



Reformation Day

# MEMORIAL MESSENGER

## October 2015



***“The wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.” Romans 6:23***

With Labor Day this year falling as late as possible, some Lansing-area residents said in an interview that they were concerned about having less time to shop for Halloween costumes. Really?

We Lutherans always look forward to October 31, but for *spiritual* reasons. The date is the anniversary of one of Martin Luther’s first public documents about some of his church’s teachings. October 31, 1517 is seen by many as the beginning of the Reformation. To us, each October 31 is *first of all* Reformation Day.

Luther didn’t set out to destroy his church, but to reform her wayward teachings and to urge church leaders to walk in step with God and with all His Word. His approach was not, “I believe what the church teaches”, but “I believe what God teaches in His Word.”

The need for a reformation—for getting people back to what God declares in His Word as the only basis for faith and life—is an ongoing need. We live in a society that desires its own set of morals and attitudes and lifestyles, rather than let God shape its morals and attitudes and lifestyles. The religious climate of our day is, “There is no absolute truth. Follow what you think is right, and all will be well between you and God!”

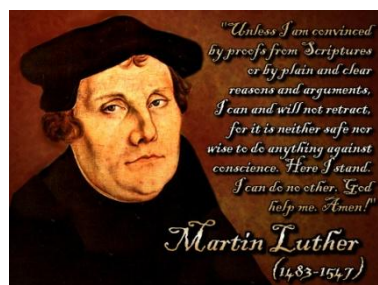
But how does that fit with God’s truth that “*the wages of sin is death*”? People today take comfort in thinking that any concept of God will work for them. But the only true God says, “*The gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord*”, the only One who could—and did!—pay the price for every sin. Without Him and without trust in Him, the sinner is condemned to hell forever.

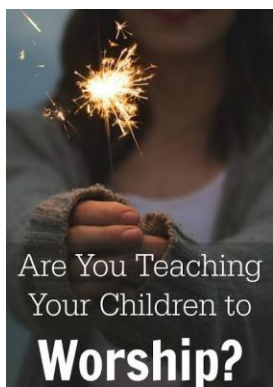
The Biblical way of life isn’t popular, nor is it politically correct. But does that give anyone the right to insist that God has it wrong, and that we need to make teachings more acceptable to others? How does it help a person to let her think that she can make up for some of her sins, or that he can trust any god that works for him?

In the opening paragraph I wasn’t suggesting that you keep the kids inside your house and your porch light off the night of October 31. There’s nothing wrong with dressing up in costumes (unless the costume glorifies the devil, or in some other way conflicts with Christian truth). There’s nothing wrong with going to those homes where residents are willing to give treats to children.

But for us Lutheran Christians, October 31 is first of all *Reformation Day*. This year the celebration will stretch to the next day as we gather in church on November 1. Maybe you can suggest that your child to dress like a Godly character from God’s Word, and be prepared to tell people on their porches why your child is dressed that way. But we all will give thanks to God for restoring His truth of His Gospel as the basis for what we believe and for how we live: freed from certain hell by Jesus and dedicated to living each moment for Him!

*Pastor Voss*





**WE HAVE RETURNED TO OUR REGULAR WORSHIP SCHEDULE.** Worship services are held at **8:00** and **10:30** Sunday mornings. Join us!

**SUNDAY SCHOOL AND BIBLE CLASS** sessions start at **9:15 AM** each Sunday.

Parents, set a God-pleasing example and continue growing in your knowledge of God's will by heading up the stairs to study God's Word when your children go down the stairs to do the same in their Sunday School classrooms.

The Sunday morning Bible Class material will be repeated Thursday evenings at 6:35, for those who don't make it on Sunday.

**PASTOR CONFERENCE** Due to our congregation hosting the pastor conference on October 5-6, there will be no Catechism Class that week. The Ladies Fellowship is preparing and serving meals and snacks for the conference, in lieu of their October 5 meeting.

**CHIME CHOIR** rehearsals begin **Thursday, October 8 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 will meet in the fellowship hall at 6:30 each Thursday.

