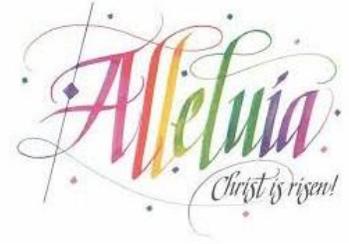




MEMORIAL MESSENGER

April 2023



Oh, how I wish that my words were written down. Oh, how I wish that they were inscribed in bronze, that they would be engraved in rock forever with an iron tool and letters filled with lead. As for me, I know that my Redeemer lives, and that at the end of time He will stand over the dust. Then, even after my skin has been destroyed, nevertheless, in my own flesh I will see God. I myself will see Him. My own eyes will see Him, and not as a stranger. Job 19:23-27

Even before you gather in God's house two weekends from now to hear about the trial and death of Jesus, you know how everything turned out. Our Savior was convicted (though innocent) and killed. Then He rose from the dead three days later, just as He promised He would. You know that your Redeemer lives!

Does the joy of Christ's death and resurrection for us affect us as it affected Mary Magdalene the first Resurrection Sunday? She rushed to tell the disciples she had seen and spoken with the risen Lord! Does that move us to do the same? Does that fill us with the same confidence, hope, and happiness Mary had?

And what about Job? He's the one in whom the Holy Spirit worked the Holy Week faith confessed in the words above. Job lived about the time of Abraham, some 2,000 years *before* the first Holy Week. Still, Job knew Christ would come, would die, and would rise from death! Despite all the trouble Job endured, he had God-given confidence and hope in the certainty of the Redeemer's resurrection from death.

Another believer showed the confidence, hope, and joy he gained from the resurrection truth in the way he wrote his own obituary *years* before he died. Writing your own obituary may seem morbid. But there's nothing morbid about what follows. After the man's funeral years later, the pastor read the man's words to his family, friends, and fellow members. Here are the spiritual paragraphs of that obituary.

Virtually everyone here today agrees that Jesus died for our sins. But all too many of us are prone to forget, or at least fail to give due recognition to, His greatest suffering. He took upon His shoulders all the guilt of my sins, your sins, and the sins of all – past, present, and future. Think about that for a moment ...

Now my course is run. My end as a mortal being is here. But I'm thankful to my blessed Lord for keeping me in the faith, strengthening that faith, and helping me to accept God's will for my life.

It has been said that tears and other expressions of grief are natural when God has called one of us home. But are not happiness and joy even more appropriate? If you love me, try stopping the tears now and smile for what I have entered into, rather than cry for what I leave behind.

What a wonderful confession of what Christ's death *and resurrection* mean to us! Our death is not the end! Like Jesus, we will rise to eternal life because God accepted His sacrifice and has forgiven our sins for His sake!

May the Holy Spirit use passages like the one from Job, and all the other verses we will hear Resurrection Sunday, to strengthen our faith in the Redeemer and to make our earthly lives much happier because our Redeemer lives. May the crucified and risen Redeemer bless your Holy Week worship as together we treasure in our hearts and with our lives what His death *and resurrection* mean for us for now and for forever.

Pastor Voss

THE WALK ALONG OUR SAVIOR'S path to His crucifixion continues **Wednesday, March 29** and with **Holy Week services April 2, 6, 7, and 9**. See the list of these special worship services below.

Join us to praise God for the gift of salvation won by our Savior for us sinners in His life, His death, and His resurrection!



OUR HOLY WEEK WORSHIP SCHEDULE:

Palm Sunday, April 2 – 8:00 & 10:30 AM

Holy Thursday, April 6 – 7:00 PM with Communion

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

Easter Sunday, April 9 – **7:30 & 10:30 AM** (no Sunday School or Bible Class)

There will be an Easter breakfast in our school gym between those services. Join us 8:50 – 9:50 that morning either before or after you worship at church!

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.

LENT SUPPER There will be a supper before the final Lent midweek service on **March 29**.

We thank those who have volunteered to bring food for that meal. We invite you to join us for the 6:00 meal before the 7:00 service that evening.



FOREVER WITH THE LORD Our crucified and risen Savior called to Himself in heaven the soul of our sister in the faith ***Virginia Taschner*** early March 16. A service will be held at a later date.

