



MEMORIAL MESSENGER

October 2019

So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live in Him, rooted and built up in Him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness. Colossians 2:6-7

I wish we could do away with our church budget.

Like you, I realize it's necessary to adopt a budget. We need a guide for congregational expenditures. If we didn't have a budget, who would decide how much to give our called workers, school custodian, and office secretary? Who would decide what amount to send in support of our Synod's Gospel work around the world? Who would decide about every other expense for our church and school? Setting a congregational budget is a God-pleasing way to manage the blessings He gives a group of believers.

But a church budget can be misused. Our sinful nature wants to use every cent selfishly, so we're tempted to look at the church's budget and say, *I'm responsible for only a small portion of that. I'll give my share and let the others come up with the rest.* We have different opinions about what is important, so we're tempted to rationalize, *I don't like certain portions of the church budget, so I won't contribute as much as I could.* Since church leasers know what happens if budgets aren't met, they're tempted to urge members, *Give more!*

Compare those temptations about church budgets with the truth about salvation God gives us in the verse before us on this page. We "*continue to live in*" Christ, not to meet a budget. We are "*rooted and built up in Him*", not driven by a budget's bottom line. We are "*strengthened in the faith as we were taught*", not made stronger by a balanced budget. We are "*overflowing with thankfulness*", not guided by how much the church needs.

Our hearts are filled by the Holy Spirit with everything Christ Jesus has done for us to win our forgiveness, make us God's children, assure us of heaven. *That* is the motivation for Christian living and giving. *That* is the message God moves us to spread; it is for the continued preaching and teaching of God's Word that we bring our thankofferings to Him (not to a church). *That* is what moves us to bring God the firstfruits of our income, not the leftovers from the previous week's spending.

Our Savior tells us to bring a faithful percentage of our income each week – not because He and His Church need it, but because you and I are "*overflowing with thankfulness*". As we look at the third quarter thankoffering statement which will be placed in our mail slots this month, we'll evaluate how our thankofferings reflect our love for our Savior and His work to redeem us sinners.

In the weeks ahead (and for the rest of our lives), we won't look at the church budget to determine how much we should offer. We will look at the Savior's cross to see the full extent of His love that saves us. We will look at the Lord's world to see billions of people who still need to hear of His saving work. We will look at God's promises that He will continue to provide for us to silence Satan's whispers that we can't afford to put anything in the thankoffering plate. "*So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live in Him, rooted and built up in Him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness.*"

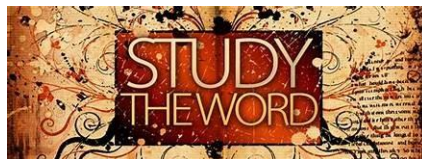
Pastor Voss





We welcome to our congregation **James & Marilyn Salter**, received as communicant members of our congregation by profession of faith in late September. They confessed their agreement with the doctrines of Holy Scripture, and that the teachings and confessions of our congregation and Synod are in keeping with the Bible's truths.

We pray that the membership of Jim & Marilyn in our congregation will be a blessing both to them and to our congregation!



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

SUNDAY SCHOOL AND BIBLE CLASS sessions have also begun.

We urge parents to send their children to Sunday School regularly. Our Sunday School is using the WELS religion curriculum *ChristLight*, which is coordinated with our Lutheran Elementary School Bible History lessons (also from *ChristLight*) to avoid repetition of material. ***Classes are for children 3 years old through 8th grade students.***

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.



TRUNK OR TREAT Several families of the congregation are organizing a Trunk or Treat event to be held in our church parking lot on **Saturday, October 26 from 2:00 until 4:00.** (*Please note that the time is different than what was printed in Sunday bulletins during much of September.*)

We are looking for members to participate by parking their vehicle and handing out candy. Decorating your vehicle and wearing fun costumes is optional. If you cannot park your vehicle, we will need members to donate extra candy (or other small items) to hand out to children, apple juice or cider, and baked good for all visitors.

If you have questions, please speak to Jason or Karla Leitz, Chuck or Anna Rhodea, Andy or Jill Rusnak, or Laurie Voss. Please sign up on the bulletin board to show your willingness to help.

WE WILL HAVE REFRESHMENTS the first Sunday of each month, resuming **Sunday, October 6.** On those Sundays, 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 on October 6. 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.

THE NEXT QUARTERLY VOTERS MEETING is **Tuesday, October 22 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 2020 budget ready for consideration by the voters.

