



MEMORIAL MESSENGER March 2018

*God made Him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God.
2 Corinthians 5:21*



The last few days of March this year will include intense drama – drama that has nothing to do with the men’s and women’s teams in college basketball’s Final Four that weekend. The intense drama will be the suffering and death and resurrection of our Savior. But we need to follow the *right* kind of drama during our Holy Week devotions at home and services in God’s house.

Because we’ve suffered physical pain, we can relate to a little of what Jesus endured from Jewish leaders and Roman soldiers. Maybe we’ve been slapped in the face; all of us have been pierced by a thorn. But none of us have been whipped dozens of times or had nails driven through parts of our body. It’s not wrong to wonder what that felt like for Jesus. But *that* suffering was **not** the most important or awful suffering of our Savior.

“*God made Him who had no sin to be sin for us.*” When God the Son was on the cross, God the Father considered Jesus to be the worst sinner in the history of the world because Jesus had the hell of every sin in the history of the world (past, present, and future) laid on Him. That suffering goes way, way, way beyond our understanding. All that sin, all that wretchedness, all that hell was piled on one person at one time! It takes our breath away to ponder it. It lead the Father in heaven to turn away from His Son as Jesus endured it.

But at the cross Jesus did endure it all. After He died, He didn’t go to hell to suffer. “*It is finished*”, Jesus shouted in victory from His cross. Then why did Jesus descend into hell? We’ll cover that in God’s house Easter morning. Our certainty of heaven rests in the truth that all our hell was perfectly paid for at Calvary. That’s what it means that Jesus “*was made sin*” – really, “*was made a sin offering*” – for us. And because He was, we now have His “*righteousness*” applied to our account with the holy God.

Our response? We do more than say, “Thank You, Jesus!” We *live* our thanks to Jesus! We set our pet sins behind us. We put our Savior’s will for our lives above our selfish interests. We live not for ourselves, but for Him who suffered our hell so that we never have to suffer hell, but will enter heaven.

We don’t know how the tournament games this month will turn out; but those games mean nothing in the eternal realm of things. We know how the Holy Week events turned out; and those events result in unending happiness for us. Will we give more attention to our Savior’s suffering than to our favorite teams this month? Yes! When we see what the Savior suffered for us, nothing else in life is more important to us! *Pastor Voss*





THE WALK ALONG OUR SAVIOR'S path to His crucifixion continues *Wednesdays, February 28, March 7, 14, and 21. Lent services are held each Wednesday at 7:00 PM. .*

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 have the theme: *Jesus Christ Is Our Great High Priest.*

Palm Sunday, March 25 – 8:00 & 10:30

Potluck & reception – 12:00 *at school*

Maundy Thursday, March 29 – 7:00 PM with Communion

Good Friday, March 30 – 7:00 PM: Tenebrae (darkness) service

Easter Sunday, April 1 – **7:30 & 10:30 AM** - *no SS or BC*

Easter breakfast served 8:45 - 9:35 *at our school*;



THE CHILDREN of the congregation will sing early in each service *Easter Sunday*. They have been rehearsing their song before Sunday School sessions the last month or so, as well as daily at our school.

OUR ANNUAL NEW MEMBER RECEPTION will take place at a potluck dinner following the late service *Palm Sunday, March 25*. Sign up in the narthex to indicate how many from your family will attend and what you will bring; we also ask you to bring your own tableware. A presentation will recognize new members, as well as our 2018 youth confirmation candidates.

INVITE UNCHURCHED loved ones, friends, and neighbors to our Good Friday and Easter Sunday services, as we celebrate the greatest events in world history: *Christ has died and is risen to save us sinners!* Invite them to our Easter Breakfast as well. Use the invitation cards on the narthex counter to extend your invitation to them to worship with us.

OUTREACH DVDS 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 March 25, 29, 30, and April 1.*



SPECIAL EASTER FLOWERS A sign-up sheet has been posted on the main church bulletin board for ordering *Easter lilies and/ tulips* to beautify our church sanctuary for the Easter services. This year the choices will be lilies, red or yellow tulips and daffodils. ***Lilies: 6-inch pot for \$9.00, Tulips: 6-inch pot for \$8.00*** (red or yellow) and ***Daffodils for \$8.00*** Please also list if you are getting these in memory of someone.

Carol Kasischke is coordinating the order. She asks that you **sign up by March 21**. You may pay Carol at any time for the flowers that you order.

DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME begins *Sunday, March 11!* Set your clocks *ahead* one hour *Saturday evening, March 10.*



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 cleaned up after them!

