



MEMORIAL MESSENGER

November 2017

A righteousness from God, apart from law, has been made known, to which the Law and the Prophets testify. This righteousness from God comes through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe. There is no difference, for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified freely by His grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus. God presented Him as a sacrifice of atonement, through faith in His blood. Romans 3:21-25a

As we mark the 500th anniversary of Martin Luther posting his 95 sentences, let's keep in mind that Luther never wanted to form a new church, but to urge his church to change teachings that were not Biblical. With that in mind, let's make sure that we don't turn our celebration of the milestone anniversary is a series of pep rallies for Lutheranism. What we Lutherans rightly treasure is the heritage of standing fast on all God's Word.

Luther grew up terrified of God. He had been taught at home and at church that God demands "*righteousness*" from us. This is most certainly true. The Lord is offended by every sin of thought, word, and action—and even by our failure to do perfectly what He commands. Almighty God threatens to damn to hell all who transgress His holy law. God makes all of that perfectly clear in His Word.

But that is not the entire revelation of God's truth. What Luther had not been taught at home or at church is that "*a righteousness from God, apart from law, has been made known... This righteousness from God comes through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe.*" Christ's holy life and His perfect sacrifice become the sinner's righteousness before God. That wonderful truth set Luther's heart free and changed Luther's life!

This "*righteousness from God*" found in Christ does no less for us than it did for Luther. The troubles we face can't take Jesus from us. Satan's accusations against us don't stand up against the Savior's sacrifice for us. We don't just hope to get to heaven; we are certain that life with God forever is ours—thanks to Jesus!

Day after day we go to the truths of God's Word. We don't do that because we are Lutherans. We do that because we need *all* that God has said. We do that to prevent being sucked into the devil's lies. We do that to learn how God wants His forgiven people to live. We do that to direct the lost to the payment by Jesus. We do that because we want others to receive from God the peace in Christ we possess by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Let's also keep that in heart when thoughts later in November turn to the Thanksgiving holiday. The greatest blessing we've received is salvation from Jesus revealed in God's Word and given to us free of charge. We give thanks to the LORD for all of that by living a life in keeping with His will as revealed in His Word.

These next days and weeks as we review the work of Luther, let's not get wrapped up in what *Luther* did. Rather, we rejoice at what *God* has done with His Word through Luther and others like Luther. We rejoice that *God* is still proclaiming His truth among us. We rejoice to hear and study God's Word regularly. We rejoice to pass God's truths on to others. We rejoice to let every part of our life be driven by what God desires.

That's the heritage we celebrate! We give thanks to God for His Word and for all the people whom He's used to preserve His truths among us—especially this: "*all are justified freely by His grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus*"!

Pastor Voss



REFORMATION
2017 It's *Still* All About
Jesus



BIBLE CLASS In this year of the 500th anniversary of the Reformation, we are using the study *Reformation: Grace, Faith, Scripture*. The study covers 12 Bible truths that are still important to us and all Bible-believing Christians. There are 4 studies on each of the three great *Solas* that the Reformation stressed: *Grace alone! Faith alone! Scripture alone!*

Join us *Sunday mornings for Bible Class* as we explore these important and enduring truths!

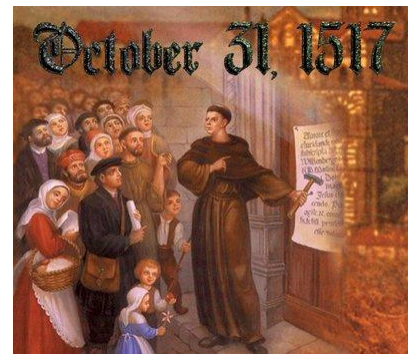
REFORMATION SERVICES AT MEMORIAL

We will use four Sundays over the next five weeks to focus on the *Sola* truths from God's Word that were emphasized during the Reformation:

October 29 *Grace Alone*
 November 5 *Faith Alone*
 November 12 *Scripture Alone*
 November 26 *Christ Alone*

The hymns and lessons for those service will center on the *Sola* being observed that day.

Also, on **October 29** the children of our Lutheran Elementary School and Sunday School will sing an anthem in the late service. Our choir will sing several anthems in the late service on **November 5**, including one to be sung with the congregation.



REFORMATION 500 FESTIVAL SERVICE A special service for WELS congregations will take place *Sunday, November 5 at 4 PM at the Heritage Theater in the Dow Events Center in Saginaw*.

The service will include songs by an adult mass choir and a children's mass choir. If you are interested in the music for either choir, please speak to Pastor Voss; he will also give you the time for rehearsal of the music.

There is a Facebook page for this event. Type *500th anniversary of the Reformation Michigan District WELS* in the search bar and like the page to see the latest news about the service in your Facebook news feed.

Please note that there will be a small fee for parking, required by the Dow Events Center. There is no admission to the center for the service. A thankoffering will be gathered during the service.



SET YOUR CLOCK BACK AN HOUR! Before you go to bed **Saturday, November 4**, set your clock back on hour. The time changes overnight as standard time resumes (through March 3, 2018).

