

MEMORIAL MESSENGER

June 2017

I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me. Galatians 2:20

What if you could do anything you wanted to do?

June ushers in a more leisurely schedule. Students will enjoy freedom from being in class, doing homework, getting up early. Over the next months families will take vacations and pursue recreational activities.

What if you could do anything you wanted to do with your free time?

Warmer weather concerns urban authorities. Police statistics and hospital reports show that reckless driving, substance abuse, vandalism, and theft increase along with the temperature. With more time on their hands and with nicer weather, people tend to take senseless risks and delve into illegal activity.

What if you could do anything you want to do this summer—and for the rest of your life?

God invites people who look in faith to Jesus as the Savior to do anything they desire. In other words, a person's *entire life* becomes one of freedom in Jesus! It's a life-long summer vacation!

But understand what the Christian's life a vacation is *from*. It's not a vacation from responsibility, from the all-seeing eye of God, or from the moral standards He sets in His Word. The Christian's life is a vacation from sin, guilt, and slavery to Satan. Because of the holy life and sacrificial death and triumphant resurrection of Jesus, we are free from paying the immense debt we owed for our sins, from trying to work out our own salvation, from cutting the chains which connect us to the devil. All of that has already been taken care of by our Savior.

What is there for us to do? We thank God for salvation. We do so with more than words said and sung once a week in church. We thank Him with an entire life lived "*by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me.*"

What if you could do anything you wanted to do?

Fellow believers, we would do—no, make that we *will* do!—whatever God wants us to do. What God wants us to do is outlined in His law. The Ten Commandments are seen in an entirely different light by us who know that Jesus has freed us forever.

So, what if you could do anything you wanted to do? You would—you *will*!—hear His Word often, as God desires His people to do. You would—you *will*!—show kindness to others always, an attitude God wants from His children.



What if you could do anything you wanted to do this summer? Well, you *can* do anything you want to do this summer because the follower of the Savior wants to do only what the Savior wants. May the Lord bless our enjoyment of the slower pace this summer. May God bless our enjoyment of His redemption every day.

Pastor Voss



OUR SUMMER WORSHIP SCHEDULE begins *Memorial Day weekend*. There will be 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.

REFRESHMENT HOURS will follow the service on non-Communion Sundays this summer, beginning June 4. We urge 2 or 3 families to sign up for the dates on the sheet in the narthex.

THE CLOSING SERVICE for our 2016-17 Lutheran Elementary School year will **Thursday, June 1 at 7:00**. The students of our school will sing for the service, which will be held at church.



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!

DIVINE CALL ASSIGNMENTS ISSUED

Kyle Melso graduated from Martin Luther College in New Ulm, MN and has been assigned to serve at California Lutheran High School as dormitory supervisor, Spanish teacher, and coach. This is a one-year assignment.

Eric Melso graduated from Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary (WLS) in Mequon, WI and has been assigned to start a new mission in Chattanooga, Tennessee.

Mark Voss graduated from WLS and has been assigned as associate pastor with the district president of the North Atlantic District at Immanuel Ev. Lutheran Church in Long Valley, New Jersey.

Aaron Voss, a 2015 graduate of WLS, has finished his two-year assignment at Luther Preparatory School in Watertown, Wisconsin as dormitory supervisor, New Testament Bible teacher, and coach. He has been assigned permanently to serve Living Water Ev. Lutheran Church in Wind Lake, Wisconsin.

Pray that the Lord of the Church will bless the four of them—and all assigned teacher and pastor candidates—as they serve His people with His truth!

LADIES FELLOWSHIP - It's time for our annual movie night. We'll meet at Carol's house June 5 at 6:30 and view the next movie in our series by Jeanette Oake.



EARLIER VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL Our Vacation Bible School will be about one month earlier than in past years. VBS is set for ***the mornings of Monday, June 26 – Thursday, June 29***. Sessions will run from **9:00 – 11:30** each of those four days.

We will have ***Reformation and Martin Luther*** related activities for the students, in addition to our study of God's Word.

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

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.

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.

FLOAT The Board of Evangelism & Stewardship has had discussions about our congregation's entry in the June 24 Williamston Jubilee parade. If members wish to construct a float, please contact Joe Janecke, Dan Kasischke, Jason Leitz, or Pastor Voss. If no ideas and /or not enough volunteers come forward, we will have a contingent walking the parade route, distributing flyers about our VBS, church, school, and preschool.

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 *July 2*.

COFFEE POT MISSING It was noticed at the preparations for the Easter breakfast that one of the church 90-cup coffee makers is missing. If you borrowed it, please return 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.

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 – We've received preliminary information for the 2017 Michigan District Convention. It begins at 1:00 Monday, June 5 and runs until Wednesday afternoon, June 7. Because I'll be in Saginaw on Tuesday evening of that week, the board of Christian Education's June meeting will be one week earlier than normal.

WELS News: Through the first 4 months of 2017, WELS Congregation Mission Offerings across the synod are running slightly ahead of what 4 months of 2017 CMO subscriptions are, but are slightly below the totals for the same period in 2016.

I was asked to meet with a representative of the State of Michigan department that regulates pest control

procedures in school and businesses. All schools are required to have a pest management policy in writing. Since we don't apply herbicides or pesticides to our school lawn, and since we don't apply pesticides inside the school, our policy can be very simple. Schools must inform parents ahead of time when such pesticides are used. Schools do not need to inform parents when gel-based products to control ants and/or bait is used on traps to catch mice. I'll go over the completed document with our Board of Christian Education to see if the board desires any changes.

I thank Rex Hannewald for conducting the worship services here when I was gone April 23.

BOARD OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION – Enrollment is unchanged at 23.

