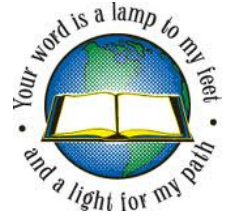


MEMORIAL MESSENGER

September 2014



“I am against the prophets who wag their own tongues and yet declare, ‘The Lord declares.’... Let the prophet who has a dream tell his dream, but let the one who has My word speak it faithfully. For what has straw to do with grain?” Jeremiah 23:31,28

It’s a rhetorical question. When the LORD asks, *“What has straw to do with grain?”*, the answer is obvious.

Or is it? To Old Testament Jews at the time of Jeremiah and very much agriculturally-minded, the answer was obvious. But is it to us? We modern city-dwellers know that heads of grain form on top of stalks, and when the stalks are separated from the grain, the stalks become straw. So it might seem to us that grain and straw have much in common.

That’s the wrong conclusion. *“What has straw to do with grain?”* Of the two, only grain has nourishment for man and animal. After the harvest, straw is good for nothing more than to make a bed for beasts. Living beings don’t eat straw.

The LORD made that comparison in the middle of a section of His Word that warns against false prophets. Israelites who knew better than to confuse the nourishment of healthy grain with hollow straw were confusing the ranting of lying religious people with the saving truth from God. That was a recipe for spiritual disaster and damnation!

Not much has changed in the centuries since Jeremiah. Doesn’t it seem that people these days are ready to believe any religious thought they hear, as long as it sounds nice and is at least a little bit reasonable? The pronouncements that the LORD presided over millions of years of evolution, that God approves of any sexual relationship between two people in love, that Jesus is just one of many ways to heaven are a few examples of dreams promoted by false prophets today. People listen to those teachings and believe those lies because they sound good.

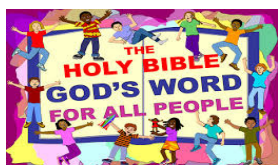
We know what the LORD says about God-pleasing sexuality, about His creating activity, about Christ’s sacrifice as the only payment for sinners. We believe all of that because God says so, not because some preacher says so. How do we know what God says? We read *His Word* in Holy Scripture.

This month we resume structured Bible study in our congregation. Our various classes aren’t held to make us look busy as a congregation. They are held in our church and school buildings because we all need to know what God does and need to grow in our understanding of His truths. Thus strengthened, we are equipped to speak for God from His Word to others. Thus renewed, we will not be such easy prey for the devil’s lying prophets who want us to believe the tempter’s latest lies.

Join us in Bible Class. Invite an unchurched friend to worship with you on our Friendship Sunday, October 5, and then to come with you to the Adult Instruction Class which will start later in October. Set aside time as a family to be in the Word at home. God uses His Word of life about Christ to build us up. What a blessed result for us! What a light we will then be for the world as we reflect His Light! We have the truth; let’s use it!



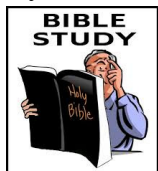
Pastor Voss



WE RETURN TO OUR REGULAR WORSHIP SCHEDULE on *Sunday, September 7*. Beginning on that date, worship services are held at **8:00** and **10:30** Sunday mornings. Join us!

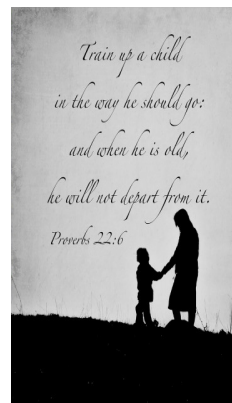
SUNDAY SCHOOL AND BIBLE CLASS sessions also begin *Sunday, September 7*. Classes start at **9:15 AM** each Sunday.

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



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.



A NEW ADULT INSTRUCTION CLASS will begin in late October. If you know of people who might be interested in taking our class for prospective membership, please let Pastor Voss know so that a letter may be sent to them.

Why not consider taking the class yourself as a thorough review of Christian doctrine? A number of members have done so previously. We ask you to mention to Pastor Voss your interest in taking the course as a review so that a sufficient number of class materials can be ordered.

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 the last three Sundays in September will study 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.

Please join us for those classes and pray for the Lord to bless your efforts to invite others to be fed with the most important truths in the world!

