



# MEMORIAL MESSENGER

## November 2014



*“The Pharisee stood and prayed about himself: ‘God, I thank You that I am not like other men—robbers, evildoers, adulterers—or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week and give a tenth of all I get.’”*

*“But the tax collector stood at a distance. He would not even look up to heaven, but beat his breast and said, ‘God, have mercy on me, a sinner.’”*

*“I tell you that this man, rather than the other, went home justified before God. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted.” Luke 18:13-14*

If this morning’s news shows blared, *“BREAKING NEWS! FOOLPROOF EBOLA VACCINE DEVELOPED!”* the new medication would be the talk of the world. If this evening’s newscasts led with the phrase, “ISIS forces have been completely destroyed”, everyone would stop everything else and listen.

In early November four hundred ninety-seven years ago startling news was just starting to spread in Europe. “Salvation is certain in Jesus Christ!” “Forgiveness of sins need not be purchased and can not be earned; it is free in the Savior!” That wasn’t a new discovery; that was the timeless truth from God. But it had been largely hidden for centuries. Luther was one of God’s agents to proclaim His truth widely once again.

WELS leaders are beginning to discuss various plans for celebrating the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the October 31, 1517 posting of the 95 theses. The celebration in 2017 won’t be of the man God used, but of the truth God gives. That truth is summed up in the word that Luther loved and the Savior spoke in words above: *justified*.

The word comes from a Greek term for a courtroom decision rendered by a judge. God teaches us to picture His judgment as a courtroom scene. We sinners are the defendants, charged with breaking God’s commandments. God is the judge, and we know that He knows and sees and hears everything. Therefore, it’s foolish for us to plead “Not guilty!” We know that we’re guilty, and we know that *He* knows that we’re guilty. We are like the tax collector in our Lord’s story above. But then our defense attorney, the Savior Jesus, steps forward to say, “I have paid their penalty in full by suffering hell in their place!” The Judge accepts the Savior’s payment for our guilt and declares us guilty sinners, “Not guilty!” That verdict is what *justification* is all about.

Those who want nothing to do with the Savior, those who’d rather trust what they do than trust what Jesus has done—like the Pharisee in Jesus’ parable, reject that verdict. They will suffer forever in hell because they didn’t want the Savior’s payment applied to them. But those who’ve been led to trust the Savior’s payment live here in the joy of being fully forgiven by the work of our Brother. They will live forever in the presence of God.

This weekend’s Reformation celebration, the upcoming 500<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Reformation, and any mention of Luther in our services and classes must keep the emphasis where God intends—and where Luther would want it. The emphasis is always on the truth that God has *justified* sinners, has declared us and the world, “Not guilty!” for the sake of Christ’s work. Jesus has done everything to forgive us, to reconcile us to the holy God, to open heaven to us. May He bless our Reformation celebration of His work for us!

Pastor Voss

“I simply taught, preached and wrote God’s Word.  
Otherwise I did nothing; the Word did everything.”  
(Luther’s quote on the base of this statue at  
Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary)





**NEW MEMBER** *Karmen Janecke*, wife of Jim Janecke, will be received as a communicant member of our congregation on Sunday, November 2. Karmen has studied the teachings of God's Word as they are confessed and practiced in our congregation and church body. She will declare herself in agreement with our confessions and practice this Sunday. May Karmen's membership in our midst be a rich blessing to her and to our congregation!

**DON'T FORGET TO MOVE YOUR CLOCKS BACK ONE HOUR** *Saturday, November 1* as standard time resumes (through March 7, 2015)!

**THE ALTAR GUILD** will meet *Sunday, November 2* at 9:00 for Altar Guild workers who attend the early service, and at 11:35 for those who attend the late service.

We will explain the Altar Guild duties to prospective members, and discuss any new items which have come up in the last year. *New Altar Guild members are welcome and needed now! We especially encourage our young women to join us!*

Altar Guild duties don't take up a large block of time when one's turn comes up. The more volunteers we have, the less often each member has to serve (right now it is about once every ten weeks). Please consider joining us!

**WE WILL SET UP A HARVEST DISPLAY** in the sanctuary this year. We are looking for gourds, squash, pumpkins, apples, potatoes, home canned fruit and/or vegetables, etc. Please bring items by *Sunday, November 9*. You may take them home after the Thanksgiving Festival service.



