



# MEMORIAL MESSENGER

## May 2015



*"You will be My witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." After Jesus said this, He was taken up before their very eyes, and a*

*cloud hid Him from their sight. Acts 1:8-9*

With those words of His, the risen Savior sets forth His mission and the work for His people on earth until He calls them from this life to Himself in heaven. Unfortunately, after the excitement of celebrating Jesus' rising from the dead on Easter Sunday, His people tend to settle back into the old routine of things. Our sinful, limited human reasoning suggests that if Jesus had just stayed visible on earth, people wouldn't tend to take Him so much for granted. But that wasn't His plan, nor is His power dependent on His appearing visibly to people.

Instead, His plan was to ascend into heaven forty days after He took back His life. That's good for Him; it's essential for us! Had He remained on earth for years and years after His resurrection, people would wonder why He didn't return to heaven. *Maybe His work wasn't really finished at the cross and empty grave. Maybe His Father isn't perfectly pleased with His Son. Maybe Jesus doesn't have as much power as He says He has.* His ascension into heaven silences all such doubts. It also fills our hearts with the confidence that His work of paying for our sins has been perfectly completed, that His Father has accepted in full His Son's payment for us, and that Jesus is in heaven preparing the place where we will live in His glorious presence forever.

His power is given in His precious good news about His work to rescue us sinners from drowning ourselves in the sea of our sin and guilt. He puts that Gospel into our hearts and on our lips and into our hands. The Savior gives us the priceless privilege of telling His good news to others. We don't have to be Bible scholars to do that. *"You will be My witnesses,"* He said. We simply tell others what Jesus has done to save us and the world.

The ascension of our Savior was considered by believers long ago to be one of the great days of the Christian Church year. Now it's the service that has the lowest attendance of the year. What is going on in our lives on



**Thursday, May 14 at 7:00 PM** that is more important than hearing about what the ascended Savior means for us and about the work that the ascended Savior gives to us? The lawn can be cut another evening, the groceries can be picked up after the 45-minute service that evening.

How blessed we are that Jesus didn't say, "It's not such a good time for Me to die for sinners right now. I'm still in My early thirties. Maybe later, OK?" He spent His life here in humility for us and for our salvation. Now He is exalted in heaven to care for us and strengthen us in our walk on the path to the salvation He has won for us condemned sinners. And He uses us to talk to others about our sins and our repentance of them, about His work and our trusting in Him alone. *"You will be My witnesses."*

This month has a number of huge events: confirmation, Mother's Day, maybe graduation or a family wedding. But none in May is bigger than our Savior's ascension into heaven. Plan now to set aside that Thursday evening for worship. We praise Him for all that He has done and still does to bless us and save us. We grow in knowing what His will is and how to speak of Him with others. We seek His help as we serve as His *"witnesses"*.

Pastor Voss



**WE WELCOME** our 2015 youth confirmands as communicant members of our congregation! They are *Megan Coulter, Trevor Fortin, Alicia McConnell, and Karley Taranto*. 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 3*.

**WELCOME NEW MEMBER!** *Linda Tobia* has joined our congregation via transfer from Prince of Peace Ev. Lutheran Church in Howell.

May Linda's membership be a rich blessing to her, and to our congregation!



**THE CELEBRATION OF OUR SAVIOR'S ASCENSION** into heaven as the victorious Son of God will be held *Thursday, May 14 at 7:00*. Join us for this important festival of the Christian church year!

The last few years some of our members sheepishly admitted that they completely forgot about the special Ascension Festival worship service. Please make a note of the date and time right now, and plan to join us in God's house for the service.

**THE FINAL SUNDAY SCHOOL** classes and Bible Class sessions of this school year will be held **Sunday, May 17** (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. There will be no Monday evening service that weekend because that date is the Memorial Day holiday. The first Monday evening summer service will be *June 1 at 7 PM*. (There will not be a Monday evening service on *Monday, June 8*, because Pastor Voss will be at the Michigan District Convention.)

This summer schedule will continue through Labor Day weekend.



**REFRESHMENT HOURS** will follow the service on non-Communion Sundays this summer, beginning May 31. We urge 2 or 3 families to sign up for the dates on the sheet in the narthex.



