



MEMORIAL MESSENGER

October 2014



“It is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast.” Ephesians 2:8-9

A restaurant tried to drum up business by posting this sign in the front window: ***T-Bone: 25¢***

But when prospective diners got closer, they saw this in much smaller print beneath it: ***with meat: \$12.95***

Many people seem to think that Biblical Christianity is a fine print religion. They agree that the message up front is clear: “Jesus Christ died for you!” But they try to add to that message, as if their salvation requires something more. They believe that there’s something in fine print about which God doesn’t tell us up front when it comes to salvation.

When sinners die, why should the holy God welcome them into heaven? Because they’ve tried hard to please Him? Because they did a lot of work for the church before they died? Because they read the Bible faithfully?

Those answers are adding fine print to the message of salvation which God proclaims in a banner headline throughout His Word: ***Christ has died to take away the sins of the world!***

Martin Luther grew up in a religious world that had been adding false fine print to God’s truth about heaven. That false fine print read, “You must please God with your works to make up for some of your sins.” The young Luther was constantly worried that he hadn’t done enough to please the Lord. But the Holy Spirit showed him the truth and taught Luther to erase that false fine print and to hold tightly to God’s truth the rest of his life.

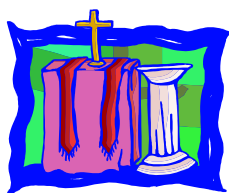
As we observe the Reformation at the end of this month, we do so to thank God that there is no fine print on His plan to save sinners. What is proclaimed up front is all there is to it: *Sinners are saved freely by the undeserved love from God displayed in the life and death of Christ!* There’s nothing we have to do to be saved, nothing we can do to be saved. Even the faith in Christ we possess is nothing we worked in ourselves; God has given that to us, too, as an undeserved gift.

As we observe the Reformation, we don’t praise Luther. He was a sinful man whom God used to highlight the truth that we are saved by grace alone through faith alone as revealed in Scripture alone. Grateful to God that Jesus has done all to save us, we rededicate ourselves to studying His truth and proclaiming His truth to others.

A wonderful way to *begin* this month of worship is inviting friends or loved ones to come with us and see the free gift of salvation that is ours in Jesus—no strings attached, no hidden charges, no fine print. We’ll see you in God’s house, and we’ll look forward to meeting your friends who come with you, October 5!

Pastor Voss





BAPTISM *Zoey Jean Leitz*, infant daughter born to Jason & Karla Leitz on September 22, was made a child of God by the Holy Spirit through the saving washing of Holy Baptism on September 28. May our gracious God ever keep Zoey in her baptismal grace.

FRIENDSHIP SUNDAY Our Ladies Fellowship group is planning a meal at our school gym, with activities to follow, for ***Sunday, October 5*** following the late service. The ladies, along with our Board of Evangelism & Stewardship, are promoting the day as a way for you to invite friends and relatives to our service that day to be fed with the good news about our Savior, then to have a meal and enjoy some time with us in the afternoon.

Our Bible Classes have been studying how we can begin spiritual conversations with those who don't have a church home, what the Savior wants us to tell them about Him and His work, and overcoming obstacles to speaking about the Lord.

We urge you to invite others to be fed with the most important truths in the world, using our upcoming Friendship Sunday services to do so.

We'll begin a new Adult Instruction Class later in October, inviting prospects from our Friendship Sunday to study God's Word with us.



COME FOLLOW ME *Come Follow Me*, the WELS Evangelism movie that our Bible Class viewed before Easter, is being offered by our Synod at a bulk rate. When 100 copies of the DVD are purchased at one time, the cost is just \$200 (instead of \$15 for one DVD). Our congregation has ordered 100 of the DVDs, and the shipment has arrived.

Like the *Road to Emmaus* DVD a few years ago, we are offering *Come Follow Me* to you for \$3 (or 2 for \$5). Asking you to pay a little more for the DVD would allow us to give away the DVD to worship visitors and prospective members. Consider purchasing copies of the DVD to give to relatives, neighbors, and friends.

THE NEXT QUARTERLY VOTERS MEETING is ***Tuesday, October 28 at 7:00***. Each year at the October meeting we elect officers and board members (those terms begin January 1), as well as adopt a budget for the next calendar year. After the Church Council meeting in October, we will have a proposed 2015 budget ready for consideration by the voters.

