



MEMORIAL MESSENGER May 2017



As the rain and snow come down from heaven, and do not return to it without watering the earth and making it bud and flourish...so is My Word which goes out from My mouth: It will not return to Me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it.
Isaiah 55:10-11

We had so much April rain that farmers were delayed in planting, residents dealt with water seeping into basements, and we had to move the Palm Sunday pot luck dinner and Easter Sunday breakfast from the wet church fellowship hall to our school gym. Still, come July or August—if not already in June—we'll likely be praying for rain, right? Without moisture, seeds won't germinate and flowers will wilt.

God had growth in mind when He proclaimed the words above to Israel through His prophet Isaiah. But God wasn't so much interested in green lawns. He was—and still is!—interested in fruitful lives. The LORD of salvation was speaking about growth in faith and His desire to cultivate His precious believing branches.

Most congregations experience a marked and persistent lag in worship attendance from the weeks shortly after Easter until the week after Labor Day. How does that four-month swoon fit with God's words above? He doesn't schedule a rainy season and a dry season for His people spiritually, does He?

Unlike God's world of nature, God's spiritual growing season is twelve months long and runs every day of the year (not just the first day of each of the fifty-two weeks). God has designed His creation to lie dormant for months. But He does not desire His children to be inactive for months (or even weeks) at a time. Although farmers and gardeners anxiously worry when it's dry, we believers don't have to wonder when the next refreshing shower of God's Word is coming. It is as close to us as the Holy Bible.

Three young people of our congregation will become communicant members of our congregation May 7. What a joy to see the growth the Holy Spirit works in our youth as they absorb His good news about Christ, our crucified and risen Savior! Young people, once timid about answering religious questions, grow confident in expressing their faith. Their confessions of faith in Christ alone as our Redeemer come only from God's Spirit using God's Word. *"My Word will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it."* May our confirmands continue to use God's Gospel and be blessed with spiritual growth!



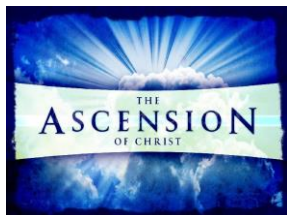
And may those of us who've been communicant members for years rededicate ourselves to faithful hearing of God's truth. May we rejoice to be reminded that this is the way God works His growth in *our* lives, too. Study of the Word and absorbing the Gospel isn't just for young people who are in Catechism classes; it is *the* way the Triune God grows individuals and builds up His Church.

What will our lives and daily choices show in the summer months? Active growth? Or dormant existence? Wilting and withering fruits of faith? Or strength in knowing God's Word and His will? We ask for God's richest blessings for our confirmands. We also ask that He continue to accomplish His desire in all of us as He uses His Gospel to increase our faith and our desire to serve Him! We trust God's precious Word to produce His results in our hearts and lives.

Pastor Voss

WE WELCOME our youth confirmands as communicant members of our congregation. They are *Kevin Every, Tristen Lycos, and Dylan Staffeld*. 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 7*.



THE CELEBRATION OF OUR SAVIOR'S ASCENSION into heaven as the victorious Son of God will be held *Thursday, May 25 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 21** (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.

This summer schedule will continue through Labor Day weekend.

REFRESHMENT HOURS will follow the service on non-Communion Sundays this summer, beginning June 4. We urge 2 or 3 families to sign up for the dates on the sheet in the narthex.



SCHOOL PLAYS will be held *Thursday, May 18*. 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 2016-17 Lutheran Elementary School year will *Thursday, June 1 at 7:00*. The students of our school will sing for the service, which will be held at church.

THE CHIME CHOIR will rehearse **Wednesdays, May 3, 10, and 17 at 6:30**, as well as *Saturday, May 20 at 11:00*. The chime choir will ring music in the late service on May 21, and perhaps also for the Ascension Festival service on May 25.

EARLIER VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL Our Vacation Bible School will be about one month earlier than in past years. VBS is set for *the mornings of Monday, June 26 – Thursday, June 29*. Sessions will run from *9:00 – 11:30* each of those four days.

FLOAT The Board of Evangelism & Stewardship has begun discussions about our congregation's entry in the June 24 Williamston Jubilee parade. If members wish to construct a float, please contact Joe Janecke, Dan Kasischke, Jason Leitz, or Pastor Voss. If no ideas and /or not enough volunteers come forward, we will have a contingent walking the parade route, distributing flyers about our VBS, church, school, and preschool.



WE HAVE RESERVED tickets to the Lugnuts game *Saturday, August 19 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 2*.

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.

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.

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.



Love. Grow. Serve.

LADIES FELLOWSHIP – CHURCH KITCHEN – CHURCH LIBRARY- Our group will meet at church at 7:00 for our May 1st meeting. We will focus on cleaning the church kitchen.