**CHOIR** rehearsals also begin **Thursday, October 8**. The choir will meet Thursday evenings at **7:30**. We welcome and encourage all our communicant members to consider joining our choir!



**LADIES FELLOWSHIP** will host a **high tea Saturday, October 17 at 1 PM**. This *October Harvest High Tea* is for women and gals of all ages. We invite you to bring guests. We have a special guest coming to give us a presentation and demonstration on very special, small gardens. We will even have a chance to make something of our own.

You will come, won't you!?!?! ☺ Please sign up at church by October 11.

**YOUNG PEOPLE AND CHILDREN** are invited to an activity being planned for them.

The main activity will be a get-together at Best Maze for a corn maze adventure on **Sunday, October 25 from 2:00 -3:30**. Young people and children may invite friends to join them.



From the corn maze we will head to our school for a devotion, light refreshments, and some time together. Children may be picked up by 4:30. More details will be posted on the main bulletin board at church, along with a sign-up sheet.

**THE NEXT QUARTERLY VOTERS MEETING** is **Tuesday, October 27 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 2016 budget ready for consideration by the voters.

An open forum for all members will be held at 11:35 on **Sunday, October 25** as reports and the proposed 2016 budget are presented for discussion. If Pastor Voss has your email address, he will send those reports to you by email on Friday, October 23.

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.

**THE ALTAR GUILD** will meet *Sunday, November 1* 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!

**COMMUNITY DINNER** You'll read in the report from the Board of Evangelism & Stewardship that we are planning a dinner for the community to be held at church on *Friday, November 6 from 6:00 – 8:00.*



The idea is to invite area residents to a meal here, to get to know our members better, and for us to provide answers to their questions.

The menu will be basic. The board will be seeking help from members to make and serve the meal, as well as help with supplies for the meal. Please look for more information in the Sunday bulletin and via email messages.

The board will be finalizing plans at its October 6 meeting.

**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.

**MORNINGS WITH MOMMY** Mrs. Leitz and the Board of Christian Education are discussing how to accommodate *Mornings with Mommy* this school year. With 6 children enrolled in preschool and 4 students in kindergarten this school year, Mrs. Leitz is unable to have a monthly *Mornings with Mommy* session on a weekday.

**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!

**IF YOU HAVE IDEAS** for our church and school web site, please let Laurie Voss know.

**If you now 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** – Several parents who have enrolled their children for the first time in our Lutheran Elementary School have indicated at least an interest in taking the class our congregation offers for instruction about the Bible's truths as taught and confessed among us. We will send them letters of invitation.

**WELS news:** In mid-August a report from the WELS administration headquarter included the item that delegates at the 2015 WELS Convention approved the budget for the next 2 fiscal years as proposed by the Synodical Council. The approved budget calls for no increased synodical support for the next 2 years, with slight increases to the overall spending made possible by the use of special funds held by the various areas of ministry.

Through the end of August, thankofferings from across the Synod for WELS work is running \$360,000 ahead of 8/12s of the subscription amounts for 2015, and about \$230,000 ahead of WELS mission offerings at the end of August in 2014.

Attendance at the midweek summer services averaged 11 this summer.

We called the Marshall Music organ technician on August 17 due to the loud popping noises and possible trouble with volume on our church organ. The technician came that same day and was able to get the popping noise to stop—"for now", he said. Should the issue arise again, he'll return to replace the amp module that he installed in early August, and do so at no charge to us.

**BOARD OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION** – *Mornings with Mommy* program is currently under review as to how it will continue going forward. Karla is considering a Saturday option.

We discussed how we will use aides for the school year given the enrollment numbers. We currently use an aide two days a week.

Family night was September 14.

The Michigan District Teachers Conference will be in St. Joseph, MI October 7-9. We will not have school on those days.

**BOARD OF ELDERS** – The Elders reviewed an announcement in regards to maintaining a worshipful atmosphere in the sanctuary prior to the start of service.

The Elders have been discussing having a candle lit singing of "Silent Night" for the Christmas Eve worship service.

Pastor Voss will seek to exchange pulpits with pastors from sister WELS congregations in the area for midweek Advent services.

