

MEMORIAL MESSENGER

May 2019



Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation, now that you have tasted that the Lord is good. 1 Peter 2:2-3

We have different tastes in physical food. But we believers in the crucified and risen Savior share one taste – we “*crave pure spiritual milk*”.

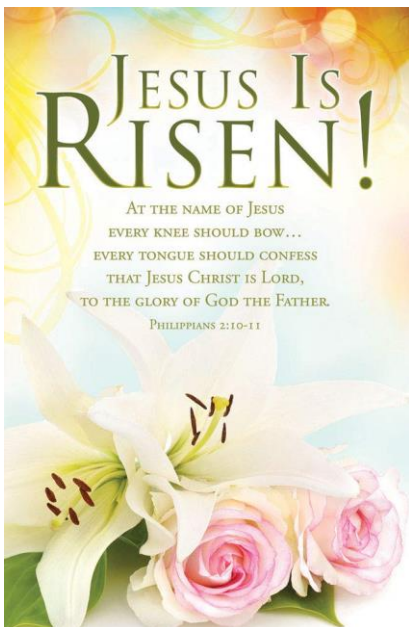
Society urges people to decide for themselves what is *spiritual* for them. We’re told that every idea is valuable, worthwhile, and valid. How does that fit with God telling us to “*crave pure spiritual milk*”? It doesn’t!

We have been beneath the cross where Jesus died for us. We have been in front of the open tomb which He left. The Lent and Holy Week services we attended have been a fresh opportunity to “*taste that the Lord is good*”. He paid the price for sin that we owed. He endured the hell that we deserved. He rose from death that we might live forever. We have most certainly “*tasted that the Lord is good*”!

Now what? Now that Holy Week and Easter Sunday services are behind us, what’s next? More of the same! We still “*crave pure spiritual milk*”. That isn’t some new religious idea blowing across the land. “*Pure spiritual milk*” is the timeless truth given by God in His Word. “*Pure spiritual milk*” is the forgiveness won by God in His death for us sinners. “*Pure spiritual milk*” is the assurance given by God in His Supper. We’ve “*tasted that the Lord is good*”, and we can’t wait until we get more of the rich feast that is “*pure spiritual milk*”.

A study that’s about 30 years old listed interesting statistics about continuing to “*taste that the Lord is good*”. When Mom & Dad together regularly took their children to church through high school, 76% of the children followed in the parents’ faith as adults. If only one parent worshiped with the kids, the percentage dropped to about 50%. If neither parent regularly took their children to God’s house to hear God’s Word, less than 10% of the children were active believers when they reached adulthood.

Those figures are earthly evidence of the divine truth that God lays on *parents* the primary responsibility to feed their children a steady diet of “*pure spiritual milk*”. Do parents want to starve children spiritually? Do believers desire to starve themselves spiritually? Of course not! But cutting ourselves off from the Word does that.



The Holy Spirit had Peter write these words to people who were rather new to the Christian faith. They had just come to trust God’s salvation, had for the first time in their lives “*tasted that the Lord is good*”. Like little babies crying for more food, those new converts would continue to “*crave pure spiritual milk*”.

Nothing’s changed. God’s Easter gift to us is that He continues to give us His “*pure spiritual milk*”. Our Easter response to the great goodness of the Lord is to keep feasting at His banquet of forgiveness – and then use that food as motivation for serving God in everything. That is God’s way to keep the Easter joy alive in us as long as we live! May He continue to bless your Easter season!

Pastor Voss



WE WELCOME our two youth confirmands as communicant members of our congregation: ***Breanna Arntson*** and ***Sophia 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 5.***

OPEN FORUM AND VOTERS MEETING CHANGES

Because Easter Sunday this year is the Sunday before the normal date of the voters meeting, President Dane Nickols and Vice-President Joe Janecke have decided to postpone:

- the open forum that precedes the voters meeting to ***Sunday, April 28 at 11:40***, and
- the voters meeting to ***Tuesday, April 30 at 7:00***.

Please make a note of the changes.

CHURCH LIBRARY The Ladies Fellowship Group did inventory of the church library and we are happy to say that we only found one book missing. Please check at home to see if your child might have borrowed *God Cares When I'm Worried*. We don't have a check out card for that so we are not sure of where it might have gone. Thank you for checking.

THE CHIME CHOIR resumed rehearsals on ***Thursday, April 25***. The chime choir rehearses ***Thursdays at 6:30***. New chime choir ringers are welcome to join us for rehearsals. Speak to Linda Janecke for more information.

THE CMLAL VOLLEYBALL tournament will be held in our school gym on ***Saturday, May 4***. Games will begin at 10 AM and continue into early afternoon. If you can help with concessions, please speak to Pastor Voss or Judy Domke.

THE LADIES FELLOWSHIP GROUP We will have a salad potluck supper to begin our ***May 6*** meeting. Because of that meal, we will begin at 6:30 instead of 7:00 that evening.

When we are finished with our meal, we will have a church kitchen and fellowship hall cleaning bee.

