

MEMORIAL MESSENGER

June 2016

But you, man of God, flee from all this, and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance and gentleness. Fight the good fight of faith. Take hold of the eternal life to which you were called when you made your good confession in the presence of many witnesses. 1 Timothy 6:11-12

Dear Christian graduate,

That's not a greeting just for you seniors in college and high school and for you 8th graders and graduate students. Every one of us believers in Jesus is a Christian *graduate*. The word *graduate* comes from a word meaning *step*. It's an accurate description of one who has completed formal education and is taking the next *step* in life. It's an appropriate word for taking the *step* from one level of education to another. It's an excellent word for every believer to keep in heart and mind for every day of life: another *step* along the path to heaven.

It is in that last sense that we encourage one another—every one of us—as dear believers in Jesus!

Dear Christian graduate,

Today is a new day in the life God has granted you. Your sins of the past are forgiven in Christ and with His help you put them behind you. *"Flee from all this."* Your days in the future are filled with blessings from the Triune God. *"Pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance and gentleness."* God directs your *steps* in life, graduate! He directs you away from sin and along the paths of His gifts of grace. In that sense, every day is Graduation Day for believers as we *step*, or walk, with God.

Your future is not an uncertain shot in the dark. The Holy Spirit has given you the priceless gift *"of the faith"* that trusts only Christ Jesus for forgiveness now and for heaven forever. Our Heavenly Father has promised us His inheritance *"of the eternal life"* that awaits us in heaven. The Savior has cleared away our transgressions so that God credits Christ's payment to our account. We walk through this life connected to the Triune God. In that sense, every day is Graduation Day for believers as we *step* with God.

To you who are considered graduates of a school this spring we extend our Christian congratulations! The Lord God has given you a keen mind and a mature attitude, and you've used both to His glory during your education. Keep that up as you move to another school or to the work world, *graduating* and *stepping* with God every day. In Him alone your life has meaning and fulfillment; in Him alone your soul has forgiveness and heaven.

To you who are looking back this spring to the year you finished school we repeat the divine reminder: *"You aren't finished walking with God!"* As long as the Lord grants you breath, you *graduate* and *step* with Him. Keep that in mind and heart as you plan each day, as you set priorities for life, as you move forward in the confidence only the Savior can bring. In Him alone your life has blessings that never end.

Christian graduate—that's all of us believers!, *step* forward humbly aware of your sins and unfailingly trusting God's grace in Jesus. Such are the steps God's children take each day. Such are the steps that set us apart from the rest of the world. Such are the steps by which God makes us His *graduates*.

Pastor Voss





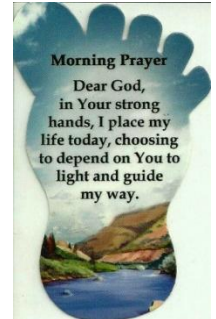
WE WELCOME to our congregation, two young families received by transfer of membership last month:

Kevin & Hana Fedewa and infant son ***Noah***
John & Jackie Timm.

May their membership of at Memorial be a rich blessing to them, and to our congregation!

OUR SUMMER WORSHIP SCHEDULE begins ***Memorial Day weekend***. There will be one Sunday service at **9:00 AM** beginning that morning. There will be no Monday evening service that weekend because that date is the Memorial Day holiday; instead there will be a service ***Thursday, May 26 at 7:00 PM***. The first Monday evening summer service will be ***June 13 at 7 PM***. (There will not be a Monday evening service on ***Monday, June 6***, because Pastor Voss will be at the Michigan District Convention.)

This summer schedule will continue through Labor Day weekend.



REFRESHMENT HOURS will follow the service on non-Communion Sundays this summer, beginning May 29. We urge 2 or 3 families to sign up for the dates on the sheet in the narthex.

THE CLOSING SERVICE for our 2015-16 Lutheran Elementary School year will ***Thursday, June 2 at 7:00***. The students of our school will sing for the service, which will be held at church.