WE HAVE REFRESHMENTS on the first Sunday of each month. On **Sunday, November 5**, our Sunday School and Bible Class sessions will dismiss at 10:00 so that we can have refreshments *in the fellowship hall 10:00 – 10:20*. Join us!

These monthly gatherings are designed to provide time for our members to greet and visit with each other, much like we do on non-Communion Sundays in the summer months.



THE ALTAR GUILD will meet **Sunday, November 5** at 9:00 for Altar Guild volunteers 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!* Please consider joining 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).

SPECIAL SERVICES:

Wednesday, November 22 - 7:00 PM - Thanksgiving Eve Service
Wednesday, December 6 - 7:00 PM - Midweek Advent Service
Wednesday, December 13 - 7:00 PM - Midweek Advent Service
Wednesday, December 20 - 7:00 PM - Midweek Advent Service
Sunday, December 24 – **10:00** AM – Choral Worship Service
Sunday, December 24 - **7:00 PM** - Christmas Eve Service
Monday, December 25 - **10:00** AM - Christmas Day Service
Sunday, December 31- **10:00** AM – Worship service
Sunday, December 31- **7:00 PM** - New Year's Eve Service with Holy Communion



OUR THANKSGIVING FESTIVAL SERVICE will be *Wednesday, November 22 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.

SUNDAY MORNINGS, DECEMBER 24 AND 31

Because both of the dates are part of the Christmas and New Year holiday celebrations, the Board of Elders has decided that there will be *one service at 10:00 each of those mornings*. There will be no Sunday School or Bible Class sessions either of those Sundays.

The December 24 morning service will be the 4th Sunday of Advent. The Children's Christmas Eve service will be that evening at **7:00**.

The December 31 morning service will be part of our Christmas season celebration. The New Years' service will be that evening at **7:00**. The board considered a late afternoon time for the New Year's Eve service, but decided against an afternoon service because it would be a quick turn around after the 10:00 service that morning.

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE REHEARSALS The children of our congregation will gather at church on *Saturdays, December 16 and 23* from 9:30 - 11:30 AM. Parents, for the children are to proclaim God's Word on Christmas Eve in word and song effectively, their attendance at these rehearsals are very important. Please plan now to have your children here those two mornings. If your child must miss a rehearsal, please speak with Pastor Voss ahead of time.

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.)

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.

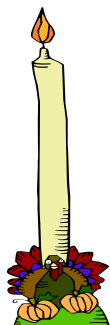


LEARNING SONGS FOR CHRISTMAS EVE Parents, the Sunday School session each week begins with music and a brief devotion. In November and December, the music will include songs that the children will sing for the Christmas Eve service.

Bring your children to Sunday School regularly so that they can learn about what God has done to save sinners, while you come upstairs to do the same in our Bible Class! Please have your children here for the start of Sunday School each week so that they can participate in the music portion and hear the devotion.

VOICE CHOIR meets Thursday evenings at **7:30**. We welcome and encourage all our communicant members to consider joining our choir! This is another wonderful way to serve and thank the Lord for His many blessings.

CHIME CHOIR rehearses Thursday evenings at **6:30**. We encourage all members from fifth graders to senior citizens to attend chime choir rehearsals as music is practiced to edify our worship services.



LADIES FELLOWSHIP We are going to make a fun project at our **November 6th** meeting. Gals don't forget to bring your paint brushes, paint and decorations. Members, we will have these items for sale in November as part of our gift table. We are hoping you will enjoy this new fun item. All proceeds will go to our mission projects.

Please also note that we will decorate the church for Advent and Christmas on Tuesday, **November 28** starting at 9:30 AM.

Our annual Christmas Party/Ornament Exchange will be held December 4th at 7:00. Please bring one, wrapped ornament. (\$5.00 limit please.) We have great fun exchanging these ornaments!

We will also reveal our 2017 secret pals at the Christmas party, and then draw names for our 2018 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 send cards to our secret pal during the year (at least once a month). Then at our Christmas party we give a gift to our secret pal as we reveal our names. This past year was the 29th 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.

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.

THE MONTHLY HOT LUNCH at Memorial Lutheran School for November is being moved ahead one day because of a field trip on Friday, November 17. The hot lunch this month is **Thursday, November 16**. The menu is turkey roll with cheese, blueberries, corn, dinner rolls, pumpkin pie pudding with whipped cream, and milk.

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



A LOCAL TOY DRIVE is conducted each December. We plan to participate once again.

Toy Drive organizers are looking for new 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 10.

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.



THE WISCONSIN LUTHERAN SEMINARY FOOD BANK is run to assist married students at our 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.

You may bring items to our church by **Sunday morning, November 5**. Suggested items are listed on the church bulletin board, and were included in a bulletin insert last month.

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.

CHURCH COUNCIL REPORTS

PASTOR'S REPORT – WELS news: The report about WELS Congregation Mission Offerings (CMO) for 2017 through the end of September wasn't available at the time this was prepared. If there is an update I'll provide it at our Council meeting. As you'll recall, CMO in our district and across WELS has been slightly ahead of subscribed amounts all year long. For that good news, we thank our gracious God!

