

# MEMORIAL MESSENGER

## April 2021

*“He is not here. He has risen, just as He said.” Matthew 28:6 (EHV)*

The world makes a big deal of the weeks before Christmas. The Christian Church makes Holy Week – which begins with Palm Sunday, and continues with services Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter Sunday – the high point of the year. It’s more than familiar hymns and *Hosannas*, more than the silence of our darkness service on Good Friday, more than bright colors and *Alleluias* returning Easter Sunday. It’s the power of our Savior’s suffering for us and His death in our place and His triumphant rising from the dead.



The truths proclaimed in these services are the foundation of the Christian faith! If ours were a savior who died on the cross, but is still dead, our hopes would be crushed. If ours were a savior who volunteered to do battle with Satan for us, but still hasn’t risen victorious, our faith would be useless. If ours were a savior who gave up His life nearly two thousand years ago, but still hasn’t come back to life, our worship would be futile.

But Jesus *did* take back His life three days after He did. **“He has risen, just as He said.”** Those aren’t just words from His angels to hear Easter Sunday. Those are His words to live by every day. The women at the tomb, the two believers on their way to Emmaus, the disciples later that evening in a Jerusalem were all changed forever after seeing the risen Savior. We will be no less affected by the great truths we will hear this Holy Week.

The fact that there are so few secular events connected to Holy Week is a blessing. Oh, there is a push to hunt for eggs or purchase a new outfit to wear. But there is far less secular clutter connected to Holy Week, are far fewer expectations for outside things to be done. We have extra time for quiet reflection, Bible meditations, and worship services. As we prepare to receive the Lord’s Supper Maundy Thursday, we will penitently confess to God our sins and then joyfully receive the risen Savior’s body and blood in His Supper. As we worship Good Friday, we will see our sins and our Savior’s sacrifice to pay for them – *all* of them. As we worship Easter Sunday, we will view the new life that is ours in the risen Christ, which changes our view of life!

And in the days between the special Holy Week services, we will ask the Holy Spirit to bless our hearing and pondering His Word as though we were hearing it for the first time. We will invite unchurched friends or relatives to hear with us – in person at those services, or via our services online – the most important message in all the world: ***It is finished. He is risen. He will come back to take you to heaven!***



May our risen Savior bless your Holy Week and Easter Sunday worship. May He lead us to confess not only with our mouths, but also to express in our lives, what it means for us and for the world that Christ has died, Christ has risen, Christ will come again!

*Pastor Voss*



**THE WALK** to our Savior's cross and empty tomb reaches its climax the first weekend of April with a number of special worship services.

**OUR HOLY WEEK WORSHIP SCHEDULE:**

Palm Sunday, March 28 – 8:00 & 10:30 AM

Maundy Thursday, April 1 – 7:00 PM with Communion

Good Friday, April 2 – 7:00 PM: Tenebrae (darkness) service

Easter Sunday, April 4 – **8:00 & 10:30 AM** (no Bible Class)

*Because there will not be an Easter breakfast this year, the Board of Elders has decided that the early service Easter Sunday will remain at **8:00**, rather than at 7:30 as in previous years.*



**INVITE UNCHURCHED FRIENDS, LOVED ONES, AND NEIGHBORS** to our Good Friday and Easter Sunday services, as we celebrate the greatest events in world history: ***Christ has died and is risen to save us sinners!***

If they aren't comfortable worshipping in person, invite them to view our worship services on our congregation's YouTube channel.

**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 our Sunday morning and Lent midweek worship services.

The link to our congregation's YouTube channel is on the home page of our congregation's web site [www.memorialwilliamston.org](http://www.memorialwilliamston.org). 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.

**OUR YOUTH CONFIRMATION** will be in the late service on ***Sunday, May 2.***

**DEBT RETIREMENT FUND** As reported at the voters meeting January 26, a non-member family with ties to our school has pledged up to \$140,000 in matching funds for our congregation to apply to our DRF at the end of 2021. If our members' contributions reach \$140,000, the balance of our LACE loan (\$280,000) will be paid off. We are grateful for the offer, and also remind our members that God-pleasing thankofferings are given not to take advantage of an offer, but to thank our Savior for what He's done to save us. We also remind our members that these would be thankofferings above and beyond regular thankofferings.

**KINDERGARTEN ROUNDUP / PRESCHOOL INFORMATION DAYS** Our congregation's Board of Christian Education has decided that this year, in an effort to limit the number of people entering our school building during the school day and thus minimize the risk of spreading the Covid-19 virus, our Kindergarten Roundup and Preschool Information days will be held either remotely as parents meet with Mrs. Leitz via computer or phone, or in person by setting up a time with Mrs. Leitz to meet at school.

If you know of a family interested in Preschool (children must be 3 or 4 years old by September 1) or Kindergarten (children must be 5 years old by September 1) at our school for the 2021-2022 school year, please speak to Mrs. Leitz or Pastor Voss.

Flyers for you to distribute to families you know who have children in those age groups are available at church and school.

# CHURCH COUNCIL REPORTS

**PASTOR'S REPORT** – There are three eighty grade students in the Catechism Class this school year. Those three have been faithful in their study of God's Word and will be ready to be received as communicant members. Confirmation Sunday is set for May 2.

