



# MEMORIAL MESSENGER

October 2020

*Everyone must submit to the governing authorities. For no authority exists except by God, and the authorities that exist have been established by God. Therefore the one who rebels against the authority is opposing God's institution, and those who oppose will bring judgment on themselves. Roman 13:1-2*

*First of all, then, I urge that petitions, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people, for kings and all those who are in authority, in order that we might live a quiet and peaceful life in all godliness and dignity. This is good and pleasing in the sight of God our Savior, who wants all people to be*

*saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. 1 Timothy 2:1-3*

In every election the voters who trust in Jesus as the Savior want to vote for what is the best for the township/village/city/county/state/nation. But this election year is like no other, given the divisions in our nation at the present time. *For whom should I vote? Which party should I support?*

Those are very important questions. Neither of them has one correct, Biblical answer. Political email messages and social media posts that are flying around in cyber-space these contentious days tell us that a Christian must vote this way or that way. But that's not true. Neither of the political parties in our country has a *Christian* platform that says, "We will work tirelessly to proclaim Jesus Christ as the eternal Son of God who also took on human flesh, and as God and man in one person He made the only atoning sacrifice for the sins of the world!" If either party or a single candidate were to claim a Christian statement of faith for a platform, the choice would be easy for the believer. But that's not the way it is. Nor is it the way we should *expect* it to be in government.

WELS Professor Daniel Deutschlander writes in his excellent book *Civil Government: God's Other Kingdom* (published in 1998): *We may have to choose between political candidates whose positions are sometimes correct but other times incorrect. For example, Candidate A opposes abortion on demand but also insists schools teach only evolution or perhaps favors a bill that would legalize homosexual marriages. Candidate B has the opposite position on each of those issues. Christians will sometimes have difficulty deciding which issues are most important.* (pages 85-86). That's a dilemma for us in many elections, isn't it?

The Bible passages above are two parts of God's Word that address God's blessings to us in government. In His Word God tells us *He has established* government to bless us; government agents serve as His representatives. God tells us that the function *He gives* government is to provide a peaceful, orderly society so that God's people can serve Him with God-pleasing lives. We all have opinions about what the government should do better or how it should change or who should be elected. And those differences of opinion are neither right nor wrong. Again, let Prof. Deutschlander explain why: *The state* [his term in the book for government on all levels] *runs on the gasoline of human reason and natural law, not on the water of life in God's Word.* (page 88).

I hope no one burdens you by telling you that a Christian will only vote for Candidate 1 or Party 2. And let's not burden other believers by telling them Christians will only vote for Candidate 2 or Party 1. Rather, recognize the God-given function of government is not to change hearts, but to provide peace and safety. Vote for candidates you feel are best for the positions. Pray for God's blessings to rest on all in government to provide the orderly life that allows God's people to proclaim His Word of life in safety.

That sums up the mission and the tool Jesus has given to His Church. That is the reason, throughout history and around the world, the Savior and His people always triumph. The triumph is not a political or military victory; it is the *spiritual and eternal* victory that nothing can take from sinners: salvation through faith in Christ. *Pastor Voss*



**WE WELCOME** our two youth confirmands as communicant members of our congregation: **James Dawley** and **Jessie Every**. May God ever keep these precious souls of His faithful to Him and to all His Word! They publicly confessed their faith **Sunday, September 20**.

**TO PROVIDE A WORSHIP SERVICE** for those who are not ready to gather with groups inside, the Board of Elders planned for an **outdoor** worship service, weather permitting, on the fourth Sundays of August and September. We plan to hold the **10:30 service this Sunday, September 27** outdoors.

The service will be at the north end of the church parking lot. **Feel free to bring your lawn chair for the service.** Folding chairs from inside the church will also be available.

Should the weather not be conducive for outdoor worship (rain, cool temperature, gusty wind), we will have the service in the church sanctuary.

The **8:00** service on Sunday, September 27 will be inside.

**ALTERNATING PEWS** So worshipers don't use the same pews for the 10:30 service that were used for the 8:00 service, the Board of Elders has decided that **each week** we will use

- **orange sheets to mark pews for seating in the 8:00 service,** and
- **pews with no sheets for seating in the 10:30 service.**

Thank you for observing this arrangement! **Please do not remove the orange sheets from any pews.**

**ON-LINE WORSHIP** To provide worship opportunities for our members who are at risk and do not yet feel it's safe for them to gather in larger groups, and for an unknown number of non-members who access our web site, we continue to record a service each week. We normally record the 8:00 service each Sunday. **Because of that timing, the recorded service is not uploaded to our YouTube channel until later in the day or evening Sunday.**

Our Board of Evangelism & Stewardship urges you to let unchurched family members and friends know where to find our worship services on-line!