An open forum will be held at 11:35 on **Sunday, October 20** as reports and the proposed 2020 budget are presented for discussion. If Pastor Voss has your email address, he will send those reports to you by email on Friday, October 18.

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.



CHOIR rehearsals begin **Thursday, October 12**. The choir will meet Thursday evenings at 7:00. We may decide on different time if it works for everyone. We also will meet Wednesday, October 30 to avoid having choir on October 31.

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**.

If you can play an instrument that might accompany our choir, please speak to Laurie Voss or Pastor Voss.

THE LADIES FELLOWSHIP GROUP We will meet one week later than usual in October. On **October 14** we will make final preparations for the pancake luncheon we will host and talk about future meals we will host yet this year. Gail is on deck for checking the church kitchen.

We have noticed that we are in need of dessert serving utensils at church. Perhaps the ones we had were borrowed. We need narrow servers about 2 ½ inches wide for serving bars, etc. Please consider donating some if you have extras or see them in the store.



PANCAKE LUNCHEON On **October 20**, the Ladies Fellowship will host a pancake luncheon to be held in our school gym at noon that day. We have a fun theme for the event and will have lots of board games and cards to enjoy after the meal. Plan now to attend then and stay for some fun and fellowship. Sign-up at church so we will have plenty of food ready – pancakes with all kinds of toppings, ham, breakfast bread, and beverages. Everything will be provided.

A freewill offering will be received and any donations left after a few expenses will be put into our mission projects fund.

We look forward to seeing you there after our worship services October 20.

CHIME CHOIR rehearsals will begin when Linda Janecke's health permits. Linda fully intends to direct the chime choir, but isn't strong enough to do so right now.

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!

HELP? We have 6 volunteers to operate HymnSoft for our early services, but only 3 to do so for our late services. ***Might you be willing to be on the schedule to operate HymnSoft for our late services?***

Our HymnSoft operators do **not** need

- to set up anything on the computer or organ (everything is set up by others before the service begins), or
- to have any extensive computer or music skills.

Our HymnSoft operators **do**

- follow along with the service and hit the laptop's space bar when the next music selection is needed, and ...
- ... that's all there is to it!

Speak to Laurie or Pastor Voss for a demonstration of how easy it is to run HymnSoft, as well as for answers to your questions or concerns about being a HymnSoft operator. ***Might you be willing to be on the schedule to operate HymnSoft for our late services?***

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.

CHURCH COUNCIL REPORTS

PASTOR'S REPORT – Jim & Marilyn Salter of Fowlerville have declared to me their agreement that ours are the teachings and practices of God's Word. The Salters will present themselves to be received into membership here by profession of faith.

As you have the opportunity to do so, welcome them (back) to our congregation, introduce yourself to them, and wish them God's richest blessings!

WELS news Through the end of August, WELS CMO stands at nearly \$12,851,000 (\$12,616,500 in 2018), almost \$400,000 ahead of prorated CMO subscriptions for 2019. Michigan District congregations have submitted more than \$1,415,000 of that total (\$1,300,000 in 2018), nearly \$200,000 ahead of Michigan District prorated CMO subscriptions. We thank God for that good news!

However, WELS officials are concerned about WELS CMO not even covering the cost of inflation. At a time when the Savior is opening doors for mission work in parts of the world where WELS hasn't been doing work, it will be disappointing if WELS is not only unable to enter those mission fields, but also must cut some work currently being done. Please keep this matter in your prayers to the Lord of the Church.

Our teachers will attend the Michigan District Teachers' Conference October 9-11 in Jenera, Ohio.

I conducted the memorial service Saturday to comfort the family and friends of WELS member Helen Haslam, mother of Karen Collins. The family deeply appreciates the meal prepared by members of our congregation following that service.

BOARD OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION – Enrollment (30) Pre-school 3-year olds – 4; Pre-school 4-year olds – 3; Kindergarten – 3; Grades 1-5 – 20 (1st – 8; 2nd – 5; 3rd – 2; 4th – 3; 5th – 2)

School Promotion Discussed ideas for banners and yard signs, verbiage etc.

Classroom Grades 1-5 Computer purchased through PTO for smartboard. ACT test scores are in for grades 3-5, and are being reviewed.

Classroom Pre-school and Kindergarten Will have an aide serve for 3 mornings plus a little bit on a 4th morning per week. Discussed purchase of playground items with PTO funds.

General School items Library helpers are in place. New families are adjusting well. Mrs. Chaffee will teach art again this year. Mr. Ostrander will teach gym class again this year. Special monthly hot lunch organizers from last year will do the same this year.