LENT SUPPER HOSTS? All the Lent suppers have hosts except for **March 7 & 14**. If several families wish to get together to host a meal for that date, please sign up on the sheet in the narthex.

WE HAVE REFRESHMENTS on the first Sunday of each month. On **Sunday, March 4**, 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.

Please let Joe Janecke, Dan Kasischke, or Jason Leitz from our Board of Evangelism & Stewardship know how you like this new time for monthly refreshments. Please let one of us know if you are willing to provide light refreshments (nothing elaborate) on April 8 or May 6.



KINDERGARTEN ROUNDUP at our school will be **Friday, March 9 from 9:30 – 11:30**.

Letters have been sent to our church and school families who have children of Kindergarten age for next school year, and others who have expressed an interest in our Kindergarten.

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. Children must be 5 years old by September 1 to enroll in Kindergarten.

PRESCHOOL ROUNDUP will be **9:30 – 11:00 Wednesday, March 7**.

If you know of a family interested in Preschool for next year, please tell them about this special day and speak to Mrs. Leitz. Children must be 3 years old by September 1 to enroll.

INVITATIONS to invite families to our Kindergarten and Preschool Roundups are available in the church narthex and school office. Please share the flyers with interested families.

GRAYCE will meet **Tuesday, February 27**. The get-together will begin with a potluck meal. After we eat, we'll read a note of thanks for our donations to a local charity, as well as discuss our menu for a Lent supper. The get-together will also include a visit to the print shop in town, as well as playing Euchre and other card games.

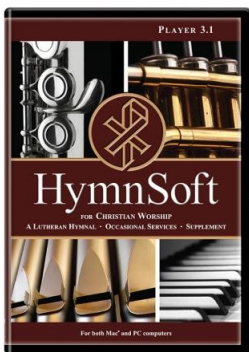
The GRAYCE meeting in March is hosting the Lent supper on **March 21**.



THE VOICE CHOIR meets **Thursday evenings at 7:30 this month**. We are practicing music 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 for Holy Week services, and possibly a Sunday morning service during Lent.

THE CHIME CHOIR rehearses on **Thursdays at 6:30**.



COMPUTER HELP FOR WORSHIP We have used the HymnSoft computer software for several worship services in February, providing some relief for organists.

We are looking for volunteers to run the computer program for worship services. By mid-February we hope to set up a schedule of volunteers—boys and girls, men and women, young and old—to operate the computer for the services when HymnSoft will be used. You do not need to be able to read music to run the program; you only need to be comfortable clicking icons at the appropriate times during the service.

If you wish to serve as a HymnSoft volunteer, please speak to Pastor Voss to be put on the schedule – letting him know if you prefer the 8:00 or the 10:30 service, as well as if you are available for evening services.



NEW ALTAR COVERINGS NEEDED The white parament we have to cover the church altar needs to be replaced. The Ladies Fellowship has started a fund to get this altar cover and the lectern and pulpit paraments with it so that all match.

The set will come to a cost of \$900-\$1000. They are special ordered and we hope to get some as close to the kind we have now. We are researching also to see if sales exist.

The green altar paraments could also be replaced. Years of use have the paraments with stains and repairs needed.

If you would like to help with the cost of these, please make checks to *Memorial Lutheran Ladies Fellowship Group*. We will keep you updated when we are able to order.

LADIES FELLOWSHIP At our February meeting we finalized out agenda for the year and chose to send mission offerings to our Pregnancy Counseling Center in Flint. We also set money aside from those offerings to purchase more new banners for our sanctuary and to start a fund to get new white paraments for our altar, lectern and pulpit.

At our March 5th meeting we will make cards to send to our shut-ins and those who are hospitalized. Please bring items to make cards and anything you have especially for *Thinking of you* and *Praying for You* cards.

We have some fun ideas and plans for this year. Join us and share the fellowship we enjoy.



NEW DATES - VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL At the February Board of Christian Education meeting, after getting feedback from some of our VBS helpers, the board decided to change the date of this summer's Vacation Bible School.

VBS will be held *the mornings of Monday, July 23 through Thursday, July 26*. Please make a note of the change.

WELS CHRISTIAN WOMEN'S RETREAT will be held *April 13-15* at Marriott Auburn Hills in Pontiac. For more information or to register, go to www.tcwr.org.

FOR SECURITY REASONS we have removed the key for the church that has been available for years. If you need to enter church, but don't have a key, please speak to Pastor Voss to make sure the church will be open for you. If you need immediate entrance into the church, please call Pastor Voss on his cell phone (517-488-5145) and he'll contact someone with a key to meet you at church.