Pastor will be ordering the second year of a two-year cycle for LES and SS Christ Light lessons.

We discussed the possibility of using targeted Facebook marketing again to promote VBS and our school at different intervals this spring and summer. PTO will pay for this.

The preschool license has been renewed for two years as of March 30, 2017

Preschool's final day for 2016-2107 is May 31.

VBS is set for the mornings of June 26-June 29. Calls for teachers have been extended.

We reviewed sheets representing ACT Aspire and NWEA MAP standardized testing materials. We will review as a board and ask our teachers to do the same to decide on an appropriate test and order as needed this June for next year.

We will be updating and adding the Tardy Policy to the school handbook.

The computer room summer project is to get the newer donated computers up and running.

The school year closing service is Thursday, June 1 at church at 7:00 PM.

BOARD OF ELDERS – The Elders are considering what time to hold our New Year's Eve worship service this year. The Elders intend to ask the congregation for input.

As has been our tradition when a son of the congregation graduates from Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary and enters the pastoral ministry, a door offering will be received as a gift for Mark Voss. The dates for receiving the door offering will be finalized at the next Elders' meeting.

The Elders thank Laurie Voss and Linda Janecke for their work with our voice and chime choirs.

BOARD OF EVANGELISM AND STEWARDSHIP – Pastor Voss will check with Lansing-area WELS pastors to see if there is interest in hosting the WELS Luther movie.

We had preliminary discussions about our congregation's entry in the June Jubilee parade. We will have a float if someone comes forward for this. Otherwise, we will walk and distribute flyers like last year.

We had discussions about hosting a Trunk or Treat around Halloween.

We thank Dan Kasischke for getting the first quarter statements to members.

There will be an audit done of the church's financial records done by Joe Zoran and Dave Fortin.

A new greeter schedule has been completed and distributed.

September 10 was chosen as the date for the church picnic.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES – We thank Steve Houser for painting/touching up in the church sanctuary.

We received a letter from Ingham County on the water testing, dates for testing, type of tests, and when the test is to be performed.

We discussed and reviewed the needed repairs for the Ingham County Health Department; specifically the RPZ Valve in the boiler room that needs to be tested every three years. Myers heating will be performing this test soon.

We discussed the water issues in the basement of both the church and parsonage. We are still discussing and looking into several options for the church.

We discussed and reviewed the list of projects on the April report.



BADGER NEWS from SCHOOL -

FROM OUR PRESCHOOL AND KINDERGARTEN ROOMS: We have had another wonderful year filled with many good times and good memories. Lots of learning has been achieved by all of our students. Most importantly each student's faith has blossomed!! Every year I am truly humbled to see God working in these little ones. Especially the three year olds that may not have known much about Jesus before school started and are now proclaiming their faith in confidence daily!! What a blessing it is that we are here and able to reach not only these little hearts but their families as well. Thank you all again for your support of our school. Your support allows us to not only teach our students all of the subjects, but we equip them with the knowledge of forgiveness of sins and eternal life in heaven. So celebrate with me in the joy of knowing that we have been able to spread God's Word to more children this year!! Pray with me that we may continue do so in the years to come!

This last month of school of course has been a busy one! Many fun days such as: our play "The Little Engine that Could Sing" (We thank those that came to see it.), field trip to North Fork Farms, Jump Rope for Heart, field trip to MI State Police, and Fun in the Sun day.

May your summer be blessed with warmth, family time, and fun!!

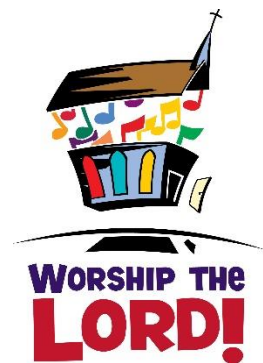
FROM OUR GRADES 1-5 ROOM: This past month in our study of God's Word we have learned about the early church after Jesus' ascension. Jesus promised that the Holy Spirit would come and give the believers power to preach and teach in His name. Jesus also promised that the Word would spread and the message of salvation would be preached to the ends of the earth. Jesus' words came true! Jesus also wants us to be like those early Christians. He wants us to use our words and actions to spread the saving message of Jesus. He tells us that it will not always be easy, in fact we will face persecution. However, just like those early Christians, we will be guided by the Holy Spirit.

We certainly enjoyed performing our play for lots of people! We all went a little "Nuts!" but had a ball with the songs and choreography. Thanks to all who came to watch us!

We're finishing up lots of material these last weeks of school! In Social Studies we are learning about how government works, especially state government. In science we have finished up a long study of forms of energy.

Grades PreK-2 enjoyed a field trip to Northfork Farms in Webberville, seeing lots of animals. They ended the day checking out the Moshers' playhouse and fishpond. Grades 3-5 took a day and went to Mackinaw, stopping to check out the Michigan white pines at Hartwick Pines. Grades K-5 also went to visit Michigan State Police facilities. All in all, a great way to end the year!

We also took a couple hours to jump rope and raise awareness about heart health. After enjoying a presentation by a representative from the American Heart Association, we jumped and played, remembering that lots of physical activity helps keep the body healthy.



SERVING OUR LORD FOR OUR JUNE SERVICES:

Ushers

6/04 - #3 J. Janecke
6/11 - #4 B. Grinnell
6/18 - #5 S. Houser
6/25 - #6 E. Ruhlig

Altar Guild

C. Kasischke
M. Zoran
K. Ward
K. Unruh

Greeter(s)

L&J Vogt
K&A Remus
H&M Surtman
D&S Fisher

Cleaners

D&N Hart
D&R Hoag
S&G Houser
B. Janecke