**COMMUNION OFFERED** Those who are at risk and/or are not yet comfortable with gathering in church for worship are encouraged to contact Pastor Voss for receiving Communion privately – either at home or at church. He will be delighted to do so at our earliest mutual convenience.

**SUNDAY SCHOOL** sessions have been conducted on-line now for several weeks. Lessons taught by experienced WELS teachers are available free via YouTube. To view the lessons, visit the web site [nph.net/ss-at-home](http://nph.net/ss-at-home).

In addition, our Sunday School teachers invite children to join them via a Zoom Sunday School session each week. For now the sessions are **Wednesday evenings at 7:00**. This provides a way for the Sunday School students to interact with each other, begin with a devotion led by our Sunday School staff, and then discuss the lesson seen on YouTube. If you want an invitation to the presentation by our Sunday School staff, please contact Kathy Fedewa or Pastor Voss to get an invitation to the online sessions.

May God bless our children as we together continue to teach and share His love! We thank our Sunday School teachers for providing the opportunity for our children to meet virtually!



**BIBLE CLASS** sessions have also begun and are held at 9:15 Sunday morning for those who are comfortable attending them. The Bible Class material is also presented on-line **Tuesday morning at 11:00**. Contact Pastor Voss for the link to use in joining the Tuesday morning Zoom Bible Class.

We are studying in detail the Apostles' Creed. Our sessions are opportunities to review from God's Word what the only true God reveals about Himself, His work for us sinners, and the tools He uses to do His work among us. Join us!



**LADIES FELLOWSHIP** will meet October 5 at 7:00. Although there is not much we can plan for, we can encourage one another with the Christian fellowship we have by gathering. We invite you to join us in the fellowship hall.

**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 2021 budget ready for consideration by the voters.

An open forum will be held at 11:35 on **Sunday, October 25** 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 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.

**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](mailto:revdavoss@gmail.com).

We wish you God's richest blessings on your studies!

**FOOD BANK** At the present time, the local food bank is not accepting food donations. When that changes, we will inform our members via the monthly newsletter or weekly church bulletin.

**TRUNK OR TREAT** Our Board of Evangelism & Stewardship has set a tentative date (**Saturday afternoon, October 31**) for a Trunk or Treat in our church parking lot. The board will decide on October 8 whether the event will take place.

For now, we ask you to set aside the date and consider participating in or helping with our Trunk or Treat, should it be held.

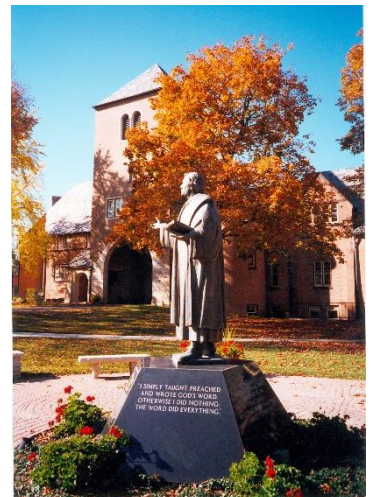
**IF YOU HAVE ACCESS** to the internet and get this *Memorial Messenger* that way, please let us know and we will no longer print a copy for you.

## CHURCH COUNCIL REPORTS

**PASTOR'S REPORT** – Catechism Class instruction has begun face-to-face with three students, and our first few sessions have gone very well. The students and their parents have all let me know that they are comfortable meeting in the fellowship hall for our in-person classes.

The report of WELS Congregation Mission Offerings (CMO) through the end of August is still real good news in this uncertain time and when conditions are keeping many regular worshipers from attending worship in person. CMO from all WELS congregations total more than \$13,000,000, which is \$300,000 over last year at this time and is more than \$500,000 over subscription amount for 8 months of the year. The CMO from congregations in our district are \$1.3 million of the \$13+ million dollars, are nearly \$85,000 below last year at this time, but are \$45,000 over subscription.

The 7 new families to our school seem to be blending in well, and they appreciate the instruction their children are receiving.



**BOARD OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION** – Enrollment: Preschool: 6 (3-yr: 1; 4-yr: 5); Kindergarten: 7; Grades 1-5: 20. Preschool includes two 4-yr. old students who hope to attend later this year.

We thank Mrs. Domke for scheduling, on short notice, meetings with new families the two weeks before classes began. Her classroom is arranged for as much distancing as possible.

We thank Mrs. Leitz for scheduling, on short notice, meetings with new families the two weeks before classes began. Her classrooms are arranged for as much distancing as possible. Mrs. Labadie is serving as an aide 3 mornings per week.

We have volunteer helpers for the library, physical education, art, etc. They have been informed of procedures and policies related to preventing a COVID-19 outbreak at our school.