**OUR THANKSGIVING FESTIVAL SERVICE** will be *Wednesday, November 26 at 7:00*. Join us for a God-pleasing way to begin our Thanksgiving holiday!

This service provides the opportunity to sing our thanks to God in many hymns, and to hear a number of Scripture passages which remind us how richly He has blessed us for our needs of soul and body.

#### **SPECIAL SERVICES:**

Wednesday, November 26 - 7:00 PM - Thanksgiving Eve Service  
Wednesday, December 3 - 7:00 PM - Midweek Advent Service  
Wednesday, December 10 - 7:00 PM - Midweek Advent Service  
Wednesday, December 17 - 7:00 PM - Midweek Advent Service  
Sunday, December 21 - 8:00 & 10:30 AM - Choral Worship Services  
Wednesday, December 24 - 7:00 PM - Christmas Eve Service  
Wednesday, December 25 - **10:00** AM - Christmas Day Service  
Wednesday, December 31 - 7:00 PM - New Year's Eve Service with Holy Communion



**CHIME CHOIR** rehearsals are held *Thursday evenings at 6:30*. We invite members who are in 5<sup>th</sup> grade and older to be part of our chime choir. The chime choir meets in the church fellowship hall.

**CHOIR** rehearsals are also held *Thursday evenings*, and begin at *7:30*. We welcome and encourage all our communicant members to consider singing with our choir!

**A SLIGHT CHANGE** for how communicants seated in the east wing of the sanctuary will *depart* from the sacrament has been made as a result of discussions with our ushers and Board of Elders. Those in the east wing will still approach the Communion rail from the side aisle, but will be directed back to their pews *via the center aisle*. This change will eliminate congestion when communicants are coming from and returning to the same section of pews at the same time. Communicants seated in the east wing who have difficulty walking the longer distance should ask the usher about coming back the same way they have in the past. Thank you for your understanding.

**WISCONSIN LUTHERAN SEMINARY FOOD BANK DRIVE** The Food Bank is run to assist the married students at WLS, our theological seminary in Mequon, Wisconsin. These students work part-time jobs around their classes and intensive studies and preparations, along with trying to make ends meet to provide for their families. The donations provided by the congregations in our Michigan District are greatly appreciated by these future pastors and their loved ones.



A list of needed food and supplies was in the October 19 bulletin, and is also posted on the main bulletin board at church. Please consult that list if you have questions.

Donations need to be given to Pastor Voss by ***Tuesday evening, November 4***. Please speak with Pastor Voss if you have questions.

**LIVE NATIVITY UPDATE** This year the Live Nativity will be held **December 13 from 5:30 -7:30**. This is the week after the Williamston Light Parade. We are hoping to have a simple float in the parade and have members dress in Live Nativity costumes. These members will then pass out invitations to our upcoming Live Nativity.

Plans are being made to add new things to our Live Nativity this year. A carpenter shop will be added to our marketplace. Special lighting will focus on each part of our scenes as the Scriptures are read during the event, and our character roles will be acted out more this year.

We know that several of our members who have participated in the past cannot do so this year. We do hope that many members will come forward to help prepare things and participate the night of the Live Nativity. Sheets have been posted at church for things we need and help we seek. Some of the things we need are: woven rugs and other weavings (can be donated or borrowed), pottery, and artificial foods that would have been present during Jesus' time (breads, herbs, fruit, etc.), or donations to purchase things.

If children will be participating the night of the Live Nativity, they will have to stay with a parent or guardian. This is for safety reasons because of all the cars that are driving through.

**Costumes will be fitted on Sundays, November 16 and 23<sup>rd</sup>. We ask that you sign up before November 16<sup>th</sup> so we can be sure to have costumes ready.**

Please watch bulletins or emails for future updates. If you have any questions, please speak with Karla Leitz or Laurie Voss.



### *Ladies Fellowship*

At our November 3 meeting we are going to try something new. We are each bringing a soup or salad to share for a light supper before Pastor continues our Catechism study with us. We invite the women from our congregation to join us. (Bring a dish to share if you are so inclined.)