We ask our gracious God to comfort Virginia's children and all her loved ones with the assurance of eternal life in heaven for all who fall asleep in death trusting the Savior, as Virginia did.



OUR YOUTH CONFIRMATION will be in the late service on **Sunday, May 21**. This year's Confirmation candidates are ***Sophia*** and ***Jett***.

SPECIAL VOTERS MEETING The last divine call the Holy Spirit used our congregation to extend for an upper grades teacher and principal was declined. We will have another special voters meeting in late March.

In consultation with Michigan District President Sims and the WELS Commission on Lutheran Schools, the date for the next special voters meeting to extend a divine call to a man to serve as our upper grades teacher and principal will be **Monday, March 27 at 7:00 PM**.

The window for calling WELS teachers who are currently serving elsewhere closes on Sunday, April 16. Our Board of Christian Education will develop a recommendation for the Church Council and the voters about what to do should this next divine call also be declined.

KINDERGARTEN ROUNDUP / PRESCHOOL INFORMATION DAYS Our congregation's Board of Christian Education has decided that again this year our Kindergarten Roundup and Preschool Information days will be held individually with Mrs. Leitz as parents set up a time 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 2023-2024 school year, please speak to Mrs. Leitz or Pastor Voss.

REFRESHMENTS are offered the first Sunday of each month during the school year. We are looking for refreshments hosts on **May 7**. (Pastor Voss apologizes for the wrong May date in last month's newsletter.) If you are willing to provide something simple for **May 7**, please volunteer by speaking to Joe Janecke, Jason Leitz, Karl Remus, or Pastor Voss.

Join us in the fellowship hall for the final refreshments the last two first Sundays of this school year: **April 2** and **May 7**! Refreshments are available from 9:05 – 9:23. Sunday School and Bible Class sessions begin at 9:25 those Sunday mornings.



LADIES FELLOWSHIP will meet ***Monday, April 3 at 10:00***. After our devotion, we will continue work on organizing pictures of church and school activities and history. We hope to begin to put them in photo albums in May in time to share some for our church's 75th Anniversary. We will ask members to help identify photos (especially the older photos) once we have them in albums. Please watch for notice of the invitation to help in the bulletin and newsletter.

STEPHEN BAUTISTA CONCERT WELS musician Stephen Bautista will present God's Word via his original music at ***Prince of Peace Ev. Lutheran Church in Howell on Wednesday evening, April 19 at 7:00***. The members of Prince of Peace invite you to attend the concert, as well as a 6:00 potluck meal. Please speak to Pastor Voss if you have questions.



WORK WEEK The Board of Trustees urges members to set aside some time, at your convenience, **April 22-29** to take care of needed work at our church and school grounds. The board will provide lists at church and school which detail work that needs to be done.

CULVER'S SHARE NIGHT Our school families will volunteer at the Culver's on Times Square in Okemos for another Culver's Share Night on ***Monday, May 8*** from ***5:00 – 9:00***. Our school's PTO Fund will receive a portion of the Culver's receipts from that evening.

We invite you eat at Culver's that night, and to let your friends and loved ones know about the event. The February 27 event was a lot of fun for our volunteers. We received a check for PTO in the amount of \$313.28. We were delighted that so many church and school families participated that evening. We look for another good turnout on May 8.

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 Todd Loeffler (517-243-7349) to request a reservation of a facility and/or equipment.

THANKOFFERING STATEMENTS BY EMAIL? Karl Remus, our Financial Secretary, is willing to provide your quarterly thankoffering statement by email, if you so desire.

If you desire to receive your statement by email, please send an email message to Karl at remuskarl77@outlook.com. To make things easy for Karl, please include your email address in the body of your message to him.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL Our Board of Christian Education has set the dates for this year's Vacation Bible School: ***the mornings of July 24-27***. More details will be provided in the coming months.

IF YOU HAVE ACCESS to the internet and get the *Memorial Messenger* that way, please let us know and we will no longer print a copy for you.

