



MEMORIAL MESSENGER November 2018



Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows. Mark 10:45

The fourth Thursday of November is treated by some Americans as a good luck charm. They think taking time to thank God (or a god) will assure them another year of getting what they need.

The privilege to breathe God's air, enjoy His sunshine, raise His crops, use His blessings of mind and muscles to earn His money to buy His food is a privilege God grants to believers in Jesus and to those who reject Him. We don't pause on Thanksgiving Day superstitiously to be certain God's blessings will keep flowing to us. We celebrate Thanksgiving Day to praise God for all He's done for us.

In those who have that attitude at heart, Thanksgiving runs deeper than a break in the school and work routine for four blessed days, and is more than enjoying the family and the start of holiday shopping. For us believers, every day is the day to thank God and to confess the one true God as our Savior.

As our **Savior!** So much of what we'll hear later this month about being thankful will suggest it doesn't really matter what you believe about God or which god you trust, as long as you are spiritual and grateful at Thanksgiving. But it *does* matter! Without faith in the Savior-God, what does anyone have?

We are always Christians first and Americans second. That means we begin with giving thanks to the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit for *spiritual* gifts. Spiritual gifts are those which pertain to God's plan to rescue us who rebel against Him with thoughts, words, and actions. The gifts won by Jesus, sent by the Father to save us and in our hearts by the work of the Spirit, are far more important than the gifts God grants for our bodily life.

That doesn't mean meat and potatoes, fish and salad, house and car, television and bike, clothing and heat, furniture and running water, wife and children, husband and loved ones, money and freedom are second-rate gifts. Nothing God grants is second-rate! "*Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from... God.*" But God's gift of salvation in Jesus is the most important of all gifts. With salvation, we are content with however much – or however little – else the Lord sends us.

Who knows if the next twelve months will be better physically or economically than the past twelve months? Only God. And He will send blessings in the amounts He knows is best for us. "*He does not change like shifting shadows.*" His care and concern for us is constant.

While deeply grateful to God for His gifts to keep us going physically, we give Him our deepest thanks for Jesus going to the cross to forgive our sins and to open heaven to us sinners through faith in Him. Our greatest gift from God isn't a huge meal on the table for Thanksgiving and many presents under the Christmas tree. The feast of salvation in the gift of God's Son is the best and biggest blessing of all! May our giving of thanks later this month – and our *living* of thanks every moment – reflect that!

Pastor Voss

Happy Thanksgiving





WE WELCOME back to our congregation *Debra Steiner*. Deb is the daughter of Dianne Steiner and was received as a communicant member of our congregation via profession of faith on October 14.

We pray that Deb's membership in our congregation will be a blessing both to her and to our congregation!

BAPTISM *Gabriel Thomas Fisher*, infant son of Scott Fisher, was made a believing child of the risen Jesus as the Sacrament of Holy Baptism was administered to him last month. May God ever keep Gabriel in his baptismal grace!



OUR THANKSGIVING FESTIVAL SERVICE will be *Wednesday, November 21 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.

BIBLE CLASS We have begun a study titled *To the Ends of the Earth*. That is the name of the new WELS DVD that has been recently released. Join us to review the life-changing power of the good news about Jesus Christ, as well as ways to share that power with others who are living without it.

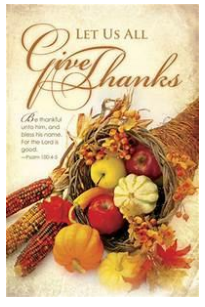
Join us Sunday mornings at 9:15!



SET YOUR CLOCK BACK AN HOUR! Before you go to bed *Saturday, November 3*, set your clock back on hour. The time changes overnight as standard time resumes (through March 2, 2018).

THE LADIES FELLOWSHIP GROUP At our November 5 meeting we will be making our first attempt at making candles using old beeswax altar candles. It should be a fun time! Don't forget to bring those juice cans and large oven mitts gals.

In December we will have several activities. We will set up our fundraising gift table. We will also decorate the church for advent and have our annual Christmas party. After all that, we will host the Advent supper on December 12. We have been working on a tasty menu for that meal.



THE ALTAR GUILD will meet *Sunday, November 4* 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!*

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!

GRAYCE meets the *last Tuesday of each month*. The next two meetings are scheduled for *Tuesday, October 30 at 11:30* and *Tuesday, November 27*. There is usually no GRAYCE meeting in December.

Watch your mail slot at church and church bulletins for announcements about the October 30 and November 27 GRAYCE meetings. Plan now to join us then!