As noted above, we'll begin an Adult Instruction Class later in October, inviting prospects from our Friendship Evangelism Sunday to study God's Word with us.



WE THANK all the families who provided refreshments after the service on non-Communion Sundays this summer!

OUR LUTHERAN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL 2014-15 school year began with a worship service at our school on Monday, August 25.

THE P.T.O. (PARENT - TEACHER ORGANIZATION) will meet *Monday, September 8.*

This meeting will be our annual School Family Night, as well as the fall PTO meeting. A supper will be provided by the Board of Christian Education and served at **5:00**. All parents of MLS children are urged to attend.



CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE Several members are planning regular meeting dates and activities for children and young people from kindergarten through high school and beyond. The first event will be *Sunday afternoon* (time to be announced later this month), **September 28.**

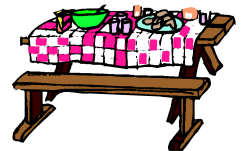
Parents and young people, take note of the date now. We'll provide more details in the weekly church bulletin and via email.

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 ANNUAL CHURCH PICNIC will be *Sunday, September 7.* The meal will once again feature a pig roast. Please bring salad or dessert for the potluck table, as well as your own tableware. Beverages will be provided. A free will offering will be collected.

After the meal, a number of activities are being planned by the board. They include euchre, games for the children, Frisbee golf, and others.



MORNINGS WITH MOMMY The next session of Mornings with Mommy will be Thursday, September 18th. We will be playing with all different types of transportation and making art with cars. Call Karla Leitz (920-203-4172) for more information and to register for this session. Or you can email her at kleitz25@gmail.com. See you at school that day beginning at 10:00. You can also find more information about this program on our web site. Please let your family, friends, and neighbors know about this fun time for little ones and mommies.

GRAYCE will resume monthly gatherings at **11:30 on Monday, September 29.** Information about the September 29 event will be provided later this month, but set aside the time and date now!



CHOIR REHEARSALS will begin *Thursday, October 2 at 7:30 PM.* We invite our young people and adults to join us that evening, and Thursdays following that, to rehearse music that the choir will sing for our worship services!

CHIME CHOIR rehearsals will start *Thursday, October 9 at 6:30 PM.* We look for even more of our members to join the chime choir this year! No previous experience playing chimes is required.

Children in 5th grade and up, as well as young people and adults, are invited to be part of our chime choir.

SCHOOL LIBRARY VOLUNTEERS

If you are interested in helping at our school library, please speak with Laurie Voss. We would appreciate someone that could help in the afternoon one day a week.



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!

WELS APP FOR PHONE DEVOTIONS

Did you know that you can download an app to place on your cell phone, allowing you to get the daily devotion from our Synod sent to your phone automatically? If you desire more information about this, please speak to Pastor Voss.

PICTURES OF CHURCH AND SCHOOL EVENTS

We encourage members to submit electronic files of pictures from church and school activities. If the format of your electronic pictures is compatible with our website, we will be happy to include the pictures on our gallery.

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 reserve use 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.



Ladies Fellowship

Our next meeting will be September 8 at 7:00 PM. We encourage all women of our congregation to attend. We learn and grow in fellowship from our Bible studies and from working with each other. Our projects help others and we enjoy doing mission work. We love to serve the Lord!

We will resume our Catechism study with Pastor this month, and we will continue our plans for the October friendship event. Gals, don't forget to bring your ideas for activities for that day.

Please bring your own beverage and a snack to share for our meeting, if you wish.

LADIES' FELLOWSHIP FUN FALL FRIENDSHIP FESTIVAL

- We have plans to have a pancake breakfast (with lots of other food) after our Friendship Sunday on October 5. This meal and the activities to follow will be held at our school starting about noon. Please dress casually for the afternoon. We will have more information about our activities as the date approaches. Please bring your family and friends with you to church that day and then come to school for good food and great fun!



TWO COOKING POTS

are missing from the church kitchen, though the lids are not. Ladies Fellowship donated the pots and asks you to check at home to see if you might have mistakenly taken one (or both) of them. The school kitchen has been checked and they are not there.