CHURCH COUNCIL REPORTS

PASTOR'S REPORT – There are two eighth grade students in the Catechism Class (along with one seventh grade student). The class is on track to finish the material, as well as get our 8th grade review sessions in, before Confirmation Sunday. This year's Youth Confirmation Sunday will be May 21. I expect Sophia and Jett to present themselves for reception into communicant membership.

WELS news: The WELS Conference of Presidents has informed congregations when the window closes this spring for extending divine calls to teachers currently serving in our schools, as well as when requests need to be submitted for a teacher and/or pastor candidates to be assigned.

I received a reply from the WELS Commission on Worship and from the WELS Hymnal Project Director to an email I sent about when *Playlist*, the successor to *HymnSoft*, will be ready. There is some progress to report.

To keep things simple for the visiting pastors here for the second through fifth Wednesdays of Lent, we are not recording those midweek services.

BOARD OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION – Tuition and Fees – Board approved Mrs. Leitz's request for reimbursement of \$310 she paid for Preschool license fees, and \$50 for student entries at the MLS Science & Fine Arts Fair

School Promotion – A new Facebook posts was created by Mrs. Leitz and Mrs. Voss to provide information for prospective parents who want to set up appointments for a school visit.

Grades 1-5 Almost all our grade 3-5 students participated in the MLS Science & Fine Arts Fair.

Preschool and Kindergarten Mrs. Leitz hosted another visit last Friday for a prospective Preschool student for next year, and an application was submitted. Karla will have a one-morning event on a Wednesday for her 4-year-old Preschool students to have a Kindergarten round up together with our current Kindergarten class. Karla declined the divine call to St. Paul Lutheran Church & School in Fort Atkinson, WI. We are pleased that she will continue to serve the Savior and His lambs in our midst! The state inspector arrived unannounced. Our Preschool passed inspection for another 2-year renewal of the Preschool license.

PTO Next meeting is **Tuesday, April 18 at 6:30**. A number of important matters about the end of this school year and plans for next school year will be discussed with the parents that evening.

Add upper grade teacher and principal for 2023-24 school year We discussed status of current call, planned for timing of possible additional calls including a potential for a requesting a graduate to be assigned, and options if we are unable to receive an experienced teacher or graduate.

2023-24 school year calendar Board sent VBS for July 24-27, and will issue calls for teachers later. We will finalize calendar after speaking with parents at April's PTO meeting.

BOARD OF ELDERS – Due to an ice storm that day the Board of Elders elected to move our Ash Wednesday service to online only. As of February 28, there were 50 views of that service.

Our summer service schedule will begin Thursday, May 25. Once again this year, the Thursday evening service will be the same as the service the following Sunday. There will be no Thursday service on July 6 or August 3 do to Pastor's vacation plans.

Our choir is practicing this month for anthems to sing on Good Friday and Resurrection Sunday.

We are thankful to have two new 8:00 service HymnSoft volunteers. Additional volunteers, especially for the 10:30 service, would be greatly appreciated.

Resurrection Sunday is April 9. As has been our practice in the past, we will not have Holy Communion that Sunday. Holy Communion will be served during our Holy Thursday service on April 6.

BOARD OF EVANGELISM AND STEWARDSHIP – We encourage members to continue to reach out to us about audio issues with service recordings, so we can fix them.

We also encourage members to invite friends and family to the upcoming Lent, Holy Week, and Easter

Sunday services. Invite cards are available on the counter by the mail slots.

We ordered thankoffering envelopes the end of February to take advantage of a 10% discount for 2024.

We discussed the Easter breakfast and seek the help of Council members with it.

We further discussed the 75th Anniversary of the congregation and what we should do for that – and when. The official anniversary date is May 16.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES – Currently the middle roof top heating and cooling unit at school has been shut off due to a CO leak. The unit has been looked at multiple times by Myers Heating and Cooling. At the time of our meeting, we were waiting on an estimate for repairs.

Due to the CO leak we will be installing CO detectors at church and school. The detectors were previously approved for purchase.

We discussed lawn mowing at the church and school. We are finalizing the volunteers for the school.

Last year's spring-cleaning week at church and school was such a success we decided to schedule another spring-cleaning week (April 22 through April 30).

Thank you to the family that purchased a new vacuum cleaner for the church.

Thank you for all the faithful service to our Savior and for his Church!



