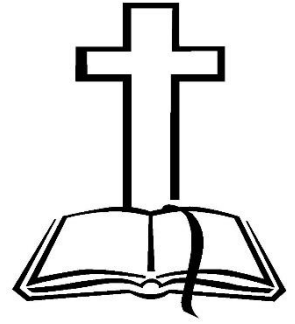




MEMORIAL MESSENGER June 2018



Blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked or stand in the way of sinners or sit in the seat of mockers. But his delight is in the law of the LORD, and on His law he meditates day and night. He is like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither. Whatever he does prospers. Psalm 1:1-3

For a while this spring, we wondered whether the weather would ever warm enough to produce leaves and blossoms on the trees. It snowed the third week of April! But the LORD who has promised that seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night will never cease has sent warmer temperatures, has dressed our trees and shrubs with blossoms and leaves. All around us, plant life is sprouting and growing.

As we marvel at that, the LORD who produces such growth wants us to take a look at ourselves. Is spiritual life sprouting and growing within us? Spiritually are we like a tree planted by streams of water that is yielding its fruit and whose leaves remain green? Or is our spiritual condition more like that of a tree stuck in clay, miles from the nearest source of water?

We know what the answer should be. But what is the realistic and honest appraisal of our spiritual condition? Realistically, honestly, we all must admit that this side of heaven we are never where we should be in our devotion to God, our trust in His salvation, and our knowledge of His will. We must confess and pray with the father of the boy who was tortured by an evil spirit, “I do believe; help me overcome my unbelief” (Mark 9:24).

What’s the remedy? In the first half of Psalm 1 – reprinted above – God encourages us to make His Word our delight and meditate on it day and night. Clearly, that involves an enthusiastic attitude about home devotions and Bible study. Obviously, that means more than one hour of contact with Scripture per week. Sadly, that isn’t done among very many of us, is it?

And annually, the problem is worse during the summer months because so many are so often out of town. Make this year different! This summer, schedule family devotions – even when on vacation. This summer, ask the pastor for the location of the WELS church nearest your vacation destination; then worship there!

Satan wants us to think, “We’re going on vacation! We’re leaving home to get away from the routine of life! We’re not leaving God for good!” Good! But heed God’s words above. We don’t expect God ever to go on vacation from His work of protecting our lives and forgiving our sins, do we? How does He feel when we decide to go on vacation from worshipping Him and hearing His Word?

These lines aren’t meant to shame anyone into worshipping while on vacation and more regularly during the summer. They are reminders that the soul needs daily the *spiritual* rest found only in the work of Jesus. God doesn’t expect us children of His to look sick or wilted during the summer. We won’t look that way – or *be* that way! – when we keep nourishing our souls with His Word of life and salvation—even during the summer.

Pastor Voss

GOD

Bless

You!



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. The first Thursday evening service is **May 24**.

This summer schedule will continue through Labor Day weekend.

Right now we know that there won't 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.

THE CLOSING SERVICE for our 2017-18 Lutheran Elementary School year will **Thursday, May 31 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!

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.



LADIES FELLOWSHIP We will have a movie night at Carol's house on June 4 at 6:00. We will watch the next movie in line of the Jeanette Oake's series that we have in our video cabinet at church. Thanks for hosting this, Carol. Please bring your own beverage.

Our regular meetings will start up again in September. Watch for information about a fun pancake brunch we will have in September too for our church members!

WE THANK our volunteer for painting the step flower stands after reading the notice and volunteering so quickly last month.



SOMETHING NEW FOR SUMMER REFRESHMENTS For one Sunday last summer no families signed up to host a non-Communion Sunday refreshment hour. A few days before that Sunday we sent an email message, asking families to bring a little something for what we called a *potluck refreshment hour*. It was very well received.

The Board of Evangelism & Stewardship has decided that we'll have a ***potluck refreshment hour*** once during each of the summer months. Here are the dates: **June 3, 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. Coffee and milk will be provided.

The regular summer refreshment dates are June 17, July 15, July 29, August 19, and September 2. In May a sheet will be posted. We will look for several families to can sign up on that sheet to indicate their willingness to provide refreshments for one of those five Sundays.



