charles, MI as district secretary.

BOARD OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION – Enrollment: Projected for 2018-19 is preschool: 4; kindergarten: 6 or 7 and grades 1-5:18.

All students in K-4 last school year plan to enroll for 2018-19. In addition, 4 preschool students who were 4 years old last school year will enroll as kindergarten students – along with 2 kindergarten students who were not in our preschool.

School Promotion: Next targeted Facebook marketing will be July 14-20 to promote school & VBS, and then again August 12-18 to promote school enrollment.

Grades 1-5: It's been a great school year. We congratulate Satressa Dawley who graduated from 5th Grade.

Preschool and Kindergarten: We will be happy to have the same aides for preschool next year who have served so well the past two years. Our preschool passed an unannounced inspection in late May.

Thank you to all families for their help before, during, and after our school plays! In less than 30 minutes the stage, backdrop, lights, speakers, microphones, chairs, and tables were put away. We especially thank Bryan Grinnell for his work every year to set up lights and provide the sound system for the plays.

VBS calls have been extended and accepted. Our VBS July 23-26 will use ChristLight materials. A dedicated crew of women is preparing VBS projects for students. A potluck supper will be held at school July 26, and the Thursday evening worship service will be held at school that evening.

The board extended Sunday School calls for 2018-19 to those who taught this past year.

BOARD OF ELDERS – The Elders reviewed the Ascension service, and how to increase attendance at this church festival service.

Due to Pastor being on vacation there will not be a Thursday evening worship service on July 19. Unless a guest preacher can be found an elder will conduct worship service on Sunday, July 22 in Pastor's absence. If that is the case, there will not be Holy Communion that morning.

The Thursday evening worship service for July 26 will be held at school in conjunction with the closing of VBS, and after a potluck supper at school that evening.

BOARD OF EVANGELISM AND STEWARDSHIP – Saturday, August 11 was chosen for the Lugnuts game. Promotion continues.

We discussed the Red Cedar Jubilee parade on June 23. Flyers were distributed about our VBS, school and preschool.

We decided that all Thursday, June 28 thankofferings will be considered as Sunday, July 1 thankofferings, and recorded as Third Quarter thankofferings.

Discussed summer refreshment hours. We need lots of host families.

We discussed the date and plans for the September 9 church picnic.

The Ladies Fellowship Group is planning a pancake meal at school on September 30 for all our worshipers that morning.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES – We updated and distributed updated cleaning schedule through December of 2018

We reviewed the Congregations insurance renewal for June 15th, 2018 through 2019.

Toilets at the school had a major blockage that was taken care of.

Steve Houser will be doing some of the painting project, as time permits.

The old light pole on the east side of school will be removed.

On June 23rd we power washed the church.

The gym floor was refinished in early June. It looks really nice.

SERVING OUR LORD FOR OUR JULY SERVICES:

| <i>Ushers</i> | <i>Altar Guild</i> | <i>Greeter(s)</i> | <i>Cleaners</i> |
|----------------------|--------------------|-------------------|-----------------|
| 7/01 - #8 D. Rector | L. Voss | J&M Zoran | D&L Fortin |
| 7/08 - # 9 D. Fisher | R. Olin | B&L Painter | D&R Hoag |
| 7/15 - #1 T. Marion | M. Zoran | R&J Hannewald | S&G Houser |
| 7/22 - #2 V. Domke | C. Burris | B. VanOstran | B. Janecke |
| 7/29 - #3 J. Janecke | T. Wood | M. Bennett | J&S Janecke |