I pray that our Church Council will recommend—and that our voters will adopt—a 2018 budget that included money for CMO to support WELS work in our country and around the world. If not for WELS mission support when our congregation was formed, and if not for WELS worker training schools, our congregation would not exist and we'd have no well-trained called workers.

Our district president reported at our pastor conference last month that WELS pastoral vacancies number about 125. That is a staggering number, and it's the result of far more pastors retiring from the ministry than pastor candidates graduating from Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary.

BOARD OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION – Enrollment is unchanged at 22. (preschool-5; kindergarten-5; grades 1-5: 12)

Tuition assistance requests: Two have been received and approved by the board.

We discussed a suggestion about ads in the local movie theater. The cost is significant; tabled at this time.

Debit card: The PTO treasurer will get to the bank with Pastor Voss. A document with instructions for use of the debit card will be prepared prior to its usage.

The board will be reviewing the form for requesting tuition assistance. The plan is to revise it before the 2018-2019 school year.

We discussed whether the PTO can cover the cost of software for computers in the computer room.

At the September 11 PTO meeting every family was represented. Darlene Dawley is the PTO treasurer and Katee Clark is secretary.

PTO will host the Advent supper December 6 and Lent supper February 14.

Due to Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve service schedules, there will be no Sunday School or Bible Class the mornings of December 24 and December 31.

BOARD OF ELDERS – An anonymous donor has purchased HymnSoft to provide music for worship services when no organist is available. To utilize HymnSoft in our worship service, we will need to hook a computer to the sound system, possibly with a dedicated computer.

BOARD OF EVANGELISM AND STEWARDSHIP – We discussed Facebook marketing that is currently being used for the school to advertise, and what we might want to do to promote the church with General Fund money.

We posted a slate for nominations for election.

We discussed the refreshments on the first Sunday of the month and how that went for the first one on Oct. 1.

We discussed the church picnic and how that went.

The audit done of the church's financial records was received at the last Council meeting. It was part of the reports for the voters' meeting on October 24.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES – Pastor and Laurie cleaned all the windows at the parsonage and noted signs of wear.

Snow throwers will be ready for use when the snow arrives.

A family donated a vacuum to the school.

Furnace system will have new filters installed.

We thank our dedicated volunteers who mow.



BADGER NEWS from SCHOOL -

FROM MRS. LEITZ AND OUR PRESCHOOL AND KINDERGARTEN ROOMS: This past month has gone so fast! We have been blessed with a wonderful group of students and parents this year. Split right down the middle we have five Preschoolers and five Kindergartners.

The first part of the year we have been learning all of our Old Testament Bible lessons from creation to Jacob and Esau. We will soon be pausing to learn about Martin Luther.

In preschool for math we have been learning spatial relationships and classification. Three year olds have been working on colors, shapes, and drawing lines. Four year olds have been learning letters A-F so far.

The Kindergarten have covered letters C, G, O, A, and D while meeting the coordinating Super Kids. We have covered concepts such as time, measuring, grouping objects, left and right, and ordering in math.

We had a field trip to the Apple Orchard that was very fun! Last year we had freezing rain and flooding so we were all very happy with the lovely weather we had for our field trip day!

The Kinder-5th grades were fortunate enough to visit the Turner Dodge house in downtown Lansing. The students loved visiting the historical house that brings to life what living in the past was really like.

The K-5th will also get the opportunity to go the children's play at MLS in November.

Praying the Lord blesses you this month and always.

FROM MRS. DOMKE AND GRADES ONE-FIVE:

We too have been learning from the Old Testament lessons in God's Word. We see how we can trust God to be with us all the time. We talk much about how we should show our thanks to God for His blessings and care in how we live every day. We have had the opportunity to sing praises to Him in church several times already. Studying more about the Reformation and Martin Luther has been a special joy this past month.

It's so much fun to join as a school family and go on field trips. The apple orchard and Turner Dodge House were great. Not only did we have fun but we learned new things too. The MLS Court Street Players will perform "Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dream Coat" and we will be able to see that on November 17. We thank the PTO for helping with the costs of these field trips.

We wish you all a blessed Reformation celebration and Thanksgiving Day.

SERVING OUR LORD FOR OUR NOVEMBER SERVICES:

<i>Ushers</i>		<i>Altar Guild</i>	<i>Greeter(s)</i>	<i>Cleaners</i>
11/05 - #2 V. Domke	#1 T. Marion	S. Rector	D&S Rector	P&S Crandall
11/12 - #5 S. Houser	#4 B. Grinnell	C. Kasischke	K&J Douglas	V&J Domke
11/19 - #6 E. Ruhlig	#3 J. Janecke	K. Ward	T&L Loeffler	J. Douglas
11/22 - #1 T. Marion		K. Ward		
11/26 - #7 D. Kasischke	#8 D. Rector	M. Zoran	J&M Zoran	K&K Fedewa

