



MEMORIAL MESSENGER

March 2017



What, then, shall we say in response to this? If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare His own Son, but gave Him up for us all—how will He not also, along with Him, graciously give us all things? Romans 8:31-32

What are you getting at Lent?

You're likely reading these lines just before Ash Wednesday, so you're likely hearing on TV and reading in papers and on-line various stories about what some are giving *up* for Lent. But a far more important question is the one posed above: *What are you getting at Lent?*

The idea of giving up things goes back to Bible times when people expressed sorrow for sin by fasting—going without food for a day. There is nothing wrong with that. In fact, fasting can still have the very wholesome benefit of leading a person to reflect on his guilt before the holy Lord.

But the custom was abused when people gave up—for a day, a week, a church season—some things they like, and thought they were making God more pleased with them by doing so. That situation grew worse when various church officials endorsed, then encouraged, and finally enacted the idea that a faithful member will give up something for Lent to be more right with God. Clearly, that goes against the very core of the Christian faith! Sinners are right in God's sight due to nothing they do, but only by the sacrifice of the Savior for all sinners.

That's what we are getting at Lent! The focus of our midweek services—hymns, order of service, Passion History lessons, sermons, prayers—is Christ's blood shed for us lost and condemned sinners. Rather than being deprived of anything we really like, we get even more of what we really need: the message of our trespasses and Jesus' sacrifice, of the hell we deserve and the heaven the Father opens to us. "*He...did not spare His own Son, but gave Him up for us all!*" Lent isn't about what *we* give up for God; Lent is about what **God** gave up for us!

In the next few days at work or during your niece's birthday party, people may talk about what they are giving up for Lent. If so, God is opening His door for you to speak about what **He has given up** for all. You can also say that—along with Jesus winning heaven for us hell-bound sinners—God "*graciously gives us all things*".

During Lent—or any time—it is *not* wrong to give up enjoying sweets, watching TV, going to movies, or eating red meat on Fridays. It *is* wrong, though, to think that giving up those things makes us better before God. During Lent—and all the time—God makes us rich in Jesus. We sinners hunger and thirst for every occasion to get more of our Savior in His Gospel!

See you in God's house each Sunday—and at the midweek services beginning March 1—as together we get those rich blessings from our saving Lord!

Pastor Voss



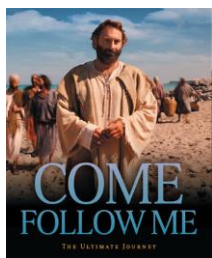


THE WALK ALONG OUR SAVIOR'S path to His crucifixion begins *Ash Wednesday, March 1. Lent services, which begin that evening, will be held each Wednesday at 7:00 through April 5.*

Join us to praise God for the gift of salvation won by our Savior for us sinners in His life, death, and resurrection. Area WELS pastors are conducting the services. The midweek services will have the theme: *Gripping Action in the Passion.*

KINDERGARTEN ROUNDUP DAY at our school will be *Friday, March 3 from 9:30 – 11:30*. If you are aware of anyone who might be interested, please speak to Mrs. Leitz or Pastor Voss to get information sent to that family before Friday. We expect at least 5 prospective Kindergarten students to attend.

PRESCHOOL ROUNDUP DAY at our Preschool will be *9:30 – 11:30 this Wednesday*. If you know of a family interested in Preschool for next year, please tell them about this special day and speak to Mrs. Leitz.



OUTREACH MATERIALS The Board of Evangelism & Stewardship reminds members that we have copies of the **WELS DVDs** *“Road to Emmaus”, “Come, Follow Me”, and “My Son, My Savior”* are available for purchase (\$3 per copy; 2 for \$5).

Consider purchasing copies for your family and friends to show them why the work of the Savior is needed by every sinner. *Any, or all, of these videos would be a great way to invite them to our special Lent services and to the Holy Week services April 9, 13, 14, and 16.*

SUPPERS precede each midweek Lent service. We are doing this as an opportunity for families to come here for their evening meal, then receive spiritual nourishment from God's Word, and still be able to return home by a decent hour.

All suppers begin at **6:00**. A free will offering to help with meal expenses will be received each week.

Our thanks to all who have volunteered to provide food for these suppers, as well as to those who will set things up for the meals and clean up after them!

IN ADDITION, the committee planning meals as opportunities for members of our area to get more acquainted with our congregation desires to invite the public to our Lent suppers, in hopes that the visitors will also stay for the Lent service. For now, we think that maybe 20 members of the public might attend these suppers. We kindly ask the groups who are volunteering to host Lent suppers to keep that in mind.

Baskets for meal freewill offerings will be upstairs this Lent season.

GRAYCE will hold its next meetings on *Tuesday, February 28* and *Wednesday, March 29*.