CHURCH COUNCIL REPORTS

PASTOR'S REPORT – I usually send letter regarding another Adult Instruction Class around Labor Day. With the Friendship Evangelism Sunday coming up in early October, my plan is to wait until names and addresses of prospects are gathered that day, then send out letters in mid-October about beginning an AIC the last week of October. If you know already now about prospects for the class, please let me know, and speak to them about the class. Why not offer to come to the class with them?!

Karmen Janecke and I are halfway through the AIC that was begun this summer.

Attendance at the summer Monday evening worship services: 16,15,22,17, 12, 19, 23 (Through August 4). I appreciate the understanding of our members about the fact that services were not held on four Monday evenings (Memorial Day, Michigan District Convention, and vacation) this summer. Two services have been held in the fellowship hall because it was too warm in the sanctuary.

We are very grateful to the organists who have been so generous with their time in volunteering to play for both the Sunday morning and Monday evening services.

WELS report that across the synod Congregation Mission Offerings through the end of July are \$11,078,127 (compared to \$11,064,843 through the end of July 2013). President Schroeder also reported last week that, in connection with WELS congregations being asked to consider increasing their 2014 CMO commitment, hundreds of congregations did just that, and that dozens of congregations held special offerings. With the revised CMO commitments and special offerings, WELS anticipates an additional \$500,000 for support of WELS work around the world.

We thank the Lord for using His Gospel to move His people to respond so generously to this special appeal! Please join me in praying that our members will bring special offerings in connection with the WELS Walking Together emphasis on late October. It's also possible that our voters in October will be asked to so insider an increase from our General Fund for our congregation's 2014 CMO.

BOARD OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION – At a special meeting in July, our board drew up the following recommendation; though the voters approved this at the July 22 voters meeting, it has not been officially reported by our board. The Board of Christian Education recommended to voters in July that for Mrs. Leitz's maternity leave: a) the substitute teacher rate of \$100 per day be paid to our substitute, plus \$10 mileage per day and b) that whatever remains in the budget for the preschool and kindergarten teacher salary line item be paid to Mrs. Leitz during her maternity leave.

The registration packet and forms for our 2014-15 school year were prepared last month and have been distributed. We anticipate enrollment to be about the same as last year.

Our board's August meeting was at McCormick Park during the National Night Out event. Several families expressed interest in our preschool and LES as they sopped by our tent.

Mrs. Leitz is still pondering what to do with *Mornings with Mommy* during her maternity leave—either cancel it or ask someone else to conduct it in her absence.

Mrs. Charlotte Baer was contacted by the board about being our substitute teacher during Mrs. Leitz's maternity leave, and has agreed to do so. Having one who is so familiar with our school serve as substitute teacher will be a blessing for our school.

Aides in Mrs. Domke's and Mrs. Leitz's classroom for 2014-25 are set.

We thank the Board of Trustees for arranging for the installation of new carpet in Mrs. Domke's classroom and thank Jason Leitz for his ongoing work in upgrading the wireless network.

We intend to use the PTO approved funding of up to \$2000 to purchase 3 new laptops or tablets with keyboards for use in our school's classrooms.

The board sought input from school families about after-school care for this school year. At least two families have previously expressed an interest in after-school care several days per week.

We thank all who taught Vacation Bible School July 21-25, as well as the many members who helped prepare activities for the students. A number of wonderful comments were received, including two notes from non-members. The Thursday night meal, activities, and campout at school were enjoyed by all who attended.

BOARD OF ELDERS – During the week of VBS some of the teens were discussing meeting as a youth group several times a year. The Board of Elders support and encourage our teens in this endeavor.

The Board of Elders intends to invite Nancy Hart to meet with the board for a recap of the WELS National Worship Conference she attended in July.

The organ schedule for August-November has been prepared and distributed. The Elders thank our organists as well as the other musicians and choir members for using their God-given talents to beautify our worship services.

BOARD OF EVANGELISM AND STEWARDSHIP – Several visitors at worship this summer and several non-member families whose children attended Vacation Bible School told us that they got information about worship services and VBS from our web site.

The Bible Class sessions in September (and maybe on worship service) will focus on encouraging friendship evangelism by our members as we point to Friendship Evangelism Sunday, October 5. The board started developing an outline of questions/situations and Biblical answers/personal advice for inviting others to hear about the Savior in worship and/or beginning a conversation with others about God's truths. We thank the Ladies Fellowship Group for planning a meal at school and afternoon activities for that day, providing more reasons for our members to invite friends and relatives to the service, meal, and activities on October 5. We intend to give a *Come Follow Me* DVD to each visiting family that day.

