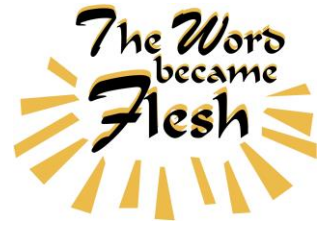




MEMORIAL MESSENGER September 2017



In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was God, and the Word was with God. He was with God in the beginning. The Word became flesh and made His dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth. John 1:1-2,14

In this age of social media, many people check Facebook, Instagram, Twitter—and check such social media several times a day. They want to see what their family, friends, and favorite celebrities are posting.

What if the Lord used Facebook or Instagram or Twitter? What if He posted from heaven something important for us to read every day, every hour on one of those forms of social media? We'd check that out, wouldn't we?

But we don't, do we? I realize that the Triune God has never posted anything on any social media outlet. But He does publicize the fact that He has given us something eternally important to read every day. He does desire that we let His Word " *dwell in us richly* " (Colossians 3:16).

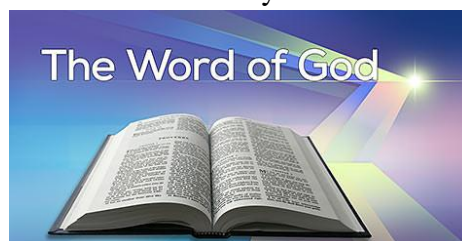
Do we? Do we turn to Holy Scripture as eagerly as we await something new about the grandchildren on Facebook? As often as we look for something exciting from a classmate on Instagram? As interested as we check for controversial comments from an actor on Twitter? Or do we excuse our lack of attention to God's Word with a casual, "I've read it before and I still know what it says!"?

This month Christian Education efforts in our congregation are in high gear again. We'll resist Satan's temptations to consider Bible Class, Sunday School classes, Catechism Class, Adult Instruction Class, ChristLight instruction, and other classes as just programs offered by our church and school—programs we can either take or leave without any particular blessing or harm. Such sessions are opportunities to study God's unchanging truth, to get His direction for every situation every day, to hear His desires for our lives, to review His plans and work to save us sinners.

Jesus describes Himself as "*the Word*". What we read on the pages of Holy Scripture is what our Savior says to us. We are told that "*the Word became flesh*". Jesus lived what He said, fulfilled what His prophets foretold, and completed the mission which is the focus of the Word, *His Word*: salvation for every sinner.

We all want a closer walk with God. But a closer walk with the Almighty doesn't happen by sitting on a sand dune or watching an eclipse or weeding the garden. The Savior draws near to us in His Word where He exposes our sinfulness and the hell we deserve, then reveals His forgiveness and the heaven He opens.

No one needs Facebook or Instagram or Twitter to survive. But no one can survive forever without the Word dwelling in them. Send your children or grandchildren to our school and to Sunday School. Study God's Word with us in Bible Class. Consider attending the next Adult Instruction Class for a thorough review of God's truth. We go daily to the Word to hear what the Savior has to say. Let that become a regular part of your daily life!



Pastor Voss



WE WELCOME to our congregation *Dan & Stephanie Miller and daughters Addison and Isla*. They have been received as members via transfer from St. Paul Ev. Lutheran Church in Saginaw.

The Miller family lives in Haslett. Addison is a preschool student at our school.

May God make their membership in our midst a blessing both to the Miller family and to our congregation!

OUR SUMMER WORSHIP SCHEDULE continues this Labor Day weekend. *Sunday, September 3* we will worship at **9:00 AM**. There will also be an evening service on *Thursday, August 31 at 7:00* which will be the same as the following Sunday's service.

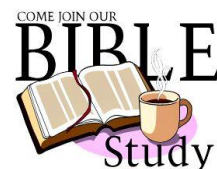
Worship **SCHEDULE**

WE RETURN TO OUR REGULAR WORSHIP SCHEDULE on *Sunday, September 10*. Worship services will be held at **8:00** and **10:30** Sunday mornings beginning with that date. Join us!

