



MEMORIAL MESSENGER

October 2016

Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation, now that you have tasted that the Lord is good. 1 Peter 2:2-3

The success movement has infiltrated the religious world. Most of our land's television evangelists and religious personalities have written books or led seminars about steps to *successful* parenting, *successful* marriages, *successful* studying, *successful* business management.

Those religious authors mean well. They intend to inject Biblical principles and spiritual goals into every facet of life. That's a wonderful idea! Unfortunately, they too often miss the main goal of God's Word and what the Lord wants to be the guiding purpose of our spiritual lives. They focus on a religious message of *glory*. They'd rather concentrate on how happy and successful God can make our lives right now. God *does* want us to be happy in life; but that isn't His main objective for us.

God wants our focus to be on what Martin Luther called *the theology of the cross*. Our Lord's plan for us starts with and stands on the foundation of what Christ's life and death and resurrection mean for us sinners who have offended God with our sins. We need to keep that in mind every time we read anything of a spiritual nature, even those materials coming from a Christian camp. We need to keep our religious diet in line with what our Lord sets before us in the verses above: His "*pure spiritual milk*".

Did you notice God didn't suggest we simply snack on His Word? "*Like newborn babies, **crave** pure spiritual milk.*" A tiny infant screams if she hasn't been fed lately; she won't be quiet or satisfied until she gets some milk. Does that describe our attitude toward God's Word? Will we refuse to start our daily routine or fall asleep at night unless we've been fed by God with His Word? With His *pure* Word?

The sinful nature in us snarls, "Why should I take the time to do that every day? I'm busy! And isn't this Bible stuff the same material repeated over and over again?" The voice of God Himself thunders back, "***Crave pure spiritual milk...now that you have tasted that the Lord is good.***"

If your life has had some financial, physical, or emotional setbacks lately, you might wonder if God's goodness has run dry—at least, dry in *your* direction. That's the problem with concentrating on the theology of *glory*; God has not promised us perpetual prosperity in the area of earthly wealth.

We face disappointments all the time. But when we look at disappointments through the microscope of Christ's work for us, we realize the Lord is still very good to us. None of those disappointments dilutes God's forgiveness at all. That's the beauty of seeing everything through the window of the theology of the cross; God has promised us unlimited forgiveness from the well of His grace in Christ!

As we Lutherans prepare for another Reformation season, celebrating what God did for His Church through the work of Luther, let's not forget Luther's emphasis on the cross of Jesus. There we find blessings that never run out. There we find the success that lasts forever. There we find nourishment that's always good for us.

Pastor Voss





BAPTISM *Kaylinn Jacqueline Carpenter*, infant daughter born to Krystal (nee Clark) & Jeremiah Carpenter, became a believing child of God through the Sacrament of Holy Baptism administered September 11. May our gracious God ever keep Kaylinn in her baptismal grace!

A RECOGNITION OF Linda Janecke's 50 years of serving as our congregation's choir director will be held **Sunday, October 2 after the late service that day**. The recognition will begin with a potluck dinner, and be followed by a program.

If you wish to give Linda a gift in recognition of her years of service, please use the envelope that was placed in your mail slot. Envelopes may be placed in the thankoffering plate through October 2. If you use a check, please make it payable to *Memorial Ev. Lutheran Church*.

Please bring a dish for the food table, as well as your own table service. A cake will be provided, so *we do not need any desserts*.



LADIES FELLOWSHIP - We will meet Monday, **October 3** at 7:00. Please bring ideas for what to make for our gift tins. We have several other project items to discuss. Our hosts for this evening will be Gail Houser and Rene' and Phyllis Hoppe.



CHOIR rehearsals begin **Thursday, October 16**. The choir will meet Thursday evenings at **7:30**. We welcome and encourage all our communicant members to consider joining our choir!

We will not meet every Thursday, but will meet several weeks before we sing for a worship service. The first scheduled service for choir music is the *late service on October 30 for our Reformation service*.

THE NEXT QUARTERLY VOTERS MEETING is **Tuesday, October 25 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 2017 budget ready for consideration by the voters.

The Board of Evangelism & Stewardship will present a preliminary version of the proposed 2017 budget after our worship services on **October 9**. After discussion at those services, the Church Council will finalize the budget it will propose to the voters for the voters meeting. An open forum will be held at 11:35 on **Sunday, October 23** as reports and the proposed 2017 budget are presented for discussion. If Pastor Voss has your email address, he will send those reports to you by email on Friday, October 21.

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 6** 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!



NEEDED ITEMS: We could use about a dozen large, potholders/trivets to have at school for when we have larger events served there. (These would need to be about 8-10 inches in diameter please.) We have a nice supply of crocheted ones at church but if we could have some we could store at school, it would make things much easier. If you have any questions, please direct them to Pastor or Laurie.

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!

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.

USE OF CHURCH/SCHOOL FACILITIES AND EQUIPMENT: We remind you that members of the congregation may make use of our spacious school grounds, our tables and chairs, and our fellowship hall for picnic and family gatherings. Please contact Dennis Fisher (517-896-3949) to request a reservation of a facility and/or equipment.

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: Congregation Mission Offerings to WELS have been running below 2015 amounts for a good portion of the summer. The mission offerings amounts that had been exceeding subscribed amounts are now behind subscribed amounts--and the subscribed amounts for 2016 are slightly less than what was promised for 2015. WELS leaders are keeping a close eye on this; the fall meeting of the Synodical Council may require action to make sure that expenses do not exceed funds available.

Attendance at the summer Monday evening worship services: 8,8,14, 7, 17, 13, 12, 4, 6. As noted in the Board of Elders report, we are seriously considering a change to Thursday evening services next summer.

