

MEMORIAL MESSENGER

September 2015



“The grass withers and the flowers fall, ... but the Word of our God stands forever.” Isaiah 40:7-8

We check milk containers, bread packages, and restaurant coupons carefully for the date stamped on it. Even with chemical preservatives, milk and bread stay good only for so long. And who wants the embarrassment of being told at the front of a line of fast food customers, “You can’t use this coupon. It’s expired!”?

But there *is* something that lasts forever, that does not expire: God’s Word and each human soul. That’s no coincidence. The God who authored the Word and the God who has made each person has seen to it that there is a crucial connection between the two. That connection is what Christian education is all about.

The people of Isaiah’s day didn’t know about refrigeration for milk or plastic in which to store bread or discounts on meals with a piece of paper. So the Holy Spirit had Isaiah contrast what happens in nature with what does *not* happen to His Word or to the crown of His creation. By mid-October the grass around here will stop growing, the flowers will have been killed by fall frost, and leaves will fall like colored snowflakes. But there’s never a season when God’s Word disappears. It’s not just the main content of the Word that will remain; *every single word* of the Word will endure forever!

Think about that. The verses we read, the passages we study, the lessons we teach our children are what our parents and grandparents and great-grandparents have read and heard and taught! And even if we were foolishly or absent-mindedly to throw God’s Word out the window of our life, it still won’t fade or fall or disappear. In His wisdom and power, God will see to it that His Word is preached and taught elsewhere until He comes again.

If His Word contained only weather charts or sports scores or stock market figures, the claim that it will never disappear wouldn’t excite us. But His Word tells all about our sin and its punishment, about His plan of salvation and its fulfillment. When God tells us that He has forgiven our guilt through the work of His Son, we can count on it. Since God’s Word teaches that only those who trust in Jesus will be saved, that all who reject Jesus and His work will be damned, that is the way it is and always will be!

Some disagree. They say, “A loving God would never condemn to everlasting fire the people whom He made!” That may make sense to their view of things, but the unchanging God says differently. Scholars scoff at the thought that man will live forever in heaven; it doesn’t fit what they see with their eyes. But, again!, the greatest Scholar of all has decreed that there eternal life with Him for all who die trusting Jesus as their Savior.

Man isn’t a cardboard box to serve a purpose for a while, then be thrown away. We aren’t biodegradable blobs that one day will only return to the dust we came from. God has made us with a body and a soul to live forever.

The Christian education efforts that are resuming among us are centered on the answers to life’s biggest questions. “What happens when a person dies? How do I get to heaven? What does God want from me and my life?” God answers those questions in His Word.

Will we shrug off Bible study this fall, figuring that we’ve heard it all before? Dare we be indifferent about something so vital and eternal?! Join us in class. Bring your little ones to their classes. Stay in regular contact with the Word of Life, which stands forever. Make that the top priority for you and your family! *Pastor Voss*



The 2015-2016 Sunday School year at Memorial Lutheran Church will kick off September 13 at 9:15. We hope you will join us as we enter another year of studying about God and His great love for us.

This year we want to work on projects and crafts after our lesson that will remind you of what you learned in Sunday School. You can look at these things at home and be reminded daily to think about your Savior Jesus. Come each week to learn more about what Jesus has done and will always do for you! Encourage your parents to stay for Bible Class and learn more about Jesus with you. Go home then and share what you learned as a family.

We will learn new songs as the Sunday School year goes along too. If you have favorite songs about your Lord and Savior, let your Sunday School teacher know.

We are excited to start another year of Sunday School! Join us every Sunday to learn and make new things! Invite your friends to come with you. Classes are for children 3 years old through 8th grade.

WE RETURN TO OUR REGULAR WORSHIP SCHEDULE on *Sunday, September 13*. 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 13*. Classes 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.



THE ANNUAL CHURCH PICNIC will be *Sunday, September 13*. The Board of Evangelism & Stewardship is planning for the meal to feature a pig roast and other grilled meat.

We want to provide activities after the meal which will be enjoyable for members of all ages. Activities for which the board is seeking help include euchre, games for children, Frisbee golf, and other activities for members young and old.

If you can help with any of these activities, or have other activities to suggest, please speak with Joe Janecke, Clark Collins, Andy Rusnak, Jason Leitz, or Pastor Voss.

OUR LUTHERAN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL 2015-16 school year begins with a worship service at our school on Monday, August 31.



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.



THE P.T.O. (PARENT - TEACHER ORGANIZATION) will meet *Monday, September 14.*

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.

LADIES FELLOWSHIP will meet *Monday, September 14 at 7 PM.* We will continue our Catechism study with Pastor. (Please remember to bring your book.) We also hope to make prayer/shut-in blankets. Please bring what you have to do that project.

Since the Pastors' Conference will be held at our church on October 5 and 6th, we will not have a meeting in October. However, we will discuss at our September meeting, final preparations for hosting the conference and preparing their meals and snacks.

We have a busy fall schedule. Another item we will discuss and for which we will make final preparations is the Fall Tea to be held October 17.

Please consider joining us for our meetings. It is a joy to be together and to serve together! We ask that you bring a snack to share and your own beverage this month.