The October 7-9 Michigan District teachers conference is canceled due to virus concerns and gathering restrictions. We will keep those as days of no school, and our faculty will use them for in-service and for more work on remote instruction technology and plans should school have to be closed to in-person instruction at any time this year.

Most school families were represented at our August 25 PTO meeting. We stressed vigilance and diligence by everyone to keep our school families healthy. We reviewed COVID-19 policies and procedures, as well as remote instruction plans. Saturday, September 26 was set to assemble the new playground equipment.

Touchless sanitizer dispensers are assembled.

The Safe Start plan was submitted to required agencies and posted on the school web site.

Touchless thermometers are used to take faculty and helper temperatures each day.

We thank Kim Fedewa for research on, and help with, getting more reliable wired internet access for our school building.

**BOARD OF ELDERS** – The Elders discussed the coming special services for Advent and Christmas, including ideas about what to do for Christmas Eve and Christmas Day should we still be in a situation where distancing / minimal speaking and singing from the pews are in force.

The Michigan Lutheran Seminary Concert Choir was scheduled be here on Sunday, October 18. Several options from MLS to having the choir sing at our service and our ability to maintain social distancing were discussed. The board also discussed having the service at our school, but since there is not a high-quality piano at school and due to the poor acoustics for singing there, that would not be a decent option.

After considering the various options it was decided to ask the Choir not to come this year, but rather take the Concert Choir director up on his offer to schedule the Concert Choir to sing at one of our services next year. The Concert Choir has accepted this option and will put us on the schedule for next year.

The Elders spent a lot of time discussing our worship services since resuming in person worship, including our mask policy. The Elders have no changes to recommend at this time.

As we resume our schedule of two worship services on Sunday mornings, we will reserve alternating rows of pews for each service as we have been doing with our Sunday and Thursday worship schedule.

**BOARD OF EVANGELISM AND STEWARDSHIP** – We thank Pastor and the office secretary for both recording and placing the services online for the members.

We purchased a camera and microphone to be used in recording the services. The microphone is connected to the camera wirelessly and will provide for excellent audio on the recordings.

Our church picnic scheduled for September 13 was canceled due to COVID-19 concerns.

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES** – John Stiefel provided hand sanitizer stations for church and school.

Pat Crandall is handling the cleaning at school.



## **BADGER NEWS from SCHOOL**

**FROM MRS. LEITZ AND PRESCHOOL-KINDERGARTEN:** The beginning of this year has been unlike any other year before. We are so thankful to be open in spite of all the new requirements. Praise be to God!!! Blessings abound in the midst of so much turmoil in the outside world. Here in our little school we can close the doors to our classrooms and continue to share the greatest news with our little lambs! We have quite a few new faces at our school and after the first week at school it felt like they have been here all the time. All of the parents have been so cooperative with all the new rules set in place and although it took some time for all of us to adjust, we have settled into a nice routine.

We have been learning about Jesus and His life this school year. We talk a lot about striving to follow His example in our lives and following His steps so that we may never waiver in our faith and see Him in heaven some day.

We have been learning all the usual things; especially all about apples since we were still fortunate enough to have a field trip to the Country Mill apple orchard!! It was a beautiful day and we were able to stay outside the entire time!

We hope to celebrate Reformation next month with a fall fest and pumpkin painting!  
May God bless your month.

**FROM MRS. DOMKE AND GRADES 1-5:** We're off to a great start! We have twenty eager students in grades 1-5 working hard and having fun. This is a wonderful bunch of kids! I feel privileged to be able to work with them.

We are studying the New Testament in our Bible lessons. Jesus is the star of every lesson, of course, and we are reviewing how He came to earth and began His work as Savior. Thanks be to God that we are so blessed.

Grades 3-5 are studying U.S. history from beginnings to post revolution. We took a quick look at some of the Constitution and had a brisk discussion of our rights as U.S. citizens. A very interesting talk in the midst of an election year!

In science we are studying life science. We are enjoying looking through the microscopes at everything from fly legs to ketchup.

We enjoyed our annual trip to Country Mill this week. Picking pumpkins, picking apples, and eating doughnuts helps make the beginning of the school year more normal. We thank Mrs. Leitz for setting up the field trip and so many parents for driving.

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

<b><u>8:00</u></b>	<b><u>10:30</u></b>	<b><u>Altar Guild</u></b>	<b><u>Greeter(s)</u></b>	<b><u>Cleaners</u></b>
10/04 - #6 C. Rhodea	#9 D. Fisher	R. Olin	V. VanOstran	B&N Tobia
10/11 - #2 V. Domke	#8 D. Rector	S. Rector	K&A Remus	D&L Voss
10/18 - #7 D. Kasischke	#4 J. Zoran	C. Burris	H&M Surtman	L&K Ward
10/25 - #6 C. Rhodea	#1 T. Marion	L. Voss	D&S Fisher	S&S Arntson