BADGER NEWS from SCHOOL

FROM MRS. LEITZ AND PRESCHOOL-KINDERGARTEN

This past month we have been learning all the lessons that Jesus taught in the days before He died. We also have been focusing on all the events that led up to His death and resurrection. It's important at this time to tell your little ones in detail how much Jesus suffered for OUR sins. We don't want to shield them from all that Jesus went through on our behalf. Our little ones have learned to be thankful to Jesus for the sacrifice of His life for our eternal life in heaven.

We also have been learning about how clouds form and how rain and snow falls. The Kindergartners and some of our preschoolers were able to enjoy a play at Michigan Lutheran Seminary this past month also. We are hoping to go to the zoo for our end of the year field trip.

May your Lenten season be blessed by meditating on our Lord's suffering in place of us.

FROM MRS. DOMKE AND GRADES 1-5

This month in our Bible story lessons we are traveling with Jesus closer and closer to Jerusalem. Here He will willingly offer Himself as the willing sacrifice for our sins. Every single thing that Jesus does is for us and for our salvation. We are happy to learn that our lives are a living "thank you" to Jesus for His amazing work!

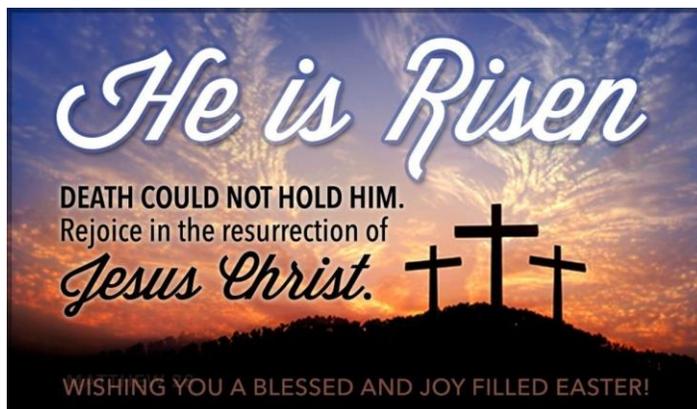
We thoroughly enjoyed traveling to Michigan Lutheran Seminary (some of us twice) this month for some fun. Early in the month many students attended the Science and Fine Arts Fair. We had students participate in art, vocal music, spelling and forensics. Our students all did very well, and I was extremely proud of all their work. We even had a few purple (superior) ribbons among our Memorial kids! Way to go, Badgers! Last week grades K- 5 headed back to MLS to see the Children's Theater production of *Camelot and Camelittle*. It was a great show with lots of funny parts and many laughs.

The MLS show helped get grades 1-5 in the mood to work on our Spring play, *Summer Camp*. We have learned actions for a couple songs and are ready to assign parts. We hope many of you can attend our play on May 19.

Grades 3-5 are wrapping up a Social Studies chapter on the Southwest Region this week and then will begin on the Mountain West. In science we are learning about electricity and magnetism.

In everything else we are humming along, working and playing hard each day.

You can see pictures of our school events and outings on the website galleries.
https://www.memorialwilliamston.org/site/galdisplay.asp?sec_id=180015490&gallery_id=180016576&caption=&galname=2022-2023%20School%20Year&galpath=/home/180015141/180015490/images/



SERVING OUR LORD FOR OUR APRIL SERVICES:

<u>8:00</u>	<u>10:30</u>	<u>Altar Guild</u>	<u>Greeter(s)</u>	<u>Cleaners</u>
4/02 - #6 J. Zoran	#8 D. Rector	K. Ward	F&N Mills	B. Janecke
4/06 - #9 D. Fisher		K. Ward		
4/07 - #7 D. Kasischke		K. Ward		
4/09 - #2 V. Domke	#1 T. Marion	R. Olin	D. Steiner	J&S Janecke
4/16 - #10 B. Briggs	#4 Jim Janecke	L. Voss	L&K Ward	D&C Kasischke
4/23 - #7 D. Kasischke	#9 D. Fisher	M. Zoran	P&S Crandall	S&N Klaerner
4/30 - #5 S. Houser	#3 Joe Janecke	R. Hoag	A&J Rusnak	J&K Leitz