We also are setting aside the date of November 22 to assemble our cookie and candy tins that we will have available this year.

Gals, don't forget to also list on your calendar December 1 as the date we will decorate the church for Advent and Christmas. We will meet at 9:00 AM.

Our annual Christmas Party/Ornament Exchange will be held December 8<sup>th</sup> at 7:00. (This is a week later than our usual schedule.) Please bring one, wrapped ornament. (\$5.00 limit please.) We have great fun exchanging these ornaments-in fact we sometimes exchange them more than once. ☺

We will also reveal our 2014 secret pals at the Christmas party, and then draw names for our 2015 secret pal. If you cannot make it to the party but would like to be part of the secret pal program, please speak with Laurie Voss before the party. We are always looking for more women to join in this fun activity. The program has changed the

last couple years. Now we only send cards to our secret pal during the year (at least once a month). Then at our Christmas party we will give a gift to our secret pal as we reveal our names. This past year was the 26<sup>th</sup> year of our secret pal program.

Don't forget to bring your favorite appetizer or dessert to share at the party. We love tasting these treats as part of our evening. Gail Houser and Kathy Ward will serve as our hostesses.

Come to the Christmas party and have some fun with us! Learn more about our activities and join in the wonderful Christian fellowship we share.



**REMINDERS FOR THE SEASONS:** Please remember to ask for church library stamps when you purchase something from either the Christian Family Bookstore or the Gift and Bible Store. We use these stamps to purchase books, videos, and CD's for our church library.

Religious Christmas cards will be available at church in the narthex. Prices are marked on the boxes. We use our profit from the cards to purchase books and videos for the church library. We have not ordered as many cards this year, because interest in them seems to have gone down.

**COOKIES AND CANDIES IN TINS:** The Ladies' Fellowship group will have available at church tins filled with homemade cookies and candies. We haven't done this for quite a few years and are bringing back what seemed to be a very popular gift idea. We will also have some other gift items available. These will be put out by Sunday, November 23 for those of you who would like them for Thanksgiving or Christmas celebrations at that time. We will have the prices listed. All proceeds from these items will go to our Ladies' Fellowship mission projects.

**KIDS AND YOUTH GROUP:** The next meeting is Sunday, November 9 at our school from 2:00-4:30. All kids kindergarten through high school and college please come to learn and have fun.

Our Senior's Group will have a guest couple, Joe and Sandy Janecke, giving a workshop on preparing for a job interview, with actually doing what's required. It will be helpful information.

The theme of the day is a Western Hoedown, eating at the chuck wagon, crafts for all, country line dancing and horse races! Wear your jeans, flannel shirts and cowboy hats if you have them.

Christian Citizenship will be covered in the opening with flag etiquette and discussion of Veterans' Day and the five branches of service.

The leaders are getting things ready for our second time together. The horses will be in the corral waiting for riders to come and pick them. Yes, invite your friends!

*In Jesus' service, the group leaders*

### **CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE REHEARSALS**

Mrs. Domke, Mrs. Voss, and Pastor Voss are discussing among themselves and with our Board of Christian Education and Board of Elders the feasibility of going from three rehearsals to ***two rehearsals***. The discussions are due to conflicts with the first Saturday in December, resulting in usually poor attendance at the rehearsal that day. Please watch the Sunday bulletin in later November for a definitive announcement about Christmas Eve service rehearsals.

Rehearsals will be held for certain on ***Saturdays, December 13 and 20*** from 9:30 - 11:30 AM. There may also be a rehearsal on *December 6* at the same time.

Parents, we need 100% attendance for each rehearsal! If the children are to proclaim God's Word on Christmas Eve in word and song effectively, these rehearsals are very important. Please plan now to have your children here those three mornings. If your child must miss a rehearsal, please speak with Pastor Voss ahead of time. If travel plans will keep your child from being here Christmas Eve, please mention it to Pastor Voss as soon as you are aware of the conflict so that the necessary changes can be made in service assignments.

*We expect all children of the congregation to participate in the service (from those who attend the pre-school level of our Sunday School through children who are in 8th grade.)*



**THE LOCAL FOOD BANK CONDUCTS A TOY DRIVE** each December. We plan to participate once again.

The Food Bank is looking for new or unused toys and games for children in our area who might not receive gifts for Christmas. The gifts are distributed to infants and children through age 10. You may bring your donations to the church narthex through December 7.