SURVEYS IN The Board of Elders reminds you of the survey about worship service times that has been distributed via the mail slots at church. Please fill out your survey and return it by ***June 5***. The board will be tabulating results and discussing what is best for the congregation at its meeting later that week.

If you will be unable to get your survey before then, please contact Pastor Voss, who may be able to send it to you as an email attachment.

DISTRICT CONVENTION Our congregation will be represented by Joe Zoran and Pastor Voss at the Michigan District Convention on the campus of Michigan Lutheran Seminary in Saginaw. The convention will meet from the afternoon of ***June 6*** until early afternoon June 8.

LADIES FELLOWSHIP – We will meet Monday, ***June 6*** at 6:00 at the home of Carol K. This is for our annual movie night. We thank Carol for her hospitality in hosting this fun night at her house.

Our group will then host a wedding gift card shower for a son of our congregation Pastor Aaron Voss and his fiancé Jenilee Rathje on ***June 19***. This will be held in the fellowship hall of church after our service that day. Scheduling does not permit them to be here after their wedding for a reception. Please watch for an invitation that will be in your mail slot at church. Pastor Aaron Voss will be preaching this day for our service.



GIFT CARD WEDDING SHOWER - Our fellowship hour on June 19 will be hosted by our Ladies' Fellowship Group. It will be a special time devoted to a wedding shower. We invite everyone to come enjoy fellowship and a chance to talk to the soon-to-be married couple.

Special desserts, coffee cakes, fruit, and cheese and crackers will be served; as well as punch and coffee. We look forward to celebrating with Aaron and Jenilee who will be married July 3.



SPECIAL MUSIC We invite you to hear the Christian music of WELS member Stephen Bautista on *Monday, June 20 at 7 PM* as part of our congregation's worship service that evening.

Bautista has recorded three Nashville-produced albums. Listeners describe Bautista's music as having a musical and vocal style similar to James Taylor, but with lyrics that convey a solid Christ-centered message. He is based in Nevada, and tours the country with his wife and their eight children, whom they describe as being "roadschooled".

After the *Monday evening, June 20* service there will be refreshments provided, as well as an opportunity to meet the members of the Bautista family.

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL OUR CONGREGATION'S GRADUATES this spring! We pray that the Lord will bless your continuing education or the beginning of the career for which you have been trained!



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL will be held *Monday, July 25 - Friday, July 29 from 9:00 to 11:30 each morning.*

VBS calls for teachers will soon be extended. Other volunteers are working on plans for the activity portion of each morning.

Watch for more details to be announced in June and July. For now, set aside the dates for your children to study and learn with us! Invite neighbor children and others to come to our VBS. If transportation is a difficulty, please speak to Pastor Voss so that rides can be arranged for your child(ren).

CHECK OUT PICTURES on the school portion of our congregation's web site. New pictures have been posted from the school plays.



WE HAVE RESERVED tickets to the Lugnuts game *Saturday, August 6 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 *June 19*.

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.

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.

WE THANK EVERYONE who continues to save Boxtops for Education labels and Campbell labels. We recently received a check from Boxtops for Education for the amount of \$268.20. A big thank you to Dianne Steiner for her work in organizing these and sending them in for us.

We also thank everyone who continues to bring in empty ink cartridges and empty toner cartridges.

These are recycled and we are given store credit. We use the credit to get copy paper, ink, and many other needed supplies for church and school.

Your help is **greatly** appreciated.



CHURCH LIBRARY We remind all of you about the wonderful resource we have in our church library. The variety of books we have appeal to all ages. We recommend you look at the books while you are down in the fellowship hall for our refreshment hours this summer. Check out some books for wonderful summer relaxation and enrichment. We also have videos that can be checked out in the cabinet by the cry room.

CHURCH COUNCIL REPORTS

PASTOR'S REPORT – We've received information for the 2016 Michigan District Convention. The Board of Elders and Church Council appointed Joe Zoran to be our lay delegate.

The convention begins at 1:00 Monday, June 6 and runs until Wednesday afternoon, June 8. Because I'll be in Saginaw on Tuesday evening of that week, two of our boards are moving their monthly meeting to Wednesday, June 8.

