



# MEMORIAL MESSENGER

## November 2020



*In all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor rulers, neither things present nor things to come, nor powerful forces, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord. Romans 8:37-39*

Even those who get excited about politics hope never to live through a campaign season like we've been through this year. No matter which way elections go for various offices locally and nationally, about half of Americans will be disappointed or angry. Will our nation survive?

Five hundred three years ago this week Martin Luther was wondering how his 95 sentences would be received. The sentences didn't express Luther's opinion about politics. They were summaries of Biblical doctrine for his church's leaders to read and discuss. Would he survive going against those leaders?

The truth of God's Word made Luther bold, committed, and persistent in raising the issues. The truth that Jesus is the only and the complete payment for sin had been buried for centuries under the rubble of church rites and human works. Instead of being told that they were forgiven completely in Jesus, sinners had been berated into doing more and giving more as the way to remove their guilt.

Whether our candidates win election next week or not, we will survive. Elections of presidents and other officials don't come close to the importance of the work of God's Church and the message she proclaims. With Reformation Day and Election Day coming up, it's appropriate to review why we keep church and government separate. The government uses worldly weapons to preserve outward peace and safety; God's Church uses God's Word to proclaim the inner peace we have in Christ's work for us sinners. The government is interested in bodily welfare and daily living for citizens; God's Church is interested in the spiritual welfare and eternal salvation of souls. The government is world-centered; God's Church is heaven-centered.

The difference between the purpose and the tools of the government and the Church doesn't mean the Christian citizen should ignore the government. God has established the government for our blessing. God's people obey God's representatives at all levels of government – unless any official or law commands us to disobey God and His Word. God's people participate in government by running for public office or voting in various elections.

But God's people don't insist that the government pass laws requiring people to attend church, enforce Christian living, or support Biblical doctrine. Luther wrote, *"The power of the Church and the civil power must not be confounded...Let (the Church) not prescribe laws to civil rulers concerning the form of the common-wealth."* The government exists by God's authority to protect and serve citizens in public living. The Church exists by God's authority to proclaim His law and gospel for repentance of sins and salvation of sinners.

Some of the candidates we favor will be elected; others will not. We will pray for all who elected, even if they weren't our choice. We'll continue to thank God for the blessing of being able to worship and work in His kingdom without interference from the government. But above all, we'll continue to rejoice that *"nothing in all creation – including elected officials—will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus"*.

May God continue to bless us with His truth. May God continue to shower us most of all with freedom in Christ from sin and guilt, from the fear of death and in. And, as He does so, may God continue to bless America.

Pastor Voss



**OUR THANKSGIVING FESTIVAL SERVICE** will be **Wednesday, November 25 at 7:00**. Join us for a God-pleasing way to begin our Thanksgiving holiday!

This service provides the opportunity to speak and sing our thanks to God, and to hear a number of Scripture passages which remind us how richly He has blessed us for our needs of soul and body.

**SPECIAL SERVICES:**

Wednesday, November 25 - 7:00 PM - Thanksgiving Eve Service  
Wednesday, December 2 - 7:00 PM - Midweek Advent Service  
Wednesday, December 9 - 7:00 PM - Midweek Advent Service  
Wednesday, December 16 - 7:00 PM - Midweek Advent Service  
Thursday, December 24 - **7:00 PM** - Christmas Eve Service  
Friday, December 25 - **10:00 AM** - Christmas Day Service  
Sunday, December 27 - **10:00 AM** – Worship service  
Thursday, December 31- **7:00 PM** - New Year’s Eve Service with Holy Communion



**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 don’t 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 and the work required to edit and , process the video and audio files, the recorded service is usually uploaded to our YouTube channel Sunday afternoon, though some weeks it may not be until late Sunday night.***

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 continue to be conducted on-line. 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 continue in person at church 9:15 Sunday morning, and 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!

**SET YOUR CLOCK BACK AN HOUR!** Before you go to bed **Saturday, October 31**, set your clock back on hour. The time changes overnight as standard time resumes (through March 13, 2021).



**THE ALTAR GUILD** will meet **Sunday, November 1** at 8:50 for Altar Guild volunteers who attend the early service, and at 11:20 for those who attend the late service.