The gathering on February 28 will be at the Culver's in Eastwood Town Center for lunch, and then seeing a movie at NCG Cinema that afternoon. Please see more information about the February 28 event in your mail slot at church. Join us!

GRAYCE's March meeting is the group hosting the Lent supper on March 29.

DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME begins *Sunday, March 12!* Set your clocks *ahead* one hour *Saturday evening, March 11.*



THE VOICE CHOIR has resumed rehearsals. The choir meets *Thursday evenings at 7:30*. We are practicing anthems to sing in mid-March and for our Holy Week services.

We hope that new choir voices will join us! Any communicant member is welcome to sing with us.

THE CHIME CHOIR met February 23, and will next rehearse on *Thursdays, March 23 and 30 at 6:30*, as well as *Saturday, April 1 at 11:00*. The chime choir will ring music in the late service on April 9.

WELS CHRISTIAN WOMEN'S RETREAT will be held *March 31 - April 2* at the Double Tree Hotel – Riverfront in Bay City. You may register online at www.tcwr.org.

EARLIER VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL Our Board of Christian Education consulted with those who have taught classes and organized activities for our Vacation Bible School in the past few years about holding VBS earlier this summer. After hearing of new major conflicts or complications, the Board of Christian Education has set VBS for *the mornings of Monday, June 26 – Thursday, June 29*. More details will follow as VBS draws closer.

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.

CMLAL VOLLEYBALL TOURNAMENT Our school hosts the CMLAL Volleyball tournament on *Saturday, April 1*. Matches will begin at *9:00* and continue until early afternoon.

Our PTO will staff the concession stand for the day. Members of the congregation are invited to help, too. If you have any questions, please to 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.

LADIES FELLOWSHIP - Our March meeting on Monday, March 6 will include making arrangements for a Lent supper we will host. We are also going to make cards for sending to our members. Please bring supplies if you can. We are not doing monthly hostesses anymore, so feel free to bring a snack to share and bring your own beverage.



At our February meeting, we set our agenda for the year. We also chose to send our mission monies from 2016 to mission work in Hong Kong, for tuition assistance to the son of our congregation studying for the ministry at Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary who is in his last few months before graduation, and to buy a matching, healthy tree for the front of church. (We will replant the western most tree.)

Our tuition assistance to the sons of our congregation who have studied for the preaching ministry has been going on since the 2002-2003 school year when studies began at Martin Luther College. We are grateful that the Lord has allowed us to help them in a small way and pray the Lord will bless their work.

We pray that the Lord will bless all mission work throughout our Synod, and that He will also bless our work as a group here at Memorial.

CHURCH COUNCIL REPORTS

PASTOR'S REPORT – An Adult Instruction Class is being held at school one morning per week with a mother of two students in our preschool. If any others are interested in studying the truths of God's Word and the confessions of our church based on God's Word, I'm happy to start another class as soon as possible.

Congregation mission offerings (CMO) from across WELS for 2016 totaled \$21,059,489. That is about \$60,500 under the amount subscribed by WELS congregations for the year. That shortfall in CMO for 2016 is compounded by the fact that across WELS the congregation CMO subscriptions for 2017 are just 0.4% above last year's subscriptions.

I attended an all-day presentation last month as training was provided by the Michigan State Police (MSP) for access to the Criminal History Record Internet Subscription Service (CHRISS). This training is required for a school to have access to CHRISS, the new online system being implemented by MSP.

We thank the donors who paid for the new screen at church, and thank Howard Clark for ordering and installing the screen. It works great and is of higher quality than the one it has replaced.

BOARD OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION – Enrollment is 24: preschool=10; kindergarten=2; grades 1-5=12 (This is up one from prior month.)

We discussed the meeting agenda for the parent meeting regarding tuition for the 2017-2018 school year. The meeting took place on February 25.

Laurie Voss informed us about Facebook promotion options for the school site. We discussed the "boost" option for enhancing marketing. (Target people we want to reach.) Cost associated with it: you set your budget, based on who you want to reach. We also considered the "Promote your business" option. PTO would fund. We decided on this last option at \$15/day for 7 days (February 21-27, leading up to kindergarten and preschool roundup days).

The preschool license renewal will be due this spring. We have applied for same and await a visit from the state licensing personnel.

Teachers are encouraging student participation and preparation for the MLS Fine Arts Fair on March 4.

We approved dates for this summer's VBS as Monday, June 26-Thursday, June 29 at our school in the morning.

PTO purchased a new computer and software for the kindergarten room.

We reviewed the cost to purchase a new book series and other books for the school library. This will be funded by PTO.

Terra Nova testing order is on track to be placed in April.

We will ask Mrs. Bater to observe our teachers in March or April.