As we celebrate the birth of the Christ-child, your gift to a less fortunate child could make this a special Christmas not only for that child, but for you as well.



**COLLEGE STUDENTS**, please submit your campus address, phone number, and e-mail address to Pastor Voss. If he has your e-mail address, he would be happy to send a copy of week's sermon to you electronically.

Even if you have previously submitted a college e-mail address to Pastor Voss, please do so once again so that we can be sure to have up-to-date information. Pastor Voss' e-mail address is [revdavoss@gmail.com](mailto:revdavoss@gmail.com).

We wish you God's richest blessings on your studies!

**MORNINGS WITH MOMMY**: Our next session will be at 10:00 on Thursday, December 18. Watch for more information next month in the newsletter, on line, and in our bulletins.

**D & W CASH FOR CLASS** – *Last week of program and just in time for all that Thanksgiving shopping*: During the week of **November 23-29** use your D&W Yes card, and purchases will automatically be credited to our school's account—if your card is linked to our school. We receive a portion of all purchases after the 3 weeks of this program.

You can go to [www.myyesrewards.com](http://www.myyesrewards.com) to check on the status of your Yes card, to set up your account to be credited to our school, or to join the D & W Fresh Market Yes card programs.

## CHURCH COUNCIL REPORTS

**PASTOR'S REPORT** – WELS pastors received an email message from WELS President Schroeder about the benefits of WELS VEBA health insurance and options available through the Affordable Care Act (ACA). Some ACA options are cheaper for younger individuals or families, but considerably more expensive for older individual or families. Quoting a portion of President Schroeder's message: *As congregations look to limit their costs, there is the potential that congregations may be tempted to discontinue participation in the WELS VEBA and send their workers to the exchanges. If a large number of congregations do this, health coverage may indeed become something that called workers are tempted to consider when deliberating a call. In addition, if enough congregations abandon WELS VEBA, and especially if they send only their younger workers to the exchanges, WELS VEBA itself may eventually be in jeopardy.*

WELS VEBA remains very stable, and its rate increases for 2015 are below the increase in many other health insurance plans. The email message was sent because of a number of questions to WELS administrators and to district presidents about the implications of congregations urging called workers to pursue insurance through the exchanges.

Our district president's report at our fall pastoral conference included the concern among WELS leaders that there are already about 50 vacancies across the Synod for men with pastoral training, but in May only about 30 graduates from Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary will be available for assignment. In addition, the number of men studying on the college level for the WELS pastoral ministry is the lowest it has been since the late 1950s.

Our congregation will host the fall Northern Conference of our pastors on October 5-6, 2015.

We thank Bryan Grinnell for his time and effort to tune the piano which was moved to our church sanctuary last month.

I've spoken to Mrs. Domke about scheduling 2 (instead of the usual 3) Christmas Eve service rehearsals this December. The first rehearsal is usually poorly attended. No decision has yet been made.

**BOARD OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION** – *Mornings with Mommy* was held on September 18 and attendance was 8. The next one is scheduled for December 18.

Presently, the plan is for Mrs. Bater to teach through November 7, with Mrs. Leitz resuming her teaching duties on November 10.

Internet reliability continues to be an issue at school.

The next PTO meeting is January 21, 2015.

Mrs. Domke attended the Michigan District Teachers Conference in Bay City October 8-10.

In accordance with the emergency management plan fire, tornado and lockdown procedures and a list of drill dates were sent to Ingham County Director of Emergency Services last month.

Upcoming events:

- a) No school on Friday, November 7 for parent/teacher conferences.
- b) Grandparents' Day is November 14.
- c) Thanksgiving vacation is from November 26-28; no school those days.

**BOARD OF ELDERS** – The Board of Elders recommends the transfer of membership of Aaron Voss from Lord of Life Ev. Lutheran Church in Thornton, Colorado to our congregation.

The children and young people's group held their first meeting on September 28 with about 20 in attendance. The young people met for part of the time with Pastor Voss to make plans for future meetings, service projects, activities, worship help, and more.