We will explain the Altar Guild duties to prospective members, and discuss any new items which have come up in the last year. ***New Altar Guild members are welcome and needed now! We especially encourage our young women to join us!***

Altar Guild duties don't take up a large block of time when one's turn comes up. The more volunteers we have, the less often each member has to serve (right now it is about once every ten weeks). Please consider joining us!

**AT THE VOTERS MEETING** on October 27, a 2021 budget of \$342,240 was approved. These men were elected to office: Joseph Janecke, Vice-President; Kim Fedewa, Treasurer; David Fortin and Norm Schlicker, Board of Christian Education; Robert Briggs, Board of Elders; Jason Lietz, Board of Evangelism & Stewardship; Victor Domke, Board of Trustees. At least one election to the Board of Trustees will be held at a special meeting before the end of December. The voters also discussed numerous reports, including an update about the new hymnal resources and costs.

Packets with reports prepared for the meeting are on the counter by the mail boxes. If you weren't able to receive the reports via email, please take a copy of the printed reports.

**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 decided to cancel the Trunk or Treat this fall due to so much uncertainty about so many things this fall. We hope that next October we can have an even larger event than we had last year. We also thank all who were planning to participate in this year's event.



# CHURCH COUNCIL REPORTS

**PASTOR'S REPORT** – I have begun a Bible Instruction Class with a friend of one of our members. Both of them are meeting with me Monday evenings at 7:30. Join me in praying that the Holy Spirit will bless us as we study the Word of life from the Lord of life! Let me know if you have friends or loved ones interested in starting such a class.

**WELS news** Both our Michigan District and the aggregate of all WELS congregations are at 103% of subscriptions in support of WELS worldwide mission work for 2020. Those amounts are \$250,000 (all WELS congregations) and \$80,000 (Michigan District) *below* last year's amounts through the end of September.

The fall meetings of our Northern Conference for pastors and of the Michigan District Teachers Conference were canceled due to restrictions on, and concerns about, larger gatherings. WELS leaders likewise canceled most fall face-to-face meetings and are doing what they can via virtual meetings.

We will soon order licenses to use in our recorded worship services many more hymns in our current hymnal. Since March 22, we have only used hymns that are in the public domain. We will want to use additional hymns in the special seasons of the church year that are coming up. This expense was previously approved.

**BOARD OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION** – Two students in grades 1-5 receive speech help via computer with a Williamston Schools specialist. Mrs. Leitz has adapted her classrooms well to keep children as socially distant as possible. School library helpers, spelling test helpers, art instructor, and physical education instructor are all volunteering again this year. A field trip was taken to an area apple orchard on September 22.

The dates of the PTO January and April meetings will be decided at a later date.

Sunday School Zoom sessions are being held with our SS staff, WELS ChristLight materials. Our teachers have had discussion and interaction time with several families on Wednesday evenings. The Board of Christian Education thanks our SS teachers for their dedication and efforts!

We thank to Russ Labadie (parent of two students) for organizing the project to install new playground equipment at school. We thank Norm Schlicker for bringing his tractor and digging holes. Beck Mobile Concrete was here on 9/28 and donated material and labor. We ordered mulch from Beck's with PTO funds. Laurie Voss took a photo of our school children on the new equipment; once all students sign the poster, we will take it to Beck's as our thank you to them.

We were ready to require masks for K-5 students beginning Oct 5, but Supreme Court ruling negated most of the governor's executive orders. Then the orders were reinstated by Ingham County Health department. We will comply with those orders, and the board members and principal will speak with parents who have questions or concerns about our compliance.

Faculty and volunteers are taking their temperatures and recording them each day. Parents are doing a good job of taking their children's temperatures at home in the morning.

**BOARD OF ELDERS** – The Elders discussed upcoming special services for Advent and Christmas, especially the possibility of doing something other than a children's Christmas Eve service if singing close together is still considered unsafe.

The Elders discussed numerous items regarding next year's purchase of new hymnals and supporting materials. The Hymnals are going to cost \$24 per copy and we would recommend purchasing 250 copies. This will give us 5 hymnals per pew with 55 additional. In addition to the hymnals we are recommending we purchase 20 copies of the new Psalter book at \$22 per copy. The Psalter book will contain all 150 Psalms set to music and would be used by our choir. Additional organist and Pastor books will be needed at a cost of \$300 to \$400.