We remind our gals to keep watch for those towel, potholder and dishcloth sets for a future project we will do too. We also remind you to remember your Prayer Partner and send her a card at the end of the month that lets her know who her Prayer Partner was that month.

Ruth is our volunteer this month to clean and keep an eye on the church kitchen for needed items to be purchased.



GRAYCE will meet ***Tuesday, May 7 at 5:00***. We will gather at church for supper, and then head downtown for a movie at the Williamston Sun Theatre. Please sign up on the sheet posted in the church narthex.



AN OUTSIDE WORK DAY has been ***scheduled*** by our Board of Trustees for ***Saturday, May 11 at 8 AM***. If you can, please bring tools needed to complete outside work: rake, shovel, broom, etc. Please set aside the date now!

SCHOOL PLAYS will be held ***Thursday, May 16*** (a change from what was listed on the calendar for the entire school year).

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 FINAL SUNDAY SCHOOL classes and Bible Class sessions of this school year will be held ***Sunday, May 19*** (the Sunday before Memorial Day weekend).

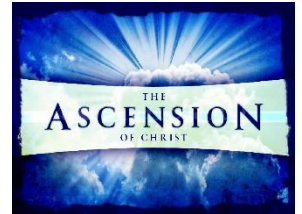


OUR SUMMER WORSHIP SCHEDULE begins *Memorial Day weekend*. There will be one Sunday service at **9:00 AM** beginning that morning. Most weeks there will be a **Thursday evening service at 7:00** which will be the same as the following Sunday's service. The first Thursday evening service is **May 23**.

This summer schedule will continue through Labor Day weekend.

THE CELEBRATION OF OUR SAVIOR'S ASCENSION into heaven as the victorious Son of God will be held **Thursday, May 30 at 7:00**. Join us for this important festival of the Christian church year!

That evening's service will also include giving thanks to the Lord for the blessings granted in another year of instruction at Memorial Lutheran School and Preschool since our school year ends the next day.



THE CLOSING SERVICE for our 2018-19 Lutheran Elementary School year will **Thursday, May 30 at 7:00**. The students of our school will sing for the service, which will be held at church. That service will also be our congregation's Ascension Festival service.

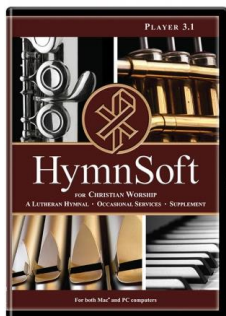
VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL VBS will be held *the mornings of Monday, July 22 through Thursday, July 25*. Please make a note of the date change which was announced a few months ago.



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

The Board of Evangelism & Stewardship oversees the summer refreshments hours. At the board's April meeting, we discussed having potluck refreshment hours on **Sundays, July 7 and September 1**. 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.

Last year the board scheduled 3 summer potluck refreshment hours. Responding to comments received last summer, the board is cutting that back to 2. The potluck refreshment Sundays are the Sunday after July 4 and the Sunday before Labor Day.



HELP? We have 6 volunteers to operate HymnSoft for our early services, but only 3 to do so for our late services. ***Might you be willing to be on the schedule to operate HymnSoft for our late services?***

Our HymnSoft operators do **not** need

- to set up anything on the computer or organ (everything is set up by others before the service begins), or

- to have any extensive computer or music skills.

Our HymnSoft operators **do**

- follow along with the service and hit the laptop's space bar when the next music selection is needed, and ...

- ... that's all there is to it!

Speak to Laurie or Pastor Voss for a demonstration of how easy it is to run HymnSoft, as well as for answers to your questions or concerns about being a HymnSoft operator. ***Might you be willing to be on the schedule to operate HymnSoft for our late services?***

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.

WELS APP Every so often we remind you about the WELS app that our Synod has developed and makes available with a free download. We encourage you to download the WELS app – and use it!

It has a church locator for your travels, daily devotions, Bible reading series, and much more!

CHURCH COUNCIL REPORTS

PASTOR'S REPORT – The following eighth grade students from our congregation will present themselves for communicant membership on Confirmation Sunday, May 5: Breanna Arntson and Sophia Staffeld.

WELS news: CMO receipts through the end of March across WELS total nearly \$4,200,000 (compared to \$4,250,000 at the same time in 2018), and the CMO for that period of time is \$107,110 ahead of pro-rated subscriptions by WELS congregations for 2019. Michigan District congregations have submitted \$528,140 (compared to \$446,557 through March last year), which is nearly \$115,000 above pro-rated subscriptions by Michigan District congregations. We give all the glory to our Savior God for continuing to motivate His people to support His worldwide kingdom work!

Thank you for all your help before, during, and after the funeral service to comfort the family and friends of Rex Hannewald. The funeral director was quite impressed and very grateful for all the assistance offered by so many that day. Judi, her children, and the rest of the family have also expressed their deep appreciation for all the love and support they have received from our members.

Preliminary estimates for the new hymnal's cost is \$50 per copy. If we get 100-120 new hymnals, we will need \$5,000 - \$6,000 available in 2020 or 2021. To help with that expected expense, I've discussed with the Board of Elders the last two months that we recommend establishing a Hymnal Fund.