Upcoming events include: March 1 when PTO hosts the Ash Wednesday supper, March 4 for the MLS Fine Arts Fair in Saginaw, and March 10 for the CMLAL Choir Concert at Emanuel in Lansing.

BOARD OF ELDERS – The Board of Elders discussed congregational encouragement and absentee members. As the Elders continue to work on this issue, members of the congregation are strongly encouraged to reach out to those straying members with whom they may have a personal connection.

The Elders discussed Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve worship services for 2017. Since Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve fall on a Sunday in 2017, the Elders are considering having only one morning service those days along with the traditional evening services.

BOARD OF EVANGELISM AND STEWARDSHIP – We discussed the use of Facebook marketing for church and school during preschool and kindergarten information days.

Our website manager has found a site and set it information to view our website's analytics.

We discussed using and promoting Lenten suppers as community dinners.

Lenten suppers are as follows: March 1 – PTO; March 8 – BEST; March 15 – Ladies Fellowship; March 22 – two member families; March 29 – GRAYCE; and April 5 – is still open.

There will be an audit done of the church's financial records.

The WELS Connection has been renewed for 2017.

We thank Jamy Staffeld for notarizing our documents for refinancing our loan with LACE.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES – Our Memorial congregation work force has repaired, replaced, and or fixed: the light ballast in the school hallway, the parsonage garage door, lavatory at school, a sump pump at the church, a sump pump in the parsonage, and installed the new projector screen at church.

Our board will be going through previous years' water testing at school and those notes just for informational purposes.

A letter from the Ingham County Health Department, dated January 30, 2017, advised that we are on a schedule for a five year water test at the school, a cost of \$495.00.

We received a letter from Ingham County Health Department dated January 4, 2017 notifying us that the school will now be required to have a quarterly water test for Coliform, cost of testing is \$16.00 per test. This test was not included in the latest test from the State of Michigan DEQ.

BADGER NEWS from SCHOOL -

FROM OUR PRESCHOOL AND KINDERGARTEN ROOMS: This past month for our Bible lessons we have been seeing Jesus preparing for His death and resurrection. We are learning how He was preparing the disciples for taking over spreading God's Word after He has died and gone to Heaven.

In preschool we have been learning classifying, and putting things in proper order. The three year olds have learned the letters C, G, O, Q, and S. The four year olds have been working on patterns, rhymes, chants, and poems and letters A-D. We also had fun celebrating Valentine's Day and going on a field trip to the MSU Rodeo.

In kindergarten we have been working on time, addition, subtraction, measuring length and width, numbers 12-14, and ordinal numbers. For Super Kids we have learned the letters E, F, H, and U. For science we have been studying about our bodies and how they work inside.

This next month we will be starting to work on our play and doing Parent/Teacher conferences. We will also be doing roundups for preschool and kindergarten right at the beginning of the month!

May you all have a wonderful Springy month!

FROM OUR GRADES 1-5 ROOM: The last month we have learned about Jesus' late ministry in our study of God's Word. We've heard about who goes to heaven, how we should treat our neighbors, and how God wants us to honor Him. God wants us to honor Him with our thoughts, words and actions as we live out our days on the road to heaven. We help our children and each other on that road as we work and worship together.

In Social Studies we are learning about Michigan in the years after the Civil War. At this time Michigan was making good use of the natural resources God gave us to help rebuild our country. The Upper Peninsula, which many felt was a wasteland, was showing itself to be rich in resources. From minerals to white pines, Michigan did her part.

We certainly enjoyed the Spartan Stampede last Friday! What a fun day of learning and yelling, "Yahoo!"

This month we are also planning to head to Emanuel for the CMLAL choir concert and for an author book talk. We also are gearing up for the MLS Fine Arts Fair the first weekend in March. Never a dull moment!

SERVING OUR LORD FOR OUR MARCH SERVICES:

<i>Ushers</i>		<i>Altar Guild</i>	<i>Greeter(s)</i>	<i>Cleaners</i>
8:00	10:30			
3/01 - #3 J. Janecke		J. Vogt		
3/05 - #6 E. Ruhlig	#1 T. Marion	S. Rector	H&S Clark	L&K Ward
3/08 - #2 V. Domke		S. Rector		
3/12 - #7 D. Kasischke	#3 J. Janecke	C. Kasischke	D&C Kasischke	S&S Arntson
3/15 - #5 S. Houser		C. Kasischke		
3/19 - #5 S. Houser	#4 B. Grinnell	M. Zoran	L. Tobia	B&J Briggs
3/22 - #6 E. Ruhlig		M. Zoran		
3/26 - #2 V. Domke	#8 D. Rector	S. Unruh	D&S Rector	G&C Burris
3/29 - #7 D. Kasischke		S. Unruh		

