

Speaking
the truth in love
we will grow



MEMORIAL MESSENGER

May 2018

Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of men in their deceitful scheming. Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will in all things grow up into Him who is the Head, that is, Christ. From Him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.

Ephesians 4:14-16

Three young people will be confirmed on Sunday, May 6. But it's not a special day just for them.

Confirmation Sunday is *not* an opportunity for them to show the congregation how much Biblical doctrine they know and how well they can express themselves. Confirmation is *not* a church ceremony in which they get a certificate proving they have successfully completed the Catechism course of study. Confirmation Sunday is *not* a graduation in which the pastor says, "You know everything there is to know about God's Word!" If it were, Confirmation Sunday would be only for them, and we'd be misleading them.

Confirmation Sunday is for *all* of us members of Memorial congregation. Confirmation Sunday is an opportunity for *all* of us to review what we know about the Bible's lessons and teachings; we invite those in the pews that morning to answer silently the questions our confirmands will answer out loud. Confirmation Sunday allows us to repeat in our hearts our promise to remain true to the teachings of all God's Word, even as the confirmands make their promises with their mouths and from their hearts. Confirmation Sunday reminds all of us that no believer ever graduates from Bible study this side of heaven.

Did you skim over the verses from Ephesians Chapter 4 printed above? Did you go right away to what the pastor wrote because you have a pretty good idea what the Bible says? Don't cheat yourself! Go back and read what *God* has written! His inspired truth is far more important than the pastor's application of those words.

The Lord gave the believers in Ephesus a startlingly clear picture of their spiritual lives. His words are just as true about our spiritual condition. Though we believers in our crucified and risen Savior may be firm in our faith, we still need constantly to "*grow up into Christ*" spiritually. Though we believers in the life and death and resurrection of the Messiah are connected to the Triune God through the faith in Christ He has given us, we still need daily to be joined and held together "*in Christ, to grow and build*" on Him and in Him.

The minute any Christian thinks her faith is as strong as it needs to be, she opens the door for Satan to attack and smash her faith on the rocks of Satan's "*deceitful scheming*". As the three confirmands declare their faith in Christ and their faithfulness in using His Word and Sacrament the rest of their lives, the Holy Spirit wants the rest of us to be active, too. He wants us to have an active role in encouraging those three (and previous) confirmands to remain faithful to Him who sacrificed Himself for us. He wants us to be actively involved in using His word to grow in our relationship with the true God of our salvation, and to grow in our understanding of His will for our lives until we enter heaven.

Don't come to the late service May 6 to watch three young people be confirmed. Come to renew personally and earnestly your dedication to Him who gave up everything for your every blessing now and forever.

Pastor Voss



WE WELCOME two of our youth confirmands as communicant members of our congregation: ***Leah Domke*** and ***Seth Domke***. Also being confirmed this month is ***Aaliyah Shipman*** who has taken classes here and will be confirmed with her 8th grade classmates, but will become a communicant member of her home congregation – and our sister church – Shepherd of the Hills Ev. Lutheran Church in Lansing.

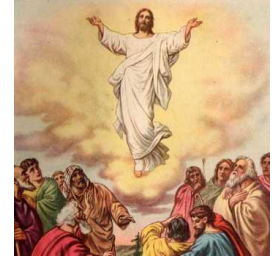
May God ever keep these precious souls of His faithful to Him and to all His Word!

Our Youth Confirmation will be in the late service on ***Sunday, May 6***.

FOREVER WITH THE LORD! Our Savior has taken to Himself the soul of our sister in the faith ***Geraldine Hodgson***. Her soul entered eternal life in heaven on April 15.

The Christian funeral service to comfort Gerry's family and friends was held at our church on April 25.

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



THE CELEBRATION OF OUR SAVIOR'S ASCENSION into heaven as the victorious Son of God will be held ***Thursday, May 10 at 7:00***. Join us for this important festival of the Christian church year!

THE FINAL SUNDAY SCHOOL classes and Bible Class sessions of this school year will be held ***Sunday, May 20*** (the Sunday before Memorial Day weekend).

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.

AN OUTSIDE WORK DAY has been ***rescheduled*** by our Board of Trustees for ***Saturday, April 28***, starting at ***church at 8 AM***. If you can, please bring tools needed to complete outside work: rake, shovel, broom, etc. Please set aside the date now!

WE HAVE REFRESHMENTS on one Sunday each month during the school year. On ***Sunday, May 6***, our Sunday School and Bible Class sessions will begin 10 minutes later than usual.

The refreshments will be available ***9:05 - 9:25***. At 9:25 Sunday School sessions downstairs and Bible Class upstairs will begin.



