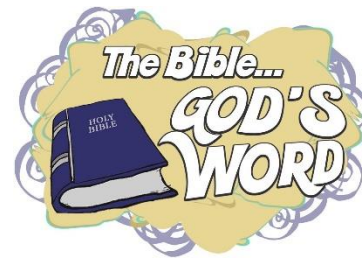




MEMORIAL MESSENGER September 2019



"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 who very much agriculturally-aware, the answer was obvious. But is it to us? We 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 nourishes 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. Aren't many people these days ready to believe any religious thought they hear, as long as it sounds nice and is at least a little bit reasonable? The ideas 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 to them.

We know what the LORD says about His creating activity, about God-pleasing sexuality, 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 for us, and because we all 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, and then to come with you to a Bible Instruction Class the pastor will be delighted to have with your friend – and you. 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 privilege to be used by Him to reflect His Light to others! We have the truth; let's use it! *Pastor Voss*



OUR SUMMER WORSHIP SCHEDULE continues this Labor Day weekend. *Sunday, September 1* we will worship at **9:00 AM**. There will also be an evening service on *Thursday, August 29 at 7:00* which will be the same as the following Sunday's service.

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



SUNDAY SCHOOL AND BIBLE CLASS sessions begin *September 8*.

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 8*. The Board of Evangelism & Stewardship is planning for the meal, and will announce details in the weeks to come. What we can tell you is that the meal will be held in the school gym.

We want to provide activities after the meal which will be enjoyable for members of all ages, but we need volunteers to organize activities. If you can help, please speak with Joe Janecke, Dan Kasischke, Jason Leitz, or Pastor Voss.



OUR SCHOOL AND PRESCHOOL YEAR opened Monday, August 26 with a service at our school. This year we have 7 students in Preschool, 3 students in Kindergarten, and 19 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!

THE LADIES FELLOWSHIP GROUP It's time to gather again and serve the Lord through our group. Our schedule has changed. We will meet at 7:00 PM on Monday September 9. Gail is our volunteer for the kitchen this month.

THANKS to all who donated bottled water for VBS and National Night Out. Several hundred bottles were distributed at the National Night Out event August 6.

SUMMER SUNDAY REFRESHMENTS

We thank all those who have volunteered to provide refreshments on non-Communion summer Sunday mornings!

The Board of Evangelism & Stewardship has set *September 1* as a ***potluck refreshment Sunday***. We ask each family that heads downstairs for refreshments that Sunday of Labor Day weekend to bring a little something to eat, sharing it with the others who attend.



TRUNK OR TREAT We have volunteers to host this event! It will be held in our church parking lot on Saturday, October 26 from 5:00-7:00 PM. More information will be posted on our bulletin board at church and in our October newsletter and church bulletins.

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 that equipment.

CHURCH COUNCIL REPORTS

PASTOR'S REPORT – I have been meeting with a retired husband & wife from Fowlerville who have been worshiping with us since Easter Sunday. I will discuss with the Board of Elders what the couple's wishes are regarding joining our congregation as communicant members and what further instruction, if any, is needed to get to that point.

WELS news: The delegates to the WELS Convention two weeks ago re-elected Rev. Mark Schroeder as WELS President. They also adopted the 2-year budget proposed by the Synodical Council (SC). Every WELS congregation is strongly urged to increase Congregation Mission Offerings (CMO) so that our church body can maintain and expand work to spread the Gospel of the Savior to all the world – the mission which the Savior has held before His Church since the day He ascended into heaven.

Thank you for agreeing to cover my costs for the Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary class I took at MLS in Saginaw the end of June. The detailed study of the Greek text of 1 Peter was very beneficial, as was the opportunity to refresh translation principles and skills.

Michigan District meetings will take me out of town from Tuesday morning, September 3 through Thursday evening of that week. As a result, three of our boards will have different meeting times for their September board meetings, two of them actually meeting in late August.

BOARD OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION – Several families found out about our VBS from Facebook posts and several others from the sign in front of our church.

We will be getting more school yard signs made, Funded by PTO. May order banners as part of the yard sign order. Lena Loeffler working with us on the order.

We discussed an aide for Mrs. Domke's classroom with the number of students this year.

All but one of the new school families attended VBS

We discussed PTO purchasing a protective carpet covering for art area in library.

School year begins – Monday August 26 with an 8:30 AM opening worship service.

The annual PTO meeting / Family Night will be Sept. 9, beginning with a meal at 5:00.

All Sunday School teacher calls extend have been accepted for 2019-20.

VBS: 42 children heard the Word of God during VBS July 22-25. The Board of Christian Education thanks our teachers, helpers, and organizers.

A letter was sent to our school and preschool parents outlining the changes that will be occurring with a daycare renting rooms in the northern part of the building.

Due to changes in the building use, relocation of records and other materials, the board feels that it is necessary to restrict the use of our new library to official school / church member use only. Driver's education class and basketball teams will have to be assigned other space, likely the north end of computer room.

BOARD OF ELDERS – The Voice Choir will resume rehearsals this fall preparing for the Advent and Christmas season.

The 2020 Usher schedule is being prepared and will be distributed when it is ready. We have contacted 4 men about serving as ushers.

The MLS Concert Choir will present God's Word in song here Sunday, April 5, 2020. To better accommodate the Choir, we will have only one service that Sunday at 10:00 AM with no Bible Class or Sunday School.

BOARD OF EVANGELISM AND STEWARDSHIP – About 45 Opportunities to Serve surveys have been returned. Our office secretary is tabulating our members' responses and will supply boards with database information for the work / volunteer opportunities under the respective boards.

We discussed the upcoming September 8th church picnic. Join us!

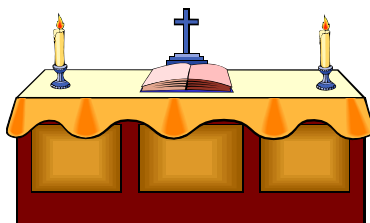
We will address the congregation, having an after-service discussion with our members about the feasibility of our congregation presenting the Live Nativity early this December.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES – The parsonage master shower drain trap corroded and was replaced, shower resealed, drywall repaired and is ready for painting.

Thank you to Steve Houser for his work on painting around the church and the school ramp railing and the flag pole.

The locks on the Little Leap classrooms have been changed out. Little Leap does not have any keys for the other classrooms.

The school continue to be readied for the first day of school.



SERVING OUR LORD FOR OUR SEPTEMBER SERVICES:

<u>8:00</u>	<u>10:30</u>	<u>Altar Guild</u>	<u>Greeter(s)</u>	<u>Cleaners</u>
9/01 - #6 E. Ruhlig	#9 D. Fisher	S. Unruh	J. Hannewald	F&N Mills
9/08 - #2 V. Domke	#1 T. Marion	S. Rector	M. Bennett	J. Muscott
9/15 - #5 S. Houser	#8 D. Rector	C. Burris	C&K Collins	D&L Voss
9/22 - #6 E. Ruhlig	#3 J. Janecke	T. Wood	B&L Janecke	N. Russell
9/29 - #7 D. Kasischke		L. Voss	L&J Vogt	J&J Staffeld