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!

SPECIAL VBS PROJECTS / EVENT 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 are looking for donations of material for making pillows: heavy cotton, flannel, denim, corduroy. A sign-up sheet is posted on the bulletin board at church. Please speak to Kathy Fedewa or Linda Janecke if you have questions.

There will be a potluck supper in the school gym on Thursday, July 26. 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.*

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.

WE HAVE RESERVED tickets to the Lugnuts game *Saturday, August 11 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 1**.

PARADE PARTICIPATION We are planning on a walking entry for the *June 23* parade. Our congregation will be represented by children, young people, and adults walking with a banner and distributing 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 will be able to help out.

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.

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CHURCH COUNCIL REPORTS

PASTOR'S REPORT – WELS news - Through April, WELS congregations have sent \$6.1 million in CMO, almost \$100,000 more than in the first four months of 2017 and ahead of pro-rated subscriptions for 2018. Michigan District congregations sent \$631,472, about \$21,000 more than last year, of the \$6.1 million.

The WELS Assignment Committee met last month to assign teacher candidates and pastor candidates. We

keep their vital work in our prayers!

Both Michigan District President, Pastor John Seifert, and 1st Vice-President, Pastor Paul Nauman have announced that they are retiring from the full time pastoral ministry this year, so they will not be eligible for re-election to those offices at next month's Michigan District Convention. Our district has been richly blessed by their faithful service and leadership for 24 years

Our former called worker, Principal John Melso, sent me an email message last week asking if our congregation can help with an electrical project by Christ the Lord Lutheran School in Brookfield, WI, the school Principal Melso now serves. A son of Christ the Lord Ev. Lutheran Church & School, Pastor Ryan Kolander, is pastor of the WELS Hispanic mission in Detroit, Palabra de Vida Ev. Lutheran Church; that's the connection between the school in Wisconsin and the upcoming work in Detroit.

Mission thankofferings by students at Christ the Lord have covered the cost of new LED lightbulbs. But it's too expensive to hire a contractor to do the work. Some parents of Christ the Lord Lutheran School students and other congregation members plan to travel to Detroit to install the lightbulbs in the church sanctuary and replace light fixtures in the building's basement. The work is targeted for Friday and Saturday, June 8-9, with a retired electrician from Christ the Lord congregation leading the project.

What Principal Melso asks from us is . . . *Are any Memorial members available to help?* If you can help, please speak to Pastor Voss.

BOARD OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION – Enrollment - (26) Up one - Preschool: 6; Kindergarten: 6; Grades 1-5: 14 Projected 2018-2019: Preschool - 4 Kindergarten – 6 Grades 1-5 - 18

School Promotion - The next targeted Facebook marketing campaign will promote VBS and our school.

Grades 1-5 - Standardized testing was conducted April 30-May 3. Thank you to Karen Collins for assisting to administer the tests. Mrs. Domke's computer has been replaced.

Pre-school and Kindergarten - Karla had aides receive fingerprinting during free printing window opened by Michigan Child Care Licensing Commission.

Pastor met with Williamston Schools Coordinator to discuss special services offerings.

A representative with WELS commission on Lutheran Schools met individually with our staff April 13.

PTO - We thank the parents who helped with the CMLAL volleyball help here on April. The next PTO meeting will be September 10.

VBS - We extended call to 4 teachers for July 23-26 VBS: Preschool, K-1, 2-4, and 5-8.

BOARD OF ELDERS – The Elders reviewed the Lent and Holy Week services.

HymnSoft is being used during worship services when we do not have an organist scheduled. There have been a few minor glitches and we continue to work through them.

The Board of Elders have asked Bob Janecke to be our lay delegate to the Michigan District Convention and Bob has agreed to serve.

BOARD OF EVANGELISM AND STEWARDSHIP – Saturday, August 11 was chosen for the Lugnuts game, and members are invited to sign up for the game.

After-service presentation this quarter will be done by the Board of Trustees.