Our head usher, Denis Hart, met with usher team captains and other ushers on Sunday, October 12. An emphasis at the meeting was directing and assisting communicants as they come to the communion table and return from the communion table.

**BOARD OF EVANGELISM AND STEWARDSHIP** – The board thanks the Ladies' Fellowship Group for organizing and hosting the Friendship Sunday meal and activities. *Come Follow Me* DVDs were distributed to five people at that Sunday's services.

We discussed sending a bulk mailing post card to surrounding areas to advertise our Christmas worship services and Live Nativity.

The Williamston Light Parade is Saturday, December 6. Plans are being made for our entry to have someone riding on a donkey to promote the Live Nativity which will be held the following week.

Live Nativity chairpersons met. Portions of Luke 2 and Matthew 2 will be read as people drive and walk through the event on Saturday, December 13.

Third quarter thankoffering statements were distributed on October 11.

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES** – We had discussions on all properties, work items completed, winter prep, weather-stripping, etc. We will purchase salt for the upcoming winter. We thank those who work so diligently maintaining and taking care of our properties: painting the ramp, cleaning gutters, mowing, and all the behind the scene work that is completed each week.



## **BADGER NEWS from SCHOOL -**

*From our kindergarten room:* The month of October has been busy, fun and packed full of learning! In Christ Light lessons we have learned about John the Baptist, Jesus being tempted by Satan, Jesus performing miracles, and Jesus calling His disciples to be "fishers of men". We talked about how telling people about Jesus is something we can all do and how it is our #1 job (or calling)!

Math is always fun. We play games while learning to count, sort, compare, measure and write our numbers.

Super Kids, our reading program, has helped us better understand the letters Gg, Aa, and Dd. The fun characters are Golly, Alf and Doc. We are sounding out words and writing them too!

We love to sing! We sing every day with Mrs. Domke's class, and we are working on some fun songs for Grandparents' Day!

We have learned to play with sticks, shakers and sand blocks in music class to the song "Stars and Stripes Forever"! It is fun counting to the beat of the music and being loud!

For the last few weeks in science we have talked about living and non-living things. Our first ideas about the subject have changed! We learned that even dead things, if they come from something that grows, is considered living. We also learned that we have 3 dead things on our bodies. Can you name them?

Just a little "hello" to all the members of Memorial from me! (Mrs. Bater) I have spent 7 glorious weeks in Mrs. Leitz's classroom with her 4 precious students. They have been "super kids"! They were hard-working and patient, and embraced everything I threw at them. Thanks for calling me out of retirement and giving me this awesome opportunity.

Maybe I'll see some of you at Grandparents' Day on November 14<sup>th</sup>. Anyone need a Grandma? I'm available... ☺.

*From our grades 1-5 room:* In Christ Light we have been learning about Jesus' early ministry. We have heard Jesus' preaching and teaching. We have seen His miracles. Over and over again we see that He is the Son of God. Our God uses His Word to strengthen the faith He has given us. What a wonderful God we have.

In Social Studies, grades 3-5 have been learning about the French and British explorers in Michigan history. Next we'll tackle the French and Indian War.

We've been enjoying some fun pumpkin projects the last few days. Fall is such a beautiful time of year.

This week we will spend some time learning about Martin Luther and the Reformation.

### **SERVING OUR LORD FOR OUR NOVEMBER SERVICES:**

<i>Ushers</i>		<i>Altar Guild</i>	<i>Greeter(s)</i>	<i>Cleaners</i>
<b>8:00</b>	<b>10:30</b>			
11/02 - #7 D. Kasischke	#8 D. Rector	M. Zoran	Remus	Arntson
11/09 - #2 V. Domke	#9 D. Fisher	C. Kasischke	Surtman	Briggs
11/16 - #5 S. Houser	#1 T. Marion	M. Bennett	Fisher	Burris
11/23 - #6 E. Ruhlig	#4 B. Grinnell	L. Voss	Houser	Clark
11/26 - #8 D. Rector		L. Voss		
11/30 - #7 D. Kasischke	#3 J. Janecke	C. Burris	C. Douglas	Coulter



*May you have a very blessed Thanksgiving;  
rejoicing in all that which God has given you!*

**Give Thanks  
To God**