If you wish to borrow things from the church kitchen, please be sure to use the sign-out and sign-in sheet found on the bulletin board in the church kitchen.

We finished adding many books to the church library in time for that summer reading. Please consider using the wonderful resource we have in our church library. There are books of interest for all ages and books of fiction and non-fiction.



THE LADIES' FELLOWSHIP IS HOSTING A PAINT PARTY. We have a professional coming from Michigan Paint Party to teach us how to paint a 16X20" colorful, abstract picture of daisies. <https://www.facebook.com/MIPaintParty/>

We have the conference room at school (farthest classroom to the south of the building) reserved for **May 6th**. We will start at **10:00** and go until we are finished (about two hours). Don't forget to bring your own non-alcoholic beverage that day.

Please pay Marty Bennett **\$20.00** to reserve your spot. (If Marty is gone when you want to pay you may also pay Laurie Voss.) Payment is non-refundable. *It's not too late to join us!*

REQUESTS FOR LIVE NATIVITY ITEMS: The Live Nativity chairpersons have been in contact with the Board of Stewardship and Evangelism after last year's Live Nativity. We have a few new ideas for this year's Live Nativity. *We ask for your help now so that we can be prepared in plenty of time.*

We would like to make wrap around, hood-like head coverings for the angels. We will need white material (perhaps fleece would be best) and a few volunteers who are willing to sew these.

We also would like to get 5 canopy, easy set-up tents that are 10'X10' and that would become church property. Each year we have used borrowed tents. While this is greatly appreciated, it has been hard to set them up as marketplace tents because of the different sizes and the different ways they are set up. We would like to be able to use the same ones every year and be able to have the coverings for the sides all set to place on the tents because we will have the size determined.

Four of these tents will be used for the marketplace and one will be used now for the angels. That tent we would like to have set up with all white sides and lights and tulle on the top. For that we will now need many white, flat sheets (or similar white fabric); small, white strings of Christmas lights, and fabric like clear tulle that will reflect those lights.

Please consider these requests, and then volunteer your time, direct any questions, or give your donations to Laurie Voss.

CHURCH COUNCIL REPORTS

PASTOR'S REPORT – The following 8th grade students from our congregation will present themselves for communicant membership on Confirmation Sunday, May 7: Kevin Every, Tristen Lycos, and Dylan Staffeld.

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

WELS News: First quarter Congregation Mission Offerings (CMO) across WELS totaled \$4,295,072. That is \$175,741 more than ¼ of the 2017 subscriptions by WELS congregations; it's also about \$50,000 more than CMO for the first quarter of 2016.

Michigan District congregations remitted \$441,560 in CMO for the quarter. The amount is \$27,431 over ¼ of the 2017 subscription amounts by Michigan District congregations, and it's about \$6,000 more than district congregations sent during the first three months of 2016.

BOARD OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION – Enrollment is unchanged at 23. Preschool is at 10. Kindergarten is at 1. Grades 1-5 have 12.

We discussed obtaining a debit card for the PTO checking account to help facilitate purchases without having individuals incur the costs and submit for reimbursement. We discussed the logistics, who would have access, and limitation amounts for card use.

We also discussed using targeted Facebook marketing again to promote VBS and our school at different intervals this spring and summer. The Board believes this to be a cost effective way to get the word out. PTO would pay for this.

Preschool license renewal: A licensing agent has visited and an environmental inspection has taken place. Our license has been renewed. The environmental report did not find any major issues that needed to be addressed.

We will be adding our *Tardy Policy* to the school handbook.

We received an invitation to take part in the *Small School Track Meet* to be held at Michigan Lutheran Seminary on May 19.

BOARD OF ELDERS – Our Thursday evening summer worship schedule begins May 25. That Thursday is also the same day as our Ascension service. Therefore that Thursday evening service will be an Ascension service rather than a preview of the following Sunday morning service.

Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve are on Sundays in 2017. We will have only one morning service on those days at 10:00 AM. Our traditional Christmas Eve service will be at 7:00 PM. The Elders are still considering the time of the New Year's Eve service. We know that those who attended the 2016 New Year's Eve service at 4:00 like that time. But will members be inclined to return for a 4:00 PM service after having just been here for a 10:00 AM service?

Nancy Hart will be attending the WELS National Worship Conference this summer. The Elders believe there is great benefit to our congregation in having someone attend the conference and therefore are recommending Nancy be reimbursed for the \$285 cost of the conference.

BOARD OF EVANGELISM AND STEWARDSHIP – We ask our office secretary to continue doing what she has been doing with the web site and by putting church and school events and notices on Facebook. The board recognizes that social media is the way many people get their information these days.

Pastor Voss will check with Lansing area WELS pastors to see if there is interest in using one of the newer theaters in Lansing to show the WELS *Luther* movie this fall, and use it as an outreach effort.