I will attend our Pastor Conference in Indian River on Monday, October 3 and Tuesday, October 4. I've asked to be excused from the conference mid-afternoon Tuesday to allow me to be here for board meetings that evening.

BOARD OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION – Enrollment stands at 8 for preschool, 2 for kindergarten and 13 in grades 1-5.

The board reminds current parents, grandparents and members that word of mouth advertising is still our best promotional tool.

Preschool aides have been secured and are in place to serve.

There has been a lot of work done to clean out the computer room, kitchen and pantry, and mezzanine. The board thanks those that volunteered their time.

Laurie Voss has organized volunteers for the school library.

Mrs. Domke and Mrs. Leitz will attend the Michigan District Teachers Conference will be held in Livonia from October 5-7. There will be no school those days.

BOARD OF ELDERS – Further discussion was had regarding the time for the New Year's Eve service this year. Based on comments from Council last month, The Elders are considering 4:00 worship time this New Year's Eve since it falls on a Saturday.

The Elders reviewed the summer worship schedule. With holidays and other circumstance, it seems the Monday services get canceled or re-schedule more frequently than the Thursday evening services in the past. Therefore, in an effort to maintain a more consistent worship schedule, we will discuss again next month whether we should move the Monday services to Thursday evenings next summer.

Pastor Voss will contact the other area pastors to make arrangement to exchange pulpits for the upcoming midweek Advent services.

Plans to recognize Linda Janecke's 50 years of service as choir director are being made. There will be a pot luck meal and short program following worship on October 2 in the fellowship hall. Members who desire to contribute a gift are invited to do so using the prepared envelope that was placed in their mail slot at church.

BOARD OF EVANGELISM AND STEWARDSHIP – A sermon was recorded and we will be putting it on line to test with this recording.

A community dinner was set for September 23. We held a tailgate in our church parking lot before the Williamston High School football game.

We discussed candidates for open positions on boards and positions expiring. We'll post a slate by Sunday, October 6. Contacts are being made with incumbents and others for nominations to office.

We discussed putting a note in the bulletin letting members know about our Facebook page and to visit it.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES – Thank you to those who volunteered to clean the pantry, kitchen, and computer room at school. The list of projects they have will be completed.

We discussed water testing for Boron. We will incorporate this into the regular testing. The cost is approximately \$20.00 additional. We will monitor the level as needed.

Thank you to those who continue to mow the lawns.



BADGER NEWS from SCHOOL

FROM OUR PRESCHOOL AND KINDERGARTEN ROOMS:

We have had fun getting to know one another so far this year. We have started the school year with a good crew. We have 3 three year olds, 5 four year olds, and 2 in kindergarten this year.

For Christ Light we have been learning about Jesus' life from birth up to His Baptism. From these lessons we have learned to spread the good news like the shepherds, worship Him as the wise men did, obey our parents as Jesus did while on earth, and that we need to be baptized like Jesus was, as well as believe in Him as our Savior. Most importantly, we learned that everything Jesus did here on earth led to His death and resurrection.

We have been having fun practicing names, reviewing shapes, and colors. Three year olds are working on holding their crayons and coloring. The fours are working on recognizing and writing letters. Kindergarten students have met the Super Kids Cass and Oswald for letters C and O. They all have been working on the math concept of exploration of materials and working on describing different object. In science we are learning about what things are living and non-living.

This month we are heading to the Country Mill Apple Orchard which is always a fun time for all that get to go!

Praying you all are enjoying some relief from the hot and humid weather.

God bless you all!

FROM OUR GRADES 1-5 ROOM:

We're off to a good start! We have thirteen eager young people ready to take on another year.

In Christ Light we are studying the New Testament lessons of the Bible. So far we have witnessed the annunciation, the birth of John and our Savior, His trip to the temple at forty days old and twelve years old and His escape to Egypt. In each lesson we've seen how God kept Jesus safe and is teaching us to know His plan for our salvation. Our devotions and Bible lessons all focus on the truth: We are sinners who desperately need a Savior. We have a Savior who lived a perfect life, suffered, died, and rose again for us. Praise God for these little people who hear His Word daily!

In Social Studies grades 3-5 are learning all about Michigan. Right now we are learning about the early Native American tribes. We have also covered the geography of Michigan. Do you know the longest river in MI or the first city in the Upper Peninsula?

In science grades 3-5 are learning about physical science this year. We are right now covering matter. Specifically we are looking at elements and the periodic table.

Grades 1-2 are well on their way with reading, working hard with stories, letters and sentences. They are also learning about communities in Social Studies with Mrs. Leitz.

In art we have learned about the fauvist Henri Matisse. This week we are looking at the fundamentals of art.

Next week we are taking our first field trip to the apple orchard for a ride through the orchard and to pick a pumpkin. We'll also get a snack of a doughnut and cider! Then it's back to school for our first hot lunch. What could be better than that?



SERVING OUR LORD FOR OUR OCTOBER SERVICES:

<i>Ushers</i>		<i>Altar Guild</i>	<i>Greeter(s)</i>	<i>Cleaners</i>
8:00	10:30			
10/02 - #7 D. Kasischke	#1 T. Marion	K. Unruh	B. VanOstran	J. Muscott
10/09 - #2 V. Domke	#3 J. Janecke	S. Unruh	M. Bennett	K&K Fedewa
10/16 - #5 S. Houser	#4 B. Grinnell	L. Voss	C&K Collins	D&S Fisher
10/23 - #6 E. Ruhlig	#8 D. Rector	M. Bennett	B&L Janecke	D&L Fortin
10/30 - #7 D. Kasischke	#9 D. Fisher	K. Ward	L&J Vogt	G. Ganton