OCTOBER HARVEST HIGH TEA! We hope you are planning on attending **Saturday, October 17.** The Ladies Fellowship is hosting a high tea, and **all women and gals of all ages** from our congregation are invited. We also invite you to bring any female guests you might like to invite. This will be held at **1:00**, and 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.

We haven't had an activity like this for many years, and we are hoping that attendance will be terrific. You will come, won't you!?!?! ☺

GRAYCE will resume monthly gatherings at **11:30 on Monday, September 28.** Information about the gathering will be provided later this month, but set aside the time and date 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!

COME FOLLOW ME DVDs This WELS production provides an opportunity for you to show others the basic truth of salvation as you view it with those who have questions about what you believe.

Consider purchasing one or more of them to view with—or give you—your loved ones, friends, and neighbors. The cost \$3 for each DVD, or 2 for \$5.

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

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: We will send letter regarding another Adult Instruction Class shortly after Labor Day. If you know of prospects for the class, please let me know, and speak to them about the class. Why not offer to come to class with them?!

Kristen Schlicker began studying the truths of God's Word in Thursday evening sessions starting in early July. Her husband Colin is taking the class with her as a review.

Attendance at the summer Monday evening worship services: 10, 5, 5, 14, 18, 12 (through August 3). 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 2 vacation dates this summer.

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

The last summer evening worship service will be held Thursday, September 3 (not Labor Day evening, September 7). The service will be the same as the service on the following Sunday.

After trying a number of things to improve our school internet network reliability, Jason Leitz suggest that we contact Comcast to see if they provide internet service to our school address. Our office secretary contacted Comcast. The man with whom she spoke had Laurie run a speed test. That test showed our current download speed with Frontier is 2.92 and upload speed is 0.74. Comcast provides 25 for download and 10 for upload.

BOARD OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION REPORT: Enrollment projection for 2015-2016 school year: We anticipate the enrollment to be preschool is 4, kindergarten 4, grades 1-5 is 10 or 11.

Mornings with Mommy – There was no session in June or July. The program is under review as to how it will continue going forward. Karla will advise us about possibly moving it to Saturdays since weekdays are very full this school year.

We discussed how classes will be handled when preschool sessions are held 3 mornings per week, as well as how we will use aides for the coming school year and possible candidates.

We discussed the use of standardized tests, MEAP vs. Terra Nova, benefits, costs, etc.

The opening of the school year will be Monday, August 31.

Family Night will be September 14 at 5:00 with a PTO meeting.

We thank all who were involved in teaching and helping out at this year's VBS. Great word done by all. 31 children attended.

ELDERS REPORT: The organ schedule for July through November has been prepared and distributed. The Elders thank our organists, choir, choir director, choir accompanist, chime choir, and other musicians for using their God-given talents to beautify our worship services.

As recommended by the Synod, the Elders have discussed and are recommending the adoption of a policy regarding marriage. The Doctrine and Policy Regarding Marriage for Memorial Ev. Lutheran Church will be distributed in mail boxes.

BOARD OF EVANGELISM AND STEWARDSHIP REPORT: We will look into what paying Google might do to get our church and school listed in the top 10 results when people search for church and schools in Williamston.

Since only two were present at the meeting, we did not decide on a date—or any other particulars—for the dinner we will host for the community. Those present felt that wider participation by the board is necessary for such decisions.

Pastor John Kenyon will be here to present a financial planning seminar Sunday, February 28, 2016. He had been scheduled to be here in January 2015, but poor health prevented him from making that presentation.

We thank Clark Collins for distributing the second quarter thankoffering statements last month.

We thank all the families who have hosted refreshments after Sunday non-communion services this summer. We're still seeking hosts for September 6.

Plans continue to be made for the September 13 church picnic. Those plans will be finalized at our next board meetings.

TRUSTEES REPORT: Marshall Music repaired the church organ.

New toilets have been installed at the parsonage.

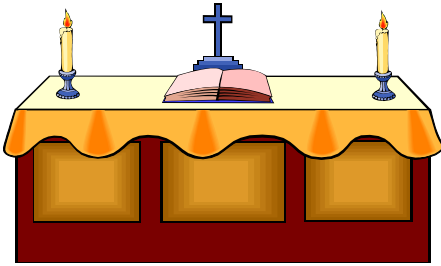
Tiles in the parsonage shower floor were repaired in August.

We discussed the steeple: setting a work day, tentative for August 29th, to clean, caulk, and repaint the steeple.

We discussed sealing the parking lots using the sealer machine from Montrose church.

B&D Electric has installed the LED lighting in the gym.

We took advantage of the lift, brought in by B&D, to clean the ceiling fans and get the cob webs out of the corner of the gymnasium.



SERVING OUR LORD FOR OUR SEPTEMBER SERVICES:

8:00	10:30
9/06 - #8 D. Rector	
9/13 - #2 V. Domke	#4 B. Grinnell
9/20 - #5 S. Houser	#8 D. Rector
9/27 - #6 E. Ruhlig	#9 D. Fisher

Altar:
C. Burris
T. Wood
K. Unruh
S. Unruh

Greeters:
F&N Mills
D&T Wood
V&J Domke
G. Withey

Cleaners:
R&J Hannewald
D&R Hoag
S&G Houser
B. Janecke

FOR
God SO loved
THE
world that He Gave
HIS one & ONLY Son,
THAT whoever believes in HIM
shall NOT perish but have
eternal life.
John 3:16