

MEMORIAL MESSENGER

June 2019



For I resolved to know nothing while I was with you except Jesus Christ and Him crucified. 1 Corinthians 2:2

Graduates, our congregation's Christian congratulations to you!

Do you know why you who are finishing elementary school, high school, college, or other levels of education are called *graduates*? Do you know why the ceremony is often referred to as *graduation*? The terms come from *gradus*, the Latin word for "step". That also explains why our culture refers to most levels of education as *grades*.

You see the significance, don't you? Graduates are considered qualified to move on to the next step, the next level of learning and life. Even graduates from graduate school, people who have earned a master's degree in a given field of study, aren't done learning; they are moving on and taking their education with them as they learn even more in the professional world.

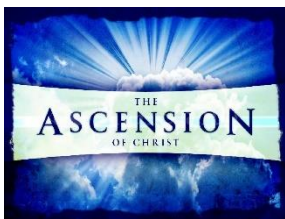
As young people of Memorial congregation graduate this spring, we are reminded of several truths that apply to *all* of us. As we reviewed on this page last month, none of us is ever done learning God's Word, which is centered in the cross and empty grave of "*Jesus Christ*". Graduates, that applies to you, too. Take your trust in Christ and your desire to learn more about Him with you to your next step of learning and life.

Although students move on as far as their teachers and professors are concerned, although workers move up as far as employers and supervisors are concerned, we all keep spinning our wheels in the greasy mud of sin and guilt when it come to moving up a level in our lives with God. We can't keep climbing closer and closer to heaven by our own efforts or living. Each time we sin, we fall right back to where we started in our quest to build our own ladder of good works to heaven: on the ground and flat on our faces.

We daily thank the Savior that He died for us, rose to assure us that our sins are covered in His Father's sight, and ascended into heaven to prepare a place for us there. *His* work, not any level of academic or athletic accomplishment we attain, is the biggest achievement in our lives. What too many graduates are told is *not* true! We *can't* do everything we really want to do. We *can't* save ourselves or please God on our own. That's why, with Paul, our greatest knowledge and deepest confidence is in knowing "*nothing...except Jesus Christ and Him crucified*" for us!

Again, graduates, congratulations! May God richly bless you in whatever your future holds! Our prayer for you is that He keep leading you daily to His Word where He works a stronger faith in Jesus Christ and Him crucified for every sinner. May the Holy Spirit continue that work in you until the Triune God takes you to the highest step, the top level of all, the ultimate *graduation*: eternal life with Him in glory. *Pastor Voss*





THE CELEBRATION OF OUR SAVIOR'S ASCENSION into heaven as the victorious Son of God will be held ***Thursday, May 30 at 7:00***. Join us for this important festival of the Christian church year!

That evening's service will also include giving thanks to the Lord for the blessings granted in another year of instruction at Memorial Lutheran School and Preschool since our school year ends the next day.

THE CLOSING SERVICE for our 2018-19 Lutheran Elementary School year will ***Thursday, May 30 at 7:00***. The students of our school will sing for the service, which will be held at church. That service will also be our congregation's Ascension Festival service.



OUR SUMMER WORSHIP SCHEDULE has begun. 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.

Right now we know that there won't be a Thursday evening service on ***July 18***. If there will be any other summer Thursdays when there is no service, we'll let you know.



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!

WE THANK our Sunday School teachers for their countless hours in preparing for and teaching Christ's lambs each Sunday: Nora Stanton, Jill Rusnak, and Kathy Fedewa. We also thank Laurie Voss for her work teaching songs to the students.



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 our members to consider providing 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 any nuts.

AT THE VOTERS MEETING April 30, the voters approved establishing a Hymnal Fund, adopted the tuition rates for the 2019-2020 school year, elected Steve Houser to fill the unexpired term of the sainted Rex Hannewald on the Board of Elders, and discussed leasing space in our school to a child care center. There will be a special voters meeting ***Wednesday, May 29 at 7:00 PM*** to act on leasing space in our school for a child care center.

LADIES FELLOWSHIP GROUP We won't meet again until September. We remind our gals to keep watch for those towel, potholder and dishcloth sets for a future project we will do too.