**AN OUTSIDE WORK DAY** has been set by our Board of Trustees for *Saturday, May 2*, starting at **9 AM** on both our church and school properties. Please bring a rake, shovel, broom, and other tools that might be needed for cleaning the exterior of our buildings, sweeping the parking lot, getting the grass ready for mowing, trimming branches, washing church windows, etc.

**SCHOOL PLAYS** will be held *Thursday, May 21*. The plays will begin at **9:30** that morning and **6:30 PM** in our gym. Join us! Invite friends to attend with you!

**THE CLOSING SERVICE** for our 2014-15 Lutheran Elementary School year will *Thursday, May 28 at 7:00*. The students of our school will sing for the service.

**CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE**, you are invited to a hike on the Lansing River Trail from Brenke Fish Ladder to Potter Park on *Saturday, May 16*. We will meet at church at **9:00 AM** to form a car pool for travel to Lansing.

Please bring your own water. Snacks will be available from our leaders when we get to the pavilion at Potter Park. You may speak to Linda Janecke for more information.



**WE HAVE RESERVED** tickets to the Lugnuts game *Saturday, August 8 at 7:00 PM*; a fireworks display will follow the game. Tickets cost \$10.00 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 **June 22**.

**PLEASE NOTE** that the schedule of those who serve each week in various ways is now posted on our web site. Usher team numbers are on the calendar labeled “*Our Calendar*” along the right side of our web site’s home page.

The Altar Guild, church cleaners, greeters, and ushers are also listed by date in a separate link. Along the top of our home page, under “*Memorial Lutheran Church*”, click on “*Serving for Services*” for quick reference.

**EASIER-TO-READ MONTHLY CALENDAR** Thank you for your understanding about the difficult-to-read format of last month’s calendar. We needed to purchase a new computer for the school office, and then a new calendar software program. The calendar software wasn’t available until after the April *Messenger* and calendar needed to be finalized.

The new software has been purchased and installed. You will find the calendar this month to be downloaded and printed in the normal format.

**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.

**IF YOU HAVE IDEAS** for our church and school web site, please let Laurie Voss know.

**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.



**MORNINGS WITH MOMMY:** *Mornings with Mommy* will meet Thursday May 14<sup>th</sup> from 10:00-11:00 A.M. (This is a week before the usual date because the school plays will be May 21<sup>st</sup>.) Our theme this month will be Flowers, Birds, and Mother's Day. Some of the fun activities planned are a bird search, flowers and flower pots in the sensory table, and a hand print craft for mom. We will be celebrating moms and how much we love them!

Please come and bring a friend! Contact our director Karla Leitz if you have any questions or would like to register for our next session at [kleitz25@gmail.com](mailto:kleitz25@gmail.com), or you can just come that day. There is a nominal

charge to cover the cost of supplies. New faces are always welcome!

Have a blessed Mother's Day to all moms!





## **LADIES FELLOWSHIP**

We will meet Monday, May 4 at 7:00 PM and travel to the home of our members for a type of field trip. ☺ We will visit and review plans for our October Tea and for when we will host the pastor conference the same month. Ruth and Kathy will provide refreshments. Thank you Burris for opening your home to us for this special meeting.

This will be the last meeting before our summer break. When we resume in September we will make prayer/shut-in blankets. (Don't forget gals to watch for sales

on that fleece material.)

We have a movie night planned for June 1 and Carol and Marty will host that.

**OCTOBER HARVEST HIGH TEA!** Please mark your calendars now for **Saturday, October 17**. The Ladies Fellowship is hosting a high tea, and **all women and gals of all ages** from our congregation are invited. We also invite you to bring any female guests you might like to invite. This will be held at **1:00**, and we have a special guest coming to give us a presentation and demonstration on a very fun hobby. Watch the coming newsletters and bulletins for more news on this exciting event. We haven't had an activity like this for some years and we are hoping that attendance will be terrific. We are having great fun planning this! You will come, won't you!?!?! ☺



## **CHURCH COUNCIL REPORTS**

**PASTOR'S REPORT** – WELS news: Congregation Mission Offerings for March 2-15 totaled \$1,729,000 or \$261,000 (17.8%) more than last March. Year to date, offerings have totaled \$4,229,000 or \$219,000 (5.5%) more than the same period last year. These offerings represent 103.7% of subscriptions, meaning that for the first quarter of the year offerings are 3.7% above what was projected. We are thankful to our congregations for this generous support, and we thank God for His blessings.