The Elders spent a lot of time discussing our worship service practices as they relate to the health and safety of our congregation as well as governmental orders relating to covid. A lot has happened relative the government's orders, executive orders struck down by the Supreme court, new orders from other governmental

agencies seeming to replace them. In light of the confusion currently with what is required by our government and the desire to keep our worship services safe, the Elders have no changes to recommend at this time. The Elders will continue to monitor this important matter as it relates to our congregation's worship of our crucified and risen Savior. This issue has divided our nation, our state, and sadly to some degree our congregation. As tensions rise and frustrations build, it is easy to see Satan's hand at work. The Elders encourage everyone to remain focused on what is important, mainly our salvation won through Christ. *And we know in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.* Romans 8:28.

**BOARD OF EVANGELISM AND STEWARDSHIP** – We still urge members to share service links with other.

We thank those involved with recording, editing and posting our worship services online.

We thank Dan Kasischke for getting third quarter statements out.

Trunk or Treat was canceled due to COVID-19 concerns.

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES** – We reviewed the new playground equipment that was installed.

Parking lots will need to be resurfaced in the spring.

Pat Crandall discussed school cleaning and said all is going well with minimal additional time needed for sanitizing and additional cleaning. He did mention he is going through a lot of sanitizer.

We discussed the status of replacing the three exterior church doors.



## ***BADGER NEWS from SCHOOL***

**FROM MRS. LEITZ AND PRESCHOOL-KINDERGARTEN:** In our Bible lessons this month we have been studying the start of Jesus's ministry when He was teaching and preaching in many different cities to many different people. We have had many reminders with miracles and parables that Jesus is our Savior. We have also been talking about difficult things to understand such as what will happen to us when we die as believers and what will happen to unbelievers. We have had some very deep and thoughtful discussions on how to help those who do not believe and asking God to help us share the good news with friends and family even though they are so young. Many of us know that sometimes words from the hearts of little children can help strengthen our own faith.

With the month of October we learned about all things fall! We were fortunate to receive some pumpkins from Mrs. D and painted them with the big kids! The three-year olds have has started learning letters. The fours are learning the story "The Elves and the Shoemaker". They are also working on the letters G and H. The Kinders are currently on the letter S. We will be having Parent/Teacher conferences soon. The students were also allowed to wear their Halloween costumes to school.

Next month we will be learning about the Pilgrims and the Wampanoags and all things Thanksgiving!

Thank you all again for your continued support through this strange time. There have been many times that we thank God that we can all gather together face to face to learn and grow in God's Word. His will is still being done here and we pray it continues to be so.

**FROM MRS. DOMKE AND GRADES 1-5:** In our study of God's Word we are continuing with the life of Jesus. We are focusing this week and next on some of the parables Jesus taught. His goal was and always is the same, to share the saving news of the Gospel. Just like today, many believed because of the work of the Holy Spirit, but many also rejected. We are eternally grateful for the salvation we have been given and the opportunity to study God's Word daily.

Grades 3-5 are studying American history in Social Studies this year. We just reviewed three cultures that are going to clash in the early Americas: the American Indians, the African slaves, and the European explorers. The students have written mini reports on explorers. This week we will share information about where these men and their crews traveled.

Last week we had fun painting pumpkins and enjoyed a donut treat. It was a nice break from the everyday.

Everyone is working hard and moving right along. It is great to see these twenty kids making strides every day. A big thanks to our volunteer librarians, gym teacher, spelling test leader and soon to be art teacher!

**SERVING OUR LORD FOR OUR NOVEMBER 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>
11/01 - #5 S. Houser	#3 J. Janecke	M. Zoran	S&G Houser	B&J Briggs
11/08 - #2 V. Domke	#9 D. Fisher	K. Ward	L. Voss	H&S Clark
11/15 - #7 D. Kasischke	#1 T. Marion	R. Olin	F&N Mills	J. Coulter
11/22 - #5 S. Houser	#4 J. Zoran	C. Kasischke	D. Steiner	P&S Crandall
11/25 - #3 J. Janecke		C. Kasischke		
11/29 - #6 C. Rhodea	#8 D. Rector	C. Burris	L&K Ward	V&J Domke



May you have a very blessed Thanksgiving;  
rejoicing in all that which God has given you!

**Give Thanks  
To God**