Another month of excellent health in our school family leads us to thank our merciful Father in heaven for that rich, and undeserved, blessing! Our parents continue to be vigilant and diligent at home in taking their child(ren)'s temperature daily, along with other protocols.

**BOARD OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION** – School Promotion: Laurie Voss is posting Facebook notices for our Preschool and Kindergarten information, as well as *Now Enrolling*.

Classroom Grades 1-5: Consultations with parents after school and evenings are taking place. We discussed the feasibility of standardized testing this spring

Classroom Pre-school and Kindergarten: New students are blending in well. Consultations with parents are scheduled for after school and evenings. Preschool and Kindergarten information tours will be provided to families as they inquire about next school year. The preschool license is up for renewal this spring. Mrs. Leitz is submitting the necessary items for that renewal, but Covid-related issues has slowed the response needed from the state.

General School items: The faculty is looking at the possibility of the school plays being held outside (pavilion). We will also look at using school gym with proper spacing and limit guests to student's families. We also discussed plans for the school year closing service.

2021 VBS – We are looking at the dates of Monday, July 26-Thursday, July 30.

**BOARD OF ELDERS** – The Board of Elders recommends the transfer of membership of Zachary Pederson to our congregation from Emanuel First Ev. Lutheran church in Lansing.

We reviewed the midweek Lent services that have been held so far, and we previewed the Holy Week services coming soon.

We remind the congregation that since there will be no Easter Breakfast this year, our early service on Easter Sunday will be at 8:00 AM.

The Elders continue to review and monitor our worship service practices as they relate to the health and safety of our congregation. We note that the last week of February a few members who haven't been to in-person worship for a while did come to our services. We look forward to the day when even more are comfortable doing so, especially given the recent change in our governor's orders to allow for more people to gather indoors.

**BOARD OF EVANGELISM AND STEWARDSHIP** – We urge members to share worship service links with others as Lent continues and as Holy Week approaches.

We will prepare a letter for the congregation regarding the Debt Retirement Fund opportunity to be sent via email March 26 and inserted in the Palm Sunday bulletin.

Because there are no Lent suppers, Palm Sunday potluck, or Easter breakfast due to Covid concerns, we suggest that a recognition of our 2021 confirmands be held in connection with an outdoor service this spring or summer (should the Board of Elders plan on such services).

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES** – The Ladies Fellowship purchased a dehumidifier for the church kitchen.

Many thanks to Larry Shipman for snow removal this winter.

We discussed the purchase of carbon monoxide detectors for the school.

We reviewed 3 proposals for light fixture replacement at school.



## **BADGER NEWS from SCHOOL**

**FROM MRS. LEITZ AND PRESCHOOL-KINDERGARTEN:** This past month we have been learning about every single step that has led up to the moment of Jesus dying on the cross, after His death, and His resurrection. Even with our little ones it's important for them to understand the depths of suffering that Jesus endured for us so that they may reflect with thankful hearts on what He did for us. I pray that

you are reflecting on that same thing this Lenten season.

We have been learning about dinosaurs from the creation and Biblical perspective. Did you ever think about dinosaurs living with people and being carried on the ark with all the other animals? It's fun to explore such mysterious creatures with our very curious students. Next month we will be focusing on all things Spring such as bugs and rain. We will hopefully be able to be outside more and therefore perhaps a field trip will be on the agenda soon.

We have also started to work on our play "The Little Red Hen." The play always brings an element of excitement to the end of the year.

May you all have a blessed Lenten season.

**FROM MRS. DOMKE AND GRADES 1-5:** We are continuing our walk to Calvary with Jesus in our Bible stories. How wonderful to be able to share the Gospel with the students! How wonderful to be able to share the one thing needed by everyone on this earth. We enjoy the truths of the stories, the games we play to support the learning, and the posters and activities we make to reinforce the truths.

Grades 3-5 have learned about events from colonization up to the Revolutionary War. Right now we are learning about why the Declaration of Independence was written, what it hoped to accomplish, and why the Patriots were able to take the advantage over the redcoats.

We have begun working on our play, *Feelin' Your Oats*, in earnest. It is a fun musical with rockin' songs and pithy dialogue. Right now we are focusing on the songs and actions, and after Easter we'll add the lines. As of this time, we'll have to limit our audience to families, but hopefully by mid May we may be able to invite more to enjoy the show! Keep your fingers crossed!

### **SERVING OUR LORD FOR OUR APRIL 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>
4/01 -	#1 T. Marion		K. Ward		
4/02 -	#2 V. Domke		K. Ward		
4/04 -	#6 C. Rhodea	#4 J. Zoran	R. Olin	K&A Remus	B&N Tobia
4/11 -	#2 V. Domke	#1 T. Marion	C. Burris	H&M Surtman	Pastor & L Voss
4/18 -	#5 S. Houser	#3 J. Janecke	M. Zoran	D&S Fisher	L&K Ward
4/25 -	#7 D. Kasischke	#9 D. Fisher	S. Rector	B. VanOstran	S&S Arntson