LADIES FELLOWSHIP Our May 7th meeting will **begin at 6:30** instead of 7:00. We will start with a salad potluck as a meal. We have an ambitious agenda after that as we discuss a brunch we will have in September, our making of candles, and inviting fellow women from neighboring WELS churches for our November meeting. We also hope to have time to clean the church kitchen and fellowship hall and work on our church library.



VOLUNTEER TO PAINT? The white plant stands which we use for poinsettias at Christmas and for special flowers at Easter need to be repainted. It shouldn't take a lot of work to give them a fresh coat of white paint.

If you are willing to paint the two plant stands, please speak with Pastor or Laurie Voss to make arrangements to get the stands out of the white shed at church.

SCHOOL PLAYS will be held *Thursday, May 17*. The plays will begin at **9:30** that morning and **6:30** that evening in our gym. Join us! Invite friends to attend with you!



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.



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL VBS will be held *the mornings of Monday, July 23 through Thursday, July 26*. Please make a note of the date change which was announced a few months ago.

A SPECIAL REQUEST from our Memorial VBS helpers. We are in need of sturdy fabric remnants - heavy cotton, flannel, denim, corduroy- for making pillows; also needed are bags of poly-fiberfill for stuffing pillows. Your donations will help us get off to a great start for our July VBS activities. A sign-up sheet for these items will be on the bulletin board at church. Please speak to Kathy Fedewa or Linda Janecke if you have questions. Thank you!



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.

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 sign up on that sheet to indicate their willingness to provide refreshments for one of those five Sundays.

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**.



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.

OFFER FROM AN AREA BUSINESS The church office has received a letter from the new owner of the car wash and self-storage facility on the south side of Grand River Avenue just west of our church. The new owners of the business extend the following offer:

On Monday and Tuesday each week, for any car getting a Work Wash in our soft cloth tunnel we will give \$1.00 back to their church. They must bring in that week's church bulletin. This will allow us to track what church we would write a check to at the end of the month.

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. Please be sure to be connected to this link in order for your purchases to go to this program.

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 – I expect the following 8th Grade students from our congregation to present themselves for communicant membership on Confirmation Sunday, May 6: Leah Domke and Seth Domke.

At that day's late service, Aaliyah Shipman will join Leah and Seth in publicly profess faith in Jesus, as well as agreement with all the teachings of Holy Scripture as we confess and carry them out them in our Synod. It is Aaliyah's desire to maintain her membership at Shepherd of the Hills – Lansing, where she has been a member since her infant Baptism.

The following Sunday those young people will receive the blessed assurance of salvation given them in Holy Communion for the first time. Please welcome Seth and Leah to our communicant membership, and encourage them and Aaliyah to remain ever faithful to the Savior.

WELS news: Through the end of March, WELS congregations have sent \$4,251,471 in Congregation Mission Offerings – down about \$43,000 from the same period in 2017, but almost \$50,000 more than 1/4 of the subscribed amount for 2018. Michigan District congregations sent \$446,557 – up almost \$5,000 from 2017, and almost \$23,000 more than 1/4 of the subscribed amount.

The Altar Guild women who are researching replacements for our paraments continue to explore what would be best for our chancel furnishings.

The land line has been terminated here and at the parsonage. As suggested at last month's Council meeting, the land line phones are still in their respective physical locations in the church building.

BOARD OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION – The board approved the application for one kindergarten student to enroll for the fourth quarter.

The board approved 6 applications for next school year's kindergarten class, and 2 new preschool students to join two returning students next school year.

Mr. Kim Fedewa is working with Mrs. Domke to get a replacement computer up and running in the middle grades room. The board thanks Kim for his efforts.

Standardized testing will be given April 30-May 4. We thank Mrs. Sharon Fisher for her help with the testing.

Six attended kindergarten roundup: all four of our graduating preschoolers and two others.

Preschool roundup was attended by 2 three year olds for next year. We've had one other inquiry.

The preschool schedule could possibly be moving to consecutive days.

New computer programs are running the computer room. We thank Kim for his work to install the programs and Laurie Voss for her research on the programs.

A letter from our board and principal was distributed to current and prospective families for the 2018-2019 school year about proposed the tuition amount and our congregation's financial situation. Two families responded – one with a comment and one with a special gift.

Upcoming events: School plays on Thursday, May 17 and the small schools track meet at MLS Saginaw on Friday, May 18.

Vacation Bible School is set for July 23-26. The board may call 4 teachers this year instead of 3.

School safety: All required drills are held according to the state mandated schedule.