At the special voters meeting on Sunday, August 27, after considerable discussion, the voters decided not to approve the recommendation from the Board of Elders and the Church Council to go to one Sunday morning worship service at 10 AM from September to May. Therefore, our two service schedule remains in effect.

SUNDAY SCHOOL AND BIBLE CLASS sessions begin *September 10 at 9:15 AM*.

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.



THE ANNUAL CHURCH PICNIC will be *Sunday, September 10* at our school. The meal will begin between **12:15 – 12:30**. The Board of Evangelism & Stewardship is planning for the meal to include grilled meat, along with items our families bring for the potluck table.

This year the meal will be in our school gym again, no matter what the weather. Last year's decision to do so was very well received. Please bring a side dish, salad, or dessert, as well as your own table ware. Beverages will be provided.

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, Dan Kasischke, Jason Leitz, or Pastor Voss.



LADIES FELLOWSHIP will meet *Monday, September 11 at 7 PM*. 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.

OUR SCHOOL AND PRESCHOOL YEAR opened Monday, August 28 with a service at our school. This year we have 5 students in preschool, 5 students in kindergarten, and 12 students in grades 1-5.

May the Lord of the Church bless the instruction from His Word and in secular subjects provided by our faculty to those students! May our gracious God keep parents and grandparents safe as they transport their children and grandchildren to and from our school each day!

THANKS

- To all who donated bottled water. Many bottles were distributed at the Williamston Art Fest and the National Night Out events this summer.
- To all hosts for summer Sunday refreshment hours. Next summer we will likely try several potluck refreshments hours (like we did on August 6), in addition to asking for families to sign up in advance.
- To all who helped in so many ways to get our school ready for the opening day of classes. Much good work was done.
- To all who help in various ways behind the scenes to take care of what needs to be done at church and school. Your work is deeply appreciated.



SPECIAL CONCERT We have invited WELS musician Stephen Bautista to perform his Christ-centered music at a special concert *Sunday evening, October 15 at 7 PM in our school gym.*

Many of you attended his concert at our school in June of last year. Please tell other members, relatives, friends, and neighbors how much you enjoyed that concert and invite them to come to the special event at our school on October 15.

The Board of Evangelism & Stewardship is planning a potluck supper for that evening, and perhaps an ice cream social to follow the concert. More details will be announced later in September.

Mark the date now: *Sunday evening, October 15!*

SPECIAL MOVIE WELS has produced a movie to commemorate the 500th anniversary of the Luther's posting of the 95 theses. Our congregation is working with a company to host a showing of the movie, *Return to Grace*, in a Lansing-area theater this fall.

We contacted the Williamston Sun, but it is unavailable for evening dates to show the movie. We realize that there are too many conflicts on Saturday and Sunday afternoons during the fall, times during which the Sun is available.

Watch for an announcement soon about the date and location of our congregation's hosting of *Return to Grace*. Start thinking now of friends, neighbors, and others whom you will invite to see the movie with you.

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!

CHURCH COUNCIL REPORTS

PASTOR'S REPORT – When school starts, I will resume Adult Instruction Class sessions with the mother of two students in our school / preschool. Should other prospective members be interested in studying God's Word, I'm eager to start classes with them, too. Please let me know if you are aware of anyone to contact about these classes.

WELS news: Through the first 7 months of 2017, WELS has received \$11,305,439 in Congregation Mission Offerings. (Receipts were about \$400,000 less through the same period in 2016.) That amount is more than \$225,000 above subscription amounts. From Michigan District congregations, \$1,153,263 has been received, which is \$20,000 more than last year at this time and is right at the subscribed amount.

Attendance at the summer Thursday evening worship services June 8 – July 27: 11, 10, 10, 58 (pot luck meal at end of VBS week on June 29 and at school), 21, 14. 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 Thursday evening services.