We had preliminary discussions about our congregation's entry in the June 24 parade.

The board selected Saturday, August 10 as the date for a church outing to a Lugnuts game.

The annual change of the church safe combination has been made.

First quarter thankoffering statements were placed in mail slots.

We thank all groups and families who hosted Lent suppers, especially in light of the request to prepare extra food for visitors.

Joe Zoran and Dave Fortin have agreed to audit church financial records.

A new greeter schedule was prepared and distributed.

We will promote summer refreshment hours on non-Communion Sundays again this summer.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES – Thank you to Kendall Goetz for another year of faithfully removing snow for the church and school parking lots.

At the school water inspection on March 10 the following items were noted for repair:

- The double compartment sink in the school kitchen needed to have the hand held sprayer removed. That repair is completed.
- The janitor's closet on the south end of the school needed to have the rubber hose shortened and need a Bib Vacuum Breaker. That repair is completed.
- The inspector stated the septic tank covers need to be checked quarterly.

We discussed jobs that need to be completed:

- Ceiling tile replacement in the church balcony
- Painting church exterior door trims
- Painting church entry railings
- School toilet repairs, replacement of internal hardware
- School exterior duct work needs repair from wind damage.

Projects that have been completed:

- School lawn has been back bladed to remove ruts from parking on the lawn.
- School lawn has been rolled.
- Lawn mower has been serviced and is ready for mowing.
- School lights have been repaired.
- School down spouts have been repaired.
- School softball bleachers have been removed.
- On-going pest control at school
- On-going donation of school and church supplies (paper and miscellaneous products)

The board did their monthly walk through at the school to evaluate needed repairs and overall cleanliness of facilities.

May thanks to everyone who helps with keeping the properties functioning and beautiful.



BADGER NEWS from SCHOOL -

FROM OUR PRESCHOOL AND KINDERGARTEN ROOMS: This last month has gone so quickly since we had Spring Break in there. It's hard to believe that we are down to the last few weeks of school.

In our Bible lessons we have been learning about Jesus death and resurrection and then His appearances to His disciples and followers. We learn that Jesus died to take away our sins and to affirm

that we also will receive eternal life in heaven. It is important for us to recognize that we are blessed to have faith even though we were not fortunate like the disciple at the first Easter to see Jesus.

Preschool has continued learning their letters and numbers J, K, L, and A. For math we have been working with the numbers 6-10.

Preschool and Kindergarten have both been learning about the life cycle of butterflies by getting firsthand experience observing real caterpillars. We will be releasing real butterflies into the wild in just a few weeks! We also have been working very hard on our play "The Little Engine That Could Sing".

Next month we are going to have a couple of field trips that are to be determined yet. The play will be on May 18th, so please come and see it. The kids work so hard on it, and it is always entertaining!!

May your new month be blessed with warm weather and happiness!!

FROM OUR GRADES 1-5 ROOM: In our study of God's Word this month we have been reviewing the true stories about Holy Week and Easter. In them we see Jesus as true God and true man, taking our place and our punishment so we can live eternally in heaven. What a joy to remember during classes and during devotions that we are saved eternally! That wonderful fact makes each day one that is worth living!

In Social Studies grades 3-5 have taken a brief look at Michigan's role in the two world wars, surviving the depression, and Michigan's varied natural resources. Now we are looking at ethnic diversity in our state. Would it surprise you to know that Michigan has more people with a German heritage than any other? Late in May grades 3-5 are planning a one day road trip to Mackinaw to see the bridge, visit a few sights, and play in Lake Michigan. It should be fun!

In art we have been studying pattern and texture. Most recently we looked at positive and negative space.

We have begun work on our spring play, "Nuts!" It is a look at the life cycle of a tree, from seed to mature tree. The songs are fun and we are having a good time preparing it for you.

In reading and science grades 3-5 have been learning quite a lot about physical science. We studied about magnetism, electricity, and how all of that works. We now are throwing around words like watts, volts and amps with great ease! (Well, maybe!). We also took a look at the history behind electric cars. It may interest you to know that electric cars have been around for over one hundred years, but because of resources and greed they have not become really popular until now. With limited fossil fuels who knows what will happen?

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			
5/07 - #7 D. Kasischke	#8 D. Rector	D. Steiner	B. VanOstran	K&K Fedewa
5/14 - #2 V. Domke	#4 B. Grinnell	L. Voss	M. Bennett	D&S Fisher
5/21 - #5 S. Houser	#3 J. Janecke	J. Vogt	C&K Collins	D&L Fortin
5/25 - #1 T. Marion		J. Vogt		
5/28 - #2 V. Domke		T. Wood	B&L Janecke	R&J Hannewald