WELS news: As of April 30, gifts from God's people have reached nearly \$2 million for the *One in Christ* WELS debt elimination offering. The Synodical Council (SC) has determined that if the debt is not completely retired by the middle of June, regular payments will continue to be made from the synod's budget, with the entire debt expected to be eliminated by the 2017 WELS Convention.

The SC also approved the support forecast. Based on the best available information, the forecast indicates that the areas of ministry will need to plan for no increase in financial support from the synod's operating budget. Support from Congregation Mission Offerings (CMO) is conservatively projected to increase by 0.5 percent in each year of the biennium, with support from other sources projected to be flat. With the assumption of no increase in support from the synod's operating budget, areas of ministry will either need to identify other funding sources or reduce spending. If actual CMO receipts exceed projections or if other support is greater than projected, the SC has the ability to make adjustments to synod support throughout the financial plan development process.

We have invited WELS musician Stephen Bautista to present his music here at church on Monday evening June 20, and he is delighted to except that invitation. His music will be part of our summer Monday evening worship service on that date. As this report is being prepared, there are still some details to work out.

BOARD OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION – The board put ads in the *Williamston Enterprise* and *Town Courier* newspapers last month about enrolling in our school. We will also check with a few members about contact information for ads in the Fowlerville newspaper.

Digital pictures from field trips and special school events are being added to our web site as the pictures are submitted.

Beginning next school year Mrs. Leitz desires that the last preschool session be the Wednesday of the last week of school, allowing her to be with just the kindergarten students on the last day of school which is Friday. The board supports this change for next school year.

Teacher assessment forms were discussed with our teachers and signed by the board. We thank the Lord for our faithful teachers and the gifts He has given them.

At last month's PTO meeting we discussed with the parents the possibility of going from 3 to 2 meetings per year and having meals in connection with both meetings. It's our opinion that doing so will increase attendance at the April meeting (usually poorly attended, as has been the January meeting). If this plan is adopted, we will drop the January meeting each year.

VBS will be held July 25-29 this summer from 9:00-11:30 year day.

The board understands the current concern about lead in water supplies. Our school has no lead pipes, even in the oldest part of our building. Water tests are taken at regular intervals because our school building's water comes from a well and regular tests are required by the state's Department of Environmental Quality.

BOARD OF ELDERS – The Board of Elders recommends that Kevin and Hana Fedewa (and son Noah) be received into membership at Memorial Ev. Lutheran Church by transfer from St. John Ev. Lutheran Church of Wauwatosa, WI.

The Board of Elders recommends that John and Jacquelen Timm be received into membership at Memorial Ev. Lutheran Church by transfer from St. Paul Ev. Lutheran Church of Saginaw, MI.

Aaron Voss will preach as guest preacher here on June 19, 2016. He should be paid as guest preacher, but not receive mileage reimbursement.

The Elders discussed our worship schedule and the possibility of having only one worship service Sunday mornings. The Elders have prepared a survey for the congregation to help determine what the wishes of the congregation are regarding our worship schedule.

BOARD OF EVANGELISM AND STEWARDSHIP – We discussed options of recording sermons and adding them to our website. We are looking into testing this using borrowed equipment.

Community Outreach – A meeting was set for May 22 for beginning to plan this.

August 6th was selected for the Lugnut game, and a signup sheet is posted at church.

We discussed our participation in the Red Cedar Jubilee Parade on June 25. Unless we have volunteers to design and build a float, our entry will be children, young people, and adults walking along the parade route with our church and school banner. They will distribute flyers about our school, preschool, and VBS.

We thank Dan Kasischke for getting the first quarter statements out.

We thank Joe Zoran and David Fortin for conducting the audit of our financial records.

We thank Kim Fedewa for his excellent and faithful work as church treasurer.

We started to look into getting more information for a new church sign.

Sunday, September 11 was chosen as the date for our annual church picnic.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES – If the upright piano in the upper grade room is not wanted our board may remove it.