One of the families that visited our school for Kindergarten Roundup was made aware of our school and Kindergarten Roundup date from the ad in the *Williamston Enterprise* which a family in our congregation funded. The PTO will be asked to approve money for another ad or two about our school and preschool in May and this summer.

The new computer purchased and set up for the office secretary after the old one died in mid-March is working well. A few new software programs have been purchased, and one more will be purchased to facilitate calendar design and publishing.

**BOARD OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION** – Roundup days were held for preschool (March 12) and kindergarten (March 13 and another on March 20 for a child who was sick March 13). Two prospective children attended for preschool and two prospective students attended for kindergarten. Mrs. Leitz will gladly schedule sessions for parents and children who contact us this spring and summer about preschool or kindergarten for next school year.

Our school participated in the MLS Fine Arts Fair and CMLAL concert Choir in March.

Mrs. Leitz submitted the necessary paperwork to renew our preschool license, along with a check from the General Fund for \$365.00. An unannounced inspection (all preschool inspections are unannounced) was conducted by a state preschool licensing agent on March 31. Our preschool passed (with only a few minor items needing attention) and our preschool license renewal was approved, pending the Environmental Health inspection (for which the \$365.00 was needed) later this spring.

At the preschool and kindergarten roundup days last month we informed parents of prospective preschool and kindergarten students about the new immunization waiver requirements made by the state. The parents were aware of the changes and had no questions or concerns about them.

Our school has been invited to the WELS track meet for small school at the MLS track in Saginaw on Friday, May 15. Cost will be \$1 per student (for cost of awards). Pastor Voss is contacting our families about the

event. All our K-65 students will participate.

The PTO met April 15. The agenda included help with a number of special events the last month of school, as well as approving expenditures for several items—including one half of the cost for the new computer (and needed computer software) purchased last month for the office.

The board thanks Howard Clark and Kim Fedewa for their work in purchasing this computer and the new laptops in our two classrooms for the students, and for getting these machines operable for staff and students.

The board set Vacation Bible School for morning sessions to run July 27-31.

**BOARD OF ELDERS** – The Board of Elders recommends receiving into communicant membership here Linda Tobia by transfer of membership from Prince of Peace Ev. Lutheran Church in Howell, MI.

The young people met at church Sunday, March 22, and discussed a number of events and their participation in the June 27 Jubilee Parade. The next meeting has yet to be scheduled.

The Elders reviewed the Lent and Holy Week services.

Summer worship will resume May 24 with one Sunday morning service at 9:00 AM and Monday evening worship service at 7:00 PM. However Monday May 25<sup>th</sup> is Memorial Day and we will not have a worship service on that Monday.

**BOARD OF EVANGELISM AND STEWARDSHIP** – Website—A new computer has been installed in the school office. Reliability and connectivity of internet is better but slow when two computers are on line simultaneously. Jason and Kim will look into the issue in upcoming months. A new calendar program for the computer was purchased to use for the newsletter and online posting.

The bowling outing was held on April 4. The Lugnut game outing will be August 8<sup>th</sup>. We will plan a golf outing for late summer.

The Red Cedar Jubilee Parade will be June 27. The youth group has expressed interest in carrying a banner in the parade and distributing flyers for VBS and LES.

We are looking in to getting an updated quote for the new church sign.

We thank all the groups and families who volunteered to host a Lent supper.

We discussed the summer refreshment hours. We plan to continue these after non-communion Sunday services.

## **BOARD OF TRUSTEES** –

Victor Domke has taken 40 CRT monitors to Best Buy for disposal. David Dawley will finalize a date for recycling the remaining electronics for church and school.

David Dawley is scheduled for testing with the State of Michigan to obtain a licesne to test the school water. David will replace Ron Mosher who has teste the school water for many years. We thank both David and Ron.

Pat Crandall fixed the leaking faucet in the parsonage.