LAND LINE TO BE DISCONNECTED Over a 2-month period in December and January, only about 20 total calls from members and visitors were made to the 655-2294 number that rings in the church and the parsonage. Because more of our members are using the pastor's cell phone number (517-488-5145) to contact him, the Church Council has decided to save up to \$600 per year by terminating the land line service at the church and the parsonage.

However, we want to keep the 655-2294 number that has been associated with our church and parsonage for decades. Therefore, that phone number has been ported to a cell phone line. Members, visitors, and others can still call that number, and it will ring on a cell phone in the pastor's possession.

The only real change for our members is that there soon (if not already by the time you read this) will not be a land line in the church that can be used for out-going calls. We don't think this is a major issue since most of our members have a cell phone to use if they need to make a call from the church.

If you have any questions about any of this, please speak to Pastor or Laurie Voss.

THE MONTHLY HOT LUNCH at Memorial Lutheran School for December will be served *March 16*. The menu will be pizza and breadsticks, applesauce, vegetables, brownies, and milk.

Volunteers from the congregation are welcome to help serve the meal; speak with Pastor Voss for more information. Also, if you wish to prepare and/or donate any of the items (except for the first two), please speak with Pastor Voss or sign up for the item(s) on the list that has been posted at church.

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. *You must use this link to have purchases directed to church.*

CHURCH COUNCIL REPORTS

PASTOR'S REPORT – WELS news - Congregation mission offerings (CMO) from across WELS for 2017 totaled \$21,357,960. That is about \$138,000 over the amount subscribed by WELS congregations for the year. The Michigan District portion of WELS CMO was \$2,165,765, about \$37,000 over our district's subscribed amount. We rejoice that congregation mission thankofferings came over the subscribed amount. WELS leaders, though, will look carefully at budget adjustments for the rest of this fiscal year since the CMO did not meet the increase adopted for the year's WELS budget. By next month the total CMO subscription amounts for 2018 should be available.

At last week's Pastor – Teacher Conference it was reported by Michigan District President Seifert that pastoral vacancies across WELS remain at nearly the same number as three months ago, about 120; there will be 26 pastoral candidates available for assignment in May.

We have looked at several options for keeping the church phone number, but eliminate the costs with the land line. The least costly option seems to be using an old flip phone that we have. The phone battery can still be recharged. Adding that phone to our plan and porting the 655-2294 number to the flip phone would be \$20 per month. What we don't know is whether, when I'm no longer pastor here, the 655-2294 number can be ported to a different cell phone.

I thank the many members of our congregation who made time to help in so many ways with setting up for, serving at, and taking down after the meal provided for the family and friends of our now-sainted sister in Jesus Karen Grinnell. The family is very appreciative of all the efforts, especially since having the meal at school involved extra work.

Thank you for allowing me to travel to sister WELS congregations for four of the midweek Lent services, and for welcoming pastors of those congregations when the pastors conduct services here.

Kim Fedewa and Laurie Voss have done extensive work since our last Church Council meeting to get the HymnSoft program installed on computers in the school office and in the church sanctuary. We thank Kim and Laurie for their work, and thank those have (and will) volunteer to operate HymnSoft for our services.

BOARD OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION – Enrollment - (25) Increased by one in preschool - Preschool: 6
Kindergarten: 5 Grades 1-5: 14

School promotion – Will run a Facebook targeted marketing campaign Feb 28 - March 7 promoting our Preschool and Kindergarten Roundup days which will be March 7 & 9.

Judy is working to encourage and prepare students for MLS Fine Arts Fair March 3.

Overhead projector for Smartboard – discussed replacing this equipment as it is aging and we are having some mechanical failures.

Set 2018-2019 school year.

VBS - Due to scheduling issues VBS has been rescheduled to July 23-26.

Child Care - We have not had any inquiries from our congregation or school families for this service. We have also been informed that there are currently openings at the day care run by the local school district. A child care center would have to be entirely funded by users. We do not believe we have the startup capital needed to make needed changes to our church or school buildings and required code corrections to the building facility - or to hire a called, certified child care provider.

BOARD OF ELDERS – HymnSoft was used for the first time Sunday Feb. 4. We are still seeking volunteers to operate HymnSoft. With only 2 regular organists it is the goal that we would have enough HymnSoft volunteers so our organists would play once a month each. The other two Sundays would be covered by a HymnSoft volunteer.

Both the voice and chime choirs have resumed rehearsals.