Ruth is our volunteer this month to clean and keep an eye on the church kitchen for needed items to be purchased.



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

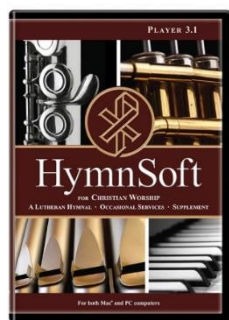
The Board of Evangelism & Stewardship oversees the summer refreshments hours. At the board's April meeting, we discussed having potluck refreshment hours on ***Sundays, July 7 and September 1***. On those dates there will be no specific hosts. Instead, we ask each family that heads downstairs for refreshments to bring a little something to eat, sharing it with the others

who attend.

Last year the board scheduled 3 summer potluck refreshment hours. Responding to comments received last summer, the board is cutting that back to 2. The potluck refreshment Sundays are the Sunday after July 4 and the Sunday before Labor Day.

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***.



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?***

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.

PARADE PARTICIPATION If at least 10 people volunteer, we will have a walking entry for the June 22 Red Cedar Jubilee parade. Our congregation's volunteers (children, young people, and adults) would walk with a banner and distribute flyers about our school, preschool, and VBS sessions.

So that we know we will have enough to participate **12:00 – 1:00** that day, please speak to Joe Janecke, Jason Leitz, Dan Kasischke, or Pastor Voss if you are willing to participate.

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!

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 – Our district's president, vice-presidents, and secretary are still working on final details for the 2019 special Michigan District Convention at Bowling Green State University in Bowling Green, Ohio from Monday afternoon, June 10 until Wednesday noon, June 12. Because it is being held away from MLS in Saginaw, convention lodging and meals will be more expensive.

WELS news CMO receipts through the end of April across WELS are \$6,077,653 (\$6,128,082 at the same time in 2018), and the CMO for that period of time is nearly \$200,000 ahead of pro-rated subscriptions by WELS congregations for 2019. Michigan District congregations have submitted \$717,482 (compared to \$631,472 through April last year), which is nearly \$140,000 above pro-rated subscriptions by Michigan District congregations

We continue seeking more volunteers to operate HymnSoft for our worship services. No computer skills or music skills are needed. All it takes is a knowledge of when to press the laptop space bar so that the next music selection is played. Everything is set up before worshipers arrive, and the service's HymnSoft selections are ready several days before the service. Please consider volunteering and/or encouraging members to volunteer. The July – December organ and HymnSoft schedule is being worked on right now, but won't become final for a while. There is still time for new volunteers to come forward.

Plans continue for the Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary satellite course at MLS in Saginaw the last week of June. Right now, it looks like that course will run until Friday morning of that week. In early June I'll discuss with the Board of Elders the need to cancel the Thursday evening service on June 27.

BOARD OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION – Projected enrollment 2019-2020, based on what we know as of May 7:

- Pre-school 3 year olds – 2 for sure, possibly 4
- Pre-school 4 year olds – 5 for sure
- Kindergarten – 3 for sure
- First grade – 9, possibly 10
- Second grade- 7
- Third grade – 2
- Fourth grade – 3
- Fifth grade – 2

We thank our office secretary for posting news and invitations on Facebook. The “Now Enrolling” post was seen by over 1,400 people and was shared by 10 people.

We discussed getting more school yard signs made and the logistics for doing so.

A preschool inspector came unannounced. Our license renewal was granted. We thank Mrs. Leitz for all her work making contacts and getting paperwork submitted.

Mrs. Domke did a great job of organizing concessions for the CMLAL volleyball tournament. Thank you.

We asked parents to help take down the stage after the night plays are performed. Our thanks to the Domke family for their work putting up the stage initially and taking it down before volleyball.

The school closing service is Ascension Festival service too, Thursday May 30.

Calls were extended by the board to four members to teach at our July 22-25 VBS.

BOARD OF ELDERS – The Board of Elders welcomes Steve Houser to the Board. The Board organized as follows: Chairman - Steve Houser Secretary - Bob Briggs Head Usher - vacant

Pastor Voss will be on vacation Sunday, July 21. A retired pastor has agreed to conduct worship service here that Sunday.