Thank you for covering the cost of registration for my serving as a delegate to the WELS Convention last week. It was wonderful to hear firsthand about the work that's being done around the world by our Synod, and to be part of planning that work for the next two years. The delegates adopted a ministry financial plan for the next two years that maintains current levels of WELS work, adds several full-time positions in WELS approved two years ago, includes a 3.5% increase in fixed costs, and will use some reserves. The delegates did so, urging every congregation in WELS to increase CMO support of the work because the Lord of the Church is opening a number of unexpected doors to bring the good news of salvation through faith in Christ alone to those who do not yet know Jesus. At the convention WELS received into doctrinal fellowship three small church bodies: one in Ethiopia and two in Asia.

Convention delegates viewed the WELS Martin Luther movie Return to Grace. As you read in the report from our Board of Evangelism & Stewardship, we are seeking information from the WELS producers of the movie about hosting a showing of the movie in our area this fall.

Some internet connection problems continue at school. Our thanks to Kim Fedewa for his work to try to resolve them. We hope to have dependable internet access on several computers in the computer room when the school year begins August 28.

BOARD OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION – Enrollment for 2017-2018 is projected at: preschool: 5-7; kindergarten: 4-6; and grades 1-5: 12-13

Targeted Facebook marketing promoted VBS and school from June 14-20. Statistics showed 32,663 local impressions, 16,288 people reached and 37 links clicked. The total cost was paid by PTO at \$104.96.

Flyers were distributed at the July 22 Art Fest and August 1 at National Night Out. The board thanks those who staffed our booths at both events.

Aides have been approached about serving this year.

Two new volunteers will head school hot lunch planning for the 2017-2018 school year.

School year opens Monday, August 28, 2017.

Family Night and the next PTO meeting will be Monday, September 11 at 5:00 PM and will include a meal.

BOARD OF ELDERS – The Board of Elders recommends the transfer of membership of Daniel and Stephanie Miller, and daughters Addison and Isla from St. Paul Ev. Lutheran Church in Saginaw to Memorial Ev. Lutheran Church.

BOARD OF EVANGELISM AND STEWARDSHIP – Pastor Voss will check on our congregation hosting the Luther movie in October, either at the local theater or at a Lansing theater.

We discussed Facebook marketing that is currently being used for advertising our school and preschool, and how we could use it to promote the church, too.

We discussed the Red Cedar Jubilee Parade, and how there weren't enough available this year to participate.

We discussed looking into a Trunk or Treat for 2018.

We thank Dan Kasischke for getting the 2nd Quarter statements to members.

The audit is done of the church's financial records and we are waiting on the written report.

Our board will promote and organize an evening potluck meal at school on Sunday, October 15 before the concert at school by Stephen Bautista at 6:30 or 7:00 that evening. His family would like to use our school as a place to stay in their travel trailer that evening (and maybe for a day or two beyond).

We talked about last month's potluck summer refreshment hour, and are likely to schedule several of those next summer since it worked so well.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES – We went over lawn mowing at school. Many thanks to Bob Janecke for continuing to mow at church.

Water testing continues to be challenging. Dave Dawley is still providing what the state needs.

School janitorial for the upcoming start of school - will see what Katee Clark needs before school starts.

SERVING OUR LORD FOR OUR SEPTEMBER SERVICES:

Ushers

9/03 - #7 D. Kasischke
9/10 - #2 V. Domke #4 G. Grinnell
9/17 - #5 S. Houser #8 D. Rector
9/24 - #6 E. Ruhlig #9 D. Fisher

Altar Guild

M. Zoran
S. Unruh
K. Unruh
K. Ward

Greeter(s)

B. Carpenter
B. VanOstran
D&T Wood
V&J Domke

Cleaners

J&M Stiefel
B&N Tobia
Pastor & L Voss
K&L Ward