**BOARD OF EVANGELISM AND STEWARDSHIP** – The Board of Christian Education will make an after service presentation this month.

Comcast does not provide internet service at our school location. Frontier replaced the modem; but the wireless signal is still poor.

We are planning to support a spaghetti dinner for the community. It will be held at church on Friday, November 6 from 6-8 PM. We will ask for volunteers and ask for representatives from various church groups to also attend.

Financial planning seminar will be held February 28, 2016 by Pastor Kenyon.

We thank all the families that hosted after church refreshment hours this summer.

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES** – A metal awning was installed on the outside of the school lobby doorway.

The dying bushes were removed and grass seed planted at school.

Thank you for the new mulch on the playground.

We will also look at replacing some of the wood/boards on the playground structure.



## ***BADGER NEWS from SCHOOL***

### **FROM OUR PRESCHOOL AND KINDERGARTEN ROOMS:**

Preschool so far this year has been very exciting and has flown by very quickly. This year we are combining the Preschool and Kindergarten for the mornings that they are here. We have ten in all, 6 Preschoolers and 4 Kindergartners.

In Preschool we have covered the lessons of Creation and Noah's Ark in Christ Light. We have just started learning about Abraham and God's wonderful promises to him. It's such a comfort to know that God keeps the promises that He makes to us. In Kindergarten we have also covered the lessons about Cain and Abel and the tower of Babel in addition to the Preschool Christ Light lessons.

We have been doing free exploration of math manipulatives for Preschool math. We have also been learning about our wood pieces for the *Handwriting Without Tears* curriculum as well as singing many songs that go with it. We have been learning our colors and have covered the color red and just introduced the color green. Since we have many three year olds, I have decided to add a bird named Squawker to our class to help us learn new words and expand our vocabulary.

For Kindergarten math we have been doing a lot of review that the Kinders already know such as words that describe like taller and shorter, above, below, over, under, days of the week, measuring time with time of day, calendar, patterns, and right and left to name a few. We will do a bit more reviewing before getting into the new concepts. With Super Kid we have met Cass and Oswald so far and the Kinders are doing great. They are not only working on letter sounds but getting used to writing within the lines and how to correctly write each letter. In science we have been learning about the earth, sun, moon, and stars and everything in between about space. We have also started using some new instruments in music class called boom whackers. The kids are loving them!

We had our first field trip and went to The Country Mill in Charlotte! We always have so much fun there! The whole school went on this field trip.

\* Donations: I am in need of PAPER towel tubes so if anyone feels inclined to save them for me that would be much appreciated!!! Thanks in advance.

May the Lord bless you this fall. Enjoy those beautiful colors!

### **FROM OUR GRADES 1-5 ROOM:**

We are off to a great start! Grades 1-5 are already in a good groove and working hard.

In Christ Light we are in Old Testament lessons this year. We have learned about the creation, Adam and Eve, the fall, and the first promise of the Savior. In all these lessons, plus every lesson we will have this year, we will hear about God's plan of salvation through Jesus!

In Social Studies grades 3-5 are learning about United States' geography. So far, we are learning about maps and how to use them.

In art we are studying the elements of art. We have learned about tracing and frottage.

We were so excited to go on our first field trip to the Pumpkin Patch in Charlotte! We picked both a pumpkin and an apple, went to an old fashioned school, ate doughnuts and drank cider!

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

<i>Ushers</i>		<i>Altar Guild</i>	<i>Greeter(s)</i>	<i>Cleaners</i>
<i>9:00</i>	<i>10:30</i>			
<b>10/04</b> - #2 V. Domke	#1 T. Marion	S. Rector	J&S Janecke	J&S Janecke
<b>10/11</b> - #5 S. Houser	#3 J. Janecke	M. Zoran	H&S Clark	D&C Kasischke
<b>10/18</b> - #6 E. Ruhlig	#4 B. Grinnell	J. Vogt	D&C Kasischke	T&L Loeffler
<b>10/25</b> - #7 D. Rector	#8 D. Fisher	L. Voss	G. Withey	F&N Mills

