

MEMORIAL MESSENGER

November 2019



“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 morning news shows shouted, *“Certain cure for dementia developed!”*, the cure would be the talk of the world. If this evening’s newcasts led with the headline, *“Michigan residents no longer required to file state income tax forms or make tax payments!”*, everyone would stop everything else and listen.

In early November five hundred two 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 cannot 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 buried for centuries. The German monk Martin Luther was one of God’s agents to proclaim His truth widely once again.

The Lutheran Reformation celebration – this year on Sunday, November 3 – dare not be a celebration of the man God used. It must be a celebration of the truth God announces. That truth is summed up in the word that Luther loved and that the Savior spoke in the words reprinted above: *justified*.

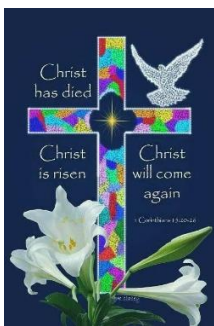
The word comes from a Greek term for a courtroom decision rendered by a judge. God teaches us to picture His judgment as a courtroom scene. We sinners are the defendants, charged with breaking God’s commandments. God is the judge, and we know that He knows and sees and hears everything. Therefore, it’s foolish for us to plead “Not guilty!” We know we’re guilty, and we know that *He* knows that we’re guilty. We are like the tax collector in our Lord’s story. 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 admittedly guilty sinners, “Not guilty!” That verdict is what *justified* 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 now in the joy of being fully forgiven by the work of our Brother. And they will live forever in the presence of God.

Our Reformation celebration 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. The praise must ever be directed to the God who 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





FOREVER WITH THE LORD!

On Tuesday, October 1, our risen Savior in His steadfast love, called to Himself the soul of **Linda Janecke**. The Christian funeral service to comfort Linda's husband Bob, their children Lori, Judy, Jim, and Joe, and many other loved ones and friends was held at our church October 5.

We ask our risen Savior Jesus to comfort Linda's family, and all others who mourn her death. But we also rejoice with them that Linda's soul is now with Jesus forever! God works all things out for good to those who love and trust Him – as Linda most surely did.

BIBLE CLASS

We have begun a study titled *Prepared to Answer*. This 10-lesson class uses parables taught by Jesus, as well as events in His life on earth as our Savior, to teach us how to answer questions about God's Word in a loving way and to witness to others in natural conversations about the most important truths in the world. Join us Sunday mornings at 9:15!



SET YOUR CLOCK BACK AN HOUR! Before you go to bed **Saturday, November 2**, set your clock back on hour. The time changes overnight as standard time resumes (through March 7, 2020).

THE ALTAR GUILD will meet **Sunday, November 3** 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!

CHOIR rehearsals continue Thursdays **at 6:30** (except for Wednesday, October 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 3***.

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.

THE LADIES FELLOWSHIP GROUP will meet November 4 at 7:00 to make projects for their gift table. We will also meet at 10:00 on November 16 to set up the items for the gift table. Remember to bring 2 sets of the items we need and ribbon to use to assemble the items.

We continue to remember our prayer partners throughout each month and give them a reveal greeting card at the end of each month.

We thank everyone who attended our Pancake Luncheon on October 20. We really did have fun planning it and serving it. We hope you enjoyed your time with your church family as well at the event.

The Ladies' Fellowship group will have available at church handmade gifts and jams and jellies. These will be put out by Sunday, November 17 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.





OUR THANKSGIVING FESTIVAL SERVICE will be *Wednesday, November 27 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.

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



WE HAVE REFRESHMENTS the first Sunday of each month. Join us in the church fellowship hall *Sunday, November 3*. Our Sunday School and Bible Class sessions will not begin until **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.

The Board of Evangelism & Stewardship will provide the refreshments again this month. If you are willing to provide something simple for future first-Sunday refreshments, please speak to Joe Janecke, Dan Kasischke, Jason Leitz, or Pastor Voss.

SUNDAYS, DECEMBER 22 AND 29

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 Sunday mornings*. The Board of Christian Education has decided there will be no Sunday School or Bible Class sessions either of those Sundays.

The December 22 morning service will be the choral service, featuring a number of anthems by our choir.



SPECIAL SERVICES:

Wednesday, November 27 - 7:00 PM - Thanksgiving Eve Service

Wednesday, December 4 - 7:00 PM - Midweek Advent Service

Wednesday, December 11 - 7:00 PM - Midweek Advent Service

Wednesday, December 18 - 7:00 PM - Midweek Advent Service

Sunday, December 22 - **10:00** AM – Choral Worship Service

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

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

Sunday, December 29 - **10:00** AM – Worship service

Tuesday, 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 14 and 21* 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 is 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.

CHURCH COUNCIL REPORTS



PASTOR'S REPORT – Receiving Jim & Marilyn Salter of Fowlerville into membership here via profession of faith was delayed until Sunday, October 6 due to both of them being homebound by illnesses the past two weeks. We welcome them to our midst, confident that their membership among us will be a blessing both to them and to us.

WELS news: Through the end of September, WELS CMO stands at nearly \$14,500,000 (\$14,128,000 in 2018), and still almost \$400,000 ahead of prorated CMO subscriptions for 2019. Michigan District congregations have submitted more than \$1,600,000 of that total (\$1,470,000 in 2018), and still nearly \$200,000 ahead of Michigan District prorated CMO subscriptions.

Our teachers attended the Michigan District Teachers' Conference last month in Jenera, Ohio. Both Mrs. Leitz and Mrs. Domke made presentations.