BOARD OF ELDERS – Pastor Voss will not be here for worship service April 22. Rex Hannewald will conduct service that day. Holy Communion will not be served at the worship services.

The board reviewed the Lent and Holy Week services.

Our summer Thursday evening worship schedule will begin May 24.

We have begun using HymnSoft during worship services. There have been a few minor glitches and we continue to work through them.

The WELS Michigan District Convention will be June 11-13. The Board of Elders began discussing whom to approach as a possible lay delegate for the convention.

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

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

We discussed Palm Sunday and Easter meals and how these went.

We thank everyone who helped with the Easter breakfast. There were about 125 guests served at the meal.

We thank all the families and groups who hosted Lent suppers. Attendance at suppers was up slightly from previous two years.

First Quarter thankoffering statements have been distributed.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES – Our thanks to Victor and Seth Domke for repairing our church neighbor's fence.

Our thanks to both Kendall Goetz and Larry Shipman for their donation of time and equipment this winter for faithfully clearing parking lots of snow.

Our thanks to Joe Janecke for the installation of new LED lights in the church.

Due to inclement weather on Saturday, April 7, we have decided to postpone our spring work day. The new day will be Saturday, April 28, starting at 8:00 am.

The school lobby and main hallway floors were stripped and waxed on April 4, 2018.

Our thanks to everybody for their help in maintaining our church properties and facilities.

End of the Year
FUN

BADGER NEWS from SCHOOL

FROM MRS. LEITZ AND OUR PRESCHOOL AND KINDERGARTEN ROOMS: The end of the year is closing in fast! In our Bible time we have been learning about King Saul, David, and Jonathan. We have been learning about how to be kind and forgiving to our friends, family, and even our enemies. Just as God forgives our sins daily.

Preschool has been busy learning their letters, and now in the last stretch of the year we will be finishing up our last units. In math we have gotten to the last part of the year with counting and writing our numbers. We also have been spending a lot of time talking about weather and made our own classroom book with weather words. We have now turned our focus to learning about plants and growing our own. We have also opened a flower shop center in our classroom where the kids can pretend to arrange flowers. It's so much fun, even the big kids like to participate.

The kindergartners have had a new student join the classroom. His name is Noah and has been a good addition to our group. It's a blessing to watch new little ones blossom in our school namely because they hear God's Word every day. The Kinders are also in their last units of Super Kids and are nearing the end of their math lessons. In science we have started learning about plants and will be growing our own.

We have a few fun things coming up this next month, a field trip to Potter Park Zoo, our play "Tikki Tikki Tembo", Fun in the Sun Day for Preschool, a field trip to the park for the Kinders, and a track meet for the Kindergarten.

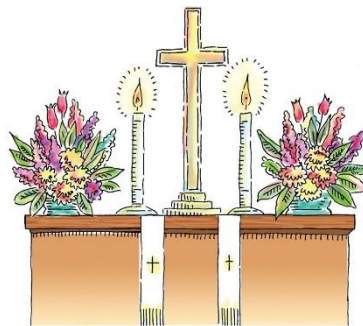
Praying you all have a blessed May!

FROM MRS. DOMKE AND GRADES ONE-FIVE: This past month in our study of God's Word, we learned about the first kings of Israel. Like all people, the kings of God's people had good days and bad days. Through their lives we learned a lot about what God wants us to do and what we are not to do. Like David, we should be faithful, obedient, Godly and quick to forgive. But we also learned from David that with God's help we should control our emotions and desires. Thank God that He helps us in every need!

Grades 3-5 have studied all seven regions of the United States and have now finished testing on all of the states and capitals. It has been fun learning about the landforms, resources and people of these regions.

We are busy learning the songs for our play, "Let's Eat!" We hope many of you can come and see us perform on May 17.

In May we will also take some time to exercise and have fun with a Jump Rope for Heart event. That event, together with a field day and coming field trips, should be lots of fun and very busy!



Worship Schedule

SERVING OUR LORD FOR OUR MAY SERVICES:

<i>Ushers</i>		<i>Altar Guild</i>	<i>Greeter(s)</i>	<i>Cleaners</i>
8:00	10:30			
5/06 - #7 D. Kasischke	#1 T. Marion	C. Burris	G. Withey	G&C Burris
5/10 - #2 V. Domke		C. Burris		
5/13 - #5 S. Houser	#9 D. Fisher	L. Voss	J&S Janecke	H&S Clark
5/20 - #2 V. Domke	#8 D. Rector	M. Zoran	H&S Clark	J. Coulter
5/27 - #3 J. Janecke		T. Wood	D&C Kasischke	P&S Crandall