We discussed the Red Cedar Jubilee parade. It will be June 23, and we plan to distribute flyers about our church, school, preschool, and Vacation Bible School.

We thank Dan Kasischke for getting first quarter statements out.

We urge our members to note that the first Sunday of each month this summer will be potluck refreshment hours, as well as to sign up to host one of the other five summer refreshment hours.

The church picnic will be Sunday, September 9, and the meal will be in the gym. We will grill meat, and ask members to bring other food items for the meal.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES – Consumers will be installing new meters in all the properties.

The kitchen faucet at church has been replaced. We thank Pat Crandall for his work.

Work day: Thank you to everyone who joined, much of the work was accomplished. Special thanks to those who came during the week to work ahead of the work day.

The school floors were waxed in April, many positive comments on how they are looking. The gym will be closed from June 4-16th for recoating the floor. As always, many thanks to everyone who helps to maintain what we have.

BADGER NEWS from SCHOOL

FROM MRS. LEITZ AND OUR PRESCHOOL AND KINDERGARTEN ROOMS: This month has just flown by! We have been learning about many of the men that God used to help God's people and the kings of the Israelite people. We have learned through these lessons how to keep God's commandments in our lives today. We are ending the year with lessons that help the children see that even though they are young, they can play an important role in spreading the good news of forgiveness of sin and eternal life in heaven.

We had fun putting on our play! Thank you so much to those that help us with little odds and ends in getting ready. Thank you to those that came to watch our little ones. We also went on our last field trip to Potter Park Zoo and had a special class learning a little more in depth of how animals use their senses. It's amazing to see how God created all His creatures so differently! The Kinders enjoyed the track meet in Saginaw at Michigan Lutheran Seminary for the first time and they all did pretty well!!

The Preschool and Kindergarten will also enjoy one last hurrah together with "Fun in the Sun Day". We have a lot of fun outdoor stations the kids can do outside.

Praying that all of you have a blessed summer! Thank you so much for all your support!

FROM MRS. DOMKE AND GRADES ONE-FIVE: This month in our study of God's Word we have learned about the Promised Land after the ten northern tribes of Israel were carried away by the Assyrians and the two southern tribes of Judah were carried away by the Babylonians. While the northern tribes never came back to Israel as a group, many of the people of Judah were allowed to return. God made it possible for a remnant of His people to live in the land of promise. Not only was this a land of promise, but a people of promise, for we know that in the future our Savior, Jesus, came from this people and this land. Thanks be to God that He kept this promise, not only for the people back then but for us, too!

We thoroughly enjoyed our play week this year! It was so enjoyable to perform for two appreciative crowds. Thanks so much to all of you who took time during this busy month to come and support our school and our drama efforts!

We also had a blast at the MLS track meet last Friday. The weather was beautiful, the kids had fun, and the dogs were grilling!

Grades 3-5 have finished its study of the regions and resources of the United States and are now working on an in depth study of a favorite state. Students are drawing maps, gathering materials and doing research on his or her chosen state.

We would like to thank most sincerely our many helpers this year: Georganne Withey, Andreea Labadie, Tracey Chaffee, Lynn Nichols, Sheryl Arntson, Carol Kasischke, Erin Reynolds, and Laurie Voss. We'd also like to thank our hot lunch crew led by Andreea Labadie and Tracey Chaffee. Helping nearly every time were also Ken and Carol Lycos, Chad Ostrander, George and Carolyn Burris. We couldn't do it without all of you!

School dismisses for the summer on June 1 with a school year closing service at 7:00 PM on May 31 at church.

SERVING OUR LORD FOR OUR JUNE SERVICES:

Ushers
6/03 - #4 J. Janecke
6/10 - #5 S. Houser
6/17 - #6 E. Ruhlig
6/24 - #7 D. Kasischke

Altar Guild
K. Ward
C. Kasischke
S. Unruh
K. Unruh

Greeter(s)
L. Tobia
D&S Rector
K&J Douglas
T&L Loeffler

Cleaners
V&J Domke
J. Douglas
K&K Fedewa
D&S Fisher