The family of the now-sainted Linda Janecke deeply appreciates all the support our members have provided these past days, as well as the efforts made by so many to provide a meal for a large crowd after Saturday's Christian Funeral service.

BOARD OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION – Enrollment is 29. Preschool-7; Kindergarten-3; Grades 1-5=19

Things are going well in grades 1-5.

Preschool and Kindergarten: Mrs. Leitz has changed preschool to M/Tu/Th for 3-year olds and M/Tu/W/Th for 4-year olds. This is in response to feedback from parents of 3 year olds that 3 consecutive days was too much for little ones.

Mrs. Leitz is researching the purchase of playground items using PTO funds.

There is no school on November 8 for parent/teacher conferences.

There is no school November 27-29 for Thanksgiving break.

We discussed the PTO meeting/family night from September 9.

PTO will host the Advent supper on December 4 and the Lent supper on February 26.

We are planning on additional PTO meetings in January and April.

Things are going well in Sunday School with our veteran staff. We thank them for their service!

Beginning in early November we will need volunteers for the concessions for weekend basketball games at school.

BOARD OF ELDERS – Our Thanksgiving service will be Wednesday, Nov. 27 at 7:00 PM.

As we've done the past few years, we will have only one service on Sunday, December 22 and Sunday, December 29 at 10:00 AM. There will be no Sunday School or Bible Class those Sundays.

Our voice choir began rehearsals October 17, and plans to sing for the first time during the late service on Sunday, November 3.

WELS Welcome Home Sunday is being changed from November 4 to Sunday, December 15. We will confirm the new date at our November meeting.

BOARD OF EVANGELISM AND STEWARDSHIP – We discussed the Trunk or Treat event planned for October 26.

We thank Terri Campbell for accepting the appointment as a thankoffering counter.

We contacted candidates for nomination to board and officer elections.

The board will ask interested members to stay after services on an upcoming Sunday to hear a presentation about – and to determine interest in – the Live Nativity for this December.

Our board hosted the first Sunday of the month refreshments on October 6 and seek volunteer hosts for future months.

We asked for Church Council input on how long giving statements should be kept by the Financial Secretary.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES – The automated door opener for the church was installed October 8.

Two sets of swings have been updated at school.

The gas main on the school roof needs to be painted.

Pat Crandall has been working on repairs to the HVAC fence and other minor repairs (sheet metal) to the HVAC at school.

We discussed possible solutions for snow shoots when the snow releases from the roof at school, for safety reasons.



BADGER NEWS from SCHOOL



FROM MRS. LEITZ AND PRESCHOOL-KINDERGARTEN: This past month has just flown by. We have been studying all about Isaac, Jacob and Joseph this month. Through them we learn to follow God's plan for us because He knows what is best for us. We also learn that God can make good come out of bad situations. If He can take away sin and death then He can help us with ANYTHING!

The Preschool and Kindergarten have been learning all of fall and fire safety this past month. We had a special visit from the fire department with some great reminders on how to stay safe and prevent fires. We also have been learning about Martin Luther in celebration of Reformation. We will have a little fall celebration with wearing our costumes, painting gourds, and playing some fun games.

The threes worked on their colors, cutting, and their names. The fours have been working on letter A-H, writing their names, and position words.

The Kindergartners have been working on letters G, O, and D. They also have been measuring weight, working with ordinal numbers, and writing their numbers. In science we covered a unit on living and non-living things and now are learning about our senses.

Next month we look forward to learning about the Pilgrims and the Wampanoag tribe. We will dress like them and "live" like them in our dramatic play center. We will also reflect on the many blessings we receive from God every day in thankfulness.

May your November be full of Thankfulness and Blessings.

FROM MRS. DOMKE AND GRADES 1-5: In our study of God's Word we have continued through Genesis. We most recently learned about Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and now Joseph and his brothers. We see God's grace so clearly in the lives of these ancestors of our faith. These people were not perfect, but God kept the line of the Savior alive through them. As we study their lives we learn how to live - and not how to live. We want our children to have a clear understanding of where the beliefs we cling to have their roots. Thanks be to God for keeping all of this clear for us in His Word.

We enjoyed our annual trip to the apple orchard a few weeks ago. From young to old we enjoyed the treats, playing, picking and hanging out with friends. Thanks to all of our drivers!

Grades 3-5 are conducting a two-week experiment in science noting the melting rates of various

liquids. This ties in with our study of the scientific method. It has given students a clearer understanding of dependent and independent variables. We are also studying matter, emphasizing chemical and physical changes. In Social Studies we are studying the New England Region of the United States.

Grades 1-2 are working hard with lots of reading, phonics and other word play. Everyone is growing and getting stronger.

Thanks to our many volunteers! We would like to mention them so you can also thank them for all the work they do! Georgeanne Withey, Karen Collins, Chad Ostrander, Tracy Chaffee, Laurie Voss and Andreea Labadie. We'd also like to mention Ken and Carol Lycos, who help every month with hot lunch. Thanks very much!



SERVING OUR LORD FOR OUR NOVEMBER SERVICES:

<u>8:00</u>	<u>10:30</u>	<u>Altar Guild</u>	<u>Greeter(s)</u>	<u>Cleaners</u>
11/03 - #5 S. Houser	#3 J. Janecke	S. Rector	need volunteer	S&S Arntson
11/10 - #2 V. Domke	#4 B. Grinnell	C. Burris	L. Voss	B&J Briggs
11/17 - #6 E. Ruhlig	#1 T. Marion	K. Unruh	F&N Mills	G&C Burris
11/24 - #7 D. Kasischke	#3 J. Janecke	S. Unruh	D. Steiner	J. Carpenter
11/27 - #4 B. Grinnell				