We have been using the Evangelical Heritage Version for Scripture lessons in worship since January 7.

The summer worship schedule was discussed. This summer we will again have worship Thursday evenings at 7:00 pm.

BOARD OF EVANGELISM AND STEWARDSHIP – We encourage our members to invite family and friends to special Lent services, Holy Week, and Easter Sunday services.

Thanks to Bonnie Carpenter and Carol Lycos for February 4th refreshments.

Discussed the WELS Connection link that is now posted each month on our website.

We thank Dan Kasischke for getting the 2017 thankoffering statements to our members by the middle of January.

Lent suppers will be as follows (so far): February 14 – PTO; February 21 – Ladies Fellowship; February 28 – Board of Evangelism & Stewardship; March 7 – (open); March 14 – (open); March 21 – GRAYCE

BOARD OF TRUSTEES – We will replace the ceiling tiles in the church balcony.

Replaced 5 thermostats at school. Dampers need to be worked on.

Howard Clark fixed and repaired the drinking fountain in the school lobby.

Dave Dawley continues on the DEQ water testing requirements.

The kitchen sink was repaired at school.

Electrical plug in the church kitchen was replaced.

We are scheduled to get the school floors waxed over spring break.

Facility use update - last weekend is 2-25-2018 for games and tournaments

BADGER NEWS from SCHOOL

FROM MRS. LEITZ AND OUR PRESCHOOL AND KINDERGARTEN ROOMS: This month has been a short but busy month. Our Bible lessons have been focusing more on Joshua and the Israelite people finally entering the land of Canaan. We have been learning a lot about trusting God and following His commands. We learned that God is always ready to help us because He loves us and has almighty power. We know He will help us with our troubles because He sent His Son to die and rise for us.

The preschoolers have been working on the math concept of one-one correspondence and putting things in order. The three year olds have been working on correct pencil grip, coloring, and cutting. The four year olds

have been working on letters L, M, N, O, P, and Q.

The kindergartners have been busy learning more in math about adding and subtracting, telling time, and measuring length and weight of an object. We have learned letters E, H, and U for our Super Kids. For Social Studies we have been studying facts about some famous people of the past such as Booker T. Washington and George Washington Carver. In science we have started learning about measurement.

Some fun things we have done with preschool and kindergarten is to learn a little bit about the Olympics and then we had our very own Olympic event. It was great for everyone to learn about using their talents to glorify God. During the awards ceremony each child received a gold medal with a cross on it as a reminder that we all have won because of what Jesus has done for us.

We also celebrated Valentine's Day with some fun games and treats and of course handing out valentines.

This month we'll have round up for kindergarten Friday, March 9th and for preschool Wednesday, March 7th.

Have a blessed March!

FROM MRS. DOMKE AND GRADES ONE-FIVE: In our study of God's Word this month we covered the time of Joshua, the conquest of the Promised Land and the beginning of the Judges. We specifically learned about Gideon and Samson. Both men were good judges. Both also made plenty of mistakes - just like us! How wonderful that God uses flawed people to serve Him in His kingdom, because He makes all things work out for our good.

Grades 3-5 are working their way through the United States in Social Studies. So far we have covered the New England, Mid-Atlantic, and Southeast Regions. We have just begun work on the Midwest and Great Plains - the best region in the whole USA! It has been fun learning about the geography, resources and fun in each region.

Grades 3-5 are heading to the Wharton Center on Tuesday, Feb. 27 for a music presentation. We'll be learning about the orchestra.

We are sure thankful to all the volunteers who have made us delicious hot lunches this year! What a treat! The last one was a pancake feast that coincided with our 100th day of school.

Next week we are having a visitor to our school. A student from Martin Luther College will be coming to observe, learn from and play with us! It should be a real blast!

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			
3/04 - #6 E. Ruhlig	#9 D. Fisher	S. Rector	F&N Mills	C&A Rhodea
3/07 - #6 E. Ruhlig		S. Rector		
3/11 - #7 D. Kasischke	#8 D. Rector	M. Zoran	D. Steiner	N. Russell
3/14 - #7 D. Kasischke		M. Zoran		
3/18 - #5 S. Houser	#4 B. Grinnell	T. Wood	L&K Ward	J&J Staffeld
3/21 - #8 D. Rector		T. Wood		
3/25 - #2 V. Domke	#3 J. Janecke	K. Ward	P&S Crandall	J&M Stiefel
3/29 - #9 D. Fisher		K. Ward		
3/30 - #1 T. Marion		K. Ward		