NOTES ABOUT SUNDAY MORNINGS, DECEMBER 23 AND 30: Because both of the dates are so near to 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 23 morning service will be the choral service, featuring a number of anthems by our choir.

SPECIAL SERVICES:

Wednesday, November 21 - 7:00 PM - Thanksgiving Eve Service

Wednesday, December 5 - 7:00 PM - Midweek Advent Service

Wednesday, December 12 - 7:00 PM - Midweek Advent Service

Wednesday, December 19 - 7:00 PM - Midweek Advent Service

Sunday, December 23 – **10:00** AM – Choral Worship Service

Monday, December 24 - **7:00 PM** - Christmas Eve Service

Tuesday, December 25 - **10:00** AM - Christmas Day Service

Sunday, December 30- **10:00** AM – Worship service

Monday, December 31- **7:00 PM** - New Year's Eve Service with Holy Communion

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE REHEARSALS The children of our congregation will gather at church on *Saturdays, December 15 and 22* from 9:30 - 11:30 AM.

Parents, for the children 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.

LIVE NATIVITY We urge members who desire to be part of the Live Nativity *Saturday, December 8 from 5:30 until 7:00* to indicate their commitment to participate by signing the sheets in the appropriate categories. *We need a firm idea of numbers by Sunday, November 4 so that the Board of Evangelism & Stewardship can make a decision on November 7 about whether or not we have enough volunteers to put on the event this year.*

The sign-up sheets are on the upper level bulletin board at church.

WE HAVE REFRESHMENTS the first Sunday of each month. Join us *Sunday, November 4*. That day our Sunday School and Bible Class sessions will begin at **9:25**. The refreshments will be available *in the fellowship hall 9:05-9:23*. 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.

If you are willing to provide something simple for future first-Sunday refreshments, please speak to Joe Jancecke, Dan Kasischke, Jason Leitz, or Pastor Voss.

CHOIR rehearsals have begun. We will meet *Thursdays, October 25 and November 1*. After a four-week break, rehearsals will resume *November 29 at 7:30*. We welcome and encourage all our communicant members to consider joining our choir!

The first scheduled service for choir music is the *late service on November 4*.

We invite new choir members to join us! If you can play an instrument that might accompany our choir, please speak to Laurie Voss or Pastor Voss.

CHIME CHOIR The chime choir will ring music for the late service this Sunday, *October 28*.

Rehearsals will not be held in November. The plan is for rehearsals to resume in December on *Thursdays at 6:30*. Watch the weekly bulletins later in November for more information.

We encourage all members from 5th graders to senior citizens to attend chime choir rehearsals as music is practiced to edify our worship services. If you desire more information or have questions about playing in our chime choir, please speak to Linda Janecke.

AT THE VOTERS MEETING a 2019 budget of \$302,030 was approved. These men were re-elected to office: Joe Janecke, Vice-President; Kim Fedewa, Treasurer; Howard Clark, Board of Christian Education; Rex Hannewald, Board of Elders; Dennis Fisher and Todd Loeffler, Board of Trustees; Jason Leitz, Board of Evangelism.

Packets with reports prepared for the meeting are on the counter by the mail boxes. If you weren't able to receive the reports via email, please take a copy of the printed reports.

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 4*. Suggested items are listed on the church bulletin board, and were included in a bulletin insert in October.

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.

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

AMAZON REWARD PROGRAM Amazon has a program in which 0.5% of qualified Amazon purchases can be given to a charity of the buyer's choice. Our church and school's unified account link is: <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/38-2130250>. You must use this Amazon link when you order to be able to have the percentage go to our church. Please consider this when you order from Amazon.

CHURCH COUNCIL REPORTS

PASTOR'S REPORT – Bible Instruction Classes with two prospective members have begun. One meets one morning each week; the other meets one evening each week.

Our district president reported that eleven Michigan District (which also includes Ohio, eastern Pennsylvania, and one congregation each in Indiana, Kentucky, and West Virginia) congregations are exploring

disbanding (with members joining sister WELS congregations) or requesting meetings with nearby WELS congregations about combining kingdom work at two locations with just one pastor.

Our teachers attended the Michigan District Teachers' Conference in Stevensville. Mrs. Domke made a presentation at the conference.

BOARD OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION – We will continue to utilize Facebook. Since this is receiving strong activity, we will not plan on any targeted Facebook advertising at this time. Facebook is being updated regularly.

ACT testing materials will be ordered in early 2019 for April 2019 testing.

The school library volunteers serve Monday, Tuesday and Thursday.

The PTO September 10 meeting had excellent turnout. We will decide on a date for another PTO meeting yet this school year. PTO will host the Advent supper on December 5 and the Lent supper on March 6.