BOARD OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION – *School Promotion* Two prospective Preschool families saw info on our website and Facebook page.

Grades 1-5 Seventeen students sang at the CMLAL Choir concert. ACT materials were ordered for testing in April for grades 3-5 (10 total students)

Pre-school and Kindergarten All preschool 2-year license forms were completed. Our Preschool passed the unannounced inspection last month, and we await receiving the official license document. Four new children attended the Preschool Roundup on March 6. The current 4 year old preschool students attended the Kindergarten Roundup on March 8. The board approved Karla's plans to offer 4 half-day preschool sessions per week for 4 year old children.

We thank the PTO for hosting a Lent supper.

Given our current budgetary constraints, we at this time are not recommending the addition of an upper grades teacher for the 2019-2020 school year. We will revisit this annually.

BOARD OF ELDERS – The Board of Elders recommends the transfer of membership requested by Ron & Jan Mosher to Bethany Ev. Lutheran Church, Manitowoc, WI.

The Board of Elders recommends the establishment of a Hymnal Fund to receive funds to be used for the purchase of new hymnals when they come out in 2020 or 2021.

Dane Nichols met with the Board of Elders to discuss potential candidates to fill the position on the board that is vacant due to the death of Rex Hannewald. Several candidates were discussed and these names have been recommended to the Board of Evangelism & Stewardship for an election by the voters April 30.

The Elders discussed our congregation's web site and posting sermons online each week.

BOARD OF EVANGELISM AND STEWARDSHIP – The board discussed the *Opportunities to Serve* pamphlet and the final formatting updates that are needed. At our board's early May meeting we will review the final draft of both the pamphlet and the survey sheet which will go with it.

We thank all who hosted Lent suppers.

We discussed Evangelism encouragement for our upcoming Holy Week special services, urging members to invite unchurched friends, relatives, neighbors, and others to worship with us.

The after-service presentation this quarter will be done by the Board of Trustees.

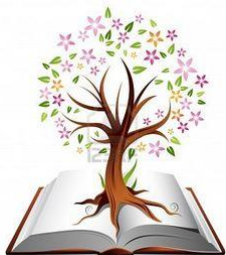
Since our board is designated in the bylaws as the Nominating Committee, we discussed men to consider for filling the unexpired term of Rex Hannewald. Because that term has more than one year remaining, our bylaws call for an election (rather than an appointment). We hope to have a candidate for this quarter's voters' meeting.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES – Many thanks to Kendall Goetz and Larry Shipman for clearing snow off the parking lots all winter and to all those who shoveled the sidewalks.

A SignUp Genius list will be made for lawn mowing at the school. If you can sign up for 1 or 2 lawn mowings, please let Dennis Fisher know and he will send you a sign up request.

May 11 is going to be an outdoor work day for church and school.

April 19 the gym will be closed to set up the school plays which will be held May 16. Then the gym will open back up on May 20.



BADGER NEWS from SCHOOL

FROM MRS. LEITZ AND PRESCHOOL-KINDERGARTEN: We have had a very good month of school with having everyone healthy and the weather improving!

Our Bible lessons have led us through Holy Week and Jesus' death and resurrection. We also have been learning about the instant joy the followers of Jesus felt when they realized that Jesus had indeed risen and lives again! We share that same joy during our Easter celebration and every day!

All age groups are beginning to wrap up their alphabet and math work. We have a track meet, and field trip to a farm, also our play "The Very Very Ginger Bread Man" coming up this month! Please come to see our play on May 16th all are welcome.

God bless you all this new month!

FROM MRS. DOMKE AND GRADES 1-5: This month we have been studying the Holy Week and Easter lessons about our Savior. What a joy to review all that Jesus has done to secure our salvation! In thanks to Him for all He has done we live a life of joy and service to Him!

We are busy with our play, "The Granny Awards". It is a fun play about fairy tale awards with Granny as the honored guest. Please come and join the fun on Thursday, May 16 at 9:30 or 6:30.

At Christmas we enjoyed singing some secular and sacred songs at the Williamston Senior Center. Next week we will head back to sing some of our school play songs. The audience there is very appreciative. We thank them for the opportunity.

SERVING OUR LORD FOR OUR MAY SERVICES:

<i>Ushers</i>		<i>Altar Guild</i>	<i>Greeter(s)</i>	<i>Cleaners</i>
<u>8:00</u>	<u>10:30</u>			
5/05 - #7 D. Kasischke	#1 T. Marion	S. Rector	D. Steiner	B&J Briggs
5/12 - #5 S. Houser	#9 D. Fisher	T. Wood	L&K Ward	G&C Burris
5/19 - #2 V. Domke	#8 D. Rector	C. Burris	P&S Crandall	H&S Clark
5/26 -	#3 B. Grinnell	M. Zoran	A&J Rusnak	J. Coulter
5/30 - (Ascension) #2 V. Domke		M. Zoran		