The *Come Follow Me* DVDs arrived last month. Several member families have already purchased copies to distribute to neighbors and relatives.

We thank those who participated in the June 21 Jubilee Parade and noted that a new float will need to be constructed for 2015. The Light Parade will be December 6, and the board feels that we should have an entry in the parade to promote our congregation's Live Nativity (December 13).

We thank all who have provided refreshments this summer.

Sunday, September 7 is our church picnic. A pig will be roasted and members are asked to bring food to fill out the meal. Games and activities will be held.

Discussions with sign companies indicate that an electronic message sign will be too costly for us. The board is getting information and prices from a church sign company for a sign that would be lit internally, would have space for using letters to change messages, and would likely fit inside the brick structure already in place in front of our church building.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES – We continue discussing ideas for the overhang above the northwest entrance of the school.

Parking lots at church and school have been resealed.

Eaves have been repaired at school.

Entry rails at church need repainting.

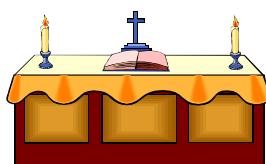
Eaves need to be repaired at church (near entryway).

We give many thanks to all those who have assisted with repairs and maintenance to both school and church properties.

SERVING OUR LORD FOR OUR SEPTEMBER SERVICES:

<i>Ushers</i>		<i>Altar Guild</i>	<i>Greeter(s)</i>	<i>Cleaners</i>
<i>8:00</i>	<i>10:30</i>			
9/07 - #6 E. Ruhlig	#1 T. Marion	C. Kasischke	T&L Loeffler	E&A Ruhlig
9/14 - #7 D. Kasischke	#3 J. Janecke	T. Wood	J&M Zoran	N Russell
9/21 - #2 V. Domke	#4 B. Grinnell	C. Burris	B&L Painter	J&J Staffeld
9/28 - #5 S. Houser	#8 D. Rector	N. Mills	R&J Hannewald	J&M Stiefel

Church Kitchen
(need a volunteer)



LIVE NATIVITY UPDATE Over the course of the year since our last Live Nativity, our members have shared the positive comments they have heard from other people about our Live Nativity. The word about this activity is spreading. We will pray that we have better weather this year, but that sure didn't dampen the spirits of our members and guests last year.

This year the Live Nativity will be held December 13. This is the week after the Williamston Light Parade. We will again have a simple float in the parade and have members dress in Live Nativity costumes. These members will then pass out invitations to our upcoming Live Nativity. This worked very well last year with many positive comments then too.

Plans are being made to add new things to our Live Nativity again this year. We will be adding a carpenter workshop to our marketplace scene. This marketplace will include foods, baskets, pottery and tools. The layout of the Christmas scene will also be different this year in the parking lot so people will be able to drive through and see everything better. This year we will have someone reading the Christmas lessons, which will be interspersed with singing from our angels.

We do hope that many members will again come forward to help prepare things and participate the night of the Live Nativity. Watch for posted sheets at church for things we will need and the help we will seek. If children will be participating the night of the Live Nativity, they will have to stay with a parent or guardian. This is for safety reasons because of all the cars that are driving through.

We are in need of woven rugs and other weavings, tools that would be similar to those used in Jesus' day, foods that would have been present during Jesus' time (real or artificial – breads, herbs, fruit, etc.), and 3 canopy tents. (All these items can be donated or lent. We will be sure they get returned if that is what you wish.)

We especially need lots of large, flat sheets or curtains that can be used for our marketplace tent sides. Please watch for these at garage sales or thrift stores.

Men, don't forget to grow those beards please. 😊

Live Nativity committee chair persons will be contacted soon. We will meet some time in September to be sure we are ready to move forward. If anyone has questions or ideas, you may contact Karla Leitz at kleitz25@gmail.com or Laurie Voss at lauriebethvoss@gmail.com or secretary.memorial@gmail.com.

The excitement continues! Our prayer is that through all of this God is glorified and His Word is spread!