Discussed replacement of toilets, repairs to shower, replacement of driveway at the parsonage.

We thank Kendall Goetz for so faithfully removing snow at the school and church parking lots during the winter months. We thank everyone who has helped in many ways with our church and school properties.

Discussed the following repairs at church:

- a) Magnetic sign needs to be painted.
- b) Ramp railings and frame work needs to be painted.
- c) Exterior doors need painting.
- d) Fill holes and divots in cement.

Discussed the following repairs at school:

- a) Mower is ready. Vic replaced the front tires.
- b) Vic is working on the push mower.
- c) Vic will level the lawn with his tractor.
- d) Repairs to downspout
- e) Snow diversion for emergency doors
- f) Front northern doors have been repaired.



## BADGER NEWS from SCHOOL -

### FROM OUR KINDERGARTEN ROOM:

This past month in Christ Light we have been learning about the time leading up to Christ's death and then learning about Jesus showing Himself to the disciples after His resurrection. We also will be learning about His ascension into heaven and the disciples following His directions of going into all the world to preach the good news of our salvation.

For math we have been learning addition up to 8, telling time on digital and analog clocks, counting money with pennies, nickels, and dimes, measuring length and width of objects, and reviewing many other concepts. In Super Kids we have been learning the letters P, V, W, K, Q, and J. By the end of May we will have finished our last book with X, Y, and Z. In science we had finished our unit on things that move and had some fun before Easter doing some experiments with eggs. We then started studying life cycles with frogs, and chickens. We will finish out the year by studying the life cycle of bees and learning more about plants.

We have been working on a skit called "Supper with the Queen" and a musical number called Nursery Rhyme Rally. They are sure to be humorous and fun! Come to see them on May 21st. We also are planning a few field trips for the end of the year. We have been invited to Mr. and Mrs. Mosher's house to visit and have a picnic lunch on May 1st. On May 8th we will be visiting Potter Park Zoo, May 15th will be our track meet, and we will be visiting the local park in Williamston on May 22nd. We are praying for good weather this May so that we may attend all of these fun outings!

May the Lord bless your month of May!!!

### FROM OUR GRADES 1-5 ROOM:

This month in Christ Light we studied the true lessons of our Savior's arrest, trial, suffering, death, and resurrection. In them we find real joy, lasting joy. Our Savior did all of this so we can be free - eternally! We thank our Lord Jesus with our thoughts, words, and actions.

We've been busy working on our play, "How the West Was Really Won." We hope you all will attend on May 21. We will have a morning and an afternoon performance that day.

Grades 3-5 are studying Michigan's natural resources and products. It is cool to learn about how many wonderful crops, minerals, and other natural resources Michigan harvests each year. Michigan is really what our book suggests, "A Yummy State."

In art we have been working on complimentary colors, positive and negatives, and gradation. Stop by school and take a look at what we've done!

### SCHOOL HOT LUNCH HELP

Denis & Nancy Hart are organizing hot lunches for our school students once per month on a Friday. We are looking for volunteers to help serve the meal. Speak to Denis & Nancy if you have any questions or would like to volunteer for the last meal which will be **Friday, May 22**.



### SERVING OUR LORD FOR OUR MAY SERVICES:

| <i>Ushers</i>                |              | <i>Altar Guild</i> | <i>Greeter(s)</i> | <i>Cleaners</i> |
|------------------------------|--------------|--------------------|-------------------|-----------------|
| <b>8:00</b>                  | <b>10:30</b> |                    |                   |                 |
| 5/03 - #5 S. Houser          | #9 D. Fisher | M. Zoran           | R&J Hannewald     | Staffeld        |
| 5/10 - #6 E. Ruhlig          | #8 D. Rector | T. Wood            | M. Bennett        | Stiefel         |
| 5/14        #2 V. Domke      |              | T. Wood            |                   |                 |
| 5/17 - #7 D. Kasischke       | #1 T. Marion | N. Mills           | C&K Collins       | Tobia           |
| 5/24 -        #4 B. Grinnell |              | K. Unruh           | B&L Janecke       | Voss            |
| 5/31 -        #2 V. Domke    |              | S. Unruh           | L&J Vogt          | Ward            |