An open forum for all members will be held at 11:35 on ***Sunday, October 26*** as reports and the proposed 2015 budget are presented for discussion. If Pastor Voss has your email address, he will send those reports to you by email on Friday, October 24.

Men at least 18 years old who are not yet voting members of the congregation and who would like to become voting members should speak to President Dane Nickols or to Pastor Voss about how to do so.

WE THANK Mike & Karen Stevens for the time, the equipment, and the meat to roast as the main feature of the church picnic meal last month!

We also thank those who supplied items for the children's activities after the meal, as well as those who helped with those activities.

WELS WALKING TOGETHER We will provide materials and envelopes the last two Sundays of October for members who desire to make a special mission thankoffering to support God's kingdom work done throughout the world by our Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod. All thankofferings in those special envelopes will go directly to WELS work.



CHOIR rehearsals begin *Thursday, October 2*. The choir will meet Thursday evenings at **7:30**. We welcome and encourage all our communicant members to consider joining our choir!



Ladies Fellowship Pastor will continue our catechism study at our October 6th meeting. After that we will talk about our upcoming activities. Phyllis and Rene' Hoppe are our hosts for this evening. Join us at 7:00 PM and find out about all the fun things we have planned.

CHIME CHOIR rehearsals begin *Thursday, October 2 at 6:30*. We invite members who are in 5th grade and older to be part of our chime choir. The chime choir will meet in the fellowship hall at 6:30 each Thursday, beginning October 9.



USHER MEETING Denis Hart, the man on our Board of Elders who oversees our ushers, has scheduled an ushers' meeting for *after each service on Sunday, October 12*. Ushers captains are especially urged to attend; any other ushers may attend, too. The meeting should take about 10 minutes.

LIVE NATIVITY UPDATE After the fall festival, we will be posting informational sheets on the bulletin board in the upper part of the narthex. We ask that you sign up wherever you can help. Our committee chairs need to see who signs up so we know if we have enough members helping. We don't assume that the same members will help each year that is why **we need to you sign up each year.**

This year we will be adding a wood-working shop to our marketplace. If you have tools that you think might be good for our display, please speak to Ron or Jan Mosher. (We will have a food market, pottery market, market with woven goods, and the wood-working shop.) We are in real need of flat sheets or curtains to use for the sides of our marketplaces. There will be other needed items as well and those will be posted on the bulletin board.



We are also going to have the scriptures of the nativity read throughout the event. This will come over speakers placed throughout the parking lot. The angel choir will then sing songs after each scripture reading that correlate to that reading.

We have had several people outside our church comment about this live nativity and how they hope we will have it each year. Some even said they couldn't believe we still did it last year and commented how impressed they were that our congregation worked that hard and were so dedicated to this even in such poor weather.

If you have any questions about the sign up sheets, please ask the committee chair person that will be listed.

There are a lot of sign up sheets throughout the year, but they are posted for a reason. That is to help those who are working on things to make the events the best possible, and in so doing to give Glory to God!

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!

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!

MORNINGS WITH MOMMY: This program will be put on hold for a couple of months since our director is on maternity leave. Our next session will be at 10:00 on Thursday, December 18.



CHURCH COUNCIL REPORTS

PASTOR'S REPORT – The WELS Benefit Plans Office has posted 2015 rates for the WELS-VEBA health insurance plan. The family plan with a \$400 deductible is \$17,436 for the year (\$1,453 per month), an increase of \$1,632 (\$136 per month) from the 2014 rate. The announced 2015 pension rates are \$2,800 per year (\$700 per quarter) per full-time worker, up \$304 from the 2014 rate. Any changes in the kind of plan or in the deductible for 2015 health insurance must be made during the month of November 2014.

As reported last month, we'll send out letters in mid-October to people who are prospects for the next Adult Instruction Class. We hope to add a number of prospects after our October 5 Friendship Sunday.

Attendance at the summer evening worship services averaged 16 this summer.

At Michigan District meetings earlier in September it was noted that though WELS congregations have increased 2014 Congregation Mission Offering (CMO) commitments by \$500,000 the past few months, WELS leaders are concerned about the relatively flat CMO over the past few years. In the past, special gifts to WELS (for example, at one time the Schwan Foundation was giving up to \$17 million annually to WELS, this year it's just \$2 million) have helped offset the relatively flat CMO. Now our leaders are making plans to adjust July 1, 2014-June 30, 2015 spending if 2015 CMO commitments don't increase by the 4% approved by delegates at the 2013 WELS Convention. We'll hear more about this, and other WELS reports, at our September 29-30 pastoral conference. We meet at Good Shepherd Ev. Lutheran Church in Beaverton.