BOARD OF ELDERS – Pastor Voss was out of town Sunday September 15. Retired Pastor Mark Porinsky will conducted worship services and Bible Class that day.

The Elders will ask our members to encourage others within our congregation with whom they have a relationship with and have been absent from worship.

A large gift was received for the Hymnal Fund. It is the hope of the donor the gift be used for hymnals, as well as appropriate organ and HymnSoft materials and/or a bigger computer table.

We will be participating with the WELS Welcome Home Sunday plan. Our Welcome Home Sunday is tentatively set for Nov. 3.

BOARD OF EVANGELISM AND STEWARDSHIP – Discussed the Trunk or Treat that is planned for Saturday, October 26th from 2:00 – 4:00 in the church parking lot.

We thank all the hosts of the summer refreshment hours.

We finalized plans for the September 8th church picnic.

After-service Presentation this quarter will be done by the Board of Christian Education.

The board looked at the 10-For-10 stewardship emphasis materials from WELS. We will likely use them early in 2020.

We will discuss with the congregation the feasibility of having the Live Nativity.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES – The lease agreement between Little Leap and Memorial has been signed and executed.

Water is getting into the gym, through the walls, we walked the roof top. There are several areas where the screws have popped, other item is the corrugated roofing material, at the end of the roof line, does not have any foam left in it to keep water out. a. Screws need to be tightened down and or replaced. b. Insulating foam needs to be sprayed into each end of the corrugated material.

The Janeckes installed new flooring in the church kitchen that was purchased by the Ladies Fellowship.



BADGER NEWS from SCHOOL

FROM MRS. LEITZ AND PRESCHOOL-KINDERGARTEN: We have a great group of ten little ones this year. Some are new and some are familiar faces. We have now started to get our rhythm as a group and are well on our way to a great year!

For our Bible lessons we have been learning about the creation of the world, Noah and the flood, and Abraham. Through all of this the main theme has been that God keeps His promises to us! We want to trust in Him just as Noah and Abraham did, and we can because we know He kept His promise of sending the Savior.

Our threes have been working on recognizing the letters in their names, counting by pointing at objects, holding their crayons correctly, and cutting skills.

The fours have been working on letters A-D, counting and matching numbers, and position words like right, left, over and under.

The kindergartners have been working on letter C, O, and G. They have been learning position words, writing numbers 1-5, and making patterns for math. In science we have been learning all about animals and their habitats.

We have been learning about apples and how they grow. Next month we will talk about fall and how pumpkins grow. We visited the Country Mill apple orchard to learn about apples growing and how they make all the yummy apple treats. The students get to pick an apple and a pumpkin and get to ride in a wagon. We hope to have the fire department visit next month with fire prevention month.

Have a wonderful month and enjoy the fall weather!

FROM MRS. DOMKE AND GRADES 1-5: Grades 1-5 are off to a great start! I have nineteen students, all eager to learn, play and work hard. We are in a good groove already and I know we are going to have a fantastic year.

We are studying the Old Testament this year in our Bible study. We have covered creation, the fall, the first promise, the tower of Babel, the flood, and now we will be beginning a rather long series of lessons about Abraham. It is the greatest honor to share with little people the truths of God's Word! It is wonderful to hear them share those truths, too.

The third, fourth and fifth graders are learning about physical science this year. Next week we will be starting a rather long experiment involving the scientific method. It should take us about two weeks to complete. We have also enjoyed a rather odd experiment about density. It should be a good year of learning some rather complex things.

The first and second graders are really working hard at reading and fluency. I'm pleased with the way they are all tackling the hard stuff. Besides reading we are doing tons of letter, word and sounding out work each day. It's going great!

We went to the apple orchard for our annual trip. It is so much fun to pick pumpkins, apples and eat donuts with cider!



SERVING OUR LORD FOR OUR OCTOBER SERVICES:

<u>8:00</u>	<u>10:30</u>	<u>Altar Guild</u>	<u>Greeter(s)</u>	<u>Cleaners</u>
10/06 - #2 V. Domke	#4 B. Grinnell	R. Olin	K&A Remus	J&M Stiefel
10/13 - #5 S. Houser	#9 D. Fisher	K. Ward	H&M Surtman	B&N Tobia
10/20 - #6 E. Ruhlig	#1 T. Marion	C. Kasischke	D&S Fisher	C&A Rhodea
10/27 - #7 D. Kasischke	#8 D. Rector	M. Zoran	S&G Houser	L&K Ward