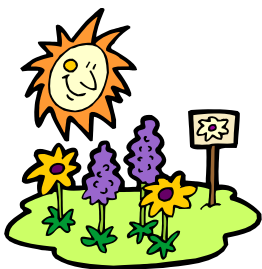
The steeple will be removed this summer. Our board is discussing the best options for removal.

We will contact Myer heating to re-seal the heating units at school.

We discussed the driveway cracks and resealing parking lots.

The mowing list will be up on Signup Genius.

We will also trim some trees to make mowing a little easier.



BADGER NEWS from SCHOOL -

FROM OUR PRESCHOOL AND KINDERGARTEN ROOMS: For Christ Light this month we have been learning about how the Israelites were led by many different kings and how the Lord was still watching over them throughout all that time. It comforts us to know that God is always there for us even if our leader does not follow His ways.

Well, things have really been busy since last month! We had our last field trip to the zoo which is always fun and a favorite! The Kinders also had an additional field trip to Mr. and Mrs. Mosher's house where they were able to witness firsthand the adventures of *Klouse the Mouse*. Thank you so much for hosting us again; truly a special experience for our little ones.

We also were practicing often for our play "The Three Goats Gruff". The students did a great job!!! Thanks to all of you that came out to watch it!

The Kinders also had the opportunity to participate in the track meet of the small WELS schools in Saginaw. They did well and had a blast!!

We will be ending the year with our Kindergarten graduation after the closing service and then Preschoolers will be recognized for moving up to the four year old program on the last day of school. On the last day we will be having fun in the sun (hopefully) ☺ with games and other activities!

As usual there is always a little sadness saying goodbye to the students but the joy of knowing that the

faith in their little hearts has grown leaps and bounds overshadows any of that! Thank you so much for the support you give us here at school. It is because of your dedication to Christian education that we can help these little ones learn what is most important!

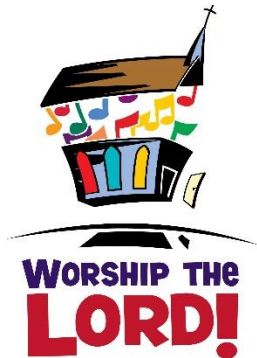
Praying you all have a blessed summer! *Mrs. Leitz*

FROM OUR GRADES 1-5 ROOM: In Christ Light we are finishing up the year learning about the end of the kingdoms of Israel and Judah. We learned that the Israelites had been carried off by the Assyrians and the people of Judah by the Babylonians. The difference was, however, that God had promised that after seventy years the people of Judah would be allowed to go back to their promised land. So, after the years of Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, the people would be able to get back to the land from which the Savior would come. How happy they would be to know that God did not dessert them. We are happy, too, knowing that our God will not dessert us, but will keep us in His care our whole life long. How happy are we knowing that our sins are forgiven through Jesus.

Thanks to all who came to see and help with our play "Stone Soup"! We had a great time getting it ready and performing it for you all.

This week we are heading out for our end of the year field trip. We will go into Williamston and learn about the Native Americans and early pioneers at the Depot Museum. We'll take a peek at modern art at the Broad Museum, and get back to nature at the Harris Nature Center. It should be a fun day.

Thanks to our librarians, spelling helpers, and hot lunch friends. We thank you and love you all!



SERVING OUR LORD FOR OUR JUNE SERVICES:

| <i>Ushers</i> | <i>Altar Guild</i> | <i>Greeter(s)</i> | <i>Cleaners</i> |
|------------------------|--------------------|-------------------|-----------------|
| 6/05 - #4 B. Grinnell | C. Burris | P&S Crandall | R&J Mosher |
| 6/12 - #5 S. Houser | K. Ward | A&J Rusnak | C&A Rhodea |
| 6/19 - #6 E. Ruhlig | C. Kasischke | B. Carpenter | N. Russell |
| 6/26 - #7 D. Kasischke | D. Steiner | B&G VanOstran | E&A Ruhlig |