BOARD OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION – Enrollment: Preschool-0; Kindergarten-4; Grades 1-5:11. The day before classes began on August 25 the board met after church to accept 2 applications for kindergarten students. Mrs. Leitz received two phone calls about preschool during the first week of classes.

The board approved one family's request for reduced tuition for the 2014-2015 school year.

Internet access at school is spotty due to a poorly functioning modem.

Because the WELS Christ Light curriculum for Lutheran Elementary Schools and Sunday Schools is being updated and current books will no longer be available, our budget for 2015-2016 will need to include more money for ordering the new teacher and student books. The teacher books are reusable; most of the student materials are not.

The board finalized plans for the September 8 Family Night meal and PTO meeting.

Since only two families have indicated interest in after-school care, and then only on a sporadic basis, the board has not officially offered anyone the position of after-school care provider. Should families tell us that they'll make more regular use of after-school care, we'll approach members more formally to hire staff.

BOARD OF ELDERS – The Board of Elders began researching alternatives for worship services when the pastor is on vacation and a guest preacher cannot be secured.

Plans are underway to organize a young people's group. Initial plans are to include children K-12th grade, broken out into smaller groups by age. The initial meeting will be Sunday afternoon September 28 at our school. We thank our volunteers for their work in organizing this.

The Board of Elders reviewed the summer Monday night worship services and intend to maintain the Monday night services next summer.

BOARD OF EVANGELISM AND STEWARDSHIP – The board had further discussion about the content and format of Bible Classes in September as we highlight and encourage Friendship Evangelism among our members.

Pastor Voss updated the board on a preliminary meeting for plans to get our children (K-8th grade) and young people in high school and college together on a regular basis.

Plans were made for the September 7 church picnic meal and activities.

The board heard more details about options and prices on two different styles of exterior church signs. Based on feedback from the board, more information will be sought from representatives of church sign companies as we prepare a cost estimate for the voters to consider in October.

The board discussed men to contact about church officer and board positions that have terms expiring on December 31.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES – Several families helped out the weekend before school started for clean up and repairs.

Nonskid paint on the ramp at church – Our board is in favor of painting the entire walk way.

If anyone has or sees a new or used 2 cycle snow thrower, our board is currently looking into having one at the church so the ramp area can be cleared of snow and throw the snow all the way to the parking lot.



BADGER NEWS from SCHOOL - We are off to a good start! In Christ Light we are studying the New Testament. We've learned all about the early life of our Savior, Jesus. No matter how many times we hear about our Savior, the message only gets sweeter.

On September 9th K-5 traveled to Pottsville to visit the Country Mill. We enjoyed a tour, hay ride, apple growing lecture, cider and doughnuts, and picked an apple and a pumpkin. We had the perfect weather and such a fun time. Thanks, drivers.

Congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. Leitz, Sophia and Joshua. We are so glad that you have been joined by another beautiful daughter. God is so good.

Mrs. Bater is happily in the kindergarten room doing a great job. We thank her for stepping back into the classroom at Memorial.

A big thank you to the many volunteers we have at school. You know who you are!

CASH FOR CLASS PROGRAM Each year we receive information about the Spartan Cash for Class program. (D&W participates.) However, this year we didn't receive any information, so we went searching. Here is a link to the information. <http://dwfm.spartanstores.com/in-the-store/community/cash-for-class>. Please remember to add our school to your YES card.

The first week for the program this school year has passed. There are 2 more weeks coming up: October 19-25 and November 23-29. A percentage of what you buy will go to our school. We thank you for helping.

SERVING OUR LORD FOR OUR OCTOBER SERVICES:

<i>Ushers</i>		<i>Altar Guild</i>	<i>Greeter(s)</i>	<i>Cleaners</i>
<i>8:00</i>	<i>10:30</i>			
10/05 - #6 E. Ruhlig	#9 D. Fisher	J. Vogt	M. Bennett	Tobia
10/12 - #2 V. Domke	#1 T. Marion	S. Rector	C&K Collins	Voss
10/19 - #5 S. Houser	#3 J. Janecke	K. Ward	B&L Janecke	Ward
10/26 - #6 E. Ruhlig	#4 B. Grinnell	D. Steiner	L&J Vogt	Zessin