There will be no school on November 9 because of parent-teacher conferences being held after the ending of the first quarter of the school year.

There will be no Sunday School or Bible class on December 23 and December 30.

BOARD OF ELDERS – Pastor Voss is making arrangements to switch pulpit with other area WELS pastors for our Wednesday evening Advent services.

Due to now having Sunday School or Bible Class, as well as to the full holiday worship schedule, we will have only one Sunday morning worship service at 10:00 on December 23 and December 30.

Our chime and voice choirs have resumed rehearsals. The Elders thank our chime and voice choir members and the choir directors for using their God-given gifts to edify our worship services.

BOARD OF EVANGELISM AND STEWARDSHIP – We discussed the Live Nativity and have sign-up sheets posted.

We discussed having a “Trunk or Treat” and will look into this more for next year since we do not know the scope of what would be needed. We will ask congregations who have hosted one what preparations need to be done.

We thank all who brought food for the summer refreshment hours.

The Ladies Fellowship Group will look at another date to host a Sunday noon pancake meal at school.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES – Thank you Victor Domke for the removal of yellow jackets from the grades 1-5 classroom.

Thank you Patrick Crandall for the dishwasher repair and research of new dish racks for the parsonage dishwasher.

We discussed the exterior lighting on the east side of school and how to proceed with future replacement of florescent lighting also at school

Thank you Steve Houser for the quick response and repair to the north wall in the church kitchen.

A special thank you to everyone who continues to help with keeping the properties functioning and beautiful.

BADGER NEWS from SCHOOL



FROM MRS. LEITZ AND PRESCHOOL-KINDERGARTEN: This fall season seems to be flying by in our Preschool and Kindergarten room. We have been learning all about how we can be like Jesus disciples and use what we learn during our Bible lesson time to tell others about Him! These little ones really do take what they learn to heart and share the good news with others in their life. How thankful I am when I hear from parents how they are letting their lights shine. Sometimes children can reach the hearts of people with their child like faith even more so than we adults can.

The three have been working on cutting, colors, shapes, and have started learning about letters and

recognizing them. The fours have been working on letters A-D. As a group we have been working on learning about pumpkins, all things fall, and fire safety. We have also been working on classification of colors, shapes, and sizes for math.

Kindergarten has been learning letters G, A, and D. We have started with recognizing letter sounds at the end and middle of words. In math we have been grouping objects, learning to recognize direction words and ordinal numbers. In science we have been learning about the earth, sun, and moon, and now have switched to learning about the weather.

Next month we have the opportunity to see a play at MLS and learn about Thanksgiving.

Praying you all have a blessed fall season!

FROM MRS. DOMKE AND GRADES 1-5: In our study of God's Word this month we have been learning about Jesus taking our place through temptation and baptism, choosing His first disciples, and performing His first miracles. In these lessons we see Jesus proving to the world that He is the Son of God. We see His strength as He does miracles, His gentleness and love for others as He gives them the saving message of salvation, and His determination as He tells the unrepentant that they need to look only to Him for eternal life. We eagerly look forward to each new lesson that shares the truths of our Savior.

Grades 3-5 are studying Earth Science this year and are looking at forces that change our earth. How glad we are to live in Michigan, away from landslides, tsunamis and hurricanes!

In Social Studies we are learning about Michigan history. We have learned about the early tribes in Michigan, with special emphasis on the Hopewell. Now we are looking at how the French and English helped shape our state.

Everyone is working hard and well into the routine of a room with so many grades. I'm pleased to see how independent the students are as we spend busy days together. I'm especially pleased how the older students help the younger ones with everything from reading to spelling words. These are good skills to take with them into later grades and into life.

We are grateful to have so many adult helpers, too! We have volunteers helping with Phy-Ed, Art, Library and general help. We wouldn't be able to get it all done without our volunteers. Thanks so much!



SERVING OUR LORD FOR OUR NOVEMBER SERVICES:

<i>Ushers</i>		<i>Altar Guild</i>	<i>Greeter(s)</i>	<i>Cleaners</i>
11/04 - #5 S. Houser	#9 D. Fisher	S. Unruh	P&S Crandall	B&J Briggs
11/11 - #2 V. Domke	#8 D. Rector	K. Unruh	A&J Rusnak	G&C Burris
11/18 - #6 E. Ruhlig	#1 T. Marion	M. Zoran	B. Carpenter	J. Carpenter
11/21 - #5 S. Houser		M. Zoran		
11/25 - #7 D. Kasischke	#3 J. Janecke	L. Voss	D&T Wood	H&S Clark