The Elders reviewed Lenten services and special services for Holy Week.

Our Summer worship schedule begins with one service on Sunday May 26 at 9 AM. Thursday evening worship service will begin May 23 at 7 PM. Due to Pastor's vacation plans there will not be a Thursday evening service on July 17.

Chime Choir rehearsal has resumed. The Voice Choir will resume later this fall. The Elders thank the directors and all the members of both choirs for using their God given talents to edify our worship services.

Organist and HymnSoft operator schedules for July through December are being prepared. The Elders thank our organists and HymnSoft operators for using their God given talents to edify our worship services.

BOARD OF EVANGELISM AND STEWARDSHIP – We discussed the website and updates to it, along with last month's web site analytics.

We thank the members who helped host the first Sunday of the month refreshments the last three months.

We also thank all those who hosted Lenten suppers.

We made the final review of the *Opportunities to Serve* booklet and survey sheet.

a. We thank all the boards for their input on this.

b. We thank our office secretary for putting this together.

We picked September 8th for the church picnic, and we ask that the gym be reserved for the event.

The after-service presentation this quarter will be done by the Board of Trustees, most likely on June 2.

We promoted the annual Required Minimum Distributions (RMD) for members who reach the age of 70 ½ by putting letter from WELS Ministry of Christian Giving about RMD in mail slots.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES – We discussed the parsonage garage door. After multiple fixes, it may be time to replace the garage door.

It was reported that there were loose shingles on the church sign. They were repaired.

Many thanks to everyone who helps with keeping the properties functioning and beautiful.



BADGER NEWS from SCHOOL

FROM MRS. LEITZ AND PRESCHOOL-KINDERGARTEN: This month in our Bible lessons we have been learning about the disciples preaching and teaching after Jesus rose from the dead and ascended into heaven. Our little ones learned some great lessons on how to pray for help and strength to help share God's Word with others, and to give God the thanks and praise for all things we do.

Thank you to all that came to watch our plays. They were a lot of fun to do and they went very well! The Kindergarten had fun at the MLS track meet. We also were invited to the Chaffee Dairy Farm to learn about cows and taste test the products made from their milk.

Thank you to all of you also for your constant support of our school. We are truly blessed here at Memorial to be able to spread God's Word in its truth and purity.

May you all have a wonderful and blessed summer!

FROM MRS. DOMKE AND GRADES 1-5: This past month we have been studying about the Christian church after Jesus rose from the dead. We took a look at Pentecost, the Ascension and now the persecution of the Christians in Jerusalem. That look back helped us understand how important it has been for all of us that the Gospel spread! The persecution that caused the believers to flee was horrible, but as they left the Jerusalem area these believers took the Gospel with them to their new homes. Naturally, they shared their beliefs with new friends. And, as we know, the Gospel is alive! People heard the Word, were brought to faith by the Holy Spirit, and the rest is, as they say, in the history books!

A big THANK YOU to all who took the time to come and watch our play, "The Granny Awards"! We had so much fun performing for you, and we hope you enjoyed the show.

Grades 3-5 are finishing up our study of Michigan. I know that I can't wait to visit more of the places we talked about - especially the pictured rocks, the sand dunes, and the Soo Locks.

We are preparing two great songs for our closing service, as well as singing our theme hymn, "Lift High the Cross". It would be great if you could join us for our closing service, which also happens to be the celebration of our Lord's Ascension!

SERVING OUR LORD FOR OUR JUNE SERVICES:



<i>Ushers</i>	<i>Altar Guild</i>	<i>Greeter(s)</i>	<i>Cleaners</i>
<u>9:00</u>			
6/02 - #4 B. Grinnell	C. Kasischke	B. Carpenter	P&S Crandall
6/09 - #5 S. Houser	S. Unruh	B. VanOstran	L&K Ward
6/16 - #6 E. Ruhlig	K. Unruh	D&T Wood	J. Douglas
6/23 - #7 D. Kasischke	K. Ward	V&J Domke	K&K Fedewa
6/30 - #8 D. Rector	S. Rector	L. Tobia	D